I. Two-Minute History
English is a very versatile, fluid language. It allows those who speak it to make up new words at any
time, just by cleverly employing some basic principles of its grammar. For example, if you have a friend
who dances really well, you could compare him to the great dancer Patrick Swayze by saying that your
friend was "swayzing" at the club the other night. Latin is very similar. During the Middle Ages and
continuing throughout the 19th century, scientists in particular used ancient Latin roots to create new
words that described scientific processes. This week's vocabulary word, "herbivore," was actually
invented in the 1850s to describe grass-eating animals.

II. Learning Latin Roots

native/non-native
English definition: belonging to a particular place by birth
Latin root: nativus = by birth, inborn, innate
Related Latin words: nativitas (a birth), natio (race or tribe), natales (lineage, ancestry)

herbivores
English definition: animals that eat plants
Latin root: herbivorus = created from herba (grass, green stalks) and voro (to eat); hence, grass-eating
Related Latin words: herbaceus (grassy, grass-colored), herbaria (knowledge of plants), vorax (eating
greedily), voratus (destruction)

stabilization
English definition: to make steady or firm
Latin root: stabilis = steady, firm, enduring
Related Latin words: stabilimen (a support or stay), stabilitas (stability)

restoration
English definition: the process renewing to a previous condition
Latin root: restaure = to repair, rebuild
Related Latin words: restituo (to set up again), restauratio (renewal)

III. Affix of the Day
Two words this week end in -tion. This affix turns a verb into a noun -- so if you start out with restauro
(to restore), you can turn it into resauratio (the act of restoring).

tion

Latin root: tio = (makes a verbal concept into a noun - "the act of ---")
English words using -tion: verification (the act of verifying), computerization (the act of putting data on a
computer), solidification (the act of becoming solid)
IV. Etymology Exercises
1. Fill in the blanks using words related to the vocabulary words from this week.

restaurant
nativity
herbalist
unstable

a. We stopped at a _____________ to relax and get a bite to eat before hitting the road again.

b. Some Christians have ___________ scenes at Christmas, showing Jesus Christ as a baby lying in the manger.

c. My crazy Berkeley auntie sees an __________ instead of a Western doctor for her medicinal needs.

d. The rickety old footbridge was highly ___________ and looked like it would collapse at any moment.

2. Supply the noun ending in -tion that matches each verb.

the act of making something shorter               abbreviation
the act of saying yes to something                affirmation (or) confirmation
the act of separating into groups                   segregation
the act of breathing                                     respiration
the act of choosing one candidate over another        election

BONUS: the act of becoming like California       Californication