

LESSON 7

Finishing Easily

The root *eas* as in *ease* means “comfort.” The word *ease* and its root *eas* are similar in spelling and meaning.

The root *fin* as in *finish* means “end.” The word *finish* and its root *fin* are similar in spelling and meaning.

All of the following key words except two start with either the root *eas* or the root *fin*. In each key word, circle the root.

Key Words

ease

finale

finally

uneasy

easiest

finalist

finite

unfinished



Using ROOT CLUES

The roots *eas* (comfort) and *fin* (end) 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. _____ easiest

A. a person who reaches the end of a contest

2. _____ finally

B. uncomfortable

3. _____ uneasy

C. at the end

4. _____ finalist

D. most simple and comfortable

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.

EAS (from the Latin word *adiacens* meaning "lying nearby," via the French word *aise* meaning "comfort")

Familiar Words
with Root EAS

disease
easily
easy

Challenge Words
with Root EAS

easement
easygoing
uneasily
uneasiness

1. **ease** (ēz)

n. Comfort, not having to try hard.

After Brooke practiced the dance step for a week, she could do it with ease.

v. To reduce the strain.

When Hector eased up on the rope, he lost the tug-of-war.

2. **easiest** (ē' zē est)

adj. Not difficult at all, most simple.

Because we studied so hard for the last test, it seemed like the easiest one of the year.

3. **uneasy** (ən ē' zē)

adj. Uncomfortable, not relaxed, worried.

Lucas was uneasy about giving a speech to the class because he had not practiced at home.



FIN (from the Latin word *finis* meaning "end")

Familiar Words
with Root FIN

final
finish
finished
finishes
finishing

4. **finale** (fi nā' lē)

n. The last part, as of a program or a piece of music.

After the band members performed several popular tunes, they played the school song as their finale.

Challenge Words
with Root FIN

confine

infinite

infinity

refinery

semifinal

5. **finalist** (fī' nə list)

n. A person who is in the last round of a contest.

We all attended the state spelling bee to cheer for Megan, our school's finalist.



6. **finally** (fī' nə lē or fīn' lē)

adv. At last, at the end.

After two days of blizzard conditions, the snow finally stopped and a plow made its way down our road.



7. **finite** (fī' nīt)

adj. Having an end, limited.

Cesar had a finite number of prizes to hand out and was afraid they wouldn't last.

8. **unfinished** (ən fī' nīst)

adj. 1. Incomplete, not finished.

When the time ran out, Jeff had to turn in an unfinished test.

2. Not having any final coating.

Caroline decided to paint the unfinished wood of the picnic table.



NOTA BENE

The words *uneasy* and *unfinished* start with the prefix *un-*, which means "not." *Un-* is the most frequently used prefix in our language.



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. _____ the **finite** power of the mayor
 a. limited b. endless c. sensational d. questionable
2. _____ thinking about an **unfinished** project
 a. excellent b. winning c. late d. incomplete
3. _____ words that **eased** their fear
 a. caused b. knew c. reduced d. visited
4. _____ a show with an exciting **finale**
 a. scene b. ending c. cast d. star



EXERCISE B: MEANING IN CONTEXT

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

finalist

easiest

Finally

uneasy

Sophie greeted her dad by waving an envelope. (1) _____ the letter she had been waiting for had arrived. "One of my stories will be printed in a magazine with student writing! This makes me a (2) _____ for the Best Writer of the Year Award. Last week, I was so (3) _____ because I had no reply from the magazine." "I'm impressed!" her dad said. "I'm glad writing is your (4) _____ subject. It will benefit you all your life."



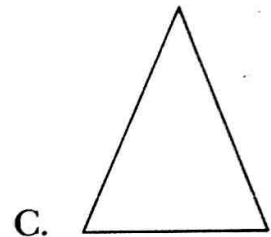
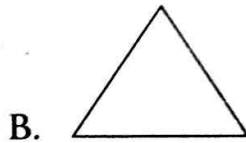
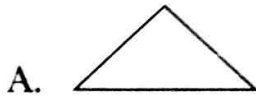
EXERCISE C: EXTEND YOUR VOCABULARY

The more/most suffixes *-er* and *-est*

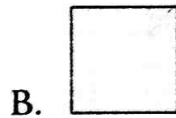
In the key word *easiest*, the suffix *-est* means “most.” The suffix *-er* on the word *easier* means “more.” The suffixes *-er* and *-est* mean “more” and “most” when they are added to adjectives. Examples: *short, shorter, shortest; handy, handier, handiest; steady, steadier, steadiest.*

The underlined adjectives below end in the suffixes *-er* and *-est*.

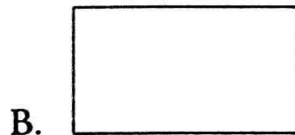
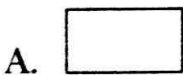
1. Circle the tallest triangle.



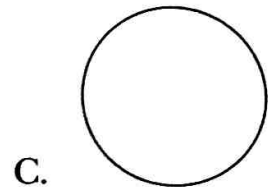
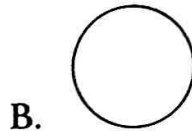
2. Circle the darker square.



3. Circle the larger rectangle.



4. Circle the smallest circle.



5. Circle the suffix that is used to compare only *two* items.

A. *-er*

B. *-est*

6. Write a sentence using the adjective *easiest*.
