

LESSON 1



Word Study Notebook

Understand the Concept

Did you know that English has the largest vocabulary of any language in the world? There are more than one million words in English, and new ones are being added every day. With so many words to choose from, you can easily make your writing and speech unique and interesting. Rather than describe the sea as blue, you could call it *azure*, *cerulean*, *cobalt*, *Prussian blue*, *indigo*, *aqua*, or *turquoise*. When describing the lobby of a fancy hotel, you might say it is *elegant*, *luxurious*, *sumptuous*, *classy*, *swank*, *ritzy*, *tony*, or *posh*.

New and interesting words can be found everywhere—in magazines and books, on billboards and restaurant menus, on the radio or on TV. Start collecting words in a word study notebook. All you need is a plain notebook with ruled paper. In your notebook, you can jot down new words along with their pronunciation, origins, and definition. You can also write a sentence using the word and even draw a picture to help you remember the meaning or spelling.

Here is a sample word study notebook page:

Word: <i>optimist</i>
Pronunciation: \əp' tə mist\
Origins: French <i>optimisme</i> , from Latin <i>optimum</i> , meaning "the best"
Definition: one who is optimistic, that is, who tends to take a favorable view of events and conditions and to expect a favorable outcome
Sentence: Dennis is a true <u>optimist</u> ; he is always looking on the bright side of things.



Word of the Week

imploring (im' plôr in) v., begging, pleading

While Jason was *imploring* his mother to let him go to the Mall of America, he could see his friends drive off without him in the direction of the mall.

Synonyms for *implore* include *beg*, *beseech*, *plead*, *entreat*, *demand*, and *press*. The word *implore* is derived from the Latin word *implorare*, which means "to weep." Note that when adding the suffix *-ing* to *implore*, the silent *e* is dropped.

Tip

In your notebook, you may also make lists of words that appeal to you because of their sound or imagery. Later, you might use these words in creative writing or poetry. Here is a sample list of cool-sounding words: *pagoda*, *umber*, *oxblood*, *effulgence*, *draconian*, *sea star*, *nimbus*, *lustrous*, *nightshade*, *gimcrack*. Start your own! You can start by just flipping through a dictionary to see what catches your eye.

Tip Consider including the following in your word study notebook.

- New vocabulary
- Spelling words and spelling tips
- Prefixes, suffixes, and roots
- Easily confused words (*here* and *hear*, *their* and *they're*, *lead* and *led*)
- Fun word facts

Tip Word study is all about investigating words. It's about finding out where they come from, what they mean. It's about finding patterns in the way they are spelled and pronounced.

Tip You can use your word study notebook to record strange and unusual words as well. In your word study notebook, create entries for the following words.

agog
jocund
waft
gelatinous
talisman

Try It Yourself

In your own notebook, fill in this sample of a word study notebook. Use the space at the bottom of the page to draw a picture for the word.

	Word: <i>atone</i>
	Pronunciation:
	Origins:
	Definition:
	Sentence using the word:
	Drawing:

Word study is all about investigating words. It's about finding out where they come from and what they mean. It's about finding patterns in the way they are spelled and pronounced. As you continue to study words, you may use your word study notebook to record notes on your investigation. You may list words that you have trouble spelling, words that are easily confused, or words that share a particular spelling pattern or word root. You may also include memory tricks, fun word facts, and so on.

	Words missed on spelling test:
	<i>preferred</i> <i>divine</i>
	<i>canoeing</i> <i>schedule</i>
	Words with the root <i>path</i> , meaning "feeling":
	<i>sympathy</i> <i>psychopath</i> <i>pathetic</i>

You may reserve a section of your notebook especially for investigating word origins.

	Word Origins:
	<u>Kitty-corner</u> : Has nothing to do with cats! The word was originally <i>catercorner</i> , an intersection with four street corners. (<i>Cater</i> was an old word meaning "four.") Because it sounded like there was a "cat" in the word, people started saying "kitty-corner" for short.
	<u>Out in the boondocks</u> : Out in the middle of nowhere. From <i>bundok</i> , meaning "mountain" in Tagalog, a language spoken in the Philippines.