



Focus

Exceptional Expressions For Everyday Events

The focus of this discussion is **focus**! This versatile word can serve as a verb or a noun, and it is useful in quite a few specialized contexts such as math and physics.

The verb **focus** expresses the act of concentrating. A teacher may instruct his class to focus on a specific task, such as a reading assignment, or on a particular topic, like photosynthesis or the word for the day. If students are distracted, their teacher might even use the command, “Focus!”

Focus as a noun is the object or idea of central importance. In writing, the focus of a paper is the main point or thesis of the paper. The focus of a music lesson might be learning a new chord. A lost pet would be the focus of a search.

The word **focus**, furthermore, has specific meanings in geometry, in the study of earthquakes, in computing, and other scientific and technical fields. In physics, **focus** can be defined as the point at which rays of light or other radiation converge. In math, **focus** is the point from which a circle or a curve is generated.

Follow-Ups

- When you prepare for a test, are you concentrating or centering on your studies?
- Could the thesis of a paper be called the bulls eye?

The Spanish Connection

Focus comes from the Latin word *focus*. The definition of the original Latin *focus* was a “domestic hearth” or fireplace. Clearly the meaning of **focus** has changed quite a bit over time, although one can imagine that in early times the fireplace would have been the center of activity in a home. The Spanish word for **focus** is the cognate *foco*.

Word Changes

- Because of the Latin root, the plural of the noun **focus** has traditionally been **foci**, but **focuses** has become very common as well.
- The term “laser beam” comes from the technological processes associated with lasers. The light from a laser is highly focused, enabling some lasers to even burn through materials such as metal. If a person’s attention is described as laser-like, that means the person is focusing intensely.



Focus



Focus as in to concentrate

- concentrate
 - center
- centralize
 - direct
 - fix
- engross
- cogitate
- think

Focus as in the central point

- attention
- focal point
- bulls eye
 - center
 - core
- locus
- thesis



Focus

COMMON PHRASES

- Maintain focus
- Out of focus
- Bring into focus

THE SPANISH CONNECTION

- to concentrate / concentrar
- to center / centrar
- to centralize / centralizar
- attention / atención

IDIOMS

- Buckle down
- Laser beam
- Caught me in their line of sight



Focus

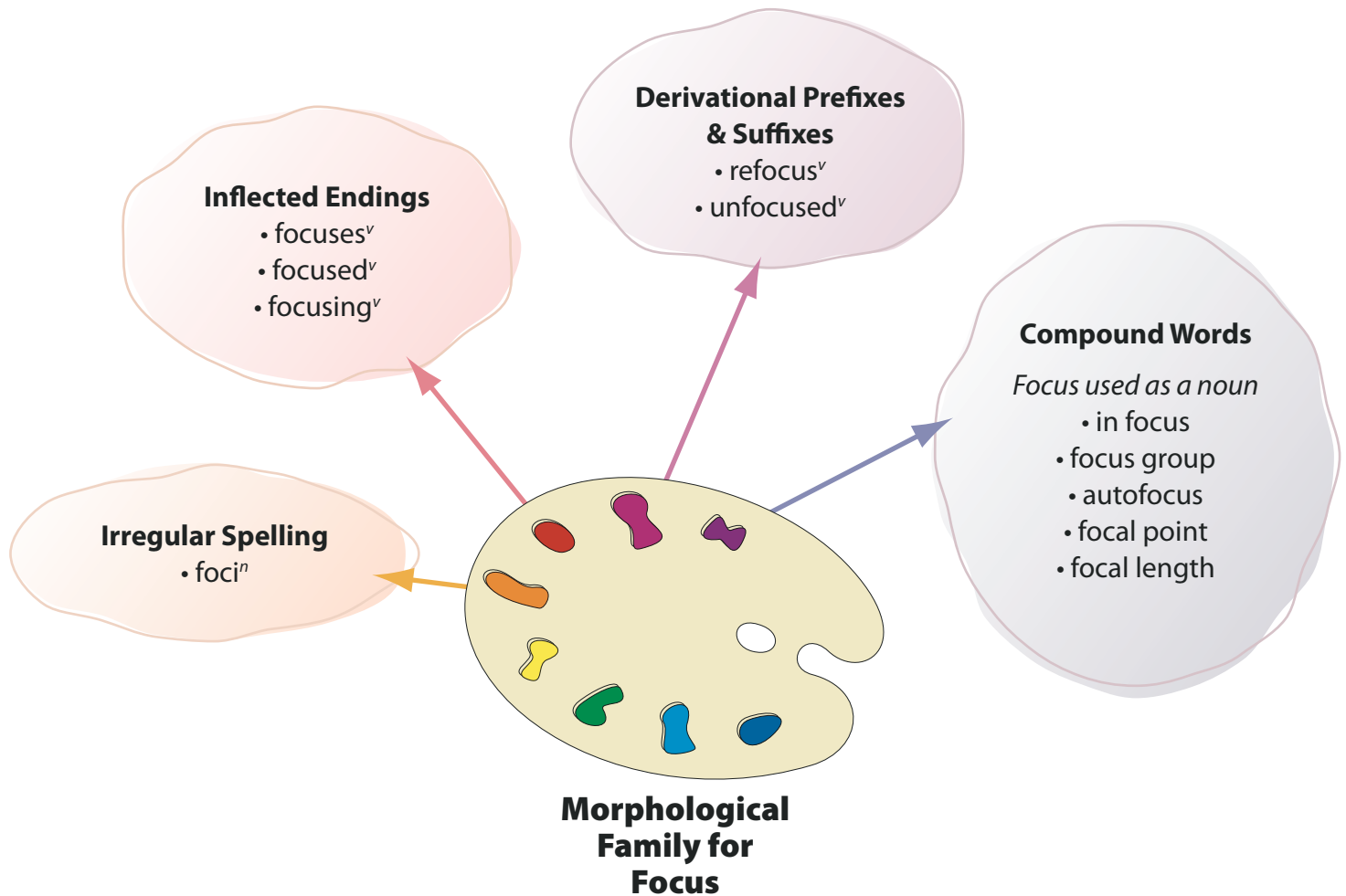


Focus





Focus



ⁿ Focus used as a noun

^v Focus used as a verb



Focus

