

Lesson Plan

Prefix Clues

Book: *Exoskeletons*

Series: Engineering the Human Body

Level: Navigator

Objective

To help students use prefixes to figure out the meaning of unfamiliar words.

Supplies

- *Exoskeletons* book
- Prefix Clues handout (attached)
- Pencils and paper

Before the Activity

Read *Exoskeletons* out loud, or assign it to students to read on their own. Give each student the Prefix Clues handout, a pencil, and paper.

Activity

Open the book to page 5. Have a student read the second paragraph: “This device is a machine that a person wears. The prefix *exo-* means ‘outside.’ So, an exoskeleton is a skeleton. But it goes outside the body. Different models have different uses.”

A prefix is a letter or set of letters added to the beginning of a word to change its meaning. Different prefixes have different meanings. By becoming familiar with common prefixes, people can more easily figure out the meaning of unfamiliar words that have those prefixes.

The Prefix Clues handout lists some common prefixes, as well as words that have those prefixes. On a separate sheet of paper, students should write a definition for each word and also use the word in a sentence.

Evaluation

Use the attached answer key to give students 1 point for each correct definition and 1 point for using each word in a sentence correctly, for a total of 18 points.

Standards

This lesson may be used to address the Common Core State Standards’ language standards, grade 3 (L 3.4).

Prefix Clues

1) under-

beneath, below; not enough

underdeveloped

underage

underachiever

2) re-

again

rebuild

rethink

redo

3) un-

not; to reverse the action of

unhappy

unmask

unable

4) over-

excessively, completely; upper, outer

overcoat

overconfident

overflow

5) anti-

opposing, against, the opposite

antisocial

anti-war

anti-government

6) out-

go beyond

outdo

outperform

outrun

Prefix Clues **ANSWER KEY**

1) under-

beneath, below; not enough

underdeveloped—**not normally or adequately developed**

underage—**of less than mature or legal age**

underachiever—**a person who does not do as well as expected in terms of achievement**

2) re-

again

rebuild—**to build again or restore to a previous state**

rethink—**to think about again or reconsider**

redo—**to do over or to do again**

3) un-

not; to reverse the action of

unhappy—**not happy, cheerful, or glad**

unmask—**to take off the mask of; to reveal the true nature of**

unable—**not able, incapable**

4) over-

excessively, completely; upper, outer

overcoat—**a warm coat worn over other clothing**

overconfident—**having too much confidence in one's abilities or judgment**

overflow—**to fill a space beyond its capacity**

5) anti-

opposing, against, the opposite

antisocial—**hostile to organized society or to the society of others**

anti-war—**opposed to war**

anti-government—**opposed to governments in general or to a particular government**

6) out-

go beyond

outdo—**to go beyond in action or performance**

outperform—**to perform better than**

outrun—**to run faster than**