

## Lesson Skill: Roots and affixes

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**Strand** Reading — Vocabulary

**SOL** 3.4

4.4

5.4

### Materials

- Word Building Tiles sheet

### Lesson

1. Review how words can have several parts, including roots, prefixes, and suffixes. Select several roots, prefixes, and suffixes to work with. Give each student a copy of the Word Building Tiles sheet. Have students record the selected roots, prefixes, and suffixes in the blank tiles with one word part per box. Discuss the meanings of the various word parts.
2. Have students cut the word tiles apart and lay them on their desks. Call out a definition, and have students locate the correct root. Check to ensure all students identified the correct one. Then call out a new definition using a prefix or suffix tile. Have students slide the cards beside each other to build the new word.

Example:

“Find the root that means “to enjoy something or think favorably about it.”

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|------|
| like |
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“Now find the prefix that will change this word to mean ‘not like.’ For example, ‘I do not like this movie’.”

|      |      |
|------|------|
| dis- | like |
|------|------|

“Now return the prefix ‘dis,’ and find the suffix that will change this word to mean ‘probably.’ For example, ‘It will probably rain today’.”

|      |     |
|------|-----|
| like | -ly |
|------|-----|

3. Students can also explore with the word tiles by building words using the roots and affixes they are studying in class. Have students define the words they create.

### Strategies for Differentiation

- Use index cards—Write words with prefixes and/or suffixes. Cut the word parts apart to make puzzle pieces. Write the meaning of the prefixes, suffixes, and roots on the back of each puzzle piece. Have students put the puzzle together based on the meaning of the word parts.

- Projection of a “Word Part Sort”—Have students manipulate prefixes, suffixes, and roots to categorize them into the correct column.
- Provide a prefix and suffix word bank. Display a cloze passage with word blanks that include the meaning of the intended word. Have students add a prefix and/or suffix to the root word to identify the word for the context of the sentence.
- Content scavenger hunt—Have students use reading material on current topics of study (e.g. science, social studies, or math) to identify words with prefixes and/or suffixes. Have them identify the word parts by writing them in a graphic organizer and write the word meaning in the last column.
- Use pictures for visualization of prefix meanings such as un = not, unhappy = sad face vs. happy = happy face.
- Add words with prefixes and suffixes to a class chart or word wall. Use illustrations when appropriate.
- Use more challenging words. Students will break the word into parts to determine the word meaning. Students will identify words with parts in independent reading. Students will use word parts to determine the meaning of unfamiliar words.

# Word Building Tiles

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