

9 Base Words

These are some basic facts about solar energy. With further research, you could build on these facts.

Similar to the way facts can build up with additional research, words can be built from basic parts called *base words*. Base words can be made larger by adding prefixes and suffixes.

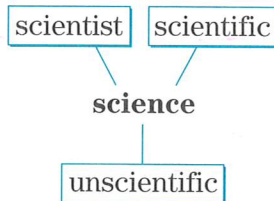
Can you find any long words in the fact card that are based on smaller base words?

Solar Energy

- The energy that comes directly from the sun is a tremendous resource.
- Scientists are studying ways to convert solar power into enough electricity to supply a city's needs.
- In space, satellites and space stations get their energy from solar cells called "photovoltaics."

Thinking about Words

1. List as many words as you can think of that have energy, sun, or convert as their base word. Example:



2. a) The words directly and electricity are built on smaller base words. What is the base word for each?
- b) Record other words that are formed from the base words listed in part (a). For example, the word direction uses the same base as directly.

Word Pattern

Base words are words to which prefixes, suffixes, or other endings can be added. Prefixes are added to the beginning of a base word, suffixes to the end.

- accept
- oppose
- appear
- assist
- calculate
- compose
- courage
- depend
- forgive
- nature
- refer
- rely
- reside
- response
- scope

OTHER PATTERNS

- allowance
- blouse
- *choir
- discount
- *medicine

* frequently misspelled word

Working with Words

SPELLING SECRETS

Notice the change that occurs in the base word when /əns/ is added to **rely** and **reside**. In the first example, the spelling of the base word changes. In the second example, the long vowel sound /ī/ shifts to a short i sound when the ending is added.

1. The /əns/ sound at the end of a base word can be spelled **-ance** or **-ence**. The following words all contain the /əns/ ending. Use a dictionary to help you figure out which ending fits each word.

- a) accept_ nce b) appear_ nce c) assist_ nce
 d) depend_ nce e) refer_ nce f) resid_ nce

2. Some base words can take a variety of prefixes. The answers to the riddles below all share the base word **scope**. Double check the spelling with a dictionary.

- a) Some people think I can predict your future based on your time of birth. _ _ _ _ _ scope
 b) I am a viewing device used in submarines. _ _ _ _ _ scope
 c) I am used to magnify objects that are not visible to the naked eye. _ _ _ _ _ scope
 d) Your doctor uses me to listen to your heartbeat. _ _ _ _ _ scope

3. Create as many new words as you can by linking the following base words and suffixes together. Remember, some suffixes can be combined with more than one base word. (Hint: The spelling of the base word may have to change when the suffix is added.)

Base Words		Suffixes	
forgive ✓	calculate ✓	-ment ✓	-ness ✓
nature ✓	depend ✓	-tion ✓	-al
compose ✓	response	-ition ✓	-ible ✓
courage ✓	rely	-er ✓	-able ✓
oppose ✓		-ous ✓	

4. Say the words medic and medicine. Notice how the /k/ sound in medic becomes an /s/ sound in medicine. Even though the sound changes, the spelling remains the same. Remembering the base word help you to spell medicine.

Say each of the following words aloud. Then write the words and circle the base words.

plasticize magician politician electrician optician

Writing and Revising

SPELLING SECRETS

Think of the base word each time you are adding a prefix or suffix. This is an important strategy in becoming a mature speller.

1. The idea of transforming solar energy into electricity was once considered science fiction. Now, solar energy is used in a number of ways and devices (see p. 35). Research a practical use for solar energy. Create a fact card on which you briefly describe what you have learned. Be sure to use complete sentences in your description and include a bibliography of your resources.
2. a) List as many words as you can based on the word person. There are at least ten.
b) Use all your *person* words in one paragraph.
3. Use a computer publishing program, if possible, to create a fact card for a topic that interests you. Use the example on page 35 as a model, or design one of your own. Consider attaching a photo or illustration related to your topic to the back of your fact card.

The Editing Desk

Punctuation Punctuation signals the reader to a break in a phrase or sentence. It also indicates the type of sentence. Here are some examples of common punctuation:

Period (.): ends a sentence

Comma (,): can be used to separate phrases, words in a list, and sentences connected by a conjunction. The comma is also used with quotation marks.

Question mark (?): comes at the end of a phrase or sentence that is worded in the form of a question

Exclamation mark (!): used at the end of a phrase or sentence that expresses a strong emotion

Colon (:): often used before a list of words or phrases

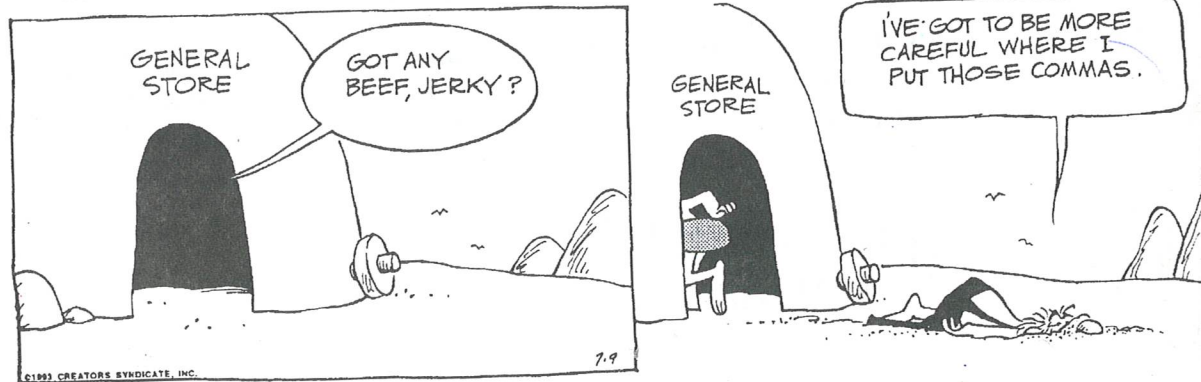
Which of the marks listed above are not used in this passage from Nazneen Sadiq's novel *Heartbreak High*?

“ He had a beautiful shirt on. Tariq's tanned face and dark hair looked so vibrant against the deep blue! Rachel decided that his good looks must dazzle everyone around him. Did he know it? ”

1. When it is used correctly, punctuation makes writing more readable. Rewrite the following passage and insert the correct punctuation.

Today is moving day and everything is in a mess. Why couldn't we have been better organized? What a pile of confusion! Just imagine books, dishes, toys, knick-knacks, garden tools, shoes, boots, lamps, and clothes. Can you believe all this stuff? The only thing I can say is that unpacking is easier. I hope we can find everything. The last time we moved I lost my two favourite CDs and I didn't find them until today. Now is this crazy or what?

B.C.



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2. As the above cartoon illustrates, an unnecessary or misplaced comma can have disastrous or humorous results. Compare the following sentences. Which one do you think is correct in each pair?

- a) Remember two wrongs, don't make a right.
Remember, two wrongs don't make a right.
- b) When you are sending mail, friends, don't forget the postal code.
When you are sending mail, friends don't forget the postal code.
- c) You must not remain, uninformed citizens.
You must not remain uninformed, citizens.
- d) To Marc, Anthony's guitar work was the best he had ever heard.
To Marc Anthony's guitar work was the best he had ever heard.