

Word Mastery Skill Building™

FREE SAMPLE

Word Mastery Skill Building™

Your Ultimate Guide To
Mastering Words

*This sample includes the book's front pages, five days of Week 1 content,
and end pages showing 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

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First edition.

ISBN: 978-0-9887271-6-8

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.”

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.”

- **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.

- **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.

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- 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** (word 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 “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)

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Elementary through High School Track

Advanced Track

Week 1, Day 1

Date: _____

PREFIX

de (pronounced *dee*)

Meaning: **down, remove, from**

Example Words: **dehumidifier**

The Literal Meaning of

dehumidifier: _____

Used in a Sentence: **Left running too long, the dehumidifier made the room's air quite dry.**

In my Own Sentence: _____

HOMONYMS AND HOMOPHONES

Word

Meaning

1. aid (verb)

to help

2. aide (noun)

an assistant

Sentences:

1. The St. Bernard dog came to the skier's aid.

2. The medical aide helped the nurse carry bandages.

In my Own Sentences:

1. aid: _____

2. aide: _____

ROOT:

acr/acro (pronounced /a/ - kroh)

Meaning: **topmost**

Example Word: **acronym**

The Literal Meaning of

acronym: _____

Used in a Sentence: **The letters "NASA" are an acronym for *National Aeronautics and Space Administration*.**

In my Own Sentence: _____

VOCABULARY WORD

abstemious (adjective)

Meaning:

- 1. eating and drinking in moderation**
- 2. characterized by abstinence or moderation**

Used in a Sentence: **My father was an abstemious man, always careful at a meal to not have a second helping when he felt he'd had enough.**

In my Own Sentence: _____

SPECIAL WORD DISTINCTIONS

Word Meaning

1. accept: _____

2. except: _____

Sentences:

1. I accept the responsibility for my actions.

2. He ate everything except the apple.

In my Own Sentences:

1. accept: _____

2. except: _____

QUOTE

Early to bed and early to rise makes a man healthy, wealthy, and wise.

Who Said It: **Benjamin Franklin**

Copied in my Own Handwriting: _____

Week 1, Day 2

Date: _____

PREFIX

de (pronounced *dee*)

Meaning:

down, remove, from

Example Words:

declassify

The Literal Meaning of

declassify: _____

Used in a Sentence: **The Pentagon needs to declassify the information.**

In my Own Sentence: _____

HOMONYMS AND HOMOPHONES

Word

Meaning

1. ail (verb)

to suffer from illness

2. ale (noun)

a drink

Sentences:

1. Cassidy didn't understand what ailed him.

2. The ale affected Peter's judgment.

In my Own Sentences:

1. ail: _____

2. ale: _____

ROOT

acr/acro (pronounced *akr or /a/ - kroh*)

Meaning:

topmost

Example Word:

acrophobia

The Literal Meaning of

acrophobia: _____

Used in a Sentence: **Because she suffered from acrophobia, she'd never climbed a ladder.**

In my Own Sentence: _____

VOCABULARY WORD

abate (verb)

Meaning:

1. to reduce

2. to stop or fade away

Used in a Sentence: **Nothing could abate Michaela's ambition.**

In my Own Sentence: _____

SPECIAL WORD DISTINCTIONS

Word Meaning

1. accept: _____

2. except: _____

Sentences:

1. I've been accepted to the Fine Arts Academy.

2. I ate everything on my plate except the potatoes.

In my Own Sentences:

1. accept: _____

2. except: _____

QUOTE

After crosses and losses, men grow humbler and wiser.

Who Said It: **Benjamin Franklin**

Copied in my Own Handwriting: _____

Week 1, Day 3

Date: _____

PREFIX **de** (pronounced *dee*)
Meaning: **down, remove, from**
Example Words: **decode**
The Literal Meaning of
decode: _____

Used in a Sentence: **If we decode the words correctly, we'll find the answer.**

In my Own Sentence: _____

HOMONYMS AND HOMOPHONES

Word	Meaning
1. air (noun)	atmosphere
2. heir (noun)	an inheritor
3. err (verb)	to make a mistake

Sentences:

- 1. At the top of the mountain, the air was thin.**
- 2. Prince George was the only heir to the throne.**
- 3. "To err is human."**

In my Own Sentences:

1. air: _____

2. heir: _____

3. err: _____

ROOT **acr/acro** (pronounced *akr or /a/ - kroh*)
Meaning: **topmost**
Example Word: **acrobatics**
The Literal Meaning of
acrobatics: _____

Used in a Sentence: **The acrobatics class taught us how to spin in a circle while hanging from a long draped cloth.**

In my Own Sentence: _____

VOCABULARY WORD

abhor (verb)

Meaning:

- 1. hate deeply**
- 2. detest**

Used in a Sentence: **As a vegetarian, I abhor meat processing factories.**

In my Own Sentence: _____

SPECIAL WORD DISTINCTIONS

Word Meaning

1. accept: _____

2. except: _____

Sentences:

1. I accept your offer.

2. Caleb visited all of his relatives except Uncle Alan.

In my Own Sentences:

1. accept: _____

2. except: _____

QUOTE

Well done is better than well said.

Who Said It: **Benjamin Franklin**

Copied in my Own Handwriting: _____

Week 1, Day 4

Date: _____

PREFIX **de** (pronounced *dee*)
Meaning: **down, remove, from**
Example Words: **devalued**
The Literal Meaning of
devalued: _____

Used in a Sentence: **After Paul's uncaring moment, Jess felt devalued.**

In my Own Sentence: _____

HOMONYMS AND HOMOPHONES

Word	Meaning
1. allot (verb)	divide or give out
2. a lot (adjective)	many

Sentences:

1. We need to allot enough time to finish the job.

2. Since the group members overcame a lot of obstacles, it was gratifying to finish the job.

In my Own Sentences:

1. allot: _____

2. a lot: _____

ROOT **cart** (pronounced *kahrt*)
Meaning: **paper**
Example Word: **cartridge**
The Literal Meaning of
cartridge: _____

Used in a Sentence: **Because the ink appeared light on the paper, Michelle replaced the cartridge.**

In my Own Sentence: _____

VOCABULARY WORD

abut (verb)

Meaning:

1. border upon

2. to adjoin

Used in a Sentence: **North Dakota abuts South Dakota on its southern border.**

In my Own Sentence: _____

SPECIAL WORD DISTINCTIONS

Word Meaning

1. accept: _____

2. except: _____

Sentences:

1. I accepted the invitation to dinner.

2. Except for the unmade bed, the room was spotless.

In my Own Sentences:

1. accept: _____

2. except: _____

QUOTE

Glass, china, and reputation are easily crack'd and never well mended.

Who Said It: **Benjamin Franklin**

Copied in my Own Handwriting: _____

Week 1, Day 5

Date: _____

PREFIX **de** (pronounced *dee*)
Meaning: **down, remove, from**
Example Words: **decipher**
The Literal Meaning of
decipher: _____

Used in a Sentence: **It was difficult to decipher the essay's answer.**

In my Own Sentence: _____

HOMONYMS AND HOMOPHONES

Word	Meaning
1. allowed (verb)	gave permission
2. aloud (adjective)	spoken verbally

Sentences:

- 1. When our mother allowed us to look, we opened our eyes and gasped in surprise.**
- 2. She announced the results aloud so everyone could hear.**

In my Own Sentences:

1. allowed: _____

2. aloud: _____

ROOT **cart** (pronounced *kahrt*)
Meaning: **paper**
Example Word: **cartography**
The Literal Meaning of
cartography: _____

Used in a Sentence: **Mr. Smith studied cartography to fuel his fascination with maps.**

In my Own Sentence: _____

VOCABULARY WORD

abrogate (verb)

Meaning:

1. to abolish

2. repeal

Used in a Sentence: **To abrogate a rumor, one must confront the source.**

In my Own Sentence: _____

SPECIAL WORD DISTINCTIONS

Word Meaning

1. accept: _____

2. except: _____

Sentences:

1. Will you accept the terms?

2. Except for Monday, the week was clear of extra activities.

In my Own Sentences:

1. accept: _____

2. except: _____

QUOTE

He that speaks much is much mistaken.

Who Said It: **Benjamin Franklin**

Copied in my Own Handwriting: _____

Acknowledgements

This book is dedicated to Lara, one of my beautiful daughters who loves the power of words, too. When Lara was in middle and high school, having dyslexia often made her reading, vocabulary, and academic writing doubly difficult. In that struggle, she quickly discovered the need to master language and communication “in a better way.” The typical fill-in-the-blank workbook with simple word memorization wasn’t enough. We wanted (and needed) more. So, Lara and I decided together to create a simple, straightforward daily system for mastering words and understanding the English language, with the goal of enjoying easier, more skillful communication.

Lara especially wanted to know *how* the language worked – so that learning one small piece of a word (the prefix or root) could transfer to figuring out many, many more words beyond the one. And we agreed that learning easily confused words was critical, so she didn’t “make silly word mistakes” that, in her words, “made others think I wasn’t smart” (she’s intelligent and creatively gifted). Finally, she wanted to include quotes from famous people, because even as a teen, Lara knew that words of wisdom could help her in life. Together, back and forth, we talked through what to include – and settled on exactly what you’re holding in your hands right now.

You know what? It worked brilliantly. Easy to do and even fun to “check off the list each day,” the book worked like magic. Today, Lara is an articulate adult whose communication is a thing of beauty.

Then something funny happened.

Just as a child’s used swings can get stuffed into a box and shoved to the back of the garage, this book disappeared into a “dusty old” desktop file. I completely forgot about it.

One day, the 35-year-old Lara and I were on the phone. “What happened to that book?” she said. “It was great – so amazing for me. It really helped shape my ability to use words – and, honestly, it shaped my life!”

(Seriously? Huh! How about that! Hmm...where did that book go....?)

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I dug around and found the file, and the proverbial "AHA!" moment stood up and yelled directly into my face: *If your 35-year-old daughter can remember the impact of one book, **then that book is extremely valuable** and needs to get into the hands of others!*

Well, that's exactly what happened – and more. The book multiplied by 10. Welcome to the *Word Mastery Skill Building™* Series.

Thank you, thank you, Lara. In fact, here's to an unending stream of thank-you's immortalized on these pages. Thank you for, even as a young teen, living with such a joyful collaborative spirit, thirst for wisdom, and passion for learning. I love you more.

Special thank you, too, to Donna Graziose's hours of eagle-eye editing and fabulous detail-oriented care for every page; to my 20-something son Joel, who kept the two puppies busy so they wouldn't put their noses on my keyboard (so much); and to you, dear reader – the one who cares about words, communicating well, and connecting with others. I'm so glad you're here.

Appendix

PREFIXES

un	bi	super
re	mid	extra
dis	sub	non
con	tri	pre

HOMONYMS AND HOMOPHONES

aid – aide	brood – brood – brewed	gilt – guilt
ail – ale	byte – bight – bite	gorilla – guerilla
air – heir – err	capital – capital – Capitol	grisly – grizzly
allot – a lot	carrot – carat – caret – karat	heart – heart – hart
allowed – aloud	cell – sell	it's – its
all ready – already	complement – compliment	imminent – eminent
all together – altogether	council – counsel	lei – lay
altar – alter	Ceries – series	lead – led
apprise – a prize	dense – dents	lesson – lessen
Ariel – aerial	dual – duel – duel	lode – load
ascent – assent	disburse – disperse	lou – lieu
bard – barred – barred	discreet – discrete	manner – manor
bare – bear	elicit – illicit	meat – meet – mete
base – base	flier – flyer	mettle – metal – medal
bass – bass	flow – floe	overdo – overdue
beach – beach	fare – fair	peace – piece
bore – boar	faze – phase	perish – parish
babble – babel – Babel	for – four – fore	plait – plate
breach – breech	forward – foreword	plum – plumb
bridal – bridle	gamble – gambol	

ROOT WORDS

acr/acro	hydro	dem
prot	aqua	cracy
arch	neo	ogy/ology
phil	nov	helio
anthro	archy	aster/astro
bio	nom	geo
graph	ger	chron
hydra	paleo	horo

VOCABULARY WORDS

abstemious	adage	bamboozle	brandish
abate	adamant	banal	bravado
abhor	adjunct	bane	breach
abut	advent	baroque	bristle
abrogate	adverse	barrage	burgeon
absolve	affiliate	bastion	Byzantine
abstain	affinity	beleaguer	cache
abysmal	aggrieve	belie	cacophony
accede	agnostic	benign	cadence
acclimate	alleviate	bereave	cajole
accolade	allot	besiege	calamity
accost	allude	bias	callous
accrue	altercation	biennial	camaraderie
acerbic	altruism	blithe	candor
acumen	ambiance	bourgeois	capacious

SPECIAL WORD DISTINCTIONS

accept – except
conscious – conscience
sit – set
affect – effect
allusion – illusion
beside – besides

describe – prescribe
farther – further
immigrate – emigrate
lose – loose
raise – rise
uninterested – disinterested

QUOTES BY:

Benjamin Franklin
Victor Hugo
Thomas A. Edison
Charles Dickens
Abraham Lincoln
Leo Tolstoy

George Washington
Henry Wadsworth Longfellow
Franklin D. Roosevelt
Mark Twain
Mother Teresa
Thomas Jefferson

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 ^h grade, second semester

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