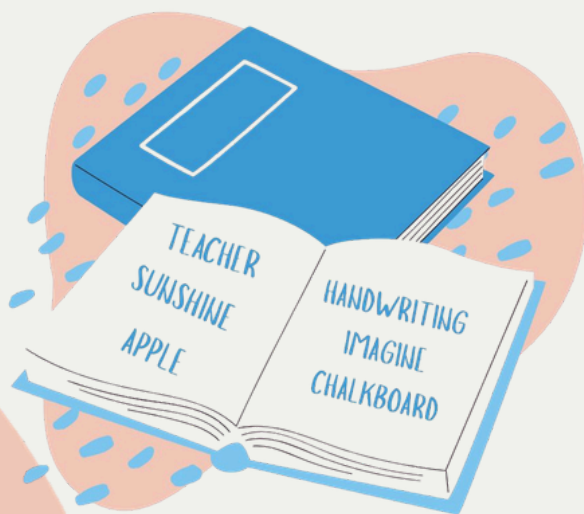


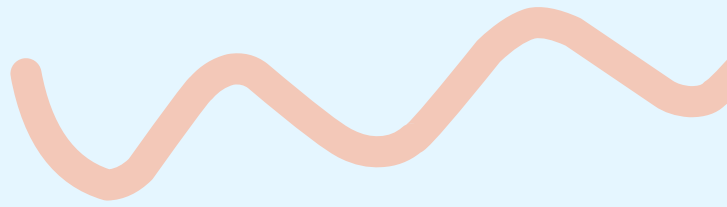


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PODCAST LISTENING GUIDE:
***Multisyllabic
Word Reading***



Hi Teacher Friends!



Welcome to the Podcast Listening Guide!

We know the Science of Reading can sometimes feel big and overwhelming. That's why we started the Melissa & Lori Love Literacy podcast. Each week, we talk with researchers, teachers, and literacy experts who break down the research and share ideas you can try right away.

This guide pulls those conversations together around one focused topic. Use it for:

- **your own learning**
- **team discussions**
- **school-wide PD**

You'll find:

- **episodes grouped by topic**
- **conversation starters and classroom takeaways**
- **space to jot down notes or next steps**

There is never enough time in a teacher's day. Between lessons, kids who need you, and stacks of grading, it is a lot. Podcasts make learning feel doable. You can listen in the car, while setting up your room, or when you finally have a quiet moment to yourself at home.

However you use it, we hope this guide helps you feel encouraged, supported, and ready to try something new.

We can't wait to keep learning with you,

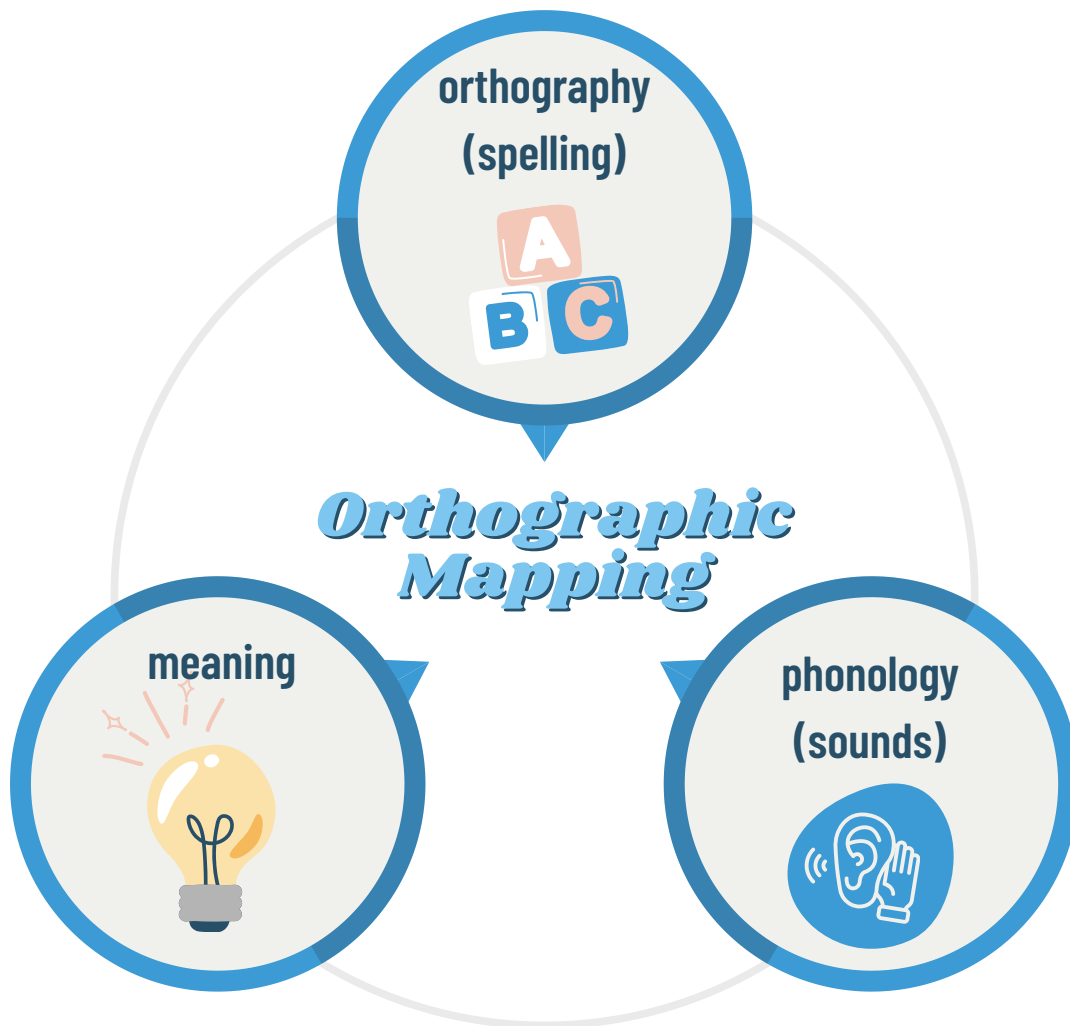
♡ *Melissa & Lori*



Multisyllabic Word Reading

Why is multisyllabic word reading important?

Multisyllabic word reading is important because many academic and content-area words contain multiple syllables, and students must be able to decode them efficiently to access grade-level texts. Developing strategies for breaking words into syllables and recognizing common spelling patterns supports accurate and fluent reading. This work strengthens orthographic mapping, as students repeatedly connect the sounds, spellings, and meanings of larger words, helping those words become stored in long-term memory for automatic recognition.



LISTEN: [Ep. 229: Making Words Stick with Molly Ness and Katie Pace Miles](#)

Multisyllabic Words

Here are three big takeaways about multisyllabic word instruction from Melissa & Lori Love Literacy podcast straight from the voices of researchers and real classrooms:

1 Use Research-Based Routines

When students hit multisyllabic words, reading often slows, but structured, evidence-based routines can make tackling big words more automatic and effective. Practical classroom routines help students read longer words more fluently, which supports comprehension and word recognition over time.

2 Teach Flexible Decoding Strategies

Teach flexible decoding strategies that help students break down and read longer words in authentic classroom contexts. This includes teaching how and when to use syllables and morphemes so students can approach multisyllabic words systematically.

3 Set Students Up for Variability

Part of effective word instruction is helping students learn to navigate unpredictable patterns (like schwa sounds and vowel shifts) in multisyllabic words. This doesn't mean guessing! It means teaching students how to use what they know about language structure to make informed, strategic word-reading decisions.



Together, these practices help students read and remember new words. The episodes in this guide highlight ideas from researchers and classroom teachers, including Brennan Chandler, Devin Kearns, Melissa Orkin, Jessica Toste, and of course, our teacher friends! You'll find routines you can try tomorrow.

Helping Students Read Multisyllabic Words

with Devin Kearns



EPISODE: 228

Helping Students Read Multisyllabic Words

with Devin Kearns

LISTEN TO THE EPISODE

Researcher Devin Kearns explain why students sometimes hit a wall when they encounter longer words. You'll learn practical, research-backed ideas for helping students decode multisyllabic words.

Devin shares smart, flexible decoding strategies, when and how to teach syllables and morphemes, and what real classroom "set for variability" looks like (spoiler: it's not guessing!).

Episode Resources

Read [Helping Students with Dyslexia Read Long Words Using Syllables & Morphemes](#). And don't miss page 4. It's a must-see mini dictionary packed with key terms for multisyllabic word reading!

While You Listen

What I Want to Remember	What I Want to Try
<i>Listen for how meaningful word parts can help students read and make sense of multisyllabic words.</i>	<i>Notice how Devin suggests we help students be flexible with words.</i>

Research-Based Routines for Multisyllabic Word Reading

with Jessica Toste & Brennan Chandler



EPISODE: 237

Research-Based Routines for Multisyllabic Word Reading

with Jessica Toste & Brennan Chandler

 [LISTEN TO THE EPISODE](#)

Researchers Jessica Toste and Brennan Chandler tackle what to do when kids hit a big word. You'll learn a six-step multisyllabic word reading routine you can teach your students to employ when they come to a big word.

The conversation is full of practical, ready-to-use strategies that help kids break big words into manageable pieces and read them with fluency.

Episode Resources

This [6-Step Multisyllabic Word Routine](#) is a repeatable routine that teaches students how to read longer words. Try it tomorrow in your classroom!

While You Listen

What I Want to Remember	What I Want to Try
<i>Pay attention to the role flexibility plays when students read bigger words.</i>	<i>Listen for routines that help students tackle long words without getting overwhelmed.</i>



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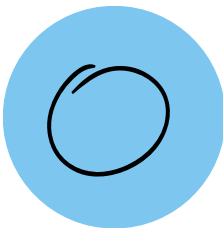
6-Step Routine for Multisyllabic Word Reading



Underline the vowels in the word.



Join vowel teams so they stay together.



Circle the word parts you recognize.



Count the syllables in the word.



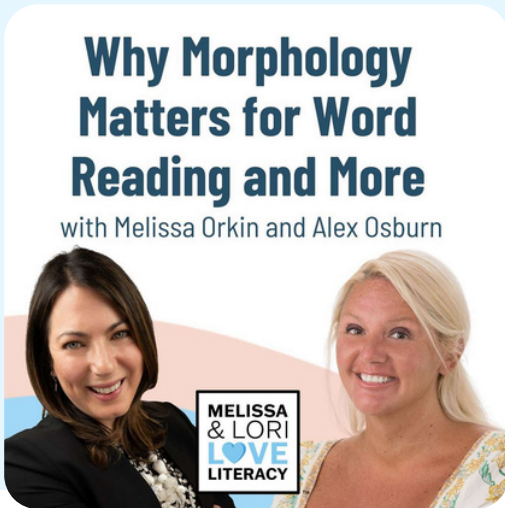
Break the chunks apart and read them



**Read the whole word aloud and check:
"Does it sound right? Is it a word I know?"**

EPISODE: 238

Why Morphology Matters for Word Reading & More with Melissa Orkin & Alex Osburn



 **LISTEN TO THE EPISODE**

Experts Melissa Orkin and Alex Osbourn explore how morphology adds powerful meaning and decoding support. You'll learn why morphology is essential, especially in grades 3-6, because it connects word reading, vocabulary, and comprehension.

They share practical, classroom-tested ways to teach morphology, from explicit routines to meaningful vocabulary activities that help students actually make sense of words.

Episode Resources

Watch [this video](#) to see what morphology instruction looks like with students! You'll see a teacher modeling thinking, prompting students, and making word parts visible.

While You Listen

What I Want to Remember	What I Want to Try
<i>Listen for how morphology acts as a bridge between decoding and comprehension.</i>	<i>Notice how explicit instruction plus application leads to deeper word understanding.</i>

COMING SOON



Strategies for Reading Multisyllabic Words

with Don Compton & Laura Steacy



EPISODE: 255

Strategies for Reading Multisyllabic Words

with Don Compton & Laura Steacy

 LISTEN TO THE EPISODE

In this episode, we explore why multisyllabic words can be especially challenging for developing readers. Researchers Don Compton and Laura Steacy explain what’s happening when students get stuck and what they need to do differently to be successful. We also discuss the role of flexibility, word parts, and meaning in reading longer words.

Plus, we introduce a practical tool—the d-ELP—that can help you choose words for instruction and assessment.

Episode Resources

The [d-ELP \(Developmental English Lexicon Project\)](#) is a free, research-based tool that helps teachers explore word features and difficulty levels to better select words for instruction and assessment.

While You Listen

What I Want to Remember	What I Want to Try
<p><i>Listen for more on why multisyllabic words require more than just decoding (flexibility, word knowledge, and attention to meaning).</i></p>	<p><i>Listen for ways to guide students to flexibly adjust their pronunciations (“set for variability”).</i></p>

COMING SOON



Intervention for Adolescent Readers

with Faith Howard



EPISODE: 256

Intervention for Adolescent Readers with Faith Howard

 LISTEN TO THE EPISODE

In this episode, we talk with interventionist Faith Howard about what students can do when they encounter unfamiliar words in a text. She shares practical routines, including word pyramids for decoding and a simple approach to connecting spelling and reading. Faith also explains a weekly fluency routine that helps build accuracy, automaticity, and expression over time.

You'll walk away with clear, manageable strategies to support students with complex words in connected text.

Episode Resources

Faith shares a simple, structured weekly fluency routine that builds students' accuracy, automaticity, and expression through repeated practice with connected text. Read about it [here!](#)

While You Listen

What I Want to Remember	What I Want to Try
<p><i>How are clear, repeatable routines helpful for students when they encounter multisyllabic words?</i></p>	<p><i>Notice a new routine you would like to try, like word pyramids or a structured fluency plan!</i></p>

COMING SOON

Helping Every Reader
Move Past the
Decoding Threshold

with Rebecca Kockler

MELISSA
& LORI
LOVE
LITERACY

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EPISODE: 257

***Helping Every Reader
Move Past the
Decoding Threshold***

with Rebecca Kockler

 LISTEN TO THE EPISODE

Expert Rebecca Kockler dives into the “decoding threshold.” She explains how students can look strong in early literacy, only to hit a wall in middle school when texts get longer, denser, and packed with multisyllabic words. If students fall below that decoding threshold, comprehension growth stalls.

Decoding instruction shouldn’t retire after elementary school; it needs to bulk up alongside vocabulary and morphology as language gets more complex.

Episode Resources

The **Decoding Threshold** is the minimum level of word-reading accuracy and automaticity a student needs to reach before their reading comprehension can meaningfully improve. The Threshold changes from text to text!

While You Listen

What I Want to Remember	What I Want to Try
<p><i>Listen for how Rebecca defines the Decoding Threshold.</i></p>	<p><i>Notice how morphology, vocabulary, and spelling work together.</i></p>

Bringing It Together...



1 What's one new thing you learned about multisyllabic word instruction that surprised or challenged you?

2 How might you try the six-step multisyllabic word reading routine this week?

3 How can you make multisyllabic word instruction more intentional across your day (or across classes)?

Making It Happen...



What is one routine or strategy you're going to try first, and why this one?



How will you build this into your current literacy block? What might it sound or look like in action?



What needs to be in place for this to go well?

Learn More: Multisyllabic Words



Melissa & Lori Blog

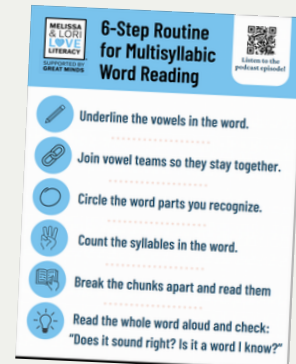
- **Practical Routines
for Multisyllabic
Word Reading**

Resources We Love

- **6-Step Multisyllabic Word
Reading Routine**

Resources We Love

- **Word Connections
(Free Reading
Intervention)**





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[*The Literacy 50 Book*](#)

CERTIFICATE

OF COMPLETION

proudly presented to

in recognition of their successful completion of the

**MULTISYLLABIC WORD LISTENING GUIDE
(6 HOURS)**

You've shown your dedication to growing your knowledge and sharpening your practice. This achievement celebrates your commitment to learning, your curiosity about the science of reading, and your hard work turning insights into impact.

Date:

MELISSA & LORI LOVE LITERACY

