

Latin and Greek Elements in English

Lesson 3: Latin Prefixes

- **AFFIX**: “a collective term for prefixes, suffixes and infixes”; e.g. intangible
- **PREFIX**: “one or more letters or syllables placed at the beginning of a word to modify its meaning”; e.g. prefix

Latin and Greek Elements in English

Lesson 3: Latin Prefixes

- there are two important linguistic processes involved with Latin prefixes: assimilation and vowel gradation
 - **ASSIMILATION**: “the process by which adjacent sounds (usually consonants) acquire similar or identical characteristics,” e.g.
 - in- + literate > illiterate
 - ob- + press > oppress
 - the reason for this is to ease pronunciation
 - **EUPHONY**: “the tendency toward greater ease of pronunciation resulting in combinative changes, largely due to speed and economy of utterance”
 - e.g. ad- + -literation > alliteration

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Lesson 3: Latin Prefixes

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Lesson 3: Latin Prefixes

- there are two important linguistic processes involved with Latin prefixes: assimilation and vowel gradation
 - **VOWEL GRADATION**: “a change in the internal vowel of a base, often when the base is prefixed,” e.g.
 - re- + CAPT- + -ion > reCEPTion
 - in- + HAB- + -it(e) + -ion > inHIBition
 - the reason for this is that the lack of stress on the BASE leads to a weakening of its sound
 - but vowel gradation can occur for other reasons
 - POND- (“heavy”), e.g. ponderous
 - vs. PEND- (“hang”), e.g. pendant

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Lesson 4: Abbreviations and Acronyms

- Abbreviations: know the ones listed in Ayers

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Lesson 4: Abbreviations and Acronyms

- **ACRONYM**: “an abbreviation that spells a word or pronounceable unit,” e.g.
 - zip (code): Zone Improvement Plan
 - yuppie: Young Urban Professional
 - scuba: Self-Contained Underwater Breathing Apparatus
 - nimby: Not In My Back Yard
 - snafu: Situation Normal All Fouled Up
 - posh: Port Out, Starboard Home

Latin and Greek Elements in English

Lesson 4: Abbreviations and Acronyms

- Acronyms: know the ones listed in Ayers

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