

Morphological Awareness

Word Study – Independent spelling exploration

If you have pupils that already have a high spelling age and you want to not only stretch them but help them to know more about how words work, then Morphological awareness may be one way to go.

This is a programme of independent study, which means that the teacher is freed up to work with those who need more direct teaching.

There are two main sections to this pack.

Section one

The pupil works through a list of root words. It is best to do this in pairs or trios. For each root word, they look for ways to grow the word by adding prefixes and suffixes. They study the change in meaning that these affixes bring to the word.

happy		
Meaning: feeling good		
Can you add a prefix?	Un happy	Meaning: not feeling good
Can you add a suffix?	Happily	It is describing the good feeling of how something is being done.
Can you add a prefix and a suffix?	unhappily	It is describing the bad feeling of how something is being done.
Can you find other words which can be changed using the same prefix or suffix?		
Prefix		Suffix
Unimpressed		Sadly
Unreal		Quickly
Unnecessary		Loudly
My spelling list for this week is: Happy Unhappy Happily Unhappily Unimpressed Unreal Unnecessary Sadly Quickly loudly		

Section Two

Each week the pupils are given one spelling word. This will be a multi root word. They will also have a list of Latin and Greek roots. With their one word, they will break it down into its roots. They will investigate what each root means and what the word means with the roots together.

Next taking one root at a time, they research other words which contain that root. These words become part of their spelling list.

This can be done individually or with a partner. If working with a partner, they can test each other's spelling and understanding of the word.

They could use the words, to create a class illustrated dictionary.

telescope		
tele ↓ Far away	scope ↓ To see	telescope ↓ To see far away
Can you grow telescope, by adding a prefix or suffix?		
Telescopic, telescopes, telescoping		
Other words with tele	Other words with scope	
television telephoto teleconference telepathic telemarketing teleshopping telekinesis	microscope horoscope periscope kaleidoscope	
My spelling list for this week is: Telescope Telescopes Telescoping television telephoto teleconference telepathic telemarketing teleshopping telekinesis microscope horoscope periscope kaleidoscope		
The meanings of some of the words I have found.		
A television lets us see things that are far away. I can see tiny things with a microscope that I can't see without it. I can see things far away with a telephoto lens. A horoscope means looking at something in time.		

Glossary of terms

Root	A root is the smallest part of a word which contains a meaning from which a word can be grown.
Root word	A root word has no prefix or suffix. It is the most basic part of the word.
Prefix	A group of letters added to the start of a word to change its meaning e.g. possible - im possible (im is a prefix making possible to mean not possible)
Suffix	A group of letters added to the end of a word to change its meaning e.g. possible – possibly (ly is a suffix which usually changes a word into an adverb)
	<p>If you can put a or the in front of a word, it is usually a noun.</p> <p>If you can put to or can or am in front of a word then it is usually a verb.</p> <p>If the word is describing a noun, it will be an adjective.</p> <p>If the word is describing a verb, it will be an adverb. A lot of adverbs end in ly.</p>

Possible list of starter words for Section One

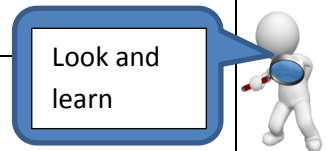
Care	Happy	Correct
Suit	Faith	Electric
Freeze	Act	Love
Talk	Dark	Comfort
Excite	Decide	Cover
Employ	Stand	Play
Cook	Comb	Child
Hop	shop	rain
Sleep	window	door

Section One

Word:		
Meaning:		
Can you add a prefix?		Meaning:
Can you add a suffix?		Meaning:
Can you add a prefix and a suffix?		Meaning:
Can you find other words which can be changed using the same prefix or suffix?		
Prefix		Suffix
My spelling list for this week is:		

Section Two – Word with two roots.

Word: Write this in your spelling list	
Root: ↓	Root: ↓
Meaning:	Meaning:
Can you grow telescope, by adding a prefix or suffix?	
Write these in your spelling list.	
Other words with the root:	Other words with the root:
Write these in your spelling list	Write these in your spelling list
My spelling list for this week is:	
Sentence that show the meanings of some of the words I have found.	



Possible list of starter words for Section Two

Horoscope

Multicultural

Multimedia

Circumnavigate

Aquamarine

Hypothermia

Thermometer

Hypodermic

Pseudonym

Arachnophobia

Multilingual

Malevolent

Malapropism

photograph

submarine

Zoology

manuscript

Section Two – Word with three roots.

Word: Write this in your spelling list		
Root: ↓	Root: ↓	Root: ↓
Meaning:	Meaning:	Meaning:
Can you grow telescope, by adding a prefix or suffix?		
Write these in your spelling list.		
Other words with the root:	Other words with the root:	Other words with the root:
Write these in your spelling list	Write these in your spelling list	Write these in your spelling list
My spelling list for this week is:		
Sentence that show the meanings of some of the words I have found.		

Prefixes		Suffixes	
Ante-	Before	-able (adjective)	Adjective
Anti-	Against	-al	adjective
Circum-	Around	-an	
Co-	With	-ance (noun)	Noun
De-	Off, down, away from	-ancy	Noun
Dis-	Opposite of, not	-ant	Adjective reliant
Em-, En-	Cause to, put into	-ant	Noun person Attendant
Epi-	Upon, close to, after	-ar	Noun person Beggar
Ex-	former, out of	-ary	Adjective Primary child
Extra-	Beyond, more than	-ate	Verb Coordinate
Fore-	Before	-ed	Adjective (bored) or past tense (hopped)
Homo-	Same	-ee	Noun person Refugee
Hyper-	Over, above	-en	Adjective (Past tense (eaten)
Il-, im-, in-, ir-	Not	-en	Verb (lengthen)
Im-, in-	Into	-ence	Noun (emergency)
Infra-	Beneath, below	-ent	Adjective (persistent)
Inter-, intra-	Between	-ent	Noun person (resident)
Macro-	Large	-er	Adjective (busier)
Micro-	Small	-er	Noun person (baker)
Mid-	Middle	-es	Plural (fishes)
Mis-	Wrongly	-est	Superlative adjective (busiest)
Mono-	One, singular	-fication	Noun (modification)
Non-	Not, without	-ful	Adjective – full of (stressful)
Omni-	All, every	-fy, -ify	Verb – to make (simplify)
Para-	Beside	-ian	Noun person (musician)
Post-	After	-ible	Adjective – able sisible
Pre-	Before	-ic	Adjective (basic)
Re-	Again	-ing	Adjective (boring)
Semi-	Half	-ion, -sion, - tion	Noun (erosion)
Sub-	Under	-ish	Adjective – similar to (boyish)
Super-	Above, over	-ism	Noun (communism)
Therm-	Heat	-ist	Noun person – group member (chemist)

Trans-	Across, beyond	-ity	Noun (Security)
Tri-	Three	-ive	Adjective (productive)
Un-	Not	-ize	Verb (characterize)
Uni-	One	-less	Adjective – without (helpless)
		-ology	Noun – the study of (biology)
		-ly	Adverb (usually)
		-ment	Noun (assignment)
		-ness	Noun (tiredness)
		-or	Noun person (doctor)
		-ous	Adjective (enormous)
		-s	Plural (clock)
		-s	Past tense (thinks)
		-ship	Noun (relationship)
		-sion	Noun (vision)
		-tion	Noun (reaction)
		-y	Adjective – presence of (rainy)

Possible list of starter words for Section Two

Horoscope

Multicultural

Multimedia

Circumnavigate

Aquamarine

Hypothermia

Thermometer

Hypodermic

Pseudonym

Arachnophobia

Multilingual

Malevolent

Malapropism

photograph

submarine

Zoology

Latin and Greek Roots:

Many words in English are made by taking Latin or Greek roots and adding a combination of other roots, prefixes and suffixes.

A root word is a standalone word which can be added to. E.g. jump is a root word but can grow to become jumpers, jumping, jumped.

A root is the basis of a new word. E.g. aud is a root. It is not a word on its own but has a meaning when used as part of a word. 'Aud' means to hear. Audition is when someone hears you in order to choose the best.

Common Latin Roots		
Latin Root	Definition	Example
ambi	both	ambidextrous
ann	Year, yearly	anniversary
aqua	water	aquamarine
aud	to hear	audition
bene	good	benefactor
Bi	Two	bicycle
cent	one hundred	century
circum	around	circumference
contra	against	contradict
dict	to say	contradict
duct	to lead	conduct
form	shape	reform
fort	strength	fortress
fract	to break	fracture
ject	throw	reject
jud	judge	prejudice
Lingo	Tongue, language	bilingual
mal	bad	malevolent
mater	mother	maternal
Medi, midi	Middle	medium
mort	death	mortuary
multi	many	multimedia
pater	father	paternal
port	to carry	portable
rupt	to break	disrupt
scribe	to write	inscribe
sec	to cut	bisect
spect	to look	inspect
struct	to build	destruct
vid/vis	to see	video television
voc	voice	vocalize

Latin and Greek Roots:

Common Greek Roots		
Latin Root	Definition	Example
anthro	human	anthropologist
anti	Against, opposite	antiseptic
auto	self	autobiography
bio	life	biography
chron	time	chronological
dyna	poser	dynamic
dys	bad; hard	dyslexic
gram	written	telegram
graph	writing	graphic
hetero	different	heterogeneous
homo	same	homonym
hydro	water	hydration
hypo	below, beneath	hypothermia
logy	study	biology
meter	measure	thermometer
micro	small	microscope
mi	hate	misogyny
mono	one	monologue
morph	shape	morphing
nym	name	synonym
phil	love	philanthropist
phobia	fear	claustrophobia
phon	sound	phone
photo	light	photograph
pseudo	false	pseudonym
scope	viewing instrument	microscope
techno	art science	technological
tele	far off	telescope
therm	heat	thermometer

Words with more than one root

thermometer		
Thermo ↓ heat	Meter ↓ measure	Thermometer ↓ To measure heat

telescope		
tele ↓ Far away	scope ↓ To see	telescope ↓ To see far away

arachnophobia		
arachno ↓ spiders	phobia ↓ fear	arachnophobia ↓ Fear of spiders

Building Words

microscope		
<p>micro ↓</p> <p>Meaning:</p>	<p>scope ↓</p> <p>Meaning:</p>	<p>microscope ↓</p> <p>Meaning:</p>
Other words containing micro	Other words containing scope	

hypothermia		
<p>Hypo ↓</p> <p>Meaning:</p>	<p>therm ↓</p> <p>Meaning:</p>	<p>hypothermia ↓</p> <p>Meaning:</p>
Other words containing hypo	Other words containing therm	

pseudonym		
<p>pseudo ↓</p> <p>Meaning:</p>	<p>nym ↓</p> <p>Meaning:</p>	<p>pseudonym ↓</p> <p>Meaning:</p>
Other words containing pseudo	Other words containing nym	

hydrotherapy		
<p>hydro ↓</p> <p>Meaning:</p>	<p>therapy ↓</p> <p>Meaning:</p>	<p>hydrotherapy ↓</p> <p>Meaning:</p>
Other words containing hydro	Other words containing therapy	

Building Words

Word: multilingual		
root: multi ↓ Meaning: many	root: lingual ↓ Meaning: tongue/language	Whole word: multilingual ↓ Meaning: many languages
Other words containing the root: Multi-millionaire Multinational multiply	Other words containing the root: Bilingual Linguist	
Choose two of the words to write in a sentence. The multi-millionaire used his money wisely to multiply his money.		
Any good ways to remember the spelling?		

Word:		
root: ↓ Meaning:	root: ↓ Meaning:	root: ↓ Meaning:
Other words containing the root:	Other words containing the root:	Other words containing the root:
Choose two of the words to write in a sentence.		
Any good ways to remember the spelling?		

Word:		
root: ↓ Meaning:	root: ↓ Meaning:	root: ↓ Meaning:
Other words containing the root:	Other words containing the root:	Other words containing the root:
Choose two of the words to write in a sentence.		
Any good ways to remember the spelling?		

Multi root words

Word:		
root: ↓ Meaning:	root: ↓ Meaning:	root: ↓ Meaning:
Other words containing the root:	Other words containing the root:	Other words containing the root:

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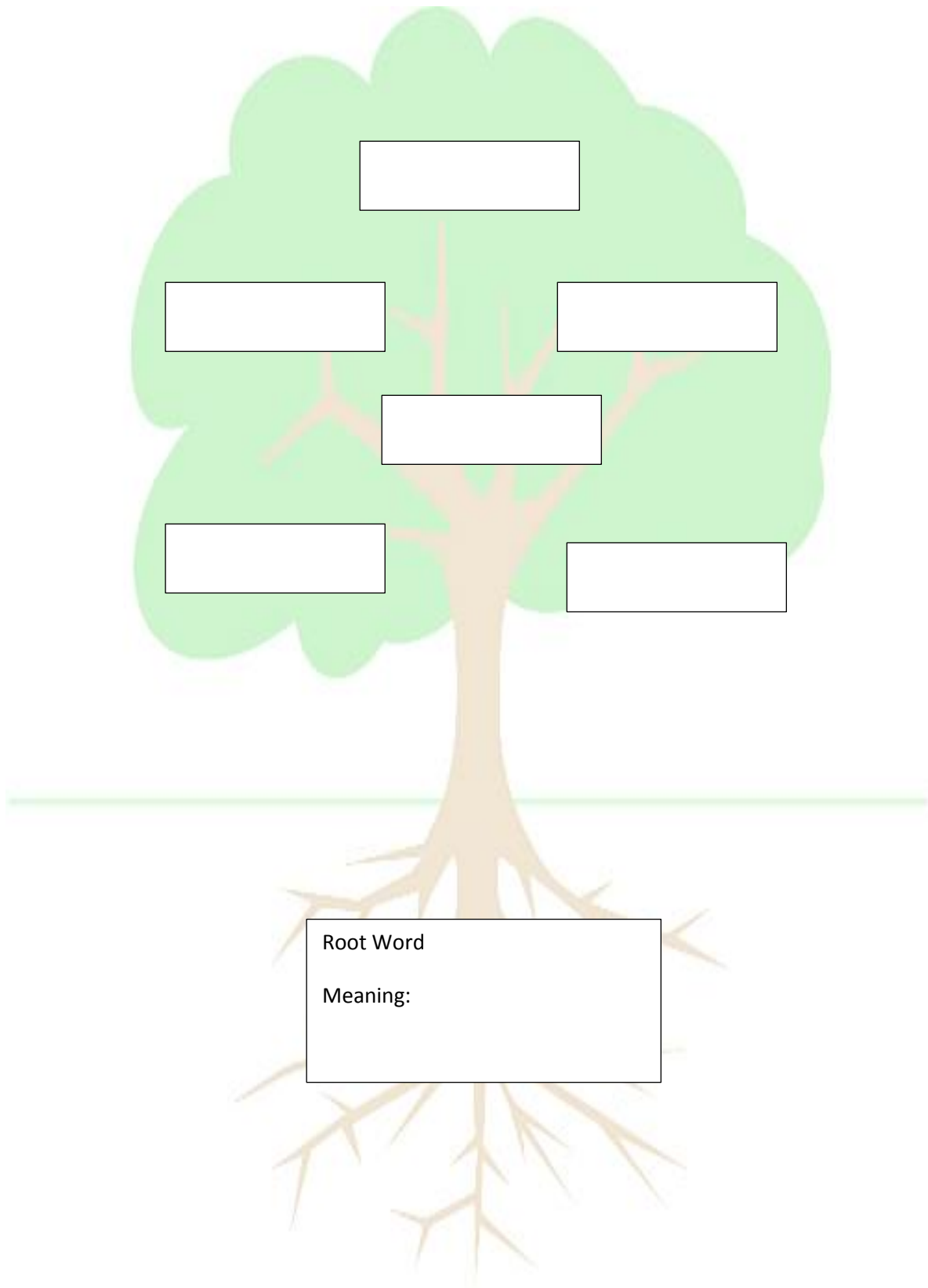
Prefix 1 Can you add a prefix? Which prefix? What is the new word? How did the prefix change the meaning?	Prefix 2 Can you think of other words with the same prefix?	
	Word	

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Instructions

Prefix				Root words
Under	be	im	dis	Stand
Un				

Tree roots



Root Words

Definition	Definition
Related word	Related word
Root: Meaning:	
Related word	Related word
Definition	Definition