STAGE 3 SPELLING BY MEANING

Jane Flynn, Ph.D.
Cognitive Technologies
Minnesota City, MN 55959
Spelling Instruction at Stage 3 is Vocabulary Instruction

NON SEQUITUR BY WILEY MILLER

PERPENDICULAR! UH... WHAT WAS THAT ABOUT?

OH, SOME WORDS ARE JUST FUN TO SHOUT OUT LOUD.

M.M.M... YES...

INDICTMENT! RIBO-FLAVIN!

YOU DON'T REALIZE JUST HOW WEIRD THEIR CONVERSATIONS ARE UNTIL YOU WALK INTO THE MIDDLE OF ONE...
Major concepts of Stage 3: Spelling by Meaning

1. Meaning often takes precedence over sound in spelling a word
   Examples: insignia, sign, ensign, signal

2. Syntax often takes precedence over sound in spelling a word
   Examples: hopped, wanted, danced

3. Stress determines meaning
   - Content. She is very content with her lot in life. The content of the box is a mystery
   - Perfect. He sang the aria with perfect pitch. I need to perfect my speech by tomorrow.

4. Syntax determines meaning
   - Read. Teacher, how do you read this word? I read about the game in the paper yesterday.

5. Vowel alternation for spelling
   - Long to schwa: Preserve/preservation; invite/invitation.
   - Schwa to short: pedant/pedantic

6. Word meanings derived from parts
   - Latin prefixes, suffixes, roots
   - Greek roots
The Importance of Teaching Etymology

- Latin words = 55% of English words
  - Prefix + root + connective + suffix
  - Pre + destin + a + tion
  - Teaching should begin by 4\textsuperscript{th} grade

- Greek words = 10% of English words
  - Root + o + root
  - Psych + o + logy
  - Greek words proliferate in content texts
  - Teaching should begin by 6\textsuperscript{th} grade
A Different Way to Teach Latin Word Parts

- Start with a root, NOT list of prefixes, suffixes, roots
- Search for words
- Have students discover prefixes and suffixes
Teaching Greek: Walking Through Words by Meaning

1. Record unknown word and sentence

   “English orthography is not crazy, and it carries the history of the word with it.”

2. Look at word parts
   ortho graph

3. List related words
   Orthopedic graphic
   Orthodontist phonograph

4. Deduce meaning
   Ortho = fix, straighten, correct
   Graph = written, symbol, visual
   Orthographic = correct spelling

5. Verify meaning (Dictionary.com)
   1. a writing system
   2. spelling considered to be correct
   3. the principles underlying spelling
   4. the study of spelling
Have Another Go at “Walking Through Words by Meaning”

1. Record unknown word and sentence
   “Artificial turf” is a *retronym*.

2. Look at word parts

3. List related words

4. Deduce meaning

5. Verify meaning