



Fear

Fear is an emotion that is experienced by most people, but the nuances of the word may be hard for students to grasp. *Fear* can refer to alarming feelings in general or towards something specific, like a spider. In both of these cases *fear* is used as a noun. As a verb, *fear* can mean to regard something with apprehension or awe. For example, a ruler might be feared because of her power. She might be held in revere or dreaded depending on how she rules her people.

Follow Up

- Is there a difference between having a phobia and being afraid of the dark?
- How is being regarded with fear different then being regarded with awe?

Spanish Connection

Fear does not have a Spanish cognate. The word originates from the Old English word *féran*, meaning to terrify. This definition is connected to the Old English word *fáer* meaning a sudden calamity or danger and the Old Norse word *fár* meaning misfortune or plague. Although *fear* does not have a Spanish cognate, some of its synonyms do. For example, the Spanish cognate of *apprehension* is *la aprehensión*.

Word Changes

The idiom “heebie-jeebies” relates to a state of *fear* or anxiety and was first used by the American cartoonist W. B. DeBeck in the 1920s. The cartoon read, “You dumb ox – why don’t you get that stupid look offa your pan – you gimme the heeby jeebys!” The phrase quickly became popular and was even used in what is considered the first improvisation in lyrics by famous jazz artist, Louis Armstrong, in 1926. This type of improvisation is now known as scat singing. The phrase is still used today to convey a sense of anxiety or fear.



Fear



Fear as in to regard with fear (v)

- apprehend
- dread

Fear as in a specific instance of a distressing emotions (n)

- phobia
- aversion

Fear as in to have reverential awe (v)

- revere
- venerate

Fear as in a distressing emotion cause by perceived danger (n)

- foreboding
- apprehension
- consternation
- dismay
- trepidation



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SPANISH CONNECTIONS

- apprehension / la aprehensión
- consternation / la consternación
- trepidation / la trepidación
- phobia / la fobia
- aversion / la aversión

COMMON PHRASES

- Never fear
- For fear of
- No fear!

IDIOMS

- To have butterflies in your stomach
- Fools rush in where angels fear to tread
- To have the heebie jeebies
- To be a bundle of nerves
- Heart misses a beat
- Make your blood run cold



Fear



Fear as in to regard with fear (v)

Fear as in a specific instance of a distressing emotions (n)

Fear as in to have reverential awe (v)

Fear as in a distressing emotion cause by perceived danger (n)



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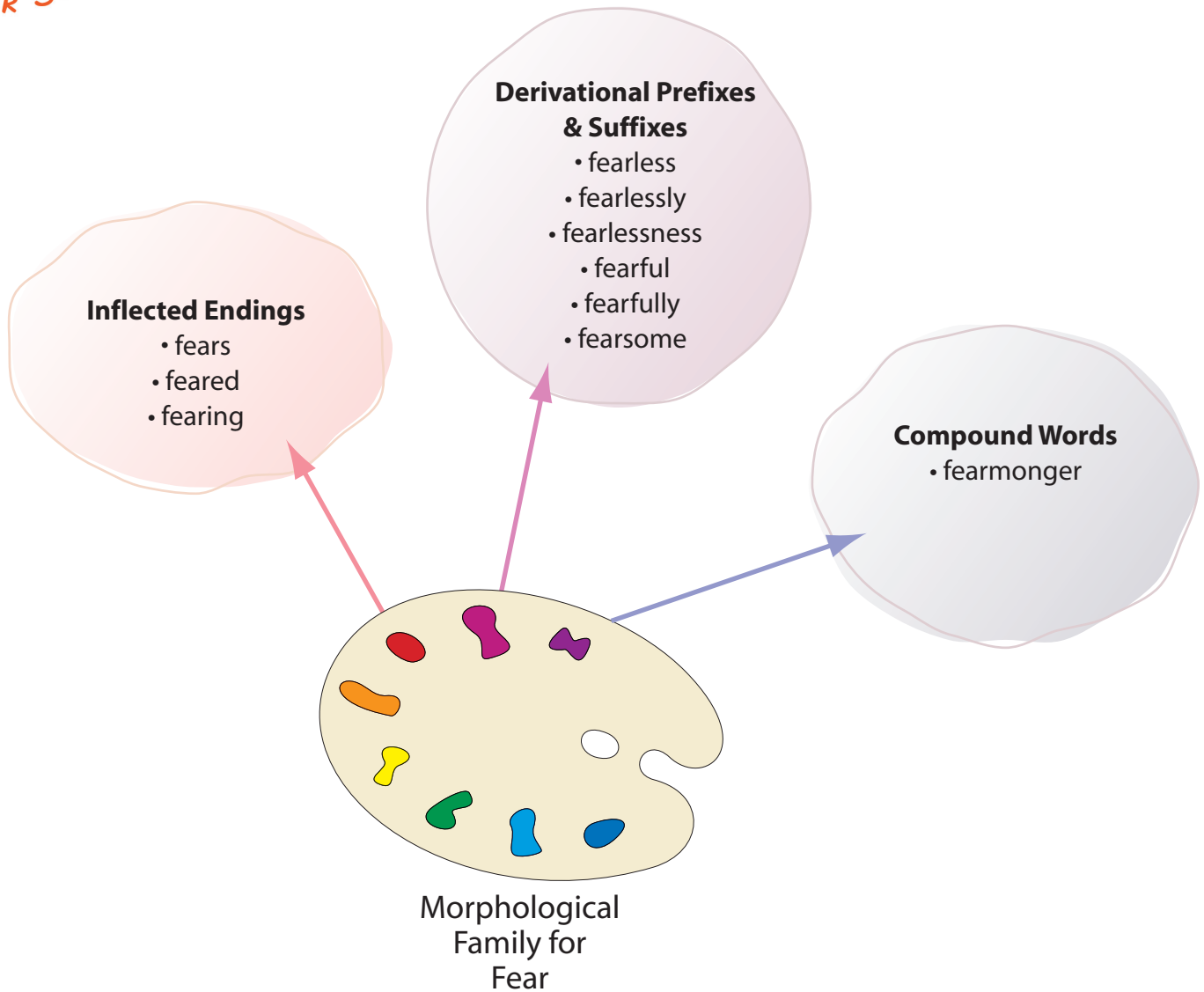
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