

# Word Work Lesson Plan and Activities

Instructional Focus Based on the Words in the Book

Step by Step Lesson Plan

Connect Word to Reading Practice Page

List of words in the book that match the instructional focus

Interactive Activity

Independent Practice Page

Extension Activity

**You Wouldn't Want to Be a Worker on the Statue of Liberty**  
By: John Malam  
Grade Level: 4 / Guided Reading Level: R

**Word Work**

**Instructional Focus:**  
Latin & Greek Prefixes and Suffixes

**Background:**  
Understanding of Greek comprehend the meaning building blocks of all words

**Examples:**

nontoxic	mistake
photograph	deluxe
impairment	mixer
tricycle	octagon

**Materials and Preparation:**

- A Copy of You Wouldn't Want to Be a Worker on the Statue of Liberty by John Malam
- Chart paper or poster board
- Connect to Reading Practice sheets
- Copies of Cube Template
- Make Me! Practice sheets
- Optional - Word Detective

**Step 1: Introduce the Focus of Word Work**

**Introduce Prefixes & Suffixes**

- Explain to the students that many of our English words come from the Latin and Greek languages. Therefore, it is an important strategy to learn what these prefixes and suffixes mean. Once we have learned a number of these, we can decode new words we read that share the same affixes.
- Make a table with six columns and as tenrows on your chart paper or interactive whiteboard.
- Label the columns, Prefix, Meaning and Suffix, Meaning.
- Write the word, nonsense on the board.
- Underline the prefix, "non."
- Explain to the children that nonsense means "no" sense, and because they know this, they can transfer that knowledge to an unknown "new" word that they might come across in their reading.
- For example, write "noncommittal" on the board.
- Underline the prefix once and the suffix, "al" twice.
- Ask for volunteers for the meaning of commit (the root word).
- Explain that "commit" means "to pledge oneself." This is the root of the word. The suffix, "al," means related to, and the prefix, "non," means not.
- We can therefore deduce that the meaning of noncommittal is related to someone who will not pledge themselves. Example: The boys were noncommittal about coming to my birthday party.

**Sample Anchor Chart**

Prefix	Meaning	Suffix	Meaning
non-	not	-al, -ly	related to
quad-	four	-er, -or	one who, that which
mis-	bad or wrong	-able	can be done
de-	reduce down	-ment	act, process

**Step 2: Connect Word Work to Reading**

**Prefixes & Suffixes in the Text**

- Pass out Connect to Reading sheets and pencils.
- Explain to students that authors use prefixes and suffixes added to a root or base word to enhance comprehension.
- Read the first paragraph on page 5 aloud to the students.
- Ask the students to look at the word, "assist."
- Ask for volunteers to give a definition for the root word, "assist." (They should say something like, "to help.")
- Add the suffix, "ant," to your chart.
- Explain to the students that this suffix means, "a person who."
- Therefore, assistance means: a person who helps.
- Ask the students how understanding this suffix could help them comprehend the meaning of another word that ends in the same suffix.
- Ask if they can give another example. If they cannot come up with one, suggest one, such as participant (participate), inhabitant (inhabit), etc.

**You Wouldn't Want to Be a Worker on the Statue of Liberty**  
By: John Malam  
Grade Level: 4 / Guided Reading Level: R

**Word Work**

**Step 2: Connect Word Work to Reading (continued)**

- Explain to them that some words will have both a prefix and suffix.
- Tell students that you will read the book to them. Explain to them that not all of the words with prefixes and suffixes will appear on their Connect to Reading practice sheets.
- Ask them to listen for prefixes and suffixes, and raise their hand when they hear one.
- At that point, stop reading.
- Have them find the word on their practice sheet. They should underline any prefix, once, and any suffix, twice.
- Once students complete this task, continue with the activity.
- Ask, "Do any of these words have both a prefix and suffix?"
- Discuss how the addition of these affixes change the meaning of the root word.

**Examples of Prefixes and Suffixes found in the text:**

Prefixes	Suffixes
independent	sculptor
enlightening	inhabitant
uncomfortable	measurements
remember	original
impression	habitation
centennial	dimensional
universal	ambition
unloaded	valley
immigrants	prisoners

**For Teacher's Reference:**

**Most Frequently Used Prefixes and Suffixes**

Prefix	Meaning	Example	Suffix	Meaning
dis-	not, opposite of	disconnect	-ed	past tense verb
il-, im-, in-,	not	illegal, immature, insufficient, irregular	-ing	present-tense verb
re-	again	reinvest	-ly	changes adjective to adverb, more than one
un-	not	unelegant	-s, -es	more than one

**You Wouldn't Want to Be a Worker on the Statue of Liberty**  
By: John Malam  
Grade Level: 4 / Guided Reading Level: R

**Word Work**

**Step 3: Guided Word Work Practice**

**Interactive Exploration**

**AFFIXES ALL AROUND CUBE GAME**

- Make enough copies of the cube template for each pair of students to share. Or use one to play as a whole class.
- Write prefixes on one and suffixes on another, or write both prefixes and suffixes on one die.
- You may assemble them in advance, or have the students assemble them.
- How to play:
  - Students roll the die.
  - For the affix that comes up, students take turns giving a word that uses the prefix or suffix.
  - The students should each keep a list on a piece of paper of each word they think of.
  - When they can no longer think of any words, have them define each word (use a dictionary, if needed), underlining prefixes once and suffixes twice.
  - The student that has the most "real" words, is the winner.
  - Have students share their words with the class, writing them on chart paper or the board.
  - How many students made the same word?
  - Extend the activity by giving the students a root word and asking them to discover a prefix, suffix, or both that could be added to the root word.
  - Remind students that adding a suffix can sometimes change the spelling of the root word (excite - excited).

**Step 4: Independent Word Work Practice**

**Practice Page**

- Give each student a copy of Make Me! Practice Page.
- Read the directions with the class.
- Tell the students to complete the practice page.
- Monitor for students while they work.

**Cube Template**  
Interactive Activity

Guided Word Work Practice | @BookPagez.com

**Word Detective: Hyphenated Compound Words**  
Extension Activity

**Directions:**  
Be a word detective!  
Be on the lookout for **hyphenated compound words** while you read. Write the word that you find along with the title of the book where you found the word, the page, and the sentence with the word or phrase.

Word	Book Title	Page	Sentence

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Independent Word Work Practice | @BookPagez.com

**Make Me! Word Work Practice**

**Directions:**  
Not all prefixes or suffixes can be added to a root word and make sense. Below are two activities. In each make add the prefix or suffix shown to the root word. (Sometimes when adding a suffix, the root word might change spelling.) Sometimes a word does not make a real word, put an 'X' in the box.

Root Word	dis-	pre-	re-	im-
prove				
cook				
engage				
form				
possible				
made				

  

Root Word	-able	-tion	-er	-al
port				
laugh				
comfort				
react				
post				
read				

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Independent Word Work Practice | @BookPagez.com