

Vocabulary Power

Lesson 18 The Word Roots *morph, flu/fluct/flux, tact/tang/tig,prehend/prehens*

The root is the basic part of a word that carries its main meaning. Many words in the English language, including those in the Word List, have Latin roots. Listed below are five useful Latin roots, with an example for each.

Root	Meaning	Example	Definition
<i>flu, fluct, flux</i>	flow	influx	a flowing in
<i>morph</i>	form, shape	morphology	study of form and structure of plants and animals
<i>prehend, prehens</i>	take, seize	apprehend	grasp, understand
<i>tact, tang, tig</i>	touch	tactile	referring to the sense of touch

Word List

amorphous	fluctuate	reprehensible	tangential
contiguous	metamorphosis	tactful	tangible
effluent	prehensile		

EXERCISE A Roots and Meanings

Write the root contained in each boldfaced word. Then, look up the word in a dictionary and write its definition.

- effluent** _____

Dictionary definition _____
- tangible** _____

Dictionary definition _____
- tangential** _____

Dictionary definition _____
- prehensile** _____

Dictionary definition _____
- amorphous** _____

Dictionary definition _____
- tactful** _____

Dictionary definition _____
- fluctuate** _____

Dictionary definition _____

Vocabulary Power *continued*

8. contiguous _____

Dictionary definition _____

9. reprehensible _____

Dictionary definition _____

10. metamorphosis _____

Dictionary definition _____

EXERCISE B Sentence Completion

Write the vocabulary word that best completes each sentence.

1. Hawaii and Alaska are not part of the _____ United States.
2. The crowds at the summer concerts _____ depending on who is performing.
3. An opossum can hang from a tree branch by its _____ tail.
4. The blueberry stains on the culprit's fingers were the _____ evidence of his guilt.
5. Stuffing the ballot box on Election Day is an example of _____ conduct.
6. The _____ from the sewage treatment plant is harmful to fish in the river.
7. Christa's ability to be _____ made her an excellent diplomat.
8. The _____ of a caterpillar into a butterfly is one of the wonders of nature.
9. Marta had only a(n) _____ involvement with the club; she attended meetings twice a year.
10. In the potter's hands, the _____ lump of clay became a finely shaped bowl.

EXERCISE C Word Web

On a separate sheet of paper, create a word web for one of the roots used in this lesson. With a partner, brainstorm or use a dictionary to come up with words for your word web. In the dictionary entry for the word, check the origin to make sure the word contains the correct root.