



Morpheme Mapping

Breaking Down Unknown Words

Use this sheet when you find a word you don't know. Your goal is to look at the word's parts before you use a dictionary to find its meaning.

The Morpheme Analysis Routine

1. Write the word you don't know as you found it.
2. Take off any easy prefixes and suffixes.
3. Find the base or root (what's left).
4. Say what each morpheme means (from memory or use [Morpheme Mapper](#)).
5. Put the meanings together in a way that makes sense.
6. Check the word in the sentence and make your meaning better.

Keep doing these steps in the same order every time.

Unknown Word	Prefix(es)	Root/ Base	Suffix (es)	Meaning	Context Sentence
Unbelievable	Un- (not)	Believe (trust)	-able (able to be)	Not able to be trusted	The story was unbelievable.



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Morpheme Bank

Prefix	Meaning	Base / Root	Meaning	Suffix	Meaning
un-	not	spect	look	-tion / -sion	act / state
re-	again	port	carry	-ment	result
dis-	not / opposite	dict	say	-ness	quality
mis-	wrongly	scrib / script	write	-ity	condition
pre-	before	graph	write / draw	-ous	full of
post-	after	chrono	time	-able / -ible	can be
inter-	between	aud	hear	-less	without
trans-	across	mit / miss	send	-ful	full of
sub-	under	bene	good	-ist	person who
super-	above	mal	bad	-ism	belief system
anti-	against	vid / vis	see	-ology	study of
auto-	self	ped	foot	-phobia	fear



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bi-	two	man	hand	-graphy	writing
tri-	three	jur	law	-er / -or	one who
multi-	many	bio	life	-ive	having nature
semi-	half	tele	distance	-al	relating to
over-	too much	micro	small	-ic	relating to
under-	too little	macro	large	-ly	in a way
co-	together	astro	stars	-ward	direction
non-	not	geo	earth	-ise / -ize	make / become