Classic Roots and Affixes (sens, -ible)

The Master Word sensible is composed of the Latin root sens (also sent), which means “to feel” or “to understand” and the suffix -ible (also -able), which creates an adjective when added to a verb and certain nouns. Sensible literally means “able to feel or understand” and generally means “having good sense,” “practical,” or “responsible.” Use this information to complete the exercises below.

Matching
Write the letter of the definition after the correct word on the left. Use a dictionary if necessary.

1. insensible  
   2. sentient  
   3. sentimental  
   4. resent  
   5. dissension  
   6. sensory  
   7. consent  
   8. sensation  

   a. appealing to tender emotions
   b. related to the senses
   c. unable to feel
   d. to feel: injury or insult
   e. physical or mental feeling
   f. able to perceive with the senses
   g. bad feelings
   h. to agree

The suffix -ible or -able added to a verb creates an adjective. For example drive + -able forms drivable, which is an adjective that means “able to be driven.” The suffix can also be added to certain nouns. Misery + the suffix -able becomes the adjective miserable.

Writing Definitions
Write the part of speech and a definition for each of the words below. Then use the word in a sentence. Use a dictionary if necessary. An example has been done for you.

unutterable
(adj.) unable to be spoken
Listening to the orchestra brought a feeling of unutterable joy.

1. photographable

2. permissible

3. washable

4. reasonable

5. compatible
Unit Word Study

Idioms and Sayings

An idiom is an expression whose meaning is not immediately apparent from the denotation of the words that make it up. For example, a task that is a piece of cake is very easy to accomplish and something that costs an arm and a leg is very expensive. If you don’t know the meaning of an idiom or saying, use context clues or refer to a specialized idiom dictionary. The following idioms contain Master Words course and base.

Matching

Write the letter of the definition on the right that matches the idiom in bold type on the left.

1. When Sy wanted to quit the oboe, his teacher said, “Stay the course.”
   a. at the appropriate time
   b. brief, intense plan of instruction
   c. prepare for all possibilities
   d. mistaken
   e. persevere
   f. connect with
   g. naturally
   h. succeed in the first phase of a project

2. Shipping costs are extra, of course, when you order products online.

3. Peaches will arrive at the farmer’s market in due course.

4. Elijah planned to take a crash course in French before he traveled to Paris.

5. My plan to spend junior year abroad never got to first base: no funds.

6. Jennifer promised to touch base with us before she made her travel plans.

7. Jarrod’s interpretation of the movie is totally off base.

8. Maria always tries to cover all the bases when preparing for debates.

Using Idioms

See if you can guess the meaning of the idioms below. Use each in a sentence. Check your work by looking up the meaning in a phrase and idiom dictionary or on the Internet.

1. hit a home run

2. strike out

3. ballpark figure