Exceptional Expressions For Everyday Events

Writing is a form of communication that people use everyday. It can be as simple as jotting down a list of groceries, or it can be as complex as producing a research paper. Writing can also be as full of emotions as a love letter.

In a classroom, students have many opportunities to write. Students can write in their notebooks about a science experiment, or they can write on a computer a class report about Ancient Egypt. Look at the different ways people can write. Encourage students to use a new word everyday.

Follow-Ups

- If someone is in a hurry, would he or she: (a) scribble a note or (b) compose a message?
- How is typing different from writing?
- Is signing a note the same as drafting a note?
- When might someone engrave a message rather than write a note?
- Would someone pencil in a report on the Rocky Mountains or would someone compose the report?
- At what time might you want to jot something down?

The Spanish Connection

The word write comes from an Old English word, writan. Writan came from an Old Frisian word, writa, that means “to score, write.” The Spanish word for to write is escribir. Write is not a cognate of escribir, however, escribir comes from the Latin word scribere. It is suggested that the word scribe came from the Latin word scribere. One definition of scribe is a person whose official duty is to write or record text. Scribe is also the root for words such as describe, inscribe, and prescribe. The definitions of these three words are tied to writing or communication through words. Scribere is also the origin of the words scribble and scrabble.

Word Changes

- Write is most commonly used as a verb.
- There are nouns derived from the word write, such as writing (a written work) and writ (a type of legal document).
- The surface or the device used for writing might be associated with specific words. For example, when people use a computer to write a report they are typing the report, or a writer may pen a letter.
Write

- Write as in to write using a device that makes the text permanent
  - inscribe
  - carve
  - engrave

- Write as in to write quickly
  - jot
  - note
  - drop a line
  - scribble
  - scrawble
  - annotate
  - scrawl
  - pencil

- Write as in to write music
  - record
  - compose
  - arrange

- Write as in to write literature
  - pen
  - draft
  - author
  - draft
  - publish
  - outline

- Write with the use of a specific device
  - type
  - text
  - chat

- Write as in to write your name
  - sign
  - autograph

- COMMON PHRASES
  - Write up
  - Write in
  - Write out
  - Write back

- THE SPANISH CONNECTION
  - to inscribe / inscribir
  - to autograph / autografiar
  - to annotate / anotar
  - to publish / publicar

- IDIOMS
  - Nothing to write home about
  - Write one’s ticket
  - Write something on the back of a postage stamp
  - Write (someone/something) off
  - Drop a line
  - Pencil in

- SAME SOUND, DIFFERENT SPELLINGS
  write, right, & wright
  Wright is an old word for worker. It is rarely used by itself but it is used in words such as playwright (someone who writes plays).
Write
Write

Derivational Suffixes & Prefixes
- writer
- writers
- written
- unwritten
- rewrite
- rewrites
- rewriting

Compound Words
- write-in
- write-off
- write-up
- write out
- write down
- writer’s block
- handwriting
- typewriter
- songwriter
- typewritten
- copy writer
- ghostwriter
- underwritten
- skywriting

Inflected Endings
- writes
- writing

Irregular Spelling
- wrote

Morphological Family for Write
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