

## Workbook Chapter 9

### Exercises for Textbook Chapter 9

#### A. Study questions

1. Parse, gloss, define, and give examples for the following words containing *-onym*.

acronym	metronym
allonym	oronym
caconym	paronym
cryptonym	pseudonym
eponym	tautonym
meronym	toponym

2. Which days of the week belong in the class of onomastic words? Describe their history.

3. Find ten onomastic words for units of electricity and electromagnetic forces.

4. Find more examples (i.e. ones not discussed in the text) of classical words which are also instances of narrowing.

5. Using the *Oxford Dictionary of English Etymology* or another dictionary which gives dates of entry (e.g. *Random House Webster's College Dictionary*):

(a) Trace the semantic history of:

animosity	egregious
pill	adultery
courteous	fornication

(b) List ten words containing *auto* and trace their semantic history (e.g. *autofocus*, *autotoxin*, etc.).

6. Look up following words. What types of *-onyms* do they represent? Why? Write in the results:

(a) altar ~ alter	(d) hull
(b) currant ~ current	(e) lay
(c) heat	(f) locks ~ lox

- |                 |                             |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| (g) low         | (l) pride ~ pried           |
| (h) male ~ mail | (m) pupil                   |
| (i) mean        | (n) rabbet ~ rabbit ~ rabid |
| (j) oversee     | (o) psi ~ sigh              |
| (k) present     |                             |

7. *Speaking of business.* The following words have undergone semantic change. What is their history? What type of semantic change does every individual word represent?

- |                |                 |
|----------------|-----------------|
| (a) business   | (i) franchise   |
| (b) change     | (j) grandfather |
| (c) company    | (k) overhead    |
| (d) concern    | (l) policy      |
| (e) deal       | (m) proceeding  |
| (f) depression | (n) racket      |
| (g) equity     | (o) security    |
| (h) float      | (p) vestry      |

8. What do the words below have in common? Using a dictionary which gives more extensive etymological information, e.g. the *Oxford English Dictionary*, the *American Heritage Dictionary*, the *Random House Webster's College Dictionary*, trace their etymology and mark the date of their first entry into the language:

- |                 |                 |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| (a) atlas       | (f) volcano     |
| (b) champagne   | (g) mercury     |
| (c) gerrymander | (h) pandemonium |
| (d) geyser      | (i) turkey      |
| (e) gung-ho     | (j) xerox       |

9. Look up the history of the following words. When were they first recorded in English? What are the etymological features they share?

- |            |           |
|------------|-----------|
| aegis      | giant     |
| ambrosia   | hector    |
| apostrophe | labyrinth |
| chorus     | lesbian   |
| cynic      | mentor    |
| echo       | orchestra |
| hero       | sphinx    |
| demon      |           |

10. *Types of scope change*. These are typical examples of scope widening. In each case, try to construct a context (a typical situation, or a sentence) where the earlier narrower meaning would be subject to misunderstanding and jumping to a broader sense.

- (a) *allergic* 'medical aversion'
  - 'general aversion,' as in "I'm allergic to rock and roll."
- (b) *anthology* 'collection of flowers'
  - 'collection of exquisite poetry'
  - 'collection of any kind of writing'
- (c) *apocryphal* 'hidden away'
  - 'books of Old Testament not originally written in Hebrew'
  - 'of unknown authorship'
  - 'of questionable authenticity'
  - 'false'
- (d) *arbitrary* 'depending on judgment'
  - 'depending on outside arbitrator'
  - 'unpredictable'
  - 'random'
- (e) *arrive* '(ship) come to shore'
  - 'reach any destination'
- (f) *bureau* 'desk'
  - 'office containing desks'
  - 'institution responsible for desk work'
- (g) *grotesque* 'of a cave, or excavated Roman chamber'
  - 'odd and ludicrous as the wall decorations in the grottos'
  - 'anything unnatural, absurd, incongruous'
- (h) *mater* 'mother'
  - 'that in which something is embedded' as in *material*, *matrix*
- (i) *nostalgia* 'homesickness'
  - 'longing for times past'
- (j) *offend* 'strike against'
  - 'create bad feelings'
- (k) *officious* 'eager to please and dutiful'
  - 'offensively zealous in duty'
- (l) *sycophant* 'one who surreptitiously shows fig ships, the ships that are about to ship figs out of the harbor'

- 'informer'
- 'flatterer'
- 'servile camp-follower'

- (m) *university* 'turned into one'
- 'comprehending the whole'
  - 'widely learned or accomplished'
  - 'a body of teachers and students'

11. Why is absolute synonymy rare? Cite five synonyms for the verb *to criticize* and discuss their context-specific usages.

12. Define the term *hyponymy*. Find five hyponyms for the following nouns:

- (a) boat
- (b) food
- (c) talk

## 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.

√ <b>ag</b> 'act, drive, do'		
<b>ag</b>	<b>act</b>	<b>ig</b>
agenda	act (-ion)	navigate
agent	actual (-ity)	prodigal (-ity)
agile	exact	prodigious
agitate	redact	exigent
agony	retroactive	fumigate

(*prod-* 'forth,' therefore 'driven forth,' 'driven out,' as in the biblical account of the prodigal son; from that story comes the idea of wastefulness that we find in derivatives like *prodigious*, *prodigality*.)

(Try to explain the etymological sense of *exact* – think of errors being ousted.)

2.

√ <b>cap</b> 'to take, contain'			
<b>cap(t)</b>	<b>ceive</b> <sup>1</sup>	<b>cept</b>	<b>cip</b>
capable	deceive	accept	anticipate
(en-) capsule (-ate)	perceive	receptive (-ity)	recipient
captive (-ate, -ity)	conceive	except	incipient
capture		intercept	municipal
caption		precept	recipe

3.

√ <b>cer</b> 'separate, judge, settle, discriminate'		
<b>cert</b>	<b>cri</b>	<b>cre</b>
certain	crime	excrement
certify	critic	secret
ascertain	hypocrisy	excrete
concert	criterion	secretary
	diacritic	

(The connection of this root with *crime* is a bit obscure: the idea seems to be that in the courts the bad deeds are discriminated from the good ones, and somehow this sorting out came to be associated with just the bad deeds; as for the phonetics, *-me(n)* started life as a Latin abstract noun suffix, but it is rare in English and must be viewed as a meaningless fossil.)

4.

√ <b>cit</b> 'put in motion, summon, arouse'		
<b>cite</b>	<b>cine-/kine</b> <sup>-2</sup>	<b>cit</b>
cite	kinesis	recitation
recite	cinema(tograph)	solicit
incite	kinesiology	resuscitate
		oscitant
		resuscitate

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<sup>1</sup> The allomorph *ceive* is not predictable by any of the rules covered in our text.

<sup>2</sup> These forms are from Greek origin.

5.

√ <b>cur</b> 'run'		
<b>cur</b>	<b>car</b>	<b>cor</b>
current	career	corridor
currency	car	corrida
cursive	carry	corral
incur	cargo	corsair
recur		
concur		

(The suffix of *career* is from the French word for 'race course' *carrière*, almost identical with Spanish *carrera*, which we have also borrowed, though much later; so having a career is 'running a race'.)

(*Currency* has undergone striking semantic changes, referring to 'money,' 'contemporaneity,' 'being intellectually on the ball,' and various other figurative meanings.)

6.

√ <b>erg</b> 'work'		
<b>erg</b>	<b>org</b>	<b>urg</b>
erg	organ	metallurgy
energy	organize	
synergy		

7.

√ <b>lud</b> 'play, game'		
<b>lud</b>		<b>lus</b>
allude		allusion
delude		delusion
elude		illusion
interlude		collusion
prelude		elusive
ludicrous		

(What is the difference between an *allusion* and an *illusion*?)

(In *collusion*, 'playing' takes on a very sinister sense in this word, since it refers to secret scheming.)

8.

√ <b>merg</b> 'dip, plunge'		
<b>merg</b>		<b>mers</b>
emerge		immerse
submerge		
merger		

9.

√ <b>nav</b> 'sail, boat'		
<b>naut</b>		<b>nav</b>
nautical		navy
aquonaut		naval
astronaut		
nausea		

10.

√ <b>pan</b> 'food, dough, bread'		
<b>pan</b>		<b>past</b>
companion		repast
pantry		pastor
pannier		pasture

11.

√ <b>pel</b> 'push, drive'		
<b>pel</b>		<b>pulse</b>
compel		compulsion
dispel		expulsion
expel		propulsion
propel		repulsive
repel		pulse

12.

√ <b>pot</b> 'be able, powerful'		
<b>pot</b>		<b>poss</b>
potent		possible
omnipotent		possess <sup>3</sup>
potential		

13.

√ <b>prag</b> 'do'		
<b>pract</b>		<b>pragm</b>
practice		pragmatic
practical		pragmatics

14.

√ <b>prob</b> 'test, find good'		
<b>prob</b>		<b>prov</b>
probation (-ary)		prove
probable		approve
improbable		reprove
		improve

15.

√ <b>sal</b> 'jump'			
<b>sali</b>	<b>selt</b>	<b>sault</b>	<b>sail</b>
salient	exult	assault	assail
	insult	somersault	

(*somer-* is from Old French *sobre* 'above'; the form of it reflects some sort of folk analysis a long time ago; the sense is therefore 'to leap over,' specialized to refer to a particular kind of leap, head over heels)

(In *exult*, *insult*, the **e**-change to **u** is regular, and so is the S-degeminatation of *exult*.)

(*Insult* transparently contains the same figure of speech we have today in a phrase like "He jumped all over me for getting to work so late")

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<sup>3</sup>'sit', so, originally, whatever you were able to sit on, that is to occupy, was yours; occupation was 100% of possession.



16.

√ <b>salv</b> 'safe, healthy'		
<b>salv</b>		<b>salut</b>
salvation		salute
salvage		salutation

17.

√ <b>sat</b> 'satisfy'		
<b>sat</b>		<b>satis</b>
sate		satisfy
saturate		satisfaction
satiate, (in)satiable		

18.

√ <b>stru</b> 'build'		
<b>struct</b>		<b>stru</b>
construct		construe (-al)
instruct		instrument
obstruct		
superstructure		

(-ment 'means,' therefore *instrument* 'means for building')

19.

√ <b>vic</b> 'conquer'		
<b>vict</b>		<b>vinc</b>
evict (-ion)		invincible
victory (-ous)		Vincent
convict (-ion)		

20. The following occur only in a single invariant form (i.e. no orthographic variation):

(a) √**burs** 'pouch, money' – *bursar, disburse, reimburse, bursa, bursitis*

(Some early physician decided that certain cavities of the body resemble a money pouch, whence terms like *bursitis*.)

- (b) √**phag** 'eat' – *anthropophagous, dysphagia, necro<sup>4</sup>phagous, sarcophagous*
- (c) √**prec(i)** 'worth, value' (not related to *prec* 'entreat, pray') – *appreciate, depreciate, precious, preciousness*
- (d) √ **therm** 'heat' – *thermal, thermometer, hypothermia*  
 (also listed in dictionaries as a prefix or a combining form *thermo-* because it is so common in compound formations like *thermonuclear, thermodynamic, etc.*)
- (e) √**val** 'strong, useful' – *valid, valor, value, equivalent, convalesce, valence*

### C. Root exercises

1. Parse, gloss, and define the following words.

- |                  |                 |
|------------------|-----------------|
| (a) agitate      | (l) municipal   |
| (b) allergy      | (m) navigate    |
| (c) asset        | (n) occupy      |
| (d) concern      | (o) variegate   |
| (e) crisis       | (p) organ       |
| (f) cursor       | (q) participate |
| (g) hypocrisy    | (r) pasture     |
| (h) hypothermia  | (s) pulsate     |
| (i) intercept    | (t) reprove     |
| (j) intransigent | (u) susceptible |
| (k) liturgy      |                 |

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<sup>4</sup> 'dead body, corpse'