

# Lesson 4

## The Root -ject-

The root *-ject-* comes from the Latin word *jactus*, which means "thrown" or "hurled." By adding different prefixes and suffixes to this root, you can form many words that are commonly used in the English language, such as *adjective*, *eject*, *object*, *project*, and *projection*. This lesson provides ten more words that are formed from the root *-ject-*.

### WORD LIST

abject  
conjecture  
dejected  
injection  
jetty  
objectionable  
projectile  
reject  
subjective  
trajectory

### DEFINITIONS

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

1. **abject** (ăb'jĕkt', ăb-jĕkt') *adjective* a. Lacking all self-respect; contemptible. b. Very miserable; wretched. (From the Latin *ab-*, meaning "away," and *jacere*, meaning "to throw")

RELATED WORDS **abjectly** *adverb*; **abjectness** *noun*

EXAMPLE The *abject* coward stood by and watched as others were punished for his misdeed.

2. **conjecture** (kən-jĕk'chər) *noun* a. The act of forming an opinion from incomplete evidence; guesswork. b. A statement or opinion based on guesswork. *trans. verb* To guess. *intrans. verb* To make a conjecture. (From the Latin *com-*, meaning "together," and *jacere*)

RELATED WORD **conjectural** *adjective*

EXAMPLE There was much *conjecture* among the birthday party guests as to the contents of the packages.

3. **dejected** (dī-jĕk'tīd) *adjective* Depressed; disheartened. (From the Latin *de-*, meaning "down," and *jacere*)

RELATED WORDS **dejectedly** *adverb*; **dejection** *noun*

EXAMPLE Disappointed and *dejected*, the Hartwells were forced to cancel their vacation plans.

4. **injection** (in-jĕk'shən) *noun* a. The act of forcing something, generally a liquid or a gas, into something else. b. Something that is injected. (From the Latin *in-*, meaning "in," and *jacere*)

RELATED WORD **inject** *verb*

EXAMPLE The doctor administered an *injection* of penicillin to the patient.

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

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

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

4. \_\_\_\_\_

5. **jetty** (jět'ē) *noun* A pier or other structure projecting into a body of water; a wharf. (From the French word *jeter*, meaning "to throw or project")

**EXAMPLE** Donald stood at the end of the *jetty* and watched the fishing boat sail out of the harbor.

6. **objectionable** (əb-jěk'shə-nə-bəl) *adjective* Arousing disapproval; offensive. (From the Latin *ob*, meaning "toward," and *jacere*)

**RELATED WORDS** *object verb; objection noun*

**EXAMPLE** Barbara commented on the *objectionable* odor coming from the town dump.

7. **projectile** (prə-jěk'təl, prə-jěk'til') *noun* a. An object, such as a bullet or an arrow, that is thrown, fired, or otherwise launched through space. b. A self-propelling missile or rocket. (From the Latin *pro*, meaning "forth," and *jacere*)

**RELATED WORDS** *project verb; projection noun*

**EXAMPLE** The *projectile* was unable to shatter the bulletproof glass.

8. **reject** (rĭ-jĕkt') *trans. verb* a. To refuse to accept, use, grant, or consider. b. To fail to give affection or love to. c. To throw out; discard. *noun* (rĕ'jĕkt) Something or someone that is rejected. (From the Latin *re*, meaning "back," and *jacere*)

**RELATED WORD** *rejection noun*

**EXAMPLE** The members of the club *rejected* several old laws but suggested new ones to replace them.

9. **subjective** (səb-jĕk'tiv) *adjective* Taking place within an individual's mind rather than the external environment; personal. (From the Latin *sub*, meaning "below," and *jacere*)

**RELATED WORDS** *subjectively adverb; subjectivity noun*

**EXAMPLE** Because she is a good athlete herself, Helen's view of the importance of sports in the school program is a *subjective* one.

10. **trajectory** (trə-jĕk'tə-rĕ) *noun* The path made by a moving body or particle, especially the flight path of a missile. (From the Latin *trans*, meaning "across," and *jacere*)

**EXAMPLE** We could trace the *trajectory* of the comet by observing its long tail.