

Lesson 20

Root Words



L.2.4c: Use a known root word as a clue to the meaning of an unknown word with the same root (e.g., *addition, additional*).

 **Introduction** Some words can be broken into parts. The main part of the word is called a **root word**. The root word will help you figure out the meaning of the whole word.

For example, to **help** means to make it easier for someone to do something.

help	Ann will help us learn about weather.
helper	She is a great helper .
helpful	She is a very helpful person.
helping	She is helping us learn about clouds.



Guided Practice

Circle the root word in each underlined word. Then draw a line from the sentence to the meaning of the word.

HINT If a word has an ending such as *-er* or *-y*, cover the ending with your finger, and read the smaller word. Think about what that word means.

- 1** Weather watchers study clouds. people who look at something
- 2** Clouds give useful hints about weather. getting dark
- 3** Puffy clouds mean the day will be nice. helpful
- 4** Darkening clouds mean it might rain. soft and light

 **Independent Practice**

Look for the root word in each underlined word. Use this smaller word to help you answer the questions.

1 Read the sentence below.

Be careful when you see big, dark clouds.

What does the word “careful” mean in the sentence?

- A** quiet
- B** safe
- C** noisy
- D** silly

2 Read the sentence below.

Dangerous weather may be coming.

What does the word “Dangerous” mean in the sentence?

- A** good
- B** sunny
- C** cold
- D** harmful

3 Read the sentence below.

Bad weather can move quickly.

What does the word “quickly” mean in the sentence?

- A** fast
- B** soon
- C** slowly
- D** loudly

4 Read the sentence below.

Don’t get caught in stormy weather!

What does the word “stormy” mean in the sentence?

- A** having lots of sunshine
- B** without clouds or rain
- C** with a lot of wind and rain
- D** with clear, blue skies