

Roots, Prefixes and Suffixes

Review:

From Last Week...

General Medical Terms:

- descriptive
- eponyms

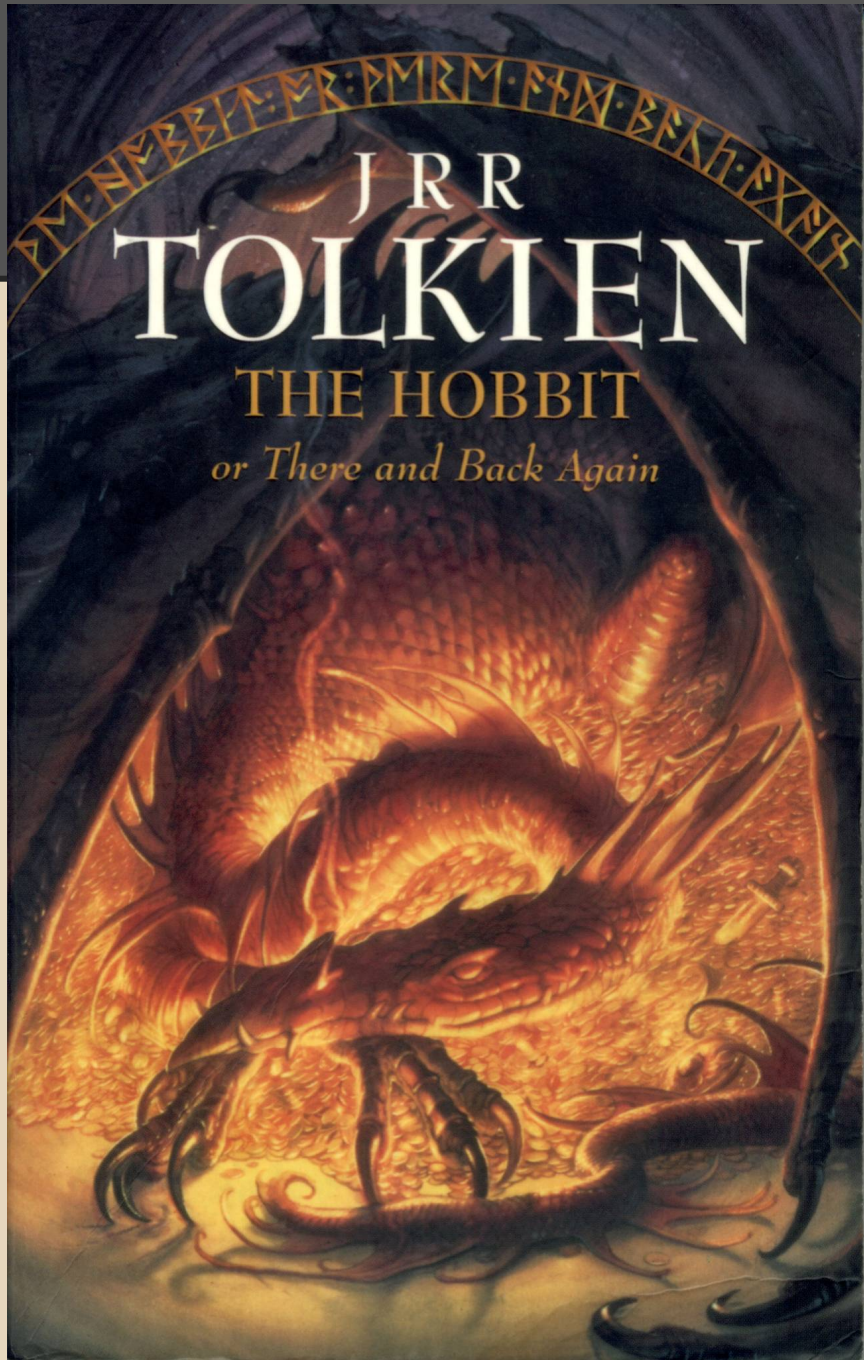
Abbreviations:

- acronyms (ex. NASA, NATO)
- initialisms (ex. SAT, BBC)

The science of word-building!

Etymology

1. The science of the origin and development of words
2. Indicates the origin and historical development of a term
3. Helps you to decipher words with Latin and Greek origins



J R R
TOLKIEN

THE HOBBIT

or There and Back Again

ROOTS



Basic Word Parts: Roots

- A. The glue that holds all medical terms together
- B. The main part of the word
- C. Gives you a clue as to what you're dealing with
- F. Specifies the body part
- G. Combining vowel, usually "o" or "i", joins the root with a prefix or suffix, or another root

EXAMPLE!

Gastroenterology

GASTR / O / ENTER / O / LOGY

root

root

The root **gastr** means stomach

The root **enter** means intestines

COMBINING VOWELS

Basic Word Parts: Combining Vowels

1. Encephal (o) (root meaning brain)

a. Encephalitis (means inflammation of the brain)

b. “itis” starts with an “i” so a combining vowel is not needed (it's not "encephaloitis"!)

2. Encephalogram - “gram” is a suffix meaning “tracing” or “record”; “gram” does not start with a vowel

-The combining vowel “o” is used

EXAMPLE!

Gastroenterology

GASTR / O / ENTER / O / LOGY

root



root



connecting vowels

The root **gastr** means stomach

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PREFIXES

Basic Word Parts: Prefixes

A. Appear at the beginnings of words

B. Tell “how, why, where, when, how much, how many, position, direction, time or status”

example: ambidextrous, anticoagulant,
pediatrician

SUFFIXES

Basic Word Parts: Suffixes

A. Appear at the ends of words

B. Tell us what is happening with a specific body part or system

examples: -ology, -opathy, -osis, -lysis, -pepsia

EXAMPLE!

Gastroenterology

GASTR / O / ENTER / O / LOGY

root

root

connecting vowels

suffix

The root **gastr** means stomach

The root **enter** means intestines

The suffix **-logy** means process of study

REMEMBER!

Spelling is critical! Ileum vs. Ilium

Want to translate a word? Read it backwards!

Start at the suffix.

Example: electroencephalography.

Pronunciation--the difference between life and death! -itis vs. -osis?

- **Ecchymosis:** A purplish patch caused by extravasation of blood into the skin.
- **Echinosis:** A condition in which the red blood cells have lost their smooth outlines, resembling an echinus or sea urchin.

STUDY STUDY STUDY

