Alphabetic-a writing system containing characters or symbols representing individual speech sounds

Alphabetic layer- the first layer of word study instruction, focussing on letter-sound correspondences

Pattern layer- the second layer or tier of English orthography, in which patterns of letter sequences, rather than individual letters themselves, represent vowel sounds.

Meaning layer- the third layer of English orthography, including meaning units such as prefixes, suffixes and word roots

Morphemes- meaning units in the spelling of words

Instructional level- a level of academic engagement in which an individual works independently, without need of instructional support

Zone of Proximal Development- ripe conditions of learning something new; zone in which something is neither too hard nor too easy

Emergent- period of literacy development ranging from birth to beginning reading

Prephonetic- writing that bears no correspondence to speech sounds

Alphabetic principle- The concept that letters and letter combinations, are used to represent phonemes in orthography

Letter-name alphabetic spelling stage- 2nd stage of spelling development, students represent beginning, middle and ending sounds of words with phonetically accurate letter choices

Phonemes- smallest unit of speech that distinguishes one word from another

Diagraph- two letters that represent one sound

Phonetic- representing the sounds of speech with a set of distinct symbols each denoting a single sound

Phonemic awareness- The ability to consciously manipulate individual phonemes in a spoken language

Preconsonantal nasals- nasals that occur before consonants

Ambiguous vowels- a vowel represented by a variety of different spelling patterns, or vowel patterns that repersent a wide range of sounds

Homophones- words that sound alike, are spelled differently and have different meanings

Inflectional endings- suffixes that change the verb tense or number of a word

Syllable juncture- transition from one syllable to the next

Open syllable- syllables that end with a long vowel sound

Closed syllable- syllables that end with a consonant sound

Derivational relations spelling stage- last stage of spelling development in which spellers learn about derivational relationships preserved in the spelling of words

Generative- an approach to word study that emphasizes processes that apply to many words, as opposed to an approach that focusses on one word at a time

Morphology- study of word parts related to syntax and meaning

Reduced vowel- vowel occurring in an unstressed syllable

Absorbed prefixes- prefixes in which the spelling and sound of the consonant has been absorbed into the spelling and sound at the beginning of the base or root to which the prefix is affixed

Synchrony- occurring at the same time

Prealphabetic stage- Ehri's first phase of word recognition; readers use non alphabetic clues to recognize words

Partial alphabetic phase- Ehri's second phase of word recognition; readers use initial consonants to identify words

Full Alphabetic- Ehri's third phase of word recognition; readers sound out words  using letter-sound correspondences

Onset- initial consonant sound of a single syllable or word

Rimes- a rime unit is composed of the vowel and any following consonants within a syllable

Phonograms- (word families) end in high frequency rimes that vary only in the beginning consonant sound to make a word

Consolidated alphabetic phase- Ehri's fourth phase of word recognition; readers use patterns, chunks, and other word parts to figure out unfamiliar words

Independent level- level of academic engagement where an individual works independently without need of instructional support

Word sorts- activity in which students write the words they sorted into categories

Word hunts- students go back to previously read texts to hunt for other words that follow the same spelling features examined during the word or picture sort

Writing sorts- students write the words they have sorted into categories

Developmental level- individual's stage of spelling development: emergent, letter-name alphabetic, within word pattern, syllables and affixes, or derivational relations