

THE WORLD OF WORDS

Vocabulary for College Students

SECOND EDITION

.....

Margaret Ann Richek

Northeastern Illinois University

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Dedicated to Perry

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To the Instructor

The World of Words, Second Edition, will help students master strategies for becoming independent learners of vocabulary, learn specific words that will be useful in their academic work, and develop what should become a lifelong interest in words. Through a series of carefully paced lessons, students learn three vocabulary development strategies: using the dictionary, using context clues, and using Greek and Latin word elements.

This Second Edition of **The World of Words** continues to link students' general knowledge to vocabulary, covering such topics as popular music, sports, and the origins of names. I find that students enjoy these features and begin to see that learning vocabulary *is* relevant to their lives. While reinforcing these links, the text also seeks to supply information that will be useful in their academic work. Thus, as the book progresses, students read about science, the classics, and literature.

The word lists and the Greek and Latin word elements have been carefully selected on the basis of their appropriate level and usefulness in students' academic work. Word elements are presented so that students can easily recognize and use them in modern English words. Avoiding detailed discussions of infinitive, participial, and stem forms, the text provides the spellings of word elements most commonly found in English.

Feedback from students and instructors has enabled me to adapt this book to the needs of today's diverse student population. Instructors will find **The World of Words**, Second Edition, suitable for students of many cultural and linguistic backgrounds, including those for whom English is a second language.

Organization

Part 1 concentrates on dictionary skills and context clues; Part 2 stresses word elements (Greek and Latin prefixes, roots, and suffixes). A theme for each chapter (for instance, Words About People, Chapter 1) helps make vocabulary study more meaningful.

Each chapter of **The World of Words** contains these features:

- *Did You Know?* presents interesting word facts to help spark students' interest in vocabulary.

- *Learning Strategy* provides instruction to help students independently learn new words.
- *Words to Learn* presents twenty-four vocabulary words with pronunciations, definitions, and example sentences. Related Words help students see how one base word can be used in several different ways, and usage notes help students use their new vocabulary words correctly. The Words to Learn are divided into two parts containing twelve words each. Word facts, etymologies, and trivia quizzes provide a context for the words and help students remember the definitions.
- *Exercises* follow each set of Words to Learn; additional exercises are included at the end of each chapter. A wide variety of exercises, including Matching Definitions, Words in Context, Writing with Your Words, and Practicing Strategies, provides thorough practice in both the Words to Learn and the Learning Strategy.
- The *Passage* uses many of the chapter words in context and gives students practice reading short essays. Each passage is followed by a brief exercise and three discussion questions.

New to this Edition

Based on using this text for six years at Northeastern Illinois University and reviewing constructive comments on the First Edition from users across the country, I have been able to refine those features students found most useful and add the following new features to the Second Edition:

- Review exercises to reinforce learning after Chapters 4, 8, and 12
- Expanded treatment of grammatical parts of speech
- Additional exercises for practicing dictionary usage
- Three discussion questions following each reading passage to develop in-depth reading and to help students relate to the passage
- Revision, improvement, and updating of example sentences, exercises, and tests

Support for Instructors

The *Instructor's Resource Guide* contains a complete testing program, answer keys to all exercises, chapter notes, additional exercises, and review exercises and tests. A set of enrichment words for each chapter, with exercises and tests, provides additional practice for more advanced students. New to this edition are blackline masters, a supplementary list of word elements, and a list of words in different academic fields that use the word elements taught in the text.

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PART 1

Dictionary Skills and Context Clues

Did you know that the size of your vocabulary predicts how well you will do in school? This book will improve your vocabulary so that you become a better reader, writer, listener, and speaker. In this way, you will improve your performance in all subjects—from astronomy to electronics to marketing to zoology. A larger vocabulary will also help you to make a good impression in a job interview. (People judge others by the way they communicate, and vocabulary is a key to communication.)

This book will help you to use words more precisely and vividly. Instead of describing a *friendly* gathering, you will be able to distinguish between a *convivial* party and an *amicable* meeting. Instead of saying that someone gave money to a cause, you may call that person a *philanthropist* or a *benefactor*. Learning these words will help you to express yourself in a more powerful manner.

As you work through this book, you will improve your vocabulary, first, by learning the words presented in each chapter and, second, by mastering learning strategies that will enable you to learn words independently. Chapters 1 through 4 will teach you the strategies of using the dictionary and using context clues. In Chapters 5 through 12 you will learn the strategy of using word elements such as prefixes, roots, and suffixes.

Each chapter contains several sections:

Did You Know? highlights interesting facts about English words.

Learning Strategy presents methods that will enable you to learn words independently.

Words to Learn defines, and gives examples of, twenty-four words that appear frequently in college texts, magazines, and newspapers. Each Words to Learn section is divided into two parts, containing twelve words each.

The *Exercises* give you practice with the words and strategies. One set of exercises follows the first part of the Words to Learn section, another set follows the second part, and a final set appears at the end of the chapter.

The *Passage* demonstrates how several of the words in the chapter can be used in a reading selection. It is followed by an exercise that tests your understanding of words used in context and discussion questions that check your comprehension of the passage.

Parts of Speech

Parts of speech are essential to the definition and use of words. In order to master the vocabulary words in this book, you will need to know the part of speech that each word can be used as. In addition, if you understand how words can form different parts of speech, you can multiply your vocabulary by using one word in many different ways.

Nouns, adjectives, verbs, and adverbs are presented in this book.

A **noun** is a person, place, thing, or idea.

Paul is a student.

San Diego is a beautiful city.

Some *snow* clung to the *road*.

Liberty and *justice* are precious.

An **adjective** describes, or modifies, a noun.

The *happy* child played in the sun. (*Happy* modifies *child*.)

The evening was *cool*. (*Cool* modifies *evening*.)

A **verb** expresses an action or a state of being.

He *walked* to the store.

It is dark.

Verbs may be divided into two categories: transitive and intransitive. A **transitive verb** has an action that is directed toward someone or something. A transitive verb cannot stand alone in a sentence; it needs a direct object to make a sentence complete. In contrast, an **intransitive verb** does not need a direct object.

Transitive verb: Delphine *bought* a computer. (*Computer* is the direct object.)

Intransitive verb: The skunk *smelled*. (No direct object is needed.)

Verbs may express past, future, or present action. Past-tense verbs are usually formed by adding the ending *-ed*.

Mary *rented* a house last year.

The future tense is often expressed through the use of the helping verb *will*.

I *will shop* in the mall tomorrow.

When we use the present tense, we add an *s* to third-person singular verbs, that is, verbs that have any one person as the subject except "I" or "you." (Examples of subjects that require third-person singular verbs are "she," "Joe," or "the doctor.")

The doctor *sees* patients each morning.

We often express actions that started in the past and are still taking place by using a form of the helping verb *to be* and adding *-ing* to the end of the main verb. This is called the present progressive tense.

I *am waiting* for the mail delivery.
It *is raining*.

The *-ing* and *-ed* forms of verbs are also used to form other parts of speech. The *-ing* forms of verbs are called **gerunds** when they are used as nouns.

Smoking is forbidden in the theater.
It is a good day for *fishing*.

The *-ing* and *-ed* forms of verbs are called **participles** when they are used as adjectives.

The *insulting* man made others feel bad. (In this sentence, the man insults other people.)
The *insulted* man felt bad. (In this sentence, other people insult the man.)

An **adverb** modifies a verb, an adjective, or another adverb. Many adverbs end in *-ly*.

The man *slowly* climbed the stairs. (*Slowly* modifies *climbed*, a verb.)
We admired the *brightly* colored quilt. (*Brightly* modifies *colored*, an adjective.)

The disease spread *more rapidly* than we expected. (*More*, an adverb, modifies *rapidly*, another adverb. *Rapidly*, in turn, modifies *spread*, a verb.)

In addition to nouns, adjectives, verbs, and adverbs, parts of speech also include pronouns, prepositions, conjunctions, and interjections.

A **pronoun** replaces a noun.

Brenda locked the room when *she* left.
We will meet *him* at the airport.

A **preposition** joins a noun or pronoun with another word in a sentence.

A fear *of* dogs made him nervous.
The child ran *over* the bridge.

A **conjunction** connects words, phrases, or clauses.

Barry ate peas *and* carrots.
Will Marie go to the movies *or* will she stay home?

An **interjection** is an exclamatory word that may appear by itself or in a sentence.

Wow!
Oh, look at that!

Word Endings and Parts of Speech

A single word can often be changed to form several different related words. These related words have similar meanings, but they usually function as different parts of speech. For example, as shown in the illustration on page 5, the word *nation* (a noun) can form *national* (an adjective), *nationally* (an adverb), *nationalize* (a verb), and *nationality* (another noun). Related words are formed by adding *suffixes*—groups of letters attached to the ends of words that change the part of speech. The following table gives a list of such suffixes and examples of words formed with them.

Suffix	Base word	Suffixed word
Suffixes that form nouns		
-ance, -ancy	insure, truant	insurance, truancy
-ence	differ	difference