Learning Objectives

Homonyms and Polysemy

Homonyms are words that are spelled alike and sound alike but have multiple meanings (e.g., grizzly bear and bear witness). Polysemy is the association of one word with multiple related meanings (e.g., good singer and good person).

Synonyms/Antonyms Explanation

Words can relate to each other by either having similar meanings (e.g., kind is similar to friendly or loving) or opposite meanings (e.g., kind is opposite to mean).

Expressions & Phrases

An expression or phrase is a specific way that ideas are expressed through words (e.g., let's have some quiet time).

Heavy-lifting Words & Megaclusters

Heavy-lifting words are foundational for literacy because they are commonly used. Words are grouped into 11 Megaclusters based on their shared meaning and function (e.g. swim, hunt, help, protect are all words that can be grouped into the nature Megacluster or the actions Megacluster).

Picturable Words

Learn basic definitions of words by identifying how pictures can represent that word (e.g., picture of a shark = shark)

Tenses

Words can change to establish the time as the past, present, or future (e.g., I am, I was, I'll be).

Inflected Endings

Letters attached to the end of a word that tell numbers or tense (e.g., birds/foxes or walks, walked, walking).

Affixes

Letters attached to the beginning or end of a word to change its meaning (e.g., unhappy or careful)

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Compound Words

A compound word is a combination of two or more words that form to create a new word (e.g., rain+bow = rainbow).

Simple Comparisons

A word can transform into something new by adding letters or combining with another word to give it a different, but related, meaning (e.g., big/bigger/biggest).

Analogies

Comparing words to each other clarifies meaning and highlights the way in which they are alike (e.g., Duck is to pond as whale is to ocean).

Idioms

An idiom is a phrase whose meaning cannot be established by a literal translation of the words in the phrase (e.g., break a leg).

Derivatives

A derivative is a word formed from another word (e.g., word to wordsmith).