

## Phonics Strategy

**Strategy:** Mnemonic Hints. Students will learn a structural analysis strategy to help them decode multisyllabic words into parts. This teaches students how to identify multisyllabic words with prefixes and suffixes.

**Appropriate Grade Level:** K-5

**Materials Needed:**

- Poster of the **HINTS** procedure (*see below*)
- Blank transparency and marker
- Overhead projector/Elmo
- Word list

**Procedures/Steps:**

1. Explain to students that separating multisyllabic words into word parts can help them identify unknown words.
2. Review functions and definitions of prefixes and suffixes.
3. Using the **HINTS** procedure, introduce the mnemonic **HINTS**, which will help students identify multisyllabic words with prefixes and suffixes.
  - H – Highlight the prefix and/or suffix parts.**
  - I – Identify the consonant and vowel sounds in the root word.**
  - N – Name the root word.**
  - T – Tie the parts together.**
  - S – Say the word.**
  - ✓ Say what each letter stands for, and have the students echo.
  - ✓ Point to and name each letter in **HINTS**, and have students chorally read the descriptor.
4. Write a multisyllabic word on the transparency (e.g., *unbreakable*). Model using the **HINTS** procedure.
5. Practice with additional multisyllabic words with prefixes and suffixes.

**Comments/Tips:**

- For *English language learners* make sure the student understands the word and word meanings before beginning.

**Source:** Scammacca, N., Vaughn, S., Roberts, G, Wanzek, J. and Torgesen, J. (2007). *Extensive Reading Interventions in Grades K-3: From Research to Practice.*