

Word Dissector Instructions

[Word Dissector](#) is a tool that can help you understand complex words by breaking them down into smaller parts called morphemes.

The screenshot shows the main interface of the Word Dissector tool. At the top left is the IOWA logo and the text "Word Dissector". On the top right, there are links for "Are you an educator?", "Click here to explore additional resources", "Morpheme Lab", and "Sound". The main heading is "WORD DISSECTOR" in large, bold, black letters. Below this, three boxes represent morphemes: "dis" (with "apart" below it), "sect" (with "to cut" below it), and "tor" (with "that which" below it). To the right of these boxes is the definition "that which cuts (words) apart". Below the heading are two search options: "Search for a word" (with a magnifying glass icon) and "Search for a morpheme" (with a star icon). A search bar with the placeholder text "Type a word..." is positioned below these options. Under the search bar, there is a slider for "Max morphemes: All" and a dropdown menu for "Search: words". At the bottom of the interface, it says "4079 words loaded" and there is a "Random" button.

Using the Search Bar

Using the search bar, you can type full words, like "hexagon," or parts of words, like "hex" or "gon." As you type, suggestions will appear, and you can click on one to explore it.

The screenshot shows the search results for the word "hexa". The search bar contains "hexa". Below the search bar, the "Max morphemes" slider is set to "All". The "Search" dropdown menu is set to "words". The results are displayed in a table with the heading "WORDS".

WORDS	
hexagon	2 morphemes
hexagonal	3 morphemes

Alternatively, you can use the up and down arrows to move through suggestions and press the “Enter” button to select a word or morpheme.

Searching Words

Type a word into the search bar and select it from the dropdown menu. There are two ways to study a word: Word Analysis and Meaning Match.

- **Word Analysis:** Word Analysis is the default mode. This mode displays a word’s component morphemes. Click on each morpheme card to see its meaning, its origin, and its morpheme type (prefix, suffix, or root).

The screenshot shows the word 'hexagon' in a large font, with the text 'made up of 2 morphemes' below it. There are two buttons: 'Word Analysis' (active, blue) and 'Meaning Match' (inactive, pink). Below the buttons are two pink morpheme cards. The left card is labeled 'hex(a)' and contains the text 'six', 'Origin: Greek', and 'Type: root'. The right card is labeled 'gon'. A plus sign is between the two cards. At the bottom, a caption reads: 'Click each morpheme card to flip it and see the details.'

- **Meaning Match:** Click the “Meaning Match” button to switch to Meaning Match mode. This allows you to practice matching morphemes to their meanings. Click on the morpheme card to select it, and then click on the meaning card that corresponds with the morpheme. The cards will turn green when you match them correctly.

hexagon
made up of 2 morphemes

Word Analysis Meaning Match Reset

MORPHEMES

hex(a) ✓

gon

MEANINGS

six
Origin: Greek · Type: root ✓

angle
Origin: Greek · Type: root

Match each morpheme with its meaning.

Searching Morphemes

Type a morpheme into the search bar. This displays common words that contain this morpheme.

Again, you can select a word to see its meaning, origin, and morpheme type, and use Meaning Match to practice matching morphemes to their meanings.

Filters and Settings

You can use the “Max Morphemes” bar to limit the number of morphemes in words that appear in the search. You can also use the search filter to limit your search to words or morphemes.

Q hex

Max morphemes: 3

Search: words

You can turn the sound “on” and “off” by clicking the “Sound” button in the top right corner.

Additional Features

By clicking the “Random” button, you can see random words broken down into morphemes. This can help you test your morpheme knowledge.

You can also click the “Morpheme Lab” button to go to the Iowa Reading Research Center website and access more morphology instruction resources.

Are you an educator?
Click here to explore additional resources

Morpheme Lab

🔊 Sound

