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Morpheme Mapping Kit

Template, prefixes, suffixes, Greek & Latin roots, word sums and word stress



un + happy + ness → unhappiness · “the state of not being happy”

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How to use this kit

- Model one word with the **worked examples**, then let students map words with the **template**.
- Use the **prefix, suffix and root charts** as a reference wall or in student notebooks.
- **Word sums** (with answer key) make a quick check or exit ticket.
- The **word stress** page helps older students and English learners pronounce long words.

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Morpheme map (6 words)

Name: _____ Date: _____

Word	Prefix(es)	Base / root	Suffix(es)	Word sum	Meaning

Find the base or root first. Then prefixes (before) and suffixes (after). Write the word sum, note any spelling change, and put the meanings together.

Morpheme map (10 words)

Name: _____ Date: _____

Word	Prefix(es)	Base / root	Suffix(es)	Word sum	Meaning

Find the base or root first. Then prefixes (before) and suffixes (after). Write the word sum, note any spelling change, and put the meanings together.

Worked examples

unhappiness

un	happi	ness
PREFIX	BASE	SUFFIX
not	happy	the state of

Word sum	`un + happy + ness → unhappiness`
Spelling	The y in happy changes to i before the suffix: happy → happi-.
Meaning	**the state of not being happy**

unbelievable

un	believ	able
PREFIX	BASE	SUFFIX
not	believe	able to be

Word sum	`un + believe + able → unbelievable`
Spelling	The silent e at the end of believe drops before -able.
Meaning	**not able to be believed**

carefully

care	ful	ly
BASE	SUFFIX	SUFFIX
care	full of	in a … way

Word sum	`care + ful + ly → carefully`
Meaning	**in a way that is full of care**

disagreement

dis	agree	ment
PREFIX	BASE	SUFFIX
not	agree	the act or result of

Word sum	`dis + agree + ment → disagreement`
Meaning	**the result of not agreeing**

transportation

trans	port	ation
PREFIX	ROOT	SUFFIX
across	carry	the act of

Word sum	`trans + port + ation → transportation`
Meaning	**the act of carrying people or goods across from one place to another**

Common prefixes

	Meaning	Examples
un-	not; the opposite of	**un**happy, **un**kind, **un**lock, **un**fair, **un**tie
re-	again; back	**re**do, **re**play, **re**write, **re**read, **re**turn
in-	not	**in**correct, **in**visible, **in**active, **in**complete, **in**dependent
im-	not (in- before b, m, p)	**im**possible, **im**patient, **im**polite, **im**mature, **im**perfect
il-	not (in- before l)	**il**legal, **il**logical, **il**legible, **il**literate
ir-	not (in- before r)	**ir**regular, **ir**responsible, **ir**relevant, **ir**replaceable
dis-	not; the opposite of	**dis**agree, **dis**like, **dis**appear, **dis**honest, **dis**connect
mis-	wrongly; badly	**mis**spell, **mis**behave, **mis**understand, **mis**place, **mis**read
non-	not	**non**stop, **non**fiction, **non**sense, **non**living
pre-	before	**pre**view, **pre**heat, **pre**pay, **pre**school, **pre**test
de-	remove; reverse; down	**de**frost, **de**code, **de**activate, **de**value, **de**hydrate
en- / em-	cause to be; put into	**en**joy, **en**large, **en**danger, **en**able, **em**power
over-	too much; above	**over**eat, **over**sleep, **over**cook, **over**flow, **over**head
under-	too little; below	**under**paid, **under**cooked, **under**ground, **under**water, **under**line
sub-	under; below	**sub**way, **sub**marine, **sub**title, **sub**zero, **sub**heading
super-	above; beyond	**super**hero, **super**market, **super**star, **super**natural
inter-	between; among	**inter**national, **inter**act, **inter**net, **inter**state
trans-	across	**trans**port, **trans**atlantic, **trans**plant, **trans**form
anti-	against	**anti**freeze, **anti**social, **anti**virus, **anti**biotic
fore-	before; in front	**fore**cast, **fore**head, **fore**see, **fore**ground
mid-	middle	**mid**night, **mid**day, **mid**way, **mid**week
semi-	half; partly	**semi**circle, **semi**final, **semi**colon, **semi**sweet

Common suffixes

	Meaning	Examples
-s / -es	more than one; he/she/it does	cat**s**, box**es**, run**s**, wish**es**
-ed	happened in the past	jump**ed**, play**ed**, want**ed**, stopp**ed**
-ing	happening now (ongoing)	jump**ing**, play**ing**, mak**ing**, runn**ing**
-er	more (comparing two)	tall**er**, fast**er**, bigg**er**, happi**er**
-est	most (comparing three or more)	tall**est**, fast**est**, bigg**est**, happi**est**
-er / -or	a person or thing that does verb → noun	teach**er**, play**er**, act**or**, sail**or**, comput**er**
-ist	a person who does or studies → noun	art**ist**, dent**ist**, scient**ist**, cycl**ist**
-ful	full of noun → adjective	hope**ful**, care**ful**, joy**ful**, thank**ful**, beauti**ful**
-less	without noun → adjective	hope**less**, care**less**, fear**less**, home**less**, end**less**
-ness	the state or quality of adjective → noun	kind**ness**, dark**ness**, happi**ness**, sad**ness**
-ment	the act or result of verb → noun	move**ment**, pay**ment**, enjoy**ment**, agree**ment**
-able / -ible	can be; able to be verb → adjective	read**able**, wash**able**, comfort**able**, vis**ible**, flex**ible**

Common suffixes (continued)

	Meaning	Examples
-ly	in a … way adjective → adverb	quick**ly**, slow**ly**, happi**ly**, careful**ly**
-y	full of; like noun → adjective	rain**y**, sunn**y**, cloud**y**, sleep**y**
-al	relating to noun → adjective	natur**al**, music**al**, nation**al**, person**al**
-ic	relating to; like noun → adjective	hero**ic**, athlet**ic**, poet**ic**, histor**ic**
-ive	tending to verb → adjective	act**ive**, creat**ive**, expens**ive**, attract**ive**
-ous	full of; having noun → adjective	fam**ous**, danger**ous**, nerv**ous**, joy**ous**
-ion / -tion / -ation	the act or result of verb → noun	act**ion**, educat**ion**, invent**ion**, inform**ation**, celebrat**ion**
-ity	the state or quality of adjective → noun	activ**ity**, abil**ity**, real**ity**, electric**ity**
-ize	to make; to become → verb	real**ize**, organ**ize**, modern**ize**, critic**ize**
-en	to make; to become adjective → verb	dark**en**, soft**en**, bright**en**, wid**en**
-ship	the state, skill or group of noun → noun	friend**ship**, leader**ship**, member**ship**, champion**ship**
-hood	the state or time of noun → noun	child**hood**, neighbor**hood**, brother**hood**, adult**hood**

Spelling at the join

- **Drop the silent e** before a vowel suffix: make → mak**ing**, believe → believ**able**
- **Double the last consonant** after a short vowel: run → run**n**ing, big → big**g**er, sun → sun**n**y
- **Change y to i** after a consonant: happy → happ**i**ness, beauty → beaut**i**ful

Greek & Latin roots

Root	Meaning	Examples
aud	hear, listen Latin	**aud**io, **aud**ience, **aud**ible, in**aud**ible
auto	self Greek	**auto**graph, **auto**mobile, **auto**matic, **auto**biography
bio	life Greek	**bio**logy, **bio**graphy, anti**bio**tic, **bio**diversity
chron	time Greek	**chrono**logical, syn**chron**ize, **chron**ic, **chron**icle
cred	believe, trust Latin	**cred**ible, in**cred**ible, **cred**it, dis**cred**it
cycl	circle, wheel Greek	bi**cycle**, tri**cycle**, re**cycle**, **cycl**one
dict	say, tell Latin	pre**dict**, **dict**ionary, contra**dict**, **dict**ate
duct	lead Latin	con**duct**, con**duct**or, pro**duce**, intro**duce**
fact	make, do Latin	**fact**ory, manu**fact**ure, arti**fact**, bene**fact**or
form	shape Latin	trans**form**, **form**ation, uni**form**, re**form**
geo	earth Greek	**geo**graphy, **geo**logy, **geo**metry, **geo**thermal
graph	write, draw, record Greek	auto**graph**, photo**graph**, bio**graph**y, para**graph**
ject	throw Latin	re**ject**, pro**ject**, in**ject**, e**ject**
logy	study of; word, speech Greek	bio**logy**, geo**logy**, zoo**logy**, psycho**logy**
meter	measure Greek	thermo**meter**, baro**meter**, peri**meter**, dia**meter**
micro	small Greek	**micro**scope, **micro**phone, **micro**wave, **micro**organism
mit	send Latin	trans**mit**, sub**mit**, **miss**ion, e**mit**
mot	move Latin	**mot**ion, **mot**or, pro**mote**, re**mote**

Greek & Latin roots (continued)

Root	Meaning	Examples
ped	foot Greek	**ped**al, **ped**estrian, centi**pede**, bi**ped**
phon	sound, voice Greek	tele**phone**, **phon**ics, micro**phone**, sym**phon**y
photo	light Greek	**photo**graph, **photo**synthesis, **photo**copy, **photo**genic
port	carry Latin	trans**port**, im**port**, ex**port**, **port**able
press	push, squeeze Latin	**press**ure, ex**press**, im**press**, de**press**
rupt	break, burst Latin	inter**rupt**, e**rupt**, dis**rupt**, **rupt**ure
scope	look at, examine Greek	micro**scope**, tele**scope**, peri**scope**, stetho**scope**
scrib	write Latin	de**scribe**, sub**scribe**, pre**script**ion, manu**script**
spect	look, see Latin	in**spect**, **spect**ator, re**spect**, pro**spect**
spir	breathe Latin	in**spire**, re**spir**ation, per**spire**, con**spire**
struct	build Latin	con**struct**, **struct**ure, de**struct**ion, in**struct**
tele	far, distant Greek	**tele**phone, **tele**vision, **tele**scope, **tele**graph
terr	earth, land Latin	**terr**itory, **terr**ain, extra**terr**estrial, **terr**ace
therm	heat Greek	**therm**ometer, **therm**al, **therm**ostat, geo**therm**al
tract	pull, drag Latin	at**tract**, dis**tract**, ex**tract**, **tract**or
vent	come Latin	e**vent**, in**vent**, pre**vent**, ad**vent**ure
vis	see Latin	**vis**ion, **vis**ible, in**vis**ible, **vis**ual

Word sum practice

Write each word as a word sum. Example: `re + play + ed → replayed`. Watch for spelling changes at the joins!

1. **unhappiness**
2. **unbelievable**
3. **uncomfortable**
4. **replacement**
5. **disability**
6. **transformation**
7. **unemployment**
8. **reminder**
9. **international**
10. **unlikely**
11. **beautiful**
12. **education**
13. **decision**
14. **natural**
15. **hopefully**
16. **personality**
17. **funny**
18. **simply**
19. **activity**
20. **enforcement**

Answer key

1. **unhappiness**
   `un + happy + ness → unhappiness`
2. **unbelievable**
   `un + believe + able → unbelievable`
3. **uncomfortable**
   `un + comfort + able → uncomfortable`
4. **replacement**
   `re + place + ment → replacement`
5. **disability**
   `dis + able + ity → disability`
6. **transformation**
   `trans + form + ation → transformation`
7. **unemployment**
   `un + employ + ment → unemployment`
8. **reminder**
   `re + mind + er → reminder`
9. **international**
   `inter + nation + al → international`
10. **unlikely**
    `un + like + ly → unlikely`
11. **beautiful**
    `beauty + ful → beautiful`
12. **education**
    `educate + ion → education`
13. **decision**
    `decide + ion → decision`
14. **natural**
    `nature + al → natural`
15. **hopefully**
    `hope + ful + ly → hopefully`
16. **personality**
    `person + al + ity → personality`
17. **funny**
    `fun + y → funny`
18. **simply**
    `simple + ly → simply`
19. **activity**
    `act + ive + ity → activity`
20. **enforcement**
    `en + force + ment → enforcement`

Spelling changes to discuss: believe → believ-, beauty → beauti-, fun → funn-, simple → simpl-, decide → decis-, able → abil-, educate → educat-.

Word stress: how suffixes move the stress

The **BOLD CAPITAL** syllable is stressed (American English, CMU Pronouncing Dictionary).

Suffixes that pull the stress: -ic, -ical, -ity, -ian, -tion, -ious

These suffixes move the stress to the syllable just before them, wherever it was in the base word.

- **PHO**·to·graph → pho·to·**GRAPH**·ic
- e·**CON**·o·my → e·co·**NOM**·ic
- **POL**·i·tics → po·**LIT**·i·cal → po·li·**TI**·cian
- **DEM**·o·crat → de·mo·**CRAT**·ic
- **HIS**·to·ry → his·**TO**·ric → his·**TO**·ri·an
- a·**CAD**·e·my → a·ca·**DEM**·ic

Endings that stress the third syllable from the end: -graphy, -logy, -cracy, -macy, -omy

Words with these endings usually put the stress three syllables from the end, so the stress moves when they are formed.

- **PHO**·to·graph → pho·**TOG**·ra·phy
- **DEM**·o·crat → de·**MOC**·ra·cy
- **DIP**·lo·mat → di·**PLO**·ma·cy
- ge·**OG**·ra·phy
- bi·**OL**·o·gy
- tech·**NOL**·o·gy

Suffixes that leave the stress alone: -ful, -less, -ness, -ment, -er, -able

These suffixes add meaning without moving the stress. -al on its own often behaves the same way (MU·sic → MU·si·cal), but -ical follows the -ic rule.

- **HAP**·py → **HAP**·pi·ness
- **CARE** → **CARE**·ful → **CARE**·ful·ly
- a·**GREE** → a·**GREE**·ment
- em·**PLOY** → em·**PLOY**·er → em·**PLOY**·ment
- **GOV**·ern → **GOV**·ern·ment
- **COM**·fort → **COM**·fort·a·ble

Noun or verb? Two-syllable pairs

- record: noun **REC**·ord · verb re·**CORD**
- present: noun **PRES**·ent · verb pre·**SENT**
- object: noun **OB**·ject · verb ob·**JECT**
- contract: noun **CON**·tract · verb con·**TRACT**
- protest: noun **PRO**·test · verb pro·**TEST**
- increase: noun **IN**·crease · verb in·**CREASE**

Check your answers online, free

All free, no signup, on any device. Students can check their own maps.

- **Break any word into morphemes**
  ling.fixie.tools/morphology
- **Every prefix, suffix and root list**
  ling.fixie.tools/morphology/affixes
- **Morpheme mapping guide (and this template)**
  ling.fixie.tools/morphology/mapping
- **Syllables and stress for any word**
  fixie.tools/syllables
- **Word stress rules with 30+ word families**
  fixie.tools/syllables/stress-rules

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