

Word Building Graphic Organizer

A *morpheme* is the smallest unit of meaning in language. Morphological ability can help students improve their vocabulary and reading comprehension. By applying the Word Building Strategy, students combine morphemes to create new words and meanings. Through the strategy, students apply their understanding of how word parts contribute to meaning and grammatical function.

The Word Building Strategy consists of three basic steps:

- **Build words:** Students select and physically move morpheme cards to build new words.
- **Record and reflect:** Students complete the Word Building Graphic Organizer, recording the morphemes, definition, and grammatical function of each word they create.
- **Apply in context:** Students use their generated words in written sentences.

For more information about morphemes and how to incorporate this graphic organizer into instruction, see the Iowa Reading Research Center's eLearning module: *Effective Morphology Instruction for Secondary Students Across Content Areas*.



Word Building Graphic Organizer

Name: _____

Part 1. Complete the Chart

Combine the morpheme cards to build a word. Write the morpheme cards you used under the Morpheme column, record the resulting word under the Word Sum/Result Word column, identify the literal meaning under the Literal Meaning column, and determine the part of speech under the Part of Speech column.

Morphemes	Word Sum/Result Word	Literal Meaning	Part of Speech



Part 2. Sentence Application

Select words from the list above and write them in the Target Word column. Write a complete sentence for each word that clearly shows its meaning. Then, have a partner review your sentences using the checklist.

Target Word	Sentence	Word Correct	Part of Speech Correct	Meaning Fits

