

Name: _____

Using Root Words as 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 | Root word | Meaning of root word |
|---------------|-----------|----------------------|
| disconnection | connect | join or attach |

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

| Whole word | Root word | Meaning of root word |
|------------------|-----------|----------------------|
| 1. additionally | _____ | _____ |
| 2. introduction | _____ | _____ |
| 3. disability | _____ | _____ |
| 4. memorable | _____ | _____ |
| 5. historically | _____ | _____ |
| 6. illegal | _____ | _____ |
| 7. competitive | _____ | _____ |
| 8. encouragement | _____ | _____ |
| 9. uncomfortable | _____ | _____ |
| 10. resistance | _____ | _____ |

Answers key

Actual answers may vary

| Whole word | Root word | Meaning of root word |
|-------------------------|------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. additionally | add | Student's answers will vary |
| 2. introduction | introduce | |
| 3. disability | able | |
| 4. memorable | memory | |
| 5. historically | history | |
| 6. illegal | legal | |
| 7. competitive | compete | |
| 8. encouragement | courage | |
| 9. uncomfortable | comfort | |
| 10. resistance | resist | |