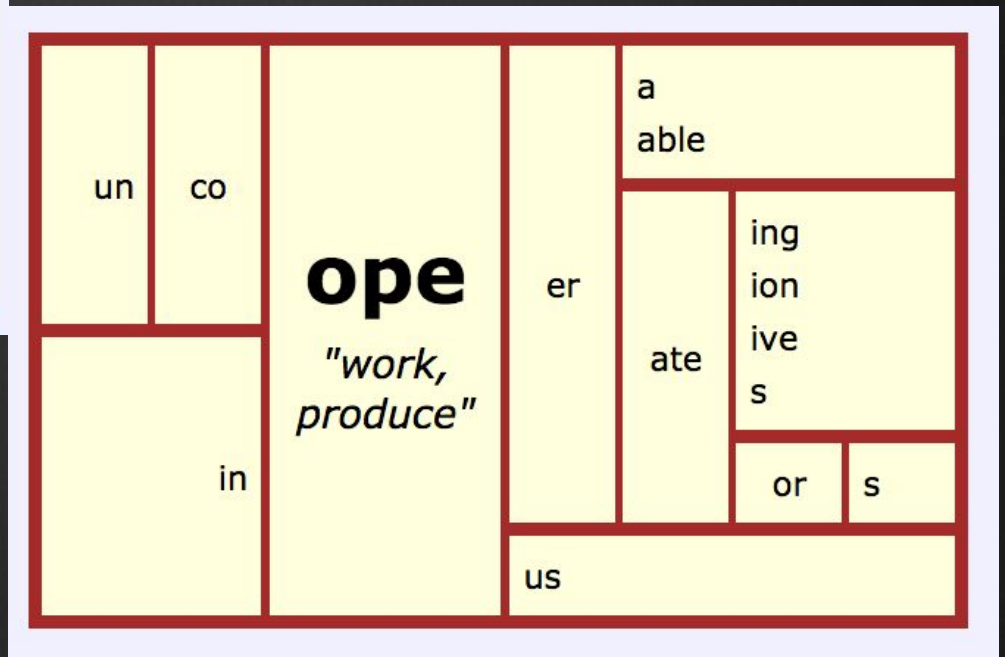
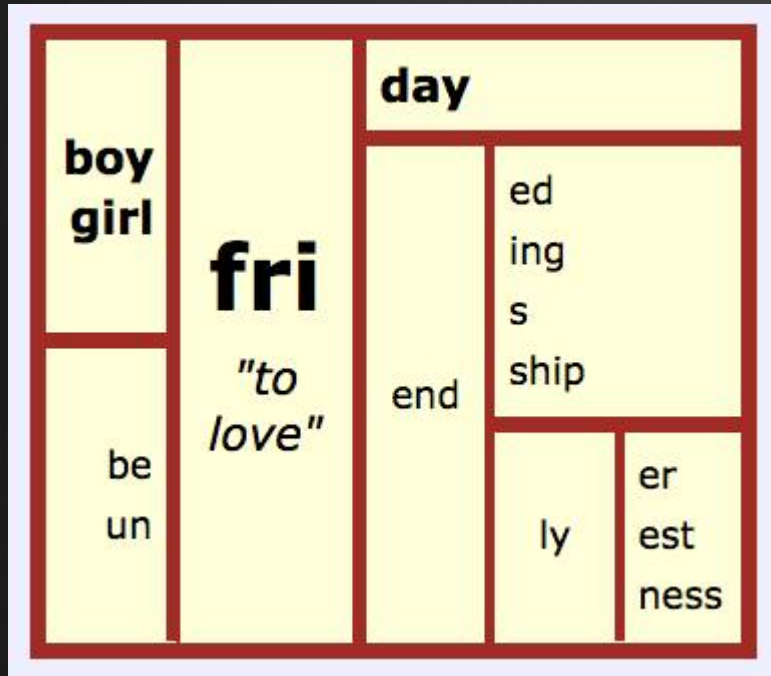


Can You Find 2 of Our Life Skills in These Matrices?



Structured Word Inquiry

Why is there a <g> in <sign>?

4 questions lead the scientific inquiry into the etymology (history) and morphology (meaningful parts) of a word or family of words.

- Mean: What does it mean?
- Built: How is it built?
- Relatives: What other words are related to the base in this word?
- Pronunciation: What are the sounds that matter?

The Matrix and Word Sum

as re		sign <i>"symbol"</i>	al ed ify ing ment	
re	de		ate	ure

sign + al → signal

as + sign + ment → assignment

de + sign → design

Sign + ate/ + ure → signature

Also known as SWI

Students learn:

- How words are built
- The suffixing conventions (changes in the base) at the joins between the base and the suffix (drop silent <e>, doubling rule, change the <y> to <i>)
- That the English writing system is logical and systematic. It can be investigated scientifically
- Decoding and spelling--and increase vocabulary knowledge
- To be curious about words and engage in their own learning!

Resources

- [The WordWorks Literacy Centre](#)
- [Reading, Writing and Phonology](#)
- [Teaching How the Written Word Works](#)
- [Real Spelling](#)
- [Linguistic-Educator Exchange](#)
- [Etymonline](#)
- [Beyond Phonics: The Case for Teaching Children the Logic of the English Spelling System](#)
- And many more--too numerous to enumerate here. The WordWorks Literacy Centre has many more links to scholars working to illuminate how the English writing system works.