



Quiet

Exceptional Expressions For Everyday Events

Quiet is a word that at least traditionally has been very common for classrooms and libraries, especially while students are reading and thinking. **Quiet** is a flexible word that is useful as an adjective, noun, and verb. It can describe a lowered volume, like a hushed voice, but **quiet** can also refer to something that makes no sound at all, like silence.

Teachers often comment on the appropriate noise level of an activity. Sometimes students are asked to read part of a text aloud to a partner or to give an answer out loud. Perhaps more typically, teachers' directions to students focus on decreasing rather than increasing the noise level. Students are told to read silently, or they are instructed to take a quiet time after lunch or recess. One common usage of **quiet** is as a command. A teacher may say to an overly boisterous class: "Quiet!"

Follow-Ups

- How is being calm different from being quiet?
- What are some words that you can use to quiet a classroom?
- When is it reasonable to expect complete silence?
- When is it proper to ask students not to divulge certain information to others?

The Spanish Connection

Quiet is an Anglo-Norman and Middle French word for peace or tranquility. This word may have been based on the Latin *quietus*. The Spanish word for **quiet** differs in its meaning and usage. For example, the Spanish word for **quiet** in the phrase "a quiet day in the office" is *tranquilo*. In this case, *tranquilo* is also the Spanish cognate of **tranquil**. **Quiet** is an example of how words in different languages can have the same root, but slightly varying definitions and usages.

Word Changes

- One definition for **quiet** as a noun is a calm, peaceful state. A baby sister sleeps soundly in the quiet of her crib. A hiker enjoys the quiet of a forest.
- Yet another definition for **quiet** is to keep information a secret from others. A teacher may ask a student to avoid sharing test answers with other students by saying, "Keep these quiet."
- As noted, **quiet** can be a noun, verb, or adjective. A few members of its morphological family also serve as different parts of speech. Careful attention is needed to distinguish the ways in which these words are being used.



Quiet



Quiet as a state of being

- placid
- serene
- still
- tranquil
- calm
- low-keyed

Quiet as in to not divulge information

- secret
- divulge

Quiet as a command

- hush
- shush
- silence
- calm (down)
- settle

Quiet as in a low volume

- soft
- inaudible
- hushed
- muted
- subdued
- faint
- suppressed
- stifled
- muffled
- low-pitched
- lowered



Quiet

IDIOMS

- Quiet as a church mouse
- So quiet you can hear a pin drop
- Keep it on the QT
- Keep it on the down low
- This is very hush-hush
- Don't rat me out

THE SPANISH CONNECTION

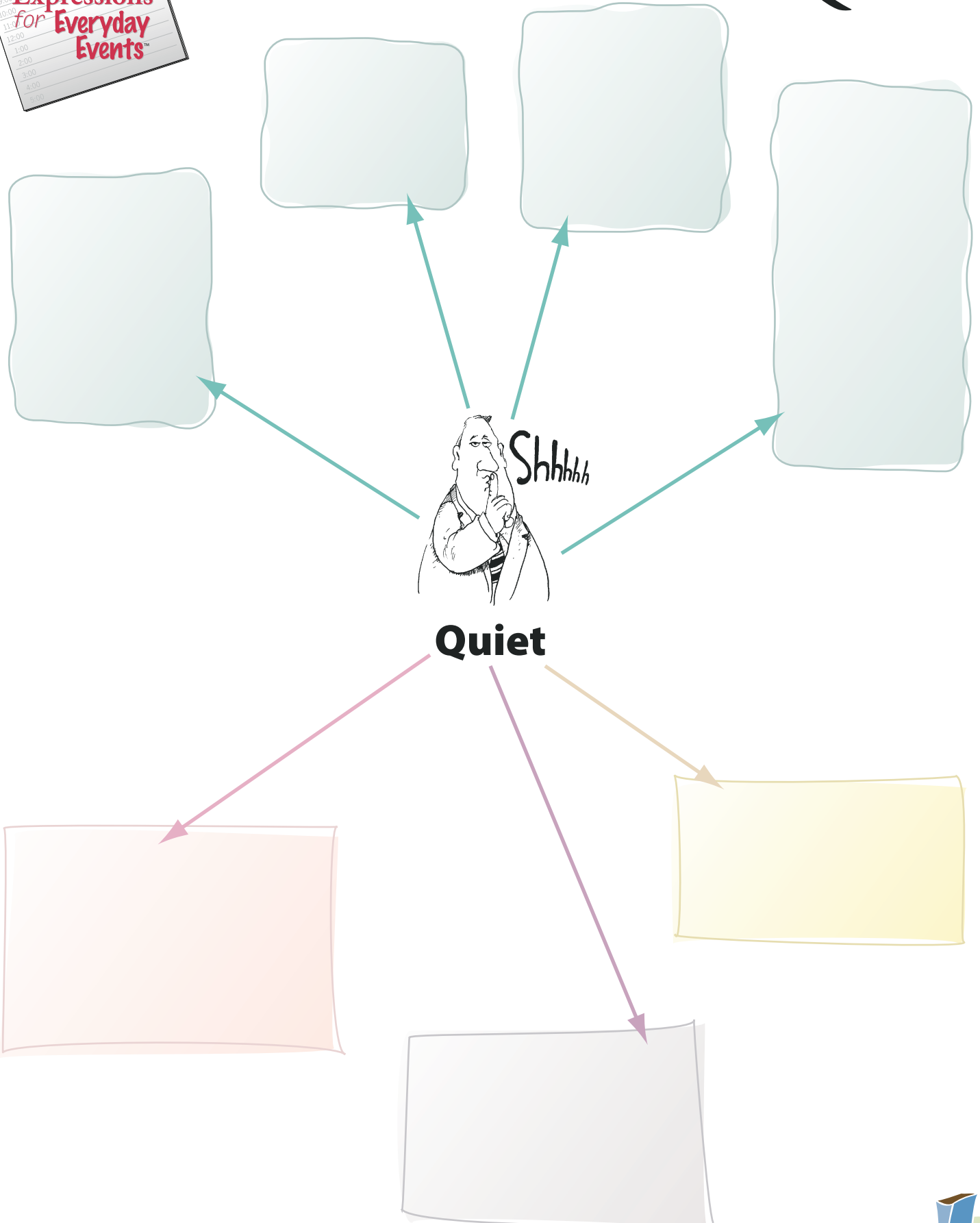
- silent / silencio
- tranquil / tranquilo
- serene / sereno
- placid / placido

COMMON PHRASES

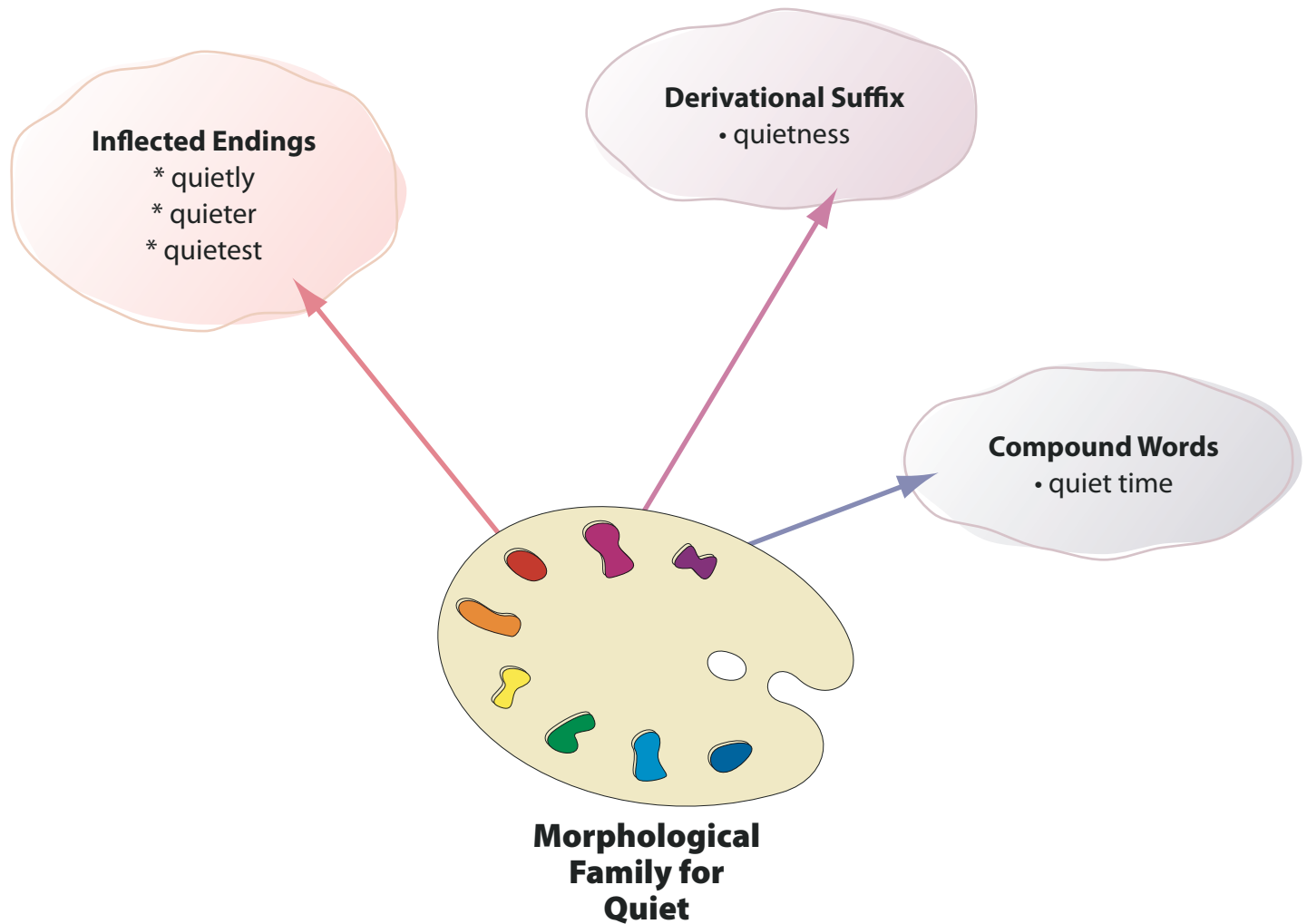
- Top secret
- All quiet on the western front
- The silent majority
- Silence is golden
- Pipe down



Quiet



Quiet



Quiet

