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Word Attack

VOCABULARY BUILDING

Volume 3 **Decoding with Comprehension** **2019 - 2020**

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Word Attack is a flyer that explains how to gain meaningful understanding of tough words. A robust vocabulary is the number one predictor of success on standardized tests.

The Essentials RF.3.3

quick tips for solving words

- words are broken up into syllables (syl/la/bles)
- each syllable has at least one vowel (a, e, i, o ,u/y)
- search for the base word (more on this later)
- look for smaller words you know within the unknown word e.g., ***embankment*** becomes - (em<u>bank</u>***men***t)
  you recognize: bank & men
- sound out the word slowly
- sound it out again faster (it should begin to make sense)
- use the other words for context
- look for the following near the unknown word: synonyms, antonyms, footnote, definition, example, repetition of the word used in different ways, parentheses

Hunting for Base Words

base words are standalone or real words without roots, prefixes, or suffixes

<u>sample base words</u>:

basket, room, door, shirt, car, truck, ear, love, desk, spoon, fork, run, house, vase, dog, pool, milk, jump, cave, sport, art, board, stove

Root Words RF.3.3

root words usually have Latin or Greek origins

- you can compare a root word with the root of a plant
- a root word by itself is nothing (but it does have meaning)
- many words are produced from root words (knowing the roots will help you understand big, complicated words)

Common roots and their meanings:

this is not a complete list – the list is much longer

root	**meaning**	**examples**
ann	year	<u>ann</u>ual
audi	to hear	<u>audi</u>ble, <u>audi</u>o, <u>audi</u>ology
biblio	book	<u>biblio</u>graphy
bio	life	<u>bio</u>graphy, anti<u>bio</u>tic, <u>bio</u>logy
chron	time	<u>chron</u>ological, <u>chron</u>icle
cred	believe	<u>cred</u>ible, <u>cred</u>ulous, <u>cred</u>ibility
derm	skin	<u>derm</u>atology, epi<u>derm</u>is
ego	self	<u>ego</u>mania, <u>ego</u>tist, <u>ego</u>maniac
fac	make	<u>fac</u>tory, manu<u>fac</u>ture
geo	earth	<u>geo</u>logy, <u>geo</u>graphy
graph	write	bio<u>graph</u>y, tele<u>graph</u>
hydro(a)	water	de<u>hydr</u>ate, <u>hydr</u>aulics, <u>hydro</u>plane
magn	great	<u>magn</u>ify, <u>magn</u>ificent, <u>magn</u>itude
path	feeling	a<u>path</u>y, em<u>path</u>y, sym<u>path</u>y
vac	empty	<u>vac</u>uum, <u>vac</u>ant
vit	life	<u>vit</u>amin, <u>vit</u>al, re<u>vit</u>alize

(notice how the root is hidden [underlined] in each example)

The big idea – look for roots inside of big words (the root <u>meaning</u> will be the same for all words, no matter how different the word)

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