

# Table of Contents

Introduction . . . . .	5
How to Use This Book. . . . .	6

## WORD MEANINGS

Invitation to a Brouhaha . . . . .	7
Words with Pizzazz . . . . .	8
Ten Things . . . . .	9
Choose with Caution . . . . .	10
“Painted” Words . . . . .	11
Careless Quotes . . . . .	12
Talk About In & Out . . . . .	13
Words with Attitude . . . . .	14
Mini-Mysteries . . . . .	15
Where Are You? . . . . .	16
Take Five . . . . .	17
Words to Stir the Senses . . . . .	18
Best Friends . . . . .	19
Abundant Creations. . . . .	20
Words on the Move. . . . .	21
One Word, Many Meanings. . . . .	22
What’s Up?. . . . .	23
Comfortable Surroundings . . . . .	24

Words that Confuse. . . . .	25
Not Too Close to Call . . . . .	26
More Than a Definition . . . . .	27

## WORD RELATIONSHIPS

Matchmaking . . . . .	28
Who’s the Pretender? . . . . .	29
Picture This! . . . . .	30
Synonym Scramble . . . . .	31
Speaking in Opposites . . . . .	32
It’s Okay to Be Contrary . . . . .	33
Dynamic Duos. . . . .	34
A Trio of Clues . . . . .	35
The Missing Link . . . . .	36
Very Classy Words . . . . .	37
What’s the Connection?. . . . .	38
Follow the Pattern. . . . .	39

## WORD STRUCTURE

The Heart of a Word . . . . .	40
From the Ground Up . . . . .	41

Distinctive Beginnings . . . . .	42
Puzzling over Prefixes . . . . .	43
Suffix Circles . . . . .	44
Meaningful Endings . . . . .	45
Pass It On to Add On. . . . .	46
Verbal Dissections . . . . .	47
Short Cuts . . . . .	48
More Short Cuts . . . . .	49
What’s the Word? . . . . .	50

**UNUSUAL WORDS & PHRASES**

Words to “Note”-ice. . . . .	51
Don’t Be Intimidated! . . . . .	52
Phrases with Flair . . . . .	53
Borrowed Words . . . . .	54
Curious Contradictions . . . . .	55
Words That Wow! . . . . .	56
Right Place, Wrong Word . . . . .	57
More Malapropisms . . . . .	58
Weird (but Real) Words . . . . .	59
Name Two . . . . .	60
Vowels Galore . . . . .	61
Body Talk . . . . .	62
Extraordinary Expressions . . . . .	63
Captivating Collections . . . . .	64

**WORD GAMES & TRICKS**

A Mathematical Cipher . . . . .	65
A Cipher From the Past . . . . .	66
The Right One. . . . .	67
Alphabet Advice . . . . .	68
Acrostic Antics . . . . .	69
Reversals & Rearrangements . . . . .	70
A Shook Crook & A Lone Stone. . . . .	71
Purveyors of Pun . . . . .	72
Rebus Puzzlers . . . . .	73
More Rebus Puzzlers . . . . .	74
Proverbs Revisited. . . . .	75
Good Neighbours. . . . .	76
Chew Your Doors! . . . . .	77
Tom Swifties . . . . .	78
What a Conundrum! . . . . .	79

**GLOSSARY . . . . . 80**

**ANSWERS . . . . . 85**



# Introduction

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## **What is a Smart Starter?**

A Smart Starter changes “extra” moments in a classroom setting into teachable moments. They are designed to take short amounts of time. However, Smart Starters are NOT short on substance. The Smart Starters in this book are packed full of important skills to practise and polish or to reinforce and extend students’ vocabulary.

## **When are Smart Starters used?**

As their name suggests, they are good for igniting learning. Instead of the slow move into a class period, lesson or school day, a Smart Starter quick-starts the action. Each one warms up the brain with a sparkling challenge. Students also need this kind of spark at times other than the beginning of the day or class period. Use a Smart Starter any time there is a lull, or any time students need a break from a longer activity. They work effectively to stimulate thinking at the beginning, end or middle of a class period, or any other time you can squeeze in an extra ten minutes.

## **Why use Smart Starters?**

They’re energising! They’re stimulating! They’re fun! They nudge students to focus on a specific goal while “waking up” tired minds. They require students to make use of previously acquired knowledge and skills. Because of their short length, they ensure quick success and quick rewards – thus inspiring confidence and satisfaction for the learners.



## How to Use This Book ...

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### **Kick-Off a New Unit**

The starters are grouped by general topics and skill areas. One or more of them might help to ease students into a new area of study. For instance, start off your unit on learning new words with *Invitation To A Brouhaha* or *Words With Attitude*.

### **Spark a Longer Lesson**

Any of these short activities can be expanded. A starter may inspire your students to develop questions or examples along the same lines – expanding the warm-up into a full-blown vocabulary lesson.

### **Review a Concept**

Dust off those rusty skills with a Smart Starter. For instance: Have your students been away from the study of word structure for a while? Refresh and deepen what they know about word parts with *The Heart of a Word* or *Pass It On To Add On*.

### **Charge-Up Thinking Skills & Ignite Creativity**

Smart Starters are not only for English lessons. Use them **any** time to stimulate minds. Doing a Smart Starter will sharpen thinking processes and challenge brains. In addition, Smart Starters work well as starting points for students to create other similar questions and problems.

Skill: Learn New Words



## Invitation to a Brouhaha

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**Brouhaha:** What a wonderful word! It will take only a short time to help students get to know this word well enough to remember it forever.

What is a *brouhaha*? Ask students to find out. Then, they can work in pairs to ...

- Think up and describe (orally) three situations in which a ***brouhaha*** could develop.
- Make a list of ten things a person could do to avoid a ***brouhaha***.
- Think of the names of two fictitious characters that might be involved in a ***brouhaha***.
- Write 20 words that might be used in a description of a ***brouhaha***.



## Words with Attitude

Each of these words suggests a certain attitude. Give every student one of these words. After they understand the meaning of the word, they can draw a character who has that attitude.

**effete**

**pugnacious**

**dour**

**churlish**

**erudite**

**languid**

**demure**

**jocund**

**outrageous**

**dynamic**

**inquisitive**

**disdainful**

*Example:*

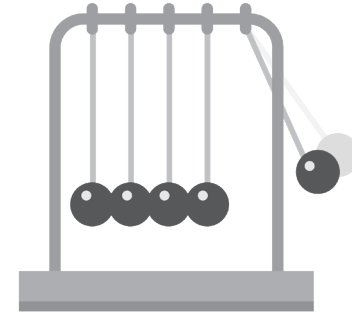




## The Heart of a Word

The heart of a word is its **root**, or base word part. The meaning of the root determines the core of meaning for a word. Prefixes, suffixes and endings can add to the root meaning, but the word's final meaning is dependent upon the meaning of its root. Students should work together to identify the root part for each of these words and agree upon (or find) the meaning of the root.

- |                 |               |                |
|-----------------|---------------|----------------|
| 1. cardiologist | 7. victorious | 13. tripod     |
| 2. cosmopolitan | 8. pendulum   | 14. cryptogram |
| 3. abbreviate   | 9. pacifist   | 15. flamboyant |
| 4. centigrade   | 10. junction  | 16. fraternity |
| 5. lucrative    | 11. applaud   | 17. luminous   |
| 6. manual       | 12. capital   | 18. mobility   |





## Pass It On to Add On

Start with a root and add *affixes* (**prefixes** and **suffixes**) to create a word with a specific meaning.

Write each of these roots on a card. Have students sit in a circle and give one root card to each person. Ask the group to follow these directions:

- Add a prefix to the root on your card.
- Pass the card to your right.
- Add a suffix to the word (or partial word) on this card to form a whole word.
- Pass the card to your right.
- Write the word's meaning on this card.

*Example:*

Start with a root word . . . . . *fin*  
 Add a prefix . . . . . *infin*  
 Add a suffix . . . . . *infinite*  
 Tell the meaning . . . . . *without end, or endless*

- |           |          |           |           |            |
|-----------|----------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| 1. fer    | 7. loc   | 13. act   | 19. puls  | 25. pop    |
| 2. flam   | 8. mob   | 14. dic   | 20. vac   | 26. ten    |
| 3. celer  | 9. jec   | 15. norm  | 21. whole | 27. sequ   |
| 4. mar    | 10. port | 16. scend | 22. lum   | 28. struct |
| 5. define | 11. son  | 17. junct | 23. theo  | 29. tort   |
| 6. phon   | 12. derm | 18. cep   | 24. verg  | 30. turb   |