DraftKids

PRINTABLE · GRADES 6-8 · AGES 11-14

Playbook Word Roots

Lots of big sports words are built from small Greek and Latin parts. Learn the parts and you can figure out words you have never seen before. Every team and player on this sheet is made up.

Name _____

Date _____

ROOT TOOLKIT

inter	sub	spect	trans	vinc · vict
between	under, in place of	look, watch	across	conquer

WORD BUILDER

PRE + DICT

before + say

PREDICT

TO SAY IT BEFORE IT HAPPENS

HOW TO CRACK A BIG WORD

PREFIX · goes in front	ROOT · carries the main meaning	SUFFIX · goes at the end
in- (not) · re- (back, again) · pre- (before)	spect (look) · cept (take) · fer (carry)	-or, -er, -ator (one who) · -ible, -able (able to be)

Split the word into parts, find the meaning of each part, then put the meanings back together.

ROOKIE

1 The root **tri** means *three*. Coach Rosa Vega of the Bayport Pelicans finished her first **triathlon**. How many sports does a triathlon combine?

WORK SPACE

_____ sports

ROOKIE

2 The Riverside Otters won their hockey **semifinal**. What does **semi** mean, and what round do the Otters play next?

WORK SPACE

_____ next: _____

STARTER

3 Cornerback Jaylen Brooks of the Maple City Moose made an **interception**. **Inter** means *between* and **cept** means *take*. Use those meanings to explain what he did.

STARTER

4 The Sun Valley Hawks sent a **substitute** into the game. **Sub** can mean *under* or *in place of*. What is a substitute in sports?

PRO

5 Over 9,000 **spectators** filled the arena. **Spect** means *look* or *watch*. What are spectators? Then write one more word with **spect** in it.

PRO

6 Point guard Nia Okafor **transfers** to a new school. **Trans** means *across* and **fer** means *carry*. What does transfer mean? Name another **trans** word.

ALL-STAR

7 **Hept** means *seven*, **dec** means *ten* and **athlon** means *contest*. Name the track contest with 7 events and the one with 10. How many more events does the second have?

WORK SPACE

_____ · _____ · _____ more

CHALLENGE ★

8 Challenge: Fans called the Frost Bay Penguins **invincible**. Break the word into **in** + **vinc** + **ible** and use the parts to tell what it means.

A Match the Root

Write the letter of the meaning that matches each word part. Each meaning is used once.

A. both **B.** far **C.** one **D.** before **E.** many **F.** hundred **G.** together, with **H.** back or again

1. **pre-** as in *pregame* — **Letter** _____
2. **re-** as in *rematch* — **Letter** _____
3. **co-** as in *co-captain* — **Letter** _____
4. **multi-** as in *multisport* — **Letter** _____
5. **cent** as in *percent* — **Letter** _____
6. **tele-** as in *telecast* — **Letter** _____
7. **uni-** · **un-** as in *uniform* — **Letter** _____
8. **ambi-** as in *ambidextrous* — **Letter** _____

B Fill In the Game Report

Use the word bank and the clues in each sentence. Each word is used once.

ambidextrous · co-captains · multisport · percent · preseason · rebounds · telecast · unanimous

Eagles Soar in the Season Opener

During the **(1)** _____, before any games counted, the Eastport Eagles named two **(2)** _____, guard Tess Moreno and center Dev Patel, to lead the team together.

Moreno is **(3)** _____: she can dribble and shoot with either hand. In the opener, Patel grabbed 14 **(4)** _____, snatching missed shots that bounced back off the rim.

Fans who could not get tickets watched the local TV **(5)** _____, which sent the game far beyond the gym. Patel made 75 **(6)** _____ of his free throws (6 of 8).

Moreno is a **(7)** _____ athlete who also plays soccer and runs track. After the season, the vote for team MVP was **(8)** _____: every player picked Moreno, as one.

C Root Detective

Break each word into its parts. Write your answers in complete sentences.

1. A quarterback threw a pass with a high **trajectory**. It comes from **tra** (*across*) + **ject** (*throw*). What is a trajectory?

2. Scouts call a young player a **prospect**: **pro** (*forward*) + **spect** (*look*). Why does that name fit?

3. Your **opponent** comes from **op** (*against*) + **pon** (*put, place*). Use the parts to explain the word.

4. Challenge: Which word does **not** share the root **vinc/vict**?
victor · **convince** · **vicinity** · **invincible**

Answer Key (for teachers & parents)

Answers for **Playbook Word Roots**. Print pages 1 and 2 for students and keep this page for checking. Accept any answer on page 1 and in Section C that uses the meanings of the word parts correctly.

Page 1 Problems

1. **Answer: 3 sports**
   Swimming, cycling and running.
2. **Answer: Semi means half. Next is the final.**
   The semifinals are the round right before the final.
3. **Answer: He took the ball between the passer and the receiver.**
   He caught a pass meant for the other team.
4. **Answer: A player who goes in place of another player.**
5. **Answer: People who watch the game.**
   Other words: inspect, respect, spectacle, spectacular.
6. **Answer: To move across to a new team or school.**
   Other words: transport, transition, translate.
7. **Answer: Heptathlon · decathlon · 3 more**
   10 – 7 = 3.
8. **Answer: Not able to be conquered (beaten).**
   in (not) + vinc (conquer) + ible (able to be).

C · Root Detective

1. **Answer: The curved path a thrown ball takes.**
   It is thrown across the air.
2. **Answer: Teams look forward to the player's future.**
3. **Answer: The player or team placed against you.**
4. **Answer: vicinity**
   Vicinity comes from a word for *neighborhood*.

Quick score

Page 1 problems	_____ / 8
A · Match the Root	_____ / 8
B · Game Report	_____ / 8
C · Root Detective	_____ / 4
Total	**_____ / 28**

Skills practiced

Greek & Latin roots · Prefixes & suffixes · Context clues · Word meaning · Vocabulary · Close reading

Teaching tip: Have students draw slashes between word parts (in / vinc / ible) before defining. Then ask them to hunt for one more sports word with a root from this sheet, like *rematch* or *semipro*.

A · Match the Root

1. Answer: D

2. Answer: H

3. Answer: G

4. Answer: E

5. Answer: F

6. Answer: B

7. Answer: C

8. Answer: A

B · Fill In the Game Report

1. Answer: preseason

2. Answer: co-captains

3. Answer: ambidextrous

4. Answer: rebounds

5. Answer: telecast

6. Answer: percent

7. Answer: multisport

8. Answer: unanimous

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