

Morpheme Cards

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

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

prefix

ambivariants: 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

se*apart, without*

prefix

sub

variants: 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

acyvariant: asy
state or quality (noun)

suffix

age*condition, state (noun)*

suffix

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

suffix

anvariant: 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)

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

root (Latin)

chartvariant: cart
to draw

root (Latin)

chieve*head, chief*

root (Latin)

circ*round, circle*

root (Latin)

clar*clear*

root (Latin)

clausvariants: 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)

gen

variant: gene

race, kind, birth

root (Latin)

grad

variant: 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)

plic

variants: plex, ply

fold

root (Latin)

pos

variants: 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)

skep

variants: spec, speci, scop

to look, to see

root (Latin)

solv

variant: 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*