

The Dejected Unicorn

Directions for the advanced word ladder

Start at the word on the left. Move to one of the two directions to the immediate right of the word. You could give students either one of the directions. Give more explicit directions if they need more support because they lack background knowledge and/or vocabulary knowledge. Conversely, give the less supportive directions if they have more background and/or vocabulary knowledge. Once you've given the direction and discussed the newly formed word in the first column, repeat the process!

		More explicit directions	Less explicit directions
unicorn			
uniform →		Take off the root. Add the new root "corn." What is the new word? What does it literally mean?	Take off the root and add a new root to make a word that means "a mythical being with one horn."
Inform →		Take off the prefix. Add a new prefix "uni." What is the new word? What does it literally mean? How do we use it?	Take off the prefix. Add a new prefix that means "one." What is the new word?
inject →		Take off the root. Add the new root, "form." What does this word mean? How would you use it in a sentence? How does it relate to the word <i>information</i> ?	Take off the root. Add the new root to make a word that literally means "to give shape." We use it to mean "to give <i>information</i> ."
eject →		Take off the prefix. Add a new prefix "in." What is the new word? What does it mean?	Take off the prefix. Add a new prefix to make a word that means "to throw in" as in "throw gasoline into an engine" or "throw medicine into an arm."
dejected →		Take off the prefix, take off the suffix, add a new suffix "e." What is the word? What does it mean?	Take off the prefix, take off the suffix, add a new suffix to make a word that means "throw out violently"