

Morpheme Cards (Large)

Research indicates that explicit morphology instruction supports student gains in vocabulary and reading. These morpheme cards represent high-utility morphemes that frequently appear across disciplines, including English language arts, science, social studies, and math. Each card includes the morpheme, its definition, its variants (if applicable), and the morpheme type (root, prefix, or suffix).

Students can use these cards to build complex words as part of the Word Building Strategy. To learn how to implement the Word Building Strategy and other morphology instruction strategies, see the *Effective Morphology Instruction for Secondary Students Across Content Areas* eLearning module.



prefix

a*on/in, to, not, without*

prefix

ab*away, from*

prefix

ad

variants: ac, ach, af,
ag, al, ap, at, as
toward, in, near

prefix

ambi

variants: amphi

both, around

prefix

ana*back*

prefix

ante*before, preceding*

prefix

anti*against, opposite*

prefix

arch*chief, ruler*

prefix

bi*two*

prefix

convariants: co, col, com, cor
with, joint

prefix

de*away from, down*

prefix

dec*ten*

prefix

di*two*

prefix

disvariants: di, dif
not, apart, absence of

prefix

diavariants: di, dif
through, across, between

prefix

e

lacking, out

prefix

en

to make something X

prefix

epi

above, in addition to

prefix

ex*out*

prefix

in

variants: im, il, ir

(1) in, on, toward; (2) not

prefix

infra*below, underneath*

prefix

inter

variant: intel

between

prefix

intro*in, inward*

prefix

multi*many, much*

prefix

non*not*

prefix

obvariants: oc, of, op
down, facing, against, to

prefix

out*out of*

prefix

over*do too much of X*

prefix

per*through, completely*

prefix

pre*before, earlier*

prefix

pro*forward, prior to*

prefix

quadri

variant: quadr

four

prefix

re*again, back*

prefix

subvariants: suc, suf, sup, sus
under, below, secondary

prefix

super*over, above, extreme*

prefix

trans*beyond, across*

prefix

tri

three

prefix

un

not, opposite, reverse

prefix

under

under

prefix

uni*one*

suffix

able

variant: ible

able, can do (adjective)

suffix

acy

variant: asy

state or quality (noun)

suffix

age*condition, state (noun)*

suffix

al*relating to, characterized by (adjective,
noun)*

suffix

an

variant: ian

belonging to, resembling (adjective)

suffix

ant*action, state (noun)*

suffix

ar*of, pertaining to (adjective)*

suffix

arian*member of a sect
(adjective, noun)*

suffix

ary*relating to, place where
(adjective, noun)*

suffix

ate*cause, make (verb, adjective)*

suffix

ation*act of, state of (noun)*

suffix

ence*action, state, quality (noun)*

suffix

ent*action or state (noun)*

suffix

er/or*one who, that which (noun)*

suffix

ial

variants: cial, tial

relating to, characterized by (adjective)

suffix

ic

variant: ible

of, pertaining to, like (adjective)

suffix

illion

variant: ible

the power of a million (numeral)

suffix

ion

variants: tion, sion

act of, state of (noun)

suffix

ism*characteristic, manner, condition (noun)*

suffix

ist*one who (noun)*

suffix

ity*state of, quality (noun)*

suffix

ive*causing, making (adjective)*

suffix

ize*to make more like X (verb)*

suffix

logy*science or study of (noun)*

suffix

ly*manner or like (adverb)*

suffix

ment*result of, act of (noun)*

suffix

oid*like, having the form of
(adjective, noun)*

suffix

ory*pertaining to, characterized by (adjective)*

suffix

ous*full of, having (adjective)*

suffix

teen*ten (numeral)*

suffix

th*forms ordinal numbers (adjective)*

suffix

ure

variant: ture

state of, process, office, function (noun)

suffix

y*state, condition, quality (noun)*

root (Latin)

act

variant: ag

do, act

root (Latin)

agr*field*

root (Latin)

alt*high*

root (Latin)

alter*every other, alternate*

root (Latin)

ampl*large*

root (Latin)

ang*angle*

root (Latin)

anim*living, soul*

root (Latin)

ann*year*

root (Latin)

apt*fit, capable*

root (Latin)

arbitr*judge*

root (Latin)

aud*hear*

root (Latin)

capvariants: *ceive, cip, cept, cup*
to take, to seize, to hold, to receive, to
contain

root (Latin)

celer*speed, swift*

root (Latin)

centr*center*

root (Latin)

cede

variants: cess, cease, ceed
to yield, to go, to surrender

root (Latin)

chart

variant: cart
to draw

root (Latin)

chieve

head, chief

root (Latin)

circ*round, circle*

root (Latin)

clar*clear*

root (Latin)

claus

variants: clos, clud, clus

to shut, to close

root (Latin)

commun*common, together*

root (Latin)

cumul*to heap*

root (Latin)

cur

variant: course

run, go

root (Latin)

cult
cur*to care, to cultivate*

root (Latin)

dic

variants: dex, dict

say, tell

root (Latin)

duc(t)*lead*

root (Latin)

duc

variants: duce, duct

lead

root (Latin)

electr

electric

root (Latin)

equ

equal

root (Latin)

estim*guess*

root (Latin)

fac

variants: fact, fect, fic

do, make

root (Latin)

fer*carry, yield*

root (Latin)

fid
variant: fed
trust

root (Latin)

fin
end

root (Latin)

flex
variant: flect
bend, curve

root (Latin)

form*shape*

root (Latin)

genvariant: gene
race, kind, birth

root (Latin)

gradvariant: gress
step, degree, go

root (Latin)

jec

variants: jac, ject
throw, lie

root (Latin)

lat

carry, bear

root (Latin)

latus

variant: later
side

root (Latin)

lect

variants: lec, leg, lig

choose, pick, read

root (Latin)

liter

variant: lit, litera

letter

root (Latin)

min

small

root (Latin)

mob

variants: mot, mov

move

root (Latin)

mod*bound, method, manner*

root (Latin)

mol*mass, pile*

root (Latin)

mut

reciprocal, borrowed

root (Latin)

nat

people, produce

root (Latin)

nom

part

root (Latin)

not*write, mark*

root (Latin)

nuc*core*

root (Latin)

numer*number*

root (Latin)

org*tool, instrument*

root (Latin)

pend

variant: pens

hang, weigh

root (Latin)

ple*fill, fulfill*

root (Latin)

plicvariants: plex, ply
fold

root (Latin)

posvariants: pon, pound
put, place, set, pose

root (Latin)

port*carry*

root (Latin)

quisit*to ask, to seek*

root (Latin)

radi*ray, spoke*

root (Latin)

rect*straight, right*

root (Latin)

sect*cut*

root (Latin)

sequvariant: *secu**follow*

root (Latin)

serv*serve, keep*

root (Latin)

skepvariants: spec, speci, scop
to look, to see

root (Latin)

solvvariant: solu
loosen, slacken, solve

root (Latin)

son*sound*

root (Latin)

spec*view, sight, kind*

root (Latin)

sta

variants: sist, stat, stit

stand, set

root (Latin)

stru(ct)*build*

root (Latin)

ten

variants: tain, tin, tinu

hold

root (Latin)

tend

variants: tens, tent

stretch, strain

root (Latin)

tract

drag, pull

root (Latin)

valu*give value*

root (Latin)

vari*variable*

root (Latin)

vent

variant: ven

come

root (Latin)

verb

variant: verbum

word

root (Latin)

vert

variants: vers

turn

root (Latin)

vid/vis*see, separate*

root (Latin)

VOC

to speak, to call

root (Greek)

academ

School, place of education

root (Greek)

agon

contest

root (Greek)

(a)llel*one another*

root (Greek)

anthr

variant: andr

man

root (Greek)

archae

variants: arche, archi

ancient, primitive

root (Greek)

arithm*number, count*

root (Greek)

ast(e)r*star*

root (Greek)

auto*self*

root (Greek)

bol

variant: bal

throw

root (Greek)

bio

life

root (Greek)

chem

art of alloying metals

root (Greek)

chron*time*

root (Greek)

crat

variant: cracy

rule, strength

root (Greek)

crit*judge*

root (Greek)

cycl*circle, wheel*

root (Greek)

demo*people*

root (Greek)

drama*drama*

root (Greek)

eco

house, home, environment

root (Greek)

endo

internal, within

root (Greek)

geo

earth

root (Greek)

gon

angle

root (Greek)

graph

variant: gram

write, draw

root (Greek)

hect

hundred

root (Greek)

hedr*seat, side*

root (Greek)

hex*six*

root (Greek)

hydro*water*

root (Greek)

ideo

idea

root (Greek)

iso

equal

root (Greek)

kilo

thousand

root (Greek)

log(ue)*speech, word, reason*

root (Greek)

lysis*breakdown, decomposition*

root (Greek)

magn*magnet*

root (Greek)

metr*measure*

root (Greek)

micro*small, minute*

root (Greek)

mon*one*

root (Greek)

nano

dwarf, very small

root (Greek)

nom

name, word

root (Greek)

nom

system of rules or laws

root (Greek)

nym

name, word

root (Greek)

odo

path, road

root (Greek)

pent

five

root (Greek)

phas*show, appearance*

root (Greek)

phil*love, respect*

root (Greek)

phon*sound, voice*

root (Greek)

phor*to carry*

root (Greek)

photo*light*

root (Greek)

phras*express*

root (Greek)

phys*nature*

root (Greek)

pict*to draw*

root (Greek)

plasm*something created*

root (Greek)

pol

citizen, city

root (Greek)

scope

watch, see

root (Greek)

sys

whole body

root (Greek)

techn*skill, art, craft*

root (Greek)

tele*distant*

root (Greek)

the(o)*god*

root (Greek)

theor*contemplation*

root (Greek)

therm*heat*

root (Greek)

typ*mark, type*

IOWA

Iowa Reading
Research Center

irrc.education.uiowa.edu



@IAReading



@iowareadingresearchcenter



@iowareadingresearchcenter

IOWA

Iowa Reading
Research Center

irrc.education.uiowa.edu



@IAReading



@iowareadingresearchcenter



@iowareadingresearchcenter

IOWA

Iowa Reading
Research Center

irrc.education.uiowa.edu



@IAReading



@iowareadingresearchcenter



@iowareadingresearchcenter

IOWA

Iowa Reading
Research Center

irrc.education.uiowa.edu



@IAReading



@iowareadingresearchcenter



@iowareadingresearchcenter

IOWA

Iowa Reading
Research Center

irrc.education.uiowa.edu



@IAReading



@iowareadingresearchcenter



@iowareadingresearchcenter

IOWA

Iowa Reading
Research Center

irrc.education.uiowa.edu



@IAReading



@iowareadingresearchcenter



@iowareadingresearchcenter

IOWA

Iowa Reading
Research Center

irrc.education.uiowa.edu



@IAReading



@iowareadingresearchcenter



@iowareadingresearchcenter