Time

Exceptional Expressions For Everyday Events

No time is better than the present to discuss **time**! **Time** is so essential, it can be a bit of a struggle even to define **time** without using the word itself. Think about the passage of time and ways people try to understand and measure time, or consider terms such as timeline, timeout, lifetime, or even the "the time of my life." The word **time**, the ideas it expresses, and the concepts it provokes are rich to explore.

Time can serve as a verb or a noun, and with the addition of **-ly** it becomes (perhaps surprisingly) an adjective, **timely**. The noun usage of **time** is the most common. Daily events often require people to know what time it is at the moment, how much time they need to finish a task, at what time they need to arrive for an appointment. Many words exist to help organize and make sense of time, such as **minute**, **day**, **week**, **month**, **year**, and **century**. Less specific time words include terms like **forever** and **generations**. (Displaying such **time** terms on a word line could be especially useful.)

The verb **to time** is to measure how long something takes to occur, or to schedule. In PE, students might be timed to see how quickly they can run a lap. A rocket or shuttle launch is timed to make sure important steps occur in order.

Follow-Ups

- How many minutes are in a quarter of an hour?

- What famous speech begins: "Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal."?

- How many years are in one term of a U.S. presidency?

The Spanish Connection

Time comes from an Old English word, *tima*. The Spanish word for **time** is *el tiempo*. **Time** and *el tiempo* are not cognates, but some of the synonyms for **time** do have Spanish cognates. Most of the technical or content specific words used to describe **time** come from the Greek word *khronos*. Words such as **synchronous** are derived from *khronos*. A **chronometer** is a device that measures time, a type of **watch**.

Word Changes

- Many common phrases and idioms include the word **time** or the idea of time. "Once in a blue moon" describes an event that occurs infrequently. The explanation for this—that a blue moon is the second full moon in a month and that such moons are rare—has been proven inaccurate, but the idiom remains popular.

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Time as in a long time
- eternity
- forever
- years
- millennium
- era
- decade
- century
- perpetuity
- eon

Time as in a short amount of time
- minutes
- seconds
- momentarily
- moment
- temporarily
- jiffy
- transient
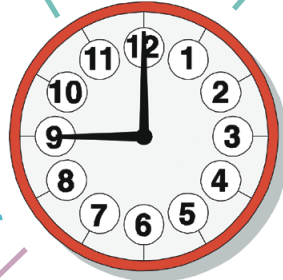- instant

Time as in a vague segment of time
- generation
- lifetime
- age
- timeless
- whenever
- sometimes
- occasionally
- past
- future
- later

Time as in how often an event occurs
- always
- sometimes
- never
- once
- awhile
- postponed
- nocturnal
- diurnal
- chronic

Time as in a specific segment of time period
- cycle
- age
- period
- eon
- month
- day
- term
- duration
- interim
- interval
- weekend
- week
- now

Time

OLD COMMON WORDS
- score
- fortnight
- yesteryear

COMMON PHRASES
- Daylight savings time
- Long ago
- No time like the present
- Once upon a time
- Henceforth
- Quarter of an hour
- Half an hour
- Overnight
- End of an era
- Prime time
- Time zone
- At the same time
- Regulation time
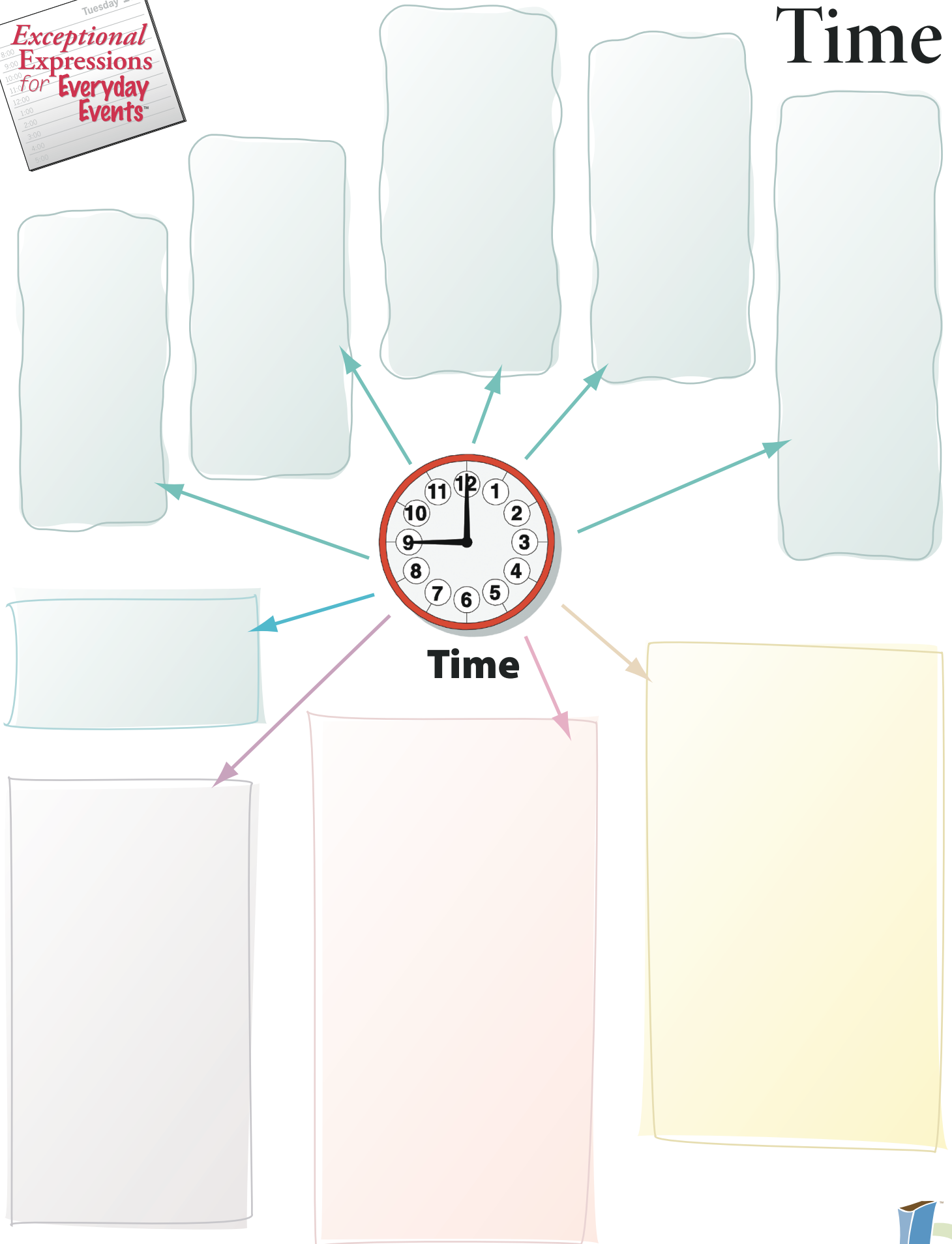- Double-time
- In the meantime

IDIOMS
- Tick tock
- Having the time of your life
- Once in a blue moon
- Time of day
- Against time
- At one time
- Behind the times
- For the time being
- From time to time
- High time
- All in good time
- In no time
- (Just) in time
- On time
- Time after time
- Time and again
- Time on (one's) hands
- In the nick of time

THE SPANISH CONNECTION
- moment / momento
- eternity / eternidad
- millennium / milenio
- era / era
- perpetuity / a perpetuidad
- temporarily / temporalmente
- transient / transitorio(a)
- cycle / ciclo
- instant / instante
- period / período
- eon / eon
- duration / duración
- interval / intervalo
- generation / generación
- nocturnal / nocturno(a)
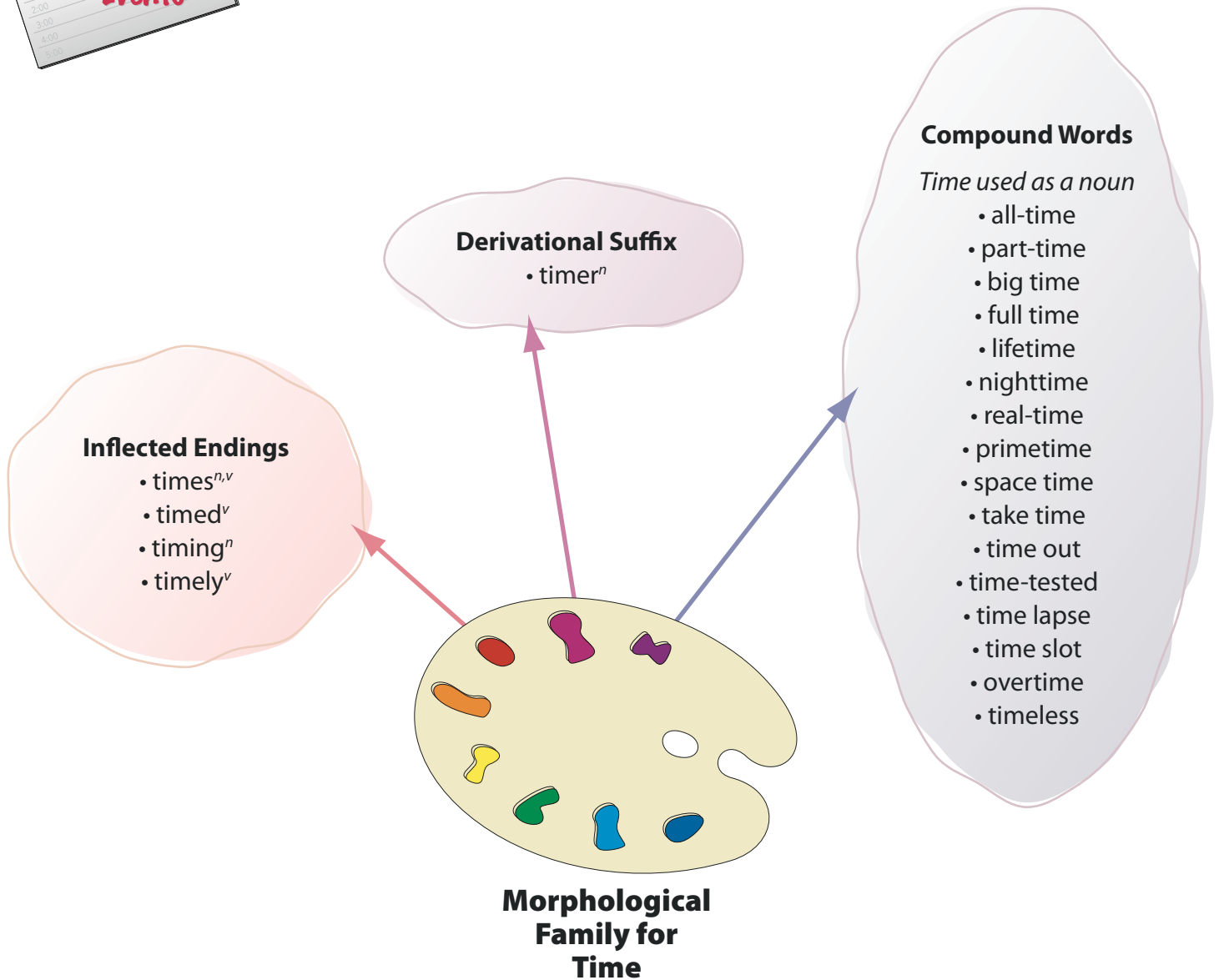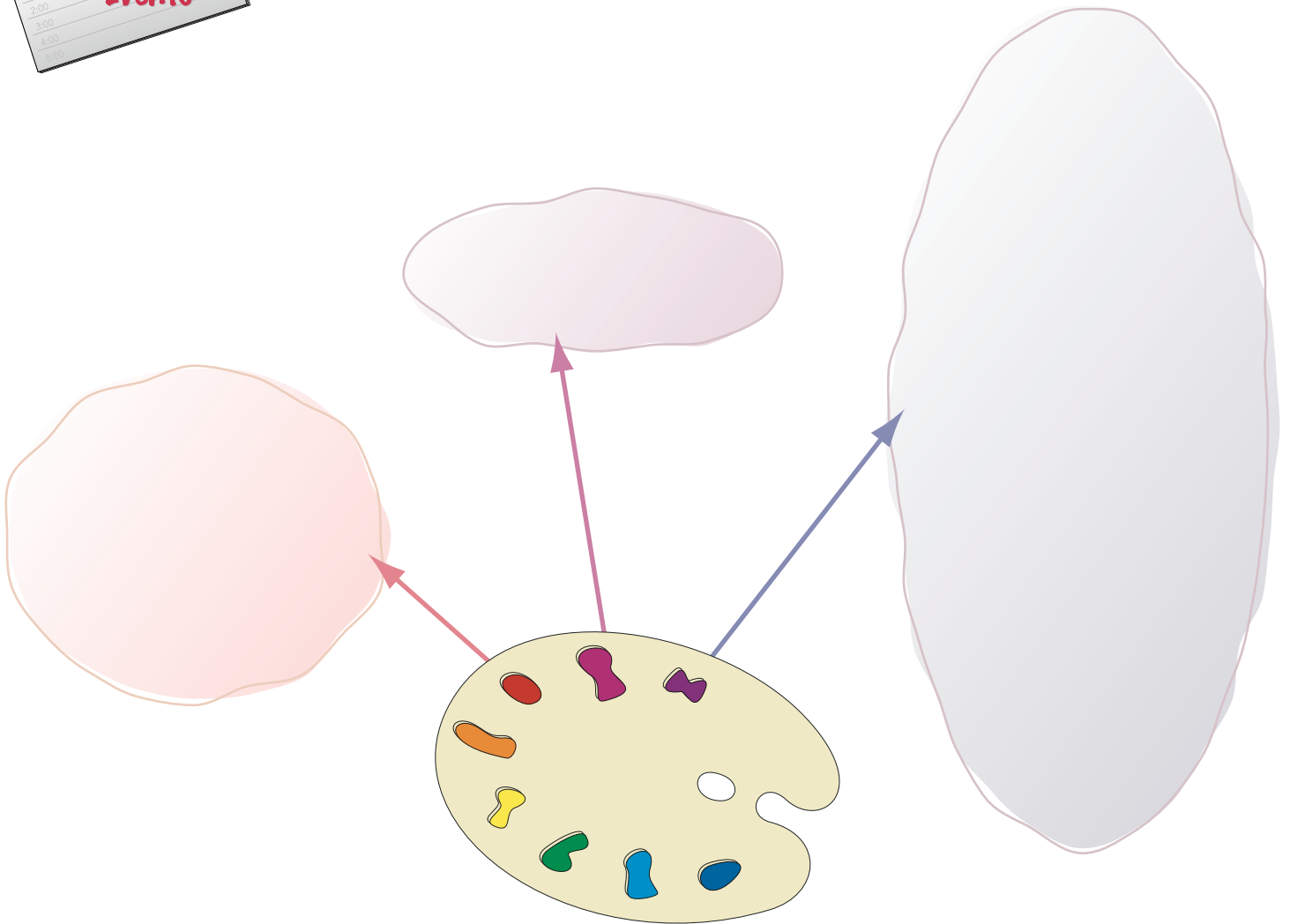- diurnal / diurno
- chronic / crónico(a)

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Compound Words

Time used as a noun
- all-time
- part-time
- big time
- full time
- lifetime
- nighttime
- real-time
- primetime
- space time
- take time
- time out
- time-tested
- time lapse
- time slot
- overtime
- timeless

Derivational Suffix
- timer^n

Inflected Endings
- times^{n,v}
- timed^v
- timing^n
- timely^v

Morphological Family for Time

^{n} Time used as a noun
^{v} Time used as a verb

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Morphological Family for Time