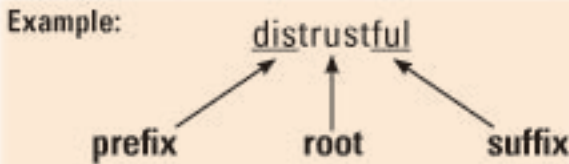


Category 1 – Understanding Across Genres

ROOTS, PREFIXES, AND SUFFIXES

Word Part	Description
root	base, or main part, of a word
prefix	letters added before a root
suffix	letters added after a root



Prefixes can change a word's meaning.

Prefix	Meaning	Examples
dis-	opposite	disagree, disagree
in-	not, opposite	incomplete, in
im-	not, opposite	imbalanced, im
un-	not, opposite	untie, uncan
re-	again	re-

Example: The word *correct* means right. How does the prefix *in-* change the meaning of the word *correct*?

Answer: The word *incorrect* means not right because the prefix *in-* means not.

Suffixes can change a word's meaning.

Suffix	Meaning	Examples
-able	able to, capable of	dependable, dependable
-ible	able to, capable of	responsible, sensible
-er	one who does	worker, helper, jogger

Example: The word *powerful* means force. How do the suffixes *-ful* and *-less* change the meaning of the word with the root of *power*?

Answers:
The word *powerful* means full of force because the suffix *-ful* means full.
The word *powerless* means without force because the suffix *-less* means without.

MEANINGS OF WORDS

Context clues: nearby words or sentences that give hints about a word's meaning. They can be an example, relationship, or description that connects known words to an unfamiliar word.

Example: It was a very cold winter. The last three cold and windy days.

What does the word *frigid* mean?

Answer: The context clue of *like* hints that the unfamiliar word *frigid* has a meaning similar to *cold* and *from*.

Connotation: a word that has more than one meaning. Context clues help determine the correct meaning of a word within a sentence.

Example: The word *watch* can mean to see or a tool to tell time. Use context clues to determine the correct meaning of the word *watch* in the following sentence:

Carly looked at her *watch* again. She hoped that she would be on time for the movie.

Answer: In this sentence, the word *watch* means a tool to tell time. There are two context clues:
• The words *on time* hint that it is related to time.
• It is a thing (noun) that she looked at (not an action).

CONTEXT CLUES: EXAMPLES, WORDS, AND PREFIXES

Term	Description	Example
antonyms	opposite meanings	<i>loud</i> and <i>quiet</i>
synonyms	similar meanings	<i>tiny</i> and <i>small</i>
homographs	same spellings, but different meanings	<i>wind</i> (breeze) and <i>wind</i> (to turn)
homophones	same sounds, but different meanings	<i>their</i> , <i>there</i> , and <i>they're</i>

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Homographs: *bow* (ribbon) and *bow* (to bend)