

Vocabulary

KS3 English · Follows the national curriculum

Name _____ Class _____ Date _____

1. Worked example

You meet the word 'inaudible' in an exam extract: 'Her reply was almost inaudible.' Work out its meaning.

Step 1 · Split the word into parts you recognise

in- + aud + -ible.

Step 2 · Give each part a meaning

in- often means 'not' (as in incorrect, invisible); aud is linked to hearing (as in audio, audience); -ible means 'capable of' (as in visible).

Step 3 · Combine the meanings

'Not capable of being heard.'

Step 4 · Check against the context

'Her reply was almost inaudible' — her reply could barely be heard. The meaning fits the sentence, so the guess is safe.

Answer: inaudible = unable to be heard

Check: Morphemes gave the meaning; the sentence confirmed it ✓

2. Now try one with the steps

Break down 'unhelpful' into morphemes.

Step 1 · Prefix

Step 2 · Root

Step 3 · Suffix

Answer:

3. Practice

Show your working. The marks tell you how much is expected.

1. What does the prefix 'anti-' mean? Give two examples. [2]

2. Break down 'transport' into its morphemes and explain the meaning of each part. [2]

3. How many morphemes make up 'transport'? Write the number. [1]

4. What does the prefix 'trans-' mean? [1]

5. What does the suffix '-less' mean? [1]

6. What does the root 'spect' mean? Name three words containing it and explain each. [3]

7. Rewrite this informally-worded sentence in a formal register: 'We're gonna start the meeting soon, so get your stuff together.' [3]

8. How many morphemes are in 'unhelpful'? Write the number. [1]

9. Which has a more negative connotation: 'curious' or 'nosy'? [1]

10. Put these words in order of strength: hot, warm, scorching. [1]

11. Explain the difference in connotation between 'slim', 'thin', and 'skinny' — words with similar denotation. [3]

12. Use morphemic knowledge to work out the meaning of 'biodegradable' (a word you may not have studied directly). [4]

13. Use morphemes to work out 'inaudible'. [2]

14. A writer calls a plan a 'scheme'. Explain how this word choice affects the reader. [2]

4. Before you hand it in

'The weather was very clement and pulchritudinous.'

Choose the most precise word, not the longest. 'The weather was mild and bright' is clearer and more controlled.

'The writer uses the word "cold", which means low temperature.'

Explore connotation: 'cold' can also suggest unfriendliness, isolation or a lack of feeling — say which fits the context and why.

Using 'gonna', 'stuff' and 'loads of' in a formal essay

Match register to audience: 'going to', 'materials' or 'items', 'many' or 'a great deal of'.