

Name: _____

Date: _____

WORD STUDY ➔ **LATIN PREFIX: MAL-**

The **Latin prefix *mal-*** means “bad” or “evil.” For example, the word *malodorous* is made up of the prefix *mal-* plus the word *odor* (smell) plus the suffix *-ous* (which forms an adjective). *Malodorous* means “having a bad smell.”

The meaning of some *mal-* words is not as easy to figure out. A few examples include *malign* (“speak badly about”), *malady* (“illness” or “disease”), and *malice* (“bad or evil intentions”). When you come upon an unfamiliar *mal-* word, look it up in a print or an online dictionary.

A. DIRECTIONS: Select the correct word from the box to complete each sentence. Use a dictionary, if necessary.

malcontent • malformed • malice • maladjustment • malady

1. A few tomatoes in our crop were _____.
2. Because the committee member complained about everything, he has become known as a _____.
3. Skyler is suffering from a _____ that the doctors have not diagnosed yet.
4. After improving student support services, the college had fewer students dropping out due to _____.
5. The tennis player had so much _____ toward her rival that she was happy when the rival left the tournament.

B. DIRECTIONS: Use each word correctly in a sentence. Your sentence should show that you understand the word’s meaning. If necessary, look up unfamiliar words in a print or an online dictionary.

1. malfunction _____
2. malnutrition _____
3. maltreated _____

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A. DIRECTIONS: For each of these items, think about the meaning of the italicized word. Then, answer the question. Use a dictionary, if necessary.

1. A strange fungus is taking over Mr. Reardon's vegetable garden and killing many of the plants. Is the fungus *malignant*? Explain.

2. The accountant always acts fairly and follows the law when helping clients prepare and submit their tax returns. Should this accountant be convicted of *malpractice*? Explain.

3. True or False? A *malevolent* dictator would treat citizens with kindness and compassion.

B. DIRECTIONS: Write each italicized word from Part A next to its meaning.

1. _____ acting improperly; not professional
2. _____ hostile; evil; vicious
3. _____ very harmful or dangerous

C. DIRECTIONS: Use each word correctly in a sentence. Your sentence should show that you understand the word's meaning. Use a print or online dictionary, if necessary.

1. malnutrition _____

2. maladapted _____

3. malicious _____
