

**Word of the Week**

**invisible** (in vi' zə bəl) *adj.*,  
unable to be seen

Since Alice rarely came out of her house, everyone referred to her as the *invisible* woman.

The word *invisible* contains three clear morphemes: The prefix *in-* (which means “not”), the word root *vis* (which means “see”), and the suffix *-ible* (which means “capable of”). Based on the meanings of these morphemes, one can conclude that *invisible* means “not capable of seeing,” which is very close to the dictionary definition. This example illustrates how becoming familiar with common morphemes can help you figure out the meanings of unknown words.

**Tip** Types of morphemes include **prefixes**, **suffixes**, and **word roots**.

Morphemes that can stand on their own are known as **base words**.

**Tip** A word made up of two or more base words is known as a **compound word**.

EXAMPLES *doorstop*, *eyebrow*, *breakfast*

**LESSON 4****Morphemes—Chunks of Meaning****Understand the Concept**

As you may already know, many words are made up of several meaningful parts. For example, the word *disorder* is made up of a prefix, *dis-*, meaning “not,” plus the base word *order*. These meaningful word parts, or **morphemes**, include prefixes, suffixes, word roots, and base words.

**Prefixes** are word parts that attach to the beginning of a word.

EXAMPLES recall, unreal, distract

**Suffixes** are word parts that attach to the end of a word.

EXAMPLES forgetful, softness, regarding

**Word roots** are word parts (such as *leg* in *illegible* or *pop* in *popular*) that cannot stand alone, but combine with prefixes and suffixes to make words.

EXAMPLE port (from Latin, meaning “carry”): transportation, portable, export

**Base words** can stand alone as words, but often link to other word parts to create new words.

EXAMPLE stop: stopper, unstoppable, doorstop

**Try It Yourself****EXERCISE A**

In your notebook, underline the **base word** in each of the following words. Then, tell what prefixes and suffixes are attached to it. (Note: Sometimes a base word loses a letter or two when a prefix or suffix is added.)

1. pregame
2. stardom
3. purplish
4. nonrepayable
5. judgment

Now, underline the **word root** in each of the following words. Then, tell what prefixes and suffixes are attached to it. Refer to your Word Parts Charts for help.

6. transport
7. visible
8. revolution

### EXERCISE B

Predict the meaning of each of the following words based on its parts. You may need to look at your Word Parts Charts for the meanings of prefixes, suffixes, and word roots. Write your answers in your notebook in a way that reflects the example below.

EXAMPLE    unacceptable

prefix: **un-**, meaning “not”

base word: **accept**, meaning “to receive willingly”

suffix: **-able**, meaning “able to be” or “fit to be”

predicted meaning: **not fit to be received willingly**

1. subdermal
2. semisweet
3. infinity
4. ultrasonic
5. indispensable

### Just for Fun

Make new words by combining some of the following word parts. Write definitions for your new words. They don't have to be serious or real words.

EXAMPLE    hyperhydrated: what you become when you drink way too much water

-ance	form	ped
-ate	hydr	phon
auto	hyper-	port
centr	-ive	psych
counter-	ject	retro-
cycl	loc	rupt
dis-	mot	