

Word Mapping Strategy

A strategic process to help students predict the meaning of unknown academic words

Instructional Challenge

The task of teaching vocabulary in an effective and meaningful manner in academic settings is a daunting demand. There are several reasons for such a challenge:

1. Too many words; so little time.
 - a. Avg. child's vocabulary growth per year is 3,000 words.
 - b. Teaching individual words cannot be the only way to learn vocabulary.
2. Lack of research-based instructional approaches for teaching vocabulary.
 - a. Currently, there are strategies to recall and memorize word meanings, but not to derive meanings.
 - b. Early childhood programs focus on language; there is a need for similar programs for adolescents.
3. Complexity of word knowledge.
 - a. To know a word means knowing not only the definition, but also something about how the word is used.
 - b. Using context: Does it really help to learn the meaning of new words?
4. English is like a foreign language for many children.
 - a. Sixty percent of English is derived from Greek and Latin roots.

The Intervention

The graphic device was developed to help students predict the meaning of unknown academic words by following four instructional steps using the mnemonic MAPS (*see below*). The student breaks the word into its morphological parts (prefixes, roots, and suffixes) and then supplies the meaning of each part in the appropriate space. Then, students make a prediction of the word's meaning, starting with the meaning of the root word and adjusting the root word's meaning based upon the prefix meaning. Finally, students use the suffix meaning to put the whole word's meaning into perspective (i.e. inflectional and derivational).

Instructional Steps:

- M** – Map the word parts
- A** – Attack the meaning of each part
- P** – Predict the word's meaning
- S** – See if you're right!

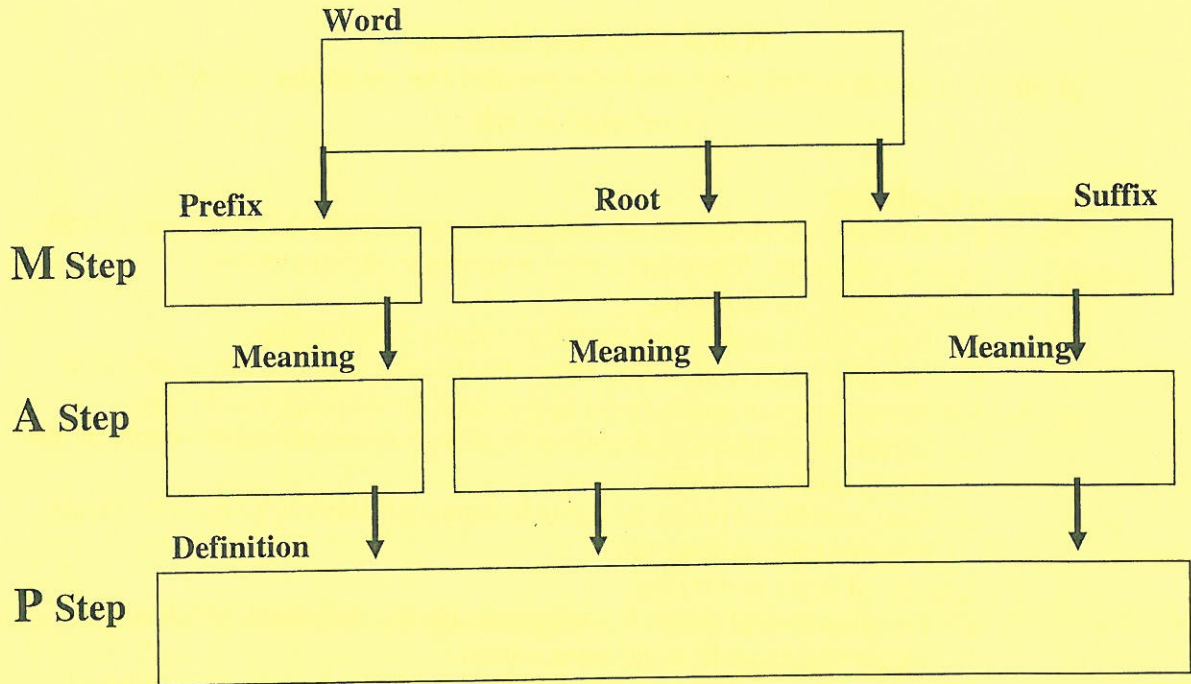
The Main Findings

Students can:

1. Learn the steps to and use the Word Mapping Strategy
2. Demonstrate gains in *morphological analysis* on pre/post tests such as:
 - a. Identification of prefixes, suffixes, & roots
 - b. Knowledge of word part meanings
 - c. Prediction of word meanings

WORD MAPPING STRAEGY

WORD MAP



See if you're right!

Prefix	Meaning	Example Words
a-	not, without	apathy
bene-	good	benefactor
co-, col-, com-, con-	with, together	cooperate, collective, community, connect
pre-	before	prehistoric
un-	not	unwilling

Root	Meaning	Example Words
bene	good/well	beneficial
ced, cede, ceed, cess	to go, move, yield	precede, proceed, concession
dic, dict	speak, say	dictate, predict, dedicate
fac, fact, fic, fect	make, do	faculty, manufacture, beneficial, perfect
fid, fide	faith, trust	confident, infidelity
flect, flex	bend	reflection, flexible

Suffix	Meaning	Example Words
-able	able, can do, that can be	capable, obtainable
-al	relating to	manual, natural
-ance	act of	assistance, defiance
-ate	of or having to do with	collegiate
-ary	of, relating to	boundary
-ence	state of being, quality	confidence
-er	more, performing an act	smarter, reporter
-est	most	warmest, smartest
-ful	full of	playful

Word Mapping Strategy

A strategic process to help students predict the meaning of unknown academic words

Instructional Challenge

The task of teaching vocabulary in an effective and meaningful manner in academic settings is a daunting demand. There are several reasons for such a challenge:

1. Too many words; so little time.
 - a. Avg. child's vocabulary growth per year is 3,000 words.
 - b. Teaching individual words cannot be the only way to learn vocabulary.
2. Lack of research-based instructional approaches for teaching vocabulary.
 - a. Currently, there are strategies to recall and memorize word meanings, but not to derive meanings.
 - b. Early childhood programs focus on language; there is a need for similar programs for adolescents.
3. Complexity of word knowledge.
 - a. To know a word means knowing not only the definition, but also something about how the word is used.
 - b. Using context: Does it really help to learn the meaning of new words?
4. English is like a foreign language for many children.
 - a. Sixty percent of English is derived from Greek and Latin roots.

The Intervention

The graphic device was developed to help students predict the meaning of unknown academic words by following four instructional steps using the mnemonic MAPS (*see below*). The student breaks the word into its morphological parts (prefixes, roots, and suffixes) and then supplies the meaning of each part in the appropriate space. Then, students make a prediction of the word's meaning, starting with the meaning of the root word and adjusting the root word's meaning based upon the prefix meaning. Finally, students use the suffix meaning to put the whole word's meaning into perspective (i.e. inflectional and derivational).

Instructional Steps:

- M** – Map the word parts
- A** – Attack the meaning of each part
- P** – Predict the word's meaning
- S** – See if you're right!

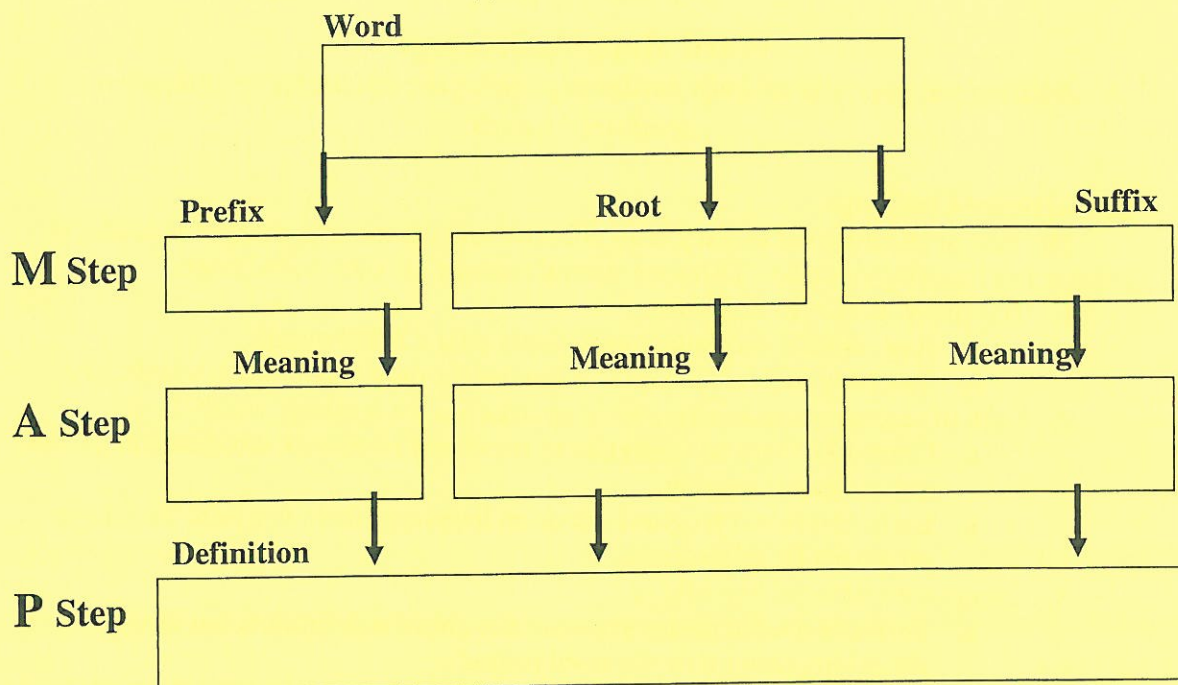
The Main Findings

Students can:

1. Learn the steps to and use the Word Mapping Strategy
2. Demonstrate gains in *morphological analysis* on pre/post tests such as:
 - a. Identification of prefixes, suffixes, & roots
 - b. Knowledge of word part meanings
 - c. Prediction of word meanings

WORD MAPPING STRAEGY

WORD MAP



See if you're right!

Prefix	Meaning	Example Words
a-	not, without	apathy
bene-	good	benefactor
co-, col-, com-, con-	with, together	cooperate, collective, community, connect
pre-	before	prehistoric
un-	not	unwilling

Root	Meaning	Example Words
bene	good/well	beneficial
ced, cede, ceed, cess	to go, move, yield	precede, proceed, concession
dic, dict	speak, say	dictate, predict, dedicate
fac, fact, fic, fect	make, do	faculty, manufacture, beneficial, perfect
fid, fide	faith, trust	confident, infidelity
flect, flex	bend	reflection, flexible

Suffix	Meaning	Example Words
-able	able, can do, that can be	capable, obtainable
-al	relating to	manual, natural
-ance	act of	assistance, defiance
-ate	of or having to do with	collegiate
-ary	of, relating to	boundary
-ence	state of being, quality	confidence
-er	more, performing an act	smarter, reporter
-est	most	warmest, smartest
-ful	full of	playful