

LITERACY SKILLS

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PREFIXES

A prefix is a word part added to the beginning of a base word.

re-	un-	dis-	in-	im-
means “again” or “back”	means “not” or “do the opposite of”	means “not” or “do the opposite of”	means “not”	means “not”
retell	unclean	disagree	invisible	impatient
reuse	unload	disappear	inexpensive	impolite
return	unable	dissatisfied	incomplete	impossible
rewrite	unknown	dishonest	inactive	immature

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pre-	de-	mis-	a-	tri -
means “before”	means “remove”	means “in a wrong or bad way”	means “on”	means “three”
preview	defrost	misspell	afloat	triangle
prejudge	dethrone	mistreat	atop	tricycle
precaution	decode	misunderstood	ashore	
prehistoric	defang	misjudge	aboard	

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SUFFIXES

A suffix is a word part added to the end of a base word.

-able	-en	-ment	-er, -or, -ist	-less
means “can be”	means “to make”	means “the act or result of” <u>or</u> “a state of being”	means “someone who”	means “without”
washable	straighten	movement	teacher	harmless
readable	darken	government	actor	speechless
drinkable	soften	amazement	cartoonist	clueless
renewable	sharpen	excitement	inventor	hopeless

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-ful	-ness	-ly	-y	-ion
means “full of”	means “a state of being”	means “in a certain way”	means “full of” <u>or</u> “having”	means “the result of”
colorful	kindness	brightly	rainy	invention
helpful	darkness	completely	speedy	protection
thankful	greatness	quickly	salty	attraction
careful	happiness	bravely	dusty	direction

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READING AND SPELLING RULES

Change *y* to *i* before adding a suffix when a base word ends in a *y* after a consonant.

*The letter *y* in a one-syllable word will make the long *i* sound (cry)

*The letter *y* in a word with 2 or more syllables makes the long *e* sound (baby)

cry	cried	hurry	hurried	copy	copied
angry	angrier	pretty	prettier	happy	happier
tiny	tiniest	busy	busiest	scary	scariest
baby	babies	fry	fries	berry	berries

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**Double consonant before adding –ed or –ing.
Usually this will make the vowel sound short.**

* The –ed ending can sound like /d/ or /t/

hop	hopped	skip	skipped	plan	planned
tap	tapping	hug	hugging	scrub	scrubbing

**When a word ends in an *e*, drop the *e*
before you add a suffix.**

*If a word ends in an *e*, it is usually silent and the other vowel says its name.

hope	hoped	stripe	striped	time	timed
tape	taping	trace	tracing	save	saving

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PARTS OF SPEECH

Parts of Speech include nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, etc. Thinking about how the word is used in a sentence may help you read or understand the meaning of a word.

NOUN: A noun is a word that names a person, place, thing or animal. A noun could also be an idea.

VERB: A verb is a word that shows action.

ADJECTIVE: An adjective is a word that describes a noun.

ADVERB: An adverb is a word that describes the verb.

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Example 1: The group of children flocked around the storyteller.

The word flocked in this sentence is used as a verb which is a word that shows action. So the word flocked means to move in a group.

Example 2: The flock of birds will move south for the winter.

In this sentence, the word flock is used as a noun and means a group.

Example 3: The wise child solved the difficult problem.

In this sentence the words wise and difficult are adjectives. The word wise describes the child. The word difficult describes the problem.

Example 4: The child walked to school quickly.

In this sentence the word quickly is used as an adverb because it describes the verb walked. The child walked quickly.

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SYNONYMS AND ANTONYMS

SYNONYMS: Synonyms are words which mean the same or nearly the same.

ANTONYMS: Antonyms are words which mean the opposite of a word.

When you are reading and come to a word that you don't know the meaning of you can substitute (use another word that makes sense).

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Example 1: If you don't know what to do, I can assist you.

In this sentence you can use a synonym of the word that makes sense. If you don't know what to do, I can help you. The word assist means help.

Example 2: The homework was puzzling to me but it was easy for my friend.

In this sentence you can use an antonym of the word easy. The word but is a clue word that tells you puzzling must mean the opposite of the word easy. The homework was difficult to me but it was easy for my friend. So puzzling means difficult.

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TYPES OF SENTENCES

Knowing the different types of sentences will help you read with expression.

STATEMENT: A statement is a sentence that tells you something.

QUESTION: A question is a sentence that asks something.

COMMAND: A command is a sentence that tells someone to do something.

EXCLAMATION: An exclamation is a sentence that shows a strong feeling.

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Example 1: The child went to the library.

This sentence is a statement because it is just telling you something. When reading aloud or silently you need to just say the sentence.

Example 2: Did the child go to the library?

This sentence is a question because it is asking you something. When reading aloud or silently you need to sound like you are asking a question.

Example 3: Please go to the library.

This sentence is a command because it is telling someone to do something. When reading aloud or silently you need to sound like you are telling someone what to do.

Example 4: I am so happy you went to the library!

This sentence is an exclamation because it shows a strong feeling. When reading aloud or silently you need to read it with a strong feeling.

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USING GRAPHICS

Authors sometimes include graphics such as diagrams, charts, maps, cutaways or cross sections, scale drawings and time lines to help us understand better what is being said in the sentences or paragraph or to give us more information.

Cutaways or cross sections: A cutaway or cross section is a picture that lets you see inside something.

For example: If the author wants you to see inside of a building, one wall of the building will be cut away so you can see inside.

If the author wants you to see the different sections (parts) on a ship, one side of the ship will be cut away so you can see the different sections (parts) inside the ship.

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Time Lines: Time lines show important dates and events.

Scale Drawings: A scale on a drawing or map shows you how the measurements on the drawing are related to actual measurements. So for example 1 inch may be 100 miles.

Charts: A chart may be included to help you understand what is written in the paragraph better. It may also be included to learn more information.

Diagrams: A diagram may be included to help you understand or explain an idea better than what is written in the paragraph.

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