

Building the Basics **Spelling**

—— Grades 5/6 ——

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competition	separation	federation	suspension	convulsion
precipitation	destruction	population	pension	musician
investigation	composition	simulation	mission	politician
observation	jurisdiction	friction	propulsion	Egyptian
caution	solution	tension	session	ocean

The "shun" sound

Many words contain letters that make the sound "shun". This sound can be made in a number of different ways. However, most of the time the sound is produced by the letter combination "tion" (direction, education). The next most common way that the sound is produced is by the letter combination "sion" (mansion, confession). Occasionally, the sound is produced by the letter combinations "cian", "tian" or "cean" (see the word list above). There are other ways of producing the "shun" sound, but they occur in words that are not very common.

1. Look up the list words below in your dictionary and write one meaning for each word.

- (a) caution - _____
- (b) suspension - _____
- (c) federation - _____
- (d) jurisdiction - _____
- (e) pension - _____
- (f) propulsion - _____

2. Write the root word of each list word below in the blank provided. The first one is done for you.

- (a) competition - compete
- (b) investigation - _____
- (c) observation - _____
- (d) separation - _____
- (e) convulsion - _____
- (f) composition - _____
- (g) suspension - _____
- (h) musician - _____
- (i) Egyptian - _____
- (j) simulation - _____



3. Use each of the list words below in a sentence. Write one sentence on each line.

- (a) solution - _____
- (b) population - _____
- (c) destruction - _____
- (d) mission - _____
- (e) friction - _____
- (f) precipitation - _____



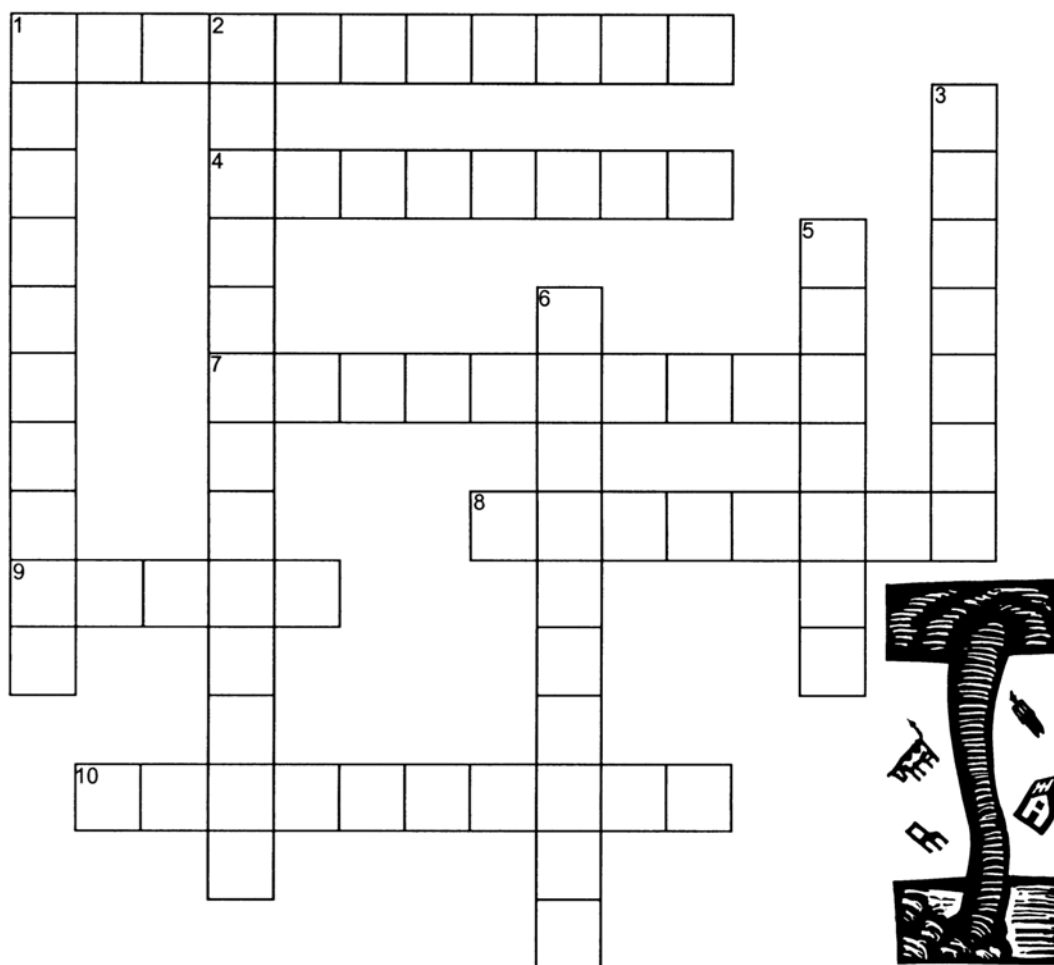
4. Do the crossword puzzle below. You will be able to find all of the answers in the word list.

ACROSS

1. a work of literature, music or art
4. a person from Egypt
7. an elected government official
8. one who plays an instrument
9. a large body of salt water
10. a driving force

DOWN

1. involuntary muscle contraction
2. matter that falls from the clouds
3. warning
5. tightness or stress
6. an imitation



5. Choose the correct words from the word list and write them in the blanks below.

- (a) The spring _____ of parliament ended last week.
- (b) The police detective was sent on a dangerous _____ in another province.
- (c) Mr. Jones began receiving a government _____ when he turned sixty-five.
- (d) The sign on the box said, " _____ - use only in a well ventilated area."
- (e) There was a great deal of _____ between Mark and his sister yesterday.
- (f) Robert struggled to find a _____ to an algebra question this morning in class.
- (g) The _____ began falling in the form of snow.
- (h) Sandy made an interesting _____ during the science demonstration in class.



principle	axle	stifle	federal	environmental
vehicle	pickle	smuggle	provincial	quarrel
muscle	knuckle	tackle	commercial	vessel
wrestle	whistle	principal	social	snorkel
throttle	chortle	municipal	official	pretzel

Words Ending With the "əl" Sound

Many words in our language end with the "əl" sound. If you examine the words in the list above, you will see that they all end with the "əl" sound. One of the most common ways to make this sound is with the letter combination "le" (gentle). Other ways to make the sound include the letter combinations "al" (royal) and "el" (nickel). There are other letter combinations but they are less common.

The upside down letter "e" shown above represents a **schwa**. A **schwa** is the vowel sound in an unaccented syllable and is often found in combination with the letter "l".

- Find five nouns, five verbs and five adjectives from the word list and write them in the blanks under the appropriate headings below. Use your dictionary if you need help.

Nouns

Verbs

Adjectives

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

- Look up the word "homophone" in your dictionary and write its meaning in the space provided. Homophone: _____

Find two words in the list that are homophones and write them in the blanks below.

- Look at the list words below. Each one can be used as a noun or a verb. Write a sentence to show each word used as a noun, then write a sentence to show each word used as a verb.

- (a) whistle (n) - _____
- (b) whistle (v) - _____
- (c) quarrel (n) - _____
- (d) quarrel (v) - _____
- (e) tackle (n) - _____
- (f) tackle (v) - _____



4. Synonyms are words that have the same or almost the same meaning. Write a synonym for each of the list words below. Use a thesaurus to help you with unfamiliar words.

vessel-_____ chortle-_____ throttle-_____

5. Use the clues below to find the correct list words, and write them in the blanks.

(a) Three words that refer to three levels of government in Canada: _____

_____, _____

(b) Four words with double consonants: _____, _____,

_____, _____

(c) One word that has a silent "w": _____

(d) One word that has a silent "c": _____

(e) One word that is a type of snack food: _____

6. Look up the list words below in your dictionary and write one meaning for each word.

(a) axle - _____

(b) social - _____

(c) stifle - _____

(d) vehicle - _____

(e) snorkel - _____

7. Choose the correct words from the word list and write them in the blanks below.

(a) Mrs. Williams is the _____ of St. Helen's Elementary School.

(b) The man in the blue suit tried to _____ a bag of diamonds into Canada.

8. Use the clues to find the list words that fit into the Criss-Cross puzzle below.

Word Criss-Cross

