



Vocabulary Development

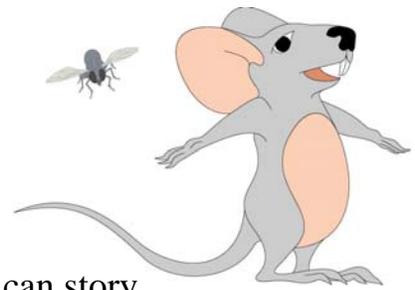
Early Elementary Standard 1.4 – Employ multiple strategies or decode words as they construct meaning, including the use of phonemic awareness and other word recognition aids, such as identifying and understanding suffixes.

Primary Language Arts (grades 1- 2)

Background Information

About 80% of our English vocabulary comes to us from Latin and Greek, says Douglas Wilson (T. McQuoid, 1994). If students can develop a basic form of knowledge of Greek and Latin, their vocabulary development increases tremendously (lessening the difficulty of learning academic subjects by about half). (D. Sayers, 1973)

When we look at new vocabulary words, we are also going to look at the Greek and Latin influence because, in the long run, this will turn learning new words into much more fun.



These vocabulary words are from the Native American story, **“The Little Fly and the Great Mouse.”** Any story can be used to illustrate this lesson. Introduce the words before reading the story. Many of the words contain suffixes, so this is an opportunity to present a mini-lesson on suffixes.

Select Vocabulary Words from the Little Fly & the Great Mouse

peacefully
delicious
largest
harder
finally

beside
heavy
nervous
quietly
highest

beneath
thirsty
bigger
noisily
furious

simply
sharply

The letters at the end of a root word like “large,” “high,” “big” and “hard” are called **suffixes**. Here are some from our story:

harder

bigger

These have **er** as a suffix, which means “comparing two things.”

harder **bigger**

The mouse is **bigger** than the fly.

When you compare more than two things, you add “**est**.”

largest **highest**

The black dog was the **largest** one.



These words have “**y**” as a suffix, which means “having” as in “having thirst.”

heavy **thirsty**

The girl was very **thirsty** after running all the way home.

The suffix “**ful**” or “**fully**” means “an amount” or “in the manner of.”

So, “peacefully” means in the manner of peace or full of peace.

The little kitten was sleeping **peacefully** beside the big dog.

“**ous**” means “characterized by” or “full of.” So, delicious means something full of delicateness and pleasing taste.

delicious

My mother made some **delicious** brownies for us to eat.

Let's review our suffixes:

er	comparing two things
est	comparing more than two things
y	result of an activity – having
ly	in the manner of
ous	characterized by, full of

Vocabulary words with suffixes.

er	est	ly	y	ous
bigger	largest	noisily	heavy	delicious
lower	highest	sharply	thirsty	nervous
harder		simply		furious

Let's learn two words for each suffix and make vocabulary cards.

lower	largest	finally	heavy	nervous
harder	highest	sharply	thirsty	furious

Remember the meaning of the suffix for new words when you are reading.

“er” means two things compared, so “lower” means something “more low” than another. The helicopter flies lowerer than the jet.

“est” means the most. She was the happiest person in the group.

“ly” means in the manner of. (“fin” means “last, end.”)

The last runner finally finished the race.

“ous” means full of.
nervous – full of nerves

Waiting for her interview
made mom nervous.



furious – full of fury

Dad was furious when
he found out my brother
wrecked the car.

STEPS FOR STUDENTS

Step 1 – Write the Word

Students write the word on the upper corner of a large card. (Remember to have students write the second-language word underneath the English word.)

Step 2 – Add a Visual

Tell students, “Doodle or draw anything you know that shows what this word means,” or provide a picture that helps show the concept.



Step 3 – Write a Definition

“Now, write underneath your picture what the word means.”



Step 4 – Create a Sentence



quietly
calladamente

without sound – the opposite of noisy
The usually noisy bee quietly sucked nectar from the flower.

Students create a sentence, based on their drawing, which depicts the meaning of the word. Afterwards, students turn their card over and write the English and second language vocabulary word in the center.

quietly
calladamente

Creative Use of the Cards

Pair the students. They should test each other using their cards as flash cards and checking their answers on the reverse side. Cards can also be used to play various games as presented in the introduction to the strategy.