
Prefixes and Suffixes

Posted by David Buck - 2009/06/12 18:35

Our middle school (grades 6-8) teachers all agreed upon 22 essential prefixes and suffixes that our students should be able to use and decipher by the end of their eighth grade years.

We provided each student a list of these, with blank spaces next to them so students could write in words they run across over the course of the year. Whenever we found a big scientific word, we'd look at the list and break down the words together. We'd enter the word as an example, and also write in the meanings of the prefixes and suffixes.

There was little else to this: we pre-tested in October, and post-tested in June. The improvement in my seventh-graders' scores from pre- to post-test was amazing, and it was fairly painless. We didn't spend much time or effort on this approach, and the kids were pretty impressed with their improvement.

I don't know how well this translates to their actual ability to break down words and apply their understanding. That will likely be the next phase, since we've had some success. But I thought this would be a good place to start the discussion.

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Re:Prefixes and Suffixes

Posted by Dawn Pray - 2009/07/07 12:41

I have been trying to incorporate prefixes/suffixes into my classroom each year. I usually start out with a "primetime" or "bell ringer" and have them copy the prefix or suffix into their notebook. I need to get better at going back to that list and using it. I have also posted them on the word wall as well, but I find myself fizzling out mid-year. What does your list consist of? I agree that prefixes/suffixes are vital to breaking down scientific terms, and it helps kids out A LOT, I am just looking for ideas that I will stick with throughout the year.

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Re:Prefixes and Suffixes

Posted by Edison Ramsey - 2010/02/16 22:05

It is important for the student to learn. And prefixes and suffixes are the first thing that the teacher would teach them. And science is also a good subject to learn they will know many things through this subject. About matter, mass, galaxy and many else.

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