

Name _____

Date _____

Latin Suffixes

Definition

Latin suffixes are word parts added to the end of base words to change their meaning, function, or part of speech. These patterns help readers understand unfamiliar vocabulary.

Example

Suffix	Meaning/Function	Examples
-able/-ible	"able to be"	capable, visible
-tion/-sion	forms nouns from verbs	celebration, decision
-ity	creates abstract nouns	reality, possibility
-ance/-ence	shows state or quality	importance, difference
-ate	forms verbs	activate, celebrate

Name _____

Date _____

Latin Suffixes

PART 1: Multiple Choice

Choose the word with the Latin suffix that best completes each sentence about Mesopotamian cuneiform.

1. The _____ of clay tablets as writing surfaces was a breakthrough in ancient record-keeping.
 - a) inventive
 - b) invention
 - c) inventor
 - d) inventing

2. Scribes were _____ for their ability to write cuneiform quickly and accurately.
 - a) notable
 - b) notation
 - c) notate
 - d) notability

3. The _____ between early pictographs and later cuneiform shows how writing evolved.
 - a) differ
 - b) differing
 - c) different
 - d) Difference

4. Archaeologists must handle ancient clay tablets with extreme _____ to prevent damage.
 - a) careful
 - b) carefully
 - c) carefulness
 - d) care

Name _____

Date _____

Latin Suffixes

PART 2: Suffix Match

Match each word about Mesopotamian cuneiform with its correct suffix meaning.

1. translatable (-able) a. the process or result of doing something
2. historian (-ian) b. the state or quality of something
3. preservation (-tion) c. a person who specializes in something
4. ancient (-ent) d. capable of being something
5. complexity (-ity) e. having the quality of something

Name _____

Date _____

Latin Suffixes

PART 3: Fill in the Blank

Complete each sentence with the correct form of the word in parentheses by adding an appropriate Latin suffix.

1. The _____ (accurate) of cuneiform translations improves as scholars discover more tablets.
2. Mesopotamian scribes needed extensive _____ (educate) to master the hundreds of cuneiform symbols.
3. Clay tablets proved to be remarkably _____ (durable) compared to other ancient writing materials.
4. The _____ (interpret) of economic records shows how advanced Mesopotamian trade systems were.
5. Learning cuneiform was _____ (challenge) because each symbol could have multiple meanings.

Name _____

Date _____

Latin Suffixes

PART 4: Word Formation

Form new words by adding the specified Latin suffix to each base word. Then write a sentence about Mesopotamian cuneiform using your new word.

Base word: decipher

Add suffix: -able

New word: _____

Sentence:

Base word: communicate

Add suffix: -tion

New word: _____

Sentence:

Base word: important

Add suffix: -ance

New word: _____

Sentence:

4. Base word: inform

Add suffix: -ation

New word: _____

Sentence:

5. Base word: calculate

Add suffix: -ion

New word: _____

Sentence:

Name _____

Date _____

Latin Suffixes

PART 5: Identify the Suffix

Identify the Latin suffix in each word and explain how it changes the meaning of the base word.

1. archaeological

Suffix: _____

How it changes meaning:

2. impression

Suffix: _____

How it changes meaning:

3. creativity

Suffix: _____

How it changes meaning:

4. innovative

Suffix: _____

How it changes meaning:

5. documentary

Suffix: _____

How it changes meaning:

Name _____

Date _____

Latin Suffixes – Answer Key

PART 1: Multiple Choice

1. b) invention
2. a) notable
3. d) difference
4. c) carefulness

PART 2: Suffix Match

1. d (translatable: capable of being translated)
2. c (historian: a person who specializes in history)
3. a (preservation: the process or result of preserving)
4. e (ancient: having the quality of being old)
5. b (complexity: the state or quality of being complex)

PART 3: Fill in the Blank

1. accuracy
2. education
3. durable
4. interpretation
5. Challenging

PART 4: Word Formation

1. decipherable

Sentence: Some early cuneiform symbols remain barely decipherable despite advanced imaging technology.

2. communication

Sentence: Cuneiform allowed written communication across the vast Mesopotamian empire.

Name _____

Date _____

Latin Suffixes – Answer Key

3. importance

Sentence: The importance of cuneiform records to understanding ancient economies cannot be overstated.

4. information

Sentence: Clay tablets provide valuable information about Mesopotamian daily life and governance.

5. calculation

Sentence: Mathematical calculation was one of the primary uses for cuneiform in ancient Mesopotamia.

PART 5: Identify the Suffix

1. archaeological

Suffix: -ical

How it changes meaning: Changes "archaeology" into an adjective meaning "relating to archaeology"

2. impression

Suffix: -ion

How it changes meaning: Changes the verb "impress" into a noun that means "the result of impressing"

3. creativity

Suffix: -ity

How it changes meaning: Changes the adjective "creative" into an abstract noun showing the quality of being creative

4. innovative

Suffix: -ive

How it changes meaning: Changes the verb "innovate" into an adjective describing someone or something that innovates

5. documentary

Suffix: -ary

How it changes meaning: Changes "document" into an adjective meaning "relating to documents" or a noun referring to a type of film