

**VIDEOS OF PETE BOWERS
TEACHING IN GRADE 1 AND 5
CLASSROOMS & AN
INTRODUCTORY WORKSHOP @
ZURICH INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL**

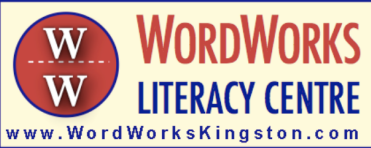
Click [here](#) to see videos of my classroom sessions in Grade 1 and Grade 5 classes and an introductory session with teachers during my time at Zurich International School on September 22, 2014. Dan Allen captured these videos and posted them on his [excellent blog](#).

Notes on lessons these videos


Please note that I do not share these as "ideal" classroom lessons to imitate. When I teach model lessons during school visits, both the students *and* the teachers in the room are the target of my instruction. I had one day at ZIS on this trip, so I used these lessons in part to offer teachers as much background in this content as I could in that limited time.

I think you will see that students gain a great deal from these sessions. I am not suggesting, however, that the typical Grade 1 lesson is "supposed" to go for 45 minutes, let alone should they be sitting listening to the teacher for much of that time. The impressive thing is that they can be so engaged in that sub-optimal context!

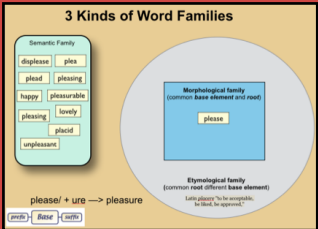
Also, these lessons are primarily isolated "structured word inquiry" lessons. As teachers gain understanding of this content and process, they can draw on knowledge in the context of subject area studies. For an excellent example



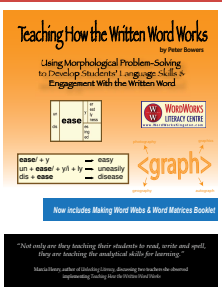
WORDWORKS
LITERACY CENTRE
www.WordWorksKingston.com



owens OSA



3 Kinds of Word Families



Teaching How the Written Word Works
by Pete Bowers

Dan Allen's students study the distinction between morphological and etymological families.

Pete teaches the first lesson from his book investigating the <sign> family.

of how the study of a content area can be enriched by unplanned leverage of structured word inquiry, [see this account of an investigation of the term <condensation>](#) by Skot Caldwell and his students during a science class.

I regularly invite schools to make videos of the lessons that I teach during school workshops so that the school can make use of them for on-going PD. Since Dan shares his own class work in his blog, he asked if he could share these videos as well -- and I was delighted to do so. I like the fact that these are unedited sessions captured with no previous intention to be shared publicly. This is how it goes, warts and all!

If you see something that helps your understanding, by all means make use of it. Be inventive with how you address this content in your own way with your own students.

Video #1: Grade 1 Homophones and Function and Content Words (not “sight words” to memorize)

The topic of homophones function and content (lexical) words rich. Note how I use homophones right near the beginning of the video of the introductory workshop to reframe understanding about the primary purpose of spelling.



The study of lexical and function words is a particularly rich way to *understand* spellings typically treated as “irregular sight words” that need to be memorized. These words are in fact a brilliant launching pads for understanding the order of English spelling from the start.

After this video, go to [this link](#) to see a Real Spelling tutorial film on Lexical and Function words with more precision than I address in this lesson. That link also gives you access to Keynote or PowerPoint files like the one I use in the class.

Video #2: The <sign> lesson -- Lesson #1 from Pete's book "Teaching How the Written Word Works"

Many of you have access to my orange covered [80 page book](#). That book has a series of lessons that address all the key morphological concepts including all suffixing conventions, bound and twin bases, connecting vowel letters and how morphology interrelates with phonology and etymology.



I try to do at least one lesson from this book during school visits to jump start teachers with a series of lessons. This video Dan posted could be very useful for teachers trying to get started.

Again, don't take this video as an ideal first lesson from my book but draw from anything I do that helps you understand better. This is Grade 5, but I use this same lesson in Grade 2 classes. Some things often recur, but the lesson changes every time I do it!

Video #3: Grade 5's take on bound bases and connecting vowel letters

This Grade 5 class had little or no background in Real Spelling, but their teacher has a strong background in linguistics of her own. This session took fascinating tangents far deeper than I had anticipated.



Our investigations end up identifying bound bases and connecting vowel letters in words that may surprise many of you. I had no plan to go this far, but I do my best to follow students' curiosity and understanding.

Again, there was no *need* to go this far this fast. The point wasn't that all the students deeply comprehended this content on this first introduction. This is not about “covering” material. I think you will agree, however, that it is an engaging meaningful session for the students.

See the Real Spelling tutorial films on the **connecting vowel** letter and “**combining forms**” in the [Morphology Album](#) in the Real Spelling Gallery.

Video #4: Grade 5s Take on the Structure & Meaning Test (The "circle and square" task)

The "Three Kinds of Word Families" activity is new task that has become key to my workshops. It is particularly helpful for making sense of the "[structure and meaning test](#)."

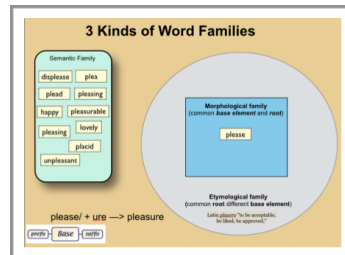
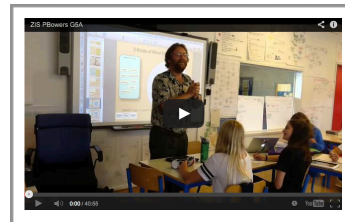
This was only the second time I've done this activity with students. If you attended a recent workshop, you can use this video to revisit these central concepts for yourself. You might even use the lesson as scaffolding for your own lesson with the same or different words.

After watching this lesson, realize that you can go to [Etymoline](#) to find the root of a word you are studying in a subject area. Paste that root into the search engine to find etymological relatives. From the set of words you collect, identify some morphological relatives. You've just started your own bank of words to investigate in this task!

A couple of extra getting started Videos?

The Suffix Search!

Click [here](#) for a video from Dan's own teaching that he conducted soon after my visit. He posted it especially for teachers at his school to get a window on a way to get started. The simple challenge:



Two teams with the same goal. Propose and prove as many suffixes as possible. Go!

It's that easy. I love it.

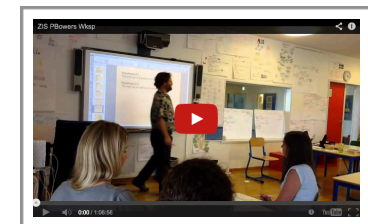
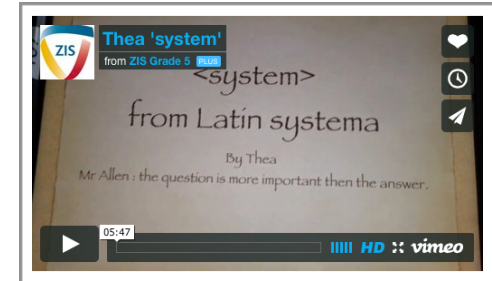
A Model Scientific Investigation from a Student

On October 11 Dan posted a video of a presentation of an investigation by one of his students named Thea. There is much to say about the brilliance of the scientific work

illustrated by Thea and nurtured by Dan in his class on a regular basis. I hope to write more about this investigation in the future. For the moment, Thea's subtitle says it all: "*The question is more important than the answer*". We all have a lot to learn from Thea!

Video #5: An introductory workshop for teachers

This is a video of the after-school session offered to teachers on a volunteer basis during my one day at Zurich International School. I hope that it offers teachers new to this work a spark to get you going. For experienced teachers, I hope you find new and deeper understandings by revisiting these ideas.



Pete Bowers, Oct. 12, 2014