WORD STUDY
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# TARHEELSTATE /eacher BREWING DIFFERENTIATED SUCCESS AND SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL WELLNESS <br>  

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RESOURCE MADE POSSIBLE BY THESE AMAZING CLIP ARTISTS AND FONT DESIGNERS

# GET YOUR FREE WORD SORT POSTERS AND CHOICE BOARD TODAY! 

Are you looking for new ways to engage your students in learning and practicing word study concepts?
(If you're reading this, I'm almost certain you are © ) .

To help teachers like you add more differentiation, variety, and FUN to their word study routines, I've put together FREE word sorting direction posters and a choice board for your students!

If word sorting is a part of your word study routine (or you want to see how to add it in), these direction posters and choice board are for you!

## JOIN MY EMAIL NEWSLETTER FOR $3^{\text {RD }}-5^{\text {TH }}$ TEACHERS

## CLICK HERE TO SUBSCRIBE AND RECEIVE YOUR OWN COPY OF THE WORD SORT DIRECTION POSTERS + WORD SORT CHOICE BOARD!

## IT'S ALL IN A PDF THAT I'LL SEND STRAIGHT TO YOUR INBOX!

Best of all, this won't be the only perk you'll receive by joining the email list. I'll also share downloadable and editable word study rotation schedules, student group forms, and more!


## WORD STUDY RESOURCES



Find these resources at the Tarheelstate Teacher
TARHEELSTATE Website Store or on Teachers Pay Teachers

## SAMPLE SEQUENCE OF WORD STUDY ACTIVITIES

## 7 DAY WORD STUDY CYCLE

## DAY 1-2 Discovery Word Search

DAY 3 Meet with the Teacher

DAY 4 Partner Games/Hands On Independent Activity

DAY 5 Word Study Notebook

DAY 6

DAY 7 "Hear it/Sort and Spell It" or "No Peaking" Assessment

## 9 DAY WORD STUDY CYCLE

DAY 1-2 Discovery Word Search
DAY 3 Meet with the Teacher
DAY 4-5
Partner Games/Hands On Independent Activity
DAY 6 Writer's Notebook (from Writer's Workshop)

DAY 7 Word Study Notebook
DAY 8
Word Sorting, Build Words, Quiz Self, Catch Up Day
"Hear it/Sort and Spell It" or
DAY 9 "No Peaking" Assessment

## TIPS FOR SUCCESS WITH WORD STUDY WORD SEARCHES



Asteachers have incorporated word searches into their word study routines, I've received a few questions about how to help students become more successful with the word search activity.

Read on for some helpful tips for student success (and perhaps your sanity!) as you implement word searches into your word study block!

## WHY I LOVE "BUND" WORD SEARCHES FOR WORD STUDY

If you are familiar with Words Their Way, then you know that a "blind sort" is an activity where students sort the words into categories (and write them down) as they hearthe words called out. It's called BLIND because students are not looking at the words.

One year, the idea of "blind searching" with a word search came to my mind. By "blind searching" through a word search without having a list of the words contained in the word search, students have a fun way of disc overing the word pattems that their current word sort will focus on.
"WORD searching" is also an engaging, fun way for students to shamen their ability to recognize words that ARE spelled corectly (which I've found is a major key to spelling improvement). When students find words in the word search, they record the words by sorting them into categories based on the look and/orthe sounds in the word (just like when sorting their words with word sort activities!).

So, how do I get started with these at the beginning of the yearand what are my tips for student success with blind word searches as a routine word study activity?

## fRST, KNOWTHATTHESE WORD SEARCHES ARE AN OPPORIUNTTY TO DEVELOP STUDENIS' PERSEVERANCE AND GROWIH MINDSEIS.

Most students will not be "good"at locating words in their word searches right away. They may become frustrated, seem unmotivated, and want to give up or complain about the activity. I think this is the case for a few reasons:

1. Students are inexperienced with completing word searches. Word searches are not a typical routine in most classrooms-we may use them to fill time, for moming work on a field trip day, or leave with a sub, but in general, most teachers do not implement word searc hes regularly into their classrooms. This means that students have not become accustomed to searching for words and have not developed effic ient strategies fordoing so.
2. In general, we know that children enjoy "instant gratific ation." This is not readily availa ble when students first start their word search routine. Since they don't (in most cases of my word search routines) have a list of words to referto, they don't get to check words off. To start, they have to stare at a rectangle of "alphabet soup" and try to locate a word.
3. Because students are working on word searches based on their word study assessment level, many of the words they are searching for are words they do not usually spell correctly and word pattems that they may not recognize. Since the word list itself is a challenge for them, identifying correctly spelled words in the word search can also provide a challenge.

The following tips will help you make this "lea ming curve" and implementation less of a struggle and more enjoyable for yourself and your students.

## MODEL, MODEL, MODEL!

At the beginning of the year, I choose one word list for modeling my word study routines and procedures. Using the same word list for all of my students at first (rather than jumping into students' differentiated word study levels) makes it easier for me to teach students my expectations for each step in their word study cycle. \{t also makes it easier to move to a staggered word study routine laterasI don't want to deal with the chaos of having students doing different activities on different days yet!\}You'll be repeating yourself over and over to address the expectations of each routine if you don't take the time to model up front.

Choose a word list that you know is developmentally appropriate for your grade level--perhaps one that addresses a spelling "ule" in the English language--like dropping y to add -ies. If some of your students latergo through this list aga in because that's where their level falls, it won't be a big deal!

We go through the entire word study cycle with this shared word list, spending 2-3 days on word hunting with our word searches (making sure that students know the expectations of recording and sorting the words they find EACH TME THEY FIND A NEW WORD).

## Discuss Strategies for Loc ating Words

## \ggg Use your interactive Whiteboard

I love to pull up the shared word search on my interactive whiteboard (perhaps on Day 2 of encouraging students to locate wordson their own-that first day is a great opportunity for you to watch your students' perseverance levelsand ability to handle something that is a bit "abstract" and challenging). I'd recommend NOTswooping in with strategies until you've give students a chance to see what they can do without your tips. You can split your room in teams and take tums asking groups to share a word they see in the word search. You can highlight it or have a student come up and highlight it. Be sure to continue to use this opportunity to MODEL sorting and recording words when they are found.

Be sure students have their own word search copies out, are marking the words other students are noting. Students should be recording and sorting the words as they are found.
$\ggg$ When students get stuck, a sk them what strategies you all could use to find new words. Some ideas:

1. Look in quadrants where fewer words have been loc ated.
2. Look at the words that have already been found. What pattems do you notice? Are there strings of letters that the words have in common (like ies)? Can we look for more words with that pattem?
3. If we a re looking for words that start with a certa in letter or that have a certa in pattem, we can be systematic in how we search for new words. This means that we go slowly, line-by-line looking for that string of letters. (So, if we are searching for-ies, we start by finding all of the "i"s a nd then looking all a round that letter to see if we've found a new word). --Thistip may seem common sense to us as experienced word searchers, but I have found that not all students have a systematic way of organizing their search efforts.

## BE A HELPER, A PARINER, AND KEEP ITPUN!

In the very beginning of launching a word search routine and later asmuch as I'm able when I start my groups, I walk a round and help students who are having a hard time finding words--I may give them the first letter of a word I see (circle it lightly or highlight it) and let them figure out the rest This builds confidence and also helpsstudents see what their word pattem might be. After students find 2-3 words, they begin to see a pattem and know to look for more words that have those word pattems. This seems to give them a confidence boost to start moving a long. (Students will also start to pick up on the fact that the title I have provided forthe word search givesa clue to what it's focus will be).

## "CAN WE WORK WITH PARINERS?"

Working alongside a partner may be a great scaffold for some students. I may let students work side by side a nother student that's working on the same level. Students know that they may not copy one a nother, but they can tell each other what words they find. Rather than saying where a word is located, you can train students to say, "I found 'babies'." If the other student ha strouble finding that word, the student can prompt with the general location of the word, "It was close to the top/in the top left," etc.

## THE PROBLEM WITH THREE-LEIIER WORDS

Did you know that three-letter wordscan be a problem? If yourstudents are not on the lower levels of WTW and do not have word lists that conta in 3-letter words, I recommend telling them that they should not be marking $\mathbf{2}$ or $\mathbf{3}$ letter words. Small words pop-up incidentally when word search puzzles a re generated, so it's important to give students thistip.

In the Letter-Name and Within Word Pattem levels, students will have many three-letter (and sometimestwo-letter) words in their word searches.
You may decide to tell students the number of two- and three-letter words they have, but enc ourage them to use caution when marking their word search puzzles. Students should consider whether or not the word they have found seems to fit in with the other words in the sort Inform students that if they highlight or mark a lot of small words, it makes it harder to find the words that they are supposed to find.

Three letterwordscan also be key to finding new words--so, students don't need to ignore three-letter words, they just need to make sure they explore them and only mark them when included in a larger word. When my students ask me about a three-letter word they have found, I encourage them to look around the word in all directions to see if it is connected to a largerword. (Sometimes it is and that's awesome!)

## COMPLFION (RNDING ALOF THE WORDS) IS NOTTHE MAIN GOAL

My last tip today is a note about completion. While my 7-day word study cycle includes at least two 15-20 minute blocks for students to work on their word searches, I personally do not get hung up on whether or not students find all 20+ words in their word searches. When students come to the ta ble to meet with me for "Meet with the Teacher" time, they generally start by opening to their word searches and seeing if they can find more words. This givesme a minute to help everyone else get settled into their assignments.

I usually start the meeting by having students go a round and share the words they have found. We sort them on a whiteboard or chart paperwhile they are sharing the words. Believe it or not, this is really motivating, and while I expect students to listen as we share and sort words, they also working hard to locate the new words in their word searches. (I am sure to pause to give them a chance to do this). I believe this share time helps motivate students to be productive when they are working on their word searches independently. They know they will get to share how many words they found when we meet together and they love being a student who found a word no one else has found yet.

an engaging, effective way to search for and internalize word patterns

## aligned with Word Sorts for Letter-Name Alphabetic Spellers, 3rd Edition



## Red Sort 1 Find 24 Words Beginning Consonant Sounds: $b, m, r, s$

Words can be found across, down, diagonal, backwards, and forwards.
As you look through the word search, circle the words you find and record the words in your word study notebook. Organize the words by the way they look or sound. You may do this as you find words or after you have found them all.



As you look through the word search, circle the words you find. Sort the words into groups and record them in the boxes by thinking about the sounds each word makes and/or the way the word is spelled.

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## Red Sort2 <br> Find 23 Words Beginning Consonants t, g, n, p

Words can be found across, down, diagonal, backwards, and forwards.
As you look through the word search, circle the words you find and record the words in your word study notebook. Organize the words by the way they look or sound. You may do this as you find words or after you have found them all.

| $\begin{array}{llllllll}a & i & l & s & u & m & m \\ n & n & u & f & f & x & m \\ a & e & b & o & r & f & u \\ m & g & f & w & e & y & y \\ x & a & l & e & p & i & g \\ c & \dagger & h & l & g & z & z \\ n & e & y & l & b & r & w \\ a & n & u & h & u & a & k \\ d & d & n & t & w & q & u \\ u & z & \dagger & i & x & t & u \\ h & f & g & r & c & z & a \\ i & h & p & e & f & w & o\end{array}$ |
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As you look through the word search, circle the words you find. Sort the words into groups and record them in the boxes by thinking about the sounds each word makes and/or the way the word is spelled.

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## Red Sort3 Find 24 Words Beginning Consonants $c, h, f, d$

Words can be found across, down, diagonal, backwards, and forwards.
As you look through the word search, circle the words you find and record the words in your word study notebook. Organize the words by the way they look or sound. You may do this as you find words or after you have found them all.

| $d$ | $i$ | $s$ | $h$ | $e$ | $s$ | $k$ | $v$ | $c$ | $u$ | $i$ | $a$ | $g$ | $i$ | $m$ | $q$ | $r$ | $c$ |
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| $b$ | $r$ | $p$ | $a$ | $g$ | $p$ | $f$ | $j$ | $b$ | $w$ | $w$ | $w$ | $u$ | $w$ | $o$ | $s$ | $j$ | $i$ |
| $m$ | $h$ | $o$ | $u$ | $s$ | $e$ | $b$ | $o$ | $g$ | $u$ | $c$ | $p$ | $h$ | $o$ | $o$ | $k$ | $n$ | $f$ |
| $z$ | $k$ | $n$ | $f$ | $h$ | $o$ | $s$ | $e$ | $u$ | $a$ | $v$ | $a$ | $g$ | $k$ | $l$ | $b$ | $c$ | $o$ |
| $q$ | $o$ | $r$ | $u$ | $m$ | $j$ | $o$ | $x$ | $g$ | $r$ | $f$ | $i$ | $n$ | $c$ | $n$ | $i$ | $r$ | $r$ |
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| $p$ | $c$ | $n$ | $n$ | $b$ | $l$ | $d$ | $l$ | $r$ | $o$ | $d$ | $k$ | $n$ | $z$ | $m$ | $x$ | $h$ | $f$ |
| $r$ | $q$ | $g$ | $d$ | $m$ | $h$ | $n$ | $o$ | $x$ | $b$ | $i$ | $c$ | $a$ | $f$ | $h$ | $s$ | $f$ | $s$ |
| $p$ | $c$ | $k$ | $k$ | $i$ | $q$ | $y$ | $d$ | $g$ | $l$ | $c$ | $v$ | $z$ | $g$ | $d$ | $p$ | $s$ | $a$ |
| $y$ | $c$ | $f$ | $a$ | $n$ | $u$ | $e$ | $f$ | $o$ | $x$ | $e$ | $c$ | $k$ | $w$ | $q$ | $k$ | $c$ | $u$ |
| $b$ | $b$ | $e$ | $a$ | $z$ | $d$ | $z$ | $g$ | $d$ | $d$ | $z$ | $s$ | $i$ | $c$ | $a$ | $q$ | $u$ | $e$ |
| $c$ | $i$ | $j$ | $d$ | $d$ | $i$ | $v$ | $e$ | $c$ | $g$ | $e$ | $f$ | $u$ | $f$ | $s$ | $d$ | $c$ | $o$ |
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As you look through the word search, circle the words you find. Sort the words into groups and record them in the boxes by thinking about the sounds each word makes and/or the way the word is spelled.

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## Red Sort 4 <br> Find 24 Words Beginning Consonantsl, k, j, w

Words can be found across, down, diagonal, backwards, and forwards.
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Red Sort 2

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Red Sort 3

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Red Sort 4


aligned with Word Sorts for Within Word Pattern Spellers, 3rd Edition
an engaging, effective way to search for and internalize word patterns


## Yellow Sort (20 words) Short and Long a

Words can be found across, down, and diagonal.
As you look through the word search, circle the words you find and record the words in your word study notebook. Organize the words by the way they look or sound. You may do this as you find words or after you have found them all.



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## Yellow Sort 2 <br> ( 20 words) <br> Short and Longi

Words can be found across, down, and diagonal.
As you look through the word search, circle the words you find and record the words in your word study notebook. Organize the words by the way they look or sound. You may do this as you find words or after you have found them all.



As you look through the word search, circle the words you find. Sort the words into groups and record them in the boxes by thinking about the sounds each word makes and/or the way the word is spelled.


## Yellow Sort3 ( 20 words) Short and Longo

Words can be found across, down, and diagonal.
As you look through the word search, circle the words you find and record the words in your word study notebook. Organize the words by the way they look or sound. You may do this as you find words or after you have found them all.

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| $b$ | $h$ | $x$ | $e$ | $u$ | $r$ | $v$ | $r$ | $o$ | $a$ | $d$ | $r$ | $g$ | $h$ | $o$ | $s$ | $f$ |
| $a$ | $p$ | $i$ | $x$ | $n$ | $c$ | $p$ | $y$ | $x$ | $d$ | $r$ | $o$ | $x$ | $l$ | $c$ | $j$ | $p$ |
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Within Word Pattern ansuier keys

Yellow Sort 1


Yellow Sort 2

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## Yellow Sort 3

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Yellow Sort 4

## Word Study yard searches


an engaging, effective way to search for and internalize word patterns
aligned with Word Sorts for Syllables and Affixes Spellers, ard Edition


## Green Sort 1 (20 words) Review of Vowel Patterns in One Syllable Words

Words can be found across, down, diagonal, backwards, and forwards.
As you look through the word search, circle the words you find and record the words in your word study notebook. Organize the words by the way they look or sound. You may do this as you find words or after you have found them all.



As you look through the word search, circle the words you find. Sort the words into groups and record them in the boxes by thinking about the sounds each word makes and/or the way the word is spelled.

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## Green Sort 2 (24 words) Adding -ing to CVC and CVCC Words

Words can be found across, down, diagonal, backwards, and forwards.
As you look through the word search, circle the words you find and record the words in your word study notebook. Organize the words by the way they look or sound. You may do this as you find words or after you have found them all.


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As you look through the word search, circle the words you find. Sort the words into groups and record them in the boxes by thinking about the sounds each word makes and/or the way the word is spelled.

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## Green Sort 3 ( 24 words) Adding-ing to CVCe and CVVC Words

Words can be found across, down, diagonal, backwards, and forwards.
As you look through the word search, circle the words you find and record the words in your word study notebook. Organize the words by the way they look or sound. You may do this as you find words or after you have found them all.

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As you look through the word search, circle the words you find. Sort the words into groups and record them in the boxes by thinking about the sounds each word makes and/or the way the word is spelled.

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## Green Sort 4 (24 words) <br> Review Double, E-Drop, and Do Nothing

Words can be found across, down, diagonal, backwards, and forwards.
As you look through the word search, circle the words you find and record the words in your word study notebook. Organize the words by the way they look or sound. You may do this as you find words or after you have found them all.



As you look through the word search, circle the words you find. Sort the words into groups and record them in the boxes by thinking about the sounds each word makes and/or the way the word is spelled.

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Syllables and Affixes ansuier keys

Green Sort 1


Green Sort 2


Green Sort 3


Green Sort 4


## Word Study yor or searches




## Blue Sort1 ( 24 words) <br> Comparative Suffixes (-er, -est, -ier, -iest)

Words can be found across, down, diagonal, backwards, and forwards.
As you look through the word search, circle the words you find and record the words in your word study notebook. Organize the words by the way they look or sound. You may do this as you find words or after you have found them all.



As you look through the word search, circle the words you find. Sort the words into groups and record them in the boxes by thinking about the sounds each word makes and/or the way the word is spelled.

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## Blue Sort2 <br> ( 24 words) <br> Suffixes ( $-\mathrm{y},-1 \mathrm{y}$, -ily)

Words can be found across, down, diagonal, backwards, and forwards.
As you look through the word search, circle the words you find and record the words in your word study notebook. Organize the words by the way they look or sound. You may do this as you find words or after you have found them all.


As you look through the word search, circle the words you find. Sort the words into groups and record them in the boxes by thinking about the sounds each word makes and/or the way the word is spelled.

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## Blue Sort3 <br> ( 24 words) Suffixes (-ment, -less, -ness)

Words can be found across, down, diagonal, backwards, and forwards.
As you look through the word search, circle the words you find and record the words in your word study notebook. Organize the words by the way they look or sound. You may do this as you find words or after you have found them all.


As you look through the word search, circle the words you find. Sort the words into groups and record them in the boxes by thinking about the sounds each word makes and/or the way the word is spelled.

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## Blue Sort 4

## (24 words)

## Prefixes (in-, un-, dis-, mis-)

Words can be found across, down, diagonal, backwards, and forwards.
As you look through the word search, circle the words you find and record the words in your word study notebook. Organize the words by the way they look or sound. You may do this as you find words or after you have found them all.

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As you look through the word search, circle the words you find. Sort the words into groups and record them in the boxes by thinking about the sounds each word makes and/or the way the word is spelled.

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Derivational Relations ansuier keys
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Blue Sort 1


Blue Sort 2


## Blue Sort 3



## Blue Sort 4




DID A COLLEAGUE SEND YOU A LINK TO THIS RESOURCE? OR, DID YOU JUST FIND A RANDOM LINK ONLINE? IF SO, NICE TO MEET YOU!

YOU MAY WANT TO CHECK OUT THIS BLOG POST WHERE I SHARE MY CYCLICAL WORD STUDY SCHEDULE AND ROUTINE THAT HAS MADE ALL THE DIFFERENCE IN GETTING MY WORD STUDY BLOCK TO RUN LIKE A FINE-TUNED ORCHESTRA...THE DREAM, RIGHT?!
Hope to see you there, Tammy
 TARHEELSTATE /eacher BREWING DIFFERENTIATED SUCCESS AND SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL WELLNESS in the upper elementary dassroom $\longrightarrow$

