

TEACHER'S NOTES

demi-decade

www.macmillandictionary.com

Overview: Suggestions for using the **Macmillan Dictionary BuzzWord** article on *demi-decade* and the associated worksheet.

Total time for worksheet activities: 45 minutes

Suggested level: Upper intermediate and above

1. If you intend to use the worksheets in class, go to the *BuzzWord* article at the web address given at the beginning of the worksheet and print off a copy of the article. Make a copy of the worksheet and the *BuzzWord* article for each student. You might find it helpful not to print a copy of the Key for each student but to check the answers as a class.
2. If the members of your class all have computer access, ask them to open the worksheet before they go to the *BuzzWord* article link. Make sure they do not scroll down to the Key until they have completed each exercise.
3. Encourage students to read through the questions in Exercise 1 before they look at the *BuzzWord* article. Ask them to read through the article carefully and answer the questions. Tell them to compare their answers with a partner. Then check the answers as a class.
4. Ask students to complete Exercise 2 independently. They should identify the option that has a different meaning to the others. Encourage them to look up any of the alternatives they don't understand in the Macmillan Dictionary. Check the answers as a class.
5. The article explains that *demi-* means 'half' and that combining forms *semi-* and *half-* are common alternatives. Exercise 3 features some higher level words and expressions containing the word *half* which are relatively common in informal English, especially in speech. Complete the exercise as a class activity, asking students if they recognize any of the items in the box and if so, inviting them to explain their meaning. Explore the meanings of all the words/phrases before matching them to the appropriate sentences. They can all be found in the Macmillan Dictionary, NB.: *go halves*, *half the battle* and *given half a chance* are covered as phrases below the main entry for *half*, *meet (sb) halfway* is listed at *halfway* (adv).
6. Exercise 4 revises the correspondence between written numbers and digits/fractions. Ask students to complete the exercise independently and indicate when they've finished. The first student to do so provides the answers for checking as a class. The activity could be extended by supplying further numbers (e.g. include 'sixths', 'eighths', etc) and asking students to call them out or write them in words.
7. Explain that, as exemplified in the word *decade*, the form *dec-* is associated with the number 10. There are many other words in English that contain prefixes indicating a particular numerical value, and Exercise 5 gives some examples. Ask students to complete the exercise in pairs, using the meaning of the prefixes to help them work out the answers. Give them clues if necessary (i.e. *tri-* = three, *oct-* = eight, etc). Check the answers as a class.

This activity could also be extended by asking students to find and discuss other examples (e.g. *triangle*, *unicycle*, *octogenarian*, etc).
8. As a winding-up activity, ask students to work out their coming half-birthdays. What do they think about celebrating half-birthdays? (Tip: there are various 'half-birthday calculators' available on the internet, e.g.: peterjanes.ca/half-birthday/).

Go to the **Macmillan Dictionary BuzzWord** article at:

www.macmillandictionary.com/buzzword/entries/demi-decade.html

1 Find the information

Read the **BuzzWord** article on *demi-decade* and answer these questions.

1. What are the *noughties*?
2. How many years are in a *demi-decade*?
3. What language does the combining form *demi-* originally come from?
4. What is a *demigod*?
5. What other combining forms have the same meaning as *demi-*?
6. Where has the expression *half-birthday* famously appeared?

2 Find the odd one out

Cross out the alternative that has a different meaning to the others.

1. We have struggled to *depend/decide/agree* on a name for the years 2010-2019.
2. A *demi-decade* is *equivalent/similar/equal* to half a decade.
3. The most common *translation/perception/idea* of a decade is the years ending in 0-9.
4. The word *demi-decade* is yet to be *acknowledged/recorded/rejected* by dictionaries.
5. A *trawl/discovery/search* of the internet gives evidence of its occurrence in 1824.
6. The prefix seems to have *confined/restricted/added* itself to French loanwords.

3 Half expressions

Complete the sentences with the words and phrases in the box.

go halves
 better half

given half a chance
 half-hearted

half the battle
 meet (sb) halfway

1. I would stop working in the evenings, _____.
2. When you're learning German, understanding the grammar is _____.
3. If you want Amy to agree to this then you'll have to _____ her _____.
4. I made a _____ attempt to listen, but then gave up because it was so noisy.
5. I think 7 o'clock should be fine but I should probably ask my _____.
6. We decided to _____ so that we could buy a bigger present.

WORKSHEET

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4 Writing numbers

Match the numbers in the left-hand column with the written forms in the right-hand column.

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. $\frac{3}{5}$ | a. three and a quarter |
| 2. $20\frac{1}{2}$ | b. two and a third |
| 3. $5\frac{3}{4}$ | c. five and a quarter |
| 4. $\frac{7}{5}$ | d. three and a half |
| 5. $3\frac{1}{4}$ | e. twenty and a half |
| 6. $2\frac{1}{3}$ | f. four-fifths |
| 7. $3\frac{1}{2}$ | g. two-thirds |
| 8. $5\frac{1}{4}$ | h. five and three-quarters |

5 Number prefixes

Match the words in the box with their definitions below. There is one word you don't need.

octagon	biannual	pentathlon	trio
triplet	quarter	unilateral	decimal

- | | |
|--|-------|
| 1. done or decided by one group, country, or person | _____ |
| 2. a shape with eight straight sides | _____ |
| 3. relating to a counting system based on the number ten | _____ |
| 4. a sports event that consists of five different sports | _____ |
| 5. happening twice every year | _____ |
| 6. one of four equal parts of something | _____ |
| 7. one of three children born to one mother at the same time | _____ |

Write a definition for the other word.

Word: _____

Definition: _____



KEY

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KEY

1 Find the information

1. the years 2000 to 2009
2. five
3. (medieval) Latin
4. a less important god who may be partly human
5. *semi-, half-*
6. in J. K. Rowling's *Harry Potter* novels

2 Find the odd one out

1. depend
2. similar
3. translation
4. rejected
5. discovery
6. added

3 Half expressions

1. given half a chance
2. half the battle
3. meet (her) halfway
4. half-hearted
5. better half
6. go halves

4 Writing numbers

1. f
2. e
3. h
4. g
5. a
6. b
7. d
8. c

5 Number prefixes

1. unilateral
2. octagon
3. decimal
4. pentathlon
5. biannual
6. quarter
7. triplet

Other word: trio

Definition: a group of three people or things