

When You Hear [g]

CK-12 English

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<x> When You Hear [g]

<x> as the sound [g] in words like "exercise"

<x> When You Hear [g]



[Figure1]

Sometimes the letter <x> spells the combination [ks], and sometimes it spells the combination [gz].

Sometimes a word can be pronounced either with a [ks] or [gz].

Almost always the <x> that spells [gz] is in the prefix *ex-*, and the stem that follows the prefix begins with a vowel.

Examples

Some people pronounce *exit* with a [ks], [éksit], and some people pronounce it with a [gz], [égzit]. Either pronunciation is correct.

Review

Analyze each of the following words, all of which contain the prefix *ex-*.

Word	= Formula	= Analysis
1. exercised	= Prefix + stem	=
2. inexactly	= Prefix + prefix + base + suffix	=
3. explosion	= Prefix + stem	=
4. extensive	= Prefix + stem	=
5. exhaustive	= Prefix + base + suffix	=
6. exhibit	= Prefix + stem	=
7. examined	= Prefix + stem	=
8. exposure	= Prefix + base + suffix	=
9. exclude	= Prefix + stem	=
10. extended	= Prefix + base + suffix	=
11. executive	= Prefix + stem	=
12. exorbitant	= Prefix + stem	=
13. exclusive	= Prefix + stem	=

Review (Answers)

Word	= Formula	= Analysis
1. exercised	= Prefix + stem	= <i>ex + ercised</i>
2. inexactly	= Prefix + prefix + base + suffix	= <i>in + ex + act + ly</i>
3. explosion	= Prefix + stem	= <i>ex + plosion</i>
4. extensive	= Prefix + stem	= <i>ex + tensive</i>
5. exhaustive	= Prefix + base + suffix	= <i>ex + haust + ive</i>
6. exhibit	= Prefix + stem	= <i>ex + hibit</i>
7. examined	= Prefix + stem	= <i>ex + amined</i>
8. exposure	= Prefix + base + suffix	= <i>ex + pos e + ure</i>
9. exclude	= Prefix + stem	= <i>ex + clude</i>
10. extended	= Prefix + base + suffix	= <i>ex + tend + ed</i>
11. executive	= Prefix + stem	= <i>ex + ecutive</i>
12. exorbitant	= Prefix + stem	= <i>ex + orbitant</i>
13. exclusive	= Prefix + stem	= <i>ex + clusive</i>

Explore More

Some other things about [g] and <g>:

One other common word in which <x> spells [gz] is *auxiliary*.

The only word that ends in <gg> is *egg*.

In the word *mortgage*, the [g] is spelled <tg>. The word *mortgage* is a compound that contains two bases: *mort*, which means “death” (as in words like *mortal* and *mortuary*), and *gage*, which means “promise or pledge.” When we try to pronounce [t] and [g] together, we find it difficult, and to simplify the pronunciation, the [t] sound is left out. So in *mortgage* [g] is spelled <tg>.

1.0 REFERENCES

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