



# Said

*Said* is the past tense and past participle form of the word *say*, and it is an unavoidable term for anyone using the English language. Meaning to speak, utter, declare, or express, *said* and *say* could appear in nearly any sentence where one person is conveying information to another. The instructions said this was the proper way to assemble the bicycle. The government report said everyone should eat more fruits and vegetables. Rosa said she would arrive at 4:00 p.m. If anything, the word *said* might be overused, since it is a neutral word that does not necessarily provide much contextual information. Everyday communication can be made more accurate, or more engaging, by using the many synonyms of said.

## Follow-Ups

- When might someone murmur or whisper? Shout or bellow?
- What is the difference between mumbling, “I am glad to see you,” and squealing, “I am glad to see you”?
- Imagine different situations in which someone says “hello,” answers “hello,” whispers “hello,” yells “hello,” and screams “hello.”

## The Spanish Connection

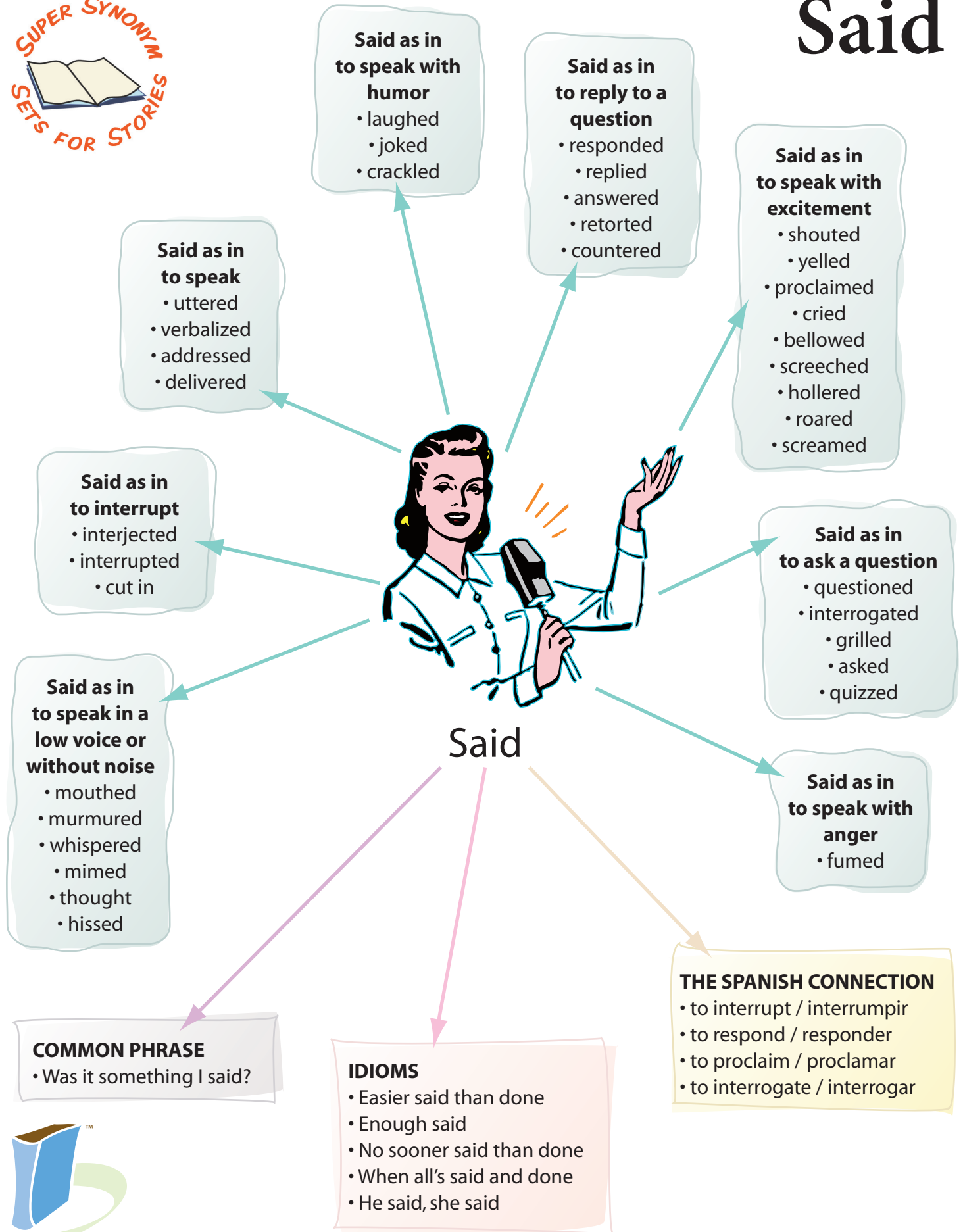
The word *said* comes from an Old English word. But the word *said* can be found in many different languages as well. The Spanish word for *said* is *dije*. It is not a cognate for the word *said*. But many of the synonyms for *said* do have Spanish cognates.

## Word Changes

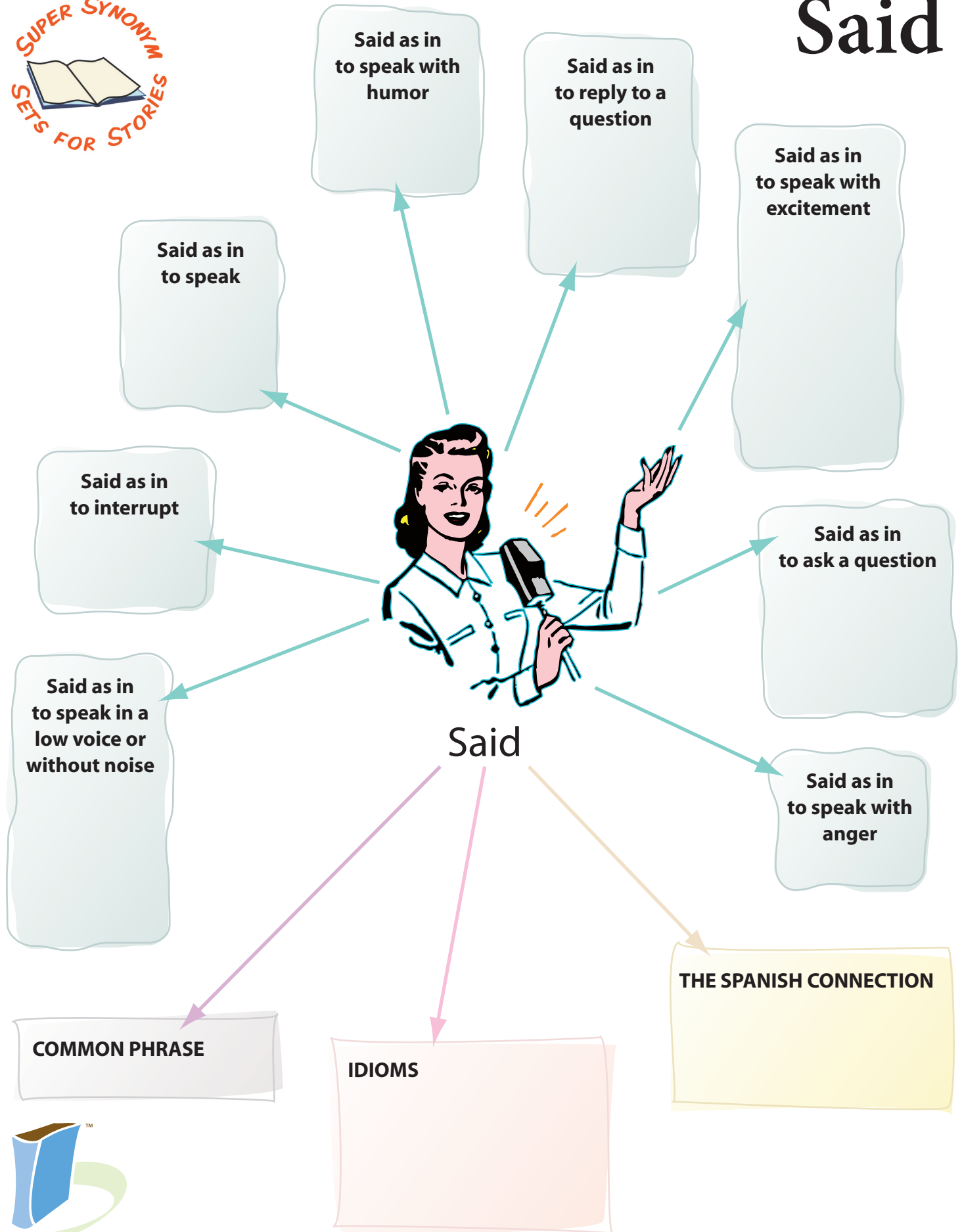
- There are few derivational and inflected endings for *said*. Most members of the morphological family are derived from *say*.
- The idiom “when all is said and done” carries the idea of “after everything has been considered,” or as a phrase setting up a summary statement or end result. For example, “I spent 20 minutes explaining what happened to the book, but when all was said and done, I still had to pay the library fine.” Losing our luggage was very inconvenient, but when all was said and done we still enjoyed our vacation.
- One very specific use of *said* as an adjective occurs in legal language meaning something or someone that has already been mentioned (or the aforesaid). For example, a rental contract between a landlord and a tenant might mention each by name in the first sentence. Then in the rest of the contract, they would be referred to as “said landlord” and “said tenant.”



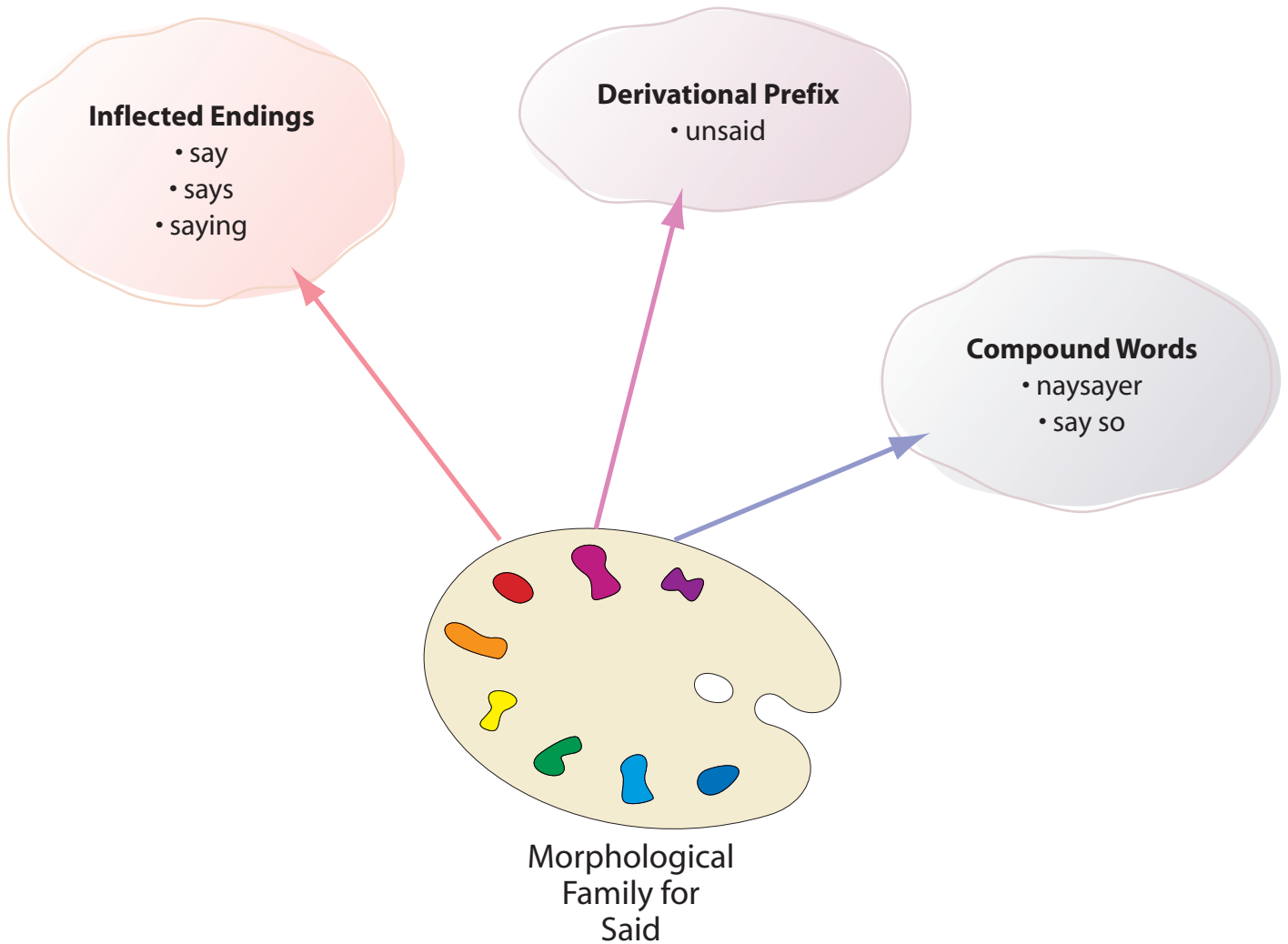
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