

■ **POWER BASICS**[®]

Vocabulary and Reading Comprehension

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Table of Contents

<i>To the Student</i>	v
Unit 1: Vocabulary: Word Parts	
Lesson 1: Base Words	3
Lesson 2: Prefixes	7
Lesson 3: Suffixes	14
Lesson 4: Roots	21
Unit 2: Building Vocabulary	
Lesson 5: Synonyms and Antonyms	29
Lesson 6: Context Clues	34
Unit 3: Dictionary Skills	
Lesson 7: Finding Words in a Dictionary	45
Lesson 8: Understanding Definitions	49
Unit 4: Understanding What You Read	
Lesson 9: Identifying Main Ideas	55
Lesson 10: Drawing Conclusions	62
Lesson 11: Recognizing Sequence	77
Unit 5: Finding Information in a Passage	
Lesson 12: Scanning	91
Unit 6: Analyzing What You Read	
Lesson 13: Fact and Opinion	107
Lesson 14: The Author's Purpose	111
Unit 7: Remembering What You Read	
Lesson 15: Underlining	123
Lesson 16: Summarizing	126
<i>Appendixes</i>	
A. <i>Prefixes</i>	134
B. <i>Suffixes</i>	135
C. <i>Roots</i>	136
<i>Glossary</i>	137
<i>Index</i>	142

Table of Contents, *continued*

Unit 6: Analyzing What You Read

Lesson 13: Fact and Opinion	107
Lesson 14: The Author's Purpose	111
Unit 6 Review	119
Unit 6 Application Activity	120

Unit 7: Remembering What You Read

Lesson 15: Underlining	123
Lesson 16: Summarizing	126
Unit 7 Review	131
Unit 7 Application Activity	133

Appendixes

A. <i>Prefixes</i>	134
B. <i>Suffixes</i>	135
C. <i>Roots</i>	136
<i>Glossary</i>	137
<i>Index</i>	142

UNIT 1

Vocabulary: Word Parts



LESSON 1: Base Words

GOAL: To learn new vocabulary words by breaking long words into base words

WORDS TO KNOW

base word

compound word

Compound Words

Words are made up of different parts. A **base word** is one kind of word part. Base words are words that form the main part of a longer word.

Some words are made up of two base words put together. These are **compound words**. Look at this compound word:

homework

The word *homework* is a compound word. It is made up of the words *home* and *work*.

Now look at this compound word:

sunlight

Do you see the two base words? They are *sun* and *light*.

PRACTICE 1: Compound Words

Write the two base words you find in each compound word.

1. speechwriter _____
2. aftertaste _____
3. grapevine _____

4. scoreboard _____
5. skyscraper _____
6. spotlight _____
7. peacekeeper _____
8. stopwatch _____
9. timeworn _____
10. windshield _____

Meanings of Compound Words

You know that a compound word is made up of two base words. The meaning of the compound word combines the meanings of the two base words.

Compound words can be long and seem hard. If you can break the compound word into two shorter words, though, you can figure out the meaning of the longer word.

Look at the following example:

beekeeper

The word above is long and looks odd—it has a lot of e’s in a row. If you look closely, however, you see two words: *bee* and *keeper*. Those words aren’t so hard. A beekeeper is someone who keeps, or raises, bees. (A beekeeper raises bees for their honey.)

■ PRACTICE 2: Meanings of Compound Words

Read the compound words. Based on the meanings of the base words, write the definition of each compound word.

1. speechwriter _____

2. aftertaste _____

3. grapevine _____

4. scoreboard _____

5. skyscraper _____

6. spotlight _____

7. peacekeeper _____

8. stopwatch _____

9. timeworn _____

10. windshield _____

Base Words

Words are made up of different parts. As you have seen, one kind of word part is called a *base word*. Two base words together make a compound word.

Sometimes base words are joined with other word parts. Look at these examples:

powerful

displeased

The base word in each example is underlined. Other word parts have been added to each base word to form a longer word.

TIP



The entire base word is not always spelled out in the longer word. Look at an example: *celebration*. Can you find the base word? It is *celebrate*. Notice that the final *e* in the base word *celebrate* does not appear in *celebration*. But you can easily find the base word in the longer word.

PRACTICE 3: Base Words

Look at the words below. Write the base word of each vocabulary word.

1. purify _____
2. disconnect _____
3. falsely _____
4. employer _____
5. rewrite _____
6. readiness _____
7. misunderstand _____
8. illegal _____
9. imprison _____
10. preheat _____
11. admirable _____
12. exploration _____
13. dangerous _____
14. fearless _____
15. punishment _____