

Writing Assignment 1

Due 7 October

In this assignment, you will consider the relationship between **etymology** and **morphology**.

Look up the etymologies of the following pairs of words in one of the dictionaries recommended for this course:

- the adjective *long* and the verb *elongate*
- the nouns *bond* (meaning ‘something that binds or restrains’) and *bondage*

The paired words have **related meanings**: to *elongate* something is to make it *long*; and *bondage* (i.e., slavery or captivity) can be thought of as the state of being held by *bonds* (i.e., restraints or shackles). They also obviously have similar forms: the **syllables** *long* and *bond* appear in the words *elongate* and *bondage* respectively.

In a short essay (about 1–2 pages), discuss the following questions:

Is the *long* in *elongate* the **same morpheme** as the word *long*, or is it a different morpheme that is pronounced the same? Is the *bond* in *bondage* the same morpheme as the word *bond*?

There **isn’t an absolute unique right answer** to these questions; this assignment is asking you for **your opinion** on what way of thinking about morphology and etymology makes the most sense for words like these.

In answering these questions:

- **summarize the etymologies** of all four words, in as much detail as is relevant to your discussion.
- discuss **both the pros and cons** of **both** points of view—**don’t** just pick a side and discuss **only** the arguments in favor of the answer you pick.
- **but**, for each pair of words, **do explain** which answer you find **most convincing**, in your opinion, and why.

You may find it helpful to reread the discussion of morphology vs. etymology on pages 65–67 of the Denning et al. textbook. Again, what we’re interested in is **your opinion**, but the textbook might suggest some issues it might be helpful to think about in making your decision.

In any event, make sure to fully **cite** the sources you refer to, whether you get **information** from them (like the dictionaries) or just **ideas** (like the textbook).

Your essay is due **on paper** at the **beginning** of your tutorial on October 7th.