



Want

Exceptional Expressions For Everyday Events

Want is another word that clearly expresses a basic idea, but that can include a wide range of nuanced meanings. The verb **want** commonly describes a wish, desire, need, or craving for something. Teachers want their students to be on time, seated, and ready to work when the school bell rings. A student may want another piece of paper, or some assistance, from the teacher. Every desire of the princess was filled, she wanted for nothing. A person lost in a desert desperately wants water.

The word **want** can also refer to lacking or being deficient in some way, as in “The house wants painting.” Often this is expressed using the phrases “for want of” or “in want of.” For want of a buyer, the house sat empty. The crops were dying for want of rain. A teacher might tell a student that her paper has many grammatical errors and is in want of a good proofreader.

Want may be used to convey a mild wish, a hoped for but nonessential desire, a strident demand, or an absolutely critical need. The many synonyms for want are useful to clarify the many degrees of this concept.

Follow-Ups

- How is wanting a good grade different from needing a good grade?
- How does mandating a set of school standards differ from wanting a set of school standards?
- What does it mean to yearn for something?

The Spanish Connection

Want is an adaptation of an Old Norse word, *vanta*, which meant “lacking.” One can see a logical expansion of “lacking” to the meaning “need.” The Spanish word for **want** is not a cognate, but some of the synonyms for **want** do have Spanish cognates. For example, the cognate of the word **need** is *necesitar*.

Word Changes

- The idiom “waste not, want not” refers to a belief that if we do not squander our resources we will have them when we really need them. For example, if we don’t leave the faucet running while we are brushing our teeth and flossing, then we help conserve water for the future. If we avoid spending money on frivolous things that we do not need, then if our car breaks down we are more likely to have money saved to fix it.
- Another idiom or phrase is “want in” or “want out.” After watching the pickup basketball game for a few minutes, Albert wanted in.



Want



Want as in to have a longing for

- pine
- yearn
- long
- covet
- desire
- wish
- crave

Want as in to need something

- demand
- require
- need



Want

COMMON PHRASES

- Wanted man
- What more do you want?
- Gotta/Have to have it
- I want in/out
- Just where you want them
- To your heart's desire
- For want of a better word
- Want for nothing
- All I want
- Free from want

IDIOM

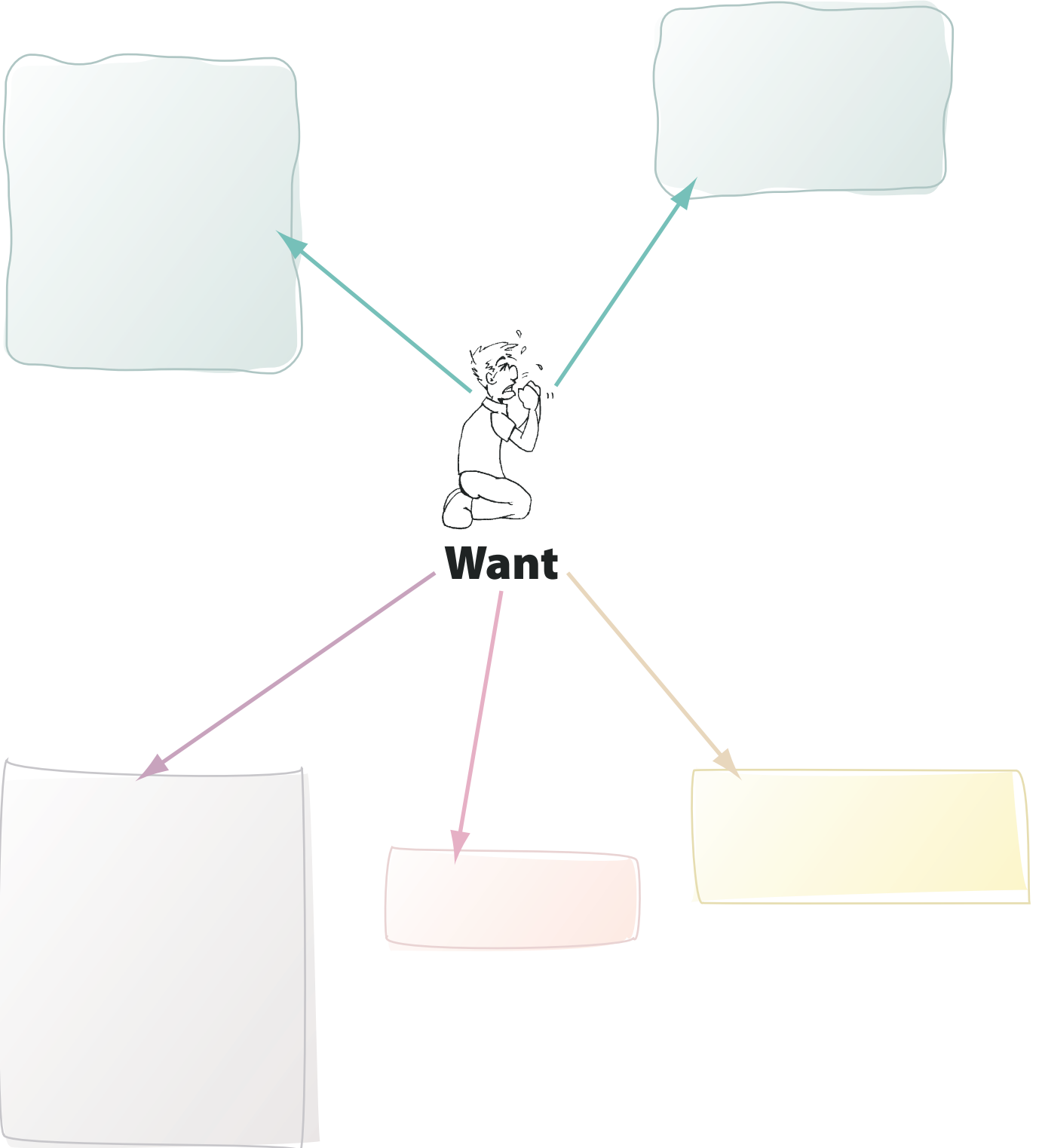
- Waste not, want not

THE SPANISH CONNECTION

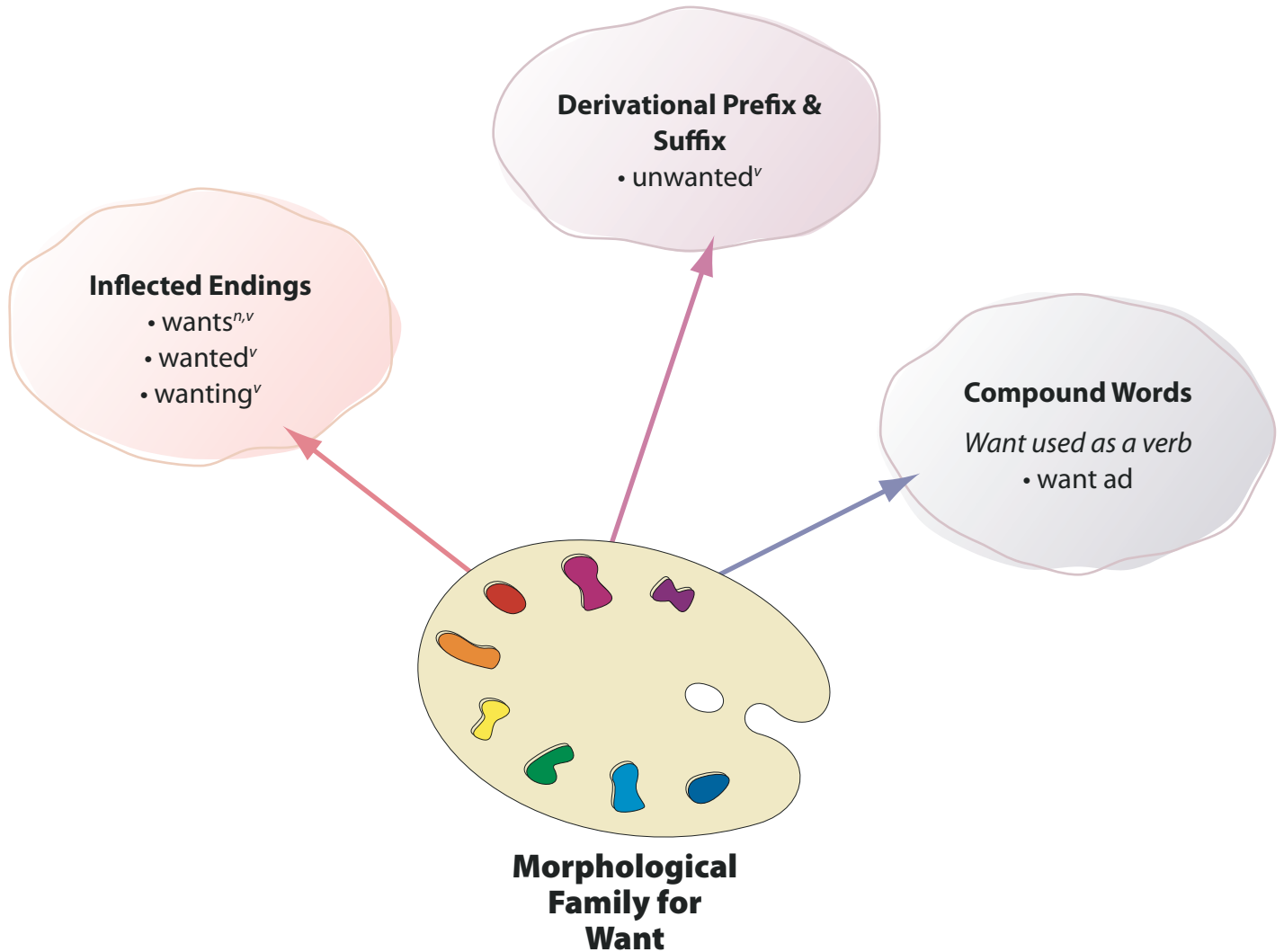
- To desire / desear
- To require / requerir



Want



Want

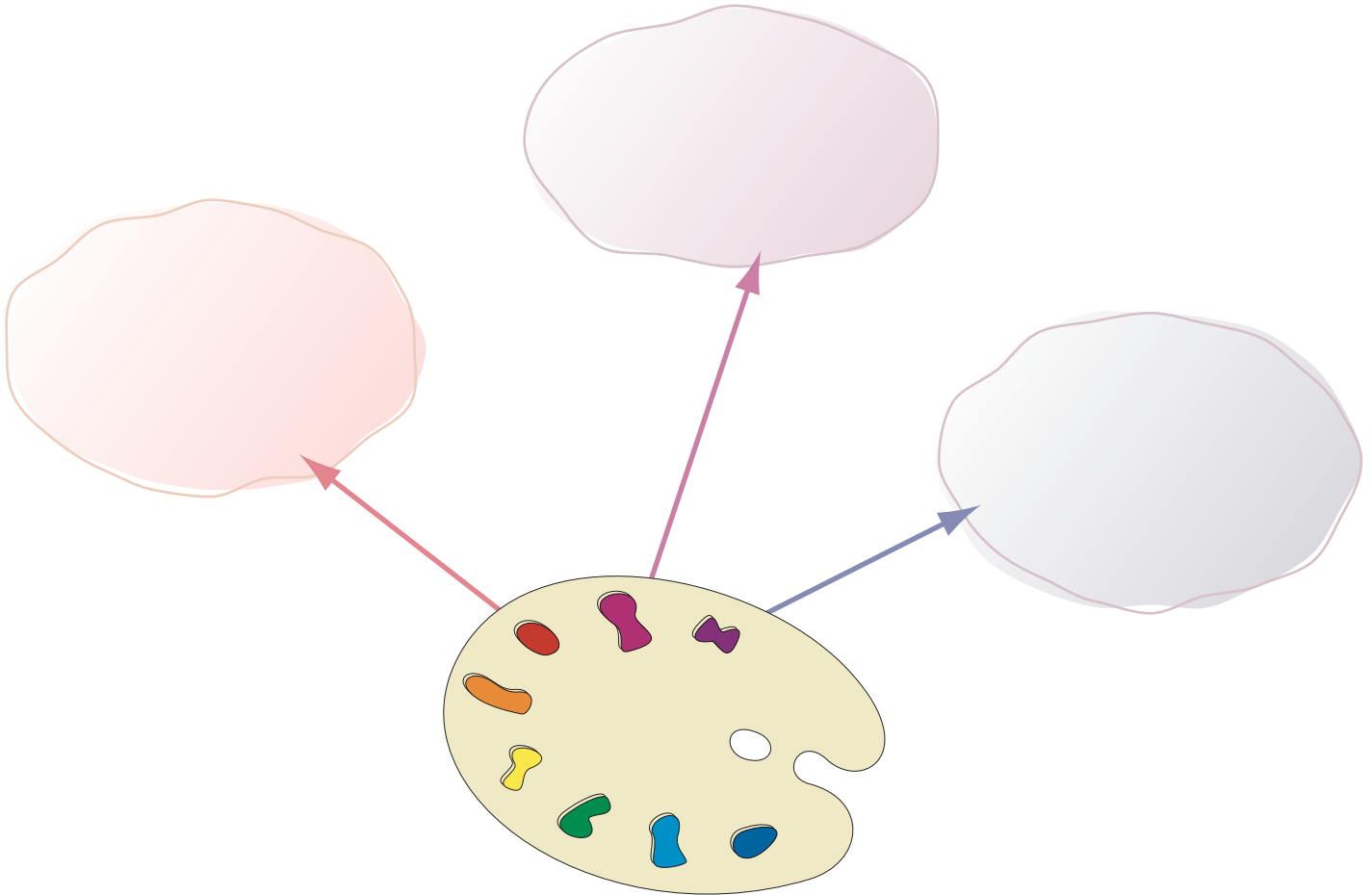


ⁿ Want used as a noun

^v Want used as a verb



Want



**Morphological
Family for
Want**