



Lesson 2 — Deep Morphological Analysis: Real Meaning vs Morphological Meaning

Objective:

Students will analyze a word by breaking it into morphemes to understand **literal meaning**, **historical meaning**, and **current meaning**.

Why:

Words don't always follow their "true" morphemes anymore. This lesson builds critical thinking, etymology awareness, and vocabulary strength.

Materials:

Whiteboard, SAYWORD! morpheme cards, etymology references (or use you as the source).

Process / Tasks:

1. **Choose a target word from yesterday's web**
 - Example: *INSPECT*, *INTERMISSION*, *OCTOBER*, *PROMOTION*
2. **Break it into morphemes**
 - IN + SPECT → "not looking"? (No!)
3. **Discuss the difference**
 - Morphological meaning:** "not + look"
 - Actual meaning:** "to look inside / examine closely"
4. **Introduce historical or contextual notes**
 - OCT = 8 → October originally the 8th month in Roman calendars
 - DEC = 10 → December originally the 10th
 - "Promotion" literally means "move forward," but modern meaning = "advance in position"



5. **Students correct their interpretations**

They identify when a word's meaning has drifted from its morphemes.

6. **Partner activity:**

Each pair chooses another web word from Lesson 1 and performs the same analysis.

DOL:

Students can explain how a word's historical or morphological meaning differs from its modern meaning.

Skill Focus:

- ★ Etymology and language evolution
 - ★ Understanding semantic drift
 - ★ Accurate morphological breakdown
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