

exaggerate • exaggeration
minimize • minimum • minimal

Use the reproducible definitions on page 162 and the suggestions on page 6 to introduce the words for each day.

DAY
1

exaggerate

(*verb*) To make something seem larger, more valuable, or more important than it is. *Drawings sometimes exaggerate the size of a shark's teeth.*

exaggeration

(*noun*) The act of exaggerating. *It is an exaggeration to say that I can hit a ball clear into the next county.*

Make a statement that is an obvious **exaggeration**, such as, *I'm so hungry I could eat a horse.* Say: *I just exaggerated, or stretched the truth. I am hungry, but certainly not hungry enough to literally eat a horse.* Ask: *What do people do when they exaggerate?* Ask: *What kinds of stories do we read that have exaggerated, or larger-than-life, characters?* (tall tales) Write "**exaggeration**" on the board. Use a different color for "-tion." Point out that the suffix "-tion" means "the act or state of." Then say: *When you exaggerate, the result is an exaggeration.* Discuss some of the **exaggerations** students have read in tall tales. Invite students to make up **exaggerations**. Then have students complete the Day 1 activities on page 19. You may want to do the first one as a group.

DAY
2

minimize

(*verb*) To make something as small as possible. *We can minimize the amount of work for each student if we work together as a team.*

Write the prefix "mini-" on the board and discuss its meaning with students. (small) Write "**minimize**" on the board. Ask: *What are some things we might wish to minimize?* (e.g., amount of time wasted) Then have students complete the Day 2 activities on page 19. You may want to do the first one as a group.

DAY
3

minimum

(*noun*) The smallest possible amount or lowest limit. *One dollar is the minimum that you can donate to the fund.*

Use students' knowledge of the prefix "mini-" to help them understand **minimum**. Say: *When you minimize something, you create the minimum, the smallest amount or lowest limit. What is the minimum age for driving a car?* Then have students complete the Day 3 activities on page 20. You may want to do the first one as a group.

DAY
4

minimal

(*adj.*) Being the smallest in amount or size. *It takes minimal effort to smile, but the rewards are big.*

Explain that **minimal** is an adjective that describes something that is the smallest in amount or size. Ask questions such as: *Which would take a minimal amount of time, sharpening a pencil or painting a house? If you put minimal effort into a project, how do you think it would turn out?* Have students complete the Day 4 activities on page 20. You may want to do the first one as a group.

DAY
5

Have students complete page 21. Call on students to read aloud their answers to the writing activity.