

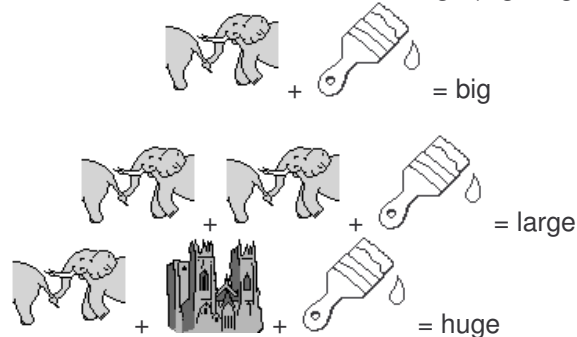
# Vocabulary and Grammar Development with Minspeak

## Vocabulary Learning

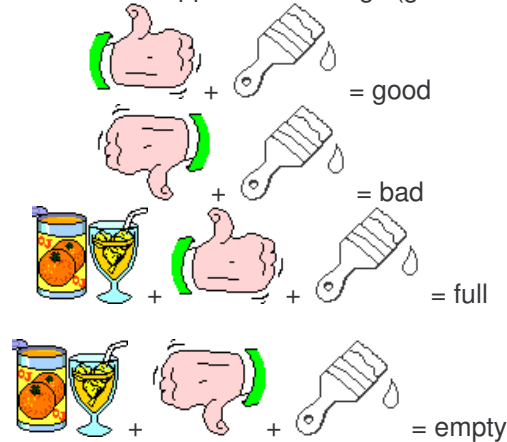
Vocabulary teaching during speech-language therapy includes not only teaching simple, everyday words, but also more advanced vocabulary lessons on synonyms, antonyms, and homonyms. A Minspeak system provides a logical structure for organizing and showing word relationships. Once the person using the Minspeak system knows the Minspeak code for the “root” word, synonyms and antonyms fall into place. This helps a person say more words with less new learning.

These examples from the Unity Minspeak Application Program show how that works.

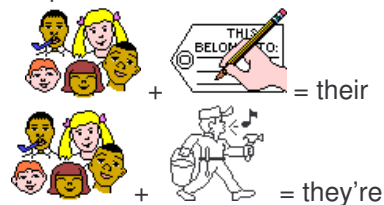
Synonyms = words with identical or similar meanings (big, large, huge)



Antonyms = words that have opposite meanings (good/bad, empty/full)



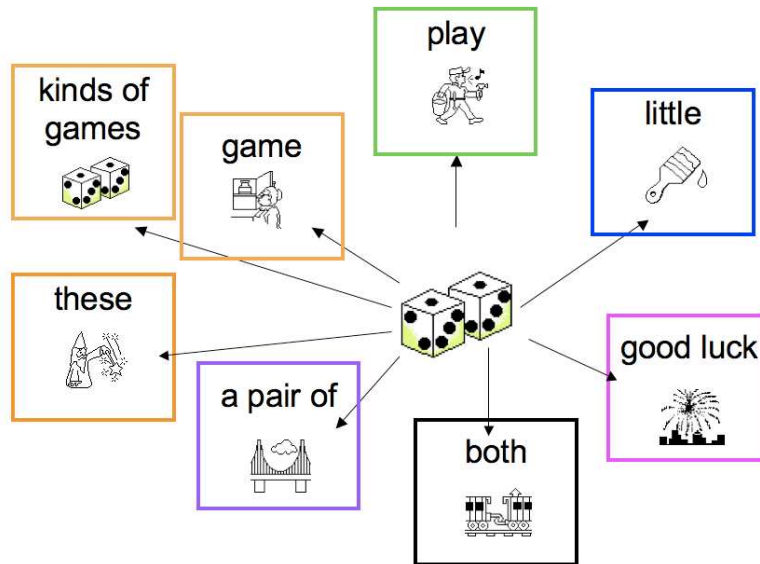
Homonyms = words with the same pronunciation but different meanings (e.g., their, they're)



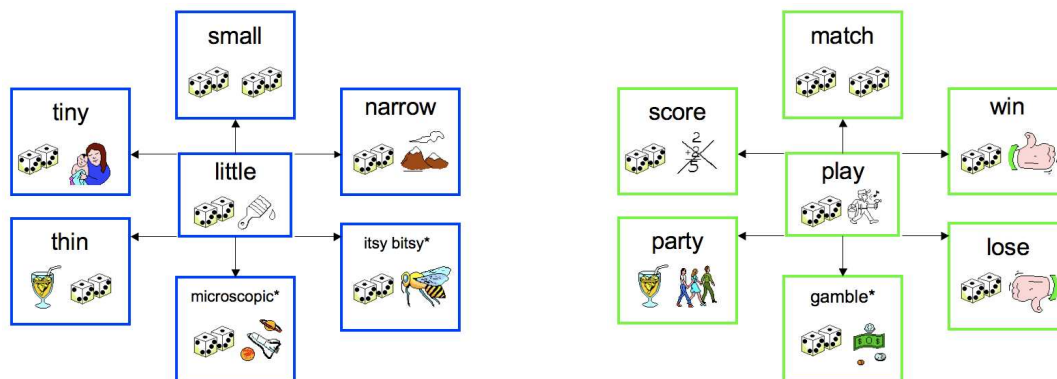
A Minspeak system also organizes words into **Word Families**. Words in word families are “related” to each other. Organizing words this way in an AAC system promotes semantic mapping and webbing – all which is considered good practice when focusing on vocabulary teaching.

Some word webs are small and might only involve a few words. When teaching the relationship between these words, it helps to tell a little story.

“Here is a **pair of** dice. I use **these to play** a **little game** – all kinds of **games**. I use **both** dice. **Good luck** when we **play!**”



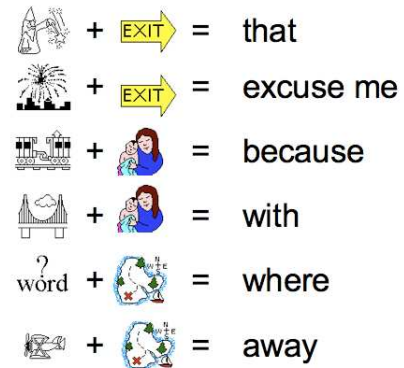
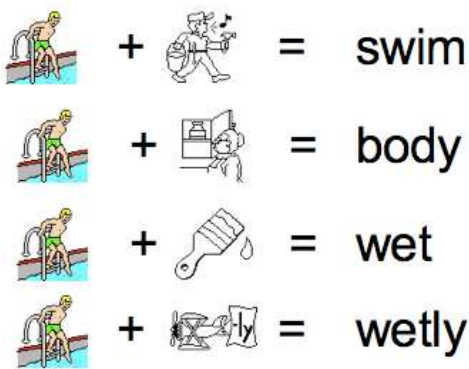
Some word webs are very **Extended Families**. In the Dice Family, there are quite a few synonyms and a couple of antonyms when it comes to descriptor words (adjectives) and action words (verbs). If you want to add even more, the architecture of the word web makes that very easy. One Minspeak user added the words **microscopic** and **itsy bitsy** in his DICE word web as adjectives and **gamble** as a verb. He followed the rule for adding new words by staying within the logic and architecture of the Minspeak system. That’s what makes learning new words in a Minspeak system LESS new learning, not more new learning.



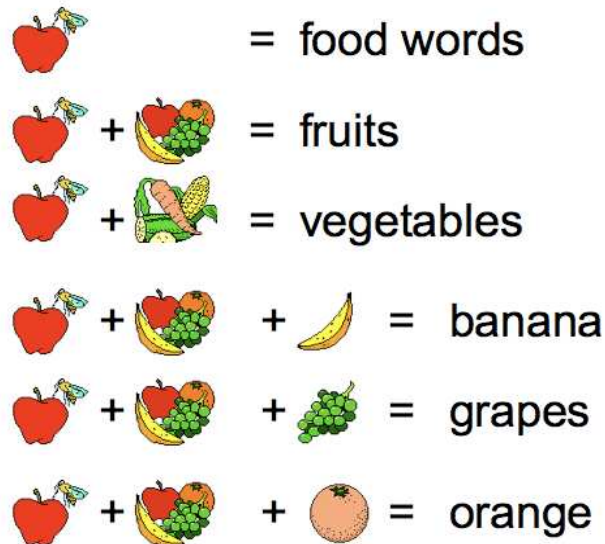
Words are also organized by **Part of Speech**.

Patterns are consistently used for each major part of speech. This is true for any Minspeak system.

In the Unity128 and Unity144 programs, the patterns for nouns, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs ending in “ly” has the Part of Speech **after** the Icon. For determiners, interjections, conjunctions, prepositions, interrogatives, and adverbs (without an “ly” at the end), the Icon is **after** the Part of Speech.



Large word groups, particularly nouns, are also organized by **Semantic Groups**. This is true for any Minspeak system. Words are organized by category (e.g., food), then a sub-category if the word group is large (e.g., fruit, vegetables, meat, dairy, etc.). These semantic groupings help individuals organize their world and vocabulary. Here is an example from the Unity60 program of some food words.



The use of Word Families, Grammatical Groups, and Semantic Groups all contribute to long-term vocabulary development for a person using a Minspeak system.

- Minspeak Application Programs (MAPs) provide fast and easy access to a robust vocabulary set, including synonyms, antonyms, and homonyms.
- Minspeak vocabulary is organized in word families, which helps in learning word meanings and word relationships.
- Minspeak supports development of semantic webbing and semantic mapping.

- Minspeak is organized in grammatical and semantic groups to promote development of categorical skills.
- Minspeak architecture makes the learning of new words easy and logical.

### **Grammar Learning**

Minspeak is also a powerful strategy to support grammatical development. Without the ability to speak with correct grammar, the person is at-risk for developing normal expressive language skills. Plus, it has been said that “morphology marks social status.” A person speaking with improper grammar is marked with less status than a person speaking correctly. When a person masters a Minspeak system, he/she has all the status of any speaking person with proper grammar.

Here is an example from the Unity84 program that shows grammatical variations that are possible when a person uses Minspeak.



There is never a need to learn a new picture for each word variation – just follow the pattern and say new forms of the word.

- Minspeak systems provide the essentials of grammar for normal language development.
- Minspeak systems provide an easy approach to practice syntax and morphology.
- Patterns in Minspeak systems support development of morphology skills.