

Name _____

Prefixes *un-*, *dis-*, *in-*

- **Generalization** When adding prefixes **un-**, **dis-**, and **in-**, make no change in the base word: **uncertain**, **discount**, **incomplete**.

Word Sort Sort the list words by their prefix.

un-

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____

dis-

10. _____
11. _____
12. _____
13. _____
14. _____
15. _____
16. _____
17. _____

in-

18. _____
19. _____
20. _____

Spelling Words

1. distrust
2. uncertain
3. incomplete
4. unlikely
5. unfair
6. discontinue
7. unaware
8. disorder
9. discount
10. indirect
11. unopened
12. disrespect
13. unimportant
14. unlisted
15. disrepair
16. inability
17. disapprove
18. unsolved
19. disobey
20. unsuspecting



Home Activity Your child is learning to spell words with the prefixes *un-*, *dis-*, and *in-*. Have your child pronounce each word and identify the prefix.

Name _____

Family Times

Summary

Encyclopedia Brown and the Case of the Slippery Salamander

A salamander has been stolen from the Den of Darkness in the town aquarium. Encyclopedia Brown, the police chief's son, solves the mystery that has his dad stumped.

Activity

Puzzle Me Look in newspapers or books for brainteasers and word games. Work with a family member to see how many of the answers you can find.

1.										
2.	S	A	L	A	M	A	N	D	E	R

1. Something not known
2. Amphibian

Comprehension Skill

Character and Plot

Characters are the people and animals in a story. The **plot** is the storyline or series of events that show **characters** in action. A plot begins when a character has a problem or **conflict**. The problem builds up during the **rising action**, is met directly at the **climax**, and comes to an end, with the action winding down, during the **resolution**.

Fairy Tales in Action

With your family, think of a familiar fairy tale you can act out together. Write each character's name in a list. Write each stage of the plot on an index card. Have one family member hand you a new card as you act out the different characters and plot points.

Lesson Vocabulary

Words to Know

Knowing the meanings of these words is important to reading *Encyclopedia Brown*. Practice using these words.

Vocabulary Words

amphibians cold-blooded animals with backbones and moist skin

crime a violation of law

exhibit thing or things shown publicly

lizards any of many reptiles with long bodies and tails and movable eyelids

reference something used for information or help

reptiles cold-blooded animals with backbones and lungs

salamanders any of numerous animals shaped like lizards, but related to frogs

stumped puzzled

Conventions

Contractions and Negatives

A **contraction** is a word made by putting two words together. In a contraction, one or more letters are left out. An apostrophe is used in place of the missing letter or letters. Some contractions are formed by joining a pronoun and a verb. *For example: it + is = it's, we + are = we're, I + am = I'm, they + will = they'll.* Other contractions are formed by joining a verb and *not*. *For example: was + not = wasn't, did + not = didn't, have + not = haven't, are + not = aren't.* Be careful not to confuse the contraction *it's* with the possessive pronoun *its*.

Activity

Cut It Short Play a game with family members to see who can spot contractions around you, then tell what words they combine. Look for these shortcuts on signs, such as "Don't Walk," and in newspapers and magazines.

Practice Tested Spelling Words

_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Name _____

Character and Plot

- A **character** is a person or an animal that takes part in the events of a story.
- **Plot** is what happens in a story. A **plot**, or underlying story structure, is found only in fiction.
- A plot begins when a character has a problem or **conflict**. The problem builds up during the **rising action**, is met directly at the **climax**, and comes to an end, with the action winding down, during the **resolution**.

Directions Read the following passage. Then answer the questions below.

One summer, three men came to Reggie's island village in the Bahamas. They said they were studying animals at a college in Europe. Reggie and the other villagers became suspicious when they noticed the visitors had no official papers from their college. The villagers wanted to trust the visitors, but

they also wanted to protect their wildlife, so they contacted the police.

When the three men tried to leave the island, their luggage was searched at the airport. Five hundred live lizards were hidden in their luggage! The men were arrested, the lizards were freed, and Reggie and the villagers were glad they had solved a crime.

1. Who are the characters in the story?

2. In this story, what is the problem?

3. What is one event in the rising action?

4. What event is the climax of the plot?

5. What is the resolution?



Home Activity Your child read a short passage and identified its plot structure and characters. Read a story with your child. Work together to identify the problem, rising action, climax, and resolution of the plot. Ask your child to name the characters of the story.

Name _____

Compare and Contrast

Directions Read this story. Then answer the questions below.

Kara and her family were stumped by the mystery of the dripping water. Sometimes, water dripped from the ceiling in Kara's room. But in her brother Bill's room next door, the ceiling never dripped. "Let's study both rooms," said Kara's dad. Soon the family noticed similarities and differences. Neither ceiling had any cracks, and both rooms were warm. In Bill's room the ceiling was warm too. In Kara's room, however, the ceiling was very cold because there was no attic above it.

After a little thought, Kara said, "I think my class is studying this in science. It's called *condensation*. Water in the air turns into liquid when it touches something cold—like the drops of water on the outside of a cold glass. My room has a cold ceiling, so the warm air turns into water there and drips."

Her dad looked pleased and announced, "Mystery solved!"

1. Why does Kara's family compare and contrast the two rooms?

2. What is one way the two rooms are similar?

3. What is another way the two rooms are similar?

4. What is one way Kara's room is different from Bill's room?

5. On a separate sheet of paper, explain how comparing and contrasting the two rooms helped Kara solve the mystery.



Home Activity Your child has read a short passage and used comparison and contrast to analyze it. Read your child short articles about two different parts of the world. Challenge him or her to identify similarities and differences between the two places.

Name _____

Contractions and Negatives

Directions Complete the paragraph with contractions from the box.

isn't won't there's we're she'd it's he'd he's

1. ___ trying to solve a mystery. **2.** Why ___ our cat behaving normally? **3.** ___ been staring out the window and yowling all evening. **4.** My mom said that ___ have to put the cat in the basement if it kept making that noise. **5.** My dad said ___ give it away. **6.** My brother told me that ___ a spaceship outside and that only the cat can see it! **7.** I think ___ making that up! **8.** At this rate, we ___ get much sleep.

1. _____

5. _____

2. _____

6. _____

3. _____

7. _____

4. _____

8. _____

Directions Write a paragraph about something you hope to do in the next few days. Use at least three of the contractions in the box. Underline all the contractions you use.

I'm she'll we're he's isn't can't aren't won't



Home Activity Your child learned how to use contractions in writing. Ask your child to write an e-mail to a friend or family member, using contractions. Have your child show you the contractions he or she used.

Name _____

Prefixes *un-*, *dis-*, *in-*

Spelling Words

distrust	uncertain	incomplete	unlikely	unfair
discontinue	unaware	disorder	discount	indirect
unopened	disrespect	unimportant	unlisted	disrepair
inability	disapprove	unsolved	disobey	unsuspecting

Match Add a prefix to complete each list word. Write the complete word.

- | | |
|----------------|-----------|
| 1. ___obey | 1. _____ |
| 2. ___listed | 2. _____ |
| 3. ___direct | 3. _____ |
| 4. ___opened | 4. _____ |
| 5. ___trust | 5. _____ |
| 6. ___ability | 6. _____ |
| 7. ___fair | 7. _____ |
| 8. ___repair | 8. _____ |
| 9. ___complete | 9. _____ |
| 10. ___order | 10. _____ |

Cryptogram Complete the words and the grid. The clue letters will help you.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
12				13							22		26					23	21	10					

- | | |
|--|---|
| 11. <u> </u> n <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> l e t e | 12. u n <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> t a n t |
| 25 26 9 8 14 16 22 13 21 13 | 10 26 25 14 16 8 1 21 12 26 21 |
| 13. u n l <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> e l <u> </u> | 14. <u> </u> n a <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> l <u> </u> t <u> </u> |
| 10 26 22 25 4 13 22 15 | 25 26 12 19 25 22 25 21 15 |
| 15. u n a <u> </u> a <u> </u> e | 16. <u> </u> <u> </u> s a <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> e |
| 10 26 12 17 12 1 13 | 7 25 23 12 16 16 1 8 20 13 |
| 17. <u> </u> n <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> e <u> </u> t | 18. u n s <u> </u> l <u> </u> e <u> </u> |
| 25 26 7 25 1 13 9 21 | 10 26 23 8 22 20 13 7 |
| 19. <u> </u> <u> </u> s <u> </u> e s <u> </u> e <u> </u> t | 20. u n s u s <u> </u> e <u> </u> t <u> </u> n <u> </u> |
| 7 25 23 1 13 23 16 13 9 21 | 10 26 23 10 23 16 13 9 21 25 26 11 |



Home Activity Your child read, spelled, and wrote words with prefixes *un-*, *dis-*, and *in-*. Look through other printed materials to find more words with these prefixes.

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Character and Plot

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Directions Read the following passage. Complete the chart to show the characters and the parts of the plot.

Brett and Jon were racing imaginary cars, which were really water bottles. The “track” was the slide in Jon’s backyard. Brett won every race. What was his secret? Jon suspected Brett was cheating, and he was becoming angry.

When Ted came over, Jon asked Ted if he could figure out how Brett keeps winning. “I know!” Ted said. “Brett’s

bottle is empty. Yours still has some water in it. The heavier bottle creates more friction, which slows it down. Brett’s bottle weighs less and creates less friction. That’s why he wins.” Brett was surprised. “You thought I was cheating?” he asked Jon. “I wasn’t! I was just thirsty!” The boys laughed, and Jon apologized for being suspicious.

Characters	1.
Problem	2.
Rising Action	3.
Climax	4.
Resolution	5.



Home Activity Your child read a short passage and identified its plot structure and characters. With your child, read a story about someone who solves a problem. Ask your child to identify the characters, problem, rising action, climax, and resolution in the story.

Name _____

Contractions and Negatives

Directions Choose the correct contraction in () to complete each sentence.

Write the contraction.

1. There (isn't, doesn't) an aquarium in our town. _____
2. (I'll, I've) been to the aquarium in Boston. _____
3. (It's, Its) right on the waterfront. _____
4. (They've, They're) got a huge tank full of sharks and rays. _____
5. I looked for a dolphin, but I (don't, didn't) see one. _____
6. Next time we visit, (we're, we'd) going on a whale watch. _____

Directions Find two words in each sentence that can be written as a contraction.

Write the sentence using the contraction.

7. I am reading a book about amphibians.

8. It is very interesting.

9. Amphibians are not reptiles.

10. They do not have dry skin.

11. They should not live far from water.

12. Maybe you would like to borrow the book.



Home Activity Your child reviewed contractions and negatives. Ask your child to say “stop” every time he or she hears you use a contraction in conversation. Have your child identify the words that make up each contraction.