

Pip's Magnificent Word Collection

Learning objective: To understand spelling patterns and the importance of precise vocabulary in written communication.

Read the text carefully and answer the questions below. Ensure you use full sentences and check your spelling.

Pip the caterpillar spends his afternoons in the Great Oak Library. He is not just a hungry eater of leaves; he is a connoisseur of language. Pip believes that every word has a secret rhythm. When he encounters a tricky word, he breaks it down into small, bite-sized syllables. He knows that adding a suffix, like '-tion' or '-ly', can completely change a word's purpose. Pip keeps his collection in organised jars labelled with alphabetical precision. He often tells his friends that spelling is like building a bridge; if one piece is missing or placed incorrectly, the whole structure might wobble. Whether he is wrestling with silent letters or navigating the strange rules of English etymology, Pip remains patient. He knows that even the smallest spelling error can change the meaning of a sentence entirely. By taking his time to study the shape and sound of each word, Pip ensures his stories are as clear as a summer sky. To Pip, spelling isn't just a chore—it is the secret key to unlocking the world's most wonderful ideas.

Word bank: suffix · prefix · syllable · vowel · consonant · etymology · alphabetical

1. Identify two methods Pip uses to help him spell difficult words. (2 marks)

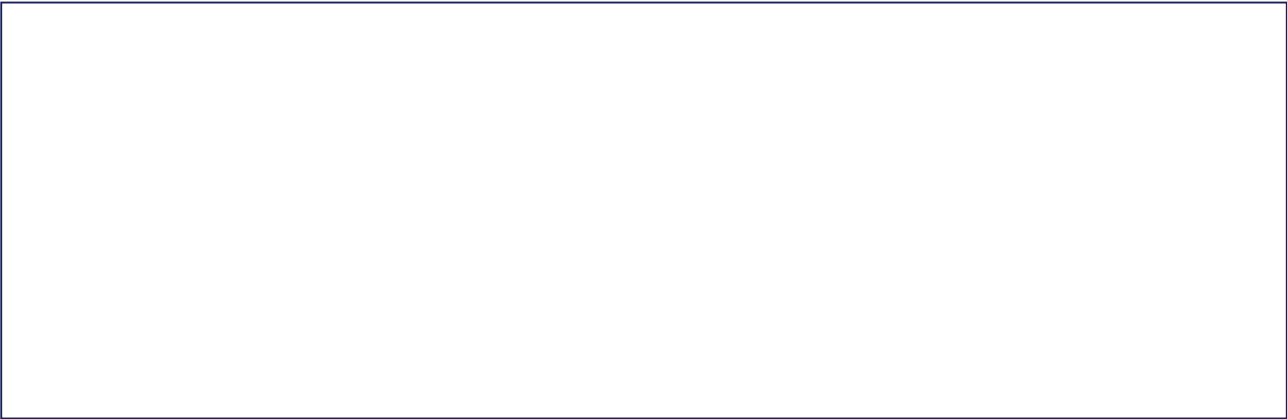
2. What does Pip use to keep his collection of words organised? (1 mark)

3. Why does the author compare spelling to building a bridge? (2 marks)

4. What might happen if Pip did not take the time to check his spelling? (2 marks)

5. Do you agree with Pip that spelling is a 'secret key'? Justify your answer with your own opinion. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw Pip the caterpillar sitting in his library, surrounded by jars of words. Make sure to show the labels on the jars and a few open books nearby.



Extension challenge: Compare and contrast the effect of adding a suffix versus a prefix to a root word. Create a table of five examples to justify your explanation. What might happen to the meaning of a sentence if the suffix '-ed' were removed from a verb? Explain your reasoning in a short paragraph.