

Rebecca Sitton's APPLESEED



PLANT THE SEEDS TO GROW SPELLING AND WORD-SKILL LITERACY.

What's Current?

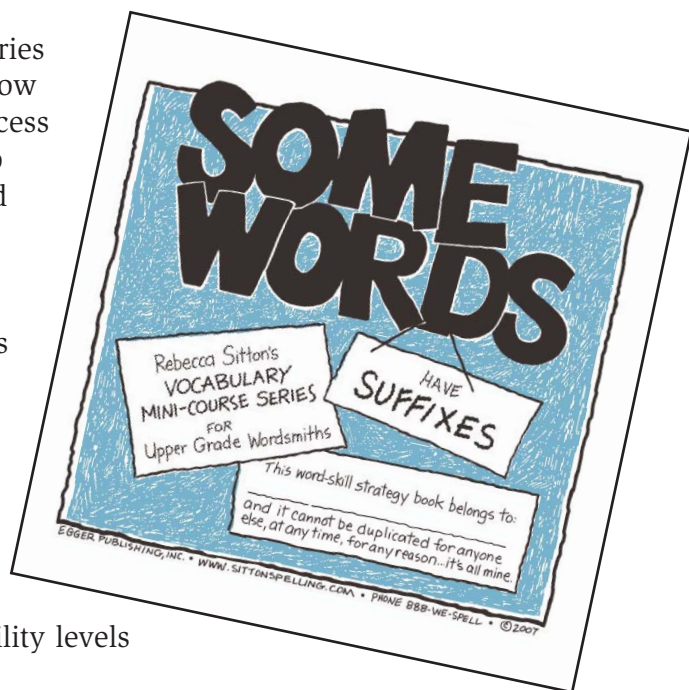
Want vocabulary? There's a new kid on the block!

There's a new kid on the block—[SOME WORDS!](#) I'm writing a new mini-course series to support your effort to develop students' vocabularies. You asked for it—and here it is!

The first booklet in the new vocabulary mini-course series is *SOME WORDS Have Suffixes*. Its focus is suffixes—how to make hundreds of words through a step-by-step process of adding suffixes to base words and roots, and how to understand and use the words for reading, writing, and thinking.

Why vocabulary? Because vocabulary counts! Limit one's vocabulary—limit their chance to succeed! That's what the research says.

Research clearly verifies that vocabulary size is the major indicator of success both in and out of school. Students with the most well-developed vocabularies score higher and perform better on all language-based tests and in all subject areas. A wide body of research shows that achievement for students of all ability levels increases in proportion to their vocabulary growth.



English-language learners' gaps in reading performance and related communication skills are associated with gaps in vocabulary knowledge. Studies substantiate that vocabulary is their most significant challenge. So, particularly for this group of learners, opportunities to strengthen vocabulary and knowledge of how the English language works are vital.

Familiarize yourself with this research—here's a quick way. Go to the International Reading Association website, www.reading.org. Search the site for "vocabulary" and you'll find umpteen scientific studies and scholarly papers to unequivocally provide the evidence that vocabulary is the single most powerful factor influencing student achievement.

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What's Current? (continued)

The SOME WORDS Series came to be as a result of your request to provide your students research-based instruction and practice. First, you told me you needed a program that:

- must be aligned with research and state documents for word-skill standards,
- must pique students' interest in vocabulary—no “write-the-definition” exercises,
- must be inexpensive,
- is not a basal, but something to reinforce all reading and word work,
- can be completed independently by students,
- has nothing for teachers to run off—paper budgets are already spread thin, *and*
- requires absolutely no teacher prep—end of story.

Second, I studied the research to determine which practices and approaches rendered the best results in the least amount of time.

SOME WORDS Have Suffixes and *SOME WORDS Have Prefixes* are available now. Next on the publication agenda:

- *SOME WORDS Are Homophones Mini-Course I* (November 2006)
- *SOME WORDS Are Homophones Mini-Course II* (December 2006)
- *SOME WORDS Have Greek and Latin Word Parts* (Spring 2007)
- *SOME WORDS Are Often Confused* (Spring 2007)

Check our website, www.sittonspelling.com, for availability, more information, and sample pages.

Each booklet in the series is thirty-two consumable pages, each page with an on-another-paper extension activity. So far, all booklets in the SOME WORDS mini-course series are designed for the upper grade student—SOME WORDS mini-courses for primary students are in the works. By upper grade, I mean fourth grade and above, depending upon students' needs and abilities. Students complete the booklets independently and have fun while they're developing essential word-awareness skills tied to all the communication arts!

Yes, they're affordable! A package of ten is \$11.99. You can [place an order](#) directly from our website for in-stock titles, or you can preorder titles not yet available by calling Northwest Textbook Depository at 800-676-6630—then you'll be the first to receive them when they roll off the press.

Let's continue to work together to support literacy in alignment with the research, teach students words, how they work, and how to use them! Start with “the new kids on the block,” *SOME WORDS Have Suffixes* and *SOME WORDS Have Prefixes*. And let me know how it goes—I want to hear from you and your students, too!