



Literacy Connects

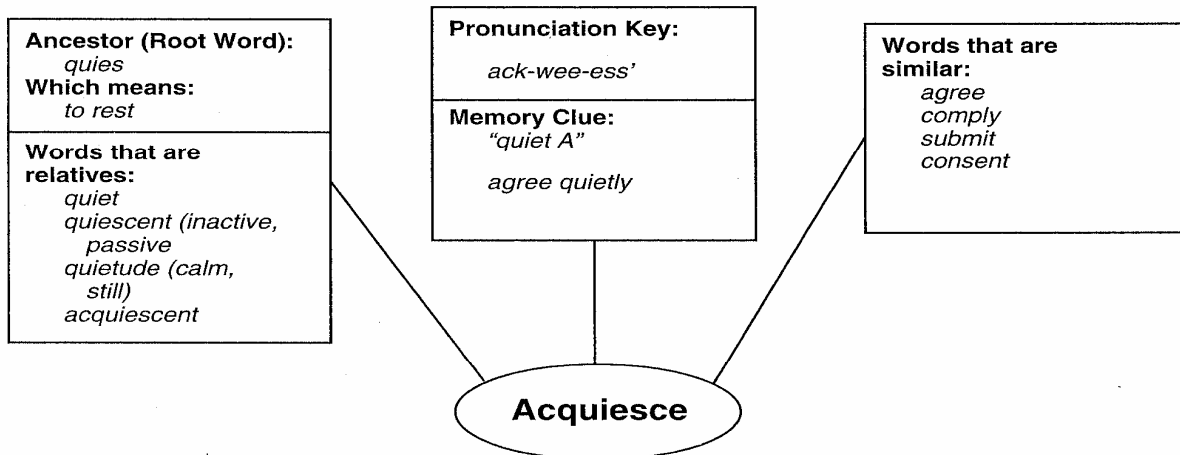
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Word Family Tree

"The relationship between word knowledge and comprehension is unequivocal" (Davis, 1944 & 1968). More recent research connecting word knowledge, concept development, and prior knowledge to reading comprehension indicates that explicit vocabulary instruction should be an integral component of instruction at all grade levels (McEwan, 2002). **Word Family Tree** (Buehl, 1999) is an acquisition strategy that promotes deep concept processing as it moves students from analyzing word origins to real world applications (see *Literacy Connects* Issue XV for an explanation of acquisition & recognition strategies). This activity should be introduced whole-class using a term from your content area with easily recognizable roots, prefixes, and/or suffixes. Discuss the root's meaning and other contexts where it might appear. Extensive modeling is suggested before independent application can be expected. Select no more than 5 key terms from a unit of study. Have students work in groups of 2 or 3 to complete an organizer for each term, using appropriate resources.

WORD FAMILY TREE FOR ACQUIESCE



Definition: *to go along reluctantly, to give in maybe even if you really don't want to*

A sentence where you found this word:
Eventually the Native Americans acquiesced to the treaty, even though they felt betrayed by the government.

Who would say it? Pick three kinds of people who might say this word and write a sentence showing how they might use it:		
<i>Politician</i>	<i>Judge</i>	<i>Business Person</i>
<i>After a few changes to the bill the senator <u>acquiesced</u> to vote for it.</i>	<i>The judge told the jury that every member had to <u>acquiesce</u> to reach the verdict.</i>	<i>I will <u>acquiesce</u> to buy your computers if you guarantee that they will work for my company.</i>

Activity taken from *Classroom Strategies for Interactive Learning* by Doug Buehl. See *Literacy Connects* Issues II, IV, VI, XV & XVI for more on vocabulary.