

## LESSON 1

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# Good Sense Across the Grades

The root *grad* as in *grade* means “step, grade level.” The word *grade* and its root *grad* are similar in spelling and meaning.

The root *sens* as in *sense* means “feeling, sensing, being aware of.” The word *sense* and its root *sens* are similar in spelling and meaning.

All of the following key words start with either the root *grad* or the root *sens*. In each key word, circle the root.

### Key Words

gradually

graduation

sensational

sensible

graduate

sensation

senseless

sensitive



### Using ROOT CLUES

The roots *grad* (step) and *sens* (feeling) give you clues about meaning. When you spot one of these roots in a word, you have a key to the word's meaning. Use the underlined root clues to help you match the following columns:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ graduate

A. quick to have hurt feelings

2. \_\_\_\_\_ gradually

B. to complete all the steps of schooling

3. \_\_\_\_\_ sensitive

C. little step by little step

4. \_\_\_\_\_ sensation

D. a feeling

The root clues did not give you complete definitions as the following dictionary listings will. But they got you started by giving you *part* of the meaning. Sometimes that *part* helps you to figure out the word.

**GRAD** (from the Latin word *gradus* meaning "step, grade level")

Familiar Words  
with Root GRAD

grade  
graded  
grades  
grading  
gradual

Challenge Words  
with Root GRAD

downgrade  
gradation  
upgrade

1. **gradually** (gra'jə wə lē)

adv. Step-by-step, in a slow manner, not suddenly.

Emma practiced the 100-yard dash every day and gradually improved her speed.



2. **graduate** (gra'jə wət)

n. A student who has finished all the steps in a course of study.

The graduates walked across the stage in their caps and gowns to receive their diplomas.

v. To finish one's schooling. (gra'jə wāt)

If Roger passes all his final exams, he will graduate in the spring.



3. **graduation** (gra jə wā' shən)

n. The ceremony at the completion of school.

After the graduation, students gathered with friends and families for photos.

**SENS** (from the Latin word *sensus* meaning “feel, become aware of, sense”)

Familiar Words  
with Root **SENS**

sense  
sensed  
senses  
sensing

4. **sensation** (sen sã' shən)

n. A feeling, an awareness coming from the senses.  
The sensation of fear gives some people goose bumps.

5. **sensational** (sen sã' shən əl)

adj. Exciting, outstanding.

Rita made a sensational somersault in the air and landed perfectly.

6. **senseless** (sens' lis)

adj. 1. Foolish, not showing good judgment.

We quickly realized that raking leaves on such a windy afternoon was a senseless job.

2. Unconscious.

When I fell on the ice and hit my head, I was knocked senseless for a few seconds.



7. **sensible** (sen' sə bəl)

adj. Wise, showing good sense.

For lunch, my friends and I make sensible choices, avoiding foods with lots of fat and sugar.



8. **sensitive** (sen' sə tiv)

adj. 1. Easily hurt.

Mac is too sensitive; he gets upset if anyone corrects him.

2. Quick to notice, feel, or react to.

Dena is so sensitive to animal hairs that she sneezes as soon as she enters a pet store.

Challenge Words  
with Root **SENS**

extrasensory  
sensibility  
sensitivity  
sensitize  
sensory



### EXERCISE A: SYNONYMS

Write the letter of the best **SYNONYM** (the word with the meaning most nearly the same as the word in bold-faced type).

1. \_\_\_\_\_ a **sensational** catch

- a. late                      b. difficult                      c. outstanding                      d. first

2. \_\_\_\_\_ the **sensation** of dizziness

- a. feeling                      b. fun                      c. fear                      d. approach

3. \_\_\_\_\_ happy to **graduate**

- a. finish                      b. study                      c. continue                      d. return

4. \_\_\_\_\_ **gradually** making progress

- a. quickly                      b. without                      c. soon                      d. slowly



### EXERCISE B: MEANING IN CONTEXT

Use these words to fill in the blanks in the following paragraph.

**sensible**

**graduation**

**senseless**

**sensitive**

My big brother loves to swim, but his skin is very (1) \_\_\_\_\_

to the sun. Usually, he is (2) \_\_\_\_\_ and puts on sunscreen.

Soon after his (3) \_\_\_\_\_ from high school, my brother and

his friends went to the beach for the day. Seeing his sunscreen at home, I

biked to the beach to find him. He was surprised to see me until I gave him

the lotion, saying, "It would be (4) \_\_\_\_\_ for you to get a

bad sunburn."

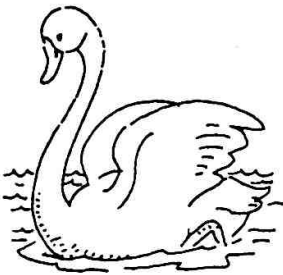


## EXERCISE C: EXTEND YOUR VOCABULARY

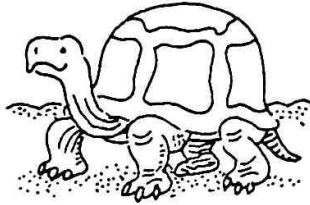
The adverb suffix *-ly*

The key word *gradually* ends in the suffix *-ly*. *Gradually* tells how something is done. Many other words that end in *-ly* also tell how something is done. Examples: *quickly, neatly, carefully, bravely*. These words are called adverbs.

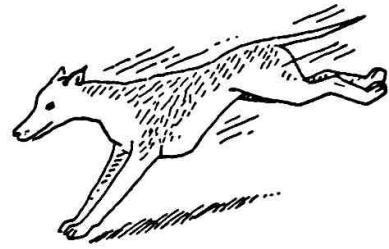
The underlined adverbs in the questions below tell how these creatures move. Look at the pictures. Then answer the questions.



A. swan



B. turtle



C. dog

1. Which creature often moves rapidly? Circle your answer. A B C
2. Which creature often moves slowly? Circle your answer. A B C
3. Which creature often moves gracefully? Circle your answer. A B C

Now, take away the suffix *-ly* from each underlined adverb above.

4. Write the three words that are left.

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Write a sentence using the adverb *gradually*.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_