

Exercise 1 Underline The Root Of Each Word. Using A Dictionary When Needed, Define Each Word. If There

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Understanding the roots of words is a fundamental aspect of mastering vocabulary and enhancing language comprehension. This exercise encourages learners to identify the root words within complex vocabulary, underline them, and consult a dictionary to define each component. Doing so not only expands one's lexicon but also provides insight into the etymology and structure of words, making reading and writing more meaningful and precise.

In this comprehensive guide, we will explore the importance of recognizing roots, how to approach this exercise effectively, and provide practical tips, examples, and resources to assist learners in their journey of word mastery.

The Importance of Understanding Word Roots

What Are Word Roots?

Word roots are the base parts of words that carry the core meaning. They often originate from Latin or Greek and serve as the foundation upon which prefixes and suffixes are added to create new words. For example, in the word "biology," the root "bio" means "life," and "logy" relates to "study of." Understanding roots helps decode unfamiliar words by recognizing their core meanings.

Why is Recognizing Roots Beneficial?

Recognizing roots can:

- Enhance vocabulary by understanding the meanings of complex words.
- Improve reading comprehension, especially with academic and technical texts.
- Assist in spelling and pronunciation.

- Facilitate learning of related words sharing the same root.
- Support etymological awareness, enriching cultural and historical understanding of language.

Approaching Exercise 1: Step-by-Step Guide

To effectively perform the exercise of underlining roots and defining words, follow these steps:

1. Read the Word Carefully

Start by reading the entire word slowly and attentively. Pay attention to any parts that seem familiar or recognizable.

2. Break Down the Word

Identify the different components of the word—prefixes, roots, and suffixes. Use knowledge of common prefixes (e.g., "un-", "pre-", "dis-") and suffixes (e.g., "-ful", "-less", "-ment") as clues.

3. Underline the Root

Once identified, underline the root part of the word. Remember, the root is the core meaning, often found in the middle or at the base of the word.

4. Consult a Dictionary

Use a reliable dictionary—either physical or online—to define each component. Look up the root and any affixes to understand their meanings and how they combine.

5. Write the Definitions

Write down the definitions for each part and then synthesize an overall understanding of the word.

6. Practice Regularly

Consistent practice with different words will improve your ability to recognize roots quickly and accurately.

Common Prefixes, Roots, and Suffixes: Examples and Definitions

Understanding common word parts can make this exercise more manageable. Here are some frequently encountered prefixes, roots, and suffixes with their definitions:

Common Prefixes

- **Un-:** not, opposite of (e.g., unhappy — not happy)
- **Pre-:** before (e.g., preview — view before)
- **Dis-:** opposite of, remove, apart (e.g., disconnect — to separate)
- **Re-:** again, back (e.g., redo — do again)
- **In- / Im-:** into, within, not (e.g., insert — put in; impossible — not possible)

Common Roots

- **Bio:** life (e.g., biology — study of life)
- **Geo:** earth (e.g., geography — study of Earth's features)
- **Meter:** measure (e.g., thermometer — device measuring temperature)
- **Port:** carry (e.g., transport — to carry across)
- **Spect:** look, see (e.g., inspect — look at carefully)

Common Suffixes

- **-ful:** full of (e.g., joyful — full of joy)
- **-less:** without (e.g., hopeless — without hope)

- **-ment**: action or process (e.g., development — process of developing)
- **-ology**: study of (e.g., psychology — study of the mind)
- **-er / -or**: one who (e.g., teacher — one who teaches)

Examples of Words for Practice

Below are sample words with their roots and suggested underlining, along with definitions:

1. Understanding

- Word: Understanding
- Underline the root: stand
- Prefix: under-
- Suffix: