

Explicit Instruction of High-Utility Morphemes

Practice-Based Activity

This activity is designed to be paired with the *Effective Morphology Instruction for Secondary Students Across Content Areas* slide deck.

Purpose: to provide participants with practice planning explicit morpheme instruction using the six-step framework and receive feedback from colleagues

Participant materials: a text or vocabulary list from an upcoming lesson in the participant's content area, access to the Word Dissector app, high-utility morpheme lists, the Explicit Morphology Instruction Fidelity Checklist: Lesson 2, the Morpheme Practice Graphic Organizer, the Explicit Instruction of High-Utility Morphemes Teacher Planning Sheet, and a pen or pencil

Facilitator materials: slide deck, completed example of the activity using the root "struct"

Directions

- Design a morpheme mini-lesson.
 - Select a high-utility morpheme and write a student-friendly definition.
 - Write a clear goal statement.
 - Select 3–4 example words that contain your morpheme.
 - Script your think-aloud while completing the graphic organizer.
- With a partner, practice stating your goal and modeling the graphic organizer.
- Provide feedback to your partner using the Step 1 and Step 4 sections of the Explicit Morphology Instruction Fidelity Checklist: Lesson 2.

Potential Participant Questions and Answers

- "What if I can't find a high-utility morpheme in my upcoming lessons?"
The Morpheme Lab can help. Start with a morpheme frequency list and cross-reference it with your curriculum vocabulary.
- "How do I know if my definition is too simple or too technical?"
If a student could repeat it back and explain it to a peer, it's likely at the right level. If it uses technical terms like "bound morpheme" or "derivational," simplify it.
- "Do I need to do all the steps in one class period?"
Not necessarily. The steps can be spread across multiple days, especially as you build the routine.

Facilitator Questions

- Which morpheme did you choose, and what made it feel like a high-utility choice?
- What was the hardest part and why?
- After receiving feedback, what is one thing you would revise about your plan?

Step 1: Identify a high-utility morpheme and write a student-friendly definition.

Review an upcoming lesson, unit, or text from your content area or the high-frequency morpheme lists from the Morpheme Lab. Identify one morpheme (prefix, root, or suffix) that appears frequently and connects to multiple words students will encounter. Write it below along with its student-friendly definition. The definition should be short, clear, and use everyday words.

Selected Morpheme	Meaning

Note: You can find the meaning of your selected morpheme in the Word Dissector app.

Step 2: Write a clear goal statement for your morpheme lesson.

Using the model from the module, draft a goal that names the morpheme, states its meaning, and explains why it matters.

Lesson Goal Statement

Step 3: Select three to four example words that contain your morpheme.

Use the Word Dissector app to choose words that clearly show the morpheme's meaning, transfer across content areas, and include different affixes when possible.

Example Words

Step 4: Script a think-aloud while completing the graphic organizer for one of your example words.

Using one of your example words from Step 3, walk through each step of the "See It, Break It, Read It, Spell It" routine using the Morpheme Practice Graphic Organizer. For each step, write exactly what you would say to students as you model it.

Script

Step 5: Practice your morpheme mini-lesson with a partner and receive feedback.

Take turns practicing two key parts of your mini-lesson with a partner: stating the goal and modeling with the graphic organizer. Your partner will role-play as a student and use the Explicit Morphology Instruction Fidelity Checklist: Lesson 2 (Step 1 and Step 4) to provide feedback. After each partner presents, use the space below to record feedback and plan revisions.



Notes



Explicit Instruction of High-Utility Morphemes

Teacher Planning Sheet

Step 1: Identify a high-utility morpheme and write a student-friendly definition.

Selected Morpheme	Meaning

Step 2: Write a clear goal statement for your morpheme lesson.

Lesson Goal Statement

Step 3: Select three to four example words that contain your morpheme.

Example Words

Step 4: Script a think-aloud while completing the graphic organizer for one of your example words.

Script

Step 5: Practice your morpheme mini-lesson with a partner and receive feedback.

Notes