

Name _____ Date _____

Lesson 24
 READER'S NOTEBOOK

**Rachel's Journal: The
 Story of a Pioneer Girl**

 Spelling: Prefixes *in-*, *un-*,
dis-, and *mis-*

Proofreading for Spelling

Find the misspelled words and circle them. Write them correctly on the lines below.

Last night I was unabil to sleep. I heard a sound from an unknone source. I woke my sister, but she had heard nothing. Still, I could not dismis the sound.

The day before, Pa had mislade his saw, so the roof was still incompleet and the house was unstabell. Ma's smile was insinceer as she told us not to worry. We knew she felt it was a disgrase that we didn't have a proper home here in Oklahoma. She didn't want to misleed us, but we knew our future was unsecure. Pa was sure everything would be fine. He always took an undirect path to solve any problem. Usually we would discover that his methods worked. We hoped they would this time.

- | | |
|----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 7. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 8. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 9. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 10. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 11. _____ |
| 6. _____ | 12. _____ |

Spelling Words

1. mislead
2. dismiss
3. insincere
4. unable
5. indirect
6. mistreat
7. disaster
8. dishonest
9. insecure
10. unknown
11. incomplete
12. unequal
13. unstable
14. misspell
15. disagree
16. informal
17. discover
18. unwise
19. mislaid
20. disgrace

Challenge

invisible
 mishap
 unfortunate
 discourage
 unnecessary

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Comparative and Superlative Adjectives

**Rachel's Journal: The
 Story of a Pioneer Girl**
 Grammar: Making Comparisons

Use a **comparative adjective** to compare two things and a **superlative adjective** to compare more than two things. To form a comparative adjective, add *-er* to a short adjective and use the word *more* before a long adjective. To form a superlative adjective, add *-est* or use the word *most*.

comparative adjective
superlative adjective

Jan is stronger than Mike, but Anna is the strongest of the three.

Troy was more worried than Chung, but Tonya was the most worried of all.

Thinking Question

How many things are being compared in the sentence?

Read each sentence. Write the correct form of the adjective in parentheses on the line.

- (fast) Sometimes it was _____ to go around a mountain than to hike over it.
- (old) The _____ child in a family usually had more responsibilities than the younger children.
- (dark) At night, the wilderness was _____ than the towns people had left behind.
- (beautiful) The Rocky Mountains were the _____ thing I saw throughout the trip.
- (snowy) In the winter, the trails would be _____ than at other times.
- (hot) Summer is the _____ season, so you should drink more water.

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Comparing with *Good and Bad*

Rachel's Journal: The Story of a Pioneer Girl
Grammar: Making Comparisons

The adjectives *good* and *bad* are irregular adjectives. To form their comparative and superlative forms, do not add *-er* or *-est* endings or use the word *more* or *most*. The chart below shows which form of *good* and *bad* to use.

adjective	comparative	superlative
good	better	best
bad	worse	worst

Wild strawberries are good, but wild blackberries are better and wild raspberries are the best!

Thinking Question

How many things are being compared in the sentence?

1–4. Look at the underlined word in each sentence. If it is correct, write C on the line. If it is incorrect, write the correct form of *good* or *bad*.

- Many people traveled west because they wanted a best life.

- Which is worst, keeping a small farm or working hard to start a new farm? _____
- A pioneer needed to be good at hunting and farming. _____
- Some people had best reasons for moving than others.

5–8. Circle the word that correctly completes the sentence.

- Schoolchildren tried to earn (good, best) scores on their tests.
- The farmer's (worse, worst) fear was that there would be a drought.
- Is a drought (worse, worst) than locusts?
- Hannah plays the banjo much (better, worst) than Joe does.

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Comparing with Adverbs

You can compare the way that actions are done. To compare two actions, form a **comparative adverb** by using the word *more* before an adverb ending in *-ly*. To compare three or more actions, form a **superlative adverb** by using the word *most*.

Karina's calf ran more gracefully than she had run yesterday.

Maddy's horse ran the most gracefully of all the horses on the field.

Thinking Question

How many things are being compared in the sentence?

1–4. Circle the adverb in each sentence. Write C on the line if it is a comparative adverb. Write S if it is a superlative adverb.

1. People traveled more carefully along the trails than they did on the flat prairies. _____
2. Pioneers looked for water most eagerly when they were near a desert. _____
3. Pioneers traveled most carefully when they were crossing a river. _____
4. Thunder seemed to crash more powerfully out on the open plain. _____

5–8. Write the correct form of the adverb in parentheses.

5. (superlative, *happily*) Children played _____ when they felt safe.
6. (comparative, *restfully*) The adults slept _____ in a cabin.
7. (superlative, *forcefully*) The rivers ran _____ after a strong rain.
8. (comparative, *slowly*) The older cattle moved _____ than the young calves.

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**Rachel's Journal: The
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 Grammar: Spiral Review

Writing Titles

1–6. Identify the titles in the following examples and indicate what kind of treatment they require.

1. When I was a child, my favorite TV show was Prairie Days.

2. The author wrote a book about the state's early settlers called Hearty Folk.

3. Henry wrote a poem called The Mountain Pass.

4. The magazine article was titled Tales from the Trail.

5. In the movie Finding the Frontier, the young girl learned to gather wild berries.

6. Old copies of the Territory Reporter have many news stories about pioneer days.

7–12. Provide for the proper capitalization of the sample titles given.

7. my life in the wilderness _____

8. the life and times of a mountain man

9. of mountain high and river wide

10. life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness

11. the elephant who tried to swim in the ocean

12. if at first you don't succeed, try, try, again

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Connect to Writing

**Rachel's Journal: The
 Story of a Pioneer Girl**
 Grammar: Connect to Writing

You can use comparisons with adjectives and adverbs to add details to your writing.

Without Comparisons	With Comparisons
For most pioneers, setting out toward a new or unexplored land must have been an adventure.	For most pioneers, setting out toward a new or unexplored land must have been the greatest adventure of their lives.

Read each sentence and the adjective or adverb in parentheses. Rewrite the sentence using the adjective or adverb to make a comparison.

1. The farmers knew how to care for the animals and fields.
 (successful)

2. A plow was one of the items on a farm. (expensive)

3. The mother would use sugar during hard times. (sparingly)

4. Children would be taught to read at home. (young)

5. Once a town was set up, the community would build a school.
 (small)

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Focus Trait: Evidence

Main Ideas and Supporting Details

**Rachel's Journal: The
Story of a Pioneer Girl**
Writing: Opinion Writing

In a response essay, each paragraph has a main idea that relates to the topic of the essay. The other sentences provide supporting details, or evidence.

A. Read the main ideas and the supporting details below. Decide which supporting details belong with each main idea. Write A or B next to each detail.

Main Ideas

- A.** Traveling the Oregon Trail was a challenging experience.
- B.** The Oregon Trail became less popular when trains could cross the country.

Supporting Details

- ___ The trip that once took six months took just days by train.
- ___ The trip usually took between five and six months.
- ___ The train was not only faster, it was also much safer.
- ___ The first transcontinental railroad was completed in 1869.
- ___ Travelers faced many dangers, including extreme heat or cold.
- ___ Supplies were scarce along the way.
- ___ The dust on the trail was often blinding.
- ___ Soon, the railroad replaced the Oregon Trail for long-distance travel.

B. Read the supporting details. Write a sentence that tells the main idea.

Supporting Details

The Oregon Trail starts near the Missouri River. Then it goes along the Platte River. It crosses through the Green River Valley and the Snake River area. Finally, it travels down the Columbia River to end in the Willamette Valley.

Main Idea _____

Writing

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Grade 5, Unit 5

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