

# INTRODUCING MAKING NEW WORDS YOUR OWN

## How We Make New Words Our Own

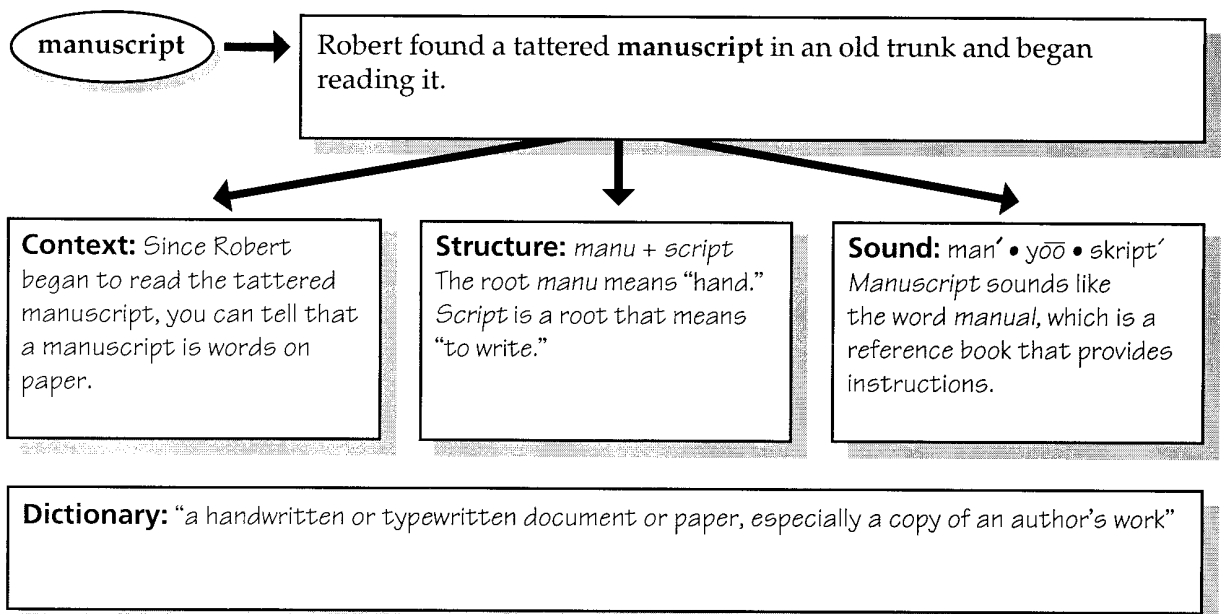
Use the **Context Structure Sound Dictionary (CSSD)** strategy to improve your vocabulary, to make new words your own. Use one or more of the strategies to determine the meanings of each word you do not know. The exercises that follow will show you how to go about making new words your own.

### HOW TO DO EXERCISE 1

### Wordbusting

In these exercises, you will read the Vocabulary Word in a sentence. You will figure out the word's meaning by looking at its **context**, its **structure**, and its **sound**. Then you will look up the word in a **dictionary** and write its meaning *as it is used in the sentence*.

Here is an example of the Wordbusting strategy, using the word *manuscript*.



**Hint #1 Context:** Look for clues to the meaning of the word in the sentence. For example, “reading” is a keyword that helps reveal the meaning of *manuscript*.

**Hint #2 Structure:** Examine the word parts for roots, prefixes, and suffixes that you know. Consult the word-part tables on pages ix–xiv for meanings of parts you do not know.

**Hint #3 Sound:** Say the word aloud and listen for any word parts you know.

**Hint #4 Dictionary:** If you cannot determine a word’s meaning from applying context, structure, and sound strategies, look up the unfamiliar word in a dictionary. Read all the definitions, and choose one that best fits the given sentence.

## HOW TO DO EXERCISE 2

## Context Clues

In this exercise, you will again see the new word used in a sentence. This exercise gives you the word's definition, and you must match the word in the sentence with its meaning. The word may be used in the same way as it was used in Wordbusting, or it may be used in a new way.

Here's an example of a Context Clues exercise:

### COLUMN A

D 1. word: decrease  
*v.* to become smaller; to lessen;  
*n.* a lessening

### COLUMN B

(D) Recent years have seen a steady rise in the number of cat owners. On the other hand, there has been a **decrease** in the number of dog owners.

**Hint #1** First, scan the definitions in Column A. Then, read Column B and look for clues to the meaning of the word. Here, the words "on the other hand" tell us that the sentence containing the word **decrease** contrasts with the sentence containing the words "a steady rise." Thus, the correct definition is probably the opposite of "a steady rise."

**Hint #2** Read column A and look for a likely definition of the word. In the example, the student chose the definition that contained the meaning "a lessening," which is most nearly the opposite of "a rise."

**Hint #3** Write the word in the blank so that later you can find its definition at a glance.

## HOW TO DO EXERCISE 3

## Like and Opposite Meanings

A synonym is a word that has practically the same meaning as another word. An antonym is a word opposite in meaning to another word. In the Like Meanings part of Exercise 3, you will be asked to find the synonym for (or, in some cases, the phrase that best defines) the Vocabulary Word. In the Opposite Meanings part of Exercise 3, you will be asked to find the antonym for (or, in some cases, the phrase that means the opposite of) the Vocabulary Word.

Here is an example of a Like Meanings item:

**21. decrease** the shedding of fur

- (A) remove
- (B) make comfortable
- (C) add to
- (D) lessen

**Hint #1** Don't be fooled by choices that are closely related to the Vocabulary Word. Choice A may be tempting, but the removal of shedding is more extreme than a **decrease** in shedding.

**Hint #2** Don't be fooled by distantly related choices. An animal may be more comfortable when it sheds, but there is no direct link between **decrease** and Choice B.

**Hint #3** Don't be fooled by the opposite of the Vocabulary Word. Choice C would be the correct choice if this were an Opposite Meanings exercise, but here you are looking for a similar meaning.