

WORDS WITH SPELLING CONNECTIONS HAVE MEANING CONNECTIONS
PHONOLOGY + PHONICS + MORPHOLOGY + ETYMOLOGY = ORTHOGRAPHY
→FOUR CONVERGING PATHS EN ROUTE TO AUTOMATIC WORD RECOGNITION AND SPELLING←
Nancy Cushen White, Ed.D.

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Nancy Cushen White, Ed.D.
nancycushenwhite@gmail.com
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Richard Venezky—1999—page 4

“English orthography is not a failed phonetic transcription system, invented out of madness or perversity. Instead, it is a more complex system that preserves bits of history (i.e., etymology), facilitates understanding, and also translates into sound.”

2

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Bruner's Law

“We want kids to experience success and failure as information—not success or failure.”

—Jerome Bruner

3

Orthography

Etymology + Morphology + Phonics + Phonology

- ◆ Etymology → interrelationships of words with their own origins and with other words that share that origin
- ◆ Morphology → sequence and structure of meaningful units
- ◆ Phonology → units of speech that create meaning when combined

4

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Etymology

INTERRELATIONSHIPS

- Words with their origins
- Other words with the same origin

French → coquette, antique, contour

Italian → piano, Monticello

Yiddish → chutzpah, schlock

Spanish → mesa, taco

Greek → polychrome, philosophy, psychic

5

A BIG Idea

- ❖ Words with spelling connections also have meaning connections.
- ❖ The meaning of a word is the sum of its parts:
 - ◆ 80% of derived words mean what their parts suggest—IF multiple meanings of the base elements are taken into account.
- ❖ Students who understand language structure notice and use these links in meaning.

6

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Morpheme → →→→→→→→→
smallest <u>meaningful</u> unit of language
Count the morphemes in these words:
elephants
election
accommodation
interrelationship
photograph
idiosyncratic
beneficial

Another BIG Idea

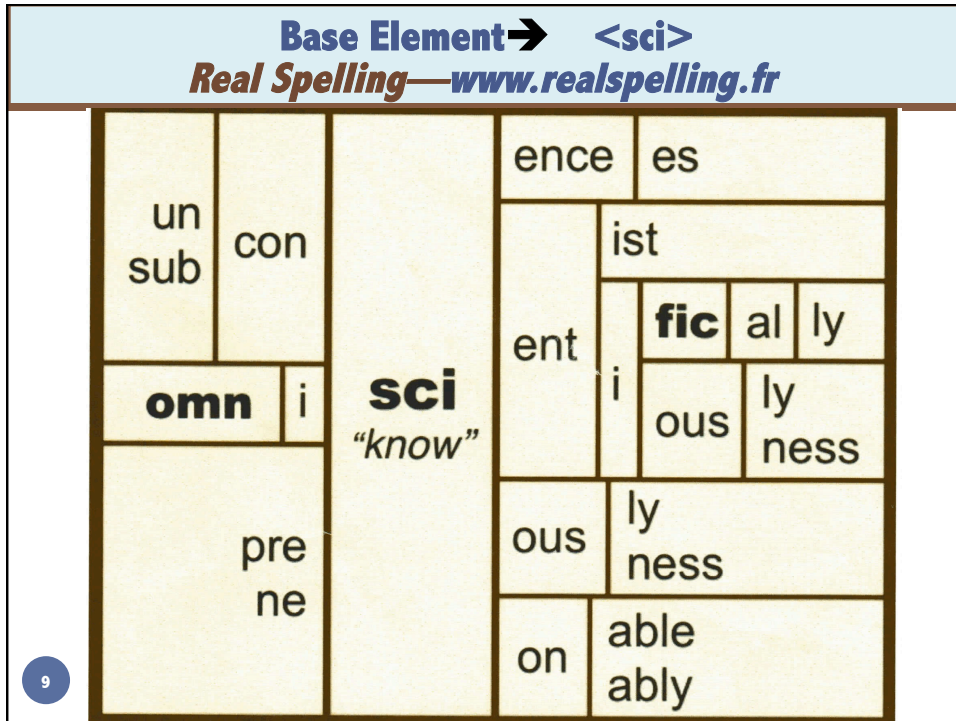
- ❖ Words with spelling connections also have meaning connections.
- ❖ We don't know the pronunciation of a base until it surfaces in a word.

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Morphology

Morpheme → smallest unit of meaning

➤ Linguistic Entity → whole word → part of a word → single phoneme

*acept

except

elicit

illicit

affect

effect

*fiscal

physical

specific

pacific

consscious

conscience

*dentist

swiftest

hostess

famous

spectroheliograph → instrument for taking photographs of the sun in light of one wavelength only

Roots—Base Elements—Stems

Roots

Roots → Etymological or Morphological?

- ❖ Strictly historical term (diachronic)
- ❖ Currently used as exclusively etymological
- ❖ Etymological source of the base element

11

Roots-Base Elements-Stems

EXAMPLES OF ROOTS

- The root of <ugly> is the Old Norse <uggligr> which means “to be feared.”
- The root of <gregarious> is the Latin <gregem> which means “flock.”

12

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Another BIG Idea

- ❖ Words with spelling connections also have meaning connections.
- ❖ The meanings of specific words need to be taught in ways that support students in understanding how words are connected semantically and morphologically (Graves, Juel, & Graves, 2004).

13

Roots-Base Elements-Stems

Eponym → a word derived from the name of a person

⊙ <sandwich> → The Earl of Sandwich was a compulsive gambler—who did not want to stop gambling when he was hungry.

⊙ <atlas> → Atlas was a 2nd-generation Titan who personified the quality of endurance. He led the Titans in a rebellion against Zeus and was **condemned to bear the heavens upon his shoulders**. Illustrations on covers of early books of maps showed Atlas holding up the **globe**; today a book of maps is called an atlas.

14

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Roots-Base Elements-Stems

Toponym → a word derived from the name of a place

⊙ The root of <fez> is <fez>. This word, meaning cylindrical red headgear with a tassel, is named after the Moroccan city of Fez.

⊙ Examples of Toponyms:

- <hamburger>
- <cologne>
- <fez>

15

Roots-Base Elements-Stems

Toponym → a word derived from the name of a place

⊙ <la la land>

1. A place or a state of being out of touch with reality
2. A place known for frivolous activities.

The term <la-la land> is coined from the initials of the city of Los Angeles, home of Hollywood, alluding to the fictitious nature of the movies, sets, etc.

16

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Roots-Base Elements-Stems	
Base Element	
❖	Essential <u>kernel</u> of a word's meaning
❖	Morphological <u>base</u> of a word
❖	No inherent historical reference
❖	Strictly <u>structural</u> connotation
❖	Spelling of a word as it is today

17

Roots-Base Elements-Stems	
Base Element	Root
No inherent <u>historical reference</u>	Strictly <u>historical etymological term</u>
<u>Morphological base</u> of a word	<u>Origin and history</u> of a base
Essential <u>kernel</u> of a word's meaning	Meaning and form <u>through time</u> between a word and its origin
Spelling of a word as it is <u>today</u>	<u>Diachronic</u> —development through history
Strictly structural connotation	Historical

18

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Roots-Base Elements-Stems

Base Elements

- Free Bases can function as single words independently.

will the text she with run warm

- Bound Bases are only words in combination with at least one other element.

ject rupt chrone phys fer tain sci

- Twin Bases have alternative forms.

scribe-script tend-tense duce-duct flex-flect

- Any or all may appear in the same word family.

- Different Bases derived from the same root:

same etymological family—different morphological family

face-fice-fact-fect → to make tain-tent-tine-tene → to hold

Free Morphemes-Bases

- Can stand alone as words
- Do not have to be combined with other morphemes
- May be made up of one or more syllables

FUNCTION WORDS

- conjunctions
- prepositions
- pronouns
- helping verbs
- articles

CONTENT WORDS

- nouns
- verbs
- adjectives
- adverbs

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Function Words

- Have little meaning of their own
- Give information about the function of lexical [content] words
- Are the main concern of grammar books
- Are usually unstressed (unaccented)

FUNCTION WORDS

- conjunctions
- prepositions
- pronouns
- helping verbs
- articles

21

Content [Lexical] Words

- Have denotation, or specific meanings
- Can be defined in isolation
- Are the principal concern of dictionaries
- Are usually stressed [accented]

CONTENT-LEXICAL WORDS

- nouns
- verbs
- adjectives
- adverbs

22

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**Lexical [Content] Words
Must Have At Least Three Letters**

odd		egg		err		ebb	
-----	--	-----	--	-----	--	-----	--

When a lexical [content] word and a function word are homophones, one more letter is used to spell the lexical word.

in	for	by	to	or	but	be	we
inn	fore	bye	too	ore	butt	bee	wee
		buy		oar			

23

**Lexical [Content] Words
Must Have At Least Three Letters**

What about one-syllable words ending in the phoneme /ī/?
<cry> <dry> <try> <sly> <pry> <shy>

◆ These words can be spelled with a <y> grapheme to represent their /ī/ phoneme because their spelling includes a consonant blend or consonant digraph thus providing the 3 letters required for a lexical word.

<lie> <die> <vie> <tie>

◆ These words cannot be spelled with the single letter <y> grapheme to represent their /ī/ phoneme because they start with a single consonant grapheme and therefore need an additional letter to meet the minimum of three letters required for a lexical word—so <ie> must spell /ī/.

Thanks to Gina Cooke for her insights on use of graphemes <y> and <ie> to spell /ī/.

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Bound Morphemes

- ◆ Work as meaningful units ONLY in combination with other morphemes
- ◆ NEVER stand alone
- ◆ SUFFIXES
 - Inflectional Suffixes
 - ✧ Grammatical endings
 - Derivational Suffixes
 - ✧ Changes part of speech

25

Affixes → Prefixes and Suffixes

- Affixes → bound morphemes that generate derivations and inflections of a base element
- Prefixes
 - Prefixes precede base elements within words.
 - A single base element may have multiple prefixes.
- Suffixes
 - Suffixes follow base elements within words.
 - A single base element may have multiple suffixes.
- Connective Vowels
 - Connective vowels follow base elements within words.
 - Only one connective vowel may follow a base element.

26

Connective Vowels

□ Connective Vowels →

- Connective vowels follow base elements within words.
- Only one connective vowel may follow a base element.

synonym = syn + onym

thermometer = therm + o + meter

proficient = pro + fice + i + ent

situation = site + u + ate + ion

27 psychology = psych + o + loge + y

Some Little-Known Orthographic Rules

[Examples Below Shared and/or Inspired by Gina Cooke]

A grapheme cannot straddle a morpheme boundary:

- There is a consonant digraph <ph> grapheme in <prophet>.
- There is NO <ph> grapheme in <uphill> or <haphazard>: <up> + <hill> <hap> + <hazard>
- There is a double vowel <ea> grapheme in <heea>.
- There is NO <ea> grapheme in <create>:
<cre> + <ate> <pro> + <cre> + <ate>

28

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ORTHOGRAPHIC CHANGES WHEN ADDING SUFFIXES SPELLING RULES

▪ 1-1-1 OR DOUBLING RULE

win → winning refer → referral grab → grabbing

▪ SILENT e OR DROP RULE

give → giving escape → escapee response → responsive
confide → confident promote → promotion gene → genius

BOUND BASES: stere → sterile fine → finite pune → punish

▪ Y OR CHANGE RULE

penny → pennies fury → furious stingy → stingiest

29

ORTHOGRAPHIC CHANGES WHEN ADDING SUFFIXES

[Examples Below Shared and/or Inspired by Gina Cooke]

1. A grapheme cannot straddle a morpheme boundary.
2. There are constraints on which consecutive vowels English will allow across morpheme boundaries.

- <y> and <i> do the same job.
- The <e> in the grapheme <ie> at the end of free base elements (e.g., *tie*, *die*) is needed to provide the required three letters to “lexicalize” these words.
- The grapheme <ie> is unnecessary when building something other than a free base element: <tie>
<tie> → <ty> + <ing> → <tying>
<tie> + <ed> → <tied>

30

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The meaning of the word is the sum of its parts.

How many words can you think of that share these Latin base elements?

mobe-mote-move *same morphological family* *different etymological family*

text

fide

***crede**

***duce-duct** *twin bases*

fer

sponse-spond *twin bases*

31

**Slingerland Multisensory Structured Language Instruction
Basic Lesson Plan Format**

LEARNING TO WRITE

1. Learning new letters
2. Practicing letters newly learned
3. Review of letters previously learned
4. Teaching and Practicing letter connections (Cursive)

AUDITORY

- A. Card Practice
Auditory ↔ Visual = Phoneme ↔ Grapheme
- B. Encoding (segmentation)
- C. Spelling
 1. Base Elements + Affixes
 2. Unpredictable Words
 3. Phrases—Sentences—Paragraphs
- D. Dictation
- E. GOAL: Independent Writing

VISUAL

- A. Card Practice
Visual ↔ Auditory = Grapheme ↔ Phoneme
- B. Decoding (blending)
- C. Preparation for Reading
- D. Structured Reading (Studying)
- E. GOAL: Independent Reading

Two Types of Suffixes: Inflectional and Derivational

Inflections and derivational morphemes are two kinds of morpheme units that operate differently in word formation.

- INFLECTIONAL SUFFIXES do not change the part of speech of the word to which they are added. The word continues to be a noun, verb, or adjective even with the inflection.
- DERIVATIONAL SUFFIXES usually, but not always, change the part of speech of the word to which they are added.

33

Inflections

NOUNS:

- Possession hers
- Gender alumna
- Number toys, wishes, crises

VERBS:

- Tense talked
- Voice He *was driven*.
- Mood She *could have been driving*.

ADJECTIVES:

- Comparison wilder, wildest

34

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Derivational Complexity

Several types of phonological changes can occur between a base or stem and a derivational suffix:

- syllable regrouping differ → different
- vowel sound change sane → sanity
- consonant sound change electric → electricity
- stress alternation philosophy → philosophical

35

How We Remember Words

- ◆ Related words are activated in memory when they have meaningful connections and share structural elements at the morpheme level, especially when spelling reveals those connections (Nagy et al, 1989)—even when pronunciation does not:

<late> = to carry; to bear

relate → relative → relation → relationship → interrelate

- ◆ Awareness of morphemes aids understanding and recall of differences among homophones:

site → situation

cite → citation

accept → except

36

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Consonant Phoneme // Changes

Consonant phonemes change in pronunciation from one form of a word to another:

- bomb ➔ bombard ➔ bombardier
- *crumb ➔ crumble** ➔ <crumb> + <_le>
- malign ➔ malignant*
- *sign ➔ signature ➔ signify ➔ signal
- anxious ➔ anxiety
- medici ➔ medicine
- *definitei ➔ definition
- represss ➔ repression

**<-le> is *sometimes* a suffix

37

Revisiting Those BIG Ideas

- ❖ Words with spelling connections also have meaning connections.
- ❖ We don't know the pronunciation of a base until it surfaces in a word.
- ❖ "... denotation of a root will have echoes, however faint, in the meanings of words descended from it.
- ❖ Furthermore, appreciating a word's etymology and the orthographic denotation of its root leads to understanding of *fine nuances of meaning* that can often help in distinguishing it from its synonyms."

Real Spelling

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Morphophonemics	
Vowel Phoneme Shifts	
Long Vowel Sound	Short Vowel Sound
*sāne	sănity
vīce	vīcious
nāture	nătural
telescōpe	telescōpic
*stūdiōus	stūdy
analyīze	analyīsis
*abbrēviate	brēvity
decīsive	decīsion
fīnite	fīnish
cyīclist	bicyīcle

Morphophonemics	
invent_	invention
*electric_	electrician
mathematīcian	mathematīcs
rhetoric	rhetorical
*definīte	definē finīte
specīfic	specīes specīal
solidify	solid
grammar	grammarian
polītics	polītical
*inspiratīon	inspire

Layers of the English Language

borrowed from Marcia K. Henry

GREEK
specialized words
mostly scientific
dependable
some common non-phonetic
phone+o+graph ←combined base elements→ neur+o+psych+o+loge+y

LATIN
academic language
content area text
"high class" words
formal settings
mostly phonetic

ANGLO-SAXON
compound words
common, everyday
down-to-earth
ordinary situation
many non-phonetic

41

Old English Layer

- **Compounds** are characterized more by their stress pattern than by their spellings. Stress, or accent, almost always occurs on the first word of the compound. Spelling may include a hyphen or a space.

earthquake oatmeal baseball snowman

42

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Old English Layer		
<u>COMPOUNDS</u>		
oatmeal	honky-tonk	apple pie
applesauce	day-to-day	green beans
brainwash	two-way	under water
baseball	under-the-table	honor roll
cornbread	twentieth-century	business suit
earthquake	old-fashioned	credit card

43

Homophone Principle Venezky (1999)

- When two words are pronounced the same, when possible, they will be spelled differently *to mark that difference in meaning.*
- “... with one etymological concept—*the homophone principle*—we can drop the false assumption that homophones are confusing because they are spelled the same ...”

heal health	please pleasant	steal stealth
loan lone	grown groan	beet beat
scene seen	sight site cite	knead need

44

Saga of the Scribal-o

Before the printing press, monks who were scribes noticed that many of their quill-penned letters were difficult to read. Most troublesome were the letters formed with *similar, beginning, up-and-down strokes*:

m n w u r v

45

Saga of the Scribal-o

- Therefore, the wise scribes changed the vowel grapheme *u* to *o* when *u* appeared adjacent to one of the letters listed.
- The scribes could not, however, alter the pronunciation of the words that were affected by the spelling change they made.
- Therefore, the grapheme *o* in words like, *brother*, *love*, *some*, and *wonder*, is pronounced /u/.
 - What about *month* and *Monday*?

Adapted from Carol Murray

46

Think of a word that ends in v...

47

Spelling /r/ with wr...

- Usually one syllable
- Meaning associated with “twisting”

wring	wreath	wrestle	wrangle	write
wrath	wrinkle	wrong	wrench	wrist

- What about <wren>?

Base Elements that begin with <tw>...

- Meaning associated with “two”

twins	twine	twinkle
tweezers	twelve	twenty
betwixt		between

49

Etymological Marker? Venezky 1999

- ◎ The <w> in <two> is not there as a grapheme representing a phoneme.
- ◎ It is there to inform readers that <two> is the *spelling for the number*.
- ◎ ... so there is sense to the <o> in <people> when we consider words like <popular> and <population>—from the same etymological family.

50

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Why does <ey> spell /ā/ in <they>?

51

Why is there an <l> in <would>?

Why is there an <l> in <should>?

52

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Is the spelling of <does> unpredictable?

53

Romance (Latin) Layer

Romance Layer

Words of Romance origin, like Anglo-Saxon based words, become affixed. In other words, they often have prefixes and suffixes. Usually, however, the base element does not stand alone; affixes NEVER stand alone.

reject

interrupted

transmitting

prevention

[Nist, J. (1966). *A Structural History of English*. NY: St. Martins Press]

54

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Latin Layer

Derivational → Word-Building

- ❑ ****Words derived from Latin roots/base elements are most common in content area textbooks.**
- ❑ Analysis of the number of distinct words in printed school English showed that students encountered over 88,000 “distinct” words in texts through ninth grade (Nagy and Anderson, 1984).
- ❑ About half the words in printed texts through ninth grade occur once in a billion words of text or less (e.g., *inflate, extinguish, nettle*).

55

Latin Layer

Morphological Awareness → Semantic Transparency

- ***For every word a student learns, there are usually between one and three related words that should be understandable.**
- ***There are degrees of semantic transparency in words**
 - Apparent: *red* → *redness*
 - Less Apparent: *apply* → *appliance*
- ***The less morphological awareness a student has, the more distinct words need to be learned.**
- **Semantically transparent words are skewed toward the low end of the frequency distribution to a greater degree than morphologically basic words or semantically opaque words (Nagy and Anderson 1984).**
- **About 60% of the unfamiliar words encountered in the middle school years and beyond are sufficiently transparent—even though they are morphologically complex in structure and meaning—that a reader might be able to infer the meaning of the word (Nagy et al., 1989).**

56

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Romance Layer

How many words can you think of that share the Latin base element *<nate>*?

57

Romance Layer

How many words can you think of that share these Latin base elements:

<secute-seque> [to follow] ?

58

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Romance Layer

How many words can you think of that share these Latin base elements:

<grade-gress> [to step] ?

59

Romance Layer

How many words can you think of that share these Latin base elements:

<pel-pulse> [to push] ?

60

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Romance Layer

How many words can you think of that share these Latin base elements:

<pense-pend> [to hang] ?

61

Romance Layer

How many words can you think of that share these Latin base elements:

<mit-miss> [to send] ?

62

Where Do You Stand on These Questions?

1. What is the base element in <instant>?
2. Is <stand> a free base?
3. Do <circumstances> and <stationary> have the same base element?
4. Do <establish> and <statistical> have the same base element?

63

What are the elements of the word
<antidisestablishmentarianism>?

64

WORDS WITH SPELLING CONNECTIONS HAVE MEANING CONNECTIONS

PHONOLOGY + PHONICS + MORPHOLOGY + ETYMOLOGY = ORTHOGRAPHY

→ FOUR CONVERGING PATHS EN ROUTE TO AUTOMATIC WORD RECOGNITION AND SPELLING ←

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Greek Layer	
<p>✧ Scientific and mathematical terms incorporated into English in the past 500 years have most often been constructed from Greek morphemes.</p> <p>✧ Many Greek-derived morphemes combine with other bound morphemes of equal importance in flexible order:</p>	
geography	photosynthesis
psychology	philanthropic
chronic	synonym

Growth in Phonological, Orthographic and Morphological Awareness in Grades 1 to 6 -Berninger, Abbott, Nagy & Carlisle, 2010-
<ul style="list-style-type: none">❑ Three kinds of morphological awareness show greatest growth in the first three or four grades.❑ One kind of morphological awareness—derivation—<u>continues</u> to show substantial growth <u>after</u> fourth grade.❑ Studies have shown that morphological awareness makes contributions to academic achievement in several areas:<ul style="list-style-type: none">❑ Word Identification—Decoding❑ Reading Comprehension❑ <u>BOTH</u> Word Identification—Decoding <u>and</u> Comprehension❑ Written Expression, especially Spelling (Berninger et al. 2008)

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Effects of Morphological Awareness

Differences between good and poor spellers are associated with significant differences in sensitivity to word structure at the morphological level. Children with specific written language and spelling disorders have been shown to misuse, substitute, or omit inflected endings more than typical children (Bailet, 1990; Moats, 1996). Insensitivity to morphological aspects of word structure also characterizes adults who spell poorly.

(Fischer, Shankweiler, & Liberman, 1985; Liberman, Rubin, Duques, & Carlisle, 1985; Shankweiler et al., 1996)

67

Slingerland Multisensory Structured Language Instruction Basic Lesson Plan Format

LEARNING TO WRITE

1. Learning new letters
2. Practicing letters newly learned
3. Review of letters previously learned
4. Teaching and Practicing letter connections (Cursive)

AUDITORY

- A. Card Practice
Auditory ↔ Visual = Phoneme ↔ Grapheme
- B. Encoding (segmentation)
- C. Spelling
 1. Base Elements + Affixes
 2. Unpredictable Words
 3. Phrases—Sentences—Paragraphs
- D. Dictation
- E. GOAL: Independent Writing

VISUAL

- A. Card Practice
Visual ↔ Auditory = Grapheme ↔ Phoneme
- B. Decoding (blending)
- C. Preparation for Reading
- D. Structured Reading (Studying)
- E. GOAL: Independent Reading

Why are these words spelled this way?

commitment
 committee
 referral
 reference
 illegal
 accommodate
 efficacious
 effective

69

Layers of English Language
Categorize these words.

Old English	Latin	Greek
table	syllable	anthropology
extract	constellation	character
symmetry	healthy	perspiration
brown	pterodactyl	mystery
insect	utility	brother
interrupt	house	illicit
chaos	complement	phantom
survival	eloquent	been

70

WORDS WITH SPELLING CONNECTIONS HAVE MEANING CONNECTIONS

PHONOLOGY + PHONICS + MORPHOLOGY + ETYMOLOGY = ORTHOGRAPHY

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<fide> → “to trust”

Fidelity

+

Intensity

+

Duration

=

Efficacy