

# Using *Morpheme Matrices*

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# Slide Show Purposes

1. Explain 10 key terms for beginning and intermediate decoding
2. Share formats of the Latin root and Greek form matrix
3. Describe how to use Latin root matrices to assemble new words and families
4. Describe how to use Greek form matrices to assemble new words and families

# 10 Key Decoding Terms

**Phoneme:** a single unit of sound (consonant or vowel) that does not carry meaning - but can change meaning (bat to cat, hit to hot)

**Grapheme:** the letter (or pair/trio of letters) that represent a single phoneme or sound in print (m, u, sh, ea, tch, dge)

**Morpheme:** a small, pronounceable unit or word part (prefix, suffix, Anglo Saxon base, Latin root, Greek form) that does carry meaning

**Affix:** a prefix or suffix added to the beginning or end of a word or word part that forms new words and can change meaning, part of speech, and usage

**Free root:** the main part of a word that can stand on its own and be combined with affixes to form new words (form, port)

**Bound root:** the main part of a word that must be combined or 'bound' with affixes to form new words (rupt, scrib)

**Inflectional morpheme:** a suffix that changes noun number, verb tense, or makes a comparison (-s/-es, -ed, -ing, -er/-est)

**Derivational morpheme:** a prefix or suffix added to a word or word part that forms new words and can change meaning, part of speech, and usage (in-/im-, un-, mis-, -ly, -ion/-tion/-ation)

**Blend:** an important reading skill that involves combining phonemes into short words or assembling morphemes into longer words for reading

**Segment:** another important reading skill that involves separating short words into phonemes or disassembling longer words into morphemes for spelling

# Latin Root Matrix

<p>Common prefixes (2-4/matrix)</p>	<p><b>Latin root</b>  simple meaning</p>	<p>Common inflectional suffixes (-s/es, -ed, -ing)</p>
<p>Less common prefixes and meanings (0-3/matrix)</p>	<p>free or bound</p>	<p>Common derivational suffixes (3-5/matrix)</p>

# Step 1: Explanation

“There are many big or long words in newspapers, magazines, books, job ads, and on the internet. They often include word parts (or morphemes) called prefixes, roots, and suffixes. We will learn how to combine (or assemble) them and figure out their meanings and use.”

## Step 2: Modeling

Post or provide a Common Morphemes chart (see MM, pages 3-4)

Model the Latin root pronunciation and simple meaning.

If the Latin root is free, model how to assemble with common suffixes to form new words; discuss meanings and changes.

Model the pronunciation of each common prefix and read its simple meaning from the chart.

Model how to assemble the prefixes with the Latin root to form new words; discuss changes and meanings.

Model how to assemble the prefixed Latin root with common suffixes to form *more* new words; discuss changes and meanings.

# Latin Root Example

dis  
inter  
e (out)

rupt  
to break or  
burst

bound

s  
ed  
ing

er  
tion  
ible  
ive

## Word Key (22 total)

**disrupt** (to break apart), disrupts, disrupted, disrupting, disrupter, disruption, disruptive

**interrupt** (to break between), interrupts, interrupted, interrupting, interrupter, interruption, interruptible, interruptive

**erupt** (to break or burst out), erupts, erupted, erupting, eruption, eruptible, eruptive

# Greek Form Matrix

<p>Greek forms (meanings)</p> <p>(3-11/matrix)</p>	<p>Greek form meaning</p> <p>(1-2/matrix)</p>	<p>Derivational suffixes (meanings)</p> <p>-er (one who; n.) -ic, ical (relating to; adj.) -ist (one who; n.) -y (subject or science; n.)</p>
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# Step 1: Explanation

“When we study subjects such as civics, geography, economics, history, life or earth science, physics, chemistry, algebra, or geometry (like on the GED), we need to know even bigger and longer words. They may include a combination of morphemes called Greek forms. We will learn how to assemble them, sometimes add suffixes, and figure out their meanings and use.”

## Step 2: Modeling

Introduce or review unique Greek letter-sound patterns:  
ph = /f/, ch = /k/, and y = /short i or long i/.

Model the **middle** Greek form pronunciation and meaning (it acts like a Latin root).

Model the **left** Greek form pronunciations and meanings (they act like prefixes) .

Model how to assemble each left Greek form with the middle Greek form; then add each suffix; discuss new words and meanings.

# Greek Form Example

auto (self)		er
bio (life)	gram	ic
chrono (time)	graph	ical
demo (people)		y
geo (earth)	written or	
hydro (water)	drawn	
phono (sound)		
photo (light)		
tele (distant)		
thermo (heat)		

# Word Key (40 total)

autograph, biograph, chronogram, chronograph, hydrograph, phonogram, phonograph, photogram, photograph, telegram, telegraph, thermograph, biographer, chronographer, demographer, geographer, hydrographer, photographer, telegrapher, autographic, biographic, chronographic, demographic, geographic, hydrographic, phonographic, photographic, telegraphic, autographical, biographical, hydrographical, photographic, biography, demography, geography, hydrography, phonography, photography, telegraphy, thermography

## Steps 3-4: Guided Practice and Application

Guide students in rereading, spelling, and using some of the new words in oral sentences.

Have students write A Few Sentences on their own using new words.

Create a Matching, Fill-In, or Multiple Choice quiz for 12 words with <https://www.wordsmyth.net/>

Whenever possible, call their attention to assembled words in conversation or text.

**Questions?  
Comments?  
Successes?**

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