

Family support boosts learning, and Lexia is here to help. Try these fun games and activities to reinforce and build your reader's literacy skills from home.



Get Moving

Exercise for mind and body! Write some prefixes – word parts that come at the beginning of a word – on the ground with chalk. Have your reader jump to each prefix, read it aloud, and name a word that begins with the prefix. Bonus points for using the word in a sentence!

Here are some common prefixes to try:

con-	mis-	pre-	sub-
dis-	multi-	pro-	trans-
ex-	non-	re-	un-



Photo Booth

Support your reader's understanding of story structure with this fun photo-taking activity. Talk about a familiar story, taking time to review these key elements:

setting – where/when the story happens

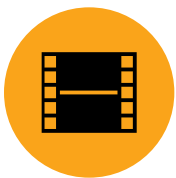
characters – people or animals in the story

problem – what motivates the characters

major events – what happens in the story

solution – how the problem is fixed

Have kids create their own story by taking photos to show the setting, characters, and major events. Then, look at the pictures together, and listen as they tell the story. For an extra challenge, urge them to write it down to make a mini book.



Act It Out

Nouns. Verbs. Adjectives. It's grammar time! Knowing parts of speech not only helps kids become stronger readers, but also helps them become better writers.

Make grammar fun for your reader by playing charades with these words – or think of your own! To be correct, players need to guess the part of speech as well as the word itself.

Nouns: firefighter, elephant, snake, tree, artist, monster, scissors, baby, teacher, dog

Verbs: swim, eat, run, climb, read, sneeze, cry, sleep, dance, trip, paint, stomp, spin

Adjectives: hungry, tiny, excited, heavy, tired, hot, cold, surprised, scared, strong



Word Play

Your reader can boost their understanding of academic vocabulary by creating personal definitions. Academic vocabulary includes words that are often used in school discussions and texts, like *conclude*, *benefit*, *determine*, and *represent*. Choose some challenging academic words from informational books or articles, and have your reader follow these steps to ramp up their vocabulary learning:

1. Brainstorm what you know about the word.
2. Read the dictionary definition.
3. Write a personal definition. This can include examples, pictures, and using the word in a sentence.

Encourage your reader to keep their personal definitions in a journal, and try to use the words together in family conversations.



Art Studio

Comparing and contrasting — looking at how things are alike and how they're different — is a great way to improve reading comprehension. Try this fun project with your reader to help them compare and contrast like a pro.

Have them illustrate a book character, complete with details from the story. Then, they should draw themselves next to the character. Ask them to label the pictures to show what's the same and what's different.

If this project is a hit, try it with characters from other books, movies, or TV shows.



Tournament Time

Host a poetry tournament! Find eight poems by different poets, and create a tournament bracket — like the ones used for basketball playoffs — with poem titles instead of team names.

Read the poems together and talk about what you like or don't like. Then, match two poems against each other at a time. Have family members vote on a winner to continue in the tournament until a champion emerges.



Scavenger Hunt

Dazzling. Fragile. Bizarre. Encourage your reader to use describing words like these — called adjectives — to help them focus on details and develop a rich vocabulary. Here's a fun activity to get started.

Talk about the meaning of each adjective, have your reader use it in a sentence, and brainstorm related words together. Then, send them on a scavenger hunt for items that fit each description.

To add more describing words to your reader's word bank, write them down, use them daily, and try more scavenger hunts!

metallic

elegant

drab

modern

brittle

complex

trendy

massive

ancient

dainty

rare

lopsided

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Get Moving

Exercise for mind and body! Write some suffixes – word parts that come at the end of a word – on the ground with chalk. Have your reader jump to each suffix, read it aloud, and name a word that ends with the suffix. Bonus points for using the word in a sentence!

Here are some common suffixes to try:

-ness	-tion	-able	-ment
-ous	-al	-ity	-ible
-ive	-ly	-ful	-ture



Word Play

Did you know that almost half of all English words come from Latin? Help your reader build their vocabulary by exploring these Latin roots:

aud (to hear): audible, audience, audio

ject (to throw): eject, projectile, injection

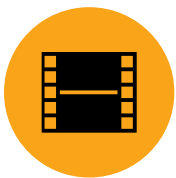
port (to carry): export, portable, transport

rupt (to break): disrupt, interrupt, erupt

struct (to build): obstruct, construction

tract (to pull): extract, tractor, distraction

Create a set of word cards together – write one word per card – talking about the meaning of each word, highlighting the Latin root, and brainstorming related words. Then, look for words with the same Latin roots next time you read together.



Act It Out

It's raining cats and dogs. Or is it? Phrases like this – called idioms – don't mean what they seem to say and can be tricky for some readers. Talk about the meaning of these idioms together:

to go out on a limb (to take a risk)

to have cold feet (to become afraid)

to be down to earth (to be sensible)

to be all ears (to be ready to listen)

to be fishy (to be questionable)

to hold your horses (to wait)

Get the ball rolling (See what we did there?) by playing charades with these idioms. To be correct, players need to guess the idiom and explain what it means.



Art Studio

Some words do double duty. Words like *wave*, *spring*, *trunk*, *litter*, and *bark* all have more than one meaning.

To boost your reader's vocabulary, talk about the different meanings of each word and have them use it in two different sentences.

Then, set out the art supplies. Have kids illustrate the different meanings. Bonus points for including both meanings in one scene and writing a sentence to describe it!

Like this project? Use these multiple meaning words next time:

cast	court	ruler
park	shed	school
toast	seal	draft
note	calf	staple
stamp	duck	right



Speak Up

Strong readers can make their voices sound natural as they read – as if they're having a conversation. Help your reader develop fluent reading skills with this fun activity.

Work together to select informational articles or short stories for kids to read aloud. Have them practice reading clearly and with expression. Then, encourage them to record themselves to create audiobooks for friends and family.



Tournament Time

Host a poetry tournament! Find eight poems by different poets, and create a tournament bracket – like the ones used for basketball playoffs – with poem titles instead of team names.

Read the poems together and talk about what you like or don't like. Then, match two poems against each other at a time. Have family members vote on a winner to continue in the tournament until a champion emerges.



Scavenger Hunt

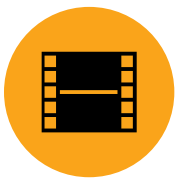
Bulky. Peculiar. Flimsy. Encourage your reader to use describing words like these – called adjectives – to help them focus on details and develop a rich vocabulary. Here's a fun activity to get started.

Talk about the meaning of each adjective, have your reader use it in a sentence, and brainstorm related words together. Then, send kids on a scavenger hunt for items that fit each description.

To add more describing words to your reader's word bank, write them down, use them daily, and try more scavenger hunts!

rustic	camouflaged	official
casual	harmless	powerful
impressive	glossy	ordinary
bland	recent	necessary
velvety	miniature	elaborate

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Act It Out

A summary is a short version of a text or story that helps readers understand and remember the main points. Give your reader a fun way to summarize what they've been reading in the form of an evening newscast.

When they read an informational article, have them write a few sentences to sum up the main idea and three key details. For stories, have them write a short summary of the setting, characters, and major events. Then, create a video of your reader in the role of a news anchor reporting on the "news" of the day.



Beat the Clock

Help build your reader's vocabulary with these Greek word parts:

anthro (people): anthropology, philanthropy

auto (self): automatic, autocrat, automobile

bio (life): biology, biography, biodiversity

chron (time): chronic, chronology, chronicle

geo (earth): geology, geography, geode

pod (foot): tripod, podium, podiatrist

tele (far): telephone, television, telescope

Make word cards together – write a Greek word part and its meaning on each card. Then, display one card at a time and see who can make the longest list of words that include the Greek word part in one minute. Using a dictionary is recommended!



Super Sort

Words can be related to the same topic but have different shades of meaning. Think of the words *cool*, *warm*, *hot*, and *boiling*. They can all describe water but cover a range of temperatures. Create sets of word cards using words like these, and have your reader sort them across each spectrum. Talk about the subtle differences in meaning.

easy → **tricky** → **challenging** → **grueling**

filthy → **dirty** → **clean** → **spotless**

silent → **quiet** → **noisy** → **thunderous**

drip → **trickle** → **flow** → **gush**

exhausted → **drowsy** → **alert** → **energized**

dry → **damp** → **soggy** → **drenched**



Word Play

Your reader can boost their understanding of academic vocabulary by creating personal definitions. Academic vocabulary includes words that are often used in school discussions and texts, like *accurate*, *perspective*, *progress*, and *consequence*. Choose some challenging academic words from informational books or articles, and have your reader follow these steps to ramp up their vocabulary learning:

1. Brainstorm what you know about the word.
2. Read the dictionary definition.
3. Write a personal definition. This can include examples, pictures, and using the word in a sentence.

Encourage your reader to keep their personal definitions in a journal, and try to use the words together in family conversations.



Speak Up

Poems are more than just written words, and reading a poem aloud reveals the power of rhythm and rhyme. Help your reader develop fluent reading skills – in all types of texts – with this poetry activity.

Have kids create a beat to go with a fun poem. (Just tapping a pencil on the table will work!) Then, have them record themselves reading the poem in rhythm with the beat. Challenge other family members to try this, too, and host a poetry slam.



Art Studio

Stories let readers travel to incredible places even when they can't leave home. Make the most of this by having your reader create a map of a fictional setting from a favorite book. Encourage them to include details from the story, and have fun talking about different parts of the map.

If this project is a hit, challenge your reader to create a map for a setting from their imagination. Then, urge them to write a story to go with it!



Scavenger Hunt

Verbs. Interjections. Adjectives. Nouns. Adverbs. It's grammar time! Knowing parts of speech not only supports comprehension, but can also help your reader become a better writer.

Make grammar fun by organizing a scavenger hunt. Review the different parts of speech, and have your reader look for 10 examples of each in a news article.

Then, play a fill-in-the-blank word game. Ask your reader (or have them ask you) to name new words to replace some of the ones they found, using the part of speech as a clue. Have fun reading aloud the new version of the article!

Verbs show action or state of being.

Interjections show emotion (Wow! Awww. Um).

Adjectives describe nouns.

Nouns are people, places, or things.

Adverbs describe verbs, adjectives, or adverbs.