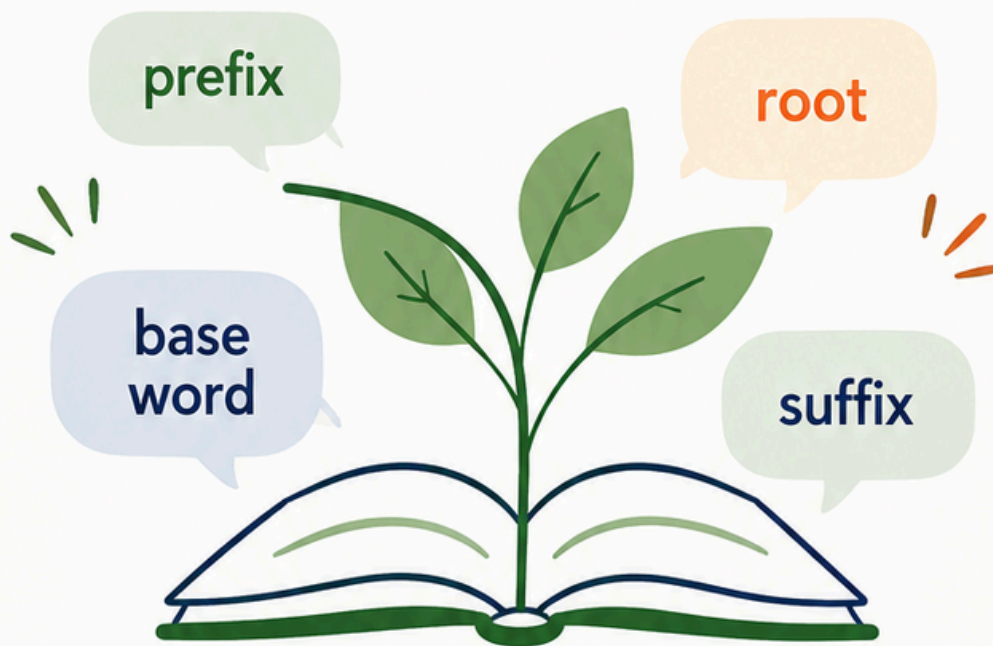


7 PRACTICAL STRATEGIES

Morphology Teaching Strategies

Simple, effective ways to build vocabulary,
comprehension and confidence
in every classroom.



Small strategies. Big impact.



Triple Thread Learning®
LEARNING DIFFICULTY SPECIALISTS

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STRATEGY 1

Build Word Families

One base word can unlock many new words and meanings.

Exploring words that share the same base helps students recognise patterns, build vocabulary and understand how our language works.

HOW IT WORKS

1



Choose a base word.
Example: act

2



Brainstorm related words as a class.

3



Explore the meaning of each part.

EXAMPLE WORD FAMILY

WITH PREFIXES

react

(do again)

interact

(act between)

inactive

(not in action)

action

(the act of doing)

act

(base word)

actor

(a person who acts)

WITH SUFFIXES (NOUNS)

activity

(an act or something done)

activation

(the process of acting)

WITH SUFFIXES (ADJECTIVES)

active

(doing)

actual

(real or existing)



TRY THIS TOMORROW

Choose a base word and create a "word tree" with your class. Add new words you discover in reading throughout the term.



WHY IT WORKS

Students stop memorising long lists of unrelated words and start seeing connections. This builds vocabulary, spelling and comprehension.

STRATEGY 2

Word Manipulation

Small changes can create new words and new meanings.

Changing parts of a word helps students understand how prefixes and suffixes change meaning, build vocabulary and strengthen spelling.

HOW IT WORKS

1



Start with a word.

2



Change the prefix.

3



Add a suffix.

4



Remove the suffix.

5



Change the prefix.

6



Add a new suffix.

7



A new word family!

reject

(to refuse)

inject

(to put in)

re- → in-

injecting

(putting in)

add -ing

injects

(puts in)

remove -ing,
add -s

eject

(to force out)

in- → e-

ejection

(the act of
ejecting)

add -ion

eject
ejects
ejecting
ejection



TEACHER TIP

Ask students to explain what has changed and how the meaning has shifted. This helps them notice patterns and understand the purpose of each prefix and suffix.

TRY THIS TOMORROW!



Choose a base word and guide students through 4–6 transformations.

You might start with:

help

play

port

visit

locate

Challenge students to write a sentence using one of the new words.

WHY IT WORKS



- ✓ Students see how words are built from meaningful parts.
- ✓ It strengthens vocabulary, spelling and understanding.
- ✓ It encourages curiosity and independent word solving.

STRATEGY 3

Becoming Prefix Detectives

Prefixes give clues to meaning. When students learn to spot them, they unlock new words!

Exploring prefixes helps students decode unfamiliar words, build vocabulary and understand how meaning changes when parts are added to a base word.

HOW IT WORKS



1 Choose 4–5 prefixes to explore.



2 Students search for the prefixes in reading and other texts.



3 They record the words they find and their meanings.



4 Discuss how the prefix changes the meaning of the base word.



5 Build confidence in decoding and vocabulary!

EXAMPLE PREFIXES

sub-

under



submarine

dis-

apart from, not



disconnect

ex-

out



export

ad-

to, towards



adapt

ob-

against



obstruct

Spot it.
Break it.
Understand it.
Use it!



TRY THIS TOMORROW!

- ✓ Choose a few prefixes and display them in your classroom.
- ✓ Challenge students to find examples in books, newspapers, websites, signs or at home.
- ✓ Create a class chart of discoveries and add to it throughout the term.
- ✓ Celebrate new finds and use the words in conversations and writing.



WHY IT WORKS

- ✓ Students begin to notice prefixes independently.
- ✓ They understand how prefixes change meaning.
- ✓ Vocabulary knowledge grows across all learning areas.
- ✓ Students become more confident decoders and word thinkers.

STRATEGY 4

Bringing Morphology to Life

Hands-on word building helps students see patterns, make connections and become confident word solvers.

When students build words using prefixes, suffixes and base words, they develop a deeper understanding of how words are formed and how meaning changes.

HOW IT WORKS

1



Provide cards for base words, prefixes and suffixes.

2



Students combine parts to build as many real words as possible.

3



They read each word and check it makes sense.

4



Discuss the meaning of each word and how the parts change the meaning.

5



Identify the best words to use in sentences or writing.

EXAMPLE: BASE WORD "PLAY"

PREFIXES

(added to the beginning)

re-
again

mis-
wrongly

un-
not

+

BASE WORD

(the main part)

play

(to have fun;
to engage in
an activity)

+

SUFFIXES

(added to the end)

-er a person who

-ful full of

-able able to be

-ing the action of

-ed already happened



WORDS WE CAN BUILD

- *player*
- *playful*
- *playfully*
- *replay*
- *replaying*
- *replayed*
- *misplay*
- *unplayable*
- *playable*



★ TRY THIS TOMORROW!

- ✓ Introduce one base word.
- ✓ Provide a few prefixes and suffixes.
- ✓ See how many meaningful words students can build.
- ✓ Challenge students to use their words in a sentence.



WHY IT WORKS

- ✓ Students see how words are constructed, not just memorised.
- ✓ It builds vocabulary, spelling and understanding of word meanings.
- ✓ It encourages deeper thinking about language and word patterns.
- ✓ It makes learning active, engaging and memorable.

STRATEGY 5

Morphology Journals

A place for students to collect, analyse and understand interesting words. Over time, their journals become powerful tools for vocabulary, spelling and comprehension.

HOW IT WORKS

1



Students discover an interesting or unfamiliar word.

2



They break the word into meaningful parts.

3



They write the meaning in their own words and use the word in a sentence.

4



They reflect on how the word is used and what they have learnt.

5



They revisit and build their journal throughout the year.

EXAMPLE JOURNAL ENTRY

Word:

unbelievable

Word Parts:



Meaning (in my own words):

Something that is not able to be believed; very surprising.

Sentence:

"It was unbelievable that we won the final game!"



WORDS IN MY JOURNAL

- impossible
- kindness
- misunderstood
- adventure
- responsible
- environment
- determined
- connection
- disagreement
- beautiful
- unknown
- unstoppable



★ TRY THIS TOMORROW!

- ✓ Provide each student with a notebook.
- ✓ Model breaking a word into parts and finding the meaning.
- ✓ Encourage students to add one new word each week.
- ✓ Celebrate their growing collection of powerful words!



WHY IT WORKS

- ✓ Students become more curious about words.
- ✓ They make connections across subjects and texts.
- ✓ Vocabulary, spelling and comprehension improve.
- ✓ Learners take ownership of their learning.
- ✓ It builds a lifelong love of language!

STRATEGY 6

Building Reading Fluency



Fluency is the bridge between decoding and comprehension. When reading flows, meaning grows.

Fluent readers read with accuracy, pace and expression. Regular practice helps reading become easier so students can focus on understanding what they read.

HOW IT WORKS



1 Choose a short passage.

It should be easy enough to read, but still slightly challenging.



2 Model reading aloud.

Read the passage with expression, phrasing and punctuation.



3 Students read the passage.

They read the same passage several times over a week.



4 Each reading has a focus.

e.g. accuracy, expression, phrasing, smoothness, and understanding.



5 Celebrate improvement.

Notice progress in confidence, fluency and understanding.

EXAMPLE: REPEATED READING

EXAMPLE PASSAGE

Maya crept quietly through the forest. The moon cast shadows on the path ahead. She listened carefully. An owl hooted in the distance. Maya smiled. She loved adventures like this.



READING 1



Focus: Accuracy
Read the passage.
Try to read all the words accurately.

READING 2



Focus: Expression
Read with feeling and expression.
Think about the punctuation.

READING 3



Focus: Phrasing
Read in smooth phrases, not word by word.

READING 4



Focus: Meaning
Read smoothly and think about what the text is really saying.



TEACHER TIP

Fluency isn't about speed. It's about accuracy, expression and understanding. The goal is to read with meaning!



TRY THIS TOMORROW!

- ✓ Select a short passage from your class text or a decodable reader.
- ✓ Read it aloud to model fluency.
- ✓ Have students read it 3–4 times across the week, with a different focus each time.
- ✓ Discuss the meaning and any new vocabulary.
- ✓ Celebrate their progress!



WHY IT WORKS

- ✓ Builds automaticity so reading requires less mental effort.
- ✓ Improves confidence and motivation.
- ✓ Supports comprehension and vocabulary.
- ✓ Helps students become engaged, expressive and thoughtful readers.

Morphology Mystery

When students solve morphology mysteries, they build vocabulary, confidence and independence as word patterns and meanings click into place.

Unlock the meaning behind unfamiliar words by solving morphology mysteries together!

HOW IT WORKS

1



Present a set of related mystery words.

3



Students identify the base word and think about its meaning.

4



Students break down each word to see how the parts add meaning.

5



Students use the new understanding to unlock more words independently.

EXAMPLE MYSTERY

construction

destruction

instruction

obstruction

What do these words have in common?

Base Word: **struct** = to build

construction



build together;
put together

destruction



build apart;
break down

instruction



build knowledge;
teach

obstruction



build against;
block

WHY IT WORKS



Builds deep understanding of how words are constructed.



Improves vocabulary, reading comprehension and spelling.



Helps students make connections across subjects and contexts.



Builds confidence as students tackle unfamiliar words.

BONUS
ACTIVITY

CREATE YOUR OWN MORPHOLOGY MYSTERY

- ✓ Choose a different set of related words.
- ✓ Identify the base word and its meaning.
- ✓ Add the prefix and suffix meanings.
- ✓ Create your own mystery for a partner or the class to solve!



One discovery can unlock *hundreds* of new words!





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For More information about Triple Thread Learning and our training contact:

Sonja O'Connor

Director: Triple Thread Learning

Email: sonja@triplethreadlearning.com.au

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