

Name: _____

Root Word Clues

A root word is a word that can be made into new words. We make these new words by adding letters to the front of a root word, called a prefix. We can also make new words by adding letters to the end of a root word. We call these letters a suffix.

A root word can help us understand the meaning of a word we don't know. If we know what the root word means, then we have a clue to what the unknown word means.

Example:

Whole word
disconnection

Root word
connect

Meaning of root word
join or attach

For each word below, write the root word and its meaning

Whole word

Root word

Meaning of root word

1. jewelry _____

2. unlikable _____

3. description _____

4. reaction _____

5. wonderment _____

6. government _____

7. courageous _____

8. terrify _____

9. sincerity _____

10. development _____

Answers key

Actual answers may vary.

Whole word	Root word	Meaning of root word
1. jewelry	jewel	Student's answers will vary
2. unlikable	like	
3. description	describe	
4. reaction	act or react	
5. wonderment	wonder	
6. government	govern	
7. courageous	courage	
8. terrify	terror	
9. sincerity	sincere	
10. development	develop	