

Why look at parts of words?

This car is undriveable!

“Undriveable” isn’t in a dictionary

How do you know what it means?

undriveable

But these words are...

undo
bendable

undrinkable
unstopable

Looking at parts of words can give us clues about what the whole word means

Like other Algonquian languages, Mi'gmaq words have LOTS of parts!

Two animates
(Transitive Animate)

gesalul I like you
gesalin you like me

gesalg I like him or her
gesalt you like him or her

One animate, one inanimate
(Transitive Inanimate)

gesatm I like it
gesatg he or she likes it

One animate/inanimate
(Animate/Inanimate
Intransitive)

etllugwalg I'm preparing him/her
etllugwalt you're preparing him/her

etllugwatg s/he's preparing it
etllugwatm I'm preparing it

etllugwei I'm working
etllugwet s/he's working
etllugweg it's working

jaqala'lul I rush you
jaqala'lin you rush me
jaqala'latl s/he rushes him/her

jaqala'tu I do it fast
jaqala'toq s/he does it fast

jaqalei I'm fast
jaqale'g s/he/it is fast

sewisga'l'g I break him/her
sewisga'latl s/he breaks him/her

sewisga'tu I break it
sewisga'toq s/he breaks it

sewisgiet s/he is breaking up
sewisgiaq it is breaking up

wela'lin you sg are good to me
wela'lioq you pl are good to me
wela'lieg you sg/pl are good to us

nestm I understand it
nest'g s/he understands it

welei I'm good, fine
wele'g s/he/it is good

puatm I want it