

LESSON MODEL FOR Morphemic Analysis

Benchmark

- ability to use knowledge of Greek roots to derive the meaning of unfamiliar words

Grade Level

- Grade 4 and above

Grouping

- whole class
- small group or pairs

Sample Text

- “Studying the Sky” (Resources)

Activity Master

- Word-Part Web (Resources)

Materials

- transparency and copies of Word-Part Web
- overhead transparency markers
- transparency of “Studying the Sky”
- dictionaries
- Vocabulary Hotshot Notebooks



*tele + phone =
telephone*

Word-Part Clues: Roots

Students should understand that Greek and Latin roots are important meaning elements within words. It is useful to select roots from texts students are reading, choosing those that are most likely to occur again. Generally, Greek roots are introduced before Latin roots because their meanings are more apparent and the way in which they combine with other elements is more understandable. This sample lesson model focuses on knowledge of Greek roots to derive the meanings of unfamiliar words. The same strategy can be adapted and used to enhance morphemic analysis instruction in any commercial reading program.

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Direct Explanation

Tell students that roots are word parts that come from the Greek and Latin languages. Explain that the difference between a root word and a root is that a root word, such as *play*, can stand alone as a word in English, but a root, such as *tele*, is not a word in English. Tell students that knowing about Greek roots can help them to figure out the meanings of unfamiliar words.

Teach/Model

Print the word *telephone* on the board and read it aloud. Tell students that they all know what a telephone is. Then explain to them that they may not know that the word *telephone* is made up of two Greek roots: *tele* and *phone*. Underline *tele* in *telephone*. Tell students that the Greek root *tele* means “distant or far away.” Then print the following mathematical sentence on the board and read it aloud: *tele + phone = telephone*.

Say: *The other Greek root in telephone is phone; it means “sound.” So if tele means “distant” and phone means “sound,” the word telephone literally means “distant sound.”* Ask: *Can anyone tell*

tele + vision =
television



Point out to Spanish-speaking ELLs that *television* and *television* are identically spelled cognates.

me how this literal meaning of the word telephone relates to the real-life function of a telephone? (Possible response: A telephone is equipment that is used to talk to someone in another, usually distant, place.)

Next, print the word *television* on the board. Explain that the word *television* is made up of the root *tele* and the word *vision*. Underline *tele* in *television*. Then print the following mathematical sentence on the board and read it aloud: *tele + vision = television*.

Say: *Vision is not a word of Greek origin. You may already know the meaning of the word vision—it has to do with “the ability to see something.” So if tele means “distant,” the word television literally means “distant vision.” Ask: Can anyone tell me how this literal meaning of the word television relates to the real-life function of television? (Possible response: Television is a system of sending pictures, and sounds, over a distance so people can see them on a television set.)*

Using an overhead projector, display a transparency of the Word-Part Web. Say: *I am going to begin a Word-Part Web for tele. Print the word part tele in the middle oval. Say: The words telephone and television both contain the root tele. Then print these words in the web, as shown on the facing page.*

Studying the Sky

ASTRONOMY is the study of the planets, stars, and galaxies. People have been watching the movement of the sun, moon, planets, and stars since ancient times. So astronomy is a very, very old science.

From early times, people tried to make models of the universe. For many years, no one wanted to believe that the sun was the center of the solar system. It took a long time for people to accept this heliocentric model, with the earth orbiting around the sun with the other planets.

It is interesting to study the night sky like the astronomers from centuries ago. You can see even the most distant stars with your eyes alone. And you may be able to identify constellations, or groups of stars. Constellations make pictures in the sky, such as Canis Major (the Great Dog) or Ursa Minor (the Little Bear).

A telescope can be used to see faraway things more clearly. With a telescope, you can see details like the craters of the moon and other features of the lunar landscape, the moons of Jupiter, and the rings of Saturn.

Astronomy is like taking a trip back in time. This evening you can look at the same planets and stars that ancient astronomers observed so long ago.

VOCABULARY HANDBOOK • STUDYING THE SKY 204

Guided Practice

Using an overhead projector, display a transparency of “Studying the Sky,” highlighting the following sentence and underlining the word *telescope*.

A telescope can be used to see faraway things more clearly.

tele + scope =
telescope



English/Spanish Cognates

telegram • telegrama
telephone • teléfono
telescope • telescopio



SEE ALSO . . .

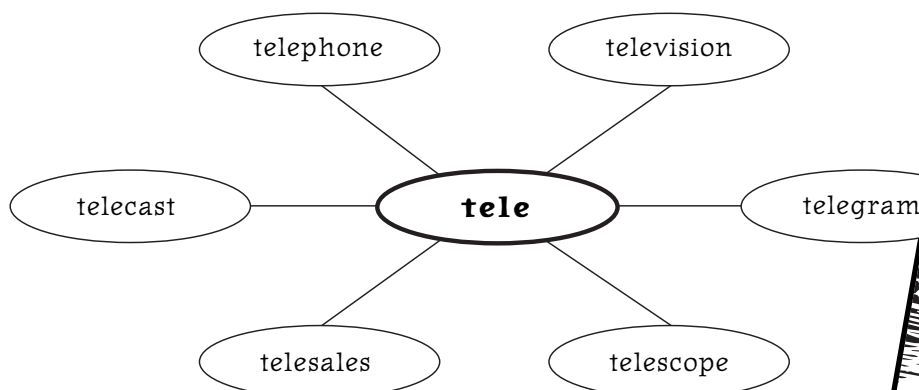
Common Greek and Latin Roots in
English, p. 494

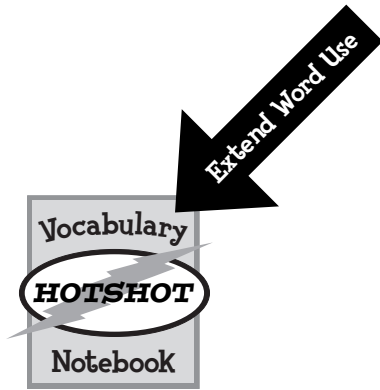
Print the word *telescope* on the board, underlining *tele*. Point to *tele* and ask: *What is the meaning of the root tele?* (distant or far away). Cover up *tele* and ask: *If I cover up tele, what is left?* (scope) Ask: *Who can print on the board a mathematical sentence for the word telescope?* Then ask a volunteer to read the mathematical sentence aloud: *tele + scope = telescope*.

Say: *Scope is another Greek root. It means “to view or to look at.”* Ask: *So if tele means “distant or far away” and scope means “to view or look at,” what is the literal meaning of the word telescope?* (Possible response: *to view or look at from a distance*) Ask: *Can anyone tell me how the literal meaning of the word telescope relates to the real-life function of a telescope?* (Possible response: *A telescope is an instrument that makes distant things seem larger and nearer when you look through it.*)

Display the partially completed Word-Part Web transparency and say: *I am going to add the word telescope to our Word-Part Web.* Ask: *Can anyone think of another word having the word root tele that we could add to the web?* (Possible responses: *teletype, telegram, telesales*) Add students' suggestions to the web.

WORD - PART WEB





Vocabulary Hotshot Notebook, p. 601



English/Spanish Cognates

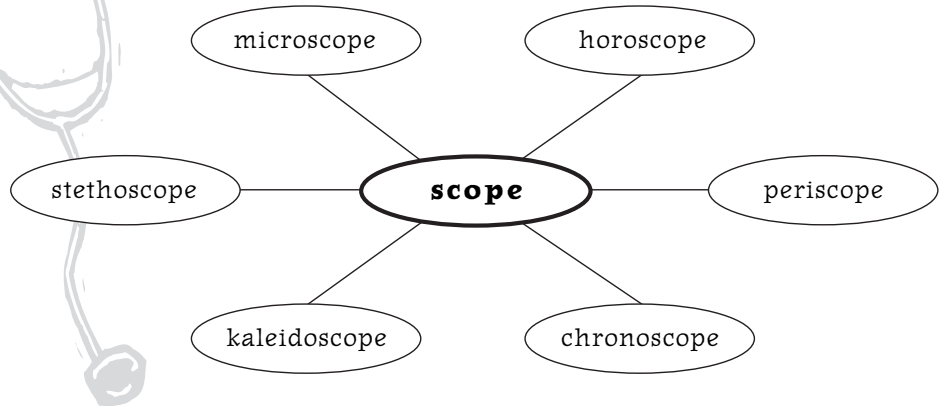
- chronoscope • cronoscopio
- horoscope • horóscopo
- kaleidoscope • caleidoscopio
- microscope • microscopio
- periscope • periscopio
- stethoscope • estetoscopio



Independent Practice

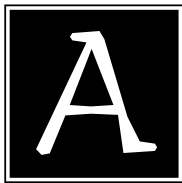
Remind students that the Greek root *scope*, as in *telescope*, means “to view or to look at.” Provide a copy of the Word-Part Web to pairs of students and ask them to construct a web for *scope*. Tell them that they should begin by printing the root *scope* in the center oval. Students should brainstorm and then record in the web all the words they can think of that have the root *scope* in them. (For example, *stethoscope*, *microscope*, *periscope*, *horoscope*, *kaleidoscope*, *chronoscope*.) After completing their webs, students should look up the definition of each unfamiliar word in the dictionary, explain the meaning of each word, and then tell how the root *scope* relates to that meaning.

WORD - PART WEB





Studying the Sky



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