

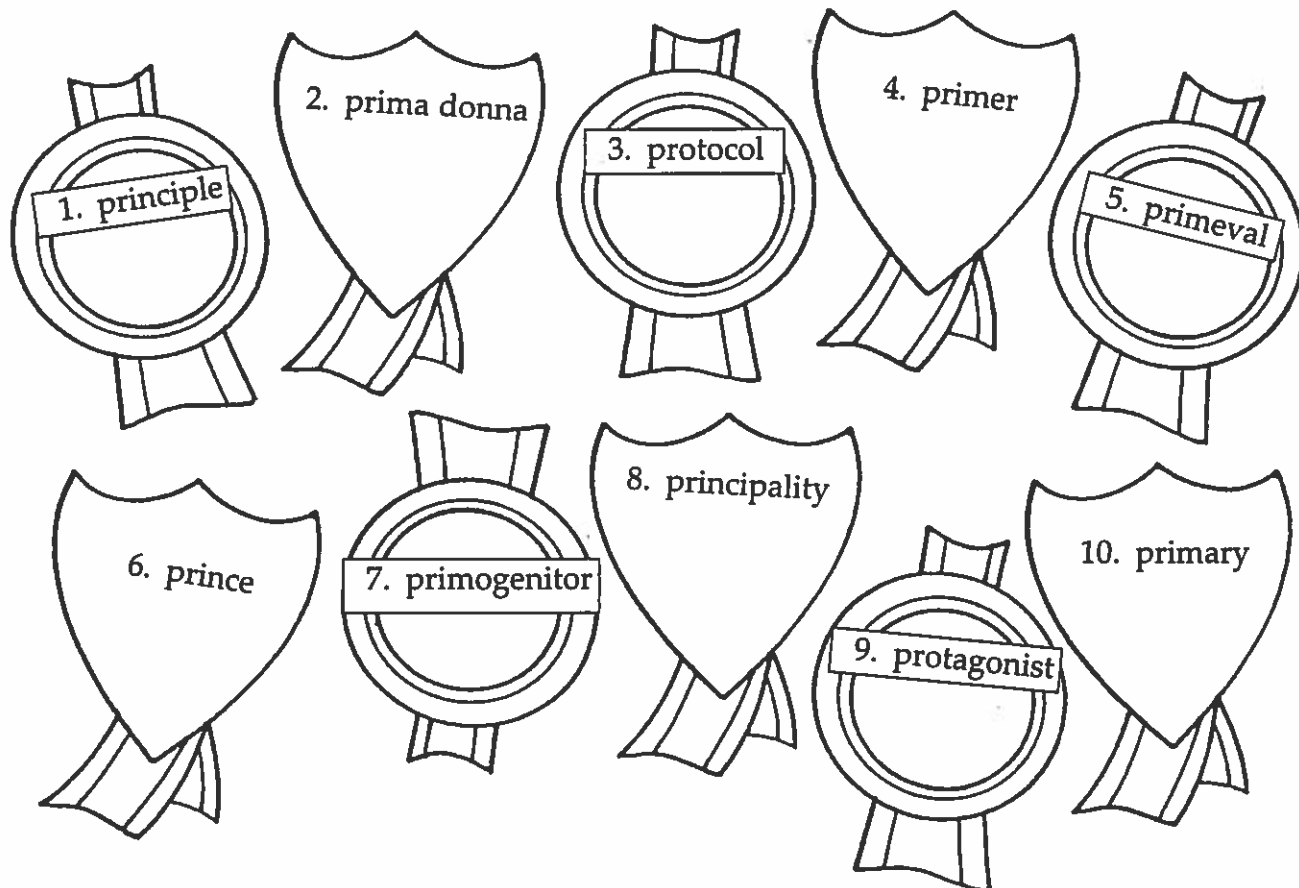
Blue Ribbon Specials



You deserve a medal for vocabulary mastery! The words below all come from *prim*, *prin*, and *proto*, the roots meaning “first” or “basic.” For each word, write the letter of the matching definition. Check your answers with a dictionary.

- a. belonging to the first years
- b. first, most important, most basic
- c. most important female opera singer
- d. first book, elementary reading book
- e. first-born son of a king
- f. territory belonging to a son of a king
- g. a basic truth
- h. rules governing government ceremonies
- i. the first, most important character in a book or play
- j. first ancestor

Now have some fun with your new words. Cut out the medals and award them to your friends. Tape each medal on a classmate and make a brief presentation speech using the vocabulary word: “Jack, for your role as protagonist in last week’s game against Laney Middle School, I present you with this medal.”





The Princess and the Pea

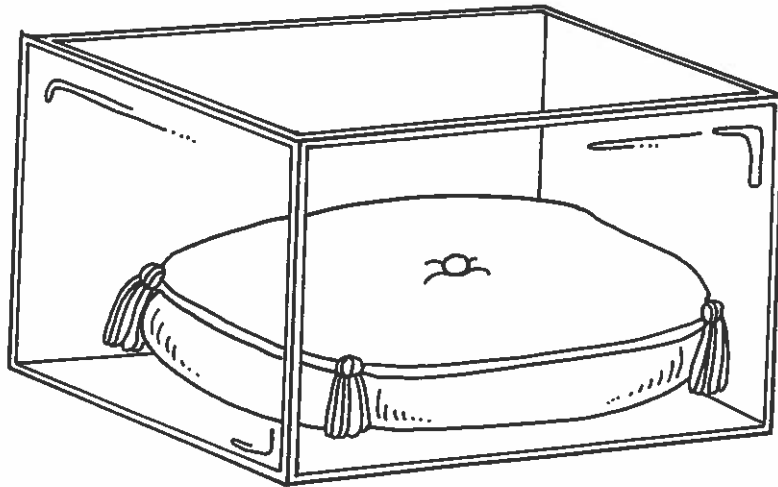
Hidden in the fairy tale below are the definitions for your ten “first” vocabulary words. Read the story and underline definitions as you come to them. Over each one, write the matching vocabulary word.

“What will we do?” sighed the old queen. “We will never find a suitable wife for the son of the king. We must follow strict rules about government ceremonies to locate the right young woman for the job.”

“Of first, most basic importance are her first ancestors. We need to trace them back to the very first era. Over what countries or territories belonging to king’s sons have they ruled? Only a princess of many generations is good enough to marry my son!”

“Secondly, we must consider the young lady’s basic beliefs and education. Has she progressed past the first reading book level? It takes brains and character to be a queen. The final test involves placing a green pea under the main character’s mattress. If she is a true pampered, prissy woman, every inch of her body will ache the next day!”

Now write this story from the young lady’s point of view. How did she feel sleeping on a lumpy mattress? Use all ten vocabulary words in your monologue.



First Impressions



After designers sketch an idea for a new coin, they make a prototype, a first model which they refine and shape and get just right. Then a mold is made and the assembly line cranked up. The first new coin out of the mold is called a *first impression*. If you can get your hands on one, it is usually worth much more than the face value of the coin.

Use your knowledge of the *prim*/*proto* roots to answer the following questions.

1. Write protocol for dealing with a prima donna.
2. Were primates present during primeval times?
3. When would a prince need a primer?
4. Give a list of ten principles for principals.
5. What quality do prime numbers have in common with primary colors?
6. Who currently governs the principality of Monaco?
7. Why do some scientists believe that dinosaurs were the primogenitors of the modern bird?
8. Name the protagonist and his antagonists from your favorite movie.
9. Plan the prototype for a twenty-first-century primer. Describe it here.
10. Explain what a presidential primary is.

