



Fast

Exceptional Expressions For Everyday Events

Fast is a versatile word, with many meanings and uses as well as synonyms. The most common use of **fast** is as an adjective or adverb referring to speed. Some people love to drive fast cars, which leads them at times to drive too fast. Being the fastest runner is an advantage for an athlete. An approaching hurricane will bring fast changes in the weather.

The word **fast**, however, also appears in expressions such as “fast friends,” which means friends who feel very close, and “colorfast,” which means that the color will not fade or wash out. This use of **fast** is similar to another of its meanings, “hard to move” or “securely.” A frightened child will hold fast to her mother’s hand. Another definition of **fast** is to purposely go without food for health or religious reasons. The act of a person abstaining from food is called a fast, a noun form of the word.

Fast is widely used in colorful idioms, and it is an excellent word to explore on a word line. In addition to learning about **fast**, **faster**, and **fastest**, students can discuss the differences between words such as **quick**, **speedy**, **hasty**, **hurried**, or **breakneck**.

Follow-Ups

- If you do your homework very quickly, will it show your best effort?
- Highways are sometimes called expressways. What might this word tell you about this type of road?

The Spanish Connection

The word **fast** comes from an Old English word, *fæst*, which meant “firmly fixed.” This meaning can be seen today in the verb **fasten** (as in fasten your seat belt) and the expression “held fast” (as in held fast by a rope). **Fast** does not have a Spanish cognate. The Spanish word for **fast** is *rápido*, which is the Spanish cognate for **rapid**.

Word Changes

- In some situations, describing something as fast can carry a hint of sneakiness or deception. Common idioms such as “pull a fast one” and “fast-talk” convey a negative sense of tricking someone.
- Aside from the act of going without food, **fast** isn’t used as a noun. Many common words, however, are derived from **fasten**.
- Often the suffix **-ly** is like a flag in helping students to identify adverbs. **Fast** is a bit unusual in that the adverb keeps the same form. We say “The shortstop moved fast,” not “The shortstop moved fastly.”



Fast



Fast as in without warning

- sudden
- unexpected
- abrupt
- rapid

Fast as in to do something quickly

- speedy
- quick
- swift
- express
- hasty
- prompt
- high-speed
- immediate
- expeditious



Fast

THE SPANISH CONNECTION

- rapid / rapido

IDIOMS

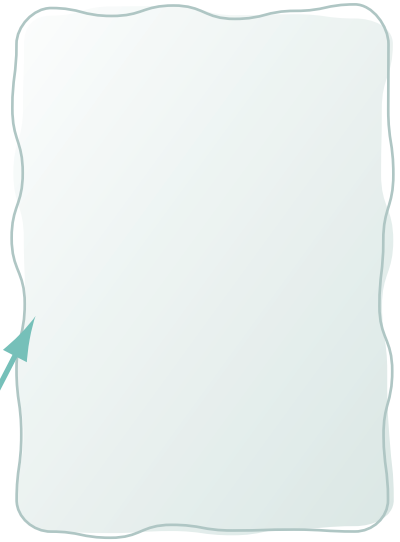
- Pull a fast one (on somebody)
- At a fast clip
- Bad news travels fast
- Fast and furious
- Fast friends
- Fast-talk someone into something
- Get nowhere fast
- Life in the fast lane
- Make a fast/quick buck
- Make short/fast work of someone or something
- On the fast track
- Lightning fast

COMMON PHRASES

- Fast food
- Fast asleep



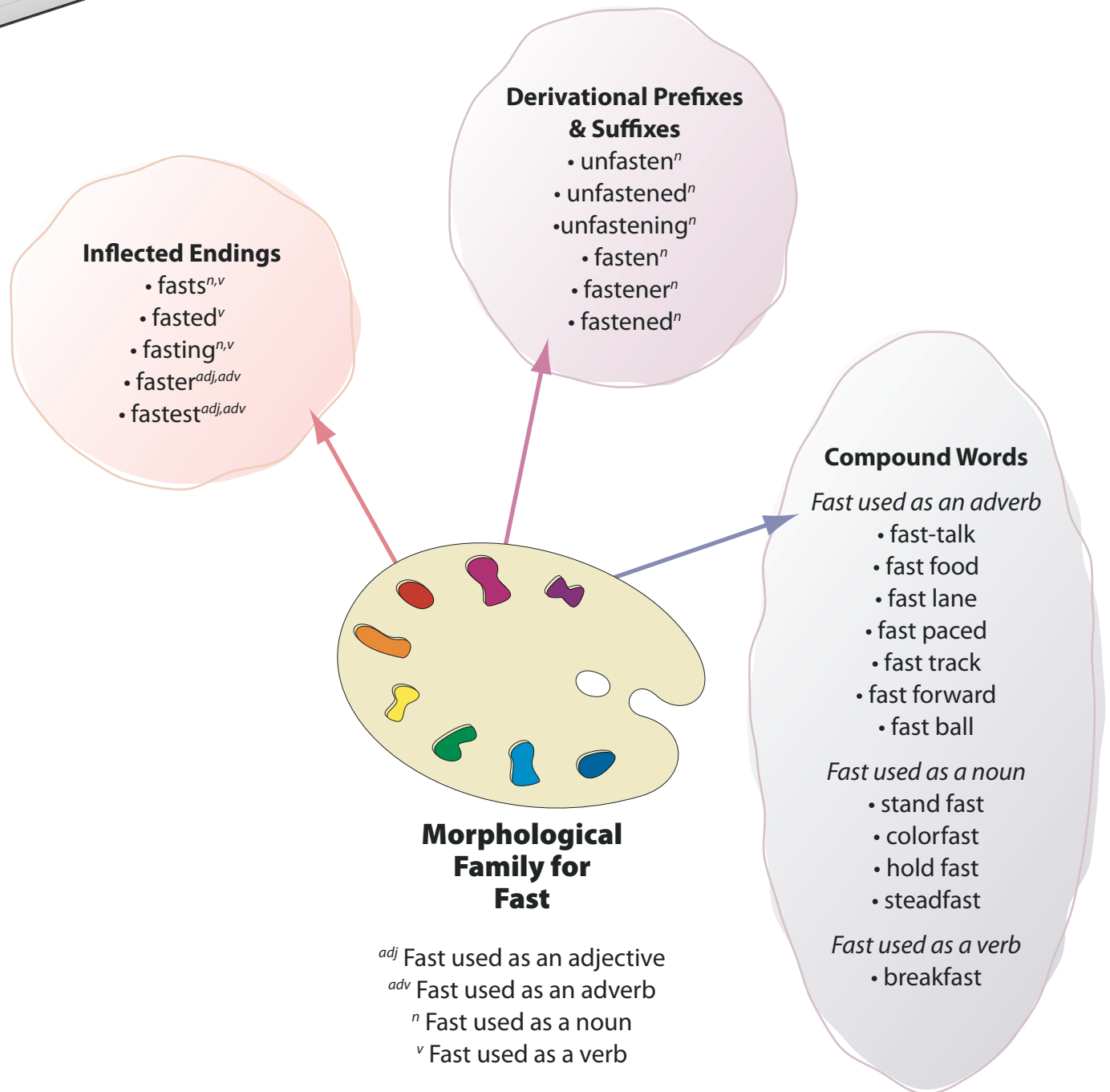
Fast



Fast



Fast



Fast

