Building Words from Root Words

Directions

1. Remind your child that a root word is a single word that cannot be broken into smaller words or parts. Latin and Greek root words rarely stand alone as words in English. But we can form many English words from root words. An example of a Latin root word is spect, which means to see, observe, watch over. There are several words we can build from spect: respect, aspect, inspect, inspection, respectable, perspective. Knowing the meaning of a root word can help you know the meanings of several other related words.

2. Provide your child with the Root Word Activity Sheet and a pencil. Explain the meaning of each root word (see the Key).

3. For each tree on the Activity Sheet, ask your child to build words using the root word at the base of the tree trunk by:
   - Selecting prefixes and suffixes from the bank to add to the root word.
   - Writing the new words on the branches of the tree.
   - Discussing the meaning of the new words.
   - Writing other words near the tree that you could build from the root word.

Key

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Root Word</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
<th>New Word Using the Prefix and Suffix Bank</th>
<th>Other New Words (examples)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>dict</td>
<td>say, tell</td>
<td>predict, predictable, prediction</td>
<td>verdict, diction, dictionary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>port</td>
<td>carry</td>
<td>report, import, portable, reportable</td>
<td>transport, portable, support, export</td>
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<tr>
<td>tract</td>
<td>drag or pull</td>
<td>retract, retraction, traction, distract, distraction</td>
<td>contract, abstract, extract, detract</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fer</td>
<td>carry, bring, bear something</td>
<td>refer, prefer, preferable, infer, inferable</td>
<td>inference, indifferent, defer</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Building Words from Root Words Activity Sheet

For each tree on the Activity Sheet, build words using the root word at the base of the tree trunk by:

1. Selecting prefixes and suffixes from the bank to add to the root word.
2. Writing the new words on the branches of the tree.
3. Discussing the meaning of the new words.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prefix and Suffix Bank</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>re-</td>
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Prefix Bank:
- re-
- pre-
- dis-
- im-
- in-
- -able
- -ion

Suffix Bank:
- -ible
- -ion

Root Words:
- dict
- port
- tract
- fer