

LIST 1

stel

interstellar
stellar

Stel is a Latin root that means “star.”

- Words containing *stel* usually have something to do with the stars.
- Use *stel* as a clue to meaning when you come across words that contain this root.



When you see *stel*, think of *constellation* (a group of “stars”).

Clues to Meaning Use *stel* as a clue to the meanings of the underlined words.

- Interstellar space flight would allow us to travel between the stars from our solar system to another one that is light-years away.
- After her stellar performance with the Metropolitan Symphony, many people considered Irma to be a star violinist.



LIST 2

astr, aster

aster
asterisk
astronomy
disaster

Astr is a Greek root that means “star.” Another way to spell this root is **aster**.

- Words containing *astr* or *aster* usually have something to do with the stars.



When you see *astr* or *aster*, think of *astronaut* (a person who travels among the “stars”).

Clues to Meaning Use *astr* and *aster* as clues to the meanings of the underlined words.

Astrid wondered to herself, “What an odd assortment of words! How do they relate to *astr* or *aster*, meaning ‘star’?” She realized, “Astronomy is the scientific study of stars. That’s clear enough. I know an asterisk is a punctuation mark that looks a bit like a star. What is an aster?” With some research, she found pictures of asters, flowers whose starburst-like petals gave them their name. Then Astrid was stumped. “I know a disaster is a terrible event that causes suffering and loss. How does that relate to stars? I’ll have to investigate further.”



ist

LIST 3

The Greek suffix **ist** means “one who believes, does, or is an expert in something.”

- Words ending with the suffix *ist* refer to people who believe or do something or are specialists in their field.
- Use *ist* as a clue to meaning when you come across words that contain this suffix.



When you see **ist**, think of **scientist** (a person who is an “expert” in science).

anthropologist
dentist
egotist
illusionist
medalist
realist

Clues to Meaning Use *ist* as a clue to the meanings of the underlined words.

- The anthropologist had just finished her study of peoples who live in the Andes Mountains.
- I brush my teeth twice a day, so I am never afraid to have the dentist check my teeth.
- I do not like to work on projects with people who are egotists. They just talk and talk about themselves too much.
- Juan is a talented illusionist. He made the audience at his magic show think that he disappeared.
- Sarah wants to be the best in swimming races and win medals. Someday, she hopes to be an Olympic medalist.
- Matt would love to get a new camera, but he is a realist. He knows that he can't afford the camera he wants.

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In Your Notebook Use each list word in a sentence that contains a context clue to the word's meaning. To check a meaning, use a dictionary.

Did you know?

Disaster has the same root as *astrology*, which is the study of the stars to predict the future. In ancient times, some people believed that bad luck resulted from a bad arrangement of the stars.

Using a Glossary

A glossary is a specialized dictionary that covers a set of related words. The words might all have to do with a particular topic or area of knowledge. Textbooks often have glossaries at the back where words taught throughout the book are gathered in one place for easy reference. While a dictionary might give you any number of definitions for a word, a glossary may offer the one or two definitions you need for what you are reading. The glossary at the back of this book covers the words presented in the lessons. You may want to consult it first when looking up your list words.

Apply and Extend

List 1

Write a question about one of the words that contains *stel*, showing that you understand the meaning of the word. An example question for the word *interstellar* is: *Which word describes something between the stars?*

List 2

Write one sentence using as many of the list words as you can. Challenge yourself. Can you use all four words in one sentence?

List 3

Write a riddle for one of the list words. An example riddle for the word *dentist* is: *Which word names someone who would be really interested in your teeth?*

Graphic Gallery Use your skills as a cartoonist to create a comic strip using words from this week's lesson. Draw pictures and write dialogue or use an online program to create the graphic text. How many of the words can you use? Compile the class's comic strips into a Graphic Gallery.



LIST WORDS

- asteroid
- astronomer
- black hole
- experimental
- galaxy
- mechanics
- meteor
- meteorite

Use Context as Clues to Meaning

When you study astronomy, you learn about the sun, moon, planets, and stars. The word *astronomy* has three parts. *Astro* comes from the Greek root *astr*, which means “star.” *Nom* comes from the Latin root *nomen*, which means “name.” The suffix *y* comes from the Latin suffix *ia*, which means “activity.” Astronomy is the activity of “naming the stars.” To the right are more words related to the study of the stars and space. You may come across these words in your science class.

The words *astronomy* and *astronomer* are related. *Astronomer* ends with the suffix *er*, which comes from the Latin suffix *arius*, meaning “one who engages in an activity.”

Read the dialogue below. How does the context help you understand the meanings of the underlined words?

Captain I just saw a meteor flash by.

Tork Unlikely, Captain, as we are in deep space and there is no atmosphere to heat up a moving object and make it speed past us. I’m sure you know it’s not an asteroid either, one of those small, rocky bodies that orbit the sun looking like a small star.

Captain I don’t need a lecture on elementary astronomy or the effects of forces. I know all about the mechanics of atmospheric friction, Tork. Let’s just focus on not getting sucked into that huge black hole. If we get sucked in, we won’t be able to escape!

Tork Also, technically, the moving object would be called a meteoroid because it has not yet entered Earth’s atmosphere.

Captain [muttering] I knew it was a bad idea to choose an astronomer to be my first officer. [to Tork] I knew that, of course. I found a meteoroid once in my backyard.

Tork Technically, if you found it in your backyard, it was a meteorite, because it had reached Earth without burning up.

Captain [muttering] Two hundred billion stars in the galaxy, and I have to be flying around the same one as this clown. [to Tork] Let’s conduct an experimental investigation to find out how long a first officer can survive in a vacuum.



Did you know?

A *black hole* is the material left over from a collapsed star that has become so dense that even its atomic structure collapses. No light can escape it.



In Your Notebook Write each list word and its meaning. Then write the words or phrases from the dialogue that helped you figure out the meaning of each word.

Word Story

The English name of our galaxies—the Milky Way—is a translation of the Latin phrase *Via Lactea*. The word *galaxy* itself comes from the Greek word *galaxias*, which means “milky.” When you look lengthwise through the plane of the galaxy, you see many more stars than you do when you look above or below it. The concentrated area appears in the night sky as a pale stripe, which the ancient Romans thought of as a “milky” way or road.

Apply and Extend

- Write a question about one of the list words, showing that you understand the meaning of the word. An example question for the word *galaxy* is: *Which word describes a group of billions of stars that form one system?*
- The word *experimental* contains the base word *experiment*, which comes from the Latin root *experiri*, meaning “to try.” Based on what you know about experiments, how can you explain the connection between the Latin root and the modern word? How does adding the suffix *al* change the meaning of the word *experiment*?

Act It Out Put your writing and acting talent to work. Work with a classmate to continue the dialogue between the Captain and Tork. Then perform a skit involving these brave astronauts!