## Literacy Activities

**Suitable for KS2 (9 to 10 years)**

Defining Words & Root Words

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Use this packet of activities to help children practice their Language Arts skills.
**Day 1**

**Context clues** are words in a sentence that give hints about a word’s meaning. You can use **context clues** to figure out the meanings of unknown words.

Read each sentence. Draw a line to the word that best matches the word in **bold**.

1. A **streak** of lightning flashed across the dark sky.  
   A. dark

2. Some trees **shed** their leaves in the fall and become bare.  
   B. happy

3. People think that house is haunted because **weird** sounds come out of there.  
   C. job

4. Kalani was **delighted** when her best friend came to visit.  
   D. line

5. Let’s repaint the hallway a brighter colour so it doesn’t look so **gloomy**.  
   E. lose

6. It was my **chore** to water the garden every day.  
   F. pulled

7. Ethan **yanked** the weeds out by hand.  
   G. smile

8. The boy had a happy **grin** on his face when he saw his new puppy.  
   H. strange
Read the words in the box below. Write each word in the sentence that defines it.

tossed    annoy    lively    scent
chilly    squirmed    famished    hilarious

1. Roses have a sweet ____________.
2. The ____________ music made people smile and clap.
3. The child ____________ and would not sit still for her haircut.
4. I wore a sweater because it was ____________ outside.
5. We laughed loudly at the ____________ movie.
6. Aiden ____________ a ball in the air and then caught it.
7. My brother plays jokes on me just to ____________ me.
8. I’m so ____________, I could eat ten sandwiches!
Context clues are words in a sentence that give hints about a word’s meaning. You can use context clues to figure out the meanings of unknown words.

Read the sentences. Write what the word in bold means. Use the Answer Box to help you. Circle the context clues that help you understand the meaning.

**Answer Box**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>very big</th>
<th>interested in something</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>not occupied</td>
<td>important or special</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>free of clutter</td>
<td>further past</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>very tired</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. There is a playground out **beyond** the soccer field.

2. Because she was **curious**, Alice followed the talking rabbit down the rabbit hole.

3. My friend Liam keeps his desk very **tidy**, but mine is a mess.

4. After the marathon, **Ava** was so **weary** she could hardly walk.

5. The **precious** stuffed bear was given to me by my grandmother before we moved. I can’t sleep without it.

6. There is a **vacant** lot next to our house. The city council is thinking of building a park in the space there.

7. When we went to the beach, seeing the **vast** ocean extend all the way to horizon made me feel small.
Read the words in the box below. Write each word in the sentence that defines it. There will be some extra words.

cautious  timid  glanced  scorched  alarmed
anxious  exhausted  grand  entire  concealed

1. Megan was ________ and screamed when she heard the loud bang.

2. The king lives in a __________ palace that has hundreds of windows.

3. I __________ my favourite shirt when I tried to iron it.

4. The workers took less than an hour to paint the _________ room.

5. The __________ boy hid behind his mom when the guests arrived.

6. You must be __________ whenever you cross the street.

7. Axel was __________ after jogging for an hour.

8. I __________ Mum’s birthday gift in the back of my wardrobe.
Context clues are words in a sentence that give hints about a word’s meaning. You can use context clues to figure out the meanings of unknown words.

Read each sentence below. Circle the correct meaning of the bolded word.

1. The students **assembled** in front of the school to wait for their bus.
   a. yelled
   b. skipped
   c. lined up

2. Joe’s story was so **brief** it took him only a minute to read it aloud.
   a. short
   b. long
   c. exciting

3. Krista **murmured** a reply, but I couldn’t hear it.
   a. screamed
   b. yelled
   c. said softly

4. **Sweeter** outside, so I bought some ice cream to cool off.
   a. hot
   b. chilly
   c. raining

5. The garbage had a bad **odor**, so I pinched my nose when I took out the trash.
   a. smell
   b. colour
   c. sound

6. The child clapped her hands with **glee** when she got her gift.
   a. sadness
   b. anger
   c. joy
Day 3 (Cont’d)

Read the sentences. Write what the word in **bold** means. Circle the context clues in each sentence that help you understand the meaning.

1. When Mia fell off the swing, she was **fortunate** she didn’t break her arm.

2. Because I studied for the test, all the answers seem very **obvious**.

3. After playing the soccer game, it took two bottles of water to **quench** my thirst.

4. There was a scream of **terror** when the wasp flew into the classroom.

5. I change the clock after Daylight Savings, so it shows the accurate time. It is important to be **accurate**, or you will make careless mistakes.

6. The package with 64 crayons had a great **variety** of colour.

7. When the curtain opened, it **revealed** a beautifully painted set.
Day 4

A **prefix** is a word part added to the beginning of a root word. A **suffix** is a word part added to the end of a root word.

Cut, sort, and glue the words below into the appropriate column.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Words With a Prefix</th>
<th>Words With a Suffix</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>misinform</td>
<td>player</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>quadrilateral</td>
<td>irregular</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>agreeable</td>
<td>edible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>childish</td>
<td>defrost</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>underserve</td>
<td>fearless</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>presale</td>
<td>useful</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bicycle</td>
<td>unlock</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dislike</td>
<td>submarine</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Word Bank**
Use the prefixes, suffixes, and roots in the Word Bank to write definitions for each word in the space provided.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word Bank</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>astro: star</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ation: action</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>equ: equal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>im: in</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>logy: study of</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. zoology
2. equation
3. research
4. telephone
5. import
6. microscope
7. astronaut
8. telescope
9. astrology
Day 5

A **prefix** is a word part added to the beginning of a root word. A **suffix** is a word part added to the end of a root word.

Use the prefixes, suffixes, and root words below to create as many words as possible.

**Prefixes:**
- geo- (earth, soil, ground)
- dis- (not)
- bi- (two)
- trans- (across, through, beyond)
- tri- (three)
- pre- (before)
- aqu- (water)

**Root Words:**
- appear (become visible)
- port (carry or bring)
- angle (corner)
- agree (share an opinion or feeling)

**Suffixes:**
- -logy (study of)
- -cycle (wheel)
- -rupt (break or burst)
- -arium (a place for)
- -dict (say or speak)

1. _____________________________ 7. _____________________________
2. _____________________________ 8. _____________________________
3. _____________________________ 9. _____________________________
4. _____________________________ 10. _____________________________
5. _____________________________ 11. _____________________________
6. _____________________________ 12. _____________________________
Use the prefixes & suffixes in the Word Bank to write definitions for each word in the space provided.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word Bank</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ex</strong>: out</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>marine</strong>: sea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>sub</strong>: under</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>form</strong>: shape</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>photo</strong>: light</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>tele</strong>: distant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>graph</strong>: draw, record</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>port</strong>: carry, bring</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>trans</strong>: across</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>inter</strong>: between</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>rupt</strong>: break, burst</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>uni</strong>: one</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>logy</strong>: study of</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>spect</strong>: see</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. biology

2. interrupt

3. inspect

4. photograph

5. uniform

6. transform

7. submarine

8. export

9. telegraph