

**Striving To Improve**



# Writing Book 1

For students aged 11 - 15 years who are  
underachieving at their year level.

Sample



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# Contents

Teachers' Notes	4
Australian Curriculum Links	4
<b>Section One: Prefixes and Suffixes</b>	5
Prefixes 1	6
Prefixes 2	7
Prefixes 3	8
Prefixes 4	9
Prefixes 5	10
Suffixes 1	11
Suffixes 2	12
Suffixes 3	13
Suffixes 4	14
Suffixes 5	15
Suffixes 6	16
Suffixes and Prefixes	17
<b>Section Two: Plurals</b>	18
Plurals 1	19
Plurals 2	20
Plurals 3	21
Plurals 4	22
Plurals 5	23
Unusual Plurals	24
All Types of Plurals 1	25
All Types of Plurals 2	26
<b>Section Three: Nouns</b>	27
Nouns	28
Proper Nouns	29
Common and Proper Nouns	30
Collective Nouns	31
Abstract Nouns	32
Four Types of Nouns	33
<b>Section Four: Verbs and Adverbs</b>	34
Verbs 1	35
Verbs 2	36
Verbs 3	37
Verbs 4	38
Verbs 5	39
Adverbs	40
More Adverbs	41
<b>Section Five: Adjectives</b>	42
Adjectives	43
More Adjectives	44
Quantitative Adjectives	45
Comparative and Superlative Adjectives 1	46
Comparative and Superlative Adjectives 2	47
Comparative and Superlative Adjectives 3	48
Expanding Adjectives	49
Answers	50-55

## \* Prefixes 1



A prefix is a group of letters added to the beginning of a word to change its meaning. For example, the prefix *pre*, meaning *before*, can be added to the word *heat*, to make the new word *preheat*, meaning to heat beforehand. When adding a prefix, it is not necessary to change the spelling of the base word.

### \* TASK A Look at the prefixes and their meanings below.

**Pre:** means *before*, such as *preschool* and *prearrange*.

**Un:** changes the meaning of a word to its opposite, such as *unemployed* and *undo*.

**Re:** means *again*, such as *redo*, *revisit* and *review*.

**Semi:** means *half* or *partly*, such as *semicircle* and *semiconscious*.

### \* TASK B Highlight the prefix in each word below, then write a sentence for each prefixed word.

preschool: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

prearrange: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

unemployed: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

undo: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

redo: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

revisit: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

review: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

semicircle: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

semiconscious: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## \* Prefixes 3



A prefix can often be used to create the opposite of a word. The prefixes below (sometimes called negative prefixes), mean *not*, *wrong* or *against*.

un      non      in      dis      mis      im      anti

### \* TASK A

Create the opposite of each word below by adding a prefix from the list above.

fortune: _____	employed: _____
social: _____	destructible: _____
respect: _____	probable: _____
honest: _____	sincere: _____
definite: _____	patient: _____
frequent: _____	perfect: _____
appear: _____	use: _____
septic: _____	comfort: _____

### \* TASK B

Choose a prefixed word from TASK A to fit each definition.

1. Not likely to happen: \_\_\_\_\_
2. To vanish: \_\_\_\_\_
3. Used to cleanse a wound: \_\_\_\_\_
4. Unbreakable; immortal: \_\_\_\_\_
5. Not genuine: \_\_\_\_\_
6. Meaningless; absurd: \_\_\_\_\_
7. Not liking company: \_\_\_\_\_
8. Uneasiness: \_\_\_\_\_

### Challenge:

You should have found two opposites beginning with the prefix *anti*. How many more *anti* words do you know? Write them on the back of this sheet.

## \* Suffixes 2

The second rule for adding suffixes is for longer words which end in a single consonant preceded by a vowel.



If, when said aloud, the stress is on the first syllable, don't double the final consonant. If the stress is on the second syllable the final consonant should be doubled. If the word ends in *l*, it should always be doubled.

Look at the examples below. The stressed syllables are underlined.

**Examples**



<u>offer</u>	offering	offered	
be <u>gin</u>	beginning	beginner	
<u>trav</u> el	travelling	traveller	travelled

*Remember, if there are two vowels before the final consonant, then this rule does not apply.*

### \* TASK

Practise this rule by adding the suffixes from the list below to the words. Say each word aloud then underline the stressed syllable in each word to help you.

al ing er ed ance

1. murder: \_\_\_\_\_
2. digit: \_\_\_\_\_
3. explain: \_\_\_\_\_
4. tower: \_\_\_\_\_
5. level: \_\_\_\_\_
6. regret: \_\_\_\_\_
7. excel: \_\_\_\_\_
8. appear: \_\_\_\_\_
9. listen: \_\_\_\_\_
10. suffer: \_\_\_\_\_

### Challenge:



Look at the words above. Add more suffixes where appropriate, then try to add prefixes to as many of the words as possible.

## \* Suffixes and Prefixes

### \* TASK A

Some words contain suffixes *and* prefixes. Look at each word listed below and identify its prefix and its suffix.

	Prefix	Suffix
unfasten		
uncovered		
unbalanced		
unbeaten		
unfinished		
unforgettable		
untouchable		
derailing		
unshrinkable		

### \* TASK B

When you remove the prefixes and the suffixes from the words above what words are you left with? Write them in alphabetical order.

### \* TASK C

In your own words define prefix and suffix.

Prefix: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Suffix: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

## \* Plurals 3



Words ending in o don't obey any rules. Some words ending in o need an s added to make them plural and others need an es to make them plural.

### \* TASK A Make the words below plural.

tomato: \_\_\_\_\_

casino: \_\_\_\_\_

potato: \_\_\_\_\_

cargo: \_\_\_\_\_

piano: \_\_\_\_\_

cuckoo: \_\_\_\_\_

tornado: \_\_\_\_\_

go: \_\_\_\_\_

hippo: \_\_\_\_\_

echo: \_\_\_\_\_

avocado: \_\_\_\_\_

hero: \_\_\_\_\_

biro: \_\_\_\_\_

kangaroo: \_\_\_\_\_

### \* TASK B Think of five more words ending in o, then make them plural.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

### \* TASK C Write a little poem using as many words ending in o as you can.

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## \* Plurals 5

**\* TASK A** Turn the singular words below into plurals.

fairy: \_\_\_\_\_

worry: \_\_\_\_\_

diary: \_\_\_\_\_

lady: \_\_\_\_\_

country: \_\_\_\_\_

spy: \_\_\_\_\_

mystery: \_\_\_\_\_

property: \_\_\_\_\_

family: \_\_\_\_\_

army: \_\_\_\_\_

Write down a rule which explains how to form plurals for words ending in y.

**RULE 1:** \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**\* TASK B** Turn the singular words below into plurals.

boy: \_\_\_\_\_

holiday: \_\_\_\_\_

display: \_\_\_\_\_

key: \_\_\_\_\_

monkey: \_\_\_\_\_

toy: \_\_\_\_\_

Do the words above fit your rule? Discuss how these words are different from the first set of words, then write a new rule which covers the words from both lists.

**RULE 2:** \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_



**Extra:**

Share your rule with the rest of the class.