Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ I CAN USE PREFIXES, SUFFIXES, AND ROOT WORDS TO

HELP DETERMINE THE MEANING OF A WORD.

**Belly Flops and Gutter Balls**

Lewis loved sports. He watched them on TV. He listened to them on the

radio. He read about them in the newspaper.

One day, Lewis decided that he wanted to be an athlete. “I want to find a

sport that I’m good at,” he said.

“I will help you find one,” said his friend Kirby.

They went to the golf course. Lewis picked up a golf club and placed the

ball on the tee. He swung the club hard, but he missed the ball entirely. A

clump of grass flew into the air and landed on Kirby’s head. “Golf is not for me,” said Lewis.

They went to the swimming pool. Lewis climbed the ladder and stood on

the diving board. He took five running steps and sprang into the air. He hit

the water with a stinging smack! Kirby got soaked. Diving is not for me,” said Lewis.

They went to the bowling alley. Lewis held the bowling ball and faced the

pins. He hopped and skipped, then let the ball go. It bounced into the next

lane and rolled into the gutter. “Bowling is not for me,” said Lewis.

**1** They went to the tennis courts. Lewis tossed the ball into the air and hit it

with the racket. The tennis ball flew right into the net.“Tennis is not for me,” said Lewis.

Lewis loved sports. He wanted to learn the basics. He wanted to feel the

excitement. He wanted to enjoy the thrill of winning, but this all seemed unbearable. Lewis would not give up.

They went to the beach. Lewis hopped on a surfboard and caught the

waves. He swerved to the left, leaned to the right, and tumbled off the board.

“Surfing is not for me,” said Lewis.

Lewis tried volleyball, hockey, skiing, and soccer. He tried boxing, fishing,

football, and wrestling. He tried track, basketball, table tennis, and archery. Who would have thought that finding a sport would be so difficult? Lewis sighed. “I’ve tried everything,” he said. “And I’m not skillful at anything.”

Kirby agreed. Lewis had made every possible mistake in every sport! “But, Lewis, you’ve only tried each sport once,” said Kirby. “A good athlete needs practice.”

“Practice?” asked Lewis. “You mean I won’t be good right away?”

“That’s right,” answered Kirby.

Lewis smiled. “Well, I’d better start practicing! Thank you for being such a

knowledgeable friend, Kirby.

1. Read the paragraph below.

“Lewis loved sports. He wanted to learn the basics. He wanted to feel the

excitement. He wanted to enjoy the thrill of winning, but this all seemed **unbearable.** Lewis would not give up.”

Determine the meaning of the bolded word using its prefix.

**A.** easy

**B.** awful

**C.** okay

**D.** silly

1. Read the paragraph below.

“Lewis tried volleyball, hockey, skiing, and soccer. He tried boxing, fishing,

football, and wrestling. He tried track, basketball, table tennis, and archery. Who would have thought that finding a sport would be so difficult? Lewis sighed. “I’ve tried everything,” he said. “And I’m not **skillful** at anything.”

Determine the meaning of the bolded word using its suffix.

**A.** proficient

**B.** hopeless

**C.** organized

**D.** useless

1. Read the paragraph below.

“Practice?” asked Lewis. “You mean I won’t be good right away?”

“That’s right,” answered Kirby.

Lewis smiled. “Well, I’d better start practicing! Thank you for being such a **knowledgeable** friend, Kirby.

Determine the meaning of the bolded word using its root word.

**A.** impolite

**B.** unaware

**C.** ignorant

**D.** educated