



Think

Let's think about ways to use the word **think**. In a classroom, regardless of the activity, the primary goal is to encourage students to think. **Think** is most often used as a verb meaning to focus one's mind on something, to use one's mind to connect ideas. It can also mean to hold certain beliefs or opinions. Teachers may ask their students to think about the solution to a math problem. Teachers may also use techniques to help show students thinking processes. Thinking can be as simple as deciding what to wear for the day, or it can be as complex as pondering the meaning of life. Thinking may take only a split second of inspiration, or it may require an extended process of reviewing and revising over many years, as with a scientific breakthrough.

Although most common as a verb, **think** also appears on occasion as a noun and even an adjective. Informally, one might say, "This situation has really confused me. I need to take a walk and give it a good think." As an adjective, **think** is used in combinations such as think tank, think piece, and think session. These expressions all convey the idea that an expert, or a group of experts, is focusing deeply and analytically on an issue.

Follow-Ups

- When choosing a present for someone special, do you want to think you have a good gift, or know you have a good gift?
- When thinking of a solution on a math test, do you want to persevere on a single problem?
- What is the difference between brainstorming and researching a problem?

The Spanish Connection

Think comes from the Middle English *thenken* or *thinken*, and it is related to the Dutch and German *denken*. The Spanish word for to think is *pensar*. **Think** and *pensar* are not cognates. But some of the synonyms for **think** do have Spanish cognates.

Word Changes

- The past tense and past participle of **think** take an unusual form: thought. The word thought can be used as a noun and as a verb.
- **Think** can be used as a term to direct people's acts and thoughts. For example, the phrase "Think green" is a suggestion for people to consider changing their behaviors to help the environment. Using refillable water bottles and cloth grocery bags are ways for people to "Think green."
- A **think tank** refers to an organization or institution where a group of knowledgeable or experienced people study and write about specific problems, often political or economic issues.



Think



Think as in to develop or consider ideas

- conceive
- consider
- ponder
- imagine
- brainstorm
- reason

Think as in to be unsure of

- believe
- guess
- think
- reckon
- suspects
- feel
- suppose
- sense

Think as in to think deeply

- persevere
- contemplate
- analyze
- evaluate
- ruminate
- deliberate
- study
- reflect
- meditate
- cogitate



Think

IDIOMS

- Think big
- Think little of
- Think up
- Think it over
- Think it through
- Think tank
- Think better of
- Think fit
- Think again
- Think clearly
- Think nothing of it
- Hear myself think
- Don't think much of it
- Put your thinking cap on
- Think before you act
- Weigh up the odds/the pros and cons

THE SPANISH CONNECTION

- to imagine / imaginar
- to meditate / meditar
- to consider / considerer
- to conceive / concebir
- to analyze / analizar
- to evaluate / evaluar
- to deliberate / deliberar
- to meditate / meditar

COMMON PHRASES

- Think fast
- Chew over
- Brood over
- Wonder about
- Mull over
- Think back
- Think twice
- Wishful thinking
- Come to think of it
- Think aloud/out loud
- Think green



Think



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to develop or
consider ideas

Think as in
to be unsure of

Think as in
to think deeply



Think

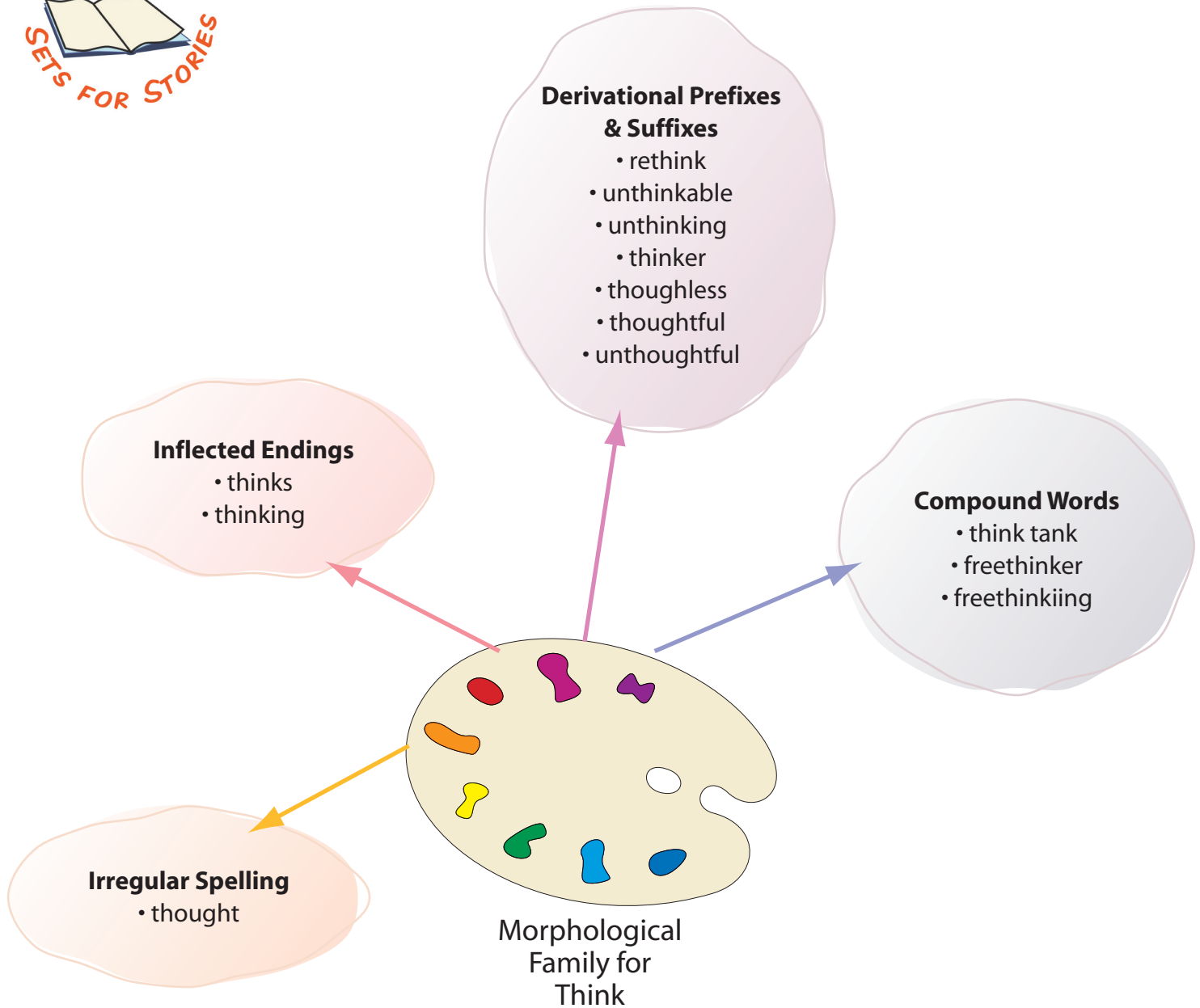
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