

5 Exercises for Textbook Chapter 5

A Study questions

1. Define *morphological rule*.
2. (a) Define *place of articulation*.
(b) Give five examples of words starting with a consonant made at the *dental* place of articulation.
(c) Give five examples of words containing *palatal* consonants.
3. Do the changes in pronunciation that are not accompanied by orthographic changes count, in theory, as allomorphic variation (e.g. *deprive – deprivation*)?
4. What are the five principles which generally determine the development of allomorphy?
5. What are some examples of undesirable sequences that are remedied by phonetic rules?
6. If a derivation has been in the language for a long time, is it more or less likely to be transparent?
7. (a) Define *manner of articulation*.
(b) Give an example of a word containing a *labiodental fricative*.
(c) Give an example of a word containing a *velar stop*.
(d) Give an example of a word containing an *affricate*.
(e) Give an example of a word containing a *nasal sonorant*.
(f) Give an example of a word containing an *oral sonorant*.
8. The *d* in *dog* is a *voiced alveolar stop*. Describe the bolded sounds in the words below in similar terms.
water engineer ladder vocal
9. State which of the following sounds are *stops*, which are *fricatives*, and which are *sonorants*.

(a) t	(c) ʃ	(e) l	(g) y	(i) v
(b) b	(d) ž	(f) r	(h) m	(j) θ

10. Give the meaning of the indicated affixes in the following words:

(a) <i>diaphanous</i>	(b) <i>interlocutor</i>	(c) <i>polytheism</i>	(d) <i>microcosm</i>
(e) <i>malformation</i>	(f) <i>retrograde</i>	(g) <i>cohere</i>	(h) <i>intimacy</i>
(i) <i>elevate</i>	(j) <i>immaculate</i>	(k) <i>lioness</i>	(l) <i>figurative</i>
(m) <i>politicize</i>	(n) <i>nullify</i>	(o) <i>monarchist</i>	(p) <i>refreshment</i>
(q) <i>starlet</i>	(r) <i>childish</i>	(s) <i>loathsome</i>	(t) <i>adulthood</i>

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.

√ ambl “walk, go”	
ambl	ambul
amble	ambulance
preamble	somnambulist ¹
	ambulant (-ce)
	perambulate

(Not related to the Greek root √**ambul-** which means “to miscarry,” and appears in many medical terms. This root is from Latin √**ambul-** “walk.”)

(Why does *amble* have to be spelled with an <e> at the end? Why not just *ambl*? Could it reasonably be spelled *ambel*?)

(Given what the root means, what sort of change in meaning does it seem to have gone through?)

(What French phrase is *ambulance* a shortening of?)

¹ **somn** means “sleep.”

2.

$\sqrt{\text{cad}}$ “fall”			
cad	cas	cay	cid
cadaver	case	decay	accident
cadence	casual		deciduous
decadence	occasion		incident
			coincide
			occident
			recidivism

(To see the connection in the word *cadaver*, think of the leaves in the autumn of the year.)

(The word *case* as in “a legal case” is not related to the *case* of “brief case.” which means “container.”)

(What is it that falls in a musical *cadence*?)

(What is falling down, in the word *decadence*?)

(To understand what is “falling” in the word *occident*, remember that $\sqrt{\text{ob-}}$ means “opposite.”)

(To understand *recidivism*, ask yourself what happens to some criminals after they are released from prison.)

3.

$\sqrt{\text{clin}}$ “slope”		
cli	clin	cliv
client	clinic	proclivity
climate ²	decline	
climax ³	incline (-ation)	
	recline	

² The Greek word **klima** means “the sloping surface of the earth”; the association between that meaning and the familiar word **climate** is clear.

³ The Greek ancestor of this word meant “ladder”; the modern meaning makes some sense, but not a lot: with a ladder you get to the top, and the ladder leans.

4.

√**cumb** “bend, lie, hollow”

cub	cumb
concubine	incumbent
cube	recumbent
incubate	succumb

5.

√**fer** “carry, send, bring, bear”

fer	pher	phor
circumference	periphery	anaphor
conifer	peripheral	semaphor ⁴
defer		metaphor
differ ⁵		
fertile		
in-, pre-, suf-, trans- fer		
offer		
vociferous		

(The idea of *differ* is that you “carry apart” your position against your opposition.)

(Which sense of √*fer* is relevant in the meaning of *fertile*?)

(In the meaning of *defer*, what is carried, and where is it carried to?)

(What is being “carried” in a *metaphor*?)

⁴ **sema** “meaning.”

⁵ **dif** is from **dis** meaning “apart.”

6.

$\sqrt{\text{flu}}$ “flow, river”		
flu	fluc	fluv
fluent	fluctuate	fluvial
fluid	flux (= flucs)	fluviometer
influence	influx	
affluent		
effluent		
mellifluous ⁶		
influenza		
superfluous		

(How do you suppose *affluence* came to have the sense “wealth”?)

(How does *superfluous* come to have the sense “useless and unnecessary”?)

7.

$\sqrt{\text{gen}}$ “origin”			
gene	genet, genes	genr	gen
gene	genetic	genre	oxygen
	genesis	gender	hydrogen
	genital		halogen
	gentile, genteel		endogenous
	gentle		exogenous
	congenital		heterogen(e)ous

⁶ **mell** means “honey.”

8.

$\sqrt{\text{gen}}$ “tribe, nation, type”		
gen(i)	genu	gener
genius	ingenuity	general (-ize) (-ation)
ingenious	(dis)ingenuous	generic
congenial (-ity)		generous (-ity)
indigenous		generate (-ion) (-ive)

NOTE: $\sqrt{\text{gen}}$ was originally a single root meaning “source.” At some point in its history the two senses “origin” and “type” became sufficiently distinct that we now have to say there are two distinct (but homophonous) morphemes.

9.

$\sqrt{\text{gn}}$ “birth”		
gn	gon	germ(in)
cognate	gonorrhea	germinal
pregnant (-cy)		germinate
		germane
		German ⁷

($\sqrt{\text{gn}}$ was originally an allomorph of $\sqrt{\text{gen}}$, above.)

10.

$\sqrt{\text{ges}}$ “carry, bring, offer”		
ges	gest	ger
(no examples)	gesture	gerund
	gestation	belligerent
	digest(ion)	
	ingest(ion)	
	suggest(ion, ive)	

⁷ Practically everyone to the north of Italy was German, therefore neighboring, though at times not very friendly neighbors.

(Why should **ges** be listed as an allomorph when there are no examples?)

(What is it that is “carried apart” or “broken up” in digestion?)

(For *suggestion*, think of the phrase “to bring under consideration.”)

11.

$\sqrt{\text{grad}}$ “step, go”		
grad	gred	gress
grade	ingredient	aggressive
gradation		digress
gradual		progress(-ive, -ion)
graduate(-ion)		regress(-ive, -ion)
degrade		retrogress(-ion)
degradation		

(Is the allomorphy between **grad** and **gred** opaque? How about between them and **gress**?)

(Try to explain the sense of *digress* – i.e., how does it come to have this meaning?)

12.

$\sqrt{\text{kine}}$ “move”		
kinet	kines	cine
kinetic	kinesic(s)	cinema
	kinesiology	
	telekinesics	

(What does one study in the field of *kinesiology*?)

(What is a more everyday word for the area covered by *telekinesics*?)

13.

$\sqrt{\text{lab}}$ “take, seize”

lab	leps
syllable	epilepsy
astrolabe	narcolepsy
	prolepsis

(There is another morpheme $\sqrt{\text{lab}}$ which means “lip,” as in *labial*. No relation to the above root.)

(An *astrolabe* was a medieval instrument which “took” the altitudes of stars so one could navigate.)

(If you are a narcoleptic, what are you “seized by”?)

(Look up *prolepsis* and see if you can relate the meaning to the etymology. Do the same with *syllable*. You will probably conclude that the latter is a reasonable question, but the former is not.)

14.

$\sqrt{\text{mit}}$ “send, go”

mit	mise	mis(s)
emit	promise (-ory)	emission
commit (-ment)	surmise	commission(-er)
committee	compromise	commissary
admit (-ance)	premise	admission (-ible)
omit		omission
permit		permission
submit		submission
transmit		transmission
		missive
		dismiss (-ive)
		emissary
		remission

SPELLING NOTE: Both the **t** and the **s** are doubled in many words in order to mark the vowel as “short **i**.”

(*Transmit* means literally “to send across.” To send across what, do you think?)

(The extended sense of *admission*, “confession of guilt.” is opaque in that it doesn’t seem to have much connection with the notion “sending towards something.”)

SEMANTIC NOTE: The three words **missile**, **mission**, and **missive** have been specialized to their present meanings in ways that are not reflected in the etymologies. The distinctions are exceptionally arbitrary. A **missile** is restricted to military armaments; a **missive** is a written message.

(*Surmise* means “conjecture”; see if you can give a reasonable paraphrase of the etymological sense of the word to explain how it comes to mean “conjecture” – think about what can be confirmed by evidence.)

15.

√ mot “move”		
mot	mov	mob
motion	move	mobile (-ize, -ity)
motive (-ate)	remove	mob
motor (-ist, -ize)		
promote (-ion)		
demote (-ion)		
emote (-ion, –ive)		
remote		
locomotion (-ive)		

(What is *mob* a shortening of, and what does the full phrase mean?)

16.

√**pon** “put, place”

pon	pos	posit
component (-ial)	compose	composite (-ion)
opponent	depose	deposit (-ion) (-ory)
deponent	repose	repository
exponent (-ial)	expose	exposition, -itory
postpone	suppose	supposition, -itory
proponent	impose	impostor (-ure)
	interpose	interposition
	pose, posture	posit(-ive)(-ion)
	(pre-, ad-, post-) pose	(pre-, ad-, post-)position
	appose	apposition
	propose (-al)	proposition
	oppose	opposite (-ion)

(*Proposition* and *proposal* are etymologically essentially identical. The former has come to mean “suggestion,” whereas the latter is more formal.)

17.

√**rrh** “flow”

rrh	rh
catarrh	rheumatic, -ism
diarrhea	rhythm
hemorrhoid	rhyme
logorrhea	

18.

√ sed “sit, stay”		
sed	sid	sess
sedate	assiduous	session
sedentary	dissident (-ce)	assess
sediment	insidious	possess
supersede	reside	
	residue	
	preside	
	president	
	subsidy	

(*Insidious* is especially interesting: in thinking about its meaning, consider the phrase “sitting in ambush.”)

(*Assess* is originally “to sit by,” referring to the role of an assistant judge – hence the modern meaning.)

(*Assiduous* is a matter of “sitting down to it,” and therefore getting something done.)

19.

√ sequ “follow”	
sequ	secut
sequel	consecutive
sequence	execute (-ive, -ion)
subsequent (-ce)	persecute (-ion)
sequester	prosecute (-ion)
consequent (-ce)	
obsequious	

(*Sequester* meant “to put away into a depository for safekeeping,” originally; now generalized to mean “isolate” or “seclude”; the synchronic form does not reveal this information.)

(What does it mean to say that “the meaning of *obsequious* has degenerated”?)

20.

 √ven “come, bring, happen”

ven(e)	vent
convene(-r)	convent (-ion)
contravene	event
intervene	invent (-ion)(-ory)
convenient	prevent (-ion)
revenue	advent (-ure)
	circumvent

(How can one explain the notion of innovation that is present in the word *invent*?)

21.

 √via “way, road”

vi	via	voy
deviate	viaduct	voyage
devious		envoy
impervious		
obviate		
obvious		
previous		
trivial		

(*Trivia* means “three roads.” What could this have to do with the meaning of trivial?)

C Root exercises

- Give the meanings of the following words containing the root *pon*, *pos* “place, put”:
 - compose
 - dispose
 - interpose
 - juxtapose
 - purpose
 - reimpose
 - superimpose
 - apposite

2. Parse and define the following words:

- | | | | |
|--------------|------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| (a) anaphora | (f) gesticulate | (k) obsess | (p) souvenir |
| (b) avenue | (g) hemorrhoid | (l) perpetual | (q) submit |
| (c) cascade | (h) influenza | (m) position | (r) superlative |
| (d) collate | (i) intermittent | (n) rheumatism | (s) transgress |
| (e) congress | (j) metaphor | (o) second | (t) venue |