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Teacher Pages just for you!
Welcome to Reading Comprehension
Skills and Strategies

About this Series

This unique series is specially created for you by Saddleback Educational Publishing, as an exciting supplement to reinforce and extend your classroom reading curriculum. *Reading Comprehension Skills and Strategies* can easily be integrated into basic reading curricula as additional reading lessons: as stand-alone strategy and skill instructional lessons; as across-the-curriculum lessons; or as activities for students with special projects, interests, or abilities.

This series is based on the most current research and thought concerning the teaching of reading comprehension. This series not only sharpens traditional reading comprehension skills (main idea, story plot, topic sentence, sequencing, etc.), but it also reinforces the critical reading comprehension strategies that encourage your students to use prior knowledge, experiences, careful thought, and evaluation to help them decide how to practically apply what they know to all reading situations.

Traditional comprehension skills recently have been woven into the larger context of strategy instruction. Today, literacy instruction emphasizes learning strategies—those approaches that coordinate the various reading and writing skills and prior knowledge to make sense to the learner. Our goal in this series is to provide you and your students with the most up-to-date reading comprehension support, while teaching basic skills that can be tested and evaluated.

Reading Comprehension Strategies

- vocabulary knowledge
- activating prior knowledge
- pre-reading—previewing and predicting
- previewing and predicting text
- mental imaging
- self-questioning
- summarizing
- semantic mapping

Saddleback Educational Publishing promotes the development of the whole child with particular emphasis on combining solid skill instruction with creativity and imagination. This series gives your students a variety of opportunities to apply reading comprehension strategies as they read, while reinforcing basic reading comprehension skills. In addition, we designed this series to help you make an easy transition between levels (grades 7, 8, and 9) in order to reinforce or enhance needed skill development for individual students.

Directions:

Test your word power. In each description look for the prefix clue. Then write the word being described. Example: opposite of functioning—nonfunctioning.

Here are some common prefixes. By learning their meanings, you will have valuable clues to the meanings of many words.

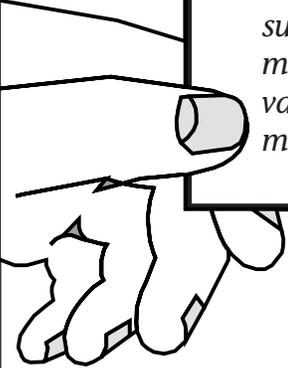
PREFIX	MEANING
anti-	against
bi-	two
centi-	hundred
in-, im-	not
mis-	wrongly
multi-	many
non-	opposite of
pre-	before; ahead of time
re-	again
sub-	under
trans-	change; across
tri-	three

1. opposite of functioning: _____
2. shape with three angles: _____
3. having two poles: _____
4. wrongly understood: _____
5. not patient: _____
6. cycle again: _____
7. against war: _____
8. having many purposes: _____
9. establish before: _____
10. across the Pacific: _____
11. under space: _____
12. change form: _____
13. one-hundredth of a meter: _____
14. opposite of aggressive: _____
15. to submit again: _____
16. not personal: _____
17. of many cultures: _____
18. wrongly interpreted: _____
19. area covering three states: _____
20. determine ahead of time: _____

Name: _____**Date:** _____

Directions:

Challenge yourself! In each description look for the suffix clue. Then write the word being described. Example: without hope—hopeless.



Here are some common suffixes. By learning their meanings, you will have valuable clues to the meanings of many words.

Suffix	Meaning
-able	able to
-en	made of
-ful	filled with
-hood	state of being
-ish	like; approximately
-ity, -ment	state of
-less	without
-let, -ling	small, young
-ly	in a manner
-ness, -ty	having a quality
-ology	the study of
-or, -er, -ist	one who
-ward	in direction of

1. without hope: _____
2. in the state of being a child: _____
3. able to wash: _____
4. one who plays violin: _____
5. in the direction of north: _____
6. like a fool: _____
7. in a state of being content: _____
8. the quality of being kind: _____
9. the quality of being loyal: _____
10. filled with fear: _____
11. one who teaches: _____
12. the study of the mind (psych): _____
13. made of wood: _____
14. a young duck: _____
15. in a strange manner: _____
16. without worth: _____
17. made of gold: _____
18. in a manner of time: _____
19. approximately forty: _____
20. in an up direction: _____

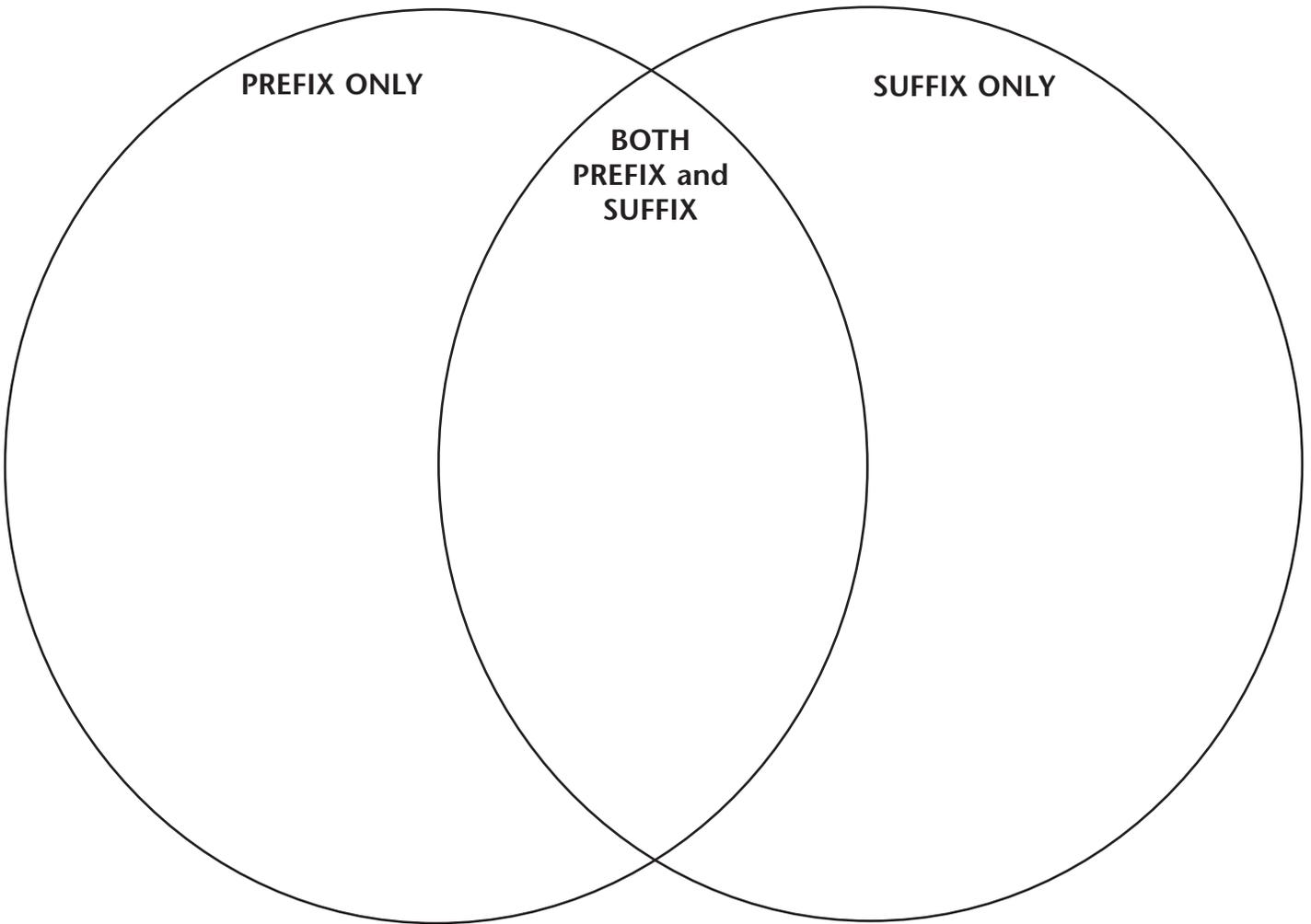
Name: _____

Date: _____

Directions:

Venn diagrams are a fun way to classify. When you are done you have a visual picture instead of just a bunch of boring lists. Write each word below in the correct space. By the way, if the word has no prefix or suffix, write it outside the circles.

reappear	appreciate	nonsense	goodness
undone	discover	childish	midnight
poisonous	impossible	wishful	disagreement
dishonesty	adulthood	chemist	recounted
quite	immature	nonworking	frequently
misalign	precooked	uninformed	yellowish



NEITHER PREFIX nor SUFFIX _____

Name: _____

Date: _____

Directions:

Would you believe that a large part of our language has its roots in Latin? Well, after you complete this page, you will. Study the Latin roots and the English words that were grown from them. Then, match each word to its meaning.

(just a few) **LATIN ROOTS:**

ROOT	MEANING	EXAMPLE	ROOT	MEANING	EXAMPLE
act	do	enact	ped	foot	pedal
ang	bend	triangle	pop	people	population
aud	hear	audience	rupt	break	erupt
cred	believe	discredit	sign	mark	signal
dict	speak	dictate	spec	see	spectator
fac	make	factory	tract	pull, drag	traction
loc	place	locate	urb	city	urban
man	hand	manual	vac	empty	vacant
mob	move	mobile	vid	see	video



1. incredible
 2. angular
 3. manipulate
 4. audible
 5. relocate
 6. mobilize
 7. pedestrian
 8. contradict
 9. abrupt
 10. suburb
 11. vivid
 12. attraction
 13. popular
 14. disrupt
 15. manufacture
 16. evacuate
 17. audition
 18. automobile
 19. evidence
 20. signature
- having bends
 move into action
 one who is on foot
 speak against
 not believable
 move by hand
 able to be heard
 move to a new place
 easy to see
 pull toward
 liked by people
 a sudden break
 break up or apart
 below or outside the city
 leave a place empty
 seen with the eyes
 make by hand
 the mark of identity
 a time to be heard
 machine that moves by itself

Name: _____**Date:** _____

Directions:

The roots of our language are widespread. The ones below are Greek. After you complete this page, their meanings won't be Greek to you. Study the Greek roots. Then for each, write two English words that grew from them.

GREEK ROOTS:1. **ast: star**

2. **cycl: circle**

3. **graph: write/draw**

4. **gram: written**

5. **meter: measure**

6. **phon: sound**

7. **photo: light**

8. **scop: see**

9. **therm: heat**

10. **bio: life**

11. **geo: earth**

12. **hydr: water**

13. **opt: eye**

14. **phob: fear**

geography

thermos

periscope

asterisk

phobia

cyclone

diameter

hydroelectric

autograph

optometrist

astronomy

telescope

telegram

thermometer (2)

telephoto

phonics

biopsy

diagram

hydrant

graphic

optical

photosynthesis

symphony

biology

claustrophobic

cyclical

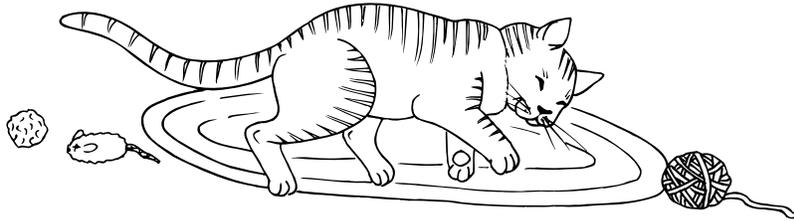
geology

**Name:** _____**Date:** _____

You're a well-oiled reading machine, right? But it wouldn't hurt to check if you are a bit rusty with this skill—recognizing plurals and possessives.



Directions: Test your ability to tell the difference between a plural and a possessive. Remember: a plural means more than one; a possessive shows ownership. Fill in the bubble that describes the word in bold.



- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Maria's cat seems to sleep all day. | 1. <input type="radio"/> plural <input type="radio"/> possessive |
| 2. The boys' gloves lay by the bench. | 2. <input type="radio"/> plural <input type="radio"/> possessive |
| 3. Thunderous clouds loomed in the distance. | 3. <input type="radio"/> plural <input type="radio"/> possessive |
| 4. The girl's makeup was too heavy. | 4. <input type="radio"/> plural <input type="radio"/> possessive |
| 5. The bird preened its feathers. | 5. <input type="radio"/> plural <input type="radio"/> possessive |
| 6. Loud noises came from the barn. | 6. <input type="radio"/> plural <input type="radio"/> possessive |
| 7. Dr. Raymond's office was crowded. | 7. <input type="radio"/> plural <input type="radio"/> possessive |
| 8. The planks creaked as we walked across. | 8. <input type="radio"/> plural <input type="radio"/> possessive |
| 9. A big ship can withstand pounding waves . | 9. <input type="radio"/> plural <input type="radio"/> possessive |
| 10. I'm always finding Rex's toys in my room. | 10. <input type="radio"/> plural <input type="radio"/> possessive |
| 11. The flowers' petals were soft and delicate. | 11. <input type="radio"/> plural <input type="radio"/> possessive |
| 12. I hardly recognized the Browns' children. | 12. <input type="radio"/> plural <input type="radio"/> possessive |
| 13. An artist's style is unique. | 13. <input type="radio"/> plural <input type="radio"/> possessive |
| 14. The trees' branches were laden with snow. | 14. <input type="radio"/> plural <input type="radio"/> possessive |
| 15. The moon's gravity causes Earth's tides. | 15. <input type="radio"/> plural <input type="radio"/> possessive |
| 16. Whales migrate thousands of miles. | 16. <input type="radio"/> plural <input type="radio"/> possessive |
| 17. Caroline thought your brother's car was cool. | 17. <input type="radio"/> plural <input type="radio"/> possessive |
| 18. The beaches are patrolled day and night. | 18. <input type="radio"/> plural <input type="radio"/> possessive |
| 19. Dad went to Uncle Jeff's to go fishing. | 19. <input type="radio"/> plural <input type="radio"/> possessive |
| 20. In the cave hung hundreds of bats. | 20. <input type="radio"/> plural <input type="radio"/> possessive |

Name: _____

Date: _____



Reading is like detective work. Clues to unknown words can be found right among the words around it. This strategy is called using context clues, and it works!

Directions: Use context clues to figure out the meaning of the bold word. Write it on the line.

1. In math class, Jen passed the note to Sara **discreetly**.

2. The thirsty man **yearned** for a drink of water.

3. The miner struck a new **lode** of coal.

4. Old age did not **hamper** him one bit.

5. The explorers were running short on **provisions**.

6. Pirates were caught red-handed with the **contraband**.

7. Without shots, the animals were **susceptible** to disease.

8. This is only a **facsimile**—the real gem is in the safe.

9. The tiny infant remained in the **neonatal** ward.

10. The tornado threatened to **annihilate** the small town.

11. Unlike other **felines**, lions live in groups.

12. Dad said nothing, but just nodded **affirmatively**.



- necessities
- strongly wished for
- hold back; adversely affect
- in a positive way
- destroy
- newborn
- vulnerable to attack
- look alike; copy
- in a secretive way
- stolen goods
- members of the cat family
- vein of mineral ore

Name: _____

Date: _____

Directions:

Read the story. Use context clues to figure out the possible meanings of the words in bold. Then write them next to their meanings below.

Last month we took a trip to Southern California for my cousin's wedding. By the **scowl** on my face when Mom told us we were going, she knew I was less than thrilled. So the next **declaration** out of her mouth was that, besides going to the wedding (**drudge**, drudge), we would also be going to the Wild Animal Park AND the water park. OK! I decided I could sit through the wedding and even be **hospitable** for a few hours.

During the ceremony I was **catatonic**, but the reception wasn't too bad. There were **copious** amounts of food and their choice of music was **palatable**. It was over in a flash and the next day we were on to better things.

The Wild Animal Park was awesome. No cages or enclosures—just open **range** for giraffes, zebras, and other creatures to roam. The **docent** said as long as we adhered to the rules, everyone (us and the animals) would be safe.

The next day we **donned** our swimsuits for a day at the water park. Mom was a **trifle** tired, so she just **reclined** under a shady tree and read a book. The rest of us did the slides, the tubes, the wave machine...stopped for a snack...then did it all again.

That night I wrote a thank-you note to my cousin Irene for the great time we had (at her wedding, of course).

1. hard, tedious work: _____
2. tour guide: _____
3. abundant; plentiful: _____
4. a small amount; a bit: _____
5. leaned or lay back to rest: _____
6. put on or dressed in: _____
7. open area of land for grazing: _____
8. statement; announcement: _____
9. a frowning facial expression: _____
10. friendly, sociable toward guests: _____
11. pleasant or acceptable to the taste or mind: _____
12. unmoving; seemingly without thought or action: _____

**Name:** _____**Date:** _____

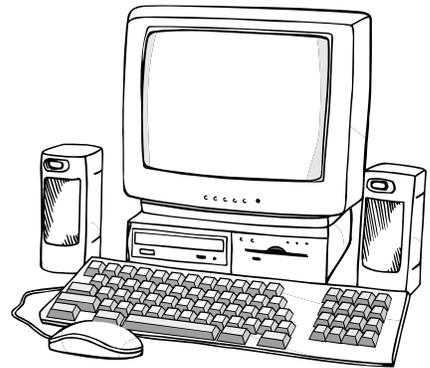
Directions:

Here are two chances to show your context clue power. Just follow the directions.

- A.** When Noreen wanted the space adjacent to her sister Karen's room for her computer, Karen got agitated. An argument ensued. Dad had to be called in to adjudicate the dispute. Karen finally acquiesced to Noreen's plan.

Find the word in the story that best matches each meaning:

1. consented without protest: _____
2. act as judge: _____
3. annoyed: _____
4. followed immediately: _____
5. next to; beside: _____

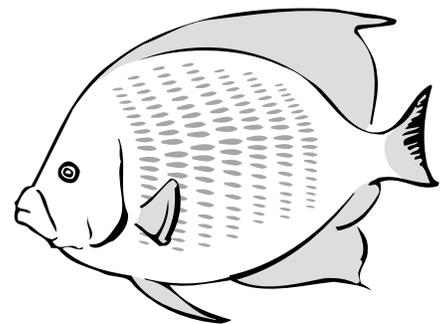


Describe a time you acquiesced to someone: _____

- B.** Sam is an amateur ichthyologist—he has several tanks of fresh and saltwater fish in his room. He has plenty of equipment to ensure his fish are happy and healthy—air pumps to infuse the water with bubbles so that it is properly aerated, filters to remove contaminants, and heaters to prevent hypothermia.

Find the word in the story that best matches each meaning:

1. put in; inject: _____
2. person who studies fish: _____
3. below normal temperature: _____
4. supply with oxygen: _____
5. impurities: _____



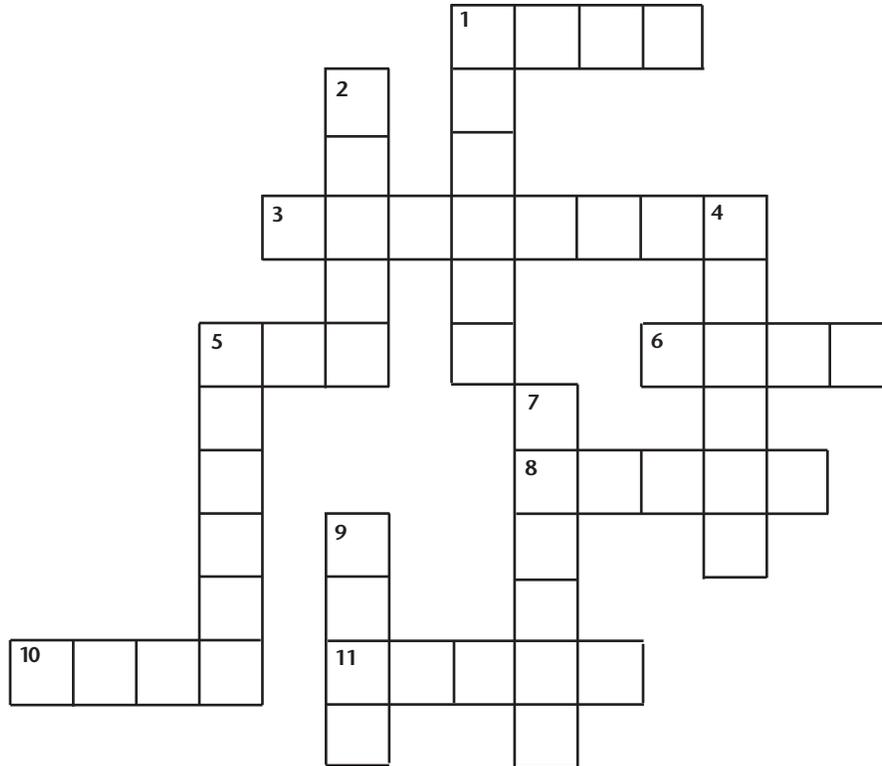
Complete this statement: I consider myself an amateur _____.
Now describe your activities related to this subject, interest, or hobby: _____

Name: _____

Date: _____

Directions:

Hey reading detective...got the context clues? Here's your chance to solve a puzzle. Each answer is a simpler word for the one in bold. You can look in the box for help, but watch out—among the evidence you need is a lot you don't.

**ACROSS**

1. The boat began to **keel** over.
3. Grandpa cannot **recollect** how he got that scar.
5. The king lifted his **chalice** to toast the knights.
6. After working on his truck, Joe was covered in **grime**.
8. She **loathed** having to clean the horses' stalls.
10. These **faux** pearls look like the real thing!
11. The speaker's joke evoked a big **guffaw**.

DOWN

1. The soldier stuck by his **comrade**.
2. Night came and the children fell into a deep **slumber**.
4. The officers **hoisted** the flag.
5. You seem to have no **option** but to go.
7. We watched it **metamorphose** right before our eyes.
9. They began to **converse** in Spanish.

HELP BOX

dirt	grease
fall	sink
army	friend
remember	collect
boards	sleep
urn	cup
talk	write
folded	raised
loved	hated
change	die
white	fake
way	choice
laugh	sigh

Name: _____**Date:** _____

Directions:

Now that you have discovered that context clues are a valuable reading tool, use what you know to navigate this story. Fill in the missing words.

Who Discovered America?

Paragraph 1:

mutiny
disgruntled
technically

True, in 1492 Columbus sailed the ocean blue, and just as his crews became so _____ that they threatened _____ so they could return to Spain, land was spotted. This was an island in the Bahamas. Though _____ this was only a part of "America" Columbus never set foot on the mainland.

Paragraph 2:

prior
preceded
bolster
notoriety
arrived

Despite Columbus' _____, plenty of archaeological evidence exists to _____ the claim that a number of others _____ him. Norseman Leif Erikson not only reached North America, he established a colony in Newfoundland 500 years _____ to Columbus. But even this Viking was not the first. Another Norseman, Bjarni Herjolfsson _____ in 985 or 986.

Paragraph 3:

construed
continents
context
popular

By definition, the Americas include the _____ of North and South America, but _____ use of the term "America" is _____ to mean the United States. In this _____, the first European to discover America would be Spanish explorer Ponce de Leon, who "found" and named Florida in 1513.

Paragraph 4:

previously
thriving
perspective
Obviously

These and other adventurers were among the first of their cultures to "discover" America. From their _____, they had indeed uncovered something _____ unknown. _____, there were already many people and cultures _____ in North America when they arrived. Can one "discover" what already exists? It depends on your point of view.

Give your point of view about the question posed at the end of the passage: _____

Name: _____

Date: _____