

Name _____ Date _____

Language worksheet 3.1

In this worksheet, you will focus on morphology.

Morphology is the study of the structure of words. By breaking down unfamiliar words into their smallest units of meaning (called morphemes), you may be able to work out their meaning. Look at this example for the word *unnaturally*.

	Prefix	Root	Suffix	Suffix
morpheme	un-	natur-	-al	-ly
meaning	not	nature		adverb

Possible meaning: (adverb) in a way that is not natural.

- 1 Break each word into morphemes and their meaning.
Write a definition of the possible meaning of the word.

a illogical

	Prefix	Root	Suffix
morpheme			
meaning			

Possible meaning:

b endangering

	Prefix	Root	Suffix
morpheme			
meaning			

Possible meaning:

c overreactions

	Prefix	Prefix	Root	Suffix	Suffix
morpheme					
meaning					

Possible meaning:

d sociological

	Root	Root	Suffix
morpheme			
meaning			

Possible meaning:

2 Do not read the whole paragraph here yet. First, use morphology to work out the possible meaning of the 14 underlined words in this paragraph. Write a synonym or short definition for each word above or below it.

Once you have worked out the possible meanings, it is important to check those meanings in context. Read the whole paragraph. Do your possible meanings make sense in context? Use a dictionary to check the meanings.

Samir was disheartened. He was unaccustomed to receiving such substandard test scores. It was a chastening experience and he rebuked himself for not studying in a more pertinacious way. He knew it wouldn't help though: for weeks, he had been unable to shake off his lassitude. Maybe it was the enervating, humid weather that meant it was too disagreeable to venture outdoors. Perhaps he was overburdened and didn't know where to start. Whatever the reason, his listlessness and sluggishness were affecting his studies just at the very moment he needed to be conscientious and indefatigable.