

Vocabulary Power

Lesson 43 The Latin Root *ludus*

This lesson has its basis in the Latin infinitive *ludere*, meaning “to play.” You can best see how this root operates in the word *illusionist*, a magician or ventriloquist. Illusionists play with reality, convincing us that we are seeing something that is really not there. In this lesson, you will examine how other prefixes combine with variants of the word root to produce a range of words whose meaning is based on play.

Word List

allude	disillusion	illusive	ludicrous
collusion	elude	interlude	preclude
delude	illusionist		

EXERCISE A Context Clues Students’ answers will vary. Sample dictionary definitions follow. Choose the word from the word list that best matches each clue. On the line provided, write your own definition of the word; then, check the definition in a dictionary.

1. This verb is built from *ludere* and the prefix *ex-*, meaning “out of,” or “from.” A thief could be trying to do this to the police by leaping from one rooftop to another. _____

My definition _____

Dictionary definition _____
2. This adjective comes from *ludus*, meaning “play” or “sport.” Some soap operas can be described this way; people rarely live such dramatic lives. _____

My definition _____

Dictionary definition _____
3. This noun comes from the prefix *com-*, meaning “together,” and *ludere*. Groups of people secretly trying to defraud the IRS of money would be involved in this. _____

My definition _____


Dictionary definition _____
4. This word from the prefix *inter-*, meaning “between,” and *ludus* names a theatrical pause. _____

My definition _____

Dictionary definition _____
5. This word comes from the prefixes *dis-* and *in-*, which mean “deprive of” and “not,” respectively, and *ludere*. Someone might do this to you by explaining how a magician does a trick. _____

My definition _____

Dictionary definition _____

 **Vocabulary Power** *continued*

6. This verb comes from the prefix *pre-*, meaning “before,” and the Latin word *cludere*, “to close.” If you do this, you make sure that someone cannot play. _____
 My definition _____
 Dictionary definition _____
7. This adjective from the Latin prefix *il-* and *ludere* describes some experience. _____
 My definition _____
 Dictionary definition _____
8. This verb from the prefix *de-*, meaning “remove from,” and *ludere*, means “to mislead.” _____
 My definition _____
 Dictionary definition _____
9. This verb combines the prefix *ad-*, meaning “to or toward,” with *ludere*. This means to make an indirect reference. _____
 My definition _____
 Dictionary definition _____
10. This noun, combining the prefix *il-* with *ludere*, refers to a person who performs magic tricks.

 My definition _____
 Dictionary definition _____

EXERCISE B Multiple-Meaning Words

Many words in English have more than one meaning, all based, however, on the meaning of the word root. The word *chorus*, for example, is from the Greek root *choros*, meaning “ring dance” or “chorus.” All of the definitions of *chorus* are related to the root meaning. On a separate sheet of paper, write the precise dictionary definition of *chorus* as it is used in each sentence below.

1. In ancient Greece, the singers and dancers who performed at religious festivals were known as the **chorus**.
2. In Elizabethan drama, the role of the **chorus** was performed by one actor.
3. In an operatic performance, the **chorus** sings certain parts of works.
4. The dancers and singers supporting the featured players in a musical are known as the **chorus**.
5. The tourists shivered when they heard the mournful **chorus** of howling wolves.
6. Everyone joined in the **chorus** of the Christmas song.

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