

English Language Coach, Part 1

Root Words

As you read, many words you encounter share the same roots. They also share similar meanings. The following are such related words:

From the Latin *resistere* meaning “to take a stand against”: *resist, resistance, resister*

From the Latin *liber* meaning “free”: *liberty, liberate, liberation*

From the Latin *belli* meaning “war”: *rebellion, antebellum, belligerent*

ACTIVITY

Directions Using the lists that follow each root word above, write the word that belongs in each sentence. Then take clues from the root word and the sentence and write the meaning of the word.

- Matthew will _____ your efforts to change his mind.
- _____
- Natalie took the _____ of bringing paper and pens for the group.
- _____
- Sojourner Truth was a famous _____ of injustice in the United States.
- _____
- By lowering taxes, the king hoped to avoid a _____.
- _____
- The people’s _____ to the old law encouraged the government to change it.
- _____
- The Civil War was fought in part to _____ African Americans from the bondage of slavery.
- _____
- Their _____ attitudes suggest that they are angry about something.
- _____
- The time period before the civil war is also known as the _____ years.
- _____

Literary Element (page 331)

Refrain

Three Spirituals

Poems and songs often repeat words for emphasis; a refrain is the regular repetition of lines or phrases. This is sometimes called the chorus in popular songs.

ACTIVITY

Directions To help determine the point that the refrain highlights in each spiritual, answer the following questions:

“Swing Low, Sweet Chariot”

- What is the refrain? _____
- What different meanings could this phrase have? Consider the different meanings of the word *home*. _____
- What emotions might this refrain have evoked in the people who sang it? _____
- What does the refrain reveal about the meaning of the whole song? _____

“Go Down, Moses”

- What is the refrain? _____
- What different meanings could this phrase have? Consider how it applies to the singers’ lives and its biblical meanings. _____
- What point does the refrain emphasize in this song? _____

“Keep Your Hand on the Plow”

- What is the refrain? _____
- What different meanings could this phrase have? Consider its literal and figurative meanings. _____
- How does this refrain change in verse 20? How does this change affect its meaning? _____
- What does the refrain reveal about the meaning of the whole song? _____