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MULTISENSORY TEACHING of Basic Language Skills



ACTIVITY BOOK
Revised Edition

by

Suzanne Carreker, Ph.D.

and

Judith R. Birsh, Ed.D.

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by Suzanne Carreker Ph.D., CALT-QI, Judith R. Birsh Ed.D.

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About the Authors

Suzanne Carreker, Ph.D., is Chief Programs Officer at the Neuhaus Education Center, a nonprofit organization in Houston, Texas, that has offered professional development in evidence-based reading methods to more than 60,000 teachers since its inception in 1980. Dr. Carreker, a past president of the Houston Branch of The International Dyslexia Association (HBIDA) and a current vice president of the national IDA board, is a frequent speaker at regional and national conferences and has authored a number of multisensory curricula and journal articles. She was the recipient of the 2009 HBIDA Nancy LaFavers Award for her contributions to students with dyslexia and other related learning differences in the Houston community.

Judith R. Birsh, Ed.D., has an enduring belief that well-prepared, informed teachers are the major influence on effective instruction in the field of reading and dyslexia. This belief had its beginning in 1960 when she met her first student who, although 18 years old, read poorly. The quest to find answers to this puzzle led her to a master's degree in remedial reading and a doctorate in reading and language at Teachers College, Columbia University. After training with Aylett R. Cox in Dallas, Texas she became a Certified Academic Language Therapist and Qualified Instructor, founding and directing the Multisensory Teaching of Basic Language Skills courses at Teachers College in the Department of Curriculum and Teaching, Program in Learning Disabilities. After her retirement in 2000, Dr. Birsh has maintained her commitment to teacher preparation, giving professional development workshops, consulting with private and public schools, writing articles, and working with students with dyslexia. In 2008 she received the Luke Waites Academic Language Therapy Association Award of Service and the Margaret Byrd Rawson Lifetime Achievement Award from the International Dyslexia Association.





ACTIVITY 5

Clues for Identifying Word Origin

TEXTBOOK REFERENCE

Chapters 4, 8, and 9

The Anglo-Saxon, Latin, and Greek languages greatly influenced written English. Students who understand the history of English have additional strategies for reading and spelling unfamiliar words (Henry, 1988, 2010). Identify the language layer that is characterized by the following letter patterns or word structures. Write *Anglo-Saxon*, *Latin*, or *Greek*. Use Chapter 4 in Birsh (2011) for reference.

1. The consonant pairs *gn*, *kn*, and *wr* _____
2. Roots that end in *ct* and *pt* _____
3. Vowel pairs _____
4. Initial consonant clusters *rh*, *pt*, *pn*, and *ps* _____
5. Chameleon prefixes _____
6. Common, everyday words _____
7. The consonant cluster *ch* pronounced /k/ _____
8. The letters *c*, *s*, and *t* pronounced /sh/ _____
9. Medial *y* _____
10. Consonant digraphs *ch*, *sh*, *th*, and *wh* _____
11. The affixing of roots _____
12. Compound words _____
13. Combining forms _____
14. The affixing of base words _____
15. The consonant cluster *ph* pronounced /f/ _____
16. The schwa or unstressed vowel sound _____



ACTIVITY 6

Identifying Word Origin

TEXTBOOK REFERENCE

Chapter 4, 8, 9, and 16

Identify the origin—Anglo-Saxon, Latin, or Greek—of the following words. Use the clues from the previous activity and Chapter 4 in Birsh (2011) for reference.

- | | | | |
|-----------------|-------|------------------|-------|
| 1. scholar | _____ | 16. hardware | _____ |
| 2. dislike | _____ | 17. photograph | _____ |
| 3. that | _____ | 18. shipyard | _____ |
| 4. construction | _____ | 19. respect | _____ |
| 5. phonograph | _____ | 20. spatial | _____ |
| 6. made | _____ | 21. water | _____ |
| 7. excellent | _____ | 22. manuscript | _____ |
| 8. boat | _____ | 23. timely | _____ |
| 9. conductor | _____ | 24. portable | _____ |
| 10. barn | _____ | 25. heart | _____ |
| 11. microscope | _____ | 26. good | _____ |
| 12. direction | _____ | 27. introduction | _____ |
| 13. transport | _____ | 28. transcript | _____ |
| 14. symphony | _____ | 29. bread | _____ |
| 15. chloroplast | _____ | 30. bad | _____ |

TRY THIS**1 Sorting Words by Origin**

1. Write words of Anglo-Saxon, Latin, and Greek origin on separate cards.
2. Have students sort words into three piles based on origin: Anglo-Saxon, Latin, or Greek.





ACTIVITY 7

Identifying Word Origin

TEXTBOOK REFERENCE
Chapters 4, 8, 9, and 16

Identify the origin—Anglo-Saxon, Latin, or Greek—of the following words. Use the clues from Activity 5 and Chapter 4 in Birsh (2011) for reference.

- | | | | |
|----------------|-------|------------------|-------|
| 1. food | _____ | 11. psychology | _____ |
| 2. rhythm | _____ | 12. rhododendron | _____ |
| 3. lotion | _____ | 13. helpless | _____ |
| 4. reject | _____ | 14. napkin | _____ |
| 5. eruption | _____ | 15. wait | _____ |
| 6. chorus | _____ | 16. destruction | _____ |
| 7. thermometer | _____ | 17. sympathy | _____ |
| 8. gather | _____ | 18. football | _____ |
| 9. induction | _____ | 19. illegal | _____ |
| 10. intersect | _____ | 20. conduct | _____ |

TRY THIS**2 Word Origin Concentration Game**

1. Create a concentration game board using the template on page 137.
2. Prepare the game board as an overhead transparency or an interactive whiteboard.
3. Choose two words each of Anglo-Saxon, Latin, and Greek origin (six words total).
4. Write these words randomly in the empty spaces on the game board.
5. Write the languages of origin that represent the six words randomly in the remaining spaces.
6. Cover each of the spaces with small sticky notes.
7. Place the transparency on the overhead projector.
8. Divide students into teams and determine a rotation.
9. Teams take turns calling out pairs of coordinates (e.g., A3 and B3) to search for a word and an origin that match.
10. Uncover the spaces that correspond to the coordinates.
11. If the word and origin match, the team gets a point.
12. If the word and origin do not match, cover the two spaces again with the sticky notes.
13. Each team gets only one turn per round, regardless of whether the team has scored a point.
14. The game continues until all of the squares have been uncovered.