



Decoding Reading

What to do if you don't know what a word means

Sound it out

•Words from the same root family very often sound alike – even if you don't know the word in front of you, you might know another word that sounds similar.

•Sound the word out in your head and look for connections to other words you know.

•You don't know **fracture** but you know what a **fraction** is, so they are both likely to be about breaking something into parts!

Break it down

Many more difficult words are made up of different parts ~ Break it down into syllables and try to work out if any of those syllables seem familiar.

Prefixes

the bits added at the start of the word

Dis- not
disregard

In- not
inactive

Ir- not
irresponsible

Un- opposite of
unlock

Re- again
redo

Pre- before
preview

Mis- wrong
misrepresent

En- to cause/make
Enrich

Suffixes

the bits added at the end of a word

-y made of/is like
scary

-ful full of
beautiful

-able/-ible an ability
capable

-less without
friendless

-ness being something
stubbornness

Compound Words

joining two words without changing how you say either to make a new word: Classroom, Roadway, Graveyard, Ladybird ...

Roots

the word that's left

Phone sound
phoned

Aqua water
aquatic

Bio life
biology

Psych mind
psychotic

Cycle circle/wheel
bicycle

Geo earth
geography

Graph write
graphics

Context Clues

•Using what you understand of the passage already and the rest of the sentence, try to work out what would make sense

*-He fell from his bike and **fractured** his arm.*

•Look for words round about that might give you clues to the meaning of the word you're stuck on

*-The men **trudged** home, their feet heavy and dragging.*