

Workbook Chapter 3

Exercises for Textbook Chapter 3

A. Study questions

1. What are the source languages for the largest numbers of words borrowed into English?
2. What is the source of the majority of the most common, everyday words of English?
3. During which periods in history did English borrow most actively from other languages?
4. What sources did English draw on for new words during the Renaissance?
5. What was the Renaissance a "re-birth" of?
6. Why is it not clear whether *unimportant*, *princely*, *unjust*, *refill*, *respectful*, *womanize*, should be classified as **native** vocabulary, as **borrowed** vocabulary, or both?
7. Why is it not clear whether *destructive*, *cooperation*, *position*, *solid*, are Latin or French in origin?
8. Why is the statement that "About 45% of our vocabulary is of French origin" more informative and interesting than the equally true statement that "More than 95% of our vocabulary is of Indo-European origin"?
9. When were the following words first recorded in English? Where did they come from:

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| (a) <i>aborigine</i> | (j) <i>misanthrope</i> |
| (b) <i>apparatus</i> | (k) <i>ode</i> |
| (c) <i>cathedra</i> | (l) <i>parenthesis</i> |
| (d) <i>chronology</i> | (m) <i>podium</i> |
| (e) <i>complex</i> | (n) <i>reebok</i> |
| (f) <i>embargo</i> | (o) <i>serum</i> |
| (g) <i>forceps</i> | (p) <i>span</i> |
| (h) <i>lotus</i> | (q) <i>specimen</i> |
| (i) <i>mangle</i> | (r) <i>theory</i> |

10. When were the following words borrowed from Italian? How does the chronology of the borrowing reflect the cultural scene in England?

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| (a) <i>alfresco</i> | (h) <i>loggia</i> |
| (b) <i>cameo</i> | (i) <i>macaroni</i> |
| (c) <i>carnival</i> | (j) <i>maestoso</i> |
| (d) <i>cupola</i> | (k) <i>operetta</i> |
| (e) <i>duetto</i> | (l) <i>quartetto</i> |
| (f) <i>flauto</i> | (m) <i>staccato</i> |
| (g) <i>imbroglio</i> | (n) <i>toccata</i> |

B. Roots

For terminology and procedure please refer to Chapter 2 of the Workbook.

1.

$\sqrt{\text{apt}}$ 'fit, suited, capable'		
apt	att	ept
adapt	attitude	ineptitude
aptitude		adept

2.

$\sqrt{\text{auto}}^1$ 'self, same'		
auto		tauto
autarchy		tautology (-ical)
autocrat (-cy)		tautologous
automat (-ic, -e)		tautomorphous
automobile		
autonomy		
autobiography		

¹ The status of **auto** as a root or prefix is open to different interpretations. In the words listed in this section it clearly qualifies as a root and those words have been around for at least a hundred years. In more recent times **auto** has been extremely productive and can probably be classified also as a (pseudo)-prefix, or a “combining form” (*OED*). Some more recent forms are *autoimmune* (1950-55), *autodestruct* (1970-75), *autopilot* (1930-35), *autosexing* (1935-40) *autoteller* (1980-85), *auto-reverse* (1975).

(The meaning of *autocracy* shows a good deal of degeneration – explain.)

(*Autopsy* means what, literally? How does it relate to the phrase, "See for yourself"?)

(What is a good synonym for *tautology*?)

3.

√ cap 'head'			
cap	capit	cep	cip
capriccio	capital (-ize, -ism)	biceps	occipital
cape	capitol	hydrocephalous	precipice
	(re-) capitulate (-ion)		precipitate
	decapitate		
	captain		

(Could one argue that *chief*, *chapter* contain variants of this morpheme?)

(How does the meaning of *cape*, as in Cape Horn, fit in here?)

(See if you can find out why *capital* and *capitol* are not spelled alike.)

(To understand *capitulate*, here is a hint: it means 'to specify under separate heads.'

Explicate it from there.)

4.

√ carn 'flesh'		
carn	carr	car
carnal	carrion	caruncle
carnage		
carnival		
carnivore		
(re-) incarnate		

(*Carnival* is the season just before Lent, marked by merrymaking and feasting, from Latin *levare* 'remove' so 'remove flesh' in preparation for Lent, during which, until Easter, Catholics eat no meat. By association, a time of revelry or a festival.)

(*Caruncle* is from Lat. *caruncula*, diminutive of 'flesh,' fleshy excrescence on organisms and plants.)

5.

√ card 'heart, agree'		
card		cord
cardiac		cordially
cardiology		accord
dexocardiac		accordion
endocardium		concord
epicardium		discord
pericardium		record
megalocardia		
myocardia		

(The connection between heart and memory – e.g. record – is obscure.)

(How did *accordion* get into this set, do you suppose?)

6.

√ cast 'cut, purify, fortify'		
cast	cest	chast
caste	incest	chaste
castle	incestuous	chastise
castigate		chateau
castrate		

(The basic meaning is 'cut,' therefore *castrate*, and other meanings developed from the idea that something cut off is separate, uncontaminated, hence pure.)

(*Caste* refers to any one of the hereditary classes into which Hindu society is divided, the idea being to maintain pure blood lines; note that it is surprising to find a final **-e** here, since one would then expect it to rhyme with **chaste**, which it does not.)

(*Chaste* is the French form of the Latin word meaning merely 'pure', the basic extended meaning of the root √**cast**, but in this word it has been narrowed to mean a particular type of purity with reference to sexuality.)

(*Incest* has a negative prefix, therefore, 'soiled, impure'; again, however, the word has narrowed and pejorated substantially, referring specifically to sexual relations between close relatives.)

7.

√ corp 'body, flesh'		
corp	corpse	corpus
corporal	corpse	corpus
incorporate	corps	corpuscular
corporeal	corsage	
corpulent	<i>corps de ballet</i>	

(The etymology of *corporal* meaning a non-commissioned officer below sergeant is controversial. It may go back to √**cap** 'head'; a variant of the word used to be *caporal*.)

8.

√ dent 'tooth'		
dent	odont	dan
dental (-ure, -ist)	orthodont (-ure, -ist, -ics)	dandelion
indent (-ure)	periodont (-ure, -ist, -ics)	
	prosthodontics	
	mastodon	

(What does *mastodon* mean, literally?)

(Do you perceive a resemblance between a dandelion and a lion's tooth?)

9.

√ hem 'blood'		
hemo		em
hemoglobin		anemic
hemophilia		anemia
hemoptysis		
hemorrhage		
hemorrhoid		
hemostat		

(What does √**glob** mean in *hemoglobin*?)

(*Hemophilia* is a peculiar word: there has been a dramatic unexplained shift of meaning to a hereditary disorder characterized by uncontrollable bleeding; but the etymological sense 'loving blood' is the diametric opposite of this meaning.)

10.

√ ment 'think, remind, warn'			
ment	mon	mn	min
mental (-ity)	admonish	mnemonic	reminiscent
mentor	admonition	amnesia	Minerva
dementia	monitor		mind
memento	monster		
sentimental(-ity)	monument		
compos mentis	premonition		

(Latin *memento* – imperative of the verb ‘remember’, as in *memento mori* ‘remember dying, be mindful of death’, *memento* is borrowed as a noun with the meaning of ‘a reminder, a keepsake.’)

(*compos mentis* – Latin: ‘togetherness of mind’; in legal terminology: full control of one’s mental faculties.)

(Latin *Minerva*, name of the goddess of arts and wisdom, though not all sources favor this etymology.)

11.

√ op 'eye, sight, look at'		
op	opt	ops
presbyopia	optical	autopsy
amblyopia	optician	biopsy
myopia	optometry	synopsis

(*Amblyopia* is a curious word: it means 'condition of a walking eye' – dimness of vision without apparent physical defect or disease of the eye.)

(Why does *myopia* mean 'near-sightedness'?) (*Synopsis* literally means 'viewing together,' i.e. an overview.)

12.

√ path 'feel, suffer, illness'		
path		pathet
apathy		apathetic
allopathy		pathetic
electropathy		
hydrotherapy		
empathy		
homeopathy		
psychopath		
idiopathic		
pathology		
pathos		
sympathy		

(*Allopathy* is conventional treatment that produces other (*allo*) than the present condition.)

13.

√ ped 'foot'		
ped	pod	pus
biped (centi-, milli-)	antipode	octopus
expedite	podium	
impede	podiatry	
impediment		
pedal		
pedestal		
pedestrian		
(im)pediment		
pedometer		

(What is the literal meaning of *expedite*?)

(*Pedestal* from Italian *pie di stal* 'foot of the stall')

(*Antipode*, a back formation from *antipodes*, literally means 'with the feet pointing in opposite directions'; what place is directly opposite, through the center of the earth, to Greenwich, England?)

14.

$\sqrt{\text{sent}}$ 'feel, agree, think'		
sent		sens
assent		sense
consent		sensual
dissent		sensuous
resent		
presentiment		
sentence		
sentiment (-al)		
sententious		

(The usual understanding of *sentence* seems remote from this root; but think of a sentence as a way of thinking, expression of a thought or opinion or judgment, and it makes sense.)

15.

$\sqrt{\text{spec}}$ 'look, see'				
spec	spect	spic	skep	scop2
specious	spectator	suspicion	skeptic	microscope
speculum	aspect	conspicuous		spectroscope
	specter	auspice		horoscope
	introspect	despicable		episcopal
	prospect	perspicuous		
	perspective	perspicacity		
	respect(-ive)			
	circumspect			
	spectrogram			
	suspect			

(The $\sqrt{\text{hor-}}$ of *horoscope* is cognate with *hour* – so what does the compound mean literally?)

(*Specious* is tricky: it originally means 'fair to behold', but it has degenerated to something like 'plausible but lacking in solidity or authenticity')

(*Episcopal* = 'overseer')

16.

√tag 'touch, feel'			
tact	tag	tang	tig
contact	contagious	tangent	contiguous
intact		tangential	contiguity
tact		tangible	
tactile			

17.

√vid 'see'		
vid		vis
evident (-ce)		advise
provide (-ence)		supervise
video		television
		visa
		vision
		visit
		visor

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

(a) √**anim** 'breathe, mind, soul, spirit' – *animate, animadversion, animal, animosity, animus, equanimity, inanimate, magnanimous, pusillanimous, unanimous.*

(What does *animate* mean, literally? – remembering that *-ate* is a causative suffix.)

(*Animadversion* means literally 'turning the mind to something'; but it is a negative word, 'making negative comments'; can you explain how the negative sense came about?)

(Is there a common phrase in English which preserves the original sense of this morpheme?)

(How might one explain the extremely negative sense of *animosity*?)

(*Pusill-* means 'weak, small'.)

(b) √**dexter** 'right hand, adroit' – *dextral, dexterity, dextrous, dextrorotatory, dextrose, dextrocardia, dextrocardiac.*

(*Dextrose* is the *dextrorotatory* form of glucose.)

- (What is the proper antonym of *dextrous* (also spelled *dexterous*)? Hint: it has to do with the left hand.)
- (c) √**ego** ‘self’ – *egocentric, egoism, egoist, egotist, egomania, egotism*.
- (d) √**iatr** ‘cure, physician’ – *iatrogenic, geriatric, psychiatry (-ist), pediatric (-ian), podiatry*.
- (e) √**palp** ‘touch, feel’ – *palpate, palpitate, palpable*.
(*Palpable* is extended analogically to mean ‘as if you could feel it.’)
- (f) √**psych** ‘spirit, soul, mind’ – *psyche, psychedelic, psychiatry, psychic, psychoanalysis, psychology, psychopath, psychosomatic, psychotic, psychotropic*.
(What does √**somat** mean? Now what does *psychosomatic* mean? Likewise for √**trop** and *psychotropic*.)
- (g) √**pyr** ‘fire, fever’ – *pyretic, antipyretic, pyrite ‘fire-stone’, pyromania, pyrophoric, pyrotechnics, pyrosis*.
(*Pyrosis* is a fancy word for what familiar condition?)
- (h) √**spir** ‘breathe, animate’ – *aspire (-ation), conspire (-acy), expire (-ation), inspire (-ation), perspire (-ation), respirator (-ion), spirant, spirit (spright)*
(*Sprite* is originally a contracted form of *spirit*, specialized to mean ‘disembodied spirit.’)