Lesson 1 — Building the Word Web (Related Words Before Meaning)

Objective:

Students will use related words (a *word web*) to infer the meaning of a new vocabulary word through morphological clues.

Why:

This teaches students to *pause* and analyze a new word rather than skip it.

Materials:

Whiteboard, markers, word lists, SAYWORD! morpheme cards (optional).

Process / Tasks:

1. **Present a new target word**
   – Example: *PROMOTION, INTERVAL, SPECTATOR*

2. **Ask students to brainstorm related words**
   – "What other words feel connected to this one?"
   – Write them around the anchor word.

3. **Highlight the repeating morpheme**
   – Ex: *PROMOTE, PROGRESS, PROCEED* → "Do you notice a repeating piece?"

4. **Students infer meaning**
   – "Based on the **family**, what might PROMOTION mean?"

5. **Reveal the dictionary meaning**
   – Students compare their inference to the real definition.

6. **Mini-practice**
   Students work with partners on a new word and create a small word web before inferring meaning.

DOL:

Students can accurately infer the meaning of a new word using related words in a web.

Skill Focus:

★ Meaning inference through morphological families
★ Metacognition ("What clues did the related words give you?")