

Spelling Week 2

Families, on each spelling lesson, students examine words with letter patterns that transfer to other words, such as certain roots, prefixes, or suffixes, giving them a better idea what the words mean. We also work to build and maintain good handwriting skills and help students visualize the shape of words by “boxing” the letters (see below). For each new lesson, students complete a five-word pretest. For each word spelled correctly, students replace the word with one that has similar properties. (Example: politician might replace musician) In addition to studying the patterns found within their list of five words, students determine the definition(s) of each word, write a sentence about it, and collaborate with the class to find and list other words that have the same pattern.

politics

musician

valuable

acceptable

unbelievable

politics

Unacceptable Definition: government stuff (not specific enough; lack of precise vocabulary)

Acceptable Definition: the activities associated with the governance of a country or other area, especially the debate or conflict among individuals or parties having or hoping to achieve power

Unacceptable Context Sentence: I like politics. (not detailed enough; no context present)

Acceptable Context Sentence: I have a hard time talking about politics with my friend because he has very strong views about how government should be run.

On a notecard, your child completed his/her recent test over his/her first set of words, along with his/her pretest of the second set. If your child misspelled any words on this week's test, he/she will write and study them again. Words with incorrect handwriting will be written again until correct handwriting is demonstrated.

Below is a detailed explanation of the features of this week's five words:

The **ending –ics** forms nouns referring to fields of knowledge or practice, and forms nouns relating to activities. Examples: athletics, dynamics, economics, genetics, mathematics, mechanics, pediatrics, physics, robotics, and statistics

The **suffix –ian** usually forms nouns meaning one from, belonging to, relating to, or like (magician, physician, politician); it also forms nouns relating to a certain profession (comedian) and some adjectives that are from, related to, or like that root (Utopian)

The **suffix –able** usually forms adjectives that mean able to be done, or fit to be done (movable, breakable, blamable). They can also form adjectives that mean relevant or suitable to, or in accordance with (fashionable, seasonable). There are also less common meanings of the adjectives they form, including giving (pleasurable), inclined to (peaceable), subject to (taxable), and due to be (payable). When the –able suffix is added to a word ending in a silent e, the e is dropped unless the word ends in a soft c (traceable) or soft g (manageable).

The **prefix un-** does not impact what part of speech the word is (such as verb, noun, adjective, or adverb), but it makes the word mean not (unattractive), lacking (unfriendliness), the reverse/opposite of (untie).