

McDougal, Littell

Basic Skills in English

Green Level



THE McDOUGAL, LITTELL ENGLISH PROGRAM

Basic Skills in English

Green Level

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McDougal, Littell & Company

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Words: Developing Your Vocabulary

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Learning About Language
- Part 2 **Future Talk**
New Language for Special Fields
- Part 3 **Say It Again, Sam**
Context: Definition and Restatement
- Part 4 **A Good Example**
Using Context Clues: Examples
- Part 5 **Like and Unlike**
Context Clues: Comparison and Contrast
- Part 6 **Be Precise**
Using Synonyms and Antonyms
- Part 7 **Get on Base**
Using Word Parts: Base Words
- Part 8 **What's First?**
Using Word Parts: Prefixes
- Part 9 **The End**
Using Word Parts: Suffixes

Alive and Well

Learning About Language

Here's the Idea English is a living language. It grows and changes. **Modern English** is different from **Middle English**, which was spoken until about 500 years ago. It is even more different from **Old English**, which was spoken until about 900 years ago. Many of the words you use today come from Middle and Old English words. For example, the word *seven* comes from the Middle English *seoven*. *Seoven* came from the Old English word *seofon*. Words that come from older forms of English are native English words. There are also several other sources for words in the English language.

Borrowed Words Many English words come from other languages. For example, *antenna* comes from Latin. *Chili* is a Spanish word. *Coupon* is French. *Boss* comes from Dutch. *Moccasin* is an American Indian word.

Compound Words Two words are often combined to make a new word. Some examples are *basketball*, *headache*, and *sunrise*.

Blends Sometimes a part of one word and a part of another word are combined to make a new word. For example, the word *smog* comes from *smoke* and *fog*.

Acronyms An acronym is a word made from the first letters of several words. The acronym *scuba* comes from the words *self contained underwater breathing apparatus*.

Echoic Words Some words imitate sounds. *Buzz*, *meow*, and *zap* are examples of words that echo sounds.

English is a continually changing language. In this lesson, you have seen how some changes occur. You can now see why learning English is a continual process for everyone.

Check It Out

Read the following sentences.

1. We spent the *day* at Hampton Beach.
 2. Ken likes *pizza* with mushrooms and sausage.
 3. The Sears Tower is Chicago's tallest *skyscraper*.
 4. The Thompsons enjoy *brunch* every Sunday.
 5. NASA officials cheered the launching.
 6. The parrot *squawked* as we neared its cage.
- Which word comes from the Old English word *daeg*? Which word is borrowed from Italian? Which word is a compound word? Which word is a blend of *breakfast* and *lunch*? Which word is an acronym for *National Aeronautics and Space Administration*? Which word echoes a sound?
 - Do you see how English is enriched by new words?

Try Your Skill Using a dictionary, try to find out how each of these words came into modern English.

boy slim snowplow UNICEF sizzle patio

Keep This in Mind

- English continually grows and changes. New words are formed as others fall out of use.
- Some modern English words come from Middle and Old English. Others are borrowed words, compound words, blends, acronyms, and echoic words.

Now Write Write four of these words: *Saturday*, *antenna*, *sleigh*, *liftoff*, *chortle*, and *sonar*. Using a dictionary, check the meanings of the words and find out how they came into English. Write a sentence for each of them. Label your paper **Alive and Well**. Keep your paper in your writing folder.

Future Talk

New Language for Special Fields

Here's the idea: You have already learned several ways in which new words enter the language. There is another way that is becoming more and more common.

The world is always changing. Every day, people have new ideas and create new inventions. The English language also grows and changes. New ideas and inventions require new words to describe them. Also, old words take on new meanings as people use them in connection with these new ideas.

The space industry, for example, has added a whole new vocabulary to the English language. Not many years ago, no one knew what *astronaut* meant. The words *countdown* and *launch pad* were not in any dictionary.

Also, computers are changing our world so quickly that many people speak of the *computer revolution*. Here are some words from that revolution that are now a part of the English language:

software	printout	interface
chip	floppy disc	byte

Science and technology have also added new words to the language with their inventions. How many of these words do you know?

magnetic	laser	hardware
relay	digital	black hole

Because the world is always changing, you want to be aware of these changes and the words that describe them.

Check It Out Look at the following words. They are all terms used in the space industry, with computers, or in science