At 9:00 sharp I walked into the office. “Good morning,” I said. Bill Klepper didn’t answer. I tried again. “Good morning!”

“Dash,” he said, “I’ve decided to do away with good morning in this office. It wastes time and money. Do you realize that in the space of a single ‘good morning’ I could’ve earned over 32 thousand dollars?”

“Amazing,” I said.

“You’re absolutely right it’s amazing,” he said. “Now let’s get to work. I want you to buy PREFIXES today.”

“Prefixes?” I asked. “Aren’t those the little things that come at the front of words?”

“That’s right,” he said. “And we’re going to buy them up until there’s a huge imbalance in the market. That way, every time someone uses a prefix—they’ll need to pay ME a royalty.”

I couldn’t disagree with the basic idea. It might be ignoble, but it was clever. Devilishly clever.

I made a list of NOT prefixes (prefixes that mean “no” or “not”). In theory, you should be able to combine prefixes and root words to make new words. But would it work?

To find out, complete the exercises. And keep in mind that Bill Klepper owns these prefixes. Every time you use one, he gets a big fat KICKBACK.
Use the root words from page 10 and the definitions in parentheses to make each word.

1. a- + root = __________________________ (not average)
2. dis- + root = _________________________ (not share the same opinion)
3. ig- + root = _________________________ (not respectable)
4. il- + root = _________________________ (not able to read)
5. im- + root = _________________________ (not the same on both sides)
6. in- + root = _________________________ (not precise)
7. ir- + root = _________________________ (not dependable)
8. mis- + root = _________________________ (fail to understand)
9. un- + root = _________________________ (not well liked)

We started simple, with just a few prefixes.

Then we kept buying more and more of them. You can use these prefixes with the root words shown to make new words. But keep in mind: if a word has a prefix, then Bill Klepper will someday own it!

Use the root words on this page and the definitions in parentheses to write each word.

10. co- + root = _________________________ (be alive together)
11. con- + root = _________________________ (go down together
to a lower level)
12. cor- + root = _________________________ (answer one another
by writing)
13. sym- + root = _________________________ (balanced on both sides by measurement)
14. syn- + root = _________________________ (the combining of different things or ideas)

According to my calculations, we’ll make millions on this, perhaps even billions. In fact, don’t be surprised if in a few years BILL KLEPPER HAS ALL THE MONEY IN THE WORLD! It could happen. Stay tuned.
Answer Key

Bill Klepper, Fat-Cat Wheeler-Dealer
Billionaire (page 10)
1. atypical
2. disagree
3. ignoble
4. illiterate
5. imbalance
6. inexact
7. irresponsible
8. misinterpret
9. unpopular
10. coexist
11. condescend
12. correspond
13. symmetric
14. synthesis