Brave

The word *brave* has three primary definitions that students may encounter in the texts they read. The underlining commonality of these definitions is courage. Firemen and women are described as brave, as an adjective, as they run into burning buildings because they are courageous. A person who wears a brave, showy purple lipstick to go with a Halloween outfit is also courageous. This use of the word *brave* is also an adjective. However, the word *brave* is used as a verb when describing an army that braves its enemies in battle. The army is also considered courageous.

Follow-Up

- Have you ever felt brave? What were you doing and how did you feel?

- How is being showy or making a display different than being heroic?

- How has a character in a story you have read been brave?

The Spanish Connection

Brave is considered a Middle French word that was adapted from the word *bravo,* meaning gallant in Italian, savage in Spanish, and barbarous in Portuguese. The word *brave* does not have a Spanish cognate.

Word Changes

Many dictionaries list *brave* as a noun, meaning a Native American warrior. It is important to recognize that this label emerged with the descriptions of early explorers and developed as colonization and settlement evolved. *Brave* is not what Native American warriors self-identified as. With over 500 tribes and many different nations and languages, the term for a warrior was actually very specific to a tribe, nation, or language. It also perpetuates the idea that all tribes had warriors or fought frequently.

Brave

Super Synonym Sets for Stories

Brave as in making a display (adj)
- showy
- colorful
- impressive
- flashy

Brave as in possessing courage (adj)
- courageous
- valiant
- fearless
- bold
- gutsy
- dauntless
- heroic
- gallant

Brave as in to face or deal with a challenge (v)
- face
- confront
- dare
- challenge
- defy
- endure

Brave

COMMON PHRASES
- Fortune favors the brave
- Be brave

IDIOMS
- Put on a brave face

SPANISH CONNECTIONS
- to argue / argumentar
- to dispute / disputar
- to debate / debater
- to refute / refutar
- to discuss / discutir

Brave

Super Synonym Sets for Stories

Brave as in making a display (adj)

Brave as in possessing courage (adj)

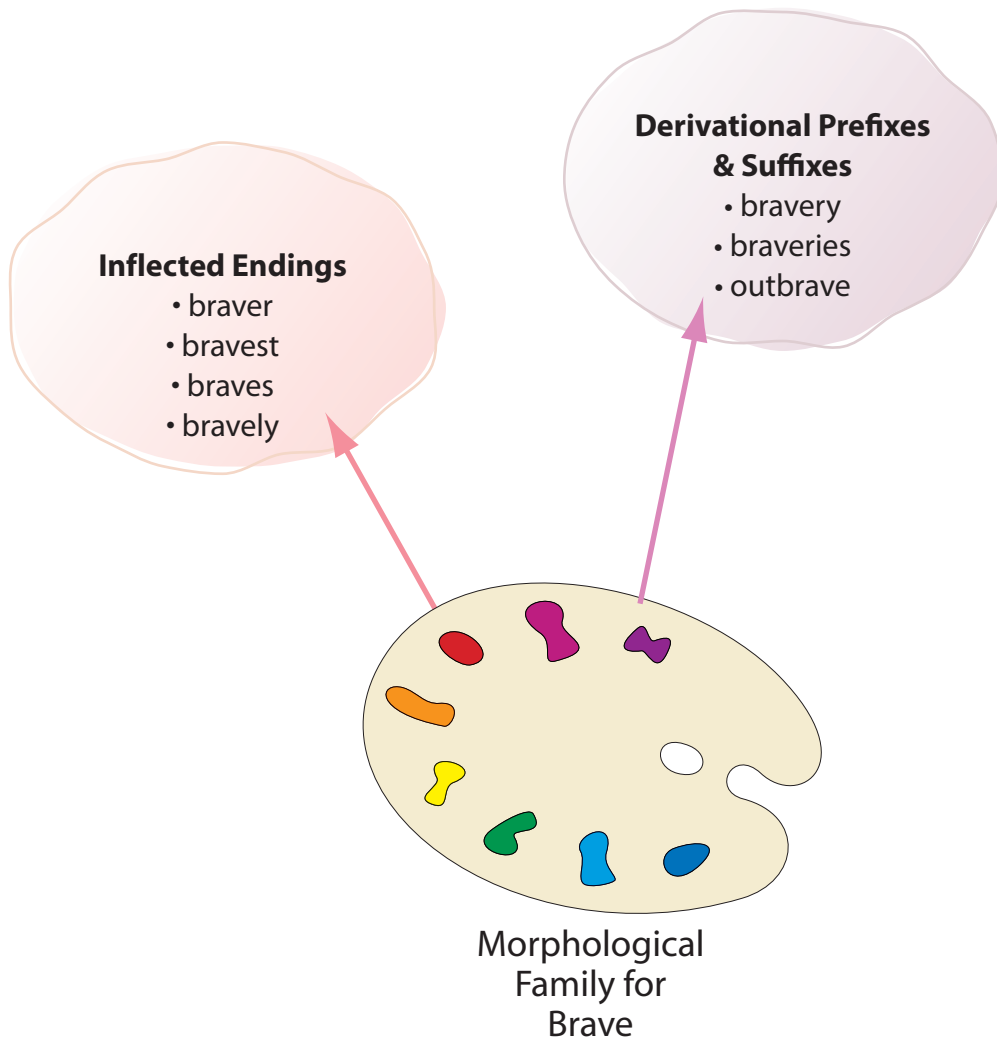**Brave as in to face or deal with a challenge (v)**

Brave

COMMON PHRASES

IDIOMS

SPANISH CONNECTIONS

Brave

Super Synonym Sets for Stories

Inflected Endings
- braver
- bravest
- braves
- bravely

Derivational Prefixes & Suffixes
- bravery
- braveries
- outbrave

Morphological
Family for
Brave

Brave

Inflected Endings

Derivational Prefixes & Suffixes

Morphological
Family for
Brave