

~ Module 13, Session 7 ~

The Latin Layer of Language – Letter-sound Correspondences & Syllable Patterns

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Latin Layer of Language

Latin was the basis of the Romance languages:
Spanish, Italian, French, Portuguese, and Romanian.

Most English words of Latin origins came to Great Britain
During the Renaissance in the 14th and 15th centuries.

The Latin roots we use in English today are affixed as in
prescription, destructive, interruption, and commitment.

Literature and social studies texts are filled with Latin-based
words.

Latin Letter-sound Correspondences

Letter-sound correspondences are the same
as in words of Anglo-Saxon origin.

- Happily, few vowel digraphs are found.
- The schwa sound (a vowel in an unaccented syllable)
is common, especially in the prefixes & suffixes
as in: *commit, committed; dental, dentist;*
append, appendage; correlate, correlation;
excel, excellent; direct, direction

Latin Syllable Patterns

Syllable patterns in Latin roots are primarily:

Closed (rupt, struct, pend, tens, flect)

Vowel-consonant e (scribe, vene, spire)

-r Controlled (port, form, vert)

Syllable Division

Syllable division usually occurs between the prefix and the
root as in *re/mote, de/flect, trans/mit, sub/tract, and pre/vent.*

Syllable division may not occur between the root and the
suffix. Often, the final consonant in the root, moves into the
final syllable with the suffix as in *dis/rup/tive, con/ten/tion,*
re/con/struc/tive, ad/ven/ture, de/ci/du/ous, and in/spec/ted.