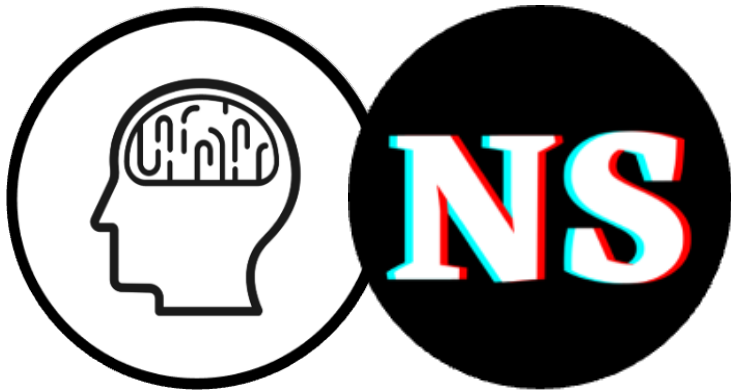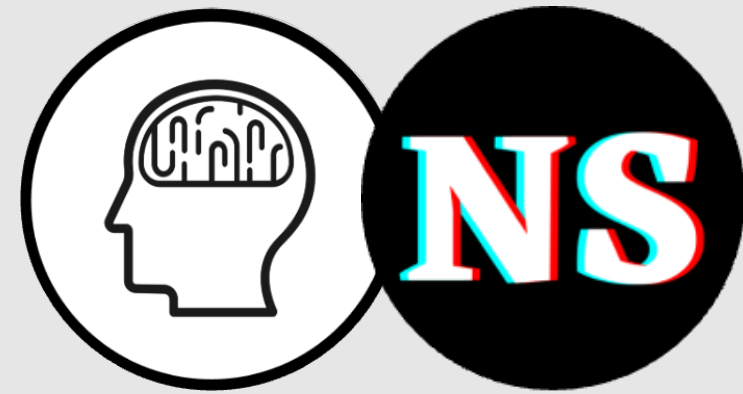# Intermediate/Advanced Spelling through Morphology

DR NATHANIEL SWAIN

OVERVIEW

A brief history of English

The links between orthography, morphology & etymology

Approaches & resources for teaching morphology

Strategies for teaching spelling through morphology

English Spelling is Crazy!!!

- 44 sounds

- BUT

- 500+ ways to spell sounds

Are there more letters or sounds in English?

A. Letters
B. Sounds

English Spelling is Crazy!!!

- 44 sounds

- BUT

- 500+ ways to spell sounds

Are there more letters or sounds in English?

A. Letters
B. Sounds

English Spelling is Crazy!!! (or is it?)

a- baby

ai- train

ay- way

ey- they

eigh- eight

aigh- straight

é- café

ea- break

a_e- game

ei- vein

ae- Shae

au- gauge

Why is English spelling more difficult than in many other languages?

English spelling is more difficult than in many other languages because ___.

English Spelling is Crazy!!! (or is it?)

a- baby

ai- train

ay- way

ey- they

eigh- eight

aigh- straight

é- café

ea- break

a_e- game

ei- vein

ae- Shae

au- gauge

Why is English spelling more difficult than in many other languages?

English spelling is more difficult than in many other languages because **it has borrowed words (and spellings) from many other languages.**

The United Kingdom

Scotland

Northern Ireland

England

Wales

Timeline:
0 CE — 450 — 500 — 793 — 1000 — 1500 — 2000

cow
cu

sit
sittan

bed
beddian

small
smæl

fishhook
fischoc

Suffixes
-ed
-er
-ing
-ly
-s
-ness
-ful
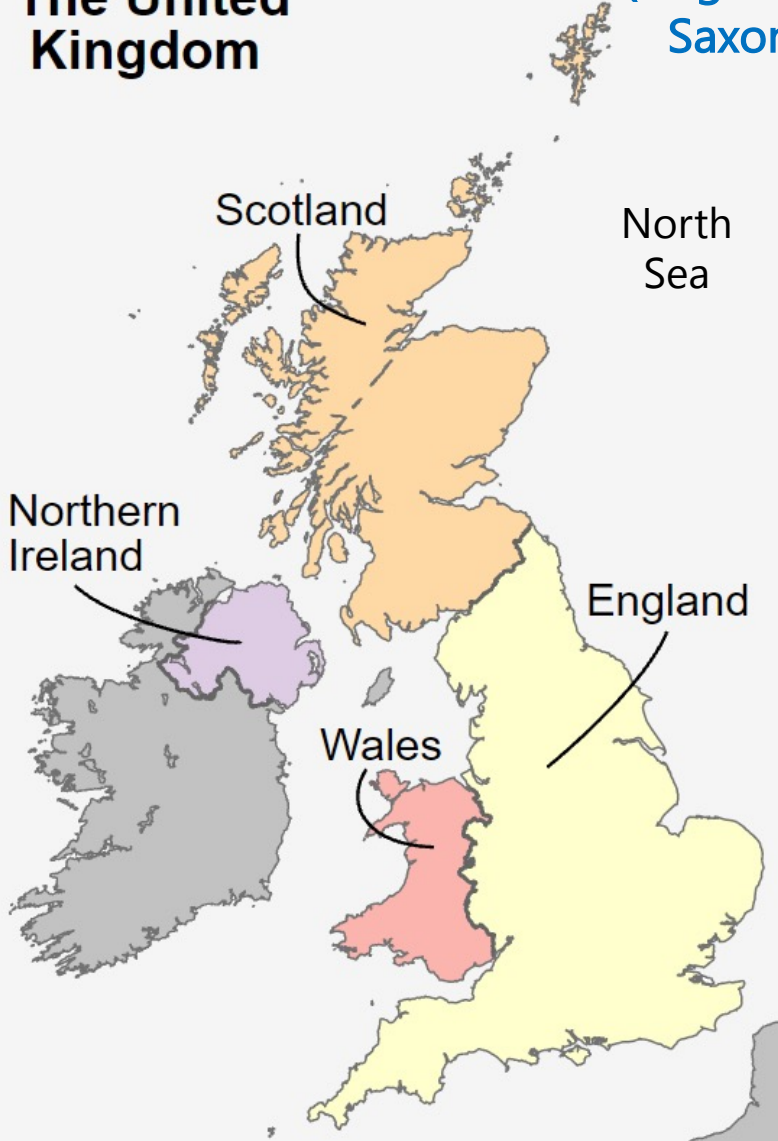
Old English
(Angles and
Saxons)

The United
Kingdom

Scotland

North
Sea

Northern
Ireland

England

Wales

be
beon

him
him

the
se

have
habban

and
and/ond

I
ic

The United Kingdom

0 CE   450   500   793   1000   1500   2000

Old English (Angles and Saxons)

Scotland

North Sea
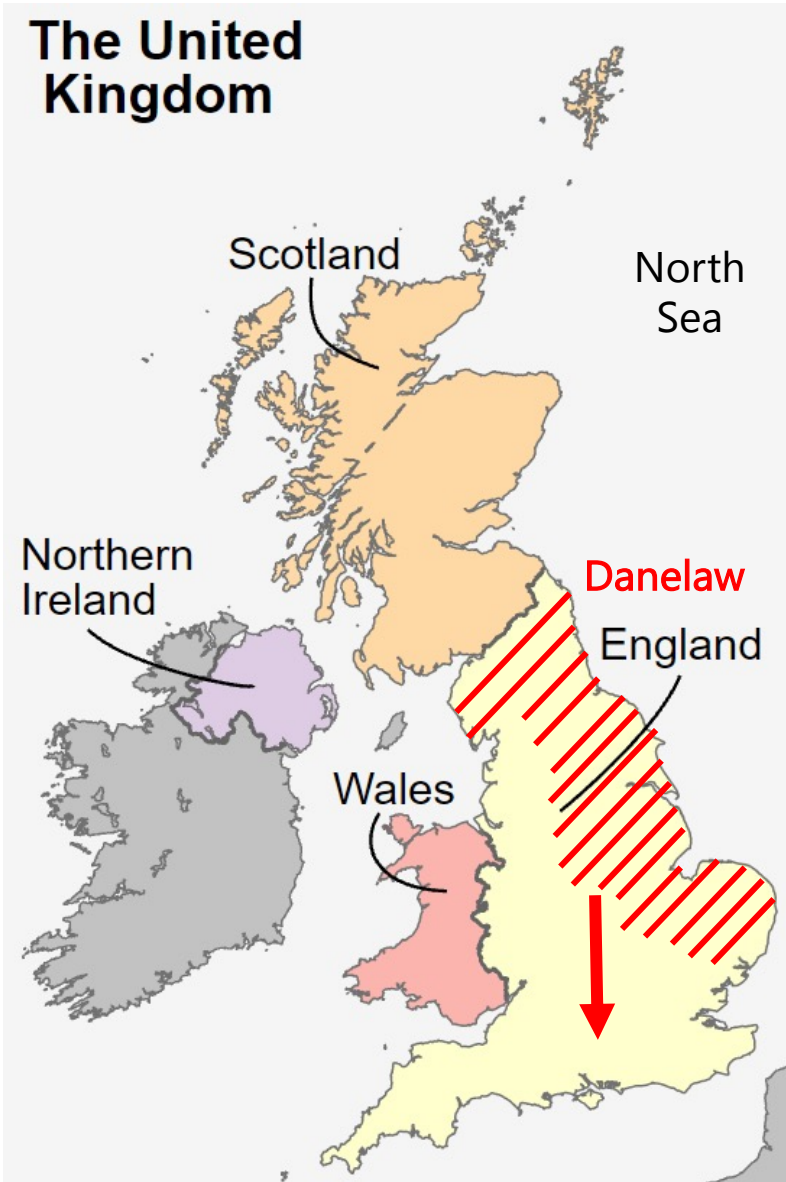
Northern Ireland

England

Wales

A C T I V A T I O N
T A S K

good
Old English!
to
Old English!
incredible
Not Old English
in
Old English!
technology
Not Old English
no
Old English!
for
Old English!

Timeline: 0 CE — 500 — 800s (+ Old Norse (Danes)) — 1000 — 1500 — 2000

The United Kingdom

Scotland
North Sea
Northern Ireland
Danelaw
England
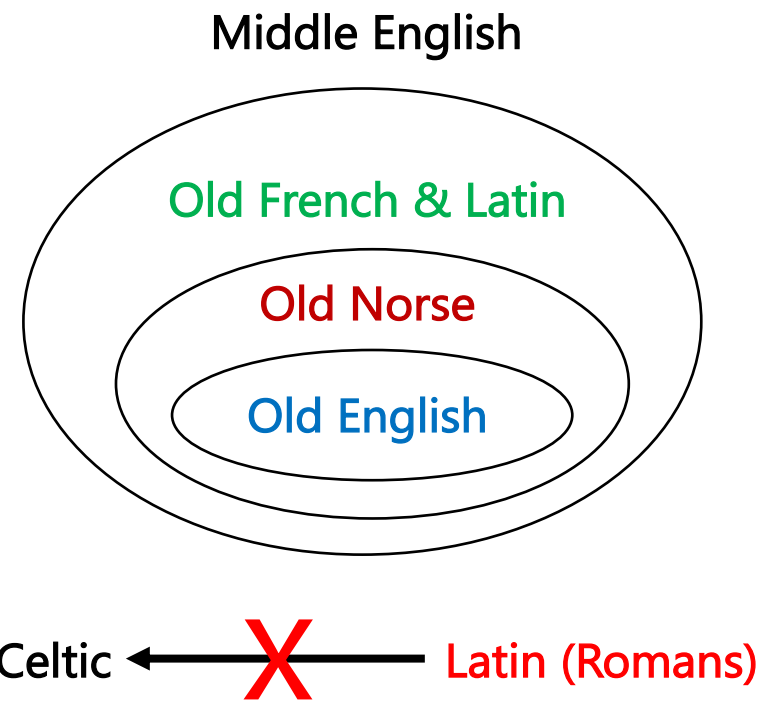Wales

leg
leggr
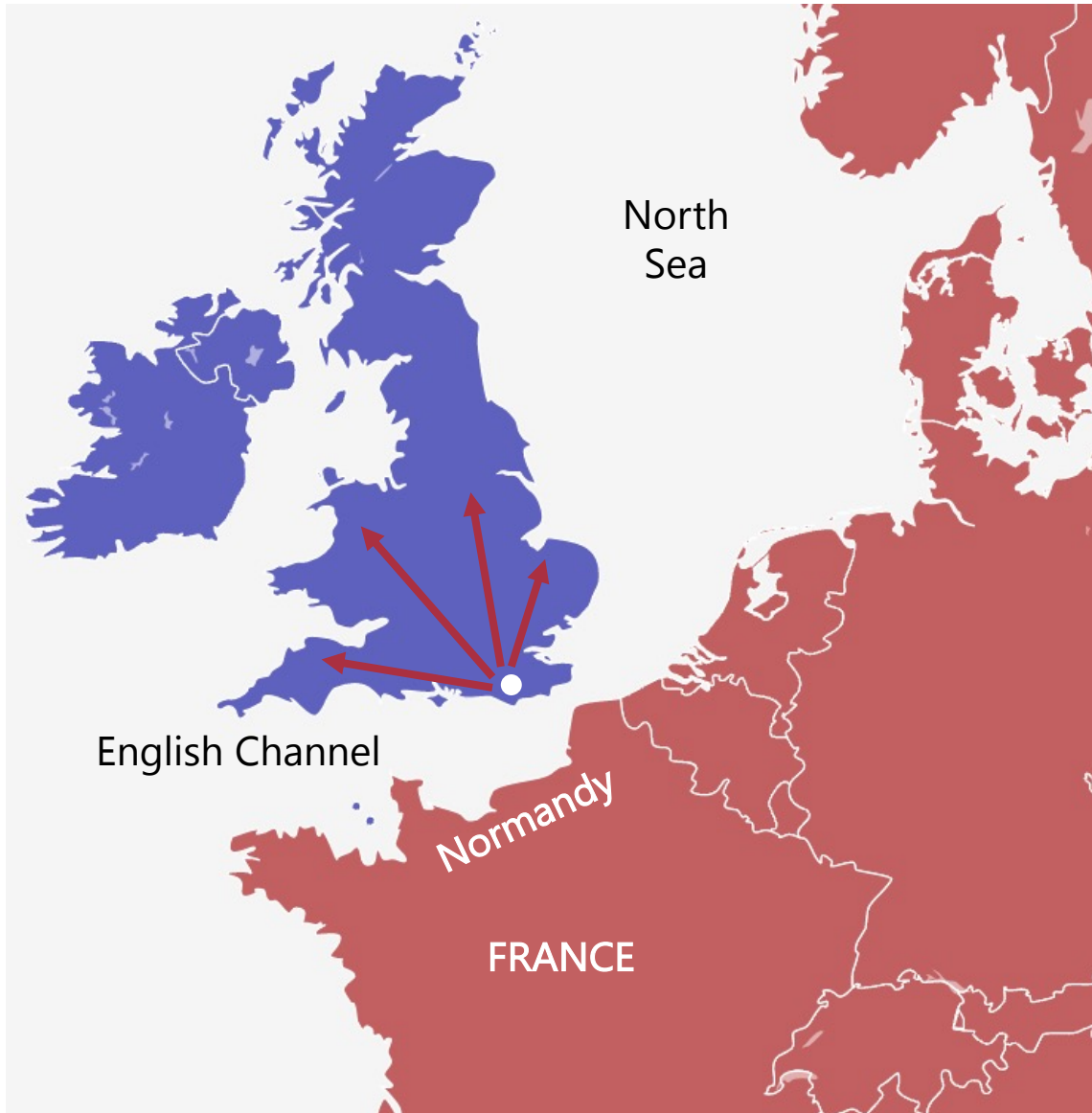**they**
their
bag
baggi
sky
sky

skull
skalli
berserk
berserk
knife
knifr
scrape
skrapa

Timeline: 0 CE — 500 — 1000 — 1500 — 2000

1066

+ Old French & Latin

Middle English
- Old French & Latin
- Old Norse
- Old English
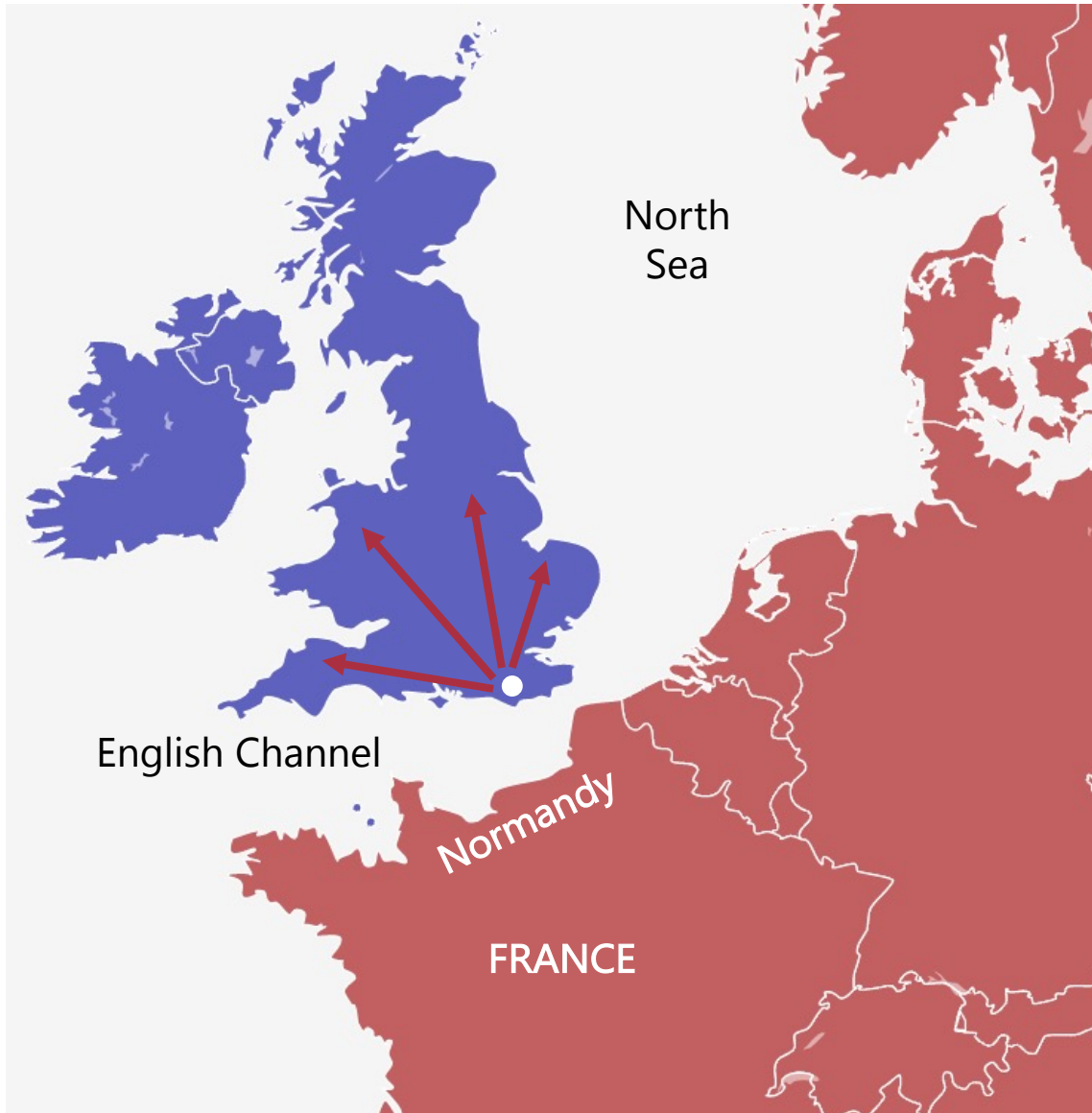
Celtic ← ✗ ← Latin (Romans)

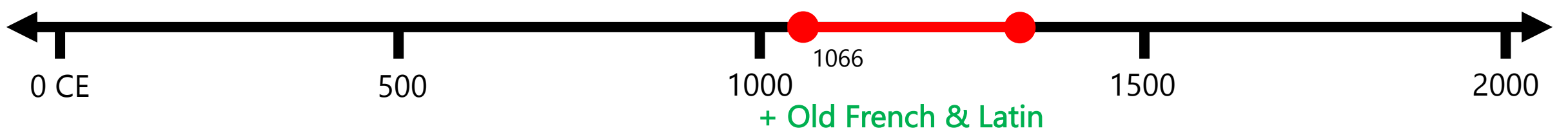North Sea

English Channel

Normandy

FRANCE

Dr Nathaniel Swain 202
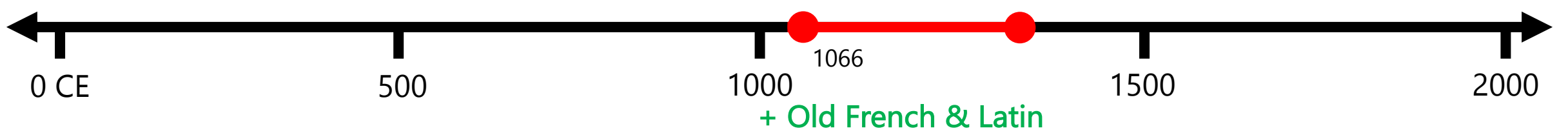
Which languages mixed together to create Middle English?

Old English, Old Norse, Old French and Latin mixed together to create Middle English.

1066

+ Old French & Latin

New English Spellings

peace
pais

chef
chef

cousin
cosin

gem
gemme

unique
unique

flourish
floriss

queen
cwen (Old English)

sh   th

0 CE   500   1000   1066   1500   2000

+ Old French & Latin
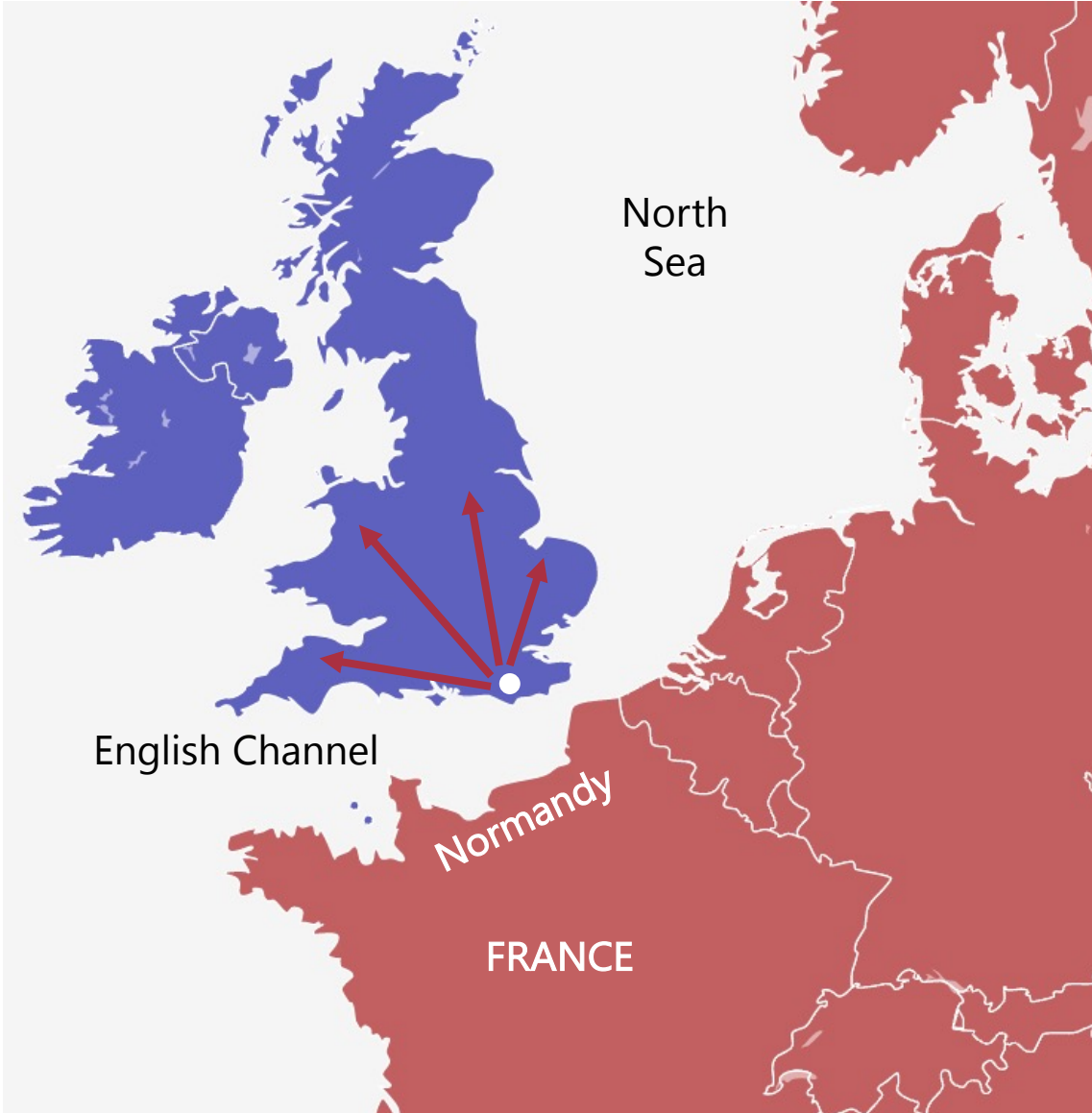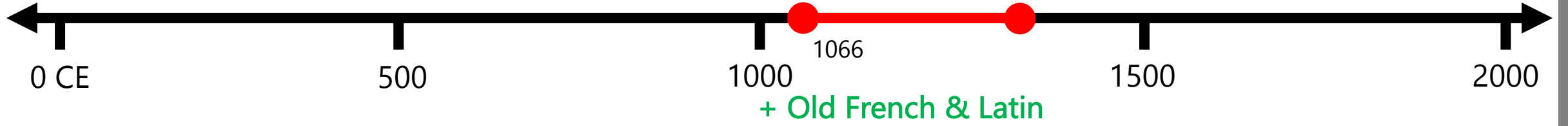
Latin Base Words

form (formula)

cept (exceptional)

rupt (eruption)

struct (constructively)

vis (visual)

North Sea

English Channel

Normandy

FRANCE

0 CE — 500 — 1000 — 1066 — 1500 — 2000

+ Old French & Latin

Prefixes and Suffixes

il (illegal)

con (conform)

dis (disrupt)

ion (action)

ous (gorgeous)

North Sea

English Channel

Normandy

FRANCE

True OR False

When new Latin words came into English, English spelling didn't change.

Timeline: 0 CE — 500 — 1000 — 1066 — 1500 — 2000

+ Old French & Latin
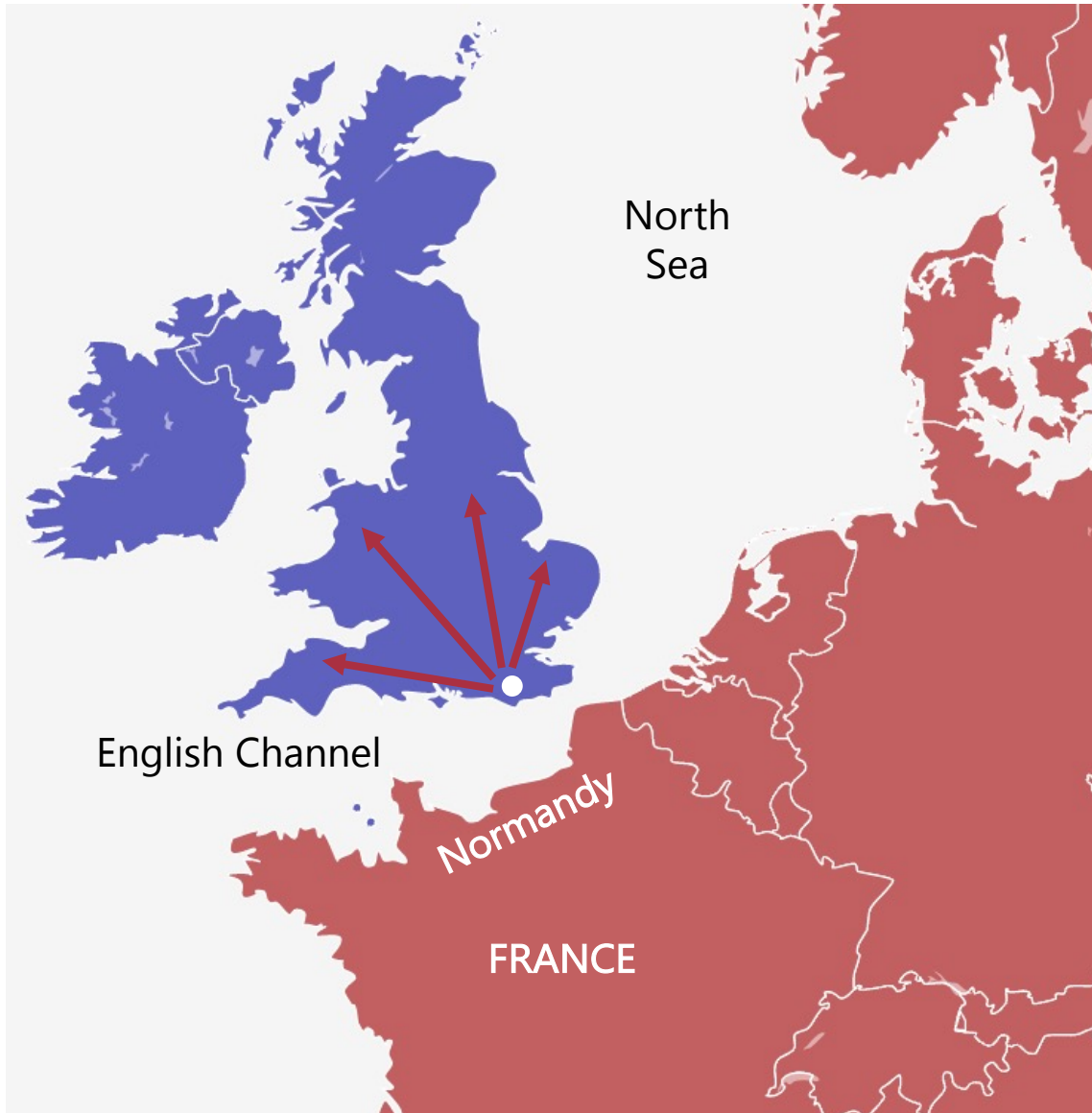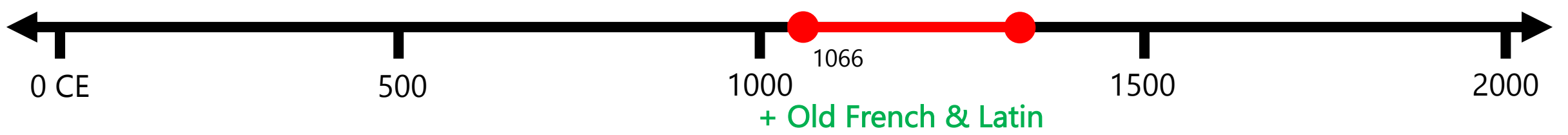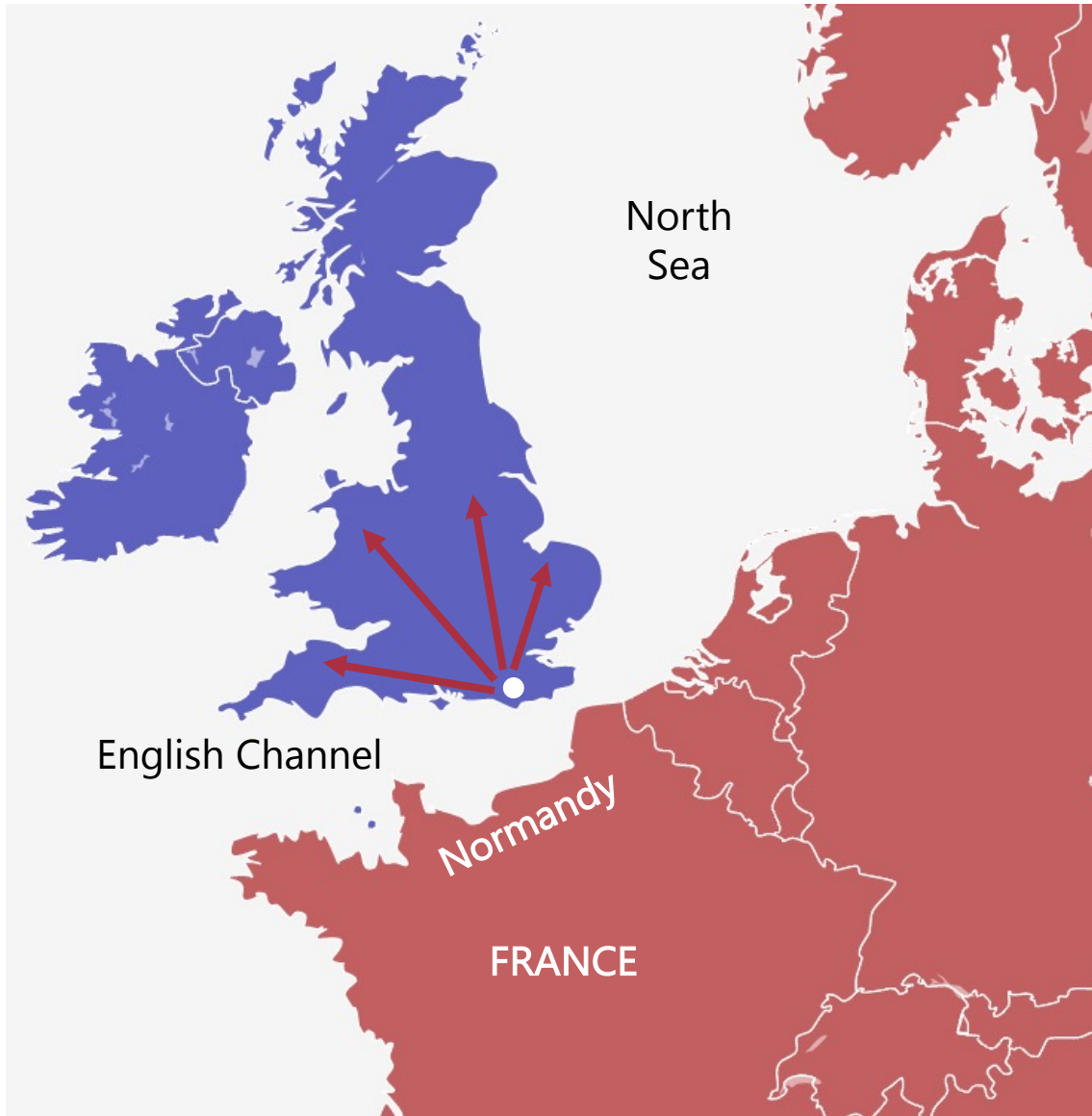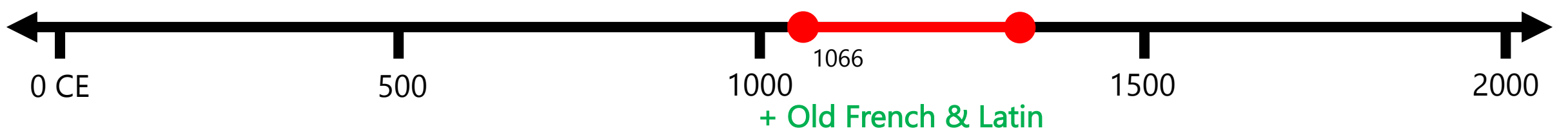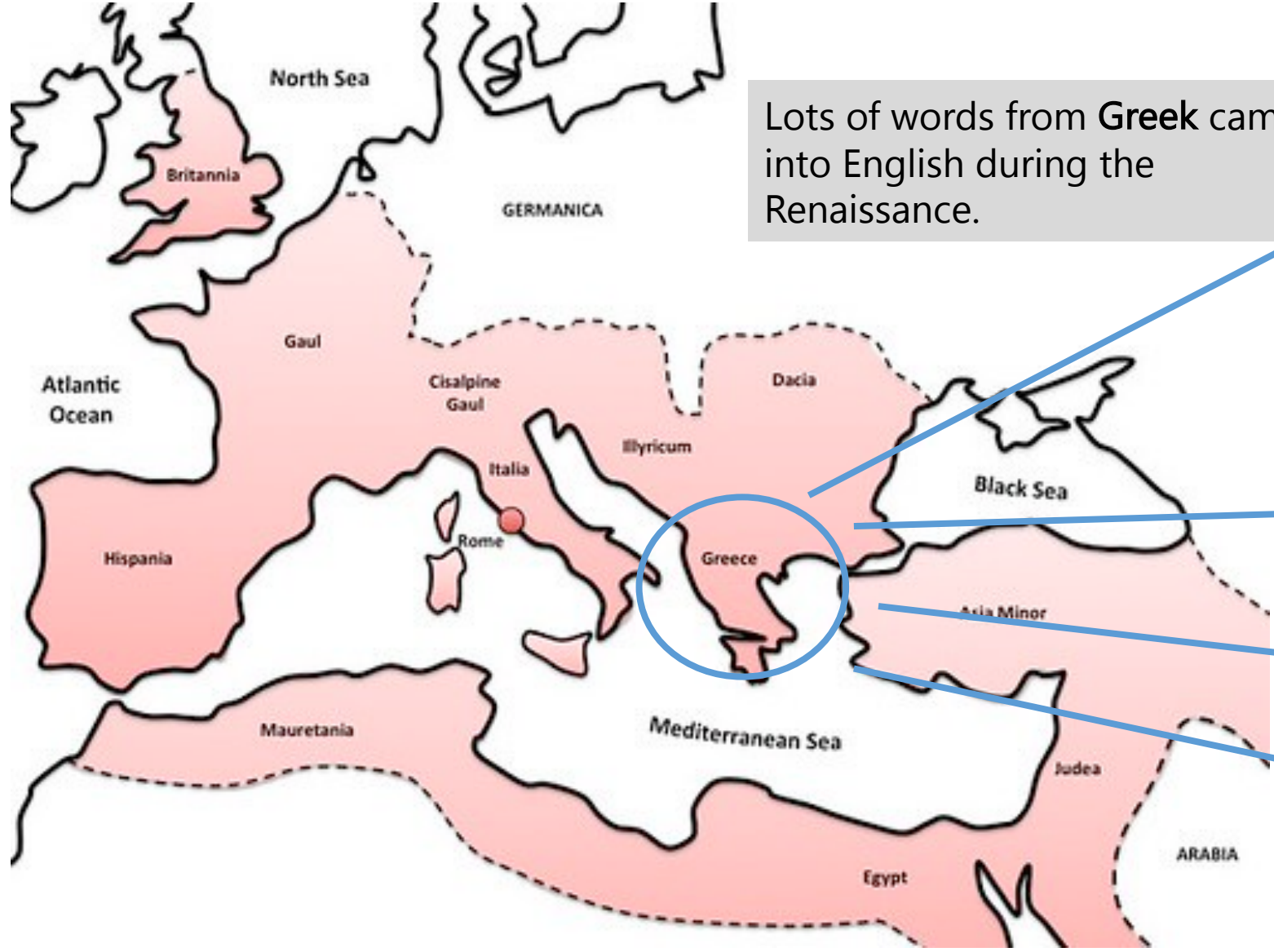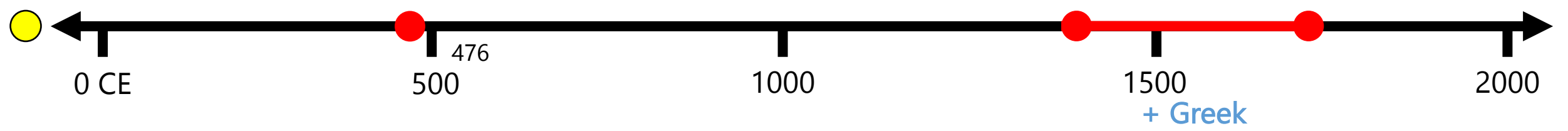
Prefixes and Suffixes

il (illegal)

con (conform)

dis (disrupt)

ion (action)

ous (gorgeous)

True OR False

FALSE! When new Latin words came into English, English spelling **changed HEAPS!**

0 CE   500   1000   1500   2000

476

+ Greek

The Renaissance
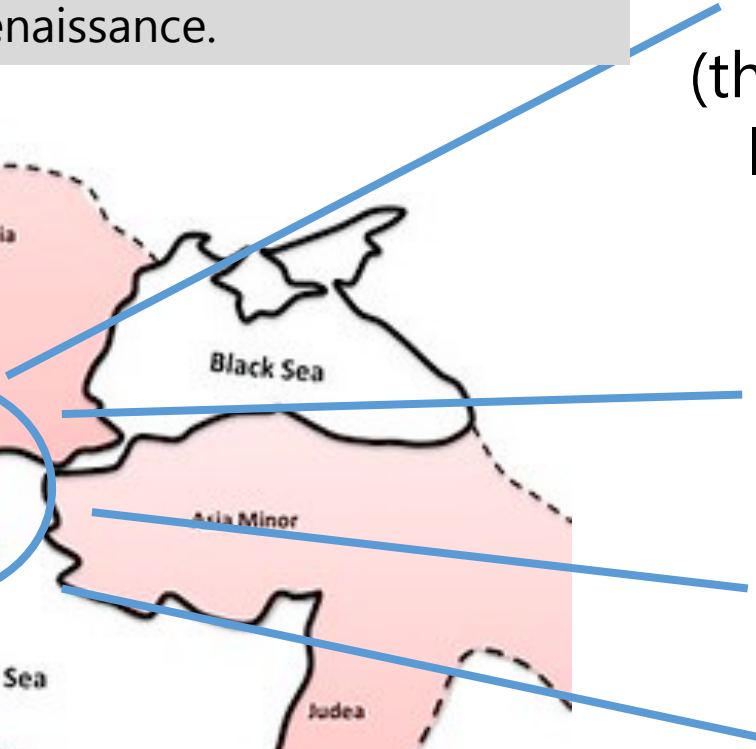
Lots of words from **Greek** came into English during the Renaissance.

Philosophy (thinking about life and the world)

Literature (Writing)

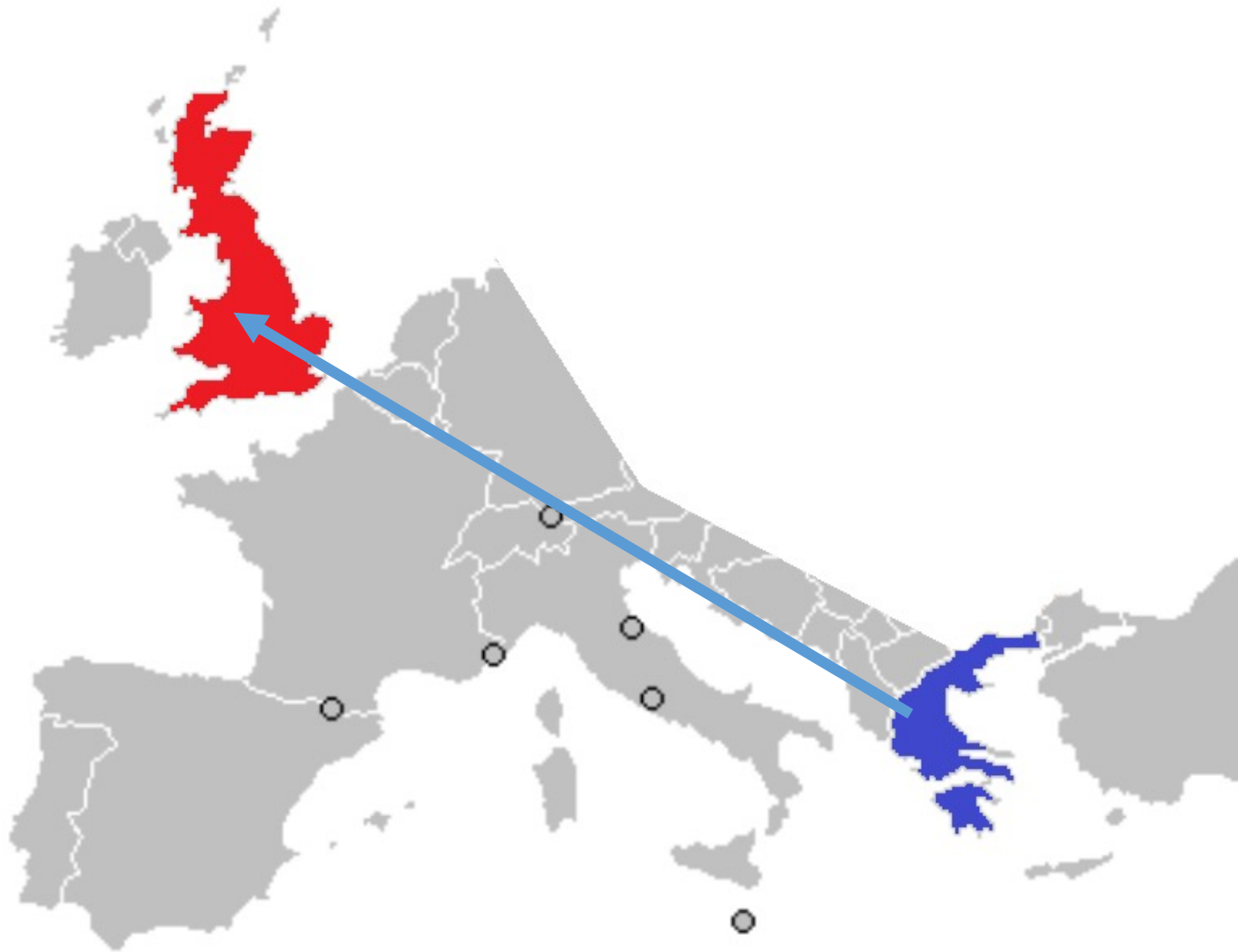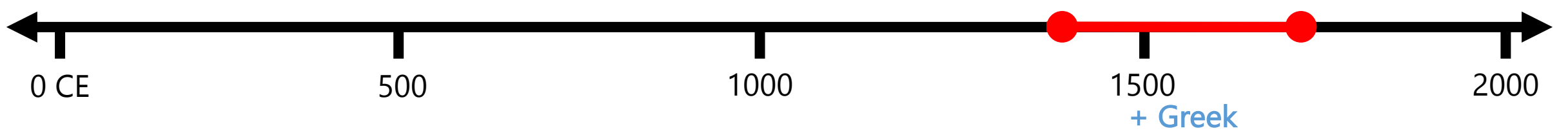Science

Maths

+ Greek

biography

ph   pathology

ch   microphone

arachnophobia

Timeline of Influences on English

0 CE — 500 — 1000 — 1500 — 2000
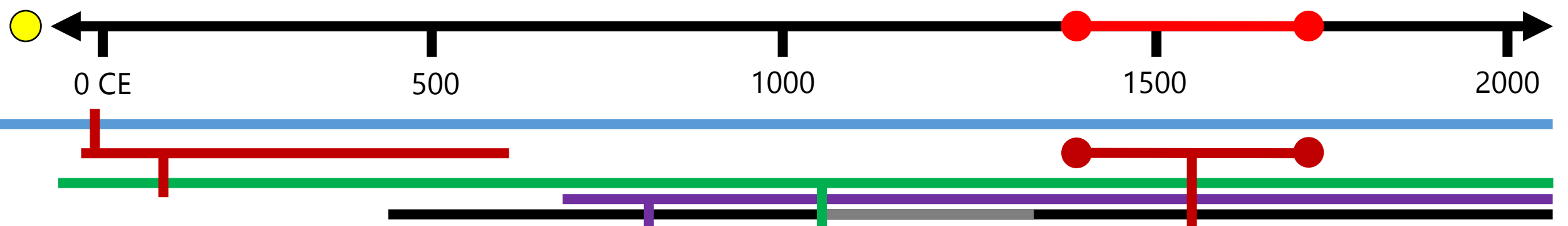
Greek Empire
Greek Words

Roman Empire
Latin Words
+ Greek

Gaul (France)
French Words
+ Latin

Danes/Vikings
Norse Words

Angles & Saxons
English Words
+ Norse
+ French
(+Latin)

Renaissance
English Words about academic studies, art etc

French gave words to English because **the Normans invaded and brought French to England.**
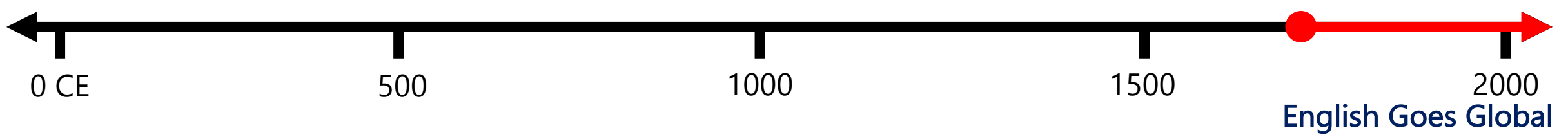
Latin gave words to English because **the Normans invaded and brought French to England (which had lots of Latin words in it). Latin words also came into English during the Renaissance.**

English Goes Global

igloo   barbeque   banana   cheetah   kangaroo   koala   haka

North America   Caribbean   Africa   India   Australia   New Zealand

0 CE   500   1000   1500   2000

Takeaways

English spelling has many layers:

Old English (Saxons and Angles)

Old Norse

Latin (via Old French)

Greek (Renaissance)

Modern Layers (Globalisation)

T a k e a w a y s

English spelling has many components:
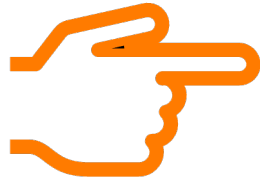
Phonology

Orthography

Morphology

Etymology

T a k e a w a y s

English spelling is not crazy!

Teaching through morphemes helps to uncover the spelling, meaning and history of words
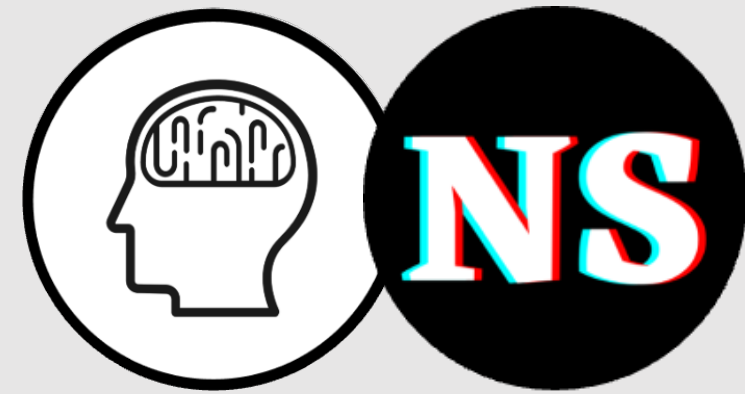
A C T I V A T I O N
T A S K

What kinds of words are your students having difficulty spelling?

Name a few examples. Let's analyse together.

NS

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Key Terminology

Morphemes vs. Graphemes

Prefix, Suffix, Base

Free vs. Bound Bases

Inflectional vs. Derivational Morphemes

Key Terminology

unreliability

un + **rely** + able + ity

inability to be relied upon or trusted

PREFIX
negative
not

un

SUFFIX
Verb→Adj
capable of

able

SUFFIX
Adj→Noun
quality/condition

ity

rely

BASE WORD
depend on with full
trust or confidence

Word Morphology
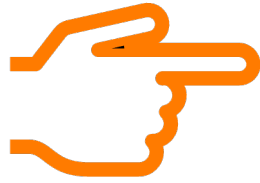
Why morphemes support spelling

All words built from morphemes

Bases carry the meanings of words

When pronunciation changes, spelling stays the same:

si**g**n

resi**g**n

si**g**nature
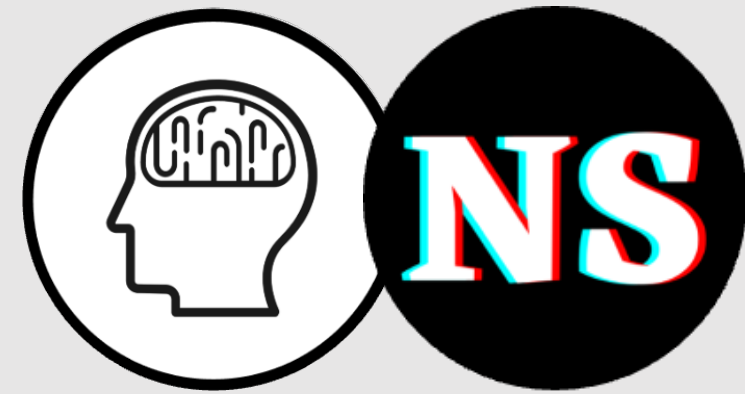
Put some multisyllabic words in the chat

Let's analyse the morphemes together.

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DET Resources Demo

[Word Morphology](#)

[Spelling](#)

BENEATH THE SURFACE OF WORDS

WHAT ENGLISH SPELLING REVEALS & WHY IT MATTERS

Sue Scibetta Hegland
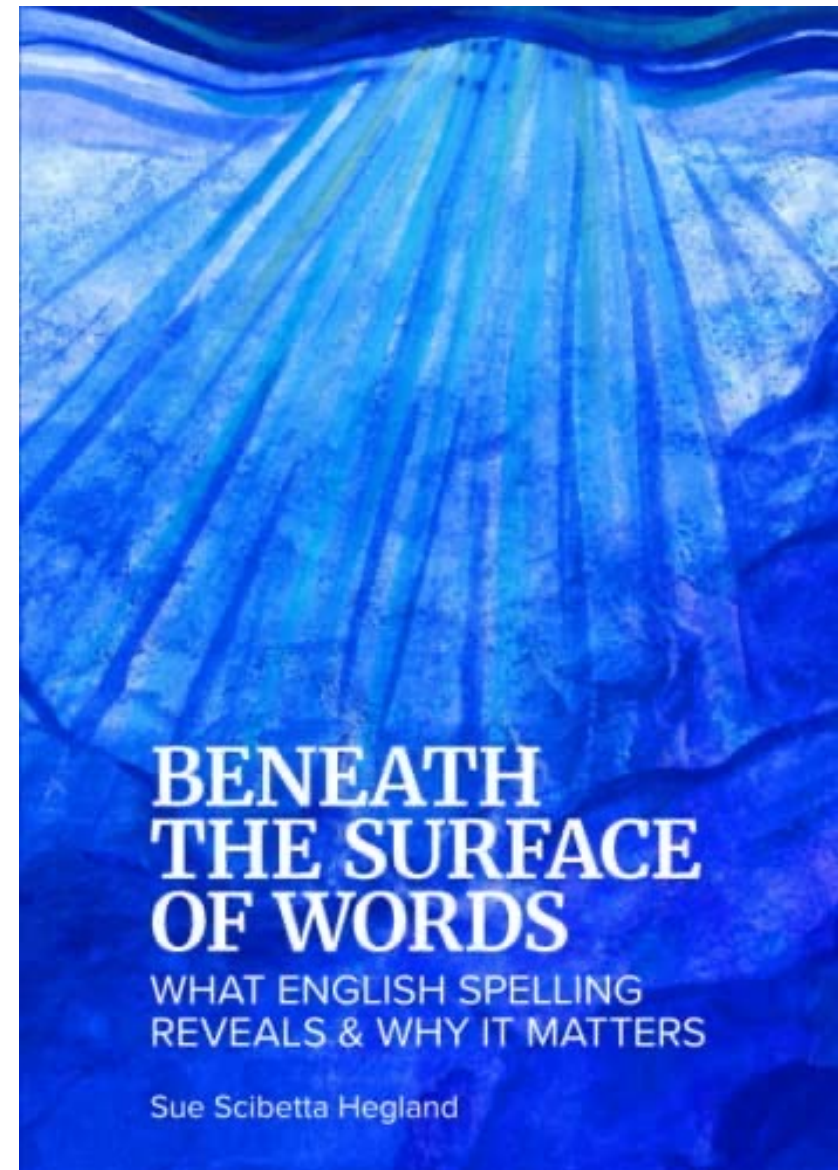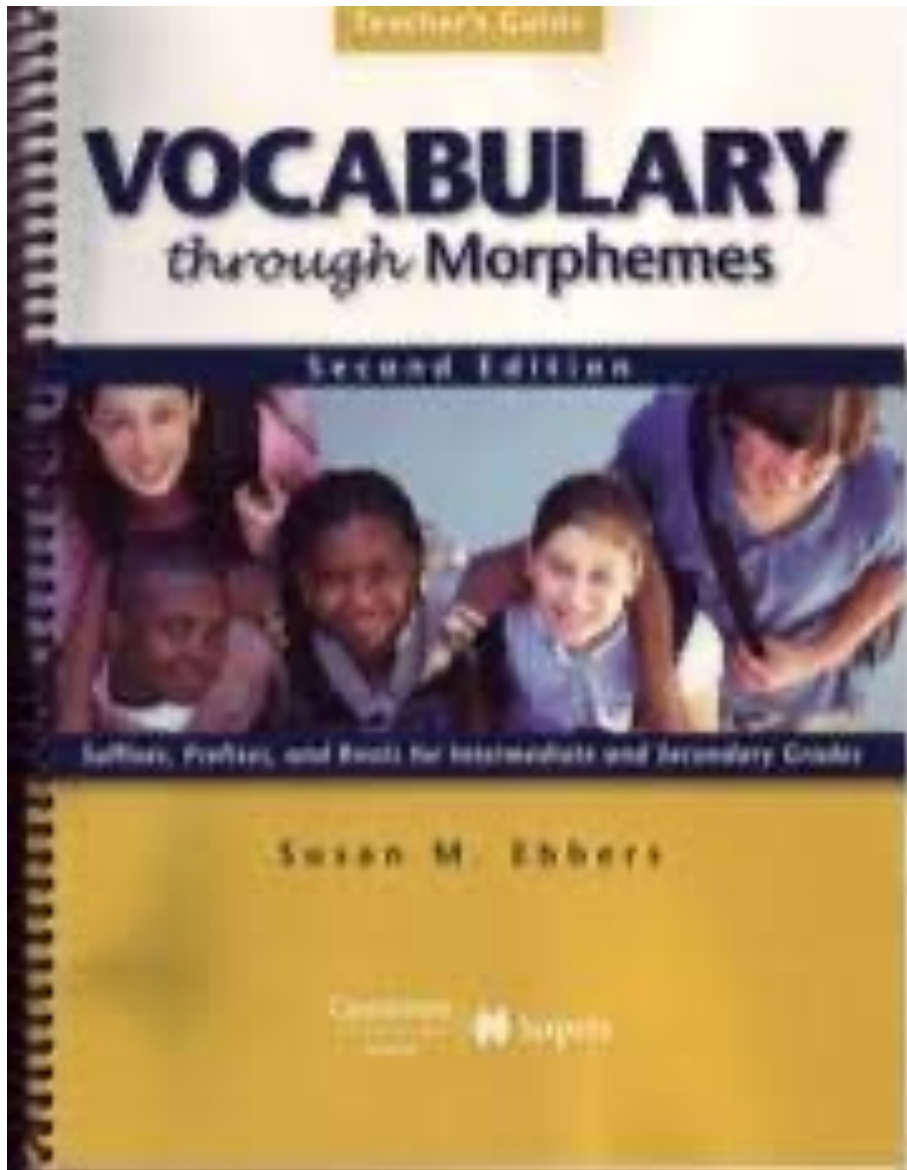
Additional Resources

www.phormes.com

[Etym Online](http://www.etymonline.com)

[Latdict: Latin Dictionary and Grammar Resources](http://www.latin-dictionary.net)

Word sums

Word webs

What is a morpheme?

Phoneme - SOUND	Morpheme - MEANING
cats 4	cat<u>s</u> 2
runner 4	runn<u>er</u> 2
pointy 5	point<u>y</u> 2
unhelpful 9	unhelpful
shape 4	un + help + ful 3

trans-

prefix

transport   transform   transfer

-ation

suffix

noun

information   duration   continuation

-able

suffix

adjective

acceptable   achievable   avoidable

Learning Goal

I will:

- read and spell 'port' Latin base words

- identify and explain parts of meaning (morphemes) in 'port' Latin base words

port - carry

transport
teleport
export
import
deport
portable
portfolio
support

transport

trans + port = through/across + carry (carry through)

When you transport something, you carry it from one place to the next; you carry it 'across'

The carrier truck was used to transport a swathe of new cars.

transport
transports
transporting
transported
transportation
transportable

Spelling words

1. transporting
2. transported
3. transportation
4. transportable

1. Say it
2. Find the morphemes
3. Spell each morpheme
4. Read it

transportable

1. Circle the morphemes (prefixes, base, suffixes)
2. Explain the meaning of the word from the sentence below.

When cars are placed on a carrier truck, they become **transportable**.

transportable

1. trans port able
2. describing something as 'able to be carried across' – something that can be moved/transported from one place to another

Closure

- port = base from Latin root
- port means carry

- transport has to two morphemes
- transport means carrying something across somewhere (and it can also be a noun- the name for vehicles that can transport things/people)
  - cars, planes, trains and boats are forms of 'transport' or 'transport<u>ation</u>'
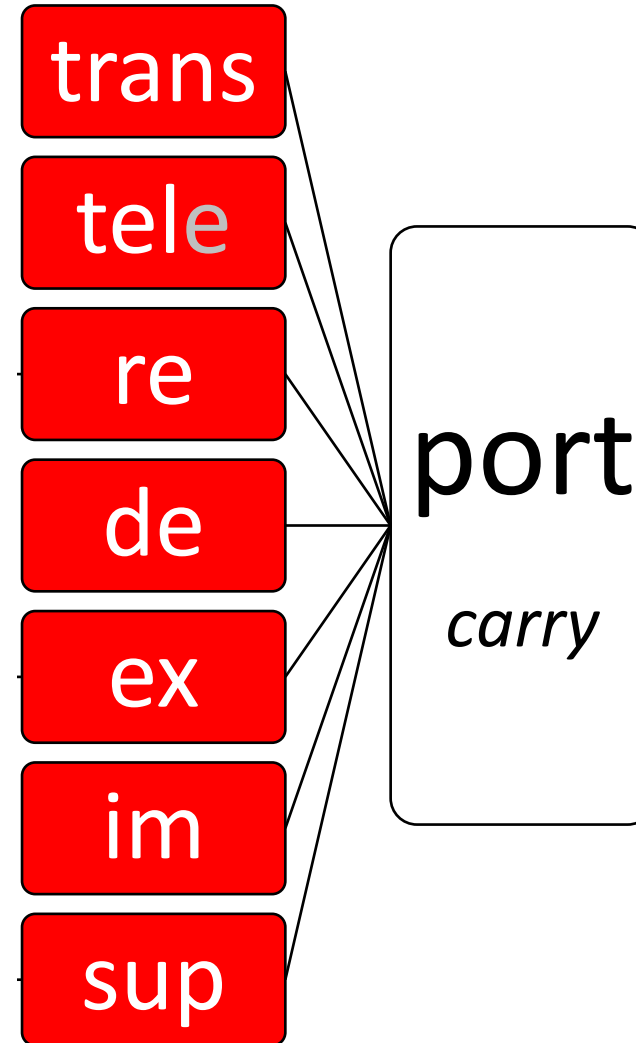
OVERVIEW
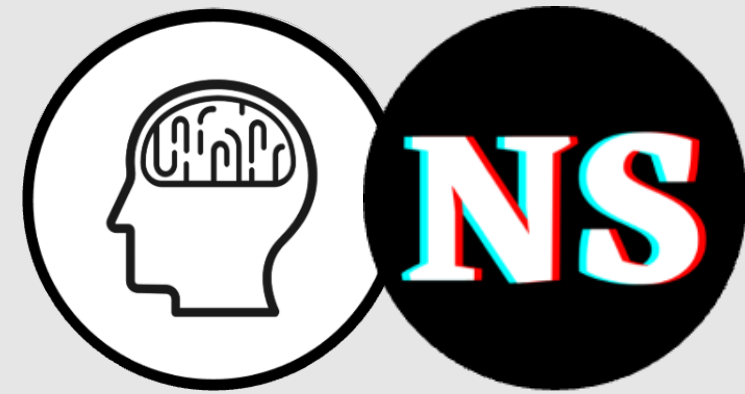
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Bringing morphemes to life

A variety of prefixes and suffixes allows you to play with bases

trans	
tele	**port**
re	*carry*
de	
ex	
im	
sup	

Bringing morphemes to life

Word webs

Word sorts

Word building

Port Jeopardy

Options			
transporting importer exportation	supportive importation portability	supporting deported exported	portable transportable deport

Answer	Question (answer it & spell it)	Number of Morphemes
1 Describes something that can be carried across from one place to another. Trucks move ___ items around.		
2 Continuing to/in the middle of carrying someone 'underneath'. I like ___ my favourite soccer team!		
3 To carry someone away (back to their country). The government had to ___ the couple from Australia.		
4 The idea of something that is able to be carried. The ___ of a laptop is great because you can take it anywhere!		
5 A person or company which carries items into the country. I am an ___; I bring in furniture from Europe.		
6 The idea of/the business of carrying items out of the country. I work in an ___ company; we send jam to China.		

Key Messages

Build Knowledge	Build up students' knowledge of common prefixes, suffixes, bases
Link Spelling with Meaning & Function	Build phonological, orthographic, and morphological awareness
Gauge Expertise	Use informal spelling and morphology measures to determine what students are up to
Link to Literature	Analyse words from students' literature
Link to Other Learning Areas	Get inspiration from Science, Humanities, Arts
Have fun	Learning about English is fascinating

Additional Free Presentations

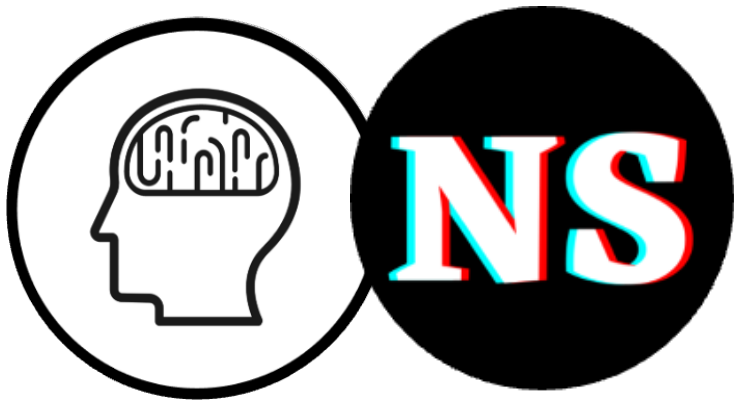JUN
21

THINK **FORWARD**
EDUCATORS

DET Resources

[Word Morphology](#)

[Spelling](#)

Intermediate/Advanced Spelling through Morphology

DR NATHANIEL SWAIN

THANK YOU