

The 14 Words that Make All the Difference



These words make all the difference because they are supposed to contain the twenty most useful prefixes and the fourteen most important roots and are to be found in over 14,000 words in a collegiate dictionary size or close to an estimated 100,000 words in an unabridged dictionary size. This is according to James I. Brown, Professor of Rhetoric, University of Minnesota; in his *Programmed Vocabulary* book, printed by Meredith Publishing Company, New York, 1971.

precept: *pre-* and *capere* [Although **cep**, **cip**, **ceiv**, **ceipt**, and **ceit** are possible variant forms of *capere*, the most common form to note is **cap**].

detain: *de-* and *tenere* [The various forms of *tenere* are **ten**, **tain**, and **tin**].

intermittent: *inter-* and *mittere* [Other forms include **mitt**, **mit**, **miss**, **mis**, and **mise**].

offer: *ob-* and *ferre* [Forms include **fer** and **lat**].

insist: *in-* and *stare* [Forms include **sta**, **stat**, **sti**, and **sist**].

monograph: *mono-* and *graphein* [Common forms include **graph** and **gram**].

epilogue: *epi-* and *legein* [Forms include **log**, **logy**, **logo**, **logue**, and **ology**].

aspect: *ad-* and *specere* [Forms include **spec** and **spic**].

uncomplicated: *un-*, *com-*, and *plicare* [Forms include **plic**, **plicat**, **plicit**, **pli**, **ply**, **plex**, **ple**, **pleat**, **play**, **ploy**, and **plicity**].

nonextended: *non-*, *ex-*, and *tendere* [Variant forms include **tend**, **tent**, and **tens**].

reproduction: *re-*, *pro-*, and *ducere* [Although **duit**, **duke**, **duct**, **duch**, and **duce** are all possible derivatives of *ducere*, the most common form is **duc**].

indisposed: *in-*, *dis-*, and *ponere* [The two most common three-letter combinations from *ponere* are **pon** and **pos**; with lesser used **pound** and **post** which should not be confused with the **post** that means “after, behind”].

oversufficient: *over-*, *sub-*, and *facere* [Variant forms include **fac**, **fact**, **fic**, **feat**, **feas**, **featur**, and **fair**].

mistranscribe: *mis-*, *trans-*, and *scribere* [Variant forms include **scrib**, **scrip**, **scrip**, and the less common **scriv**].