

# How to Use Word-Part Clues to Define Words

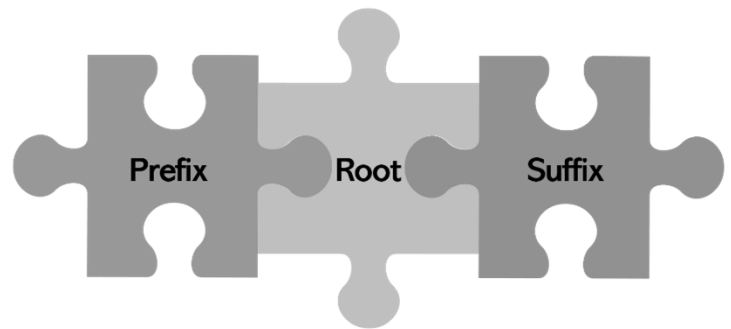
## Word Parts: Building blocks of words

### The Three Word Parts:

**Prefix** – Word part attached to the beginning of the root that adds its meaning to the root

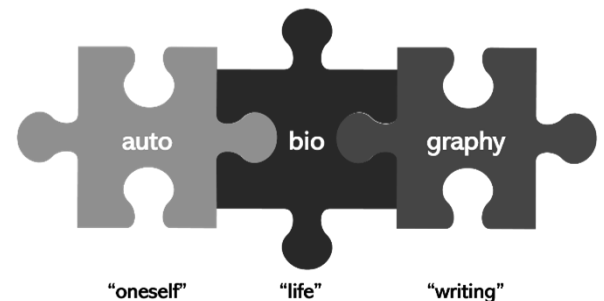
**Root** – Base word with its own meaning

**Suffix** – Word part attached to the end of the root that adds its meaning to the root



Using the word 'autobiography' as an example, we can derive the meaning by separating the word into its parts and combining the meaning of the parts into an alternative statement:

In his **autobiography**, Frederick Douglass describes his escape from slavery and transformation into a prominent abolitionist. It wasn't his original intent to be the unsung hero during the abolition of slavery in the United States, but sometimes we play the cards we are...



In his "**self-writing about his life**," Frederick Douglass describes his escape from slavery and transformation into a prominent abolitionist. It wasn't his original intent to be the unsung hero during the abolition of slavery in the United States, but sometimes we play the cards we are dealt and...

In his autobiography, Frederick Douglass describes his escape from slavery and transformation into a prominent abolitionist. It wasn't his original intent to be the unsung hero during the abolition of slavery in the United States, but sometimes we play the cards we are...