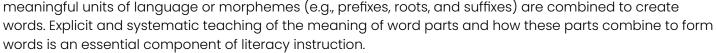# Structural Analysis Strand
Overview

What is structural analysis?

Structural analysis is an advanced word study approach that enhances the ability to read, spell, and understand word meanings through analysis of morphological and syllable structures. Morphological structure refers to how meaningful units of language or morphemes (e.g., prefixes, roots, and suffixes) are combined to create words. Explicit and systematic teaching of the meaning of word parts and how these parts combine to form words is an essential component of literacy instruction.

What is the role of structural analysis in learning to read and spell?

Research indicates that awareness of the morphological structure of language is correlated with the acquisition of reading skills. To build a deep understanding of a word, students must be able to analyze the structure of words and identify various elements including meaningful parts, syllables, graphemes, and phonemes. As students build their knowledge of the structure of words, they are better able to decode and spell complex words and process the meaning of these words. This advanced word study supports students in recognizing and understanding multisyllabic words, particularly those derived from Latin and Greek.

What is the approach to developing structural analysis in Lexia® Core5® Reading?

The goal of the structural analysis strand of Lexia Core5 Reading is to develop skills to read, spell, and understand multisyllabic words often found in literature as well as in the domains of math, science, and humanities. Activities aim to strengthen reading and spelling by focusing on the recurring morphemes, or meaningful word parts, that make up these words. Initial activities expose students to simple suffixes, such as -ed and -ing, and Latin prefixes, such as un- and pre-. Students identify affixes through listening, reading, and constructing words containing these word parts.

Later activities focus on Latin suffixes and common spelling rules based on the morphological structure of words (e.g., the doubling rule and the drop-e rule). As students move through the program, additional emphasis is placed on the meanings of word parts, prefixes, suffixes, and roots to build vocabulary and support decoding and spelling. Students use advanced word study strategies to infer the meaning of academic vocabulary at the word, sentence, and passage level while continuing to strengthen their automatic reading and spelling of complex, multisyllabic words. Ultimately, students are introduced to Greek combining forms and accent placement rules, which allow them to read and comprehend complex vocabulary, particularly in the content areas.

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