

Vocabulary Power

Lesson 19 The Latin Roots *frag* and *fract*

The Latin roots *frag* and *fract* come from the Latin verb *frangere*, which means “to break or shatter.” These roots are used in a number of English words. A *fracture*, for example, is a break in bone or cartilage. Something that is *fragile* is easily shattered. All of the words in this lesson have something to do with breaking apart.

Word List

defray	fragment	infracation	osprey
fractional	frail	infringe	refractory
fractious	fritter		

EXERCISE A Context Clues

Choose the vocabulary word that best matches each clue. Then, on the lines provided, write your own definition of the word and the dictionary definition.

1. This word comes from the Latin *refractus*, meaning “broken up.” Although it may be used to describe substances that are difficult to melt, shape, or work with, it is generally used to describe behavior. _____

My definition: _____

Dictionary definition: _____
2. This word comes from the Latin *fragmentum*, meaning “a piece broken off.” It can be used as a noun or a verb. _____

My definition: _____

Dictionary definition: _____
3. This word comes from the Latin *infractus*, meaning “destroyed.” If you are guilty of one of these, you may be punished. _____

My definition: _____

Dictionary definition: _____
4. This word comes from the Latin *frangere*, meaning “to break or shatter.” It is a synonym for *fragile*. _____

My definition: _____

Dictionary definition: _____
5. This word comes from the Latin *ossifraga*, meaning “bone breaker.” It was mistakenly applied to this bird that eats its catch whole. _____

My definition: _____

Dictionary definition: _____

Vocabulary Power *continued*

6. This verb comes from the Latin word *infringere*, meaning “to break off.” People who do this to their neighbors’ property would not be popular. _____
 My definition: _____
 Dictionary definition: _____
7. This verb comes from the French *fritter*, meaning “fragment” or “to break into small pieces.” People who do this are considered to be wasteful. _____
 My definition: _____
 Dictionary definition: _____
8. This word comes from the prefix *de-*, meaning “from” or “off,” and the Latin word *fractum*, meaning “broken.” A politician needs his campaign contributors to do this. _____
 My definition: _____
 Dictionary definition: _____

EXERCISE B Usage

If the boldfaced word is correctly used in the sentence, write *correct* above it. If not, draw a line through it and write the correct vocabulary word above it.

1. Luanne committed an **infraction** of school policy when she left the building during lunch without permission.
2. Increased property taxes for the next five years will help **fritter** the cost of the new pool.
3. The **refractory** mule planted his feet firmly in the dust and refused to go any farther.
4. By the time all the wedding guests had been served, only a **fragment** of the lavish cake was left.
5. With no structured activities planned for summer, Jill and Mark decided to **infringe** away their time by swimming, bicycling, and watching videos.
6. Recovering from surgery, Grandfather tired easily and looked **frail** for several weeks.
7. By building the fence to enclose their property, the Killiams accidentally **infringed** on the protected wetlands.
8. The twins, who had had a long day, were so **fractional** that they were nearly uncontrollable.

EXERCISE C Shades of Meaning

The synonyms *frail*, *fragile*, and *frangible* all come from the same Latin root. Look up the three words in the dictionary; then, write a paragraph explaining both the similarities and the differences in meaning. Provide example sentences for each word to show its typical usage.