

FREE SAMPLE

Word Mastery Skill Building™

Your Ultimate Guide To
Mastering Words

Book 1

*This sample includes the book's front pages, five days of Week 1 content,
and an overview of the content covered in this book.*

Twelve Weeks of Language Mastery Skills
For Life Success

Erin M. Brown, MA, MFA

Word Mastery Skill Building™
Celtic Cross Publishing

Copyright © 2005-2026, Celtic Cross Publishing and Erin M. Brown, MA, MFA, aka EB Conroy/Erin Brown Conroy

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be used or reproduced by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, or by any information storage and retrieval system without the written permission of the publisher, except where permitted by law. Any mention of retail products does not constitute an endorsement by the publisher. Printed in the United States of America.

For information, contact us at <https://erinmbrown.blog>.

Second edition.

ISBN: 978-0-9887271-7-5

Reading/Language Arts Curriculum

Introduction

What This Workbook Will Do for You: **COMPLETE WORD MASTERY FOR** *LIFE SUCCESS*

If you're a parent, you know that when it comes to your son or daughter's success – in school, college, and life – ***words*** are extremely important. Your student's ability to use words well influences his or her ability to...

- Read and understand books and texts (the first step in learning)
- Write and respond to questions on tests (and get good grades)
- Compose and create written work (for school and beyond)
- Communicate verbally and in writing (showing others “what you know”)
- Maintain positive relationships (because people understand you, and you understand them)
- Get a good job (because you did well in school and you can communicate well)
- And on and on!

What will this workbook do?

This workbook gives your student the **strong foundation** of understanding and using words well – including how to figure out the meanings of words, use “the right word,” and gain a higher vocabulary.

And when you use words well, you do well in school and LIFE.

Students, Read This:

Mastering the content of this workbook can **make school and life easier**. When you know and can use words well, that knowledge influences *all* that you do.

Do you want to do well? Master the concepts and words in this workbook.

I guarantee it will give you success in more ways than you can imagine.

HOW TO USE THIS WORKBOOK

Parents, Teachers, and Students: Your job is to use this book *daily*. When we learn small pieces of information, spread out over time – in daily doses – our brains capture and hold onto that information more easily and completely. This workbook is designed to easily place important word information into the student’s mind on a daily basis, in logical order, with repetition that helps it “stick.” Also, a student may “know” a definition, but to write a sentence using the word correctly is a different matter! So, for each section, you’ll get a chance to use the word in your own created sentence. Finally, because each sentence is unique, there isn’t a “corrections guide” for this book. Instead, parents and teachers go through the written sentences with the student, checking for accuracy and encouraging correct use with rewrites (as needed).

Listed below are instructions for each section of daily work. Follow each step, no matter how simple the step may seem. Simple repetition helps in memory, even when it’s “easy.” Note: When looking up a definition, you may use hard copy dictionaries, online dictionaries, search engines (such as Google), or even ask Siri, Alexa, or Google for the definition.

- **Prefixes** (“pieces of meaning” at the beginning of words)
 - Read the definition of the prefix and note the spelling.
 - Read the example word.
 - Circle the prefix in the example word, to visually set it apart from the rest of the word.
 - Look up the meaning of the example word and write it down.
 - Read the example sentence.
 - Write your own sentence using the example word. Make your sentence include details that give more understanding of the word.
 - **Bonus Activity:** Look up more words in the dictionary with the prefix, write them down, and circle the prefix in each word.
- **Homonyms and Homophones** (words that sound alike but have different spellings and meanings)
 - Read the words and their definitions.
 - Read the example sentences that use each word.
 - Circle the homonym or homophone in the word(s) in the example sentence.
 - Write your own sentences using the homonyms and homophones.
 - **Bonus Activity:** Give your student a verbal “quiz” by using the word in a sentence and seeing if he/she/they know which spelling to use.

Word Mastery Skill Building™

- **Roots** (Greek or Latin “pieces” with meaning)
 - Read the root and its meaning.
 - Read the example word; circle the root within the word.
 - Look up the meaning of the word and write the meaning in the space provided.
 - Read the example sentence.
 - Write your own sentence using the example word.
 - **Bonus Activity:** Look up more words in the dictionary with the root, write them down, and circle the root in each word.
- **Vocabulary Words** (words that may be new to the student)
 - Read the vocabulary word and its meaning.
 - Read the example sentence and circle the vocabulary word in the sentence.
 - Write your own sentence using the vocabulary word.
 - **Bonus Activity:** Orally create more sentences that use the word, back and forth; see who “gives out” first (the person unable to say another sentence, using the word correctly).
- **Special Word Distinctions** (words that we often “mix up” or “mess up”)
 - Read the two words.
 - Look up each word’s definition and write down the definitions.
 - Read the example sentences and circle the “special word” within the sentence.
 - Write your own sentences using the words.
 - **Bonus Activity:** Have the teacher/parent say a sentence aloud to the student using just one of the “special words,” and see if the student can tell which word (and spelling of the word) you’re using.
- **Quotes** (famous words of others)
 - Read the quote.
 - In the space provided, copy the quote in your “best handwriting.”
 - Memorize who said the quote by writing it on a note card and placing it in a conspicuous place. Review the quotes together (teacher/parent and student) at the end of the week.
 - **Bonus Activity 1:** Read and learn about the person who said the quote.
 - **Bonus Activity 2:** Have your student keep a journal of famous quotes; once the quote is copied in the workbook, have your student copy the quote again into their notebook.

Are these instructions hard? Not at all. This workbook is really quite simple to do. But it’s that simplicity and repetition that helps us *master* words. Simply *do the work, and watch your skills grow*.

A Brief Pronunciation Guide for Prefixes and Roots

“Short Vowels”

a = written as “/a/” as in *hat*

e = written as “eh” as in *hen*

i = written as “ih” as in *him*

o = written as “ah” as in *hot*

u = written as “uh” as in *hut*

“Long Vowels”

a = written as “ay” as in *play* (A)

e = written as “ee” as in *meet* (E)

i = written as “eye” (I)

o = written as “oh” as in *no* (O)

u = written as “oo” as in *mood* (U)

Table of Contents

Introduction	3
HOW TO USE THIS BOOK	4
Pronunciation Guide ..	6

Week 1

Day 1	9
Day 2	11
Day 3	13
Day 4	15
Day 5	17

Week 2

Day 1	19
Day 2	21
Day 3	23
Day 4	25
Day 5	27

Week 3

Day 1	29
Day 2	31
Day 3	33
Day 4	35
Day 5	37

Week 4

Day 1	39
Day 2	41
Day 3	43
Day 4	45
Day 5	47

Week 5

Day 1	49
Day 2	51
Day 3	53
Day 4	55
Day 5	57

Week 6

Day 1	59
Day 2	61
Day 3	63
Day 4	65
Day 5	67

Week 7

Day 1	69
Day 2	71
Day 3	73
Day 4	75
Day 5	77

Week 8

Day 1	79
Day 2	81
Day 3	83
Day 4	85
Day 5	87

Word Mastery Skill Building™

Week 9

Day 1	89
Day 2	91
Day 3	93
Day 4	95
Day 5	97

Week 11

Day 1	109
Day 2	111
Day 3	113
Day 4	115
Day 5	117

Week 10

Day 1	99
Day 2	101
Day 3	103
Day 4	105
Day 5	107

Week 12

Day 1	119
Day 2	121
Day 3	123
Day 4	125
Day 5	127

Acknowledgements.....	129
------------------------------	------------

Appendix	130
-----------------------	------------

Prefixes	130
Homonyms and Homophones.....	130
Root Words.....	130
Prefix Vocabulary Words.....	131
Root Vocabulary Words.....	131
Vocabulary Words.....	132
Special Word Distinctions.....	132
Quotes.....	132

Suggested Order.....	133
-----------------------------	------------

Elementary through High School Track.....	133
Advanced Track.....	133

Week 1, Day 1

Date:

PREFIX

bi (pronounced *beye*)

Meaning:

two, double, twice

Example Word:

biannual

The Literal Meaning of

biannual:

Used in a Sentence: **Our biannual picnic will be held on May 22nd of this year.**

In my Own Sentence:

HOMONYMS AND HOMOPHONES

Word

Meaning

1. ad (noun)

short form of “advertising”

2. add (verb)

to join together

Sentences:

1. The ad ran for five weeks.

2. Let’s add the two numbers together.

In my Own Sentences:

1. ad:

2. add:

ROOT

anim (pronounced */a/-nihm*)

Meaning:

spirit and/or mind

Example Word:

animal

The Literal Meaning of

animal:

Used in a Sentence: **The small animal moved quickly across the yard.**

In my Own Sentence:

VOCABULARY WORD

Meaning:

access (noun, verb)

1. (noun) the place to get into a space

2. (verb) the action of getting into a space or place

Used in a Sentence: (noun) **The silver key gave Fred access to the room.**

In my Own Sentence: _____

SPECIAL WORD DISTINCTIONS

Word

Meaning

1. a lot: _____

2. a lot: _____

3. allot: _____

Note: "Alot" is not a word.

Sentences:

1. There is a lot next to our home that is for sale.

2. I have a lot of toys on the floor of my room.

3. The teacher can allot three folders to each student.

In my Own Sentences:

1. a lot: _____

2. a lot: _____

3. allot: _____

QUOTE

"Please all, and you will please none."

Who Said It: **Aesop**

Copied in my Own Handwriting: _____

Week 1, Day 2

Date:

PREFIX

bi (pronounced *beye*)

Meaning:

two, double, twice

Example Word:

binoculars

The Literal Meaning of

binoculars:

Used in a Sentence: **Jenna used binoculars for birdwatching.**

In my Own Sentence:

HOMONYMS AND HOMOPHONES

Word

Meaning

1. ant (noun)

a small insect often living in a group called a colony

2. aunt (noun)

a child's father or mother's sister

Sentences:

1. Don't squish the ant!

2. My aunt planned to visit in June.

In my Own Sentences:

1. ant:

2. aunt:

ROOT

anim (pronounced /a/-nihm)

Meaning:

spirit and/or mind

Example Word:

animation

The Literal Meaning of

animation:

Used in a Sentence: **I loved the movie's animation – especially the animals' movements.**

In my Own Sentence:

VOCABULARY WORD

agony (noun)

Meaning:

terrible suffering of emotional or physical pain

Used in a Sentence: **After losing the game, the captain of the team felt the agony of defeat more than any other player.**

In my Own Sentence: _____

SPECIAL WORD DISTINCTIONS

Word

Meaning

1. a lot: _____

2. a lot: _____

3. allot: _____

Note: "Alot" is not a word.

Sentences:

1. I'd like to buy a lot that is wooded.

2. Be sure to buy a lot of balloons for the party!

3. The allotted time was not enough for me to finish the test.

In my Own Sentences:

1. a lot: _____

2. a lot: _____

3. allot: _____

QUOTE

"He that is discontented in one place will seldom be happy in another."

Who Said It: **Aesop**

Copied in my Own Handwriting: _____

Week 1, Day 3

Date:

PREFIX

bi (pronounced *beye*)

Meaning:

two, double, twice

Example Word:

bifold

The Literal Meaning of

bifold:_____

Used in a Sentence: **The team decided to create a brochure with a bifold.**

In my Own Sentence:_____

HOMONYMS AND HOMOPHONES

Word

Meaning

1. ate (verb)

to consume (past form of "to eat")

2. eight (noun)

the number eight (8)

Sentences:

1. I ate the entire pie myself.

2. Drink eight glasses of water each day.

In my Own Sentences:

1. ate:_____

2. eight:_____

ROOT

arbor (pronounced *ahr-ber*)

Meaning:

tree

Example Word:

arbor

The Literal Meaning of

arbor:_____

Used in a Sentence: **Dad put an arched arbor with vines in the garden.**

In my Own Sentence:_____

VOCABULARY WORD

Meaning:

anxious (adjective)

**emotional uneasiness, worry, or anticipation,
often for something that we believe will be “bad”**

Used in a Sentence: **The performer always felt anxious before going on stage.**

In my Own Sentence: _____

SPECIAL WORD DISTINCTIONS

Word

Meaning

1. a lot: _____

2. a lot: _____

3. allot: _____

Note: “Alot” is not a word.

Sentences:

1. A lot, even if empty, can be an expensive piece of land.

2. Mike has a lot of Star Wars collector figurines.

3. If we allot 20 minutes for travel, we should arrive on time.

In my Own Sentences:

1. a lot: _____

2. a lot: _____

3. allot: _____

QUOTE

“United we stand, divided we fall.”

Who Said It: **Aesop**

Copied in my Own Handwriting: _____

Week 1, Day 4

Date:

PREFIX

bi (pronounced *beye*)

Meaning:

two, double, twice

Example Word:

biceps

The Literal Meaning of

biceps: _____

Used in a Sentence: **After two sets of bicep curls, Stu's biceps were sore.**

In my Own Sentence: _____

HOMONYMS AND HOMOPHONES

Word

Meaning

1. baa (noun)

the sound a sheep or goat makes

2. bah (exclamation)

a sound of disagreement or contempt

Sentences:

1. "Baa!" bellowed the sheep.

2. "Bah, humbug!" said Scrooge.

In my Own Sentences:

1. baa: _____

2. bah: _____

ROOT

arbor (pronounced *ahr-ber*)

Meaning:

tree

Example Word:

arborist

The Literal Meaning of

arborist: _____

Used in a Sentence: **Mrs. Sanchez is an arborist for the city gardens.**

In my Own Sentence: _____

VOCABULARY WORD

Meaning:

arid (adjective)

extremely hot and dry, pertaining to land with little or no plant growth

Used in a Sentence: **The travelers decided to avoid the arid region.**

In my Own Sentence: _____

SPECIAL WORD DISTINCTIONS

Word

Meaning

1. a lot: _____

2. a lot: _____

3. allot: _____

Note: "Alot" is not a word.

Sentences:

1. Our home has an adjacent lot with a shed.

2. If we have a lot of appetizers, then people might be too full to eat the meal.

3. Be sure to allot 30 minutes between each conference session.

In my Own Sentences:

1. a lot: _____

2. a lot: _____

3. allot: _____

QUOTE

"Slow but steady wins the race."

Who Said It: **Aesop**

Copied in my Own Handwriting: _____

Week 1, Day 5

Date:

PREFIX

bi (pronounced *beye*)

Meaning:

two, double, twice

Example Word:

bilateral

The Literal Meaning of

bilateral:

Used in a Sentence: **The United Nations hoped for a bilateral peace treaty.**

In my Own Sentence:

HOMONYMS AND HOMOPHONES

Word

Meaning

1. be (verb)

to exist

2. bee (noun)

a flying insect that stings

Sentences:

1. I don't want to be late.

2. Let it be, and the bee probably won't sting.

In my Own Sentences:

1. be:

2. bee:

ROOT

arbor (pronounced *ahr-ber*)

Meaning:

tree

Example Word:

arboretum

The Literal Meaning of

arboretum:

Used in a Sentence: **Last Saturday, we visited the arboretum.**

In my Own Sentence:

VOCABULARY WORD

awe (noun)

Meaning:

a combined feeling of respect and wonder or fear

Used in a Sentence: **Margot was in awe of the vast mountain range.**

In my Own Sentence: _____

SPECIAL WORD DISTINCTIONS

Word

Meaning

1. a lot: _____

2. a lot: _____

3. allot: _____

Note: "Alot" is not a word.

Sentences:

1. A lot next to the parking garage could be turned into added parking.

2. I would like a lot of mashed potatoes, please.

3. Please allot half of the money to the food donations category.

In my Own Sentences:

1. a lot: _____

2. a lot: _____

3. allot: _____

QUOTE

"No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted."

Who Said It: **Aesop**

Copied in my Own Handwriting: _____

Week 1 Overview

*This is an overview of the elements covered in Week 1.
Each week has similar content covering prefixes, homonyms and homophones, roots,
prefix vocabulary words, root vocabulary words, age/graded vocabulary words,
special word distinctions, and a famous quote.*

PREFIXES

bi

ROOT VOCABULARY WORDS

animal
animation
arbor
arborist
arboretum

HOMONYMS AND HOMOPHONES

ad – add
ant – aunt
ate – eight
baa – bah
be – bee

VOCABULARY WORDS

access
agony
anxious
arid
awe

ROOT WORDS

anim
arbor

SPECIAL WORD DISTINCTIONS

a lot – a lot – allot

PREFIX VOCABULARY WORDS

biannual
binoculars
bifold
biceps
bilateral

QUOTES

Aesop

Suggested Order

If you would like to use the *Word Mastery Skill Building™* books for homeschooling or in your upper-elementary through high school classrooms – you can!

You'll find that the content in each of the series' books is "progressive" – meaning that the content in the lower-numbered books is "easier" than the higher-numbered books, and all 10 books are presented "in order."

Once you've finished one book, move to the next – either back-to-back or in either of the following suggested schedules.

Elementary through High School Track

Book 1	Upper Elementary
Book 2	Middle School
Book 3	Middle School
Book 4	Middle School
Book 5	High School – 9 th grade, first semester
Book 6	High School – 9 th grade, second semester
Book 7	High School – 10 th grade, first semester
Book 8	High School – 10 th grade, second semester
Book 9	High School – 11 th grade, first semester
Book 10	High School – 11 th grade, second semester

Advanced Track

Book 1	Middle School – 6 th grade, first semester
Book 2	Middle School – 6 th grade, second semester
Book 3	Middle School – 7 th grade, first semester
Book 4	Middle School – 7 th grade, second semester
Book 5	Middle School – 8 th grade, first semester
Book 6	Middle School – 8 th grade, second semester
Book 7	High School – 9 th grade, first semester
Book 8	High School – 9 th grade, second semester
Book 9	High School – 10 th grade, first semester
Book 10	High School – 10 th grade, second semester