Lesson 14
Greek and Latin Word Parts

Introduction

Many words in English have Greek and Latin roots and affixes.

- A root is a word part that contains the main meaning of the word. In the word secede, the root cede means “move” or “go.” Secede means “to move apart, or to separate.”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Root</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
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<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>cede, ceed</td>
<td>&quot;go, move&quot;</td>
<td>pon, pos</td>
<td>&quot;put, place&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cur</td>
<td>&quot;run&quot;</td>
<td>ven, vent</td>
<td>&quot;come&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mit, miss</td>
<td>&quot;send&quot;</td>
<td>ject</td>
<td>&quot;throw&quot;</td>
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</table>

- An affix is a word part added to a root. Prefixes are affixes that come before the root, and suffixes are affixes that come after it.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prefix</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
<th>Suffix</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>inter-</td>
<td>&quot;between&quot;</td>
<td>-ion</td>
<td>&quot;act or process of&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pro-</td>
<td>&quot;forward; in favor of&quot;</td>
<td>-or</td>
<td>&quot;state, quality, or action&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pre-</td>
<td>&quot;before&quot;</td>
<td>-ent</td>
<td>&quot;someone who does an action; occurring in a certain way&quot;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- You can use the meanings of roots and affixes to figure out the meaning of many English words.

Guided Practice

Read the passage. Circle the root in each underlined word. On a separate piece of paper, write the meanings of the word parts and define the word.

Our car was proceeding along the highway when we heard the forecast. The weather had been mixed all day, and now we knew that the intermittent rains were the precursor to a big storm.

The station resumed its programming, but soon the announcer interjected another warning. My brother, who was driving, was a proponent of going home, but my sister Lexy wanted to continue.

We needed an intervention, so I used my cell phone to call my mom.
For numbers 1–4, read each sentence. Then answer the question.

1. My mom told us that the trajectory of the storm had changed and the river might overflow.

   The prefix *tra-* means “across,” the root *ject* means “throw,” and the suffix *-ory* means “a place where.” What is the meaning of **trajectory** as used in the sentence?
   
   A. the time when something important begins
   B. the type
   C. the path something takes as it moves over
   D. the size and shape

2. Lexy could be tenacious, but my mother’s news put an end to all discussion.

   The root *ten* means “hold,” and the suffix *-ious* means “characterized by.” What is the meaning of **tenacious** as used in the sentence?
   
   A. stubborn
   B. talkative
   C. cranky
   D. bossy

3. We subsequently turned the car around and returned home.

   The prefix *sub-* means “under or after,” and the root *sequ* means “follow.” What is the meaning of **subsequently** as used in the sentence?
   
   A. slowly but surely
   B. immediately after
   C. completely
   D. eventually

4. After the huge storm, everyone wondered how long it would take the floodwaters to recede.

   The prefix *re-* means “back,” and the root *cede* means “go.” What is the meaning of **recede** as used in the sentence?
   
   A. flow over
   B. rise higher
   C. remain stable
   D. withdraw from