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Donka Minkova and Robert Stockwell
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English Words

This new edition is concerned primarily with the learned vocabulary of English – the words borrowed from the classical languages. It surveys the historical events that define the layers of vocabulary in English, introduces some of the basic principles of linguistic analysis, and is a helpful manual for vocabulary discernment and enrichment. An online workbook contains readings, exercises, and root lists accompanying each chapter to strengthen knowledge acquired in the classroom.

New to this edition:

- Updated with a discussion of the most recent trends of blending and shortening associated with texting and other forms of electronic communication.
- Includes a new classification of the types of allomorphy.
- Discusses important topics such as segment sonority and the historical shifting of long vowels in English.
- Includes a new section on Grimm's Law, explaining some of the more obscure links between Germanic and classical cognates.

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Wittgenstein: "The limits of my language are the limits of my world."

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Preface to the second edition and acknowledgements

This is a completely revised version of *English Words*. We reorganized and expanded the material on word-origins in Chapter 1, updating it with references to the most recent trends of blending and shortening associated with texting and other forms of electronic communication. Our chapters on the morphological composition and phonetic structure of English are also rewritten and updated, and now include a new classification of the types of allomorphy, as well as discussions of important topics such as segment sonority and the historical shifting of long vowels in English. Revisions in Chapters 6 and 7 will provide more information and clarify obscure points concerning the word-formation rules. Chapter 8 has a new section on Grimm's Law, explaining some of the deep historical allomorphic links between Germanic and Latinate cognates. Our discussion of semantic change, in Chapter 9, was reorganized and significantly enriched. Chapter 10 contains new sections on syllable division and syllable weight, leading to a more principled account of the stress-rules of the loan vocabulary of English. The Appendix, which contains all root morphemes from the Workbook and the affixes in Chapter 5, has been thoroughly revised.

This second edition is also accompanied by a Workbook arranged to correspond to the chapters in the textbook. All Workbook exercises and root lists have been revised and updated; many new exercises have been added. The link to the Workbook includes a special chapter on recently borrowed words from both ancient and modern languages, and one on technical vocabulary in law and medicine. The Workbook is available on the Cambridge University Press website.

Since the appearance of the first edition in 2001, we have had the benefit of comments and suggestions by many colleagues and reviewers, for which we are very grateful. Henry Ansgar (Andy) Kelly returned our present (a copy of the book) with extensive corrections throughout. Among the colleagues who used the book and wrote back to us, we want to thank Thomas Cobb, Karl Hagen, Anahita Jamshidi, and especially Barbara Blankenship. Philip Durkin generously shared his research with us. Jared Klein's detailed criticism of the book made us much more aware of the potential for errors – we hope that all of the ones that he pointed out have now been eliminated. At UCLA several generations of TAs have helped us identify obscure passages and shortcomings. For this we thank Helen Choi, Mac Harris, Jesse Johnson, Dorothy Kim, Meg Lamont, Tom O'Donnell, Emily Runde, Jennifer Smith. Sherrylyn Branchaw helped greatly by both sharing her

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classroom experiences and by working with us on extensive corrections in the Morpheme Appendix and the Workbook exercises. We also gratefully acknowledge the support of the UCLA Research Council for facilitating the work that led to the inclusion of new material in the second edition. At Cambridge University Press we owe special thanks to Kate Brett who initiated both editions and to Helen Barton whose help with the current project we appreciate greatly.

Donka Minkova
Robert Stockwell
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