Workbook Chapter 10

Exercises for Textbook Chapter 10

A. Study questions

1. For the following words, state whether the *penult* is heavy or light.

- (a) lateralization (f) orthography
- (b) equivocal (g) evanescence
- (c) accomplice (h) orthopedics
- (d) preposterous (i) Saskatchewan
- (e) morphogenesis

2. Which of the following words are exceptions to the stress rules as given in Chapter 10? For any exceptions, state what the stress *should* be, according to the rules.

| (a) | amplitude | (g) | entropy |
|-----|--------------|-----|-------------|
| (b) | figurative | (h) | accordion |
| (c) | corollary | (i) | corpulent |
| (d) | multiplicity | (j) | monument |
| (e) | explicit | (k) | psychedelic |
| (f) | vacation | | |

3. The following are all strange, long, obscure words which you may never bother to learn the meaning of, unless you happen to be in those particular technical fields. But all of them are pronounced in accord with the rules given in Chapter 10. Mark the stress according to those rules and pronounce them accordingly. If you are not certain, indicate precisely what piece of information you are missing, in order to become certain; then look them up.

- (a) apoenzyme
- (b) asphodel (HINT: the penult is light)
- (c) bacteriophagy
- (d) caliginous
- (e) Carmelopardalis (HINT: the penult is light)
- (f) cataphoresis (HINT: the penult is heavy)
- (g) cenospecies

- (h) cephalochordate
- (i) chalicothere (HINT: this is a compound; the second element is *there*)
- (j) charcuterie (HINT: the first syllable is *not* Greek)
- (k) chelicera (HINT: the penult is light)
- (l) diaphoretic
- (m) esurient
- (n) eukaryote (HINT: the -y- is a short vowel)
- (o) extrasystole (HINT: the -o- is a short vowel)
- (p) Devanagari (HINT: the second -*a* from the right is a short vowel)

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.

| $\sqrt{\mathbf{ac}}$ 'sour, sharp, bitter' | | | |
|--|------------|-----------|--|
| ac | acerb | acro | |
| acid | acerbic | acrobat | |
| acute ¹ | exacerbate | acropolis | |
| acme | | acrid | |
| acne | | acrimony | |
| acuity | | | |
| acumen | | | |

(The notion 'sharp in shape' can then be made abstract, as in "acme of perfection.")
(bat = 'walk'; if you walk on sharp points, you are "on your toes.")
(In *exacerbate*, *ex*- must be taken entirely as an intensifier: 'to cause to be extremely sharp,' used only metaphorically – that is, to worsen any situation.)

¹ lit. 'sharpened,' since the *-ut* suffix is the Latin past participle; extended metaphorically to refer to angles, where the sense is transparent, and then on to perception or intelligence, where the sense is totally metaphorical – consider the notion "sharp as a tack" referring to intelligence.

| 2. | |
|------------|------------|
| √t | ol 'throw' |
| bol | bl |
| symbol | parable |
| hyperbole | emblem |
| metabolism | problem |
| parabola | |

(symbol 'thrown together'; originally from Greek sumbolon, a token of identification, a divided object which identified the people sharing it when the two parts were compared, like comparing the two halves of a torn dollar bill to see if they fit.)
 (Already in Greek metabolism meant 'changed in form,' specifically the digestive

process to produce energy; exceptionally, from a linguistic point of view, it is the **prefix** that carries the core meaning, and the root that is bleached.)

(*parable* 'thrown beside', 'comparison'; one is supposed to compare the lesson in the story to one's own life, and improve one's life accordingly.)

(*emblem* lit. 'to throw in,' but semantically opaque; its meaning came about through these stages: in Greek it meant 'to insert, to set in'; in Latin this became 'embossed design,' leading to the Middle English 'pictorial fable' embossed on tapestries, and finally to the current meaning of 'symbolic design.'

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| √ chrom 'color, embellishment' | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|--------------|
| chromat | | chrom |
| chromatic | | chromophilic |
| chromatin | | chromosome |

(In music, the 12-semitone scale passes through all the musical colors)

(*Cromophil* 'loving color' really means something that stains *readily*; used in biology with reference to cells, which can be *chromophilic* or *chromophobic*.)

(*Chromatin* is the part of the nucleus of a cell that stains easily; *chrom* is short for *chromatin* in the word *chromosome; -some* means 'body'; therefore *chromosome* is a body within the nucleus of a cell.)

| 1. | | | |
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| \sqrt{cor} 'round, curved' | | | |
| cor | | curv | |
| corona | | curve | |
| coroner | | curvature | |
| coronary | | curvaceous | |
| corolla | | | |
| corollary | | | |

(The word *crown* itself is derived from *corona*, English having borrowed the form *corouna* from French, and then dropped the first and last vowels because they were unstressed.)

- (A *coroner* was one of the 'officers of the crown' in medieval England; specifically charged with checking out the causes of the deaths of Norman nobility, to be certain there had been no foul play, especially of Saxon origin; generalized now to the task of checking out all instances of death where the death may not have come about through natural causes.)
- (*Coronary* = 'encircling' the heart, hence the vessels directly around the heart; now generalized to refer to any problem or function related to the heart.)
- (*Corolla* is a diminutive form of *corona*, narrowed in meaning to refer to a crownlike circlet of flowers.)

| √ fig 'form, shape' | | | |
|----------------------------|--|---------|--|
| fig | | fict | |
| figure | | fiction | |
| figurative | | fictile | |
| figment | | | |
| effigy | | | |

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4

(Earliest sense, 'the result of kneading,' therefore that which is formed.)

(*Fiction* is *not*, as it appears that it might be, the same root as *fac* 'do' – it looks like multiple lenition but it cannot be, since the *-i-* is in the initial syllable; that impression is further strengthened by phrases like "fact and fiction," which makes them seem related; but *fact* is something that is "done," whereas *fiction* is something that is "shaped.")

| 6. | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|-----------|
| | √ mag 'large, great' | |
| magn ² | meg | maj |
| magnify | megalomania | majority |
| magnanimous | cardiomegaly | major |
| magnificent | acromegaly | majuscule |
| magnate | | majesty |

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| √ ple 'fold, tangle' | | | |
|-----------------------------|------------|----------|--|
| plec | plic | ply | |
| complex (= ecs) | accomplice | comply | |
| multiplex | complicity | imply | |
| duplex | explicate | reply | |
| | implicate | apply | |
| | implicit | multiply | |
| | replicate | | |

(Accomplice is from the archaic complice, literally 'one who is folded with' or

intertwined with someone else; it's not clear why the first prefix was added – perhaps by analogy with *accompany*.)

(*Apply* is 'to fold toward' or 'to fold together', leading to the meaning 'to affix' or 'to put onto,' both literally and metaphorically.)

8.

| √ post 'after, behind' | | | |
|-------------------------------|--|--------------|--|
| post | | poster | |
| post mortem | | posterior | |
| post partum | | posterity | |
| postpone | | preposterous | |
| postscript | | | |
| posthumous | | | |

² Even though it appears likely that *magnet* should be from this source, in fact it is not: *magnet* and all its derivatives come from the name of a city near which magnetic stones were found in the ancient world, and the root of *magnet, magnetic, magnetize, magneto,* etc. is *magnet,* which is a single morpheme.

(The original Latin form was *postumus* 'most afterward,' meaning both 'last' and 'born after the death of one's father'; in Late Latin the *h* was added, perhaps due to the connection of the meaning to the root *hum* 'earth, bury,' which is a false etymology.)

(*Preposterous* = 'before coming after'; although contradictory, this is the intended meaning, originally 'inverted,' and now 'nonsensical', 'absurd.')

| ١ | / prim 'first, foremost, begin' | |
|------------|--|-----------|
| prim | | prin |
| primal | | prince |
| primary | | principal |
| primate | | principle |
| prime | | |
| primeval | | |
| primitive | | |
| primordial | | |

- (*Primate* is 'the foremost bishop' in a geographical area; in biology, 'the foremost order of mammals.')
- (*Principle* and *principal* are of the same origin, and in spite of the best efforts of the usage editor's note on "Word usage" in the *American Heritage Dictionary* to sort out the difference between *principal* and *principle*, they are historically un-sort-out-able and have commonly been spelled alike until recent times; synchronically, the difference is that the *-al* form has to do with rank or importance, and the *-le* form has to do with fundamental belief systems.)

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9.

| √ simil 'same, one' | | | |
|----------------------------|------------|--------------|-----------|
| sim | simil | simul | semb |
| simple | assimilate | simulate | resemble |
| simplex | facsimile | simultaneous | assemble |
| | similar | | dissemble |
| | simile | | ensemble |

(What is the source of the $\langle b \rangle$ in *assemble* and *semblance*?)

(Simultaneous 'at the same time' has a strange suffix that appears to be derived from

the forms *instantaneous* and *momentaneous*, with the <t> mistakenly peeled off the roots *instant* and *moment* and taken as part of the suffix.)

11.

| √tort 'twist' | | |
|----------------|--|---------|
| tort | | tor |
| contort (-ion) | | torment |
| distort (-ion) | | torque |
| extort (-ion) | | |
| retort | | |
| tortuous | | |
| torture | | |

12.

| √ vac 'empty' | | |
|----------------------|----------|--------|
| vacu | vac | van |
| vacuous | vacate | vanish |
| evacuate | vacancy | vanity |
| vacuum | vacation | |

13.

| √ ver 'turn' | | |
|---------------------|-------------|----------|
| vers | vert | vor, ver |
| adverse | advertise | vortex |
| adversary | inadvertent | vertex |
| controversy | pervert | |
| converse (-ion) | subvert | |
| universe | vertical | |

(Vertex, vortex, 'highest point,' originally from Latin 'whirling column.')

14. The following occur only in a single invariant form (i.e., zero allomorphy):

- (a) \forall **ampl** 'large' *ample, amplifier, amplitude*
- (b) √equi 'even, level' equanimity, equator, equilateral, equilibrium, equinox, equity, equivocal
- (*Equator* comes from a longer phrase in Latin, of which only the first word is now used: the full phrase meant 'equalizer of day and night.')

- (*Equity* ought to mean simply 'fairness'; has become very specialized to refer to the value of property in excess of how much you owe on it.)
- (A statement which is 'equal-voiced' in two directions, and therefore capable of more than one interpretation, is *equivocal*; a favorite ploy of politicians and administrators because it avoids commitment; sometimes you hear *equivocation* used as a synonym for *lying*.)
- (c) \sqrt{lat} 'hidden' *latent*
- (d) √later, lat 'side, wide' (not to be confused with later 'worship,' as in idolatry) lateralize, -ation, latitude
- (*Lateralization* has to do with brain functions delegated to one hemisphere (one side) of the brain; thus, typically in a right-handed person, speech is controlled by the left hemisphere.)
- (*Latitude* is literally 'width'; apart from the latitude longitude kind of geographical use, the term has come to mean 'freedom from constraint', like the band-width of permitted behavior.)
- (e) √medi 'middle' (not to be confused with med, mod 'appropriate measures' as in medical, moderate) mediocre (ocr = mountain peak, see √ac above), media, medieval (ev = 'age'), mediterranean, intermediary
- (If you're mediocre, you should be the one in the middle, i.e. average; but in fact what has happened to the meaning?)
- (The Mediterranean Sea must have been imagined to be in the middle of (dry) land.)
- (f) √meter 'measure' metric, metrics, metronome, perimeter, symmetrical, trigonometry (the allomorphs are regular)
- (g) $\sqrt{\min}$ 'little, least' diminish, diminutive, minor, minority, minuscular
- (h) \vee morph 'form' amorphous, morphology, morphogenesis
- (indirectly related to the *morph* of *morphine,* which comes from *Morpheus*, the ancient god of dreams, a creation of the poet Ovid, who imagined him to be able to take on the **form** of any person in a dream. Ovid therefore constructed the god's name from the Greek root meaning 'form.')
- (A *morphogenetic defect* is one which occurred during early growth, when a cell went wild or in some way failed to develop normally.)
- (i) √ ortho 'straight, correct' orthography, orthodontist, orthopedics, orthoepy
 (ped 'child'; should refer, and originally did, to practice of medicine in the domain of child rearing; but that practice concentrated heavily on skeletal structures, straightening out deformities and the like, and it has come today to refer to correcting disorders of the skeletal system in general, not just children.)

- (*epy* means 'word' or 'writing'; so orthoepy has to do, for example, with spelling reform.)
- (j) \lor trop 'turn' tropic, trope, entropy
- (*Tropic* = 'turning'; from the apparent turning back of the sun after it reaches the latitudes when it is farthest from the equator (the solstices.)
- (Trope from Greek 'turn,' 'figure of speech,' as in "to turn a figure of speech.")
- (Entropy = 'turning in', meaning in Greek 'transformation'; today it has the meaning 'disorder,' 'deterioration,' plus specific scientific meanings in the theory of fluids.)
- (k) √**tum** 'swollen' *contumely, detumescence, intumescence, intumescent, tumid, tumor, tumult*