

The Root *-mis-* or *-mit-*

WORD LIST

dismiss	emissary	emit	intermittent	missile
mission	missive	omit	submit	transmit

The root *-mis-* or *-mit-* comes from the Latin verb *mittere*, which means “to send.” As you can see, the spelling of this root varies in different English words. The words in this lesson all have something to do with sending. The words *dismiss*, *emit*, *intermittent*, and *omit* are formed when a prefix is added to the root. Other words, like *mission*, *missile*, and *missive*, come from the root *-mis-* with a suffix added. This lesson adds useful words to your vocabulary and increases your understanding of how roots, prefixes, and suffixes work together to create meaning.

1. **dismiss** (dīs-mĭs´) *verb* from Latin *dis-*, “away” or “apart” + *mis*, “send”
 - a. To send away or allow to leave
 - The students filled the hall after the teacher **dismissed** the class.
 - b. To reject or stop considering
 - With a roll of her eyes, Deborah **dismissed** her mother’s suggestion to take an umbrella.

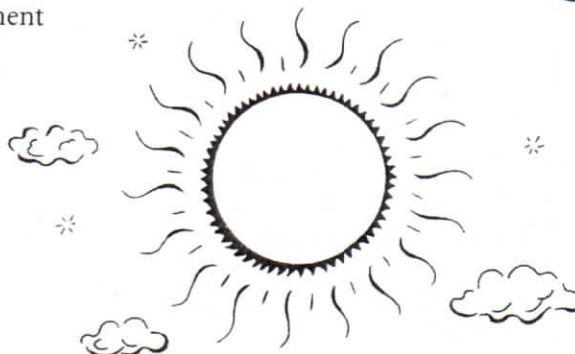
dismissal *noun* Mr. Jones was relieved at the **dismissal** of the lawsuit.

dismissive *adjective* The senator’s **dismissive** attitude showed that she didn’t believe the reports.

2. **emissary** (ēm-ĭ-sĕr-ē) *noun* from Latin *e-*, “out” + *mis*, “send”
A person sent to another country or place on official business; representative
 - The doge of Venice sent an **emissary** to set up trade agreements with China.

3. **emit** (ĭ-mĭt´) *verb* from Latin *e-*, “out” + *mit*, “send”
To send out energy or matter
 - The scientists were concerned that the machine might **emit** harmful radiation.

emission *noun* The government regulates some tailpipe and power-plant **emissions**.



emit

Energy *emitted* can include light, heat, other radiation, and sound. Matter can include substances and smells.

4. **intermittent** (in 'tər-mīt'nt) *adjective* from Latin *inter-*, "between" + *mit*, "send"

Stopping and starting; not continuous; periodic

- The forecast was for a cloudy day with **intermittent** showers.

5. **missile** (mīs'əl) *noun* from *mis*, "send" or "throw"

An object or a weapon sent to a target

- The **missile** was guided by radio waves.

6. **mission** (mīsh'an) *noun* from *mis*, "send"

a. A special duty or assignment given to a person or group

- His **mission** was to gather information about illegal rhino hunters.

b. A group of people sent to a foreign country to do diplomatic, educational, or religious work; the building where the group operates

- California is dotted with Catholic **missions**.

The word *missionary* usually refers to people who travel abroad to spread their own religion.

7. **missive** (mīs'iv) *noun* from *mis*, "send"

A letter or written communication

- He typed and then e-mailed his **missive** to the editor of the local paper.

8. **omit** (ō-mīt') *verb* from Latin *ob-*, "against" or "away" + *mit*, "send"

To leave out; to pass over or not include

- We **omit** periods when we shorten the names of states in mailing addresses.

omission *noun* The **omission** of one letter from a word can change the meaning of a whole sentence.

9. **submit** (səb-mīt') *verb* from Latin *sub-*, "under" + *mit*, "send"

a. To present a plan or proposal for approval

- The architect **submitted** plans for a new city hall.

b. To obey; to allow one's self to be controlled by another person

- The sailor **submitted** to the captain's orders and cleaned the deck.

submission *noun* My **submission** to the science fair won Honorable Mention.

When we *submit* something, we put it "under" someone's consideration. When we *submit* to orders, we are "under" someone's authority.

10. **transmit** (trāns-mīt') *verb* from Latin *trans-*, "across" + *mit*, "send"

To send from one person, place, or thing to another

- Insect bites sometimes **transmit** disease.

transmission *noun* The first **transmission** of a TV commercial took place in 1951.

WORD ENRICHMENT

Omitted words

Our dictionaries are becoming bigger and bigger as more words are added to the English language. But at times, dictionaries also *omit* words that are no longer used. (We say these words have become *obsolete*.) Words omitted from English dictionaries include

Shreed — "to clothe or cover," as in "We were *shreed* in battle clothes."

Leuch — "laughed," as in "She smiled and *leuch*."

Yuly — "beautiful," as in "A woman most *yuly*."