

Lesson 7

The Root *-cap-*

The Latin root *-cap-* and its alternate forms *-cip-*, *-capt-*, *-cept-*, and *-ceiv-* are all derived from the Latin word *capere*, meaning “to take.” This word has served as the basis of many English words. For example, if the trunk of a car has a large *capacity*, it takes or holds many objects. When you *anticipate* an event, you take it in mentally or realize it beforehand. The *receiver* of a telephone is the mechanism that takes in electromagnetic signals. In this lesson you will learn other words that relate in some way to the action of taking.

WORD LIST

capacious
captious
captivate
cater
concept
inception
perceptible
precept
receptacle
recipient

DEFINITIONS

After you have studied the definitions and example for each vocabulary word, write the word on the line to the right.

1. **capacious** (kə-pā'shəs) *adjective* Capable of holding a large quantity; spacious; roomy. (From the Latin word *capere*, meaning “to take”)

RELATED WORD **capaciousness** *noun*

EXAMPLE The living room was *capacious* enough to accommodate a concert grand piano as well as the other furniture.

2. **captious** (kăp'shəs) *adjective* a. Inclined to find fault and make petty criticisms. b. Intending to entrap or confuse; deceptive: a *captious* question. (From the Latin word *capere*)

RELATED WORDS **captiously** *adverb*; **captiousness** *noun*

EXAMPLE Nothing could please Mrs. Weitzen when she was in a *captious* mood.

3. **captivate** (kăp'tī-văt') *trans. verb* To fascinate by special charm, wit, intelligence, or beauty; enrapture. (From the Latin word *capere*)

RELATED WORD **captivation** *noun*

EXAMPLE The cast *captivated* the audience with their unusual interpretation of the classical play.

4. **cater** (kă'tər) *intrans. verb* a. To provide food, services, or entertainment. b. To provide anything wished for or needed. *trans. verb* To provide food service for. (From the Latin word *capere*)

RELATED WORD **caterer** *noun*

EXAMPLE The Nelsons hired a company called The Glorious Gourmet to *cater* the large banquet.

1. _____
MEMORY CUE Something that is *capacious* has a large *capacity*.

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. **concept** (kōn'sēpt') *noun* a. A general idea or understanding, especially one derived from specific instances or occurrences; abstraction. b. A thought or notion. (From the Latin word *concipere*, meaning "to conceive")

RELATED WORDS **conceptual** *adjective*; **conceptualize** *verb*; **conceptually** *adverb*

EXAMPLE Paul could not grasp the *concept* of how a computer stores information.

5. _____

6. **inception** (in-sēp'shən) *noun* The beginning of something; commencement. (From the Latin *in-*, meaning "in," and *capere*)

EXAMPLE Hot-air ballooning had its *inception* in eighteenth-century France.

6. _____

7. **perceptible** (pər-sēp'tə-bəl) *adjective* Capable of being grasped by the senses or mind; noticeable; discernible. (From the Latin *per-*, an intensive prefix, and *capere*)

RELATED WORDS **perceptibly** *adverb*; **perception** *noun*

EXAMPLE The flaw in the skater's performance was *perceptible* only to the judges.

7. _____

8. **precept** (prē'sēpt') *noun* A rule that imposes a particular standard of action or conduct; guiding principle. (From the Latin *prae-*, meaning "before," and *capere*)

EXAMPLE *Poor Richard's Almanack*, by Benjamin Franklin, contains many *precepts* for success in life.

8. _____

9. **receptacle** (rē-sēp'tə-kəl) *noun* Something that holds or contains; a container. (From the Latin *re-*, meaning "again," and *capere*)

EXAMPLE None of the trash *receptacles* was large enough to hold all of the litter that accumulated during the parade.

9. _____

10. **recipient** (rē-sīp'ē-ənt) *noun* One that receives or is capable of receiving. *adjective* Functioning as a receiver; receptive. (From the Latin *re-*, meaning "again," and *capere*)

EXAMPLE In a blood transfusion, the donor and the *recipient* must have matching blood types.

10. _____