

## STRUCTURE OF ENGLISH WORDS

Instructor: Natalie Operstein  
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Office Hour: T 1:45-2:45, Campbell 2126B

Lectures: TR 10:45-1:45, Public Policy 2284  
Tutorial: R 2-3pm, Public Policy 2284

### Course Description

This course is an overview of the major aspects of English word structure. We will look at the meaningful elements of English words and study how they combine to derive a great part of the vocabulary of English. We will also look at the development of the English vocabulary and sources of new words, articulation of sounds, sound and meaning change, as well as the origin of English and related languages. The course will emphasize practical skills of linguistic analysis, with part of each class devoted to data analysis. At the end of the course you will be able to analyze morphologically complex words, have a firm grasp of basic patterns of English word formation, acquire a basic understanding of the history of English, enrich your vocabulary by mastering a core set of Greek and Latin roots that occur frequently in English words, and acquire skill interpreting the etymological information provided by dictionaries. The course grade will be calculated as follows:

Weekly Quizzes	40%
Class Participation	10%
Final Project	20%
Final Examination (cumulative)	30%

### Textbook

Denning, Keith, and William R. Leben. 1995. *English Vocabulary Elements*. New York / Oxford: Oxford University Press. ISBN 0-19-506609-X (Paperback). [Additional materials will be posted on the course website; access via <http://ecampus.humnet.ucla.edu>]

### Course Outline (to be adjusted as needed)

Week	Date	Topics	Readings & Exercises	Important Dates
1	06/26	Word origins and structure.	Chapters 1, 3	
	06/28	Word origins and structure.	Chapter 4	Quiz 1
2	07/3	Sounds of English.	Chapter 5	
	07/5	Sounds of English	Chapter 5	Quiz 2
3	07/10	Origins and history of English.	Chapter 10	
	07/12	Origins and history of English.	Chapter 2	Quiz 3
4	07/17	Word meanings.	Chapters 7	
	07/19	More on word structure.	Chapter 6, 12	Quiz 4
5	07/24	More on Greek and Latin Vocabulary in English.	Chapters 9, 11	
	07/26	World's Englishes.	(Course Website)	Quiz 5
6	07/31			Class Presentations of Final Projects.
	08/2			Final Exam. Final Papers are due.