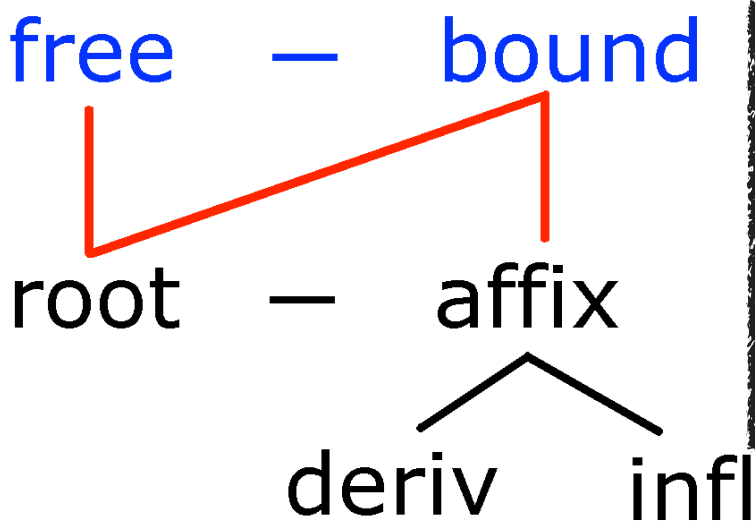


A MOODLE FOR MORPHEMES



FREE THE
BOUND MORPHEMES!

Linguistics In Focus - Teacher Resource(s)

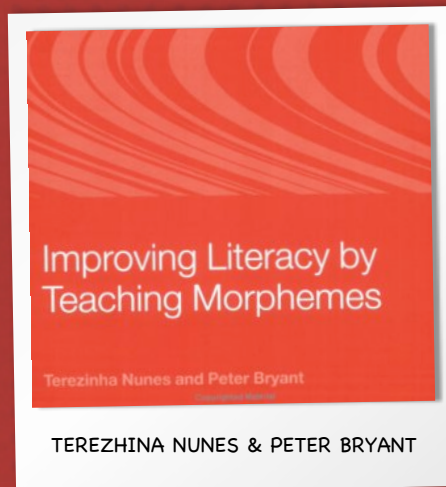
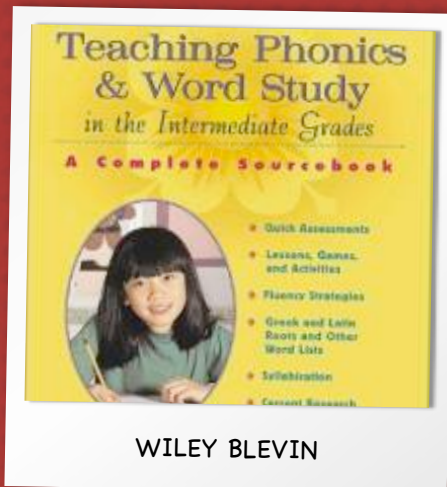
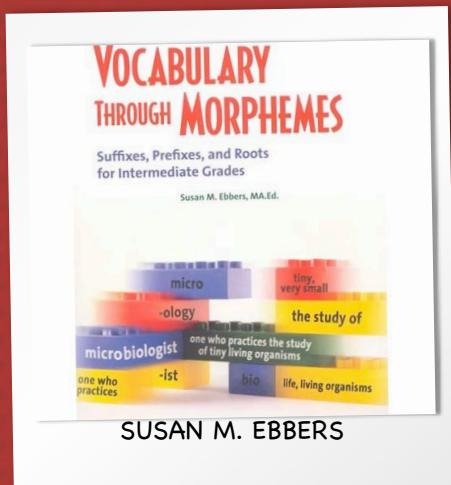
Having spent several hours reading about morphemes, both free and bound, as well as morphemic analysis and its usefulness in developing vocabulary and increasing reading comprehension, one question kept coming back to me: "What do I DO with this knowledge?" Morphology, while interesting, isn't going to get a teacher through their next lesson unless they can

find an engaging way of APPLYING it in a classroom context. So I began looking for evidence that someone much wiser than myself had done just that. It wasn't long before I had gathered quite a collection of morpheme-related resources. Next question: "Now what?" Then, finally, the epiphany...it had taken me hours of searching to locate all the various items I

eventually added to my collection. I could save my colleagues (current and future) a lot of time and effort if I were to organise these resources and make them all available in one location.

What follows is an explanation of the Moodle site I created for this purpose. It can be found at <http://bit.ly/Morph-Moodle>

In Print: Handy texts to have in an ESL classroom.



Applying Morphological Concepts: From Theory...

In-Service: Professional Reading & Discussion Forum

It occurred to me that in order for my Moodle page to seem relevant to teachers who weren't already somewhat familiar with the concept of morphemes and their potential application, they would need to build up their basic understanding of what a morpheme is, the different types of morphemes and their functions, and how these relate to vocabulary building and reading comprehension. In short, they too would have to spend some time reading up on this topic. With this in mind I included four articles (in addition to a reference to the chapter in Fasold & Connor-Linton (2006)).

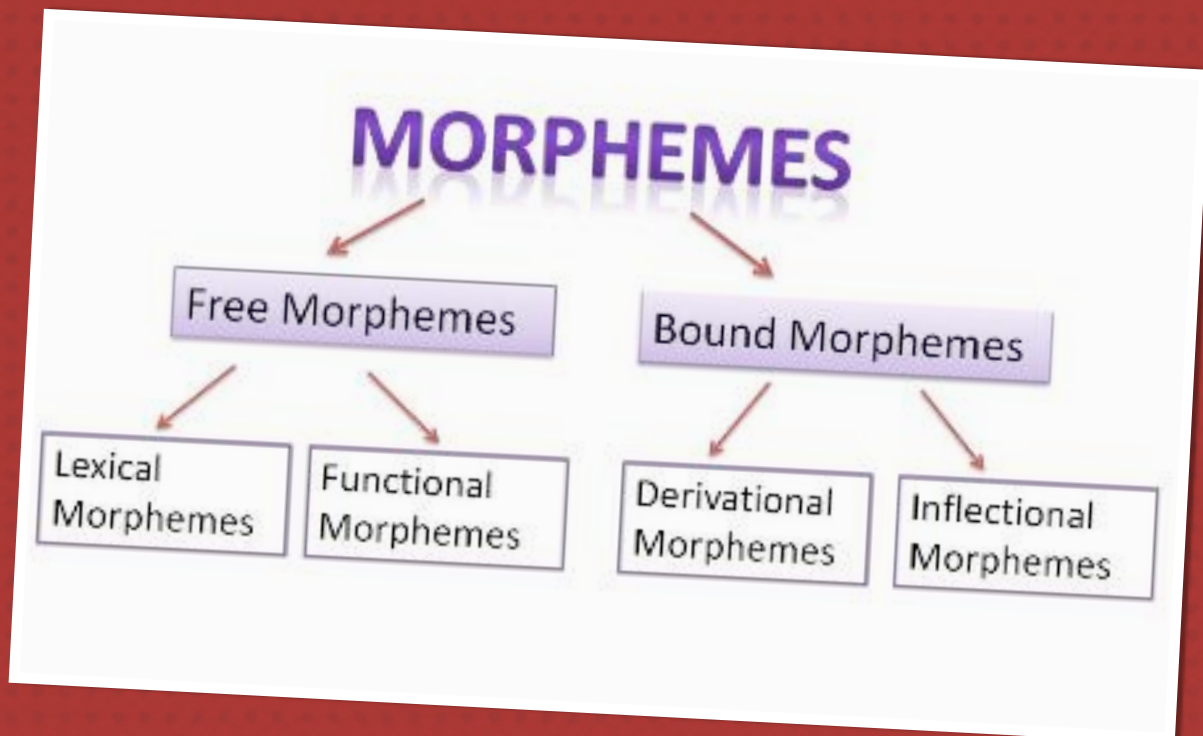
60% OF THE WORDS ENCOUNTERED IN VARIED TEXTBOOKS MAY BE DECIPHERED BY ANALYZING THE MORPHEMES INSIDE THE WORD AND THE CONTEXT IN THE SURROUNDING SENTENCES
(Nagy & Anderson, 1984)

Each article has a corresponding discussion forum to enable subscribed teachers to exchange understandings and ideas about what they've read. In this way they can bring their knowledge into focus.

In Theory

This section is a collection of documents, websites, slideshows, book excerpts and resources related to teaching and learning about morphemes. Some of the items included here are of more use than others, but each has its merits. The idea is that this section will grow as subscribed teachers come across materials they find particularly helpful and think are worth sharing.

So far, these resources range from a simple explanation of what a morpheme actually IS to Dr. Johanna Rubba's succinct overview of the morphological system and Susan Ebbers' discussion of a cross-disciplinary approach to the analysis of word structure.



...to Practice

In Practice - Lessons & Links

My goal in creating this Moodle site was to provide teachers with practical tools for introducing morphemic analysis to their students. Armed with the knowledge gleaned from reading relevant articles in the two previous sections, teachers will be looking for ways to share this knowledge in their classrooms. Ultimately this site is a resource that benefits teachers and learners. By including links to existing games, activities, YouTube videos, online quizzes and self-correcting activities I aim to engage students and involve them in the process of building up their vocabularies. For example, the 'Uglification' video might be used to lead into a discussion of how new

Once students become familiar with the most common morphemes, they can then use their knowledge of word parts to help determine meaning when they encounter unknown words.

words originate. This could then be reinforced with the Morpheme Match-Up activity. Even mathematical terms can be examined and clarified!

In Progress

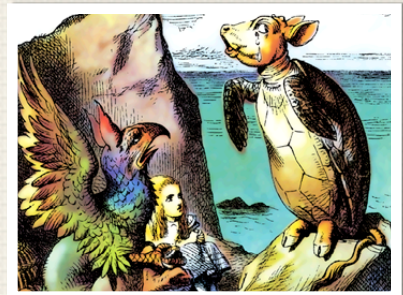
This section will always be 'under construction.' This is where I plan to store any resources I create specifically for my lessons as I go along. At the moment it consists of two resources I recently made. Quizlet is a website I often use to create online flashcards for vocabulary review. The 'Language of Science - Affixes' set is designed for use with middle school Science students of intermediate ability, with a focus on reading comprehension. I hope to help my students learn how to decipher difficult scientific terminology by highlighting affixes that often occur in scientific texts.

I also created the 'Words Are Power' cloze activity. This could be used as a 'hook' or introduction to affixation. It is designed to be used as a listening activity. I began with the YouTube clip of the song 'Word Power', then I located the song lyrics and created the cloze activity sheet. Another activity might include getting students to perform the song. This would be a worthwhile oral activity which could be filmed and added to the Moodle site later.

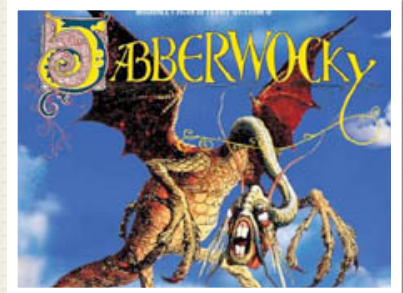
MORPHEMES IN ACTION

WORDS ARE POWER
AND THAT'S THE TRUTH
PREFIXES, SUFFIXES
AND THEY ALL GOT
RO

WORDS ARE POWER



'UGLIFICATION'



JABBERWOCKY



"They call it a relation 'ship' because it so often sinks."

HUMOUR

