

More than forty English words are derived from the Latin verb *ponere*, which means “to place” or “to put,” and its past participle, *positus*, which means “placed” or “put.” Among the common words in English derived from *ponere* or *positus* are *opponent* and *opposite*, *proponent* and *preposition*. These derivatives have a wide range of applications, so mastery of them can aid one’s oral and written expression in many different ways.

WORD LIST

composite  
disposition  
exponent  
impostor  
juxtaposition  
opposition  
proposition  
propound  
repository  
supposition

DEFINITIONS

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

1. **composite** (kəm-pōz'īt) *adjective* a. Put together from various parts: a *composite photograph*. b. In mathematics, having factors: a *composite number*. *noun* Something made up of various parts; a combination.

**Related Words** **compose** *verb*; **composition** *noun*

**Example** Some computers can now create *composite* portraits, combining the features of several people.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. **disposition** (dīs'pə-zīsh'ən) *noun* a. One’s usual mood or temperament. b. Arrangement. (From the Latin word *dispositio*, meaning “arrangement”)

**Related Word** **dispose** *verb*

**Example** Monica’s cheerful *disposition* makes her popular at Van Buren.

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. **exponent** (ĭk-spō'nənt, ěk'spō'nənt) *noun* a. A person who speaks for something; a representative or interpreter of something. b. A superscript number indicating how many times a given number is multiplied by itself. (From the Latin word *exponere*, meaning “to put forth”)

**Related Words** **exponential** *adjective*; **exponentially** *adverb*

**Example** The movie star was a leading *exponent* of the Stanislavski method of acting.

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. **impostor** (im-pŏs'tər) *noun* A person who assumes a false identity for the purpose of deceiving others. 4. \_\_\_\_\_
- Example** The seemingly innocent man at the embassy party was an *impostor*, for he was in fact a high-level spy.
5. **juxtaposition** (jŭk'stə-pə-zīsh'ən) *noun* Placement side by side or close together, often producing an unusual effect. (From the Latin words *juxta*, meaning "close by," and *positio*, meaning "situation") 5. \_\_\_\_\_
- Related Word** **juxtapose** *verb*
- Example** When the paintings were placed in *juxtaposition*, I could see that the Corot was more skillfully executed.
6. **opposition** (ŏp'ə-zīsh'ən) *noun* a. The condition of being against, contrary to, or in conflict with. b. A rival. (From the Latin word *oppositus*, meaning "put against") 6. \_\_\_\_\_
- Related Words** **oppose** *verb*; **opposite** *adjective*
- Example** The new plan for traffic control around the school met with *opposition* from both students and teachers.
7. **proposition** (prŏp'ə-zīsh'ən) *noun* a. A statement or plan suggested for acceptance; a proposal. b. An issue put before voters. (From the Latin word *propositus*, meaning "put forth") 7. \_\_\_\_\_  
See *propound*.
- Related Words** **proposal** *noun*; **propose** *verb*
- Example** The board members discussed the vice president's *proposition* for increasing trade in the Middle East.
8. **propound** (prə-pound') *trans. verb* To offer or set forth for consideration. (From the Latin word *proponere*, meaning "to put forth") 8. \_\_\_\_\_  
USAGE NOTE: *Propound* is a synonym of *propose*.
- Related Word** **proponent** *noun*
- Example** When Galileo first *propounded* his theory of the universe, few people believed him.
9. **repository** (rĭ-pŏz'ĭ-tŏr'ē) *noun* a. A place for safe storage; a storehouse. b. A source. 9. \_\_\_\_\_
- Example** The museum was a *repository* for ancient Mesopotamian artifacts.
10. **supposition** (sŭp'ə-zīsh'ən) *noun* An assumption. 10. \_\_\_\_\_
- Related Words** **suppose** *verb*; **supposed** *adjective*; **supposedly** *adverb*
- Example** His *supposition* that the course would be dull proved to be incorrect.