

Workbook Chapter 2

Exercises for Textbook Chapter 2

A. Study questions

1. Which modern languages are descended from Proto-Germanic?
2. What major socio-historical and cultural events that influenced the English lexicon in a major way took place at each of the following dates or periods: (a) end of sixth century AD? (b) 1066? (c) 1476?
3. Why are the 1,000 or so loanwords that came into English from Scandinavian in the Anglo-Saxon period not easily recognizable as foreign, nor marked as belonging to a special, more literate, or more elevated level of usage?
4. Where in the British Isles would you expect to find localities bearing the names *Allenthorpe*, *Culverthorpe*, *Scunthorpe*, *Thorganby*, *Selby*? Why?
5. What are the two chronological layers of French borrowings into Middle English? Why are the numbers of loanwords for the two periods uneven?
6. Using your dictionary, determine and state the ultimate source of the following words. If it is Indo-European, identify the branch (Germanic, Italic/Latinate, Greek, etc.) it ultimately derives from; if it is not Indo-European, state the source language. If the word is hybrid, perform this exercise for each part of the word.

beaver	film	fiscal	hound
hyrax	industry	innocuous	intrude
jurisdiction	lake	make	moose
mother	partnership	push	secret
slate	tsunami	viewerdom	wallaby

7. Using the *OED*, determine the *latest* attestation of the OE words in the left column and the *earliest* attestation of the synonyms that replaced them in Middle English. What can you say about the rate of replacement of native by borrowed words?

Old English	Latest OED quote	Replacement	Earliest OED quote
bede 'prayer'		prayer (OFr. preiere)	
blee 'color'		color (OFr. color)	
dight 'to ordain'		ordain (AFr. ordeiner)	
ferd 'army'		army (Fr. armée)	
glad 'to rejoice'		rejoice (OFr. rejoiss-)	
rede 'advice'		advice (OFr. avis)	

B. Roots

Terminology: In Textbook Chapter 4, the terms **root** and **affix** are discussed in detail. At this early stage, **root** can be understood intuitively as the nuclear core of the word, and **affix** as peripheral material, either in front of the root or after it, which modifies the meaning of the root. The symbol √xxx means 'the root xxx'. Where two or more forms of the root are given in the second line, these should be understood as free variants of the root named on the top row. Your task is to look at the words containing 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. The questions in parentheses below some of the tables are intended to alert your curiosity to something special in the meaning or historical derivation of the root.

1.

√ann 'year'			
ann	anni	annu	enni
annals	anniversary	annual	biennial
		annuity	centennial
		superannuated	millennium
			perennial

(What do *annals*, *annuity*, and *superannuated* mean?)

2.

√ arch 'beginning'		
archae 'ancient'		arch 'principal, rule(r)'
archaeology		hier ¹ archy (-ical)
archetype (-ical)		matriarchy
archaeological		monarchy
archaic		oligarchy
		patriarchy
		archive(s)
		an ² archy
		archbishop (-ric)

(What's the connection of *archives* to government rule?)

(How does the notion "sacred rule" - the word *hierarchy* - come to have the present meaning?)

3.

√ aster 'star'	
astro	aster
astronaut	asteroid
astrophysics	dis ³ aster
astrology	
astronomy	

(*Disaster* originally < Gk. *disastron*. Figure out – look it up if you can't – what *disaster* has to do with stars.)

¹**hier** is a root that means 'sacred.'

²**an-** is an affix that means 'lacking.'

³**dis-** is a prefix that means 'bad.'

4.

√ brev 'short'		
brevi	brief	brev
abbreviate	brief	brevity
breviloquent	briefcase	
	debrief	

5.

√ cele(b)r 'swift, frequent'		
celer		celebr
celerity		celebrate
accelerate		celebrity

(What is the connection between 'swift' or 'frequent' and the meanings of *celebrate* and *celebrity*?)

6.

√ clud 'close'		
clud	claus	clos
exclude (-sion, -sive)	claustrophobia	closet
include (-sion, -sive)	claustrophobic	disclose (-ure)
preclude		enclose (-ure)
seclude (-sion)		
conclude (-sion)		

(Are *clud* and its derivatives related to *cloud*?)

7.

√ dei 'god'		
divin		dei
divine		deity
divinity		deify
		deism

8.

√ flec 'bend, turn'		
flex (flecs)		flect
reflex (-ive)		reflect (-ion)
flexible (-ity)		deflect (-ion)
circumflex		genuflect (-ion)
inflexion		

(What does a circumflex accent look like?)

(What bends when someone genuflects?)

9.

√ hes 'stick, hold back'		
hes		her
adhesive (-ion)		adherent
cohesive (-ion)		(in)coher (-ent)
hesitate (-ion)		inher (-ent)

10.

√ jac 'throw, lay, lie'		
jac		ject
adjacent		reject (-ion)
ejaculate		inject (-ion)
		eject (ive)
		project (-ile, -or)
		object (-ive)
		conjecture
		adjective

(How do you imagine that something “thrown toward” something could come to refer to any class of words used to modify a noun or other substantive?)

11.

√ jug 'join'		
jug		jung
conjugal (-ity)		conjunction
conjugate (-ion)		juncture
jugular		subjunctive

NOTE: The variant of the root given above as **jung** actually never shows up in this form, since it is always followed by **-t**, which causes a regular change of **g** to **c** (phonetically **k**).

12.

√ lev 'light, rise'		
lev		lieve
levitate		relieve
levity		
elevate		
lever		
leaven (-ing)		
alleviate		

(*Believe* does not contain this root, contrary to its superficial appearance.

Determine for yourself, with your dictionary, what class of words *believe* is associated with.)

13.

√ lig 'bind, tie'		
ligat	lig	liga
ligature	oblige	ligament
	religion	

(What do *oblige* and *religion* have to do with 'being tied'?)

14.

√ loc 'place'		
loc		loco
local		locomotive
relocate		locomotion
locative		
allocate		
locus		

15.

√ phan 'show, appear'		
phen	phan	fan
phenomenon	phantom	fantasy
phenomenal	phantasm	fantastic
	fancy	
	sycophant	
	diaphanous	
	theophany	
	epiphany	

(See if you can figure out how *sycophant* came to have its present meaning. It means, literally, 'fig shower,' i.e. one who shows figs.)

(What does *Epiphany* have to do with the twelfth day after Christmas?)

16.

√ stat, stac 'stay, stand, make firm, set up'			
st	stat, stac	stit, stic	stant, stanc
arrest	state	substitute	circumstance
	statue	armistice	instant
	static	institute	substance
	apostacy		stance

(*arrest* is *ad-* + *re-* + *st*)

17.

√ ten 'stretch, thin'		
tend	tenu	tens
attend (-tion, -tive)	attenuate	intense (-ive)
extend	tenuous	extensive (-ion)
intend (-sion)		tense (-ion)
contend (-tion)		ostensible
distend		
pretend (-tious)		
tendon (-itis)		

(It may be worth noting that *intension*, a doublet form of *intention*, is from *intend*, not from *intense*, even though the spelling suggests the latter.)

18.

√ the 'place, put'		
thes	the	thet
thesis	theme	epenthetic
parenthesis	anathema	hypothetical
metathesis	apothecary	epithet
hypothesis		
synthesis		
epenthesis		

(The allomorphs *thes* and *thet* both consist of the root √*the* plus a suffix beginning with [t]. In some words the [t] assibilated, or became an [s], before the vowel [i], and in others it did not.)

(How does *anathema* come to mean 'cursed' or 'loathed'?)

(How does *apothecary* change from 'put away', as in a warehouse, to the present meaning?)

(What special meaning does *metathesis* have in the field of linguistics?)

(*Epenthesis* is a technical term in linguistics; the < d > in *thunder*, which comes from *thunor*, is an example of it, so what does it mean?)

19.

√ theo 'god'		
the		theo
theism		apotheosis
atheism		theocracy
pantheism		theology
		theosophy

(Contrary to appearances and to popular belief, there is no etymological connection whatever between Greek √*theo* and Latin √*deo*, √*dei*, though both mean 'god'.)

(How does *apotheosis* come to mean 'deification' or 'an exalted example'?)

(What do all the examples on the left branch have in common that might explain the fact that the final -o of the root is lost?)