



STAGE 3 SPELLING BY MEANING

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Spelling Instruction at Stage 3 is Vocabulary Instruction

NON SEQUITUR BY WILEY MILLER



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

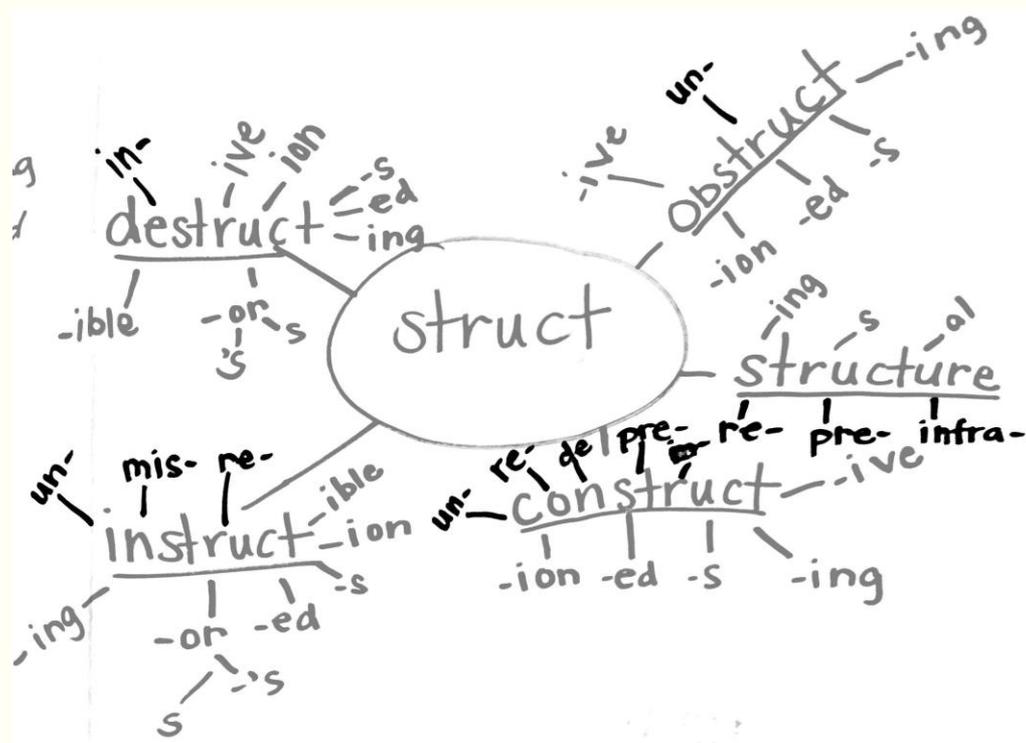
The Importance of Teaching Etymology

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

- Greek words = 10% of English words
 - Root + o + root
 - Psych + o + logy
 - Greek words proliferate in content texts
 - Teaching should begin by 6th 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