

# Lesson 1

USE ROOT WORDS AND AFFIXES RF.5.3a, L.5.4b

## INTRODUCTION

### Real-World Connection

#### SCIENCE CONNECTION

Eliza and her friends want to take snorkeling lessons. Eliza already knows how to snorkel. She wants to improve her skills. She decides to check some library books about snorkeling. While reading, she comes across some difficult words. What should Eliza do to figure out the words? We will practice the skills in **Guided Instruction** and **Independent Practice**. Then, we will come back to Eliza and her difficult words at the end of the lesson.

### What I Am Going to Learn

- How to find the root word, prefix, and suffix in a word
- How to use prefixes and suffixes to figure out the meaning of a word
- How to use clues to read and understand unfamiliar words

### What I May Already Know RF.4.4, RF.4.3

- I can read words that have more than one syllable.
- I know and can identify the meanings of the most common prefixes.
- I can read and understand most grade-level texts.

### Vocabulary in Action

As you read, you will come across words that are unfamiliar. Sometimes the words may even be difficult to say. A word can be made up of many parts.

- The **pronunciation** of a word is how you say it out loud.
- A **syllable** is a single sound in a word. Words can have many syllables. The word *snorkel* has two syllables: *snor* and *kel*. Say each sound separately. Then blend the sounds to say the word correctly.

#### WORDS TO KNOW

pronunciation

syllable

root word

affix

prefix

suffix



- A **root word** is like a word's skeleton. Some root words can stand alone and some cannot. Here are some examples.

Roots that can stand alone – *graph* (write), as in *autograph*; *meter* (measure), as in *thermometer*

Roots that cannot stand alone – *cis* (cut), as in *incision*; *vac* (empty), as in *vacant*

- An **affix** is a word part added to a root word. An affix changes a word's meaning. Not every word has an affix.
- A **prefix** is an affix at the beginning of the word. Here are some examples.

*un-* (not)

*pre-* (before)

- A **suffix** is an affix at the end of the word. Here are some examples.

*-ly*

*-ed*

## GUIDED INSTRUCTION

### ► THINK ABOUT IT

Increase your vocabulary skills by learning some common root words, prefixes, and suffixes.

When you come across a difficult word while reading, you can use your knowledge of word parts to figure out its meaning.

Eliza found a book about reef animals in Florida. The book contained words like *invertebrates* and *predator*. It is important to know several ways to figure out a word's meaning. One way is to break a word into its parts. What is the root word? Does it have a prefix or a suffix?

Both *invertebrates* and *predator* contain common prefixes. *In-* means “not,” and *pre-* means “before.”

The chart below provides the meanings of some common root words and affixes. The third column has the meanings of words in the books Eliza read. Can you fill in the two missing word meanings using your knowledge of root words and affixes? If you have trouble, use a dictionary to look up unfamiliar words.

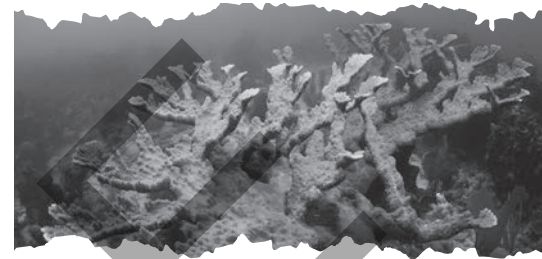
WORD	WORD PART MEANINGS	WORD MEANING
habitats	habit- (dwell, live in) -s (plural of most nouns)	the natural homes of animals or plants
species	spec- (to see, look, watch) -es, -ies (plural of many nouns)	a group of living things that look the same in many ways
numerous	numer- (number) -ous (full of, having the quality of)	
invertebrates	in- (not, without) vertebra- (jointed) -ate (possessing, having the characteristics of)	animals having no backbone
vital	vit- (life, living, live) -al (having to do with, pertaining to)	

Read this page from Eliza’s travel magazine below. As you read, use your knowledge of root words and affixes to figure out the meanings of difficult words.

## Florida’s Reef Builders

Did you know that construction is always taking place on the Florida reefs? It’s true. Stony corals like brain, star, and elkhorn are the reef’s major builders. These corals extract calcium from the seawater and combine it with carbon dioxide. Then they use this mixture to create the limestone skeletons that make up the reef backbone.

Sadly, some of these corals are endangered. Coral disease and hurricanes are two factors that have contributed to their decline. Coral nurseries have been established to help restore these corals.



### Part A

Read this sentence.

“Did you know that construction is always taking place on the Florida reefs?”

The prefix *con-* means “with.” The root word *struct* means “build.” What is the meaning of the word construction in the sentence?

- (A) the process of breaking something down
- (B) the process of making something hard
- (C) the act of putting something together
- (D) the act of covering something up

### Part B

Underline another word in the passage that has the prefix *con-*.

### HINT, HINT

This text contains some unfamiliar vocabulary. To figure out the meanings of these words, identify their root words and affixes. Use your knowledge of these word parts and the context clues to figure out the words’ meanings.

### TURN AND TALK

Can you think of other words that have the same root word? Homes and schools are also known as *structures*.

### SKETCH IT

In the margin below, draw an image as an example of how an affix added to a root word can change the word's meaning.

Color in the traffic signal that shows how you are doing with the skill.



### How Am I Doing?

What questions do you have?

Write an example of how an affix added to a root word can change the word's meaning.

What are some root words, prefixes, and suffixes that you use frequently when talking or texting with friends? Share some examples.

# INDEPENDENT PRACTICE

Read the story. Then answer the questions that follow.

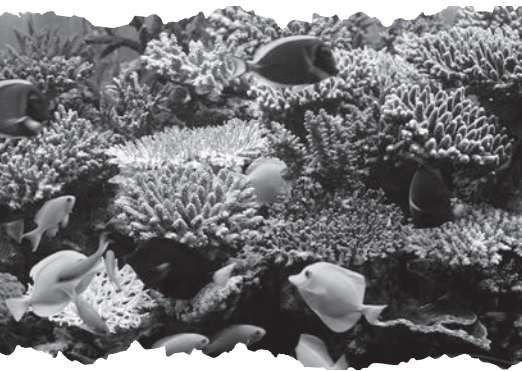
## On the Great Barrier Reef

Genre: Science Connection

- 1 Jackson sat in the shade of a palm tree with his back leaning against its trunk. He fished his cell phone out of his pocket and let out a long groan when he saw the screen. There was still no signal.
- 2 Jackson had felt out of touch since arriving on the island two days ago—there was no phone service, no Internet, and no television. He and his family were staying at an ecolodge on Fraser Island, just off the coast of Queensland, Australia. Jackson had been excited about their “adventure vacation” initially, but now he was eager to get back to the real world. So far, the only adventure he’d had was figuring out how to use the environmentally safe toilet.
- 3 “The boat leaves in 10 minutes!” Jackson’s dad warned from the dock.
- 4 “Coming!” Jackson called back. He brushed the sand from his clothes, pocketed his phone, and headed toward the dock. It was time to join the other families visiting the ecolodge for some snorkeling at the Great Barrier Reef.
- 5 The first thing Jackson noticed as he stepped onto the boat was a huge, glass window in the center of the floor. The guide, Trevor, explained that the boat’s glass bottom would allow them to view marine life on the way to the snorkeling location.
- 6 “Cool,” Jackson muttered. Then he took out his phone and checked for a signal again—still nothing.
- 7 As the boat pulled away from the dock, Trevor introduced himself to the group and provided some more information. “OK, folks, we are headed to the largest coral reef system on the planet! Get ready to see some incredible sights. As you swim along the reef, keep in mind that the Great Barrier Reef is actually composed of almost 3,000 individual reefs. You’ll see many smaller reefs that make up the Great Barrier Reef.”
- 8 As Trevor continued to talk, Jackson noticed something out of the corner of his eye. He nudged his mom’s arm. “Look!” he said, pointing to a school of brightly colored fish swimming beneath the glass bottom of the boat.
- 9 Trevor smiled. “They are amazing, right?”

## READING NOTES

Blank lined area for reading notes, featuring a large, faint watermark reading 'SAMPLE' diagonally across the page.



- 10 “Yeah,” Jackson said. Then he took some photographs with his phone.
- 11 For the rest of the ride, Jackson kept his eyes on the floor, hoping for another sighting. By the time the boat reached the edge of the reef, he could hardly wait to dive in and explore. Trevor passed out the gear and reviewed the safety rules. Then he opened the door to the dive platform. Jackson was first through the door. He sat down on the edge of the platform and pulled the snorkeling mask over his face.
- 12 “Ready?” Trevor asked.
- 13 Jackson gave Trevor a thumbs-up and pushed himself off the platform and into the water. With his face submerged, Jackson could see nothing but brightly colored coral and fish in all directions.
- 14 For the next few hours, Jackson did not think about phone service or Internet access or getting back to the online world. Instead, he enjoyed the amazing underwater world around him.

### ▶ HINT, HINT

The phrase most likely signals that more than one answer option may seem correct. Identify all possible answers, and think about what might make one more likely than the others.

### I. Part A

Read the second sentence from paragraph 2. What does the word ecolodge **most likely** mean in the sentence?

- (A) a vacation spot that respects natural habitats
- (B) a tourist attraction that offers water sports like snorkeling
- (C) a place to stay that provides rooms lacking in comfort
- (D) a hotel that lacks modern services

### Part B

Which phrase from paragraph 2 helps the reader understand the meaning of the root word eco in the word ecolodge?

- (A) “no phone service, no Internet, and no television”
- (B) “adventure vacation”
- (C) “real world”
- (D) “environmentally safe”

## 2. Part A

Read the third sentence from paragraph 2. What does the word initially mean in the sentence?

- (A) sooner or later
- (B) at first; in the beginning
- (C) finally; at last
- (D) in the long run

### TIPS AND TRICKS

You can figure out the meaning of a word by breaking it down into its parts: prefix, root word, suffix.

## Part B

Which detail from paragraph 2 provides the **best** clue for the meaning of the word initially?

- (A) “Jackson had felt out of touch since arriving on the island two days ago . . .”
- (B) “He and his family were staying at an ecolodge on Fraser Island . . .”
- (C) “. . . but now he was eager to get back to the real world.”
- (D) “. . . the only adventure he’d had was figuring out how to use the environmentally safe toilet.”

## 3. Part A

What does the prefix sys- mean as it is used in the word system in paragraph 7 in the story?

- (A) together
- (B) relating to parts
- (C) having to do with life
- (D) separately

## Part B

Which phrase from the story **best** supports the answer to Part A?

- (A) “largest coral reef”
- (B) “incredible sights”
- (C) “individual reefs”
- (D) “that make up”



4. Read paragraph 7. The prefix *com-* means “with, together,” and the root word *pos* means “place.” What is the meaning of the word composed as it is used in paragraph 7? Explain how the parts of the word composed help you determine your answer.

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5. Read the chart.

PREFIX	MEANING
<i>sub-</i>	below
<i>mar-</i>	sea
<i>ex-</i>	out

Match each word from the story with its correct meaning.

submerged
marine
explore

to go out in search of adventure or discovery
of or concerning the sea
to have been put or plunged under water

**HINT, HINT**

Remember that a syllable is a single sound.

6. Which **three** words from the story are correctly divided into syllables?

- (A) *fish/ ed*  
 (B) *in/ i/ tial/ ly*  
 (C) *snor/ kel/ ing*  
 (D) *mari/ ne*  
 (E) *incred/ i/ ble*  
 (F) *sub/ merged*



## EXIT TICKET

RF.5.3a, L.5.4b

Now you know how to use root words, prefixes, and suffixes to figure out the meaning of a word. Let's revisit the **Real-World Connection**.

Imagine you were Eliza, reading library books that had words that you did not know. Using what you learned in this lesson, how could you figure out the unknown words? Some of the words Eliza came across were *unusual*, *endangered*, *rediscover*, and *disagree*. Choose two of the words. Explain how you can use what you learned in the lesson to figure them out. Remember to identify the affixes in the words you choose.




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