



Uncovering the Logic of English

BOOK STUDY DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



Chapters 1-2

4:20 Discuss:

- What two components are needed for reading comprehension, according to the Simple View of Reading? (2:25-2:43) How does the absence or weakness of either one of these skills hinder a person's ability to read and comprehend?
- Were you surprised to hear that two-thirds of students in 4th Grade in the United States read below grade level and struggle with reading? (1:42-2:05)

Chapters 3-4

9:57 Discuss:

- Why is it helpful to teach all the sounds of a phonogram from the start? (5:03-5:53)
- Were any of the phonogram sounds in this section new? If so, does this change your understanding of phonics and the value of phonics instruction? (5:55, 5:58, 8:13, 8:58)
- How can word origins help students to master spelling? (7:12)

Chapters 5-6

13:50 Discuss:

- What is the spelling rule about C softening to /s/? When does C say /s/? When does C say /k/? Was this rule new to you? If so, how does this knowledge change your understanding of English spelling? (10:50-11:26)

Chapters 7-8

16:55 Discuss:

- Why is understanding accurate spelling rules a key for being able to decode and spell? (16:45)
- Were any of the Silent E rules new to you? If so, how does this change your understanding of how to teach decoding and spelling? (14:00, 16:02, 16:30)

Chapters 9-10

19:53 Discuss:

- Drop the silent final E when adding a **vowel** suffix **only** if it is allowed by other spelling rules. When we add a suffix, we need to know why the silent E was needed in the first place. (Keep an E for a soft C or G.) Was the information about keeping or dropping a silent E when adding a *vowel suffix* new? How would this benefit a strong speller? How would it benefit a struggling speller?
- If you have read Chapter 10 of *Uncovering the Logic of English*, what is your favorite "aha moment" about adding suffixes?



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Chapters 11-18

23:11 (end) Discuss:

- What are your favorite rules from *Uncovering the Logic of English*? How have they transformed your understanding of the language?
- How has the information in this book and presentation transformed how you teach English?
- How can we all spread this information and empower ALL students to become strong readers, writers, and spellers?
- Is there a word that comes to mind where you memorized its spelling by rote without understanding why it was spelled that way? How would it transform your teaching if you knew the reasons for the spellings of all the words you use?