

Providing Differentiated Instruction with *WordBuild*TM Elements

Every teacher knows that students learn in different ways and at different paces. The WordBuild program provides activities that allow you to make differentiation a successful component of your classroom.

The lessons that you and your students find in their WordBuild Elements Student Activity Books are designed for a medial mastery of the target roots and affixes. Because your students may be at a variety of reading levels, and because they will almost certainly bring to class their different life experiences and different word exposures, you have access for every activity to entire sets of differentiated activities. In addition to the *Mastery* level activities like those printed in the activity books, you will find on the Dynamic Literacy website a set of activities called *Novice*, and a set called *Expert*.

While the three categories, Novice, Mastery, and Expert, represent differentiated levels of exercises, they interlink and overlap. For example, note in the chart below that all three levels of the Root Squares for DUC include the prefix *intro*, and all three include the prefix *pro*. Other affixes appear in two of the three sets. The Novice level uniquely provides the basic grammatical affixes *ed*, *ing*, and *s*. The Mastery and the Expert levels offer their own unique affixes that enable students to provide and recognize words at various reading and experience levels. A good way to include all levels in the same discussion is to emphasize the affixes common to more than one exercise.

Differentiated Root Squares

Affixes presented for the root DUC

Novice Level Mastery Level Expert Level
(on website) (in Activity Books) (on website)

intro	intro	intro
pro	pro	pro
ion	ion	
	ive	ive
de		de
ed	ate	ible
ing	e	in
s	or	ment
		ory

Perhaps the best element of this overlapping scheme is that each group can produce unique words. *This enables your novice students to participate to the same degree as your expert students.*



Differentiation for the Full Class

For some classes, you may want to introduce a root by handing out copies of the novice level of the Root Square to every student. By observing the words that students build, you can determine whether the class as a whole can handle more advanced activities, or whether some students are comfortable at this level and others are ready for another level.

On the following day, you can do the Mastery level, found in the Student Activity Books, with the whole class. There will be valuable overlap and repetition, but there will also be new affixes presented, and variations of ones studied before (**introduce** and **introduction**, for example, or **introductory** and **introducerily**).

On day three you can do the Expert level by handouts, or you can reserve that level for extra credit or for a lively, competitive class warm-up or a great way to end a class.

Individual Differentiation

For some classes, you will want to provide different activities for individual students. With good planning, you can unobtrusively hand out activities appropriate to individuals. You can make it a standard procedure to announce that on some days, some students will be working with their Student Activity Books while others will use hand-out activities. Because of the interlink and overlap nature of the variations, you can introduce an activity to an entire class, with different students having different levels of activities in front of them, no student being aware of academic differentiation.

As a start-up, you can address those affixes that occur in all three sets. After the class as a whole has enjoyed a conversation about the words that can be built using those affixes, you can announce that not all the affixes are the same on every activity. Now the class can break into smaller groups to continue building words relating to their activity sheets.

This grouping can be done in two ways: you could ask students to divide into groups of their own choosing and share various words that can be built. Even though the activities are different, everyone in the group can participate and contribute at some level. Alternatively, you can ask students to find others who have the same set of affixes to form a group for working together. All groups can then contribute to a follow-up observation about words or to adding words to a Word Wall in the room.



Other Differentiated Activities

The Magic Squares and the Stair Steps Activities are similarly presented at three levels, and differentiation can be handled in just the same ways as described above for the Root Squares. For example, the Stair Steps Activities for the root MIT, have the following array of affixes:

Differentiated Stair Steps

Affixes presented for the root MIT

Novice Level Mastery Level Expert Level
(on website) (in Activity Books) (on website)

ad	ad	ad
ion	ion	ion
per	per	per
s	s	s
com	com	
dis	dis	
	ile	ile
	inter	inter
	sub	sub
	trans	trans
age	ary	ent
		ibil
		ity
		ive
		re



Differentiated Magic Squares Activities for the root CED, have the following array of affixes:

Differentiated Magic Squares

Affixes presented for the root CED

Novice Level Mastery Level Expert Level
 (on website) (in Activity Books) (on website)

ac	ac	ac
ed	ed	ed
re	re	re
suc	suc	suc
ex	ex	
pro	pro	
ure	ure	
pre		pre
	or	ant
		ent
		ible
		in
		ive
		ly
		ori
		se

Custom-Made Differentiation

There is another tool available for you so that you can adapt WordBuild to your specific classroom needs. Simply refer to the Software Tab section in your Manual to see how easily you can generate your own activities using roots and affixes of your own choosing. There is virtually an unlimited number of variations for every activity.

