

### Topic 3: Animals of the Riparian Ecosystem

#### I. Two-Minute History

Many thinkers throughout Western civilization have written about what language is and what purpose it serves. One important idea is that words are symbols - words represent an idea or concept. If I said to you "table", you would have a general idea of what a table is, and I would not have to point to a specific object (a table) to explain what I mean. It is this feature of language - words as concepts - that allows language to grow from very general concepts (symbolized with root words) into more specific words. An example from this week's vocabulary is the word *producer*. Its root, *duco*, means "to lead." Many hundreds of English words are built on the root *duco*, as you will see in the exercise below.

#### II. Learning Latin Roots

##### *producer*

English definition: in biology, a plant that can be consumed as food

Latin root: *produco* = to bring forth

Related Latin words: *produx* (a twig)

##### *decomposer*

English definition: an organism that breaks down dead material, returning it to an ecological cycle

Latin root: *décomposer* (a French word) = created from *de* (away from) and *componere* (to unite, join together); hence, to break apart

Related Latin words: *compositus* (put together well), *compositio* (arrangement)

##### *adaptation*

English definition: an adjustment made in response to one's environment

Latin root: *adapto* = to adjust

Related Latin words: *apto* (to fit), *aptatus* (well-suited, appropriate)

##### *omnivore*

English definition: animals that eat both plants and meat

Latin root: *omnivorus* = created from *omnis* (every, all) and *voro* (to eat); hence, any-eating

Related Latin words: *omne* (everything), *vorax* (eating greedily), *voratus* (destruction)

#### III. Affixes of the Day

Prefixes attach to the beginning of words in order to form a new word. You have already learned *co-*; when added to the front of a word, it makes a new word that will have the sense of doing something with something else. Our prefixes today are opposites:

de-

Latin root: *de* = away from

English words using *de-*: *destroy* (to take apart completely), *desecrate* (to make unholy), *deface* (to mar something's appearance)

ad-

Latin root: *ad* = toward

English words using *ad-*: *adamant* (something that is very firm), *advance* (to make progress)

#### IV. Etymology Exercises

1. Match words with opposite meanings.

addition	deletion
adhesive	decoupling
adjacent	detached
adjudicate	defer
adopt	decline

2. Fill in the blanks with words related to *duco*.

induced  
abduct  
duct  
conducive  
introduction

- My aunt was two weeks past her due date so her baby had to be \_\_\_\_\_.
- The Stanford students \_\_\_\_\_ Cal's Golden Bear trophy and held it for ransom.
- It was really hot in the house because an air \_\_\_\_\_ was clogged up.
- Holding class at 6:00 am is not \_\_\_\_\_ to learning.
- I was so happy to be in the \_\_\_\_\_ to Biology 101 class.