

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

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

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.

Prefix and Suffix Bank						
re-	pre-	dis-	im-	in-	-able	-ion

[illegible]