

# COMMON CORE VOCABULARY TOOLKIT

MARK PENNINGTON



**GRADES  
4, 5, 6, 7, and 8  
Programs**



**WORKSHEETS  
SYLLABICATION  
CONTEXT CLUES  
ASSESSMENTS**



## Word Part Monsters

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This three-day activity works well before Halloween and gets student artwork up on the board—oh, and it also is a fun word part review activity. Tell your students that they will create their own Word Part Monsters.

Provide the Monster Word Parts list of Greek and Latin prefixes, roots, and suffixes (all morphemes) that will permit plenty of combinations.

For example, the dreaded mono oc pyr cap kin (one-eye-fire-head-little) monster.

### Directions

#### Day 1

1. Quick draw, in pencil, two rough-draft monsters, using at least three prefixes, roots, or suffixes from your Monster Word Parts list.
2. Write the name of your monsters, using the word parts, at the bottom of each drawing. Feel free to use connecting vowels to tie together the word parts.

#### Day 2

3. Choose one of your quick-draw monsters and neatly draw and color it on construction paper.
4. Write the monsters' name on the back, using the word parts. Turn in your monster to the teacher. Don't turn into a monster for your teacher.

#### Day 3

5. The teacher has numbered all of the monsters and posted them around the room and created a list of the monster names. Number a sheet of binder paper and write down all of the monsters' names next to the correct number.

**Option A (challenging)**—Choose from the monster names that the teacher has written on the board.

**Option B (very challenging)**— Choose from the monster names that the teacher has written on the board and use the definitions to write a sentence, describing what the monster is like.

**Option C (very, very challenging)**—The teacher does **not** write down the monster names on the board. You have to figure them out based upon the drawings alone.

6. The winner(s) are the students who identify the most monsters correctly.

# Monster Word Parts

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## Most Commonly-Used Prefixes

This list has the 20 most frequently-used prefixes, comprising 97% of all prefixed words.

[White, Sowell, and Yanagihara \(1989\) Ranked by Carroll et al \(1971\). \*The Reading Teacher\*, 42, p. 306; “Most Common Prefixes and Suffixes in Academic Texts.”](#)

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Prefix</u>	<u>Meaning</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Prefix</u>	<u>Meaning</u>
1.	un	not	11.	pre	before
2.	re	again	12.	inter	between
3.	in, im, il, ir	not	13.	fore	in front
4.	dis	away from	14.	de	apart from
5.	en, em	in	15.	trans	across
6.	non	not	16.	super	above
7.	in, im	in	17.	semi	half
8.	over	above	18.	anti	against
9.	mis	not	19.	mid	middle
10.	sub	under	20.	under	too little

## Other Helpful Prefixes for Monsters

<u>Prefix</u>	<u>Meaning</u>	<u>Example</u>
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### of position

acro	high	acrobat
cata	down	catacomb
infra	beneath	infrared
retro	backward	retrospect

### of size or number

uni, mono	one	unicorn, monopoly
du, bi	two	duet, bicycle
tri	three	tricycle
pent	five	pentagon
oct	eight	octopus
magn	great	magnificent
omni	all	omnivore

## Frequently-Used Roots

Adapted from [Stahl, S.A. and Shiel, T.G. \(1992\). \*Reading and Writing Quarterly: Overcoming Learning Disabilities\*, 8, 223-241; “Commonly Occurring Greek and Latin Roots.”](#)

and [Wei, Z. \(2011\). \*Word roots in English – Learning English words through form and meaning similarity\*. PhD Thesis, Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand.](#)

<u>Root</u>	<u>Meaning</u>	<u>Origin</u>	<u>Example</u>	<u>Root</u>	<u>Meaning</u>	<u>Origin</u>	<u>Example</u>
aud	hear	Latin	auditorium	mis	send	Latin	mission
astro	star	Greek	astrology	ped	foot	Latin	pedal
bio	life	Greek	biology	phon	sound	Greek	telephone
dict	say	Latin	predict	port	carry	Latin	import
geo	earth	Greek	geography	scrib,	write	Latin	scribble
meter	measure	Greek	thermometer	scrip	write	Latin	scripture
min	little, small	Latin	minimum	spect	see	Latin	inspect
mit	send	Latin	transmit	struct	build, form	Latin	instruct

## Other Helpful Roots for Monsters

<u>Root</u>	<u>Meaning</u>	<u>Example</u>
alter	change	alternate
anthropo	man	anthropologist
aqu, hydr	water	aquatics, hydraulic
bas	low	basic
bat	to beat	combat
bell	war	rebellion
cal	hot	scalding
cand	bright	candle
carn	flesh	carnivore
chari	kindness	charity
corp	body	corporation
crit	separate	critical
cycl	wheel	cycle
derm	skin	dermatologist
don, trib	give	donate, contribute
dur	hard	endurance
dyna	power	dynamite
form	to shape	transform
fort	strong	comfort
gen	type	generic
grav	heavy	gravity
junct	to join	junction
juv	young	juvenile

## More Helpful Roots for Monsters

lum	light	illuminate
oc	eye	binocular
onym	name	antonym
ora	speak	orally
ortho	straight	orthodontist
pend	hang	pendant
phil	love	philosophy
phob	fear	phobia
psych	mind	psychology
pyr	fire	pyromaniac
sid	to sit	president
soph	wise	sophisticated
spir	breath	inspiration
stat	position	status
tain, ten	to hold	contain, tension
tens	stretch	tension
terr	earth	territory
tort	to twist	torture
vers	turn	reverse
vest	to cover	invest
vid	see	video
viv(t)	alive	survivor
void	empty	avoid

## Relevant Suffixes for Monsters

age	condition	teenage
en	to make	wooden
hood	condition	neighborhood
kin, ule	little	munchkin, granule
less	without	careless
ose	marked by	comatose
ship	art or skill of	worship
some	full of	lonesome
ward	direction	toward
wright	worker	playwright