

# Buckle Down<sup>®</sup>

to the *COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS*



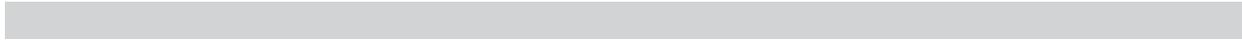
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English  
Language  
Arts

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**To the Teacher:**

Common Core Standards are listed for each lesson in the table of contents and for each page in the shaded gray bars that run across the tops of the pages in the workbook (see the example at right).





## Lesson 1: Learning New Words

Did you know there are hundreds of thousands of words in the English language? This means that even grown-ups sometimes see words they don't know.

You may even *confront* (meet) a word that is *alien* (strange) to you in a comic book. Don't *fret* (worry)!

When you see a new word, don't give up. Be a detective, just like Sherlock Holmes. Look for clues to help you figure out the word. Usually, you will be able to find these clues in the reading passage. You just have to know what to look for. This lesson will show you how to become a word detective.



### TIP 1: Start by sounding out an unknown word.

If you don't know a word by sight, the first thing to do is to sound it out. Let's imagine that you read the following sentence in a story:

Melina loves to fly her kite in the park when there is a strong wind.

*Wind* has more than one meaning. You're not sure which meaning is used. So, you sound it out. It could rhyme with *kind* and mean "to wrap around, turn, or curve." Or it could rhyme with *pinned* and mean "blowing air." Which way sounds correct?

1. As it is used in this sentence, what should the word *wind* rhyme with?
-

**TIP 2: Sound out the word until you recognize it.**

There are many words in the English language, and some are spelled in unusual and irregular ways. Even if a word is irregularly spelled, sound it out until you recognize it.

The following are some irregularly spelled words you may already know:

Word	How to Pronounce the Word	Meaning
<i>although</i>	awl-thoh	in spite of, even though
<i>machine</i>	muh-sheen	a structure that completes a task
<i>science</i>	seye-ens	the study of the universe
<i>stomach</i>	stuhm-uhk	a part inside the body that digests food

**Practice Activity 1**

**Directions:** Read the following irregularly spelled words. Sound out each word. Then, write the meaning of the word, and write the word in a sentence. The first one has been done for you.

- heart

The word *heart* means a part of the body that pumps blood or a part of the body that loves. My grandmother is sweet and has a big heart.

- friend

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- stomach

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As you read this story about Sherlock Holmes, think about how you might figure out what the unknown or irregularly spelled words mean.

## *Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Wheediddle*

by Sandi Shaw

*Sherlock Holmes put his violin back in its case. He stared once again at the note that had been slipped under his door. It was very, very strange. The writer had used many words that Sherlock and his partner, Dr. Watson, did not know. Holmes would have to look for clues to understand the note.*

Daab Mr. Holmes,

Can we meet at 8 o'grock? Wait for me. I hope I'm not lorgh. Sometimes I forget to put a new battery in my wheediddle and it stops. Then I don't know what time it is. I'll meet you at the bongle of Baker Street and 10th Avenue. Try not to be lorgh!

Very truly yongs,  
Hobart Tinwhistle

“Well,” said Sherlock, “*Daab* must mean ‘Dear’ since most letters begin with that word. And *o'grock* could mean ‘o'clock,’ since it is matched with the number 8.”

The great detective continued to study the letter. “*Wheediddle* must mean ‘watch’ or ‘clock,’ since the writer says that his wheediddle stops when he doesn’t put a new battery in it—and then he doesn’t know what time it is.

“*Lorgh* must mean ‘late.’ He hopes he won’t be late if his watch stops. Then, later in the note, he tells me not to be ‘lorgh.’ Yes, I am certain that *lorgh* means ‘late,’” Sherlock said to himself. “*Bongle* must mean ‘corner,’ since Baker Street crosses 10th Avenue.

“And, finally,” the detective said, “*yongs* must mean ‘yours.’ Mr. Tinwhistle is probably trying to close his letter with ‘Very truly yours.’

“Dr. Watson!” Sherlock called excitedly. “Come. Grab your coat and hat. We must meet a certain Mr. Tinwhistle at the corner of Baker Street and 10th Avenue at 8 o'clock. And,” he added, “we must not be ‘lorgh!’”



**TIP 3: Don't stop reading when you come to a word you don't know.**

Here's the best way to understand a new word. Use other words you already know to help you! Don't stop reading just because you don't know a word. Say it to yourself, and then go right on reading.

Sometimes, other words in the passage will give context clues to the meaning of the new word. These words often are found close together. Sometimes they are even in the same sentence. Look at these examples:

- In this area, we can find gabbro, a type of dark, heavy rock.
- She looked in her coin purse and found one dinar.
- Tom assures his good health by running and eating healthy foods.

2. What is *gabbro*?

---

3. What is a *dinar*?

---

4. What is the meaning of *assures*?

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Sometimes reading the whole paragraph will help you figure out the meaning of an unknown word. Read the following paragraph. It tells about an imaginary thing called a *gorfle*. Try to figure out what a *gorfle* is.

Gorfles are beautiful and very useful. A full-grown gorfle is big enough to make shade in the summer. In the spring, its blossoms have a wonderful smell. A gorfle has strong branches that hold a lot of juicy fruit.

5. What do you know about a *gorfle* from reading the paragraph?

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6. Based on the paragraph, what is a *gorfle*?
- A. a kind of tree
  - B. a kind of vegetable
  - C. a kind of flower
  - D. a kind of weed
7. Look back at Mr. Tinwhistle’s letter on page 10. Underline details that give clues to the meaning of *wheediddle*.



**TIP 4: Go back to the passage and put your finger on the unknown word.**

A question on a reading test might ask you the meaning of a word or phrase. A **phrase** is a group of words. First, find the word or phrase in the passage. Then use the words around it to figure out its meaning. Keep your finger on the word so you don’t lose your place when you look back at the question.

**TIP 5: Try each multiple-choice answer in place of the unknown word.**

When you are asked the meaning of a word, find the word in the passage. Replace the unknown word with each answer choice, one at a time. The answer that makes the most sense is probably correct.

Read the following paragraph.

I think most people called him Charlie Cheeseburger. But that was a long time ago. To the best of my recollection, he never called himself by that name. In fact, he hated cheeseburgers. And his real name was Albert.

Read the following question, but don't answer it yet.

8. What is the meaning of the word *recollection*?
- A. eyesight
  - B. memory
  - C. touch
  - D. smell

First, find the sentence that contains the word *recollection*. Then try each answer choice in place of the word *recollection*. Which answer choice makes the most sense in the sentence?

Now go back and answer Number 8.

**TIP 6: Check the passage for words with the same meaning.**

If you read a word that you don't know, you will probably find all sorts of clues to the word's meaning in the passage.

Sometimes, the passage will have other words with nearly the same meaning as the word you are trying to figure out.

Read the following passage, and then answer Numbers 9 and 10.

The old man was very poor. Each day he would labor in his field until he was so tired that he could barely move. As the sun set, the old man would stop his hard work. Then he would throw his hoe over his shoulder and slowly walk home to his small cottage.

9. Circle any words or phrases in the passage that you think might be close to the same meaning as the word *labor*.
10. Which word means about the same thing as the word *labor*?
  - A. work
  - B. laugh
  - C. daydream
  - D. wander



**TIP 7: Check the passage for words with opposite meanings.**

Sometimes the passage will give you clues to the opposite meaning of a word. If you can figure out a word's opposite, you can make a good guess about its meaning.

Read the following sentences. Then answer Numbers 11 and 12.

Carmen was usually very prompt for her music lesson. However, today she was 10 minutes late.

11. Circle any words in the sentences that you think might have the opposite meaning of *prompt*.
12. Which word means the opposite of the word *prompt*?
  - A. sad
  - B. late
  - C. unhappy
  - D. puzzled


**TIP 8: Use clues to understand academic words.**

**Academic words** are words you use in specific classes at school. Sometimes you'll find these words in your textbooks. Examples of academic words are *character*, *hypothesis*, *summary*, and others. Often details in a text give you clues about the meanings of academic words.

The following are some academic words you may already know:

Word	Meaning	Example
<i>cell</i>	basic unit of all living things	The plant cell has a strong cell wall.
<i>character</i>	a person represented in fiction	The main character likes dogs.
<i>fiction</i>	a type of writing that contains made-up details: a short story, a novel, a play, or a poem	The story about talking rabbits is fiction.
<i>nonfiction</i>	a type of writing that is made up of facts	This encyclopedia is nonfiction.
<i>geography</i>	the study of Earth's surface and weather	The geography of the United States made it hard for people to travel West.
<i>government</i>	a system that rules a community	The government is democratic.
<i>hypothesis</i>	a guess that can be tested	The experiment tested our hypothesis.
<i>summary</i>	a brief statement of important facts or details	I wrote a summary of the book.
<i>timeline</i>	a drawing that shows the dates things happened	The timeline showed that the Civil War started in 1861.
<i>vote</i>	a way to share an opinion, a formal part of some governments	Yesterday was the day to vote!



## Practice Activity 2

**Directions:** Read the following paragraph.

For homework, I wrote a short story about a character named Joy. My teacher told me to include a lot of details, so I described Joy's laugh, her friends, and what she likes to do.

Read the following question, but don't answer it yet.

1. What is the meaning of the word *detail*?
  - A. a sentence
  - B. a dictionary
  - C. a description
  - D. a generalization

First, look in the paragraph for clues about the meaning of the word *detail*. Then, define the word *detail* in your own words.

Now go back and answer Number 1.


**TIP 9: Use a dictionary to find out what words mean.**

A **dictionary** is a book that lists words and their definitions. It tells what words mean and how to say them.

A dictionary can help you figure out the meaning of key words and phrases in a reading passage. First, see how the word is spelled in the passage. Then, find that word in the dictionary. Remember, words in a dictionary are in ABC order.

Let's say you have found the word *stick* in a passage. Here is what the dictionary tells you about the word *stick*.

<b>stick – stink</b>			<b>180</b>
a bat	i sit	oi boil	e = { <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a in alike</li> <li>e in shaken</li> <li>i in beautiful</li> <li>o in bacon</li> <li>u in circus</li> </ul>
ā able	ī iron	ou our	
ä car	o not	u nut	
e set	ō over	û put	
ē easy	ô cord	ü ruler	
èr germ			

**stick<sup>1</sup>** (stik) *noun* **1:** a woody piece or part of a tree or bush: as **(a)** a twig or thin branch **(b)** a cut or broken branch or piece of wood **2 a:** a long, thin piece of wood: as **(1):** a club or pole used as a weapon **(2):** a walking stick, cane **b:** a tool used for hitting an object in a game **3:** any tools that look like a stick: as **(a)** an airplane lever that operates wing controls **(b)** the gear lever on a car **4:** a piece of furniture **5:** a long, thin piece (*stick of butter, stick of candy*)

**stick<sup>2</sup>** (stik) *verb* **1:** poke with a pointed tool **2:** put into a position (*stick it in the closet*) **3:** attach to **4:** stay near (*my puppy sticks to my heels*) **5:** stretch out of (*stick your head out and check for rain*)



### Practice Activity 3

**Directions:** Read each sentence. Then choose the correct meaning of the word *stick* or *sticks* by using the dictionary entry on page 17.

1. The birds built their nest out of small sticks.
  - A. twigs
  - B. canes
  - C. clubs
  - D. levers
  
2. Nicole told her little sister, “Stick with me while we cross the street.”
  - A. poke with a needle
  - B. stay near
  - C. put into a position
  - D. attach to
  
3. William gave me a stick of gum.
  - A. broken branch
  - B. twig
  - C. long, thin piece
  - D. tool in a game
  
4. The player took his hockey stick and hit the puck across the ice.
  - A. piece of furniture
  - B. tool used in a game
  - C. cut or broken branch
  - D. a type of ruler
  
5. The man moved with the help of a walking stick.
  - A. cane
  - B. tool
  - C. lever
  - D. twig

**TIP 10: Use a glossary to look up the meanings of words.**

Some books have a glossary. A **glossary** is like a dictionary of every important word in a book. The glossary lists words in ABC order. It is found near the back of a book.

Look at this glossary from a science book. Then answer Number 13.

Glossary	
<b>A</b>	
<b>accurate:</b>	as exact as possible
<b>B</b>	
<b>balanced diet:</b>	a diet that gives your body everything it needs to stay healthy and to grow
<b>basic needs:</b>	things that all living creatures must have in order to live: food, water, clean air, and shelter
<b>biologist:</b>	a scientist who studies living things
<b>C</b>	
<b>claim:</b>	a statement someone wants others to believe is true

13. Which word has the closest meaning to *accurate*?

- A. exact
- B. healthy
- C. scientist
- D. statement

**Directions:** This passage is about a boy who has to carry a birthday cake. Read the passage. Then answer Numbers 1 through 5.

## Thinking Ahead

by Wanda Wilson

Tony's aunt had promised. She said she'd give Tony five dollars. All he had to do was carry the birthday cake to the party down the street without ruining it.

"The deal is off if you drop it, kid," she said.

Tony walked along, holding the cake plate on either side with both hands. He was very careful not to trip on the sidewalk.

As he walked along, his imagination started to take over.

He thought to himself, *Once I deliver this cake, I will earn five dollars. With my aunt's five dollars, I will buy a bunch of lemonade mix. I'll start a lemonade stand. Then I can sell lemonade and make a whole lot of money. Then, I'll take that lemonade money and go shopping. I'll get a basketball signed by Nate Robinson. He's my favorite player of all time! My friends will all be jealous. They will want to play with the basketball. They will say, "Tony, c'mon, let me shoot!" But I won't let them. I will turn to face the basket and do a jump shot, like this!*

Tony jumped. Forgetting all about the cake, he tossed it as if he were shooting a basket. The cake hit a tree, and globs of frosting and white cake flew everywhere. And just like that, all of Tony's basketball dreams vanished in a moment on 12th Avenue!



Tony's aunt asked him to carry the birthday cake.

**1. Read this sentence from the story.**

“As he walked along, his imagination started to take over.”

**The word *imagination* most likely means Tony**

- A. heard someone talking.
- B. pictured in his mind.
- C. remembered something.
- D. saw people walking by.

**2. The story says Tony is supposed to deliver the cake. What does the word *deliver* mean?**

- A. bring
- B. throw
- C. eat
- D. bake

**3. Read these sentences from the story.**

“My friends will all be jealous. They will want to play with the basketball.”

**Which words from the sentences above help you know what *jealous* means?**

- A. “My friends”
- B. “will want”
- C. “play with”
- D. “the basketball”

4. Read this sentence from the story.

“I’ll get a basketball signed by Nate Robinson.”

The word *signed* is an irregularly spelled word. What is the meaning of the word *signed*? What clues in the story show the meaning of the word *signed*?

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