

Building Vocabulary—Word Families and Word Roots List

What Is Taught at Each Level?

The following pages show a comprehensive listing of all word families, compounds, and roots **explicitly taught** in each level of *Building Vocabulary*. Many other roots are introduced throughout the levels, but the word families and roots listed on the following pages are each the focus of a lesson. You will notice that some roots that are first taught in lower levels are revisited in the upper levels and are taught with greater depth and complexity.

The first column lists the sound/word family, compound, or root taught. When appropriate, the meaning for this word part is given in the second column (some word parts don't carry meaning; for example, the word families in Levels 1 and 2). Then, an example word is given for each word part. The sample words are intended to give you a sense of how the roots are used—this is not meant to be an exhaustive list of vocabulary words that should be taught.

As students gain more proficiency with *Building Vocabulary*, they will come up with many more words on their own.

Use this list as a reference to see the word families and roots taught at each level. You might also wish to provide students with a copy of the list for the level of the *Building Vocabulary* kit you are using.

Sound/Word Family	Sample Word
-ab	cab
-ack	back
-ad	mad
-ag	bag
-ain	rain
-all	ball
-am	jam
-an	fan
-ank	bank
-ap	lap
-ar	car
-at	cat
-a_e	late
-ea	pea
-ed	red
-ee	bee
-ell	bell
-er	her
-est	best
-et	net
-ew	new
-ick	lick
-id	kid
-ight	night
-ill	hill
-im	him
-in	pin
-ing	ring

Sound/Word Family	Sample Word
-ink	sink
-ip	rip
-it	sit
-i_e	nice
-oa	boat
-ob	job
-ock	lock
-ook	book
-op	mop
-ot	hot
-ow	cow
-o_e	joke
-uck	luck
-ug	hug
-um	gum
-ump	lump
-un	sun
-unk	junk

Sound/Word Family	Sample Word
-are	care
-au/-aw	caught, paw
-ay	tray
-ear/-air	bear/hair
-eer	cheer
-eigh	sleigh
-er	matter
-ie (long e)	field
-ie (long i)	pie
-ire	fire
-oi	spoil
-old	hold
-oll	roll
-olt	bolt
-oot (oo sound)	root
-or	for
-ore	more
-ou	count
-ough	tough
-ought	bought
-ow	cow
-oy	boy
-ue	blue
-ur/-ir	burn, firm
-ure	pure

Compound	Sample Word
air	airplane
any	anyone
back	backpack
every	everyone
head	headband
out	outside
rain	raindrop
show	showcase
snow	snowflake
some	somebody
sun	sunrise

Prefix	Meaning	Sample Word
bi-	two	bicycle
co-	with	copilot
dis-	not	dislike
in-	not	incorrect
mis-	less, wrong	misplace
pre-	before	preview
re-	after	review
sub-	under	submarine
tri-	three	triangle
un-	not	unlike
uni-	one	uniform
Base	Meaning	Sample Word
mot/mov	move	motor, movie
port	carry	export

Suffix	Meaning	Sample Word
-ful	full of	powerful
-less	without	harmless
-ly	in a _____ way or manner	slowly

Prefix	Meaning	Sample Word
bi-	two	binoculars
co-, con-	with, together	collect, connect
ex-	out	exceed
il-, im-, in-	not (negative)	illegal, improper, inexperience
pre-	before	prequel
re-	back, again	revise
sub-	under, below	subzero
tri-	three	triangle
un-	not	unruly
uni-, unit-	one	unique, unite
Base	Meaning	Sample Word
fin, finit	end, limit, term	final, infinite
gram, graph	write, draw	paragraph
mobil, mot, mov	move	mobile, motor, moveable
port	carry	import
vid, vis	see	video, visual
Suffix	Meaning	Sample Word
-er	more	faster
-est	most	smartest
-ful	full of	plentiful
-less	without	hairless
-ly	in a _____ way or manner	happily

Prefix	Meaning	Sample Word
auto-	self	autograph
col-, com-	with, together	collection, compose
de-	down, off from	descent
im-, in-	in, on, into	impose, induct
inter-	between, among	intervene
mega-, megal-	big	megaphone, megalopolis
micro-	small	microscope
multi-	many	multivitamin
per-	through, thoroughly	persevere
poly-	many	polygon
tele-	far, from afar	telescope
trans-	across, change	transfer
Base	Meaning	Sample Word
audi, audit	hear, listen	audience, audition
spec, spect	watch, look at	specimen, spectacle
terr	land, ground, earth	territory
trac, tract	pull, draw, drag	trace, tractor
voc, voice, voke	voice, call	vocal, invoice, provoke
Suffix	Meaning	Sample Word
-able, -ible	can or able to be done	portable, audible
-arium, -ary, -orium, -ory	place, room	aquarium, library, auditorium, laboratory
-er, -or	someone who does, something that does	teacher, instructor
-ify	to make	simplify
-ologist	studier of, expert in	biologist
-ology	study of	biology

Prefix	Meaning	Sample Word
a-, ab-, abs-	away, from	afar, abrasive, absent
ad-	to, toward, to	adhesive
di-, dif-, dis-	apart, in different directions, not	dissolve, differ, dismiss
super-, sur-	on top of, over, above	supersize, survive
Base	Meaning	Sample Word
aqua	water	aquatic
chron(o)	time	chronic
cour, cours, cur, curs	run, go	courier, course, concur, cursive
dent	tooth, teeth	dentist
dict	say, speak, tell	predict
duc, duct	lead	induct
grad, gress	step, go	gradual, congress
hydr(o)	water	hydrant
lect, leg, lig	pick, read	lecture, legible, eligible
mon(o)	alone, only, one	monologue
odont	tooth, teeth	orthodontist
ped	foot, feet	pedal
pod	foot, feet	podium
pon, pos, posit	put, place	components, compost, composition
rupt	break	interrupt
scrib, script	write	scribble, scripture
sed, sess, sid	sit, settle	sediment, session, reside
sol	alone, only one	solitude
stru, struct	build	instrument, construct
tempor	time	temporary

Suffix	Meaning	Sample Word
-ate	to make or do	create
-ation	the result of making or doing	equation
-cracy	rule by	democracy
-crat	ruler, one who believes in rule by	democrat
-phobe	one who fears	agoraphobe
-phobia	fear of	claustrophobia

Prefix	Meaning	Sample Word
ambi-	around, on both sides	ambidextrous
amphi-	around, on both sides	amphibian
ant-, anti-	against, opposite	antonym
ante-	before	antecedent
circu-, circum-	around	circumference
contra-, contro-, counter-	against, opposite	contradict, controversy, counterpoint
dia-	through, across, thorough	diameter
ob-	up against, in the way	obstruct
peri-	around	perimeter
post-	after	postpone
syl-, sym-, syn-	with, together	syllable, symbol, synthesis
Base	Meaning	Sample Word
am(a), amat	love, friend	amiable, amateur
anthrop(o)	human being, humankind	anthropology
bi(o)	live, life	biology
cred, credit	believe	incredible, creditable
dynam	power, strength, strong	dynamic
fac, fact, fect, fic	do, make	facility, factory, infect, fiction
forc, fort	power, strength, strong	enforce, fortify
gen	be born, give birth, produce	generate
human	human being, humankind	humane
miss, mit	send	missile, permit

Base	Meaning	Sample Word
nat, natur	be born, give birth, produce	prenatal, natural
peal, pel, puls	drive, push	appeal, repel, repulse
pend, pens	weigh, hang, pay	pendant, suspense
phil(o)	love, friend	philosophy
sens, sent	think, feel	sensitive, sentence
serv, servat	save, keep, serve	server, reservation
tain, ten, tent, tin	hold	retain, tenant, contents, continent
ven, vent	come	convene, advent
vers, vert	turn, change	reverse, revert
vit, viv	live, life	vital, revive

Prefix	Meaning	Sample Word
con-	with, together, very	connect
e-, ef-, ex-	out, very	emit, effective, exceed
hypo-	below, under, up from under	hypothermia
meta-	across, change	metamorphosis
para-	aside, apart	paranormal
per-	through, thorough, wrongly	permeate
se-	aside, apart	secession
sub-	below, under, up from under	submarine
tra-, trans-	across, change	travel, transpose
Base	Meaning	Sample Word
audi, audit	hear, listen	audience, auditorium
bell	war	antebellum
bene, bon	good, well	benefit, bonanza
cid, cis	cut, kill	genocide, incision
clos, clud, clus	close, shut	enclose, exclude, exclusion
dei, divin	god	deify, divinity
found, fund, fus	pour, melt	foundry, refund, confuse
labor	work	laborious
locut, loqu	speak, talk	elocution, eloquent
luc, lumin	light	lucid, illuminate
lud, lus	play, trick	elude, illusion
mal(e)	bad, wrong	malevolent
matern, matr(i)	mother	maternal, matrimony
pac	peace	pacify

Base	Meaning	Sample Word
pass, path, pati	suffering, feeling	passion, sympathy, patient
patern, patr(i)	father	paternal, patriot
photo	light	photograph
plac	calm, please	placate
scop	look	stethoscope
sec, sect	cut, slice	secede, section
spec, spic, spect	look	species, conspicuous, spectator
tact, tang, ting, tig	touch	intact, tangible, contingent, contiguous
tend, tens, tenu	stretch, thin	extend, tension, tenuous
the(o)	god	theology
tom	cut, slice	anatomy
Suffix	Meaning	Sample Word
-ance, -ancy, -ence, -ency	state or quality of	importance, hesitancy, patience, fluency
-ant, -ent	having the quality of	fragrant, potent
-el, -il, -le, -(i)cle, -(l)et	small	morsel, council, little, icicle, piglet
-eous, -ious, -ose, -ous	full of	aqueous, spacious, verbose, populous

Prefix	Meaning	Sample Word
a-, an-	not, without	atheist, anemia
ad-	to, toward, add to	addition
di-, dif-, dis-	apart, in different directions, not	divert, different, disdain
dys-	bad, improper	dysfunction
epi-	upon, to, in addition to	epidermous
eu-, ev-	good, well	eulogy, evangelist
Base	Meaning	Sample Word
cap, capt, ceive, cept	take, seize, get	recap, captive, receive, reception
ced, ceed, cess	go, move, yield	recede, succeed, excess
clin	lie, lean	recline
cub, cumb	lie, lean	incubate, succumb
fail, fall, fals, fault	false, mistake, fail	failure, fallible, falsify, default
fer, lat	to bear, bring, go	confer, collate
greg	flock, herd	congregate
neo	new	neonatal
nov	new	novel
omni	all, every	omnipresent
pan(t)	all, every	pantomime
past, pastor	shepherd	pasture, pastoral
phon	voice, call, sound	telephone
solut, solv	free, loosen	resolution, resolve
strain, strict, string	tie, bind, squeeze	restrain, restrict, stringent
trac, tract, treat	pull, draw	trace, tractor, retreat
trud	push, thrust	intrude
ver	true	version

Base	Meaning	Sample Word
voc, vok	voice, call, sound	vocalize, invoke
volu, volut, volv	roll	volume, revolution, revolve

Prefix	Meaning	Sample Word
ad-	to, toward, add to	adhere
circum-	around	circumnavigate
co-, con-	with, together, very	concur
hyper-	above, over	hyperactive
hypo-	under, below	hypothesis
sub-	under, below	subterranean
super-	above, over	supersede
peri-	around	perimeter
Base	Meaning	Sample Word
agr, agrar	land	agriculture, agrarian
andr(o)	man, male	android
anim	soul, mind, breath of life	animosity
cardi(o)	heart	cardiology
carn	flesh, meat	carnivore
claim, clam	shout, cry, call	exclaim, exclamation
corp, corpor	body	corporal, incorporate
cryph, crypt(o)	hide, conceal, secret	apocryphal, cryptographer
dic, dict	say, tell, speak	dedicate, dictation
equ	equal, even, fair	equality
fid, fidel	faith, trust	confide, fidelity
flu, fluct, flux	flow	fluent, fluctuate, reflux
fract, frag, frang	break, broken	fraction, fragment, frangible
gyn(o), gynec(o)	woman, female	polygynist
integr	whole, entire	integrate
gen, gener, genit	produce, give birth	ingenious, degenerate, congenital
mis(o)	hate	misanthrope

Base	Meaning	Sample Word
phan, phas, phen	show, appear, seem	epiphany, emphasize, phenomenal
phile, phil(o)	love, friend	audiophile, philanthropy
psych(o)	mind, soul	psychosomatic
sang, sanguin	blood	sangria, sanguine
secut, sequ	follow	prosecute, sequence
tacit, tic	silent, unspoken	taciturn, reticent
techn(o)	skill, craft, specialty	pyrotechnics
urb	city	urban
Suffix	Meaning	Sample Word
-itude	state or quality	solitude
-ment	thing or object	segment

Prefix	Meaning	Sample Word
a-, an-	without, not	amorphous, anarchy
di-, dif-, dis-	apart, in different directions, not	divulge, diffident, distortion
ob-	up against, in the way, completely	obstruct
para-	alongside, contrary	paradox
Base	Meaning	Sample Word
arch, archy	lead(er), first, oldest	archives, patriarchy
centr	center	eccentric
cit, civ	city, citizen	uncivil, civility
cracy, crat	rule, ruler	plutocracy, autocrat
cri, crit	judge, decide	hypocrisy, critique
cycl	circle, wheel	cyclical
duc, duct	lead	conducive, viaduct
erg	work	synergy
gram, graph	write	epigram, calligraphy
ject	throw, cast	trajectory
judic, judg	judge, decide	judicious, judgmental
log	word, speech, reasoning	analogy
meter, metr	measure	altimeter, asymmetrical
nomen, nomin, noun	name	nomenclature, nominal, pronoun
od, (h)od	road, way	exodus
onym	name, word	pseudonym
peal, pel, puls	push, drive	repeal, dispel, impulsive
point, punct, pung	pierce, point	appointed, acupuncture, pungent
poli, polis	city, citizen	metropolitan, metropolis

Base	Meaning	Sample Word
rect, reg	rule, straight, right	direction, deregulate
scrib, script	write	ascribe, manuscript
sens, sent	think, feel	consensus, dissenting
tact, tax	arrange	tactical, taxidermy
thes, thet	put, place	hypothesis, synthetic
top	place, location	topography
Suffix	Meaning	Sample Word
-ism	belief	chauvinism
-ist	one who believes	optimist
-ologist	one who studies	cardiologist
-ology	study of	geology

Prefix	Meaning	Sample Word
a-, ab-, abs-	away, from	averse, aberration, abstract
ante-	before	antecedent
anti-	against	anticlimactic
apo-	away, from	apology
in-	not	innocuous
in-	in, on, into	incursion
meta-	across, change	metamorphosis
tra, trans-	across, change	trapeze, transcend
Base	Meaning	Sample Word
annu, enni	year	annualize, perennial
capit, cipit	head	capital, precipitous
chron	time	synchronize
cours, cur(r), curs	run	concourse, precursor, concurrent, cursory
fer, lat	bear, bring, go	infer, dilate
form	form, shape	conform
i, it	go	ambience, circuitous
locut, loqu	speak, talk	locution, eloquent
man(u), main	hand	manual, maintain
memor	memory, remember	commemorate
mnem, mnes	memory, remember	mnemonic, amnesty
morph	form, shape	metamorphosis
mort	dead, death	immortal
nasc, nat	born, birth	nascent, innate
pher, phor	bear, bring, go	periphery, euphoric
pon, pos, posit, pound	put, place	proponent, transpose, expository, compound

Base	Meaning	Sample Word
sed, sess, sid	sit, settle	sedimentary, obsess, residue
spect, spic	watch, look at	introspective, conspicuous
tort, torqu	twist, turn	contortionist, torque
trac, tract	pull, draw, drag	traceable, protracted
trop	turn	trophy
trud, trus	push, thrust	protrude, intrusion
ven, vent	come	intervene, conventional
verb	word, verb	verbiage, verbose, proverbial
vers, vert	turn	aversion, divert
Suffix	Meaning	Sample Word
-esce, -escence, -escent	become, becoming	acquiescence, luminescence, effervescent