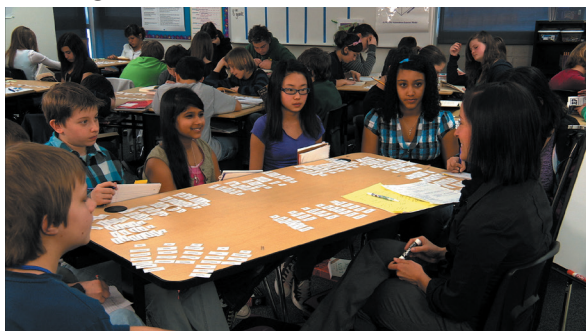


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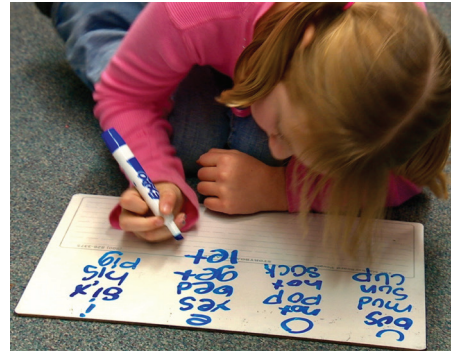
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Preface

I see and I forget. I hear and I remember. I do and I understand.

—Confucius

Word study involves “doing” things with words—examining, manipulating, comparing and categorising—and offers students the opportunity to make their own discoveries about how words work. When teachers use this practical, hands-on way to study words with students, they create tasks that focus students’ attention on critical features of words: sound, pattern and meaning.

Words Their Way is a developmental approach to phonics, vocabulary and spelling instruction. Guided by an informed interpretation of spelling errors and other literacy behaviours, *Words Their Way* offers a systematic, teacher-directed, child-centred plan for the study of words from Kindergarten to high school. Step by step, the chapters explain exactly how to provide effective word study instruction. The keys to this research-based approach are knowing your students’ literacy progress, organising for instruction and implementing word study.

PDToolkit for *Words Their Way*[®]

PDToolkit is the digital tool accompanying *Words Their Way*, seventh edition. Together with the text, this resource provides the tools you need to understand and carry out word study instruction that will motivate and engage your students and help them succeed in literacy learning.

PDToolkit provides students and teachers the opportunity to engage in interactive word study. Features include:

- **Spelling inventories** provide downloadable inventories and feature guides along with classroom composites to help track students’ progress throughout the year.
- **Interactive online sorts** span all five developmental stages. Sorts are also available in a printable PDF format for in-class or take-home use. Users can also create their own printable picture and word sorts.
- **Word study games and templates** in a printable PDF format are available for all five developmental stages.
- **Data reporting and administrator oversight** allows literacy coaches or specialists to view and track student progress across multiple teachers’ classrooms. Student assessment data can viewed at the whole class and individual student level.

- **Video examples** feature real teachers and students using *Words Their Way* in the classroom.
- **Additional Resources** are links to PDFs that include directions for various assessments and activities to be used as part of word study instruction.

Note: Access code for PDToolkit is included inside the front cover of this book.

New to This Edition

This edition incorporates the following updates:

- Chapter 3 has been revised to focus on the word study lesson, teacher–student interactions and follow-up activities whereas a new Chapter 9 addresses the larger issues involved in organising word study in the classroom.
- Sample lesson plans are included in each chapter to demonstrate how teachers guide thoughtful discussions about words. For example, Chapter 5 provides three lesson plans, including one to introduce word families in picture sorts.
- “Ten Indicators of Effective Word Study Classrooms” in Chapter 9 have been added to guide evaluation and professional development.
- Activities have been added, and many have been revised in Chapters 3–8. In Chapter 8, for example, vocabulary activities are categorised according to being *generative* and *word-specific*, and additional activities such as *Operation Examination* and *Word Challenge: Words from Myths and Legends* are provided.
- Progress-monitoring and goal-setting materials are available in Appendix B.
- A new term, *focused contrasts*, is introduced to highlight the importance of comparing and contrasting letters and spelling patterns related to speech sounds and meaning units or morphemes.
- References throughout the book with the latest research pertaining to word study have been updated.
- English learner callouts provide more information about comparisons between English and other languages.
- Visually enhanced, full-colour design breaks the content into more manageable sections that highlight Teacher Tips and boxed text supplements in the main text.