

Here's an Instant Activity for October 3, 2005



STRATEGY FOR SPELLING SUCCESS

For most learners, spelling well doesn't just happen. It is the result of a conscientious spelling and word-skill curriculum that:

1. provides a menu of skill-building activities that range in sophistication to teach critical concepts at a student's own level,
2. uses assessment to gather information to target word study to the specific words each student has not learned from among all previously introduced words in the program, as well as to identify skills not yet mastered,
3. equips teachers with guidelines for spelling expectations in everyday writing that increase as students develop as writers, making the classroom a rehearsal for real-world writing, and
4. proposes multiple opportunities to engage parents in the acquisition of spelling skills with their child.

This Instant Activity helps teachers achieve item number 1 above—and item number 4, if the activity is assigned as homework.



LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY

Grade 7



PURPOSE

To provide practice with the addition of prefixes to words, specifically number prefixes.

Skills: prefix practice, vocabulary development, etymologies



SUGGESTED USE

Use this activity with the Level 7 Sourcebook, Unit 9, *The Wordsmith Says* and *Did You Know?* (page 75).



TEACHING DIRECTIONS

Ask students to write examples of words with prefixes. Then ask selected students to write one of their words on the chalkboard and underline the prefix. Note that a prefix comes at the beginning of a word. Guide students to recall that a prefix changes the meaning of a word—it is a word part that adds meaning to the word to which it is attached. Review that—unlike most suffix additions—when a prefix is added to a word, the spelling of the base word never changes. The prefix is simply added to the beginning of the word.

Review common prefixes (e.g., *un*, *pre*, *re*, *dis*, *non*). Then ask students whether they are familiar with any number prefixes. Discuss words that contain common number prefixes (e.g., *bi/two*: bicycle, *cent/one hundred*: centennial, *quad/four*: quadruplets).

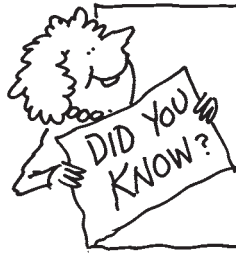
Next, print the Instant Activity and distribute a copy to each student. Discuss the activity to ensure that students know what is expected. Then ask students to complete the activity at home or at school.



FOLLOW-UP

Have students share their word choices (possibilities include: *uni/mono*—unit, uniform, monopoly, monarch; *bi/di/du*—bicycle, dioxide, duplex, duet; *tri*—triplet, trillion, tricycle, triangle; *quad/tetra*—quadruplets, quarter, tetrahedron, tetrameter; *pent/quint*—pentagon, pentathlon, quintuplet, quintet; *sex/hex*—sextuplet, sextant, hexagon, hexameter; *hept/sept*—heptagon, heptameter, September, septuagenarian; *oct*—octet, October, octopus, octane; *non/nove*—nonagon, nonagenarian, November, novena; *dec/dec*—decade, decathlon, December, decimal; *cent/hect*—century, centennial, hectogram, hectometer; *milli/kilo*—million, millimeter, kilometer, kilowatt).

Then introduce this information from the *Did You Know?* on page 75:



September is the ninth month of the year, October is the tenth, November is the eleventh, and December is the twelfth. Why is this? The prefixes do not match! It all makes sense when you know the Roman year originally began in March, consequently, September was the seventh month, October the eighth, November the ninth, and December the tenth.



FOR MORE

For more activities to teach all the essential skills and concepts, and to develop a total spelling and language-related program, use the Sourcebook for Teaching Spelling and Word Skills for your grade level (grades 1–8). Extend practice and word exploration with the optional student Practice Books for Learning Spelling and Word Skills (grades 1–6), appropriate for use with both the 2nd and 3rd Edition Sourcebooks. Each Practice Book contains correlated activities for selected lessons from every Sourcebook unit, a proofreading/editing exercise for each unit, and pages in the back for students to record their Spelling Words for study.

To learn about the Sourcebook Series for Teaching Spelling and Word Skills:

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2. Use the NEW TUTOR ME Training Video/CD-ROM for your grade level either on your own or in a small group. Rebecca Sitton guides you through a complete unit, telling you exactly what to do and why. Set aside about two hours to acquire complete expertise, or learn about each part of a unit as you need it. Use the TUTOR ME Parents as Partners module to introduce parents to the program and show them how their child will be learning to spell. Visit www.sittonspelling.com for more information.

To order your Sourcebook for Teaching Spelling and Word Skills:

Order online at www.sittonspelling.com or contact:

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Build Skills and Word Experiences



Name _____, Super Speller

Words with Number Prefixes Tell How Many

Find and write words that contain these number prefixes.

1. Uni and mono mean one.

2. Bi, di, and du mean two.

3. Tri means three.

4. Quad and tetra mean four.

5. Pent and quint mean five.

6. Sex and hex mean six.

7. Hept and sept mean seven.

8. Oct means eight.

9. Non and nove mean nine.

10. Dec and deci mean ten.

11. Cent and hect mean one hundred.

12. Milli and kil mean thousand.



Explain in writing the purpose of a prefix and how it is added to base words. Decide whether "prefix" is a good name for this small word part, and give reasons for your decision.