

**Topic 6: Environmental Justice**

I. Two-Minute History
Because English is composed of words that are from a variety of languages (Latin, German, Arabic, Greek, and many others), it contains words that sound as though they should be related to each other but are not. It is an easy mistake to assume that words that have the same beginning come from the same language and therefore have the same root meaning. Knowing the roots of words and their affixes helps you avoid this problem.

II. Learning Latin Roots

*inequitable*
- English definition: unfair
- Latin root: *inaequabilis* = unfair, uneven
- Related Latin words: *inaequabiliter* (unequally), *inaequalis* (unequal)

*mitigation*
- English definition: making less severe
- Latin root: *mitigare* = to soften, make mild or tame
- Related Latin words: *mitiganter* (soothingly), *mitigabiliter* (softly)

*contamination*
- English definition: a setting apart of something
- Latin root: *contaminare* = to pollute, infect
- Related Latin words: *contingere* (to bring into contact, mingle), *contagiosus* (contagious)

III. Affix of the Day
One of the most important affixes in the Latin and English languages is *in*-

in = not

Adding *in* - to a root word instantly reverses its meaning. The tricky part is recognizing when *in* - is being used as an affix, and when it is actually part of the root! Usually, all you have to do to determine which one it is is to separate *in* - from the word and see if the root is or is similar to a word you understand. The affix *in* - can also appear as *im* -, *il* -, or *ir* -.
IV. Etymology Exercises
Check off the words that have the *in* - prefix.

Indian
imbecile
irreversible
ill-conceived
impish
infamous
imperturbable
illustrious
invisible
Illinois
inconceivable
interconnected
interesting
irregular
illegal
infuriating
invariably
intranet