



Student Packet

More Special Vowel Sound Skills
Root Words, Prefixes, and Suffixes

Name: _____

Welcome to the *Reading Horizons Elevate*® Weekly Student Packet!

Each packet contains the following items:

- Practice pages for each skill lesson from the *Reading Horizons Elevate*® Student Book
- Transfer Cards
- Passages with comprehension questions from the *Reading Horizons Elevate*® Reading Library

Some packets will also include practice pages for Most Common Words lessons.

Student Book Practice Pages

Each practice page begins with a brief review of the associated skill or list of Most Common Words. Students may need the support of a fluent reader to read the skill review and the instructions for each activity.

Most Common Words are words that appear so frequently in writing that students need to know them by sight. Until these words become a regular part of the student's vocabulary, the student may require more support from a fluent reader while completing these practice pages.

Transfer Cards

Transfer Cards were designed to be fully decodable, meaning that the student should have learned all the necessary skills to read these independently. These cards provide valuable practice using the skills taught in the program.

Reading Library Passages and Comprehension Questions

Reading Library passages are designed to give students practice reading a variety of nonfiction texts. Each packet will include at least two passages of varying difficulty. Students will benefit from additional support from a fluent reader while working through these passages.

Happy Reading!

The Reading Horizons Team

For more information, contact your instructor at _____.

More Special Vowel Sound Skills

Skills Review

- When adding a suffix to a word with a Special Vowel Sound, just add the suffix (*boil/boiling*; *haunt/haunted*).
- Special Vowel Sounds are found in multisyllabic words.
- Some Special Vowel Sound words are contained in compound words (*football*; *fishbowl*; *cookout*).

DECODING

Divide the multisyllabic words according to the skills that have been taught.

employ

cartoon

Divide compound words between the two words, and decode each word separately.

football

fishbowl

A. Prove these words.

shower

laundry

profound

powder

bamboo

authentic

typhoon

thyroid

saucer

employment

B. Prove these compound words.

footprint

outside

moonbeam

bookmark

teaspoon

jawbone

snowball

townhouse

READING

Read these newspaper headlines. Notice the words with Special Vowel Sound skills.

Worst Snowstorm in Years! No School

PROFOUND CHANGE IN
DROPOUT RATE

EMPLOYMENT ON AN
UPHILL TREND

METHODS FOR THAWING
AND BROILING MEAT

Bookkeepers
Needed!

More Special Vowel Sound Skills

APPLICATION ACTIVITIES

A. Fill in the blank with the missing Special Vowel Sound word from the newspaper headlines on the previous page.

Worst _____^{1.} in Years! No School

_____^{2.} CHANGE IN
_____^{3.} RATE

_____^{4.} ON AN
UPHILL TREND

METHODS FOR _____^{5.}
AND _____^{6.} MEAT

_____^{7.} Needed!

B. Circle the words that are compound words, then draw a line to show where the words separate.

broomstick

goodnight

cauliflower

doghouse

elbow

checkbook

housewife

soybean

royal

flower

downtown

lawyer

toothbrush

playground

rowboat

C. Write a sentence using at least two words from the words in Activity B.

Lesson 83: More Special Vowel Sound Skills

fairground	August	+enjoy
crowded	hometown	+rejoice
thousand	drawstring	authentic

One August day, my friend and I decided to go to our hometown fair. As we entered the fairground, it was crowded with about a thousand people! We bounced from booth to booth and enjoyed the authentic food.

Lesson 83: More Special Vowel Sound Skills

window	laundry	bathroom
toilet	shower	+avoid
lousy	bedroom	+employ

When Nancy was younger, she was employed as a housekeeper to help around Mildred's house. She scrubbed the shower and toilet in the bathroom, washed windows, and sorted laundry.

Lesson 83: More Special Vowel Sound Skills

hometown	+overjoy	+announce
snowboard	outcome	withdraw
loyal	below	amount

A woman from my hometown is going to snowboard in the Olympics. Her loyal parents watch her compete at all of her events. They will be overjoyed with the outcome even if she does not win a gold medal.

Lesson 83: More Special Vowel Sound Skills

textbook	+bounce	saucer
counter	bedroom	awful
voicemail	shampoo	bathroom

Before getting dressed for the day, Roy set his textbook on the counter, listened to his voicemail, and then bounded up the stairs to his bathroom to shower and shampoo his hair.

Lesson 83: More Special Vowel Sound Skills

+employ	saucer	+rejoice
firewood	bookshelf	fountain
thousand	loyal	footprint

My friend worked hard to get through law school, so one day she could be employed as a lawyer. She rejoiced the day she finished school. She met her family at a fountain in the town square for photos.

Lesson 83: More Special Vowel Sound Skills

mountain	firewood	author
fishhook	handsaw	footprint
sausage	rainbow	+avoid

My friend Austin lives in the mountains. He uses a homemade fishhook to catch fish, and he cooks sausage over an open fire. When he needs firewood, he uses a handsaw or an ax to cut the wood.

Lesson 83: More Special Vowel Sound Skills

hometown	author	snowstorm
bookstore	loyal	profound
autograph	downtown	council

I went to my hometown bookstore to get the autograph of my favorite author. I am a loyal fan, so I went downtown in a snowstorm. Her words were profound. I am glad I went.

Lesson 83: More Special Vowel Sound Skills

owner	mushroom	seafood
chowder	sausage	flower
choice	noodle	aloud

The diner owner talked of making a new chowder to add to his menu choices. He got a large pot and filled it with milk, mushrooms, sausage, noodles, and some seafood.

Empress Dowager Cixi

The Forbidden City is a large palace in Beijing, China. Many years ago, it was also the home of the emperor of China. In 1851, a young woman entered the Forbidden City to join the emperor's household. In time, she would rise to power, controlling all of China. Today she is known as Empress Dowager Cixi (see-chee), who ruled China for 48 years through her son and later through her nephew. Her reign is an intriguing part of China's history.

During Cixi's time, it was common for the emperor to have many concubines, women who lived in his household and could bear him children. Being chosen as a concubine granted Cixi no power in the Chinese government. However, in 1855, she gave birth to the first and only son of the emperor. As a result, she was immediately promoted to a position second only to the Empress Ci'an, the emperor's wife. Although her rank was less than that of Ci'an, Cixi was celebrated as the mother of the emperor's heir, or the person who would someday rule the country.

As a member of the imperial household, Cixi had learned to read and write, and because of these skills, the aging emperor frequently used Cixi to help with government affairs. She often read documents to him and recorded his wishes about how his empire should be ruled. Through these experiences, Cixi learned a great deal about the people, government, and laws of China, and as a result, she understood what it would require for her to gain more power.

Near the end of his life, the emperor took actions to try to ensure a smooth transition of power, so before he died, he appointed eight men whom he trusted to rule as regents, or advisors, for the young future emperor. He also gave some official powers to Cixi and to his first wife, Ci'an, hoping that they would together help his son grow to have the wisdom needed to rule China. The emperor believed that the powers he granted to the empresses would serve as a balance against the power he had granted to the eight regents. By separating this power, the emperor hoped that no one would be able to steal control of China before his son became old enough to rule the country on his own. After the emperor's death, Cixi's title became empress dowager, which means that she was the mother of the new emperor.

As Empress Dowager, Cixi held little political power, but she had made many powerful friends, especially among those who were not given power by the eight regents. To gain the power that she **craved**, Cixi implemented a daring plan in which she privately rallied, or gathered, the support of other government leaders who were ignored by the regents.

The emperor died while he and his court were away from the Forbidden City, so while the court made preparations to return, Cixi traveled ahead to put her plan into action. She and her allies had time to create a plot that would destroy the regents' power. They told the people that the regents had committed terrible crimes and were to blame for the emperor's death. In the end, three of the most influential regents were killed, leaving Cixi and Ci'an as the most powerful leaders in China.

Continued on the next page.



*history, Asia, biography,
leaders, government*

Lexile®: 1270L
Word Count: 995

Time: _____

Empress Dowager Cixi

(continued)

Working together with Ci'an, Cixi tried to improve the state of the government. At first, she tried to learn from Western countries by hiring foreigners to teach modern subjects at schools in China and by sending young Chinese people to study in the United States. However, she was not pleased with the results given the changed attitudes of those who had been sent abroad to study. In 1881, she stopped the practice of sending young Chinese students to study in the West, and she rejected foreign ways. Many experts believe that Cixi was worried that Western ideas about government would result in the end of her power over China, so her fear of foreigners came from her fear of losing power.

In the meantime, Cixi's son grew old enough to rule, but he proved to be a very weak emperor. Cixi continued to control the political affairs of China up until her son's death as a young man. Because her son died without a child to rule after him, Cixi selected her nephew to take the throne. Because her nephew was still a child at the time he was made emperor, political power stayed with Cixi and Ci'an. When her nephew became old enough to rule, the empress dowager retired and let him lead China. He tried to take the country in a different direction, implementing political reforms to make China more modern. These changes proved to be too much and happened too fast, so Cixi returned to power, disgracing the emperor and sending his supporters out of the country.

In contrast to her nephew, who wanted to change China by adopting foreign ideas, the empress dowager supported the Boxer Rebellion, which was a nationwide attempt to send all of the foreigners and foreign influence out of China. Conflicts between Chinese nationalists and foreigners spread across China resulting in the invasion of the Forbidden City. Cixi agreed to end the conflict when she learned that she would still be able to maintain her political position and power. Interestingly, in the later years of her life, she began reforms to modernize China and improve relations with foreign powers, the very political actions that she had resisted for much of her life.

Many historians have presented Cixi as a selfish ruler who gathered wealth and built beautiful palaces and gardens for her own enjoyment while many of her people suffered. However, contrasting accounts by individuals who knew the empress dowager describe her as intelligent, thoughtful, graceful, and determined. Regardless of these contradictory perceptions, any account would certainly admit that she is a fascinating figure and one of the most influential people in Chinese history.

Empress Dowager Cixi

Comprehension Questions

Circle the best answer.

1. This passage is mostly about a woman who
 - a. left China to study in the West.
 - b. was arrested for spying on China.
 - c. held great political power in China.
 - d. taught the Chinese emperor to read.
2. An appropriate alternative title for this passage is
 - a. A Peaceful Life.
 - b. A Powerful Mother.
 - c. A Beautiful Wedding.
 - d. A Disappointing Daughter.
3. As a young woman, Cixi gained power in the court because she
 - a. was elected by the people.
 - b. married a powerful regent.
 - c. gave birth to the emperor's son.
 - d. invaded the palace with her army.
4. According to the passage, Ci'an was Cixi's
 - a. enemy.
 - b. mother.
 - c. co-ruler.
 - d. daughter.
5. The Boxer Rebellion fought against
 - a. royalty in Chinese politics.
 - b. traditional Chinese culture.
 - c. Western influence in China.
 - d. Chinese soldiers in the West.
6. We can infer that Cixi's feeling toward the regents was
 - a. sadness.
 - b. respect.
 - c. cooperation.
 - d. competition.
7. The passage suggests that historians disagree
 - a. about when Cixi's son died.
 - b. on the quality of Cixi's leadership.
 - c. about whether Cixi ruled over China.
 - d. on the date that Cixi became a mother.
8. The author mentions literacy (paragraph 3) to explain
 - a. how the emperor selected his friends.
 - b. how Cixi learned about China's politics.
 - c. why China was such a powerful country.
 - d. why some Chinese did not like foreigners.
9. The author mentions the United States (paragraph 7) to
 - a. name one of Cixi's greatest enemies.
 - b. detail Cixi's plans for improvement.
 - c. explain how Cixi was able to gain control.
 - d. describe how Cixi learned to read and write.
10. If someone *craved* something (paragraph 5), that person
 - a. gave something.
 - b. wrote something.
 - c. found something.
 - d. wanted something.

Root Words, Prefixes, and Suffixes

Skills Review

- The **root** of a word is the main or basic part of the word. Each root in a word means something (*play* = participate in a game; *player* = the person who plays).
- A **prefix** is one or more letters added to the beginning of a root word that changes the meaning of the word.
- A **suffix** is one or more letters added to the end of a root word. Suffixes can add more information to the meaning of a root word or make a new word.

List of Common Prefixes		List of Common Suffixes	
re-	(again)	-ed	(past tense verb form)
pre-	(before)	-able	(can be or do)
over-	(excessive)	-ing	(present participle verb form)
un-	(opposite)	-ness	(quality of)
dis-	(not)	-ment	(action of)
en-	(put into)	-al, -ar	(about)
non-	(not)	-less	(without)
mis-	(bad; incorrect)	-y	(having)
sub-	(below)	-ism	(action, belief, or attitude)
de-	(reverse)		
semi-	(half)		

APPLICATION ACTIVITIES

A. All of the following words have a root. Some of the words have a prefix, some have a suffix, and some have both a prefix and a suffix. For each word, write the prefix (if there is one) in the first box, the root word in the second box, and the suffix (if there is one) in the third box.

1. refilled

re	fill	ed
----	------	----

2. predictable

--	--	--

3. overpass

--	--	--

4. writing

--	--	--

Root Words, Prefixes, and Suffixes

5. unkindess

--	--	--

6. disagreement

--	--	--

7. entrust

--	--	--

8. unnatural

--	--	--

B. Match the prefix or suffix with the correct root word. Use the sentence as a clue. Write the word in the blank to complete the sentence.

1. **non-** : life stop act dueI like nonstop flights because I don't like layovers.2. **-able** : comfort danger nice grace

My bed is so _____ that I want to lie in it all the time.

3. **re-** : plant bend pay scribe

Thank you for your help. How can I ever _____ you?

4. **-less** : good well fun pain

I was afraid to get the flu shot, but it was _____.

5. **mis-** : think place buy want

I often _____ my car keys, and it takes hours to find them.

Root Words, Prefixes, and Suffixes

C. Complete each word by adding the correct prefix or suffix. Use the definition in parentheses as clues.

re-

un-

-y

-ism

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| 1. <u>re</u> play (to play again) | 7. mess_____ (having a mess) |
| 2. _____ happy (not happy) | 8. hero_____ (the action or attitude of a hero) |
| 3. _____ kind (not kind) | 9. tour_____ (the action of providing tours) |
| 4. _____ tell (to tell again) | 10. hill_____ (having hills) |
| 5. _____ fair (not fair) | 11. smell_____ (having a bad smell) |
| 6. _____ try (to try again) | 12. critic_____ (the action of being critical) |

D. Circle the word with the prefix or suffix in each sentence. Then write the prefix or suffix on the line below the sentence.

1. I don't drive. I take the subway.

Prefix: sub

2. Even though we disagree on some things, we are still good friends.

Prefix: _____

3. The bus near my home is always on time. It is very reliable.

Suffix: _____

4. The meat is frozen, so I will defrost it.

Prefix: _____

5. I do not feel well and hope that this sickness passes soon.

Suffix: _____

6. I am excited to see the lunar eclipse next week.

Suffix: _____

7. The students' desks were in the shape of a semicircle so they could all see the teacher.

Prefix: _____

Paramedics

Often when people think of emergency vehicles, they think of three types: police cars, fire engines, and ambulances. Who drives an ambulance? Emergency medical technicians (EMTs) and paramedics do. They are men and women who provide emergency help to injured and sick people. Then they deliver these people to hospitals for further care.

An EMT and a paramedic do similar work. They both ride in ambulances and respond to medical emergencies. The main difference is their level of medical training. In most states in the USA, emergency medical workers have three levels of training. The first level is the EMT-Basic level. Workers are taught emergency skills. This includes treating heart attacks and common injuries. At the EMT-Intermediate level, technicians are taught additional medical skills, including how to use some types of medicine. The most advanced level of training is the Paramedic level. At this level, workers must study more about the human body. They learn advanced techniques such as how to use needles.

These training experiences are important. However, the most important education is gained on the job. Doing the daily work of a paramedic or EMT is the best way to learn how to be one. Their work depends on the type of emergency they encounter. When a person calls 9-1-1, an operator answers. If someone is sick or injured, the operator sends paramedics by ambulance. Sometimes an ambulance is too slow or the location cannot be reached by road. Then paramedics travel by helicopter. Sometimes police or firemen may be asked to help. As soon as paramedics arrive, they check for problems and do their best to help the **patient**. If further treatment is needed, they will rush the patient to the nearest hospital. They work as quickly and carefully as they can.

As you might guess, paramedics' work can be stressful. Because they interact with sick people, they could get a disease from the people they help. They could get injured from constant bending, kneeling, and lifting. Emergencies can happen at any time, so paramedics may need to work long hours. Some paramedics must work through the night. They travel through all kinds of weather. And their work environment changes every day. So, why do they do it? It is difficult but important work. They do it because they want to help people.



jobs, health

Lexile®: 710L

Word Count: 386

Time: _____

Paramedics

Comprehension Questions

Circle the best answer.

1. This passage is mostly about people who
 - a. teach medical students at universities.
 - b. design hospitals and medical clinics.
 - c. help people in medical emergencies.
 - d. write books about medical problems.
2. The main difference between EMTs and paramedics is
 - a. the type of vehicle they drive.
 - b. the level of training they have.
 - c. the kinds of clothes they wear.
 - d. the locations where they work.
3. When an ambulance cannot reach a medical emergency, paramedics
 - a. ask local doctors to visit the patient instead.
 - b. encourage the patient to drive to the hospital.
 - c. help the patient by giving advice on the phone.
 - d. travel to the emergency by helicopter.
4. When paramedics arrive at an emergency, the first thing they do is
 - a. give the patient medicine.
 - b. take the patient's heart rate.
 - c. move the patient into the ambulance.
 - d. find out what the patient's problem is.
5. We can infer that paramedics must learn to deal with situations that are
 - a. funny and sometimes silly.
 - b. quiet and usually peaceful.
 - c. unexpected and often tiring.
 - d. boring and frequently repetitive.
6. Paragraph 2 is mostly about
 - a. how paramedics are trained.
 - b. what vehicles paramedics drive.
 - c. where paramedics usually work.
 - d. why people become paramedics.
7. A *patient* (paragraph 3) is a
 - a. type of needle.
 - b. kind of medicine.
 - c. book for doctors.
 - d. person who is hurt.

Check your answers on page 141.

Income Tax

April 15 can be a stressful day. Workers rush to their accountant's office. They have a big folder filled with papers. Other people are busy at home. They are entering numbers on their computer. Some are writing with a pencil on paper. They have a calculator close by. They are watching the clock. They need to finish. All these people are completing their income tax forms. This day is known as *Tax Day* in the United States. This is the day that annual income taxes must be filed with the government.

Taxes are money that has to be paid to the government. Governments have many forms of taxes. A sales tax may be charged when we buy products at a store. Guests may have to pay a hotel tax. People who own a home often have to pay a property tax. There are many other taxes.

Governments collect taxes for numerous reasons. Most taxes are collected to provide services for citizens. For example, taxes collected by a city may help pay for roads, libraries, schools, and parks. Tax dollars go to police, fire, and emergency departments. State and national governments use taxes to build highways, support healthcare, pay government workers, and fund the military. Taxes can be reduced to encourage certain behaviors, such as getting an education or starting a new business. Taxes can be increased to discourage other behaviors.

People pay income tax based on how much money they earn. Usually, someone who earns very little money does not have to pay much income tax. Those who earn more money usually pay more in taxes. In the United States, income taxes did not exist for over 100 years. In fact, income taxes were against the law. But in 1931, Congress added the 16th amendment to the US Constitution. It allowed the **federal** government to collect income tax. This central government began to collect income tax to fund services that used to be paid for by other types of taxes. To this day in the United States, everyone who earns above a certain amount of money is expected to file an income tax return each year.

On average, the income tax rate in the USA is about 20 percent, although most individuals pay much less. This is quite low compared with the rates of other Western countries. For example, many European countries have income tax rates over 40 percent. This can seem like a lot of money to pay to the government. However, countries with higher income tax rates tend to offer more public services. For example, university education in many European countries is free to individuals. This is because the costs of university education are funded by income tax. Many of these countries also offer paid leave for parents when a new baby is born. Citizens in these countries usually pay very little for high-quality health care services. Generally, countries with no income tax or very low tax rates cannot afford to offer these benefits to their citizens.

It is true that taxes are not very popular. People can always imagine doing something more interesting or exciting with the money that they pay in taxes. However, taxes are an important way that governments offer a more equal and better experience for citizens. So the next time that you hear a complaint about taxes, you may want to consider all of the services that you used that day that were funded by taxes.



government, USA, business

Lexile®: 900L
Word Count: 574

Time: _____

Income Tax

Comprehension Questions

Circle the best answer.

1. This passage is mainly about
 - a. the benefits of education.
 - b. public health care services.
 - c. fire and police departments.
 - d. money paid to the government.
2. In the United States, April 15 is the day that
 - a. a new president is chosen.
 - b. income tax forms must be filed.
 - c. the government builds hospitals.
 - d. children go to work with their parents.
3. Property taxes are paid
 - a. by those who own houses.
 - b. on purchases from a store.
 - c. based on what a person earns.
 - d. when a person stays at a hotel.
4. The 16th amendment to the US Constitution gave the government
 - a. the right to collect income tax.
 - b. the ability to charge tax on cars.
 - c. the responsibility to build schools.
 - d. the duty to train doctors and nurses.
5. The passage suggests that countries with a tax rate of 12 percent probably
 - a. have a hotel tax of 40 percent or higher.
 - b. offer free university education to students.
 - c. provide fewer public services than the USA.
 - d. require citizens to file taxes earlier than April.
6. The author introduces the topic by
 - a. describing scenes from Tax Day.
 - b. comparing tax rates across the globe.
 - c. listing services that are paid by taxes.
 - d. explaining how income tax is calculated.
7. If something is *federal* (paragraph 4), it
 - a. costs more than it used to.
 - b. is stressful and disorganized.
 - c. relates to the central government.
 - d. remains popular with most citizens.