



Word of the Day

Bit by Bit

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Primary Concepts®

PUBLISHERS NOTE: The table of contents page is linked to the lessons. If you click on an entry, you will go to that page in the ebook. You can also use the pages on the left to navigate through the book.

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Word of the Day

Word of the Day books are designed to help young children develop an appreciation for interesting vocabulary words. The goal is to set a foundation for a lifelong love of words. They are also intended to introduce young children to a way of building their oral vocabularies one word at a time, a routine that will serve them well for the rest of their lives.

Setting this foundation for word learning in the primary grades is important, because as early as 4th grade, children's reading comprehension skills suffer from poor word knowledge. While many of today's children are developing oral vocabularies at a prodigious rate, others are falling behind.

Bit by Bit

Word of the Day: Bit by Bit introduces children to common word parts that can help them know the meanings of words. These word parts can be prefixes, suffixes, or root words. Like its parent book, *Word of the Day*, each lesson is

comprised of short oral activities. You may wish to weave lessons from this book with words from the parent book. You can pick and choose lessons, or start on the first page and proceed through to the final word in this book.

Children who are familiar with *Word of the Day* will recognize the Wordly family. Each lesson is introduced with a story about the Wordly family in which the word of the day comes into play. Get started with the lesson by reading the story. Write the word of the day on the board. Highlight the focus word part and tell the children what the word part typically means. Then summarize the meaning of the word of the day in words the children can understand.

Next, record the other words listed that contain the same word part. Highlight the word part in each word. Use the questions in the Talk About It section to get children started using the words in conversation.

Making It Meaningful

Suggestions are provided for active ways for children to build meaning for words that contain the word part. Sometimes you might have children draw a picture, act out a part, find examples of a word in the classroom, and so on. These short activities are intended to help children remember the word and its word part in a context they understand.

After you have introduced the word, challenge the children to use words with the new word part over the next week or so, either in school or after school. Write each new word with its highlighted word part on a 3" × 5" card. Keep a jar in your classroom and put each new card in it before you move on to the next word. Periodically, pull out a word card and see if the children can remember what the word and its word part mean. Ask them to use the word in a sentence.

cheerful

ful (full)

Word Story

The Wordlys are an imaginary American family. There are many children in the family, and they all seem to enjoy each other. They are a cheerful bunch, interested in many things, including, of course, words.

If you are *cheerful*, you are happy. You are full of cheer.

In Other Words

fearful thoughtful careful painful

Talk About It

- ✧ Who in our class would you call cheerful? Why?
- ✧ What are you fearful of?
- ✧ Do you know anyone who is especially thoughtful?

Act It Out

Pick a word that ends with the word part *ful*, such as *cheerful*, *fearful*, *careful*, *thoughtful*, *painful*. Without speaking, show us how you would look if you are feeling that way, and we will try to guess your word.

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miniature

mini (small)

Word Story

The youngest Wordly girl was especially pleased with one of her birthday gifts this year. It was a miniature tea set. Each cup holds just a sip of tea, and she can hold the pot in the palm of her hand. She uses the set to host tea parties for her dolls. It's the perfect size.

Something that's *miniature* is very small.

In Other Words

minivan minimize

Talk About It

- ✧ Do you have anything that's a miniature copy of something that's actually larger?
- ✧ Why is a minivan called a *mini* van?
- ✧ How could you minimize the damage if your dog dug up someone's flowers?

Act It Out

Pretend you are making things for a family of miniature people. You need to use common objects easily found around the house. For example, a thimble could be a bucket, and a paintbrush a mop. Let's make a list of objects and what they could be used for.

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