

Word Study: Assignment

There may be no better word family to illustrate the concept that every letter has a job than that of the base <sign>

1. What does it mean?

Assignment: A task or piece of work given to someone

2. What are the letters doing?

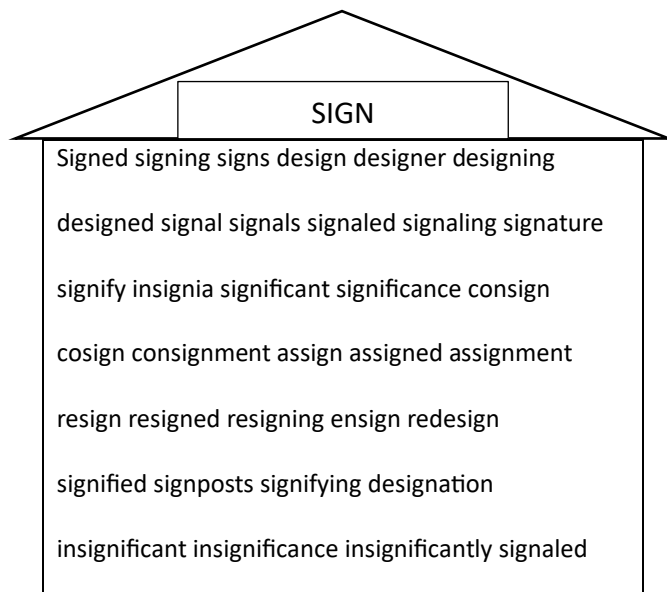
All letters represent unique sounds except the 'g' is a zeroed phoneme that allows the base 'sign' to maintain its connection to other words in its family.

3. How is it built?

As + sign + ment → assignment

4. What is its family?

Following are words included in the family of 'sign.'



The English word 'sign' is defined as above, but the Latin root 'sign' carries the feeling of 'mark, token, indication, symbol.'

This is a great word study to illustrate how 1) every letter has a job, and 2) patterns in English exist in spelling instead of pronunciation. There are many examples here of the letter 'g' being voiced as a phoneme and just as many example of it having been zeroed. Additionally the pronunciation of the 's' changes across the family as well when considering words like 'design' and 'resign.'

'Significant' is actually a compound word with 'fic' acting as another base and a connecting 'i' between both bases.