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Spelling

When a **suffix** begins with a consonant, keep the silent **e**.

care

careful

careless

hope

hopeful

hopeless

Add a suffix to a word to complete each sentence. You may use a suffix more than once.

Words

close
face
bare
rude

grace
home
bone
use

love
complete
separate

Suffixes

-ly -ful
-less -ness

- The family sat on the beach and watched the _____ sunset.
- The _____ swan glided effortlessly over the cool blue lake water.
- Be courteous to others, because _____ will get you nowhere.
- Many people volunteer at the _____ shelter downtown.
- The art lovers were puzzled by the _____ people in the new artist's painting.
- I was so happy when I was _____ finished with my homework.
- The young man had _____ enough money to pay his rent.
- Mom and Dad drove _____ to the program because Dad had to leave early to go to work.
- If you look _____ at the picture, you'll see an optical illusion.
- The _____ chicken was on sale at the supermarket.

Plural Nouns

Irregular nouns do not follow the standard rules to form a plural. Some irregular nouns change their spelling. Others do not change at all.

wolf - wolves

fish - fish

Write the plural form of each noun. Then use the plural form in a sentence.

1. woman - _____

2. tooth - _____

3. goose - _____

4. mouse - _____

5. foot - _____

Verbs

A **verb** shows action or a state of being. The verb is the main word in the predicate (the part that tells what is happening) of a sentence. Specific verbs help to make sentences more interesting.

General Action Verbs

The boy **laughed** at the joke.
John **ran** home.

Specific Action Verbs

The boy **chuckled** at the joke.
John **sprinted** home.

Rewrite each sentence, replacing the general action verb with a more specific action verb. Use a thesaurus to find interesting verbs.

1. The teacher helped the student with the math assignment.

2. My father asked about the after school program for fourth graders.

3. The audience cried throughout the sad movie.

4. Our dog's loud bark bothered all of the neighbors.

(continued on the next page)

Reading Comprehension

Reading comprehension is the ability to read something and understand its meaning.

Read the fictional story and answer the questions.

Tammy and Gina

¹Tammy and Gina were identical twins. ²They wore the exact same clothes every day. ³Sometimes, even their parents had a difficult time telling them apart.

⁴At school, the students and the fourth grade teachers frequently mixed up the two girls. ⁵Tammy's passion was reading. ⁶She always had a book in hand. ⁷Gina was a brain when it came to math. ⁸She loved working with numbers, problem solving, and any games having to do with math. ⁹When Tammy and Gina arrived at school each morning, they had to sit in a line in the grade level hallway for about fifteen minutes. ¹⁰Tammy read her book, and Gina worked on Sudoku puzzles.



¹¹Fourth grade got more complicated as the year progressed. ¹²Tammy's math grades went up and down like a roller coaster, depending on what math skill she was learning. ¹³However, Gina consistently earned A's in math throughout the year.

¹⁴Every evening, the girls completed their homework at the kitchen table. ¹⁵Working on math homework was like climbing a mountain for Tammy. ¹⁶Gina tried to help, but Tammy would get frustrated. ¹⁷She'd get angry at her sister. ¹⁸Their mom and dad tried to help, also. ¹⁹Sometimes, Tammy understood the math better, but sometimes, her parents explained the math in a way she couldn't comprehend.

²⁰One Monday morning, the girls found out they would have a math test on Friday. ²¹It would be the final grade before their next report card. ²²Tammy was anxious and worried. ²³She didn't want to get a failing grade in math.

²⁴"Gina, you have to switch places with me at school on Friday! ²⁵You can take the math test for me. ²⁶Even if I get a low grade for you, you'll still get an A on your report card."

²⁷Gina rolled her eyes and shook her head. ²⁸Gina did not like the idea one bit, but her sister kept begging her until Gina finally agreed.

²⁹When they arrived at school on Friday, Gina read a book, and Tammy did Sudoku puzzles as they sat in the hall until the bell rang. ³⁰As usual, the girls wore the same clothes. ³¹Gina sat at Tammy's desk, and Tammy sat at Gina's desk. ³²They began the math test shortly after announcements.

³³Mrs. Drake walked around the room monitoring the students as they worked.

³⁴Only ten minutes had passed when Mrs. Drake said, "Tammy and Gina, I need to speak with you." ³⁵Mrs. Drake ushered the girls to the back of the room.

³⁶"You know that I've been correcting your assignments, reading your math journals, and looking at your handwriting for months now. ³⁷Your handwriting is similar, but not the same. ³⁸What's the story here? "

³⁹Gina had to confess immediately. ⁴⁰Tammy started crying, and she explained how math was so difficult.

⁴¹"Well, cheating won't help you improve your math skills. ⁴²Your mom and I spoke a while ago, and I told her that you would benefit from attending the math tutorials after school. ⁴³When I talk to her, I think she'll agree that now is the time. ⁴⁴Also, you need to study your math facts. ⁴⁵Mastering your math facts will make math easier for you. Gina could help. I know you'll improve your grades!"

⁴⁶"One more thing," the teacher said, "I'll have to inform your parents about this situation. ⁴⁷We'll discuss the consequences."

⁴⁸"Do you have to?" both girls said.

1. How do you know this story is realistic fiction?
 - a. The characters are famous.
 - b. The story is about a family.
 - c. The events that take place could happen.
 - d. There's a beginning, a middle, and an end.

2. What does the word monitoring mean in the story?
 - a. helping
 - b. watching carefully
 - c. teaching
 - d. talking

3. What does the word comprehend mean in the story?
 - a. understand
 - b. finish
 - c. divide
 - d. count

4. How did Mrs. Drake figure out the girls had switched places?
 - a. They wore different clothes.
 - b. She overheard the girls talking.
 - c. She recognized their handwriting.
 - d. She could read their minds.

Which sentence best supports the answer? _____