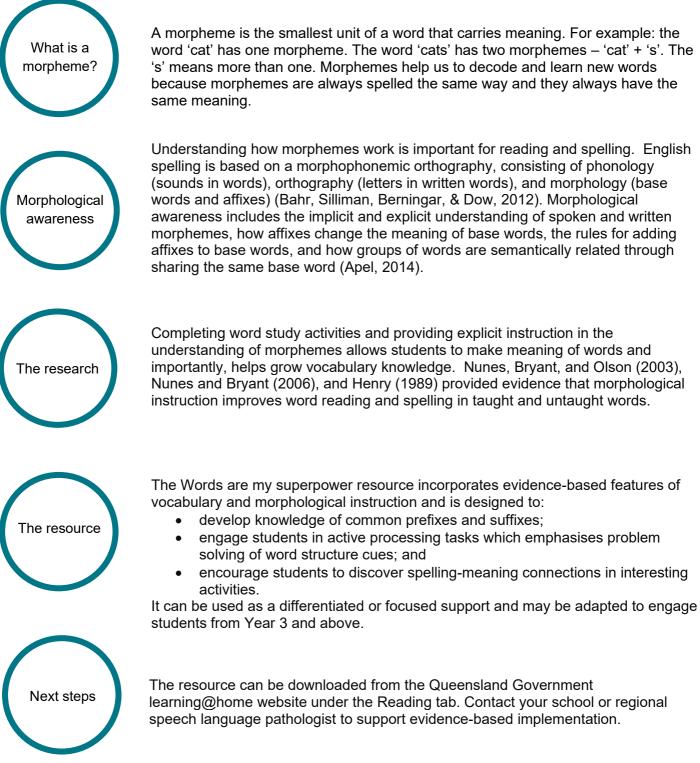
Words are my superpower!

Building word knowledge through morphology



Understanding how morphemes work is important for reading and spelling. English spelling is based on a morphophonemic orthography, consisting of phonology (sounds in words), orthography (letters in written words), and morphology (base words and affixes) (Bahr, Silliman, Berningar, & Dow, 2012). Morphological awareness includes the implicit and explicit understanding of spoken and written morphemes, how affixes change the meaning of base words, the rules for adding affixes to base words, and how groups of words are semantically related through sharing the same base word (Apel, 2014).



Completing word study activities and providing explicit instruction in the understanding of morphemes allows students to make meaning of words and importantly, helps grow vocabulary knowledge. Nunes, Bryant, and Olson (2003), Nunes and Bryant (2006), and Henry (1989) provided evidence that morphological instruction improves word reading and spelling in taught and untaught words.



Reading and Writing Disorders Advisory Service