Nifty Thrifty Fifty
Month 1

Words to introduce:

composer, discovery, encouragement, hopeless, impossible, musician, richest, unfriendly

Words contained within the new words:

compose, pose, discover, cover, encourage, courage, hope, possible, music, rich, friendly, friend

Words related by combining parts:

dispose, discourage, discouragement, enrich, enrichment, richly, uncover, hopelessly

Nifty Thrifty Fifty
Month 2

Words to introduce:

expensive, governor, impression, independence, submarine, transportation, unfinished

Words contained within the new words:

govern, impress, press, depend, marine, transport, port, finish, finished

Words related by combining parts:

express, expressed, expression, export, exported, exportation, governed, impressed, pressed, depended, transported, inexpensive, import, imported, importation

Words students should be able to spell by using parts of all words so far:

expose, exposed, composed, posed, discovered, covered, encouraged, uncovered, hoped, transpose, transposed, government, compress, compression
Nifty Thrifty Fifty
Month 3

Words to introduce:
- beautiful, classify, community, communities, electricity, happiness, prettier

Words contained within the new words:
- beauty, class, unity, electric, happy, pretty

Words related by combining parts:
- beautify, classiness, electrify, happier, unify

Words students should be able to spell by using parts of all words so far:
- unhappy, unhappier, unhappiest, unhappily, unhappiness, prettiest, hopeful, beautician, electrician, classified, unclassified, classification, communication

Nifty Thrifty Fifty
Month 4

Words to introduce:
- continuous, conversation, forgotten, nonliving, swimming, unpleasant, valuable

Words contained within the new words:
- continue, converse, forgot, living, live, swim, pleasant, please, value

Words related by combining parts:
- livable, unlivable, continuing, conversing, valuing

Words students should be able to spell by using parts of all words so far:
- impressionable, unimpressionable, classifiable, unclassifiable, governable, ungovernable, transportable, portable, classification, electrification, communication, depressant, important, classifying, hoping, encouraging, discovering, composing, finishing, transporting, depending
Nifty Thrifty Fifty
Month 5

Words to introduce:
    dishonest, illegal, irresponsible, misunderstood, performance, rearrange, replacement

Words contained within the new words:
    honest, legal, responsible, response, understood, perform, form, arrange, replace, place, stood

Words related by combining parts:
    displace, displacement, reform, rearrangement, misplace

Words students should be able to spell by using parts of all words so far:
    conform, conformity, inform informer, informant, information, misinform uninformed, formation, formal, transform transformation, performer, responsibility, responsive, responsiveness, honesty, dishonesty, honestly, legally, illegally, responsibly, irresponsibly, arranging, rearranging, placing, replacing, misplacing, report, reporter, refinish, relive, repose, reclassify, revalue, recover, rediscover, electrical, displease, discontinue, irreplaceable

Nifty Thrifty Fifty
Month 6

Words to introduce:
    deodorize, different, employee, international, invasion, prehistoric, signature

Words contained within the new words:
    odor, differ, employ, national, nation, invade, historic, history, sign

Words related by combining parts:
    signal, design (note pronunciation change for s), deploy

Words students should be able to spell by using parts of all words so far:
    disposal, musical, continual, employer, employment, unemployment, unemployed, employable, unemployable, difference, consignment, nationality, nationalities, internationalize, internationalization, interdependence, depress, depression, depressive, deport, deportation, deportee, devalue, decclassify, decompose, deform, deformity, prearrange, resign, resignation, designation, significant, significance
Nifty Thrifty Fifty
Month 7

Words to introduce:

antifreeze, forecast, midnight, overpower, semifinal, supermarket, underweight

Words contained within the new words:

over, under, super, freeze, cast, night, power, final, market, weight

Words related by combining parts:

overnight, overweight, overcast

Words students should be able to spell by using parts of all words so far:

freezer, freezing, freezable, subfreezing, underclass, overexpose, underexpose, superimpose, undercover, forecaster, forecasting, miscast, antidepressant, overture, deodorant, empower, empowerment, powerful, powerfully, powerfulness, finalizing, finalization, weighty, weightier, weightiest, weightless, undervalue, friendlier, friendliest, friendliness, unfriendliness, unpleasantness, historical, historically, expressive, impressive, repressive, invasive, noninvasive, invasiveness, hopefully, hopelessly, predispose, predisposition, courageous

Nifty Thrifty Fifty
Month 8

Students should now be able to spell and analyze the parts of all 50 words. This month focuses specifically on the prefixes, suffixes, and spelling changes students have learned.

Prefixes
Discuss how when prefixes are “peeled” off they leave an independent word. However, also discuss “unpeelable” prefixes that do not leave a recognizable word when taken off. The prefixes con/com, ex, em, and per do add meaning to words, but you have to have a rather advance understanding of Latin and Greek to see the meaning relationships. Just help students see how these are predictable spelling and pronunciation chunks rather than try to show students how to analyze these words for meaning clues. Give students the prefix chart and have them use the dictionary to find two or more examples of words in which the prefix has that meaning as well as two words in which it does not.

Suffixes and Endings
Focus on a change in how and where the words fit into a sentence. Discuss how the spelling of the wood often determines the spelling of the suffix. Continue to practice transferring to other words.