

Workbook Chapter 8

Exercises for Textbook Chapter 8

A. Study questions

1. Are the words in the following pairs cognates? If so, what rule has changed their forms?

- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| (a) Anglian ~ triangular | (n) logic ~ legal |
| (b) apology ~ dialect | (o) narrate ~ agnostic |
| (c) belligerent ~ digest | (p) orthogonal ~ genuflect |
| (d) car ~ career | (q) pensive ~ ponder |
| (e) diaspora ~ sperm | (r) plus ~ plural |
| (f) engine ~ gingerly | (s) promenade ~ mountain |
| (g) inquest ~ conquer | (t) sperm ~ sprout |
| (h) genesis ~ general | (u) temple ~ anatomy |
| (i) hesitate ~ inherent | (v) ventricle – ventilate |
| (j) ignore ~ prognosis | (w) verge ~ wry |
| (k) island ~ insular | (x) virgin ~ virile |
| (l) jocular ~ jugular | (y) writhe ~ divert |
| (m) just ~ juror | |

2. Does the pronunciation reveal the etymological origins of these words? If not, what does? What does that fact tell you about modern English orthography, or perhaps about processes of sound change?

cupboard, handkerchief, Greenwich, forehead (at least in those dialects which rhyme it with *horrid*), *answer, daisy, shepherd, husband*

3. Trace the etymology of the following sets of words:

monarch, Monday, monger, monster, month, deliver, livid, livery, liver, olive

4. Using the *American Heritage Dictionary*, trace the Indo-European source of the boldfaced consonants in the following sets of words:

brew–fervid–broil–broth–bread–ferment–effervesce
know–agnostic
call–glasnost–clatter–gallinaceous ‘of poultry’ *fire–pyre*
capture–have, hawk (OE *heafoc*)
blow–inflate–bladder–blast–blasé–flatulent–flavor, deflate
ban–fame–infant, phonetic, symphony, blaspheme
do–fa(ct), affect, facile, thesis, deed, deem, fordo, doom

5. Trace the etymology of the following words:
appetite, perpetrate, perpetuate, pet, n., petal, Peter, peter, v., petite, petition, petroleum, petty, petulant, strumpet, trumpet.
6. Choose five homophonous root sets from the list accompanying Chapter 8 and supply derivatives (other than the examples that appear in the text) for each of the members of the set.
7. The word *travelgate* has been used in the media since 1993. What is the source of this word? Can you cite other *-gate* words?
8. Find cognates of the roots *card, cord* and discuss the semantic variation of the derivatives.
9. List and define the derivatives of the root *sem*. Is *Semitic* a member of this family of words?
10. Which of the following words are cognates? Name the changes that reveal the relationships, if any, among them.

(a) resent	(b) century	(c) capture
(d) cento	(e) ecstatic	(f) celibate
(g) cellar	(h) eccentric	(i) centimeter
(j) sentiment	(k) supercilious	(l) descent
(m) escape	(n) sentry	(o) incipient
(p) centaur	(q) institute	(r) occult
(s) obstetrician	(t) collar	(u) recent
(v) docent	(w) centennial	(x) stethoscope

11. Parse and gloss the following words. Pay careful attention to the prefixes.

- | | |
|--------------|----------------|
| (a) afoot | (b) agnostic |
| (c) announce | (d) anomalous |
| (e) antonym | (f) anxious |
| (g) aphasia | (h) apolitical |
| (i) apostasy | (j) apothecary |
| (k) appear | (l) approve |
| (m) ashore | (n) avow |
| (o) assent | (p) awry |

12. The prefixes *ab-*, *cata-*, *apo-*, *de-*, and *ex-* can have the meaning 'away.' Find two words with each prefix illustrating that statement.

13. Are the following pairs of words examples of the operation of the First Consonant Shift? Write in YES or NO in the second column. Write in the segments, if any, that have undergone the shift in the third column. If the pair shows the operation of the shift, give a phonetic transcription of the Germanic/English word in that pair:

Words	YES/NO	Segments	Transcription
acre – agrarian			
blossom – florist			
break – fragment			
consonant – song			
fact – egg			
pedal – afoot			
pendulum – tension			
pragmatic – practice			
transit – thorough			
timber – domestic			

B. Roots

Your task is to look at the words under each root and make sure you know what the meaning of the root contributes to the meaning of the whole word. If you don't see it, look it up in your dictionary.

1.

√ bel(l) 'war'		
bel		vel
rebel		revel
bellicose		revelry
antebellum		
belligerent		
bellicose		

(What is the relation of this root to the root of *embellish*?)

(What war does *antebellum* refer to?)

2.

√ bene 'good, well'		
bene		bon
benediction		bonus
benefactor		bonanza
beneficial		debonnaire
benefit		boon
benevolence		bounty
benign		

(What is the source of *-fit* in *benefit*?)

(What is the special sense of *benign* in the field of medicine?)

(In Spanish, *bonanza* meant 'fair weather.' What sort of semantic change took place?)

(In *bounty*, the form is actually the same as *boon*; see if you can explain how the difference in pronunciation came about.)

3.

√ civ 'city, refined'		
civ		cit
civic		citizen
civil		city
civilian		citadelle
civilize		
civilization		

4.

√ crat 'rule' ¹		
crat		crac ([-s])
autocrat		autocracy
aristocrat		aristocracy
bureaucrat		bureaucracy
democrat		democracy
plutocrat		plutocracy

(What does *aristo-* mean?)

(What does *pluto-* mean?)

5.

√ dom 'house, control, lord, sovereign'		
dom		domin
domestic		dominate
domicile		predominant
domain		domineer
indomitable		domination
		condominium
		dominical
		dame (< Lat. <i>domina</i>) ²

(The Indo-European Root entry for 'house, household' in the *American Heritage Dictionary* (Appendix I) is **dem**. Can you figure out how **dem** and **dom** are related?)

Look up the etymology of the word *timber*. How does it relate to the root √*dom*?

What is the etymological and semantic link between *despot* and *dominate*, if any?

¹ Martin Lehnert's *Reverse Dictionary of Present-Day English* (Leipzig: Verlag Enzyklopädie, 1971) lists 42 nouns in *-cracy*, among which are such transparent, but also transient, formations as *cottonocracy*, *foolocracy*, *pedantocracy*, *pornocracy*, *squattocracy*, *strumpetocracy*, as well as the useful and also fully transparent *androcracy*, *ergatocracy*, *gerontocracy*, *gynocracy*, *isocracy*, *meritocracy*, *monocracy*, *pantisocracy*, *technocracy*, *theocracy*.

² Latin *domina* is also the source of Spanish *doña*, Italian *donna*, *Madonna* < ma 'my' + *donna*.

6.

√ duc 'lead, pull'		
duce	duit	duct
adduce	conduit	abduct (-ion, -or)
conducive		conduct (-ion, -or)
deduce		deduct (-ion)
educate (-ion, -or)		product (-ion, -ive)
produce		induct (-ion, -ee)
induce		reduction
reduce		introduction
introduce		transduction
transduce (traduce)		seduction (-ive)
duke (< duc)		seductress
		ductile

(Is *adduce* ever used in a concrete sense?)

(How does *abduction* differ from *deduction* and *induction*?)

(Is *abduct* ever used in an abstract sense?)

(What are the two primary senses of *deduction*? How do they related to *deduce* and *deduct*?)

7.

√ fend 'strike, ward off'		
fend		fense (= fence)
defend		defense (-ive)
offend		offence (-ive)
fend		fence

SPELLING NOTE: When a final **-e** shows up, it generally means that the vowel which precedes it is long. However, here it indicates that the preceding **-s-** is really an [s] phonetically, since if the **-e** were not present the form would be pronounced with a final [z], as it is in **sends, fens, hens, lens**, etc.

8.

√ grat 'thankful, pleased, kind'		
grat		grac
grateful		grace
gratify		ingratiate
gratis		gracious
ingrate		disgrace (-ful)
congratulate		grace (-ful)
gratuitous		
gratuity		

(The pronunciation of *ingratiate* clearly indicates that it belongs to the allomorph on the right above, even though spelled as if it belonged on the left.)

(*Gratuitous* is usually used in a negative way as 'unnecessary, unwarranted,' as in a *gratuitous comment*. It is an obvious example of semantic pejoration.)

9.

√ mal 'bad'		
mal		male
dismal		malediction
malady		malefactor
malaise		maleficient
malapropism		malevolent
malaria		
malice		
malign		
malignant		
malingering		

(*Dismal* is a word taken over from a Latin phrase. What is the phrase, and what did it mean?)

(Compare *malaise* with *disease*.)

(*Malapropism* derives from Mrs. Malaprop, a character in Sheridan's 1775 play *The Rivals*, the name of the character itself is from the French *mal à propos* 'badly to the purpose.'³)

(What Italian phrase is *malaria* taken from? What does it tell you about earlier understanding of this disease?)

(*Malingering* refers to 'sickliness,' originally. Explain how it comes to mean 'to feign illness.' The *-inger* part of the word is probably from a Germanic root which means 'thin, weak'.)

10.

√ mod 'moderate, control, measure, manner'		
mod		mode
accommodate		commode
moderate		commodity
modest		commodious
modern		modal
modicum		modem
modify		
modulate		
module		

(*Modify* has the idea 'to make less extreme,' from the idea of limiting, or moderating, extended to change in general.)

(Interesting semantic changes in the word *commode*: originally a 'chest of drawers,' the sense 'toilet' arises from the sense 'of due measure' and therefore 'convenient'.)

(*Modern* is from the sense 'in a certain manner that is appropriate to this time and place'.)

(Modem, which contains *modulator*, is a blend of **modulator** and **demodulator**, a word which came into use 1955-1960 with the invention of the device capable of transmitting and receiving electronic data over the telephone.)

³ Some examples of Mrs. Malaprop's comical misuses cited in J. T. Shipley's *The Origins of English Words* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1984) are "— if I reprehend anything in this world—," "the use of my oracular tongue," "a nice derangement of epitaphs" (p.244).

11.

√ pac 'bind, agreement, peace'		
pact		pac
impact		pacify
compact		pacific
		pacifism

(Latin *pace* 'with peaceful intent'; said when disagreeing in an argument in the hope that the other person will not mind their views being disputed.)

12.

√ pen 'punish(ment)'			
pen	penit	pun	punit
penal	penitent	punish	punitive
penalty	penitentiary		impunity
	repent		

13.

√ pol 'city, state'		
polis		polit
acropolis		cosmopolitan
megapolis		political
metropolis		polity
necropolis		politic
police		
policy		

(*Cosmopolitan* – one whose 'city' is the entire world, non-regional, non-provincial.)

(Guess what the *metr-* of *metropolis* is.)

(Are *polity* and *polite* cognate? The answer will surprise you, especially if you think of the adjective *urbane* 'of the city,' also 'civil, polite, suave'.)

14.

√ reg 'straight, lead, rule, king'		
reg	rect	rig
regal	correct	(in)corrigible
regent	direct	
regicide	erect	
regimen	recto	
region	rectangle	
(ir)regular	rectify	
interregnum	rectum	

(*Recto* the right-hand page of a book, odd-numbered page – the opposite of *verso* 'the back of the leaf, the page being turned'; direct borrowing, in this form, from Latin.)

(*Rectum* is the second word of the Latin phrase *intestinum rectum* 'straight intestine'; obviously it has been restricted in meaning to just part of the straight intestine.)

15. The following occur mostly in a single orthographic form, though some of the allomorphs will have variant realizations due to vowel reduction and long-vowel shifting:

(a) √**class** 'group' – *classic, classical, classicism, classify, declassify, déclassé*. (*Classic* originally pertained to any of the six divisions of Roman people, later to any aspect of ancient Rome or Greece in their periods of highest literary achievement, now generalized as to anything of superior rank, quality, significance, lasting value.) (*Déclassé* is used contemptuously: someone who has lost social status and prestige.)

(b) √**cre(d)** 'believe, trust' – *credence, credential, credible, credit, credo, creed, credulous, discredit, incredible, miscreant*

(*Credo* is originally the Latin 1st p. sg. of the verb *credere* 'believe,' borrowed into English as a noun referring to a belief system.)

(c) √**dem** 'people' – *demagogue, democracy, endemic, epidemic, pandemic*

(d) √**eu** 'good, well' – *eucalyptus, eugenics, eulogy, eupeptic, euphemism, euphony, euphoric, eurhythmics, euthanasia, evangelism*

(Greek *kaluptos* 'covered,' well-covered – the bud of the eucalyptus has a cap.)

(*Euphemism* is literally 'well speaking,' but its meaning is much narrower.)

(*Evangelism*, originally 'bringing good news, glad tidings,' now preaching of the gospel.)

- (e) √**fid** 'trust, bold' (also showing the allomorph *feder*) – *affidavit*, *bona fide*, *confide* (-ent), *confidence*, *diffident*, *fidelity*, *infidel*, *perfidious*

(*Diffident* comes from the meaning 'distrustful'; it now means 'lacking self-confidence,' i.e. distrustful of self.) (*Infidel* means, literally, 'one who is unfaithful,' i.e. an unbeliever in a particular faith.)

- (f) √**greg** 'flock, gather' – *aggregate*, *congregate*, *congregation*, *egregious*, *gregarious*, *segregate*

(*Egregious* means literally 'out of the flock,' today 'conspicuously bad,' 'flagrant.')

- (g) √**mun** 'common, public, gift' – *communion*, *community*, *communism*, *communicate* ('to be common with'), *immune* (originally 'exempt from public service'; now extended to not being affected by certain influences, including specifically disease), *municipal*, *munificent*, *remunerate*

- (h) √**nom** 'law, system' – *autonomous*, *anomie*, *economy*, *antinomy*, *metronome*, *nomocracy*, *taxonomy*⁴

(*Anomie* was originally 'lawlessness'; now refers to a lack of certain standards and values in a society)

(*ec* 'inhabit'; in Greek, the word meant 'management of the house'; now in English 'thriftiness with resources,' also extended to the more general 'system of management of material wealth'; why is the term *home economics* redundant?)

(*Antinomy* is literally 'law opposing'; specifically a contradiction, especially between two equally good laws, rules, or conclusions; 'a paradox'; do not confuse this word with *antimony*, a metallic element.)

- (i) √**nunc** 'speak' – *annunciate*, *enunciate*, *pronunciation*, *renunciation*, *announce*, *renounce*

- (j) √**prec** 'entreat, pray' – *deprecate*, *deprecation*, *precarious*, *imprecate*, *imprecation*

Etymological note: this root is not related to **prec** 'worth, value,' as in **depreciate**.

(What does *precarious* suggest about when we are most likely to pray?)

(How does *imprecation* come to mean 'curse'?)

- (k) √**rat** 'reckon, reason'—*ratio*, *rational*, *ratify*

- (l) √**sci** 'know, discern' – *science*, *conscience*, *conscious*, *prescience*, *omniscient*, *sciolism*

⁴ There are 16 nouns in *-nomy*, 'arrangement, management, a system of laws,' in Lehnert's *Reverse Dictionary of Present-Day English*, among which are the transparent *astronomy*, *gastronomy*, *geonomy*, *zoonomy*.

- (m) √**son** 'sound' – *sonorous, consonant, dissonant, sonata, sonnet, unison*
- (n) √**soph** 'wise' – *philosophy, sophist, sophistry, sophisticated*
- (o) √**ver** 'true' (not to be confused with *ver* 'turn') – *veracity, verdict, verify, verisimilitude, veritable, verity, aver*
- (p) √**xen** 'foreign, strange' – *xenophile, xenophobe, xenon*
(Xenon is the chemical element, literally 'a strange, rare element, inert, not easily attracted to other elements.')

C. Root exercises

1. What type of 'rule' is involved in the following words containing *crat*?

- | | |
|------------------|---------------|
| (a) gerontocracy | (d) monarchy |
| (b) gynocracy | (e) theocracy |
| (c) hagiocracy | (f) xenocracy |

2. Parse, gloss, and define the following words:

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------|
| (a) circumduction | (g) nomad |
| (b) demography | (h) pacify |
| (c) dome | (i) regiment |
| (d) duchess | (j) veracious |
| (e) Eucharist | (k) xenolith |
| (f) malpractice | |