

Semantic Maps for Morphological Analysis

Wisconsin State Standards Strand

Language

- Vocabulary Acquisition and Use

Grade Level
6-12

Purpose

Use with students to support vocabulary development: explicitly teach students unfamiliar words using word parts

When to Use

Before Reading
After Reading

Grouping

Whole Group

ABOUT THE STRATEGY

SEMANTIC MAPS are a morphological analysis strategy that helps students learn unfamiliar words by providing a systematic approach to deconstructing a word into its meaningful parts (morphemes – roots, prefixes, and suffixes) to figure out what the word means through the use of a graphic. It is used before or after reading a text. This strategy can be used to help students categorize, classify, and infer meaning of vocabulary words. Learning to use morphological analysis is a skill that develops over time with students practicing this skill with multiple print and digital texts in diverse media, formats, and lengths.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGY

- Select a word with word parts from a self-contained passage of text.
- Establish the purpose of the strategy.
- Provide students with a semantic map, and use a think-aloud as you model the process of using the semantic map to analyze the word and determine its meaning.
- Write the selected word.
- Write the sentence from the passage of text that contains the selected word.
- Divide the word into its parts.
- Brainstorm known words that contain the same word parts. Write them on the semantic map.
- Predict the meaning of the selected word.
- Check the meaning of the word with the dictionary definition.

MEASURING PROGRESS

- Teacher observation
- Conferencing
- Student journaling

RESEARCH

Bowers, P. N., & Kirby, J. R. (2010). Effects of morphological instruction on vocabulary acquisition. *Reading & Writing, 25*, 515-537.

Bowers, P. N., Kirby, J. R., & Deacon, S. H. (2010). The effects of morphological instruction on literacy skills: A systematic review of the literature. *Review of Educational Research, 80*, 144-179.

Goodwin, A. P., & Ahn, S. (2010). A meta-analysis of morphological interventions: Effects on literacy achievement of children with literacy difficulties. *Annals of Dyslexia, 60*, 183-208.

Name: _____

Semantic Map

Write the selected word. Write the sentence from the passage of text that contains the selected word. Divide the word into its parts. Brainstorm words that contain the same word parts. Predict the meaning of the selected word. Check the meaning of the word with the dictionary definition.

