

## **Landfills: A Heap or a Help?**

Ask students what causes landfill gas. After discussion, bring students to the conclusion that as waste decomposes, landfill gas is produced. Write the word *decomposes* on the board. Ask students to write a definition of *decomposes*. Bring students to the understanding that de- is a prefix that can mean “the opposite of.” Ask them to think of other words that contain this prefix.

Following is a sort that compares two prefixes. After students sort the words, discuss the meaning of the words. Practice spelling the words in partners.

<b>de-</b>	<b>ex-</b>
decompose	exhale
degrade	exceed
debrief	exhaust
decrease	exit
decipher	excavate
decline	exclaim
defame	exodus
deflate	export

Bonus word – The *exoatmosphere* is the outer most part of the earth’s atmosphere.

### **Showy Sentences**

Ask students to write sentences that illustrate the meaning of the words. Read the sentences and discuss how the sentence might change with a different prefix.