Word Clues and Word Parts: Guided Notes with Volcanoes and Telescopes

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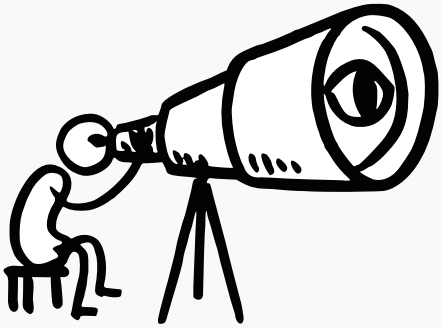
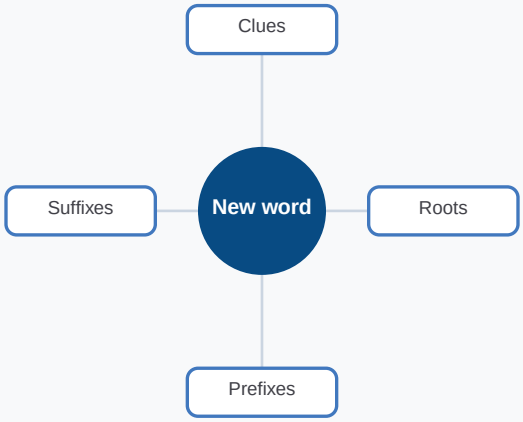
Lesson:

This lesson is about figuring out what a new word means. You will practice two tools: context clues (the helpful words in the sentence around the new word) and word parts (tele-, -port-, sub-, and -ology). As you read each passage and example, use BOTH tools: find the clue in the sentence, then check the word part inside the word. If the clue and the word part point to the same meaning, you can trust your answer.



Two ways to figure out a new word



Use the clue in the sentence and the part in the word. If both point to the same meaning, you can trust it.

When you read, some words are new, and some words have more than one meaning. Good readers do not guess carelessly. They look for clues in the sentence and in nearby sentences. They also notice prefixes and suffixes, which are word parts at the beginning or end of a word. These tools help readers figure out what a word means.

A word can have one meaning in one sentence and a different meaning in another. For example, the word bank can mean a place where people keep money, or it can mean the side of a river. The words around the word help you tell which meaning fits. This is called using context clues.

The word bank can mean money place or river side, so the sentence around it tells the meaning.

Some word parts help, too. The prefix tele- means far away. The suffix -ology means the study of something. The prefix sub- means under or below. The word part -port- means carry. When you know these parts, you can use them to understand new words more quickly.

The four word parts in this lesson

	Meaning	Example word
tele-	far away	telescope
sub-	under or below	submarine
-port-	carry	transport
-ology	study of something	geology

Find the part inside a new word, then check its meaning here. The part is a clue you carry with you.

Break a word into its parts

telescope

tele-
PREFIX
far away

-scope
ROOT
to look or see

= a tool for looking at things that are far away

Every long word hides smaller parts. Find a part you know and you have a head start on the meaning.

> Maya loves volcanoes and stars. A telescope helps people look at stars that are far away, and Maya uses hers every clear night. At school she is reading about geology, the study of Earth and its volcanoes. Her book says a submarine travels under the water so scientists can watch a volcano grow on the ocean floor. Maya will transport her telescope to the volcano trip, carrying it carefully so the lens does not break.

The word telescope has tele-, which means far away, and the sentence says it helps people look at stars that are far away.

The word geology ends with -ology, and the sentence says it is about the study of Earth.

The word submarine begins with sub-, and the sentence says it travels under the water.

The word transport includes -port-, and the sentence says Maya carries her telescope carefully.

> Good readers use both the clue in the sentence and the word part in the word. Sometimes one clue is enough, and sometimes both together make the meaning clear. This helps readers understand stories, science texts, and directions more easily.

Instructions:

Read each teacher note, then choose the best answer. Use the sentence clues and word parts to help you decide. Some questions ask about a word's meaning, and some ask about the clue that helps.

1. What do good readers do when they meet a word they do not know?

- ◯ A) Look for clues in the sentence and nearby sentences
- ◯ B) Change the sentence to make it easier
- ◯ C) Guess the word as fast as possible
- ◯ D) Skip every unknown word

2. The word bank can mean a place for money or the side of a river. In the sentence, the words around bank help the reader figure out the _____.

- ◯ A) number of syllables
- ◯ B) capital letter
- ◯ C) correct meaning
- ◯ D) sound of the word

3. Which word part would help you understand the word telescope?

- ◯ A) tele-
- ◯ B) -ology
- ◯ C) sub-
- ◯ D) -port-

4. A student reads, 'The telescope lets people look at stars that are far away.' What clue helps the reader most?

- ◯ A) The sentence mentions people.
- ◯ B) The word has eight letters.
- ◯ C) The word starts with t.
- ◯ D) The words 'look at stars that are far away' explain what the telescope does.

5. Which explanation best shows how a reader can understand an unknown word?

- ◯ A) Ignore the word and keep reading
- ◯ B) Use only the picture in the book
- ◯ C) Use sentence clues and word parts together
- ◯ D) Use only the first letter of the word

6. A student reads, 'The submarine moved under the water.' What does submarine mean?

- ◯ A) a study of Earth
- ◯ B) a place where people keep money
- ◯ C) a paper people carry
- ◯ D) something that goes under the water

7. A student says, 'Sub- means far away because a submarine goes far away.' What is wrong with the student's idea?

- ◯ A) sub- means study of something
- ◯ B) sub- means money place
- ◯ C) sub- means under or below, not far away
- ◯ D) sub- means carry

8. A scientist studies volcanoes in geology. What does the suffix -ology help show?

- ◯ A) paper to carry
- ◯ B) far away
- ◯ C) under the water
- ◯ D) study of something

9. A student says, 'The word bank always means money place.' What is the best correction?

- ◯ A) Bank always means the side of a river.
- ◯ B) Bank means study of something.
- ◯ C) Bank can mean a money place or the side of a river.
- ◯ D) Bank means far away.

10. Which sentence best uses the word part -port- to help show meaning?

- ◯ A) The passport was hidden under the bed.
- ◯ B) The passport was a paper people carry when they travel.
- ◯ C) The passport was a telescope for stars.
- ◯ D) The passport was wet from rain.

11. A scientist who studies volcanoes is called a volcanologist. What does the suffix -ologist help the reader understand?

- ◯ A) a person who studies something
- ◯ B) a place where something is kept
- ◯ C) an action that happens quickly
- ◯ D) a tool used to see far away

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(Answer Key)

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1. What do good readers do when they meet a word they do not know?
Hint: Look for the strategy the lesson names first.

Answer: A) Look for clues in the sentence and nearby sentences

Explanation: Good readers use clues in the sentence and nearby sentences, instead of guessing carelessly.

2. The word bank can mean a place for money or the side of a river. In the sentence, the words around bank help the reader figure out the _____.
Hint: The lesson names this strategy.

Answer: C) correct meaning

Explanation: The words around an unknown word help readers choose the correct meaning. That is called using context clues.

3. Which word part would help you understand the word telescope?
Hint: Think about the lesson example.

Answer: A) tele-

Explanation: tele- means far away, and the sentence about stars far away helps too.

4. A student reads, 'The telescope lets people look at stars that are far away.' What clue helps the reader most?
Hint: Look for the words that explain distance.

Answer: D) The words 'look at stars that are far away' explain what the telescope does.

Explanation: The clue is that the stars are far away, which matches tele-.

5. Which explanation best shows how a reader can understand an unknown word?
Hint: The lesson gives two tools.

Answer: C) Use sentence clues and word parts together

Explanation: Good readers use both sentence clues and word parts when they help make meaning clear.

6. A student reads, 'The submarine moved under the water.' What does submarine mean?
Hint: Use the sentence clue.

Answer: D) something that goes under the water

Explanation: sub- means under or below, so a submarine is something that goes under the water.

7. A student says, 'Sub- means far away because a submarine goes far away.' What is wrong with the student's idea?
Hint: Look at the word part and the clue together.

Answer: C) sub- means under or below, not far away

Explanation: sub- means under or below, and the sentence says the submarine travels under the water.

8. A scientist studies volcanoes in geology. What does the suffix -ology help show?
Hint: The lesson gives this word part.

Answer: D) study of something

Explanation: -ology means the study of something, so geology means the study of Earth.

9. A student says, 'The word bank always means money place.' What is the best correction?
Hint: The lesson gives two meanings for bank.

Answer: C) Bank can mean a money place or the side of a river.

Explanation: Bank can mean a money place or the side of a river, so the sentence tells which meaning fits.

10. Which sentence best uses the word part -port- to help show meaning?
Hint: The lesson says -port- means carry.

Answer: B) The passport was a paper people carry when they travel.

Explanation: A passport is something people carry when they travel, so -port- helps connect to carry.

11. A scientist who studies volcanoes is called a volcanologist. What does the suffix -ologist help the reader understand?
Hint: Look at the word part at the end of the word.

Answer: A) a person who studies something

Explanation: The suffix -ologist tells the reader that volcanologist means a person who studies volcanoes.