

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FOR *WORDBUILD*[®]

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What is *WordBuild*, A Better Way To Teach Vocabulary?

WordBuild is a supplemental vocabulary program based on frequently used Latin and Greek roots. [\(back to top\)](#)

What will it do?

- Dramatically improve students' vocabulary
- Increase students' reading comprehension
- Improve their scores on standardized tests
- Improve their understanding of science, social studies, mathematics and anything else they read [\(back to top\)](#)

Does it work?

Yes! Studies done in several schools show that the program works with students of many ages and abilities. Check with your local rep or on line for actual studies (www.dynamicliteracy.com). [\(back to top\)](#)

Does it correlate to my state standards?

Yes! *WordBuild* always correlates to state standards because it teaches the core roots, prefixes and suffixes of the English language.

We have correlations done for many states. If we haven't done yours yet, just ask and we will do so. [\(back to top\)](#)

In what grades is *WordBuild* taught?

Grades 3-12 [\(back to top\)](#)

How long does it take to teach it?

15 minutes a day [\(back to top\)](#)

What are the program components?

The main components are Student Activity Books and Teacher Editions.

Optional components include: online activities for differentiated instruction, an online application to create unlimited extra exercises, and a CD containing a game.

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What does it offer for Elementary School?

WordBuild's Elementary program is called, *Foundations*. It teaches students the meanings of the most important prefixes and suffixes in the English language. Words studied are those taken directly from content area textbooks so students gain the foundation they need to build a strong academic vocabulary, and they gain the ability to understand words they have never seen before. It is divided up into two year's worth of work in *Foundations 1* and *Foundations 2*. The program is supplemental and flexible so you can start it in the regular classroom in grade 3 or in grade 4. You can also use it in remedial or intervention programs in higher grades.

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What does *WordBuild* offer for Middle School and High School?

WordBuild's program for Middle School and High School is called, *Elements*. It teaches students the English language's 93 most commonly used roots all of which come from Latin and Greek. As students learn these roots and combine them with prefixes and suffixes, they can unlock the meaning of thousands of words. It is divided up into three year's worth of work in *Elements 1*, *Elements 2* and *Elements 3*.

The program is supplemental and flexible so you can start it in the regular classroom anywhere from grade 5 to 9. You can also use it in remedial or intervention programs in higher grades.

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Can you paint a better picture for me of how this can be used in a variety of classroom situations? How can something be used effectively with both a fifth grader and a tenth grader?

Think of it like you would a newspaper. People of many ages read a newspaper, understand it and get a lot out of it. Similarly, *WordBuild* is used quite successfully for a variety of ages. There are two reasons why it is so flexible: 1) the knowledge and understanding it provides students are the key underpinnings for Academic English so its application is very broad, and 2) the student components have no age sensitive drawings or artwork, so their appeal is universal (the one exception is the optional book, *Basics*, which we made to help teachers with very young students just beginning to learn prefixes and suffixes).

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Here is a chart which shows how *WordBuild* can be used in a variety of learning situations:

Grade Level Recommendation Chart						
	Regular Classroom	Remedial	ELL	Intervention	Summer School	After School
	Recommended Grades					
Foundations	3-5	5-9	5-9	7-12	5-9	5-9
Elements	5-10	7-12	7-12	9-12	7-12	7-12

[Should I use it for a whole year, a semester or a quarter?](#)

WordBuild is a flexible, supplemental product that you can adapt to a variety of situations:

- A year’s worth of work if you teach it 15 minutes a day, 3 days a week
- A semester’s worth of work if you teach it 30 minutes a day 3 days a week or 20 minutes a day 5 days a week.
- 9 weeks worth of work if you teach it 50-60 minutes a day 3 days a week or 35-40 minutes a day 5 days a week.
- It also adapts well to summer school and after school situations.

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[Do I need to teach the program, or can I just hand out the books and let the students go for it?](#)

WordBuild does require teachers to spend about 5-10 minutes per lesson in leading the students in active discussions about words, word parts and their meanings

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[What kind of preparation do I have to do when I first teach the program?](#)

All teachers who first teach the program will need 1-2 hours on their own to familiarize themselves with the product by going through the Teacher Edition.

We will provide teacher in-service with trained consultants as needed. Training sessions usually take 1-3 hours.

The average daily teacher preparation time is about 3-7 minutes.

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[I’m not sure that I know enough about roots, prefixes and suffixes to do a good job teaching this program.](#)

We have found that the average teacher knows much more than he/she realizes about roots, prefixes and suffixes. This will become very apparent to you as soon as you receive some training, also our teacher editions do a great job of helping you gain the knowledge you need to lead the class without making you go to a lot of extra effort. [\(back to top\)](#)

[Is there an online version of *WordBuild* where students can go to do the activities?](#)

WordBuild is designed to be done with students and teachers interacting with each other. The conversations and discussions that take place between students and teacher and among the students themselves are critical to the successful growth of students' vocabularies. They learn an incredible amount through these verbal interactions. Having a child try to do the activities online would significantly take away from the learning that takes place through group teacher/student and student/student interaction. [\(back to top\)](#)