

# Using Technology to Support Reading Best Practices

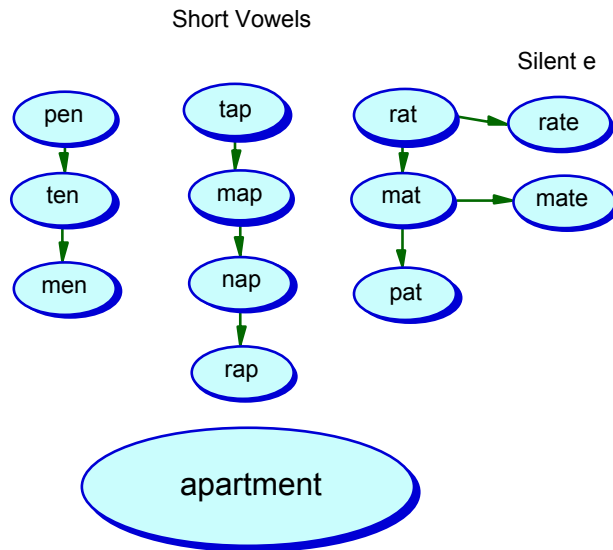
## Making Digital Words



Inspiration Lesson Plan

Grade Levels: 1-8

*Use the strategies from Making Big Words or Making More Big Words by Patricia Cunningham and Dottie Hall and Inspiration software to practice and improve word analysis skills with your students.*



1. Launch *Inspiration*.
2. If you are using this activity whole group, you will want to increase the size of the font to make it easier to read.
  - Go to the File menu and choose Dialog Properties...
  - Click on the Font... button.
  - Use the pull-down menus to choose a larger font size (14 or 18 pt. for instance).
  - Click OK.
  - Click OK.

**Note:** The font in your main idea will not change but all new symbols and text will default to the new font size. You can change the font for the main idea manually.
3. Click in the Main Idea symbol and erase the text. Enter each letter of the mystery word, separated with a space.
4. If needed, stretch the main idea symbol so that all letters are on one line.
  - Click inside the main idea symbol.
  - Click on the upper right handle bar. While holding down the mouse, drag the handle bar out to the desired size of the symbol.
5. You will use the Rapid Fire button to record students' words. You will not want to show links to these letters yet. In order to delete these links:
  - Go to File and choose Dialog Properties...
  - Click on the Link tab.
  - Click on the Color: box to show the palette of colors. Choose white by moving the mouse pointer to the white-colored box and click.
6. Click inside the main idea symbol. Then click on the Rapid Fire button in the Inspiration toolbar.
7. Type each new word. Press Return after each new word. The word will move into a new symbol and you can continue to enter other new words.

8. Click on the Rapid Fire button when you are done entering new words.
9. Now you can rearrange the words to show various word patterns.
  - Click on a symbol and hold the mouse button down.
  - Drag the symbol to its new location and release the mouse.
10. Add labels as needed with a text box.
  - Click on the Text Box tool on the drawing toolbar at the bottom of the Inspiration window (looks like a piece of paper with an 'A').
  - Click where you wish to draw the text box and hold down the mouse. While holding down the mouse, draw diagonally to create a box. Release the mouse when finished.
  - Enter the text inside of the text box.
  - Resize the text box by using the handles.
11. If you want to draw new links between symbols, first change the color of the links to a color other than white.
  - Go to File and choose Diagram Properties...
  - Click on the Link tab.
  - Click on the Color: box to show the palette of colors. Choose a new color by moving the mouse pointer to the chosen color and click.
12. To draw links:
  - Click on the Link button on the Inspiration toolbar.
  - Click once on the first symbol and then on the second symbol to draw a link.
  - Repeat as needed.
13. Replace the letters for the mystery word in the main idea symbol with the big word.
  - Click inside the symbol.
  - Erase the existing text.
  - Type the big word.
14. Save your work frequently (every 10 minutes).
  - Go to the File menu and choose Save As...
  - Navigate to your folder for saving work, name the file, and click Save.
  - Go to File and choose Save to update a saved file.

### **Computer SuperStation Strategies**

- After completing the “Rapid Fire” process, save the file. Have groups of students work at the computer to group words and create labels. Each group should save the new chart with a new name and print out as preparation for a whole group discussion.
- As students become accustomed to the process, have groups work on *Big Word* activities as a station rotation.
- Print the completed chart to post in a center. To print the largest version,
  1. Go to the File menu and choose Print Options...
  2. Click the radio button for “Normal – Full Size.”
  3. Click Print.
  4. The chart will print on four separate pieces of paper that can be trimmed and taped together to create a poster.