

WHAT IS *WORD VOYAGE*?

Word Voyage is an online program designed to meet the grammar, spelling, syllabication, word roots, and vocabulary learning needs of our students. We chose this program because it is comprehensive, offers educationally-sound practice activities, and maintains a dialogue between teacher and student.

How it works. Teachers customize the *Word Voyage* vocabulary lists from texts that are being taught, and students practice their understanding of those words through activities for spelling, syllable breakdown, parts of speech identification, definition, root sources, and root connections to other words. Learning is then reinforced through a series of video games that students play. Lastly, students must use the word accurately in a sentence of their own making, which is then accepted or corrected by the teacher and returned to the student for revision with a note from the teacher explaining the error.

- If sentences have been submitted by the student to the teacher, the screen will read, “Waiting for teacher,” which indicates that the teacher can now review their work. Teachers review student sentences twice a day, before school and afterschool.
- Students also need to check *Word Voyage* at least daily to remain current on the status of their sentences.
- While students can continue to play games, they cannot move forward in their lessons until the teacher has accepted their sentences.
- These activities constitute one lesson; there can be several lessons in a Unit.
- Students are expected to complete a lesson a week. A lesson is complete only when the teacher has accepted all the sentences in that lesson. **At Mead, we generally offer 2 lessons for each Test Unit.**

Some reasons for returning sentences (not an exhaustive list) –

- improper spelling
- incorrect sentence or grammar structure
- wrong usage of the word (e.g., using it as a noun when it’s a verb, using incorrect homonym)
- sentence does not adequately demonstrate the word’s meaning

How scoring is done.

- A sentence is considered completed only when the teacher has *accepted* it.
- Students must ensure that all their sentences have been accepted in each lesson, and the Unit is completed by the end of the school day **prior** to the Unit Test.
- Any unaccepted sentences in a lesson means that the entire lesson will not be credited.
- At the end of each Unit, *Word Voyage* issues a ten-minute Unit Test which is time sensitive, based on the test date originally entered by the teacher and always on view for the student in their dashboard; in other words, it must be taken on the day *Word Voyage* issues the test to each student, either in school or at a remote location with Internet.
- Students can neither re-take the Unit Test nor extend the date of the Unit Test.



- The Unit Score (not the test score) is weighted: **10%** of the student's score is derived from their Unit Test score; **90%** of the score is based on the student's submitted sentences; each returned sentence depletes the student's score by 3 points.

Students' Responsibilities

- Agree as a class to number of vocabulary words per lesson
- Check *Word Voyage* account daily Mondays through Fridays
- Work for a focused ten-minute period, at least, every weekday
- Increase work time when student catch up is needed (including using weekends to catch up even if teacher is not checking on weekends)
- Complete one lesson per week
- Seek out teacher assistance when the same sentence is returned for correction more than once
- Make sure student's Unit has been approved by the end of school day before the Unit Test or forfeit a passing score

Teachers' Responsibilities

- In agreement with students, determine the number of vocabulary words per lesson
- Create a customized vocabulary list for Unit
- Publish start of each new Unit, its duration, and date of Unit Test
- Check *Word Voyage* twice daily, Monday by 8:45am through Friday, 5pm

