Suppose you want to look up the Oneida word wa’katehuni-ı. There is not an exact match but you can find information from looking up the citation form, which is a verb stem, a part of the word:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>prefix</th>
<th>stem</th>
<th>suffix</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>wa’k-</td>
<td>-atekhuni-</td>
<td>-ʔ</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

past tense  I eat a meal  did

The stem -atekhuni- is made up of a grammatical affix and two roots:

-ate-  +  -khw-  +  -uni-
(reflexive)  (food)  (make)

[Notice that the basic parts of the word can be modified when they are combined. In this case the w in the root -khw- is lost before any root beginning with a u or o and the glottal stop suffix is lost when the accent rules stress a vowel right before it. These are examples of the modification rules.]

There are three ways to look up this word.

- If you know it means something about eating, you can search on the English eat.
- If you recognize any of the roots in the word, you can search on those roots (-khw- or -uni-) to find the verb stem (the citation form).
- If you don’t know anything about the word, you can use the tools to separate the stem from the prefixes and suffixes and then search for that stem (-atekhuni-).