

Latin Roots

for
Word
Wisdom

Plants or Animals:

Diets in the Wild

Do you know someone who is a vegetarian? If you do, you know that vegetarians eat mostly plant products. They do not eat animal meat. On the other hand, there are also a lot of people who eat a diet rich in meaty foods. Animals in the wild have different kinds of diets, too.

In nature, a vegetarian animal is called a **herbivore**. An animal that eats mostly meat is called a **carnivore**. Lions are great examples of carnivores. Some people believe lions have an **insatiable** desire to kill prey and eat. But this is not exactly true. It is true that lions have a **voracious** appetite when food is available. But once they have been **satiated**, or satisfied, by a large meal, lions can go for days without eating. They will hunt only when they become hungry again.

When the members of a pride catch the scent of a **savory** meal, they all prepare for a feast. After a kill, lions eat in a certain order. Males eat first. When they are finished, females move in and fight

each other to get a bite. Finally, when the adults have eaten, the young cubs get the chance to **nourish** their growing bodies. Usually only a few bones of the prey are left behind and, perhaps, a puddle of blood that has **saturated** the dirt.

Eating is a different process for herbivores than it is for most carnivores. Herbivores need to eat a large quantity of food. Elephants are herbivores. An elephant will spend most of its day—every day—eating. In fact, an adult elephant can eat between two and three hundred pounds of food a day! A large variety of food also helps them get all the **nutrients** their bodies need. They eat leaves, twigs, fruits, flowers, and grasses, among other things. We humans prefer to eat food with a lot of flavor. But elephants will eat even **insipid** foods, such as tree bark and plant roots.

Although humans are a part of the animal kingdom, we don't eat exactly like the carnivores and herbivores of the wild. For one thing, we're a bit more finicky about what we eat!

Practice the Context Clues Strategy Here is one of the boldfaced words from the essay on page 12. Use the context clues strategy you learned in Part 1 on page 7 to figure out the meaning of this word.

saturated



Read the sentence that uses the word *saturated*. Read some of the sentences around the word.



Look for context clues. What words tell **What Kind of Thing the Word Is?**



Think about the context clues. What other helpful information do you know?



Predict a meaning for the word *saturate*.



Check your Word Wisdom Dictionary to be sure of the meaning of the word *saturate*. Which of the meanings fits the context?



Unlock the Meanings

Many English words have a main part called a root. Knowing the meaning of the root can help you figure out the meaning of a new word. Each Latin root below has something to do with food.

Latin Root: **sap, sav, sip**
meaning: to taste
English word: *savor*
meaning: to taste with enjoyment

Latin Root: **nour, nur, nut**
meaning: to feed
English word: *nutritious*
meaning: nourishing

Latin Root: **vor**
meaning: to swallow
English word: *devour*
meaning: to eat greedily

Latin Root: **sat**
meaning: enough
English word: *satiate*
meaning: to satisfy a hunger or desire

Sort by Roots Find the Latin roots you just learned in the Word List. Write each word in the correct section.

WORD LIST

herbivore
carnivore
insatiable
voracious
sate
savory
nourish
saturate
nutrient
insipid

Latin Root:
sap, sav, sip

Latin Root:
vor

Latin Root:
nour, nur, nut

Latin Root:
sat

Food

Prefix
in-

Meaning
not

Example

in- (not) + sat (enough) + able (adj.) = insatiable

Use Roots and Prefixes Circle any roots and prefixes that you find in the boldfaced words. Use roots, prefixes, and context clues to write the meaning of each word. Check your definitions in the Word Wisdom Dictionary.

1 Vitamin C is a **nutrient** found in oranges.

2 The heavy rain **saturated** the ground.

3 Deer are **herbivores**, so we put a fence around our vegetable garden.

4 After her hike, Emma had a **voracious** appetite.

5 The chef added spices to give flavor to the **insipid** soup.

6 Nourish your body by eating different kinds of food.

7 Juan has an **insatiable** interest in comets, so he reads about them.

8 Mia couldn't wait to eat the **savory** meal her grandpa cooked.

9 Only some dinosaurs were **carnivores**. Many ate plants.

10 Mom's need for adventure was **satiated** by a trip down the Green River.



Process the Meanings

WORD LIST

herbivore

carnivore

insatiable

voracious

satiate

savory

nourish

saturate

nutrient

insipid

Choose the Correct Word Write the correct word from the Word List to complete each sentence. You may have to add an ending. Then underline the words in the sentence that helped you make your choice.

1 A lion is a _____ because it eats zebras.

2 Drinking a jug of water should _____ Mac's thirst.

3 Customers refused to eat the _____ stew because it had no flavor.

4 After football practice, Deon had a _____ appetite.

5 After I wiped up the spilled soda, my sponge was completely _____.

6 Vitamins and minerals are important _____.

Find the Antonyms After each word below, write a word from the Word List that is opposite or nearly opposite in meaning.

Word

7 insipid

8 starve

9 satisfied

10 carnivore

Antonym



Apply What You've Learned

Demonstrate Word Knowledge Write a sentence that answers each question.

1 What kinds of foods would a **savory** meal contain?

2 If you had an **insatiable** interest in movies, what might you do?

3 What are some **nutrients** in a good breakfast?

4 What are some things that **herbivores** might eat?

5 What are some things that a **carnivore** might eat?

6 If the air were **saturated** with moisture, what could happen?

7 When might you have a **voracious** appetite?

8 Where could an athlete go to **satisfy** her need to exercise?

9 How would **insipid** food taste?

10 How can you **nourish** your body?



Speak It! Give a short talk on the importance of eating well. Use words from the Part 2 Word List.