



FIRE

Foundational Instruction for Reading Excellence

(for all students)



Unit 3

Student Activity Book

• Grade 4 •



LESSON 1

Morphology: Suffixes '-er' & '-or'

Directions: Think about the meaning of the suffixes '-er' and '-or.' Complete each sentence with a word from the word bank.

fuller	announcer	publisher
investigators	ambassador	supervisor

1. He was considered to be the wisest _____ for this country during his reign.
2. The _____ was told to hire five new workers for the holiday season.
3. Once the illustrator and editor submitted their final work, it was time for the _____ to start printing.
4. It was important for the crowd to quiet down so everyone could hear the _____ give the name of the players.
5. The _____ were determined to get to the bottom of the crime and find the culprits.
6. My florist added extra flowers to make the bouquet seem _____.



LESSON 2

Grammar: Dialogue

Directions: Look at each picture and write your own dialogue to match. Make sure to include correct capitalization and punctuation.





LESSON 3

Grammar: Similes and Metaphors

Directions: Write your own similes and metaphors with the phrases or suggestions below. Make sure to capitalize and punctuate your sentences.

1. as sweet as honey

2. night owl

3. compare your feet to ice

*Early Finisher – Choose one of your sentences from above and create an illustration in the space below.



LESSON 4

Morphology: Prefix 'de-'

Directions: Read each sentence. Break apart the underlined word. Write the meaning of the underlined word.

Example: The balloons had deflated after a few days of sitting on the stage.

nonstick: de flate
 prefix base/root

Deflated means when something has been removed or emptied of air.

1. Many people believe it is inhumane to declaw a kitten.

declaw: _____ _____
 prefix base/root

Declaw means _____

2. Certain documents are now declassified after 50 years, so people can have access to information that was once private and secure.

declassified: _____ _____
 prefix base/root

Declassified means _____



LESSON 5

Morphology: Suffixes '-al' & '-ial'

Directions: Think about the meaning of the suffixes '-al' and '-ial.' Complete each sentence with a word from the word bank.

burial

dismissal

reversal

renewal

signal

proposal

1. There was an exciting _____ of roles when the teacher changed positions with students in class today.
2. The _____ of my Netflix subscription happens yearly.
3. The blowing of the whistle was the first _____ for all of us to start picking up the equipment for the end of enrichment.
4. My little sister was very insistent that return her goldfish to her for _____ in our backyard.



LESSON 6

Morphology: Suffixes '-er' & '-or'

Directions: Create your own sentences with the words below that use the suffixes -er and -or. Make sure to capitalize and punctuate your sentences.

1. employer

2. operator

3. smoother

*Early Finisher – Choose a sentence from above and create an illustration in the space below.



LESSON 7

Grammar: Adjectives in Correct Order

Directions: Read each sentence and identify the adjectives. Then, determine if the adjectives are in the correct order by circling YES or NO.

1. My brother's yellow little train moves really fast on the tracks. YES NO
2. The car salesman had no trouble selling the beautiful new convertible. YES NO
3. It's so cold, I had to cover up with two wool thick blankets. YES NO

Directions: Read each sentence below and write the given adjectives in the correct order.

Example: Mom gave me permission to wear her _____ necklace.
(silver, delicate)

Mom gave me permission to wear her delicate silver necklace.
(silver, delicate)

4. Our _____ uniform shirt is required when we go on field trips.
(cotton, red)
5. I bought an _____ chest at the garage sale for only \$10.
(antique, wooden)
6. It's so cold, I had to get my _____ blanket down from the attic.
(fleece, thick)



LESSON 8

Grammar: Similes and Metaphors

Directions: Read each passage. Circle if the underline sentence is a simile or a metaphor. Explain the meaning of the simile or metaphor on the lines provided.

1. My parents were only going to the store for 20 minutes to get groceries. I was so excited that they left me in charge of my four younger siblings. However, my siblings were not listening to me. They had toys everywhere, ingredients for an ice cream sundae all over the kitchen and were jumping from couch to couch. My house was a zoo! When my parents walked in, I ran and made them promise to never leave me home alone with my siblings again.

Circle one: simile metaphor

Explain the meaning of the underlined sentence.

2. Everyone had been cheering at the top of their lungs for most of the game. Both teams were tied and there was only 14 seconds left on the clock. The players were executing their play when all of a sudden, a flag was thrown in the air. The stadium was as quiet as a library. Coaches, players, and fans were all baffled. No one could figure out who the penalty was against until the referee started to speak.

Circle one: simile metaphor

Explain the meaning of the underlined sentence.



LESSON 9

Morphology: Prefix 'de-'

Directions: Read each word below and write the meaning of the words based on the prefix 'de-.' Then create a sentence using that word.

Example: deplete

Deplete means to move away from having a higher quantity of something.

Sentence:

Supplies like hand sanitizer were going to deplete sooner this flu season.

1. detangle

Detangle means _____

Sentence:

2. deconstruct

Deconstruct means _____

Sentence:

3. devalue

Devalue means _____

Sentence:



LESSON 10

Grammar: Idioms, Adages, and Proverbs

Directions: Read and explain the meaning of each saying below.

Example: It's raining cats and dogs.

This means that it is raining extremely hard.

1. Don't judge a book by its cover.

2. Actions speak louder than words.

3. Hold your horses!

4. Two wrongs don't make a right.

Directions: Choose one saying from above and use them in a sentence.

5. _____



LESSON 11

Morphology: Suffixes '-er' & '-or'

Directions: Think about the meaning of the suffixes '-er' and '-or.' Read each sentence and determine the meaning of the underline word. Write the meaning of the word on the line provided.

1. The distributor made sure to deliver all supplies to the store before the holiday season began.

meaning: _____

2. My cousin has an interpreter to help him better communicate with his friend from Italy.

meaning: _____

3. Football has many commentators to make sure that the crowd and fans at home always know what is happening in the games.

meaning: _____

4. In Greek mythology, Hermes is a messenger for the gods and goddesses.

meaning: _____



LESSON 12

Grammar: Adjectives in Correct Order

Directions: Read each sentence below and write the given adjectives in the correct order.

Example: Mom gave me permission to wear her delicate silver necklace.
(silver, delicate)

1. Hercules is one of my favorite _____ myths.
(Greek, ancient)

Directions: Read each sentence and underline the adjectives. If adjectives are in the correct order, write *correct* on the lines. If they are not, rewrite the sentence putting the adjectives in the correct order.

Example: Dad gave me permission to build a brown, tiny doghouse for my new puppy.

Dad gave me permission to build a tiny, brown doghouse for my new puppy.

2. The green slimy toad jumped right on top of the food at the picnic.

3. My enormous plastic volcano erupted just in time and helped me win first place.

4. The curly delicious fries from Arby's are my favorite after school snack.



LESSON 13

Grammar: Similes and Metaphors

Part One

Directions: Read the passage. Circle if the underlined phrase is a simile or a metaphor. Explain the meaning of the simile or metaphor on the lines provided.

Most people look at identical twins and often think they are two of the same. But, sometimes that couldn't be further from the truth. We are as different as night and day. My twin and I may look alike, but we have very different interests. He prefers salty snacks, while I love sweet desserts. I can stay up all night, but he gets up before sunrise. My twin enjoys winter the most, but I am all about summer. Although we may not agree on much, I love having my brother for my twin.

Circle one: simile metaphor

Explain the meaning of the underlined phrase.

Part Two

Directions: Create your own passage including a simile or metaphor.



LESSON 14

Morphology: Suffixes '-al' & '-ial'

Directions: Think about the meaning of the suffixes '-al' and/or '-ial.' Read each sentence and determine the meaning of the underline word. Write the meaning of the word on the line provided.

1. The disposal of radioactive waste was a very serious matter for our parish president.

meaning: _____

2. The removal of my big sister's wrecked car was a very sad moment and also meant she had to start working again to save for another car.

meaning: _____

3. The referral to the orthodontist that my dentist made to my mom resulted in me being the first in my class to get braces.

meaning: _____

4. It was public knowledge that their dismissal from the competition was because of their ages.

meaning: _____



LESSON 15

Morphology: Prefix 'de-'

Directions: Think about the meaning of the prefix 'de-.' Complete each sentence with a word from the word bank.

distress

decrease

deflate

decelerate

deflect

deprived

1. Health class teaches us about the kinds of unhealthy food we should _____ in our daily meals.
2. I felt _____ of all my favorite desserts when the ice cream store closed down for good.
3. I lifted my foot off the gas pedal of my four-wheeler, so I could slowly _____ as I got closer to the stop sign.
4. Did you know that if you put a ball in the freezer, the cooler temperature will cause it to slightly _____?
5. It is important that I have hobbies and routines to help me _____ after a long, grueling day of practice.



LESSON 16

Spelling: Closed Syllables

Directions: Remember that closed syllables end with a consonant and the vowel is short. Read each word below and draw a line to separate the syllables. Then, underline the syllable(s) that are closed syllables.

Example: napkin nap | kin

1. Saturday

2. basketball

3. punishing

4. solid

5. distress



LESSON 17

Spelling: Open Syllables

Directions: Remember that open syllables end with a vowel and the vowel is long. Read each word below and draw a line to separate the syllables. Then, underline the syllable(s) that are open syllables.

Example: final fi | nal

1. education

2. civilization

3. siren

4. photographs

5. imagination



LESSON 18

Spelling: Closed Syllables

Directions: Remember that closed syllables end with a consonant and the vowel is short. Read each word and place it in the correct sentence. Then, underline the closed syllable(s) in each word.

newspaper property unconventional illustrations employment

1. The _____ helped me to better understand what the author was describing.
2. My local _____ wrote an inspiring article on recycling.
3. My big sister said it is important to seek _____ in the area you are hoping to have a career in.
4. My teacher was impressed that I successfully solved the problem in an _____ way.
5. My little brother is always trying to take my _____ without asking.



LESSON 19

Spelling: Open Syllables

Directions: Remember that open syllables end with a vowel and the vowel is long. Read each word and place it in the correct sentence. Then, underline the open syllable(s) in each word.

calculator	results	hippopotamus	bicycle	circulates
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1. I finally got my favorite _____ for Christmas and cannot wait to go riding around the neighborhood with my friends.
2. My teacher _____ around the classroom every time she gives a test to make sure we are persevering.
3. We have been waiting for the _____ all week to find out who will be our new class president!
4. When I do my math homework, I always double check using a _____.
5. Did you know that a _____ can weigh anywhere from 2,900 lbs to 4,00 lbs?

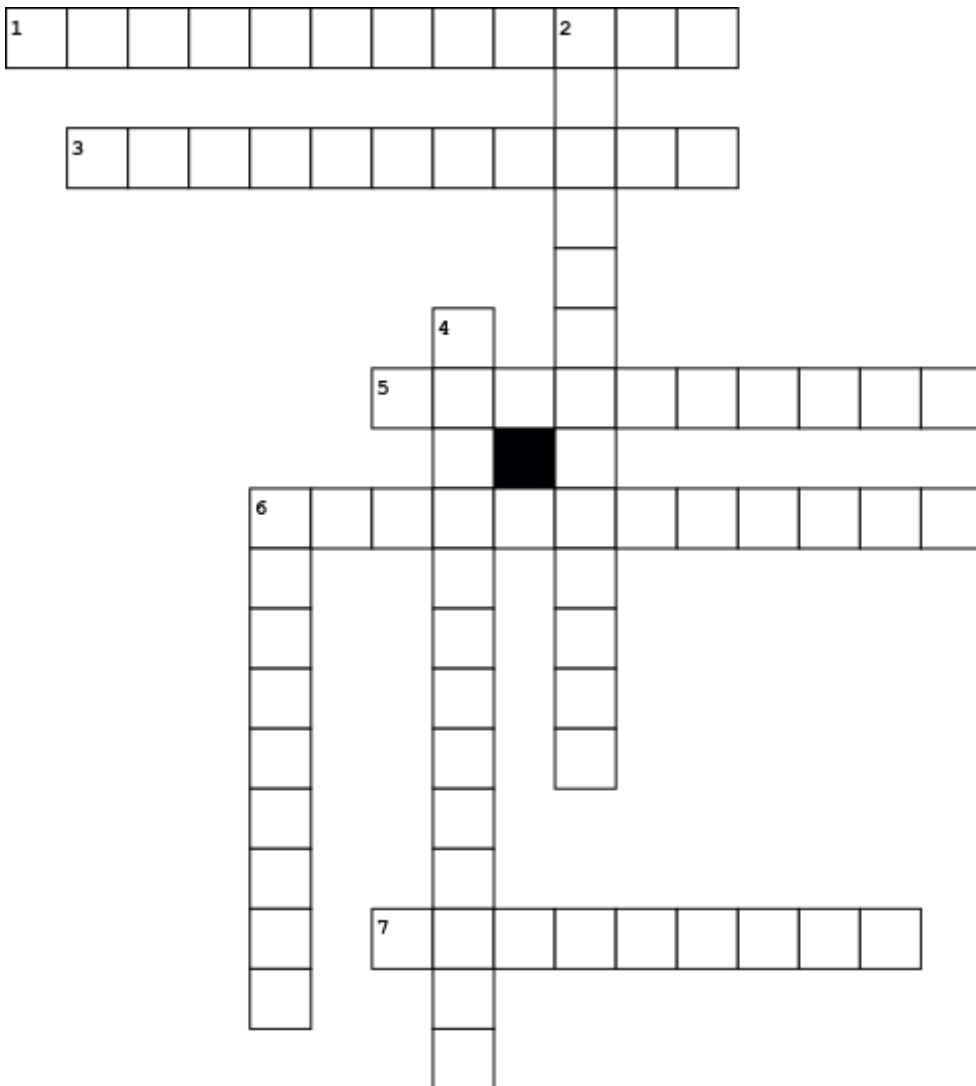


LESSON 20

Morphology: Prefix 'inter-'

Directions: Read the phrases below and complete the crossword puzzle by using words with the prefix inter-.

interrupt intermission interstate interpersonal interstellar interpreter intercity international



Across
1. a break between parts of a performance
3. someone who translates language between people
5. a road that goes between states
6. between stars
7. traveling between cities

Down
2. between people
4. between two or more nations
6. to break up a conversation between people



LESSON 21

Morphology: Suffix -ment

Directions: Think about the meaning of the suffix '-ment.' Complete each sentence with a word from the word bank.

Suffix	Meaning
-ment	the result, action, or condition of

payment	punishment	advertisement
government	nourishment	achievement

- 1) The landlord needs the full _____ by the end of this month.
- 2) It was a remarkable _____ for such a young leader.
- 3) The _____ for littering is a fine.
- 4) Joey put an _____ in the newspaper saying his house was for sale.
- 5) Growing children need plenty of _____ in order to be healthy.
- 6) Each of the three branches of _____ share power.



LESSON 22

Spelling: Open and Closed Syllables

Directions: Remember that closed syllables end with a consonant and the vowel is short. Open syllables end with a vowel and the vowel is long. Read the words below and fill in the blank on how many syllables each word has. Then determine whether or not it is open or closed and circle the correct answer.

Example: tulip 2 syllables

open closed

1) climate syllables

open closed

2) trumpet syllables

open closed

3) musician syllables

open closed

4) continuous syllables

open closed

5) knapsack syllables

open closed



LESSON 23

Grammar: Adjectives in Correct Order

Directions: Read each sentence below and write the given adjectives in the correct order.

Example: The chef keeps the _____ utensils in the old cupboard.
(cooking, wooden)

The chef keeps the wooden cooking utensils in the old cupboard.
(cooking, wooden)

1. I saw a _____ bird in the backyard next to the birdfeeder.
(blue, small)
2. We plan to adopt the _____ puppy at our local animal shelter.
(cute, brown)
3. The new house we bought came with a _____ kitchen.
(modern, beautiful)
4. Johnny wears his _____ jacket when he rides his motorcycle.
(leather, expensive)
5. We needed a _____ box when we were packing up our glassware.
(cardboard, sturdy)



LESSON 24

Grammar: Simple Similes and Metaphors

Directions: Determine whether the following phrases are similes or metaphors. Circle your answer and then explain why you chose that answer. Remember that similes make simple comparisons using like or as. Metaphors compare one thing to another without using like or as.

Example: she moves as slowly as a caterpillar simile metaphor

This phrase uses 'as' and is comparing the caterpillar to how slowly the girl moves.

1) Kevin has the heart of a lion. simile metaphor

2) The classroom was buzzing like a beehive. simile metaphor

3) It's raining cats and dogs outside. simile metaphor

4) Holly can swim as fast as a fish. simile metaphor



LESSON 25

Morphology: Prefix inter-

Directions: Think about the meaning of the prefix 'inter-.' Complete each sentence with a word from the word bank.

Prefix	Meaning
inter-	between, among, together, or within

intercept	interactive	intersection
interrelated		intermission

- 1) The woman quickly used the restroom during the play's _____ so she would not miss any acts of the play.
- 2) I like the way the characters are _____ in the novel.
- 3) The football player was able to _____ the ball when the other teams quarterback threw it.
- 4) Make sure to come to a complete stop at the _____ and then turn left.
- 5) Students are more engaged in their lessons when they are _____.



LESSON 26

Spelling: Open and Closed Syllables

Directions: Remember that closed syllables end with a consonant and the vowel is short. Open syllables end with a vowel and the vowel is long. Read the words below and fill in the blank on how many syllables each word has. Then determine whether or not it is open or closed and circle the correct answer.

Example: human __2__ syllables

open closed

1) triangle ____ syllables

open closed

2) subtract ____ syllables

open closed

3) splendid ____ syllables

open closed

4) relation ____ syllables

open closed

5) communicate ____ syllables

open closed



LESSON 27

Morphology: Suffix -ment

Directions: Think about the meaning of the suffix '-ment.' Complete each sentence with a word from the word bank.

Suffix	Meaning
-ment	the result, action, or condition of

encouragement	development	replacement
excitement	improvement	commitment

- 1) The government has made a _____ to cleaning up the environment.
- 2) Our trip to New York City was filled with adventure and _____.
- 3) The town has been designated a _____ area.
- 4) The teacher provided her students with words of _____ before their big test.
- 5) Gary noticed a gradual _____ in his grades since he began studying more.
- 6) The repair man needed to order a _____ for the broken refrigerator.



LESSON 28

Grammar: Idioms, Adages, and Proverbs

Directions: Read and explain the meaning of each saying below.

Example: Time flies when you're having fun

This means that when you're having a good time, it seems that time goes too fast.

1. Practice makes perfect.

2. Up a creek without a paddle.

3. Slow and steady wins the race.

4. A penny saved is a penny earned.

5. A cat has nine lives.

6. Keep your chin up.



LESSON 29

Morphology: Prefix inter-

Directions: Think about the meaning of the prefix 'inter-.' Complete each sentence with a word from the word bank.

Prefix	Meaning
inter-	between, among, together, or within

interject	interpreter	interconnect
intertwine	intervene	

- 1) The referee had to _____ to make sure the situation did not get out of control.
- 2) Many times when I am on the phone, my dog likes to _____ by barking loudly.
- 3) The lessons are designed to show students how the two subjects _____.
- 4) The _____ helped communicate between the English speaking and Spanish speaking families.
- 5) I tried to _____ the holiday lights on the Christmas tree to create a unique pattern.



LESSON 30

Grammar: Homophones to, too, two

Directions: Homophones are words that sound alike but have different meanings and spellings. Read the following sentences and circle the correct homophone in parentheses.

word	meaning
two	a number
too	also, in addition
to	in a certain direction

- 1) Angela is running (two, too, to) the beach.
- 2) After swimming all day, I was tired (two, too, to).
- 3) I will eat (two, too, to) pieces of cake for my birthday.
- 4) He was (two, too, to) exhausted to go to the gym after work.
- 5) Yesterday, my friend and I went (two, too, to) a pizzeria.
- 6) We were really hungry so we each ordered (two, too, to) slices of pizza.



LESSON 31

Morphology: Suffix -ness

Directions: Think about the meaning of the suffix '-ness.' Complete each sentence with a word from the word bank.

Suffix	Meaning
-ness	a state of being

sickness

happiness

sleepiness

kindness

heaviness

rudeness

- 1) She was positively glowing with _____.
- 2) The guest was displeased with the _____ of the waiter.
- 3) _____ settled into the pit of his stomach.
- 4) A wave of _____ came over me after we finished a large meal..
- 5) I felt a _____ in my stomach after getting off the roller coaster.
- 6) Melissa takes her neighbor's _____ for granted.



LESSON 32

Grammar: Complete Sentences, Fragments, and Run-on Sentences

Directions: Determine whether the following sentences are fragments or run-on sentences. Then write the correct sentence or sentences underneath on the line provided. Be sure to include correct punctuation, conjunctions, and capitalization when necessary.

1) listen to jazz music

2) Julie tutors kids after school, she volunteers at the animal shelter on the weekends.

3) We hope to keep the party a surprise, we will have to be careful.

4) placed in the sun

5) Casey is helpful she washes the dishes every night.

6) Jared and his friends



LESSON 33

Grammar: Antonyms and Synonyms

Directions: Choose a synonym from the word box for each underline word. Then write the synonym on the line.

worried excited complete helpful

- 1) _____ I was so happy when I found out I made the dance team!
- 2) _____ The test took almost one hour to finish.
- 3) _____ I appreciate it when my classmates are friendly.
- 4) _____ The ballerina gets nervous when it is time to perform on stage.

Directions: Choose an antonym from the word box for each underline word. Then write the antonym on the line.

often excited remember whisper

- 5) _____ Piper was disappointed when she saw that the sun was shining.
- 6) _____ Jared enjoys visiting with his grandmother rarely.
- 7) _____ The librarian asked the students to shout to one another.
- 8) _____ It's important to forget all of your lines when practicing for a play.



LESSON 34

Grammar: Homophones **there, their, they're**

Directions: Homophones are words that sound alike but have different meanings and spellings. Read the following sentences and circle the correct homophone in parentheses.

word	meaning
there	place, position, location
their	shows possession, something belongs to someone
they're	contraction of they are

- 1) (There, Their, They're) pet dog can do cool tricks.
- 2) The children wanted to play (there, their, they're) game.
- 3) (There, Their, They're) going to bake an apple pie.
- 4) It's not easy to be (there, their, they're) each day after school.
- 5) (There, Their, They're) will be a lot of people at the amusement park.
- 6) (There, Their, They're) very tasty chocolate chip cookies.
- 7) (There, Their, They're) sandcastle is over (there, their, they're) and is larger than ours.
However, (there, their, they're) moving because the tide is coming in.



LESSON 35

Morphology: Suffix -ness

Directions: Think about the meaning of the suffix '-ness.' Complete each sentence with a word from the word bank.

Suffix	Meaning
-ness	a state of being

peacefulness	willingness	nervousness
softness	laziness	wilderness

- 1) The pillow's _____ made Larry feel as if he was sleeping on air.
- 2) His letter proves his _____ to help.
- 3) At one time, much of America was an unexplored _____ that was home to more animals than man.
- 4) Her _____ grew as she looked past the beach and out to the water.
- 5) Matt's _____ will cost him his job one day.
- 6) Many people feel a sense of _____ when they are hiking in the woods.



LESSON 36

Grammar: Complete Sentences, Fragments, and Run-on Sentences

Directions: Determine whether the following sentences are fragments or run-on sentences. Then write the correct sentence or sentences underneath on the line provided. Be sure to include correct punctuation, conjunctions, and capitalization when necessary.

1) played the trumpet

2) Plums grow on trees dried plums are called prunes.

3) The party will be at Susan's house her parents will help.

4) turn into raisins

5) Fish in schools are in less danger it is easier for them to find food.

6) Louisiana and Mississippi



LESSON 37

Grammar: Homophones **it's, its, your, you're**

Directions: Homophones are words that sound alike but have different meanings and spellings. Read the following sentences and circle the correct homophone in parentheses.

word	meaning
it's	contraction for it is
its	belonging to it
your	you own it
you're	contraction for you are

- 1) The dog is eating (it's, its) food.
- 2) I love (your, you're) new green dress.
- 3) (Your, You're) good at studying the history of Louisiana.
- 4) My oak tree loses (it's, its) leaves in autumn.
- 5) (Your, You're) going on the field trip to the aquarium tomorrow.
- 6) (It's, Its) always nice when grandma comes over to visit.
- 7) Are these (your, you're) car keys on the counter?



LESSON 38

Grammar: Antonyms and Synonyms

Directions: Complete each sentence with a word from the box that is a synonym for the underlined word.

tear

mistake

lid

tug

- 1) I made an error, and the teacher showed me my _____.
- 2) Jenny had to pull and _____ the heavy chair to move it.
- 3) Alexis got a rip in her jeans, so her mother repaired the _____.
- 4) The top came off the container, but I quickly replaced the _____.

Directions: Complete each sentence with a word from the box that is an antonym for the underlined word.

clean

early

open

thin

- 5) The pencil made a _____ line and the marker made a thick line.
- 6) I would rather wake up _____ in the morning than stay up late.
- 7) My mom likes me to keep my room _____ and not dirty.
- 8) Please close the door when you leave, I do not like to have it _____.



LESSON 39

Morphology: Suffix -ness

Directions: Think about the meaning of the suffix '-ness.' Complete each sentence with a word from the word bank.

Suffix	Meaning
-ness	a state of being

awareness

bitterness

playfulness

competitiveness

madness

weakness

- 1) Younger fans enjoy the involved _____ that comes with participation.
- 2) Many people dislike the slight _____ flavor of kale.
- 3) Your puppy's _____ is what makes her so cute!
- 4) The 4-H club is bringing _____ to the issue of coastal erosion.
- 5) Susan has a small _____ for candy.
- 6) It would be _____ to drive all that way on your own.



LESSON 40

Grammar: Antonyms and Synonyms

Directions: Complete each sentence with a word from the box that is a synonym for the underlined word.

liked

place

sparkling

choose

- 1) Julie tries to select a variety of foods but often seems to _____ the same foods.
- 2) She decided to put the photo in a frame and _____ it on the shelf.
- 3) Devin thought his friends would enjoy the movie since he really _____ watching it.
- 4) After the rainstorm, the sun was shining in the water and the dew drops on the leaves were _____.

Directions: Complete each sentence with a word from the box that is an antonym for the underlined word.

few

awake

boring

light

- 5) The baby was asleep but her parents were lying _____.
- 6) Tom's parents didn't want to drive through the heavy rain so they waited for it to become _____.
- 7) The teachers thought the presentation was exciting however the students thought it was _____.
- 8) A salad has many vegetables with _____ calories.