

# Seeing the Sense In Spelling

5 CPDUs

**A full-day seminar in English Orthography**

**Presented by LEX Author Gina Cooke, MA**

**Date:** Saturday, February 15, 2014    **Check-In:** 8:30am    **Seminar:** 9:00am to 3:00pm

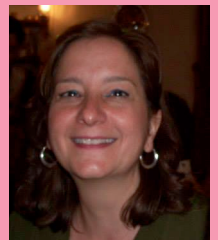
**Location:** Roanoke Mennonite Church, 1195 County Road 1600 E, Eureka, Illinois 61530

English spelling gets a bad rap as irregular, random, and just plain crazy. For most any learner, reading is a stronger skill set than spelling, and even as reading improves, spelling often lags behind. It is one of the most tested subjects, but also one of the least studied or taught. Most spelling instruction relies on lists, quizzes, and rote memorization, none of which appeals much to teachers, parents, or students.

Current research suggests that spelling is about much more than just spelling. In fact, structured, linguistically-informed spelling instruction has been linked to improved vocabulary skills (Bowers & Kirby 2009), improved comprehension (Mehta et al 2005), reading growth (Weiser 2009), and writing ability (Moats et al 2006).

In spite of its bad rap, English spelling is actually a highly ordered, rule-based system that can be studied in a structured, sensible way. While students are typically told to “sound it out,” this advice rarely holds; in fact, sound is the least of our concerns when it comes to the written word. The real job of the spelling system is to represent **sense and meaning** first, and pronunciation comes last.

Gina Cooke is the founder of LEX, an exchange between people who study language and people who teach it. A linguist in education and an Orton-Gillingham trainer, Gina offers a keen understanding of the English writing system. She has taught students from preschool through grad school, and is currently completing her Ph.D. She finds English orthography to be totally captivating.



LEX Linguist-Educator Exchange

[www.LinguistEducatorExchange.com](http://www.LinguistEducatorExchange.com)

## Seeing the Sense in Spelling

- ◆ shows how sense and meaning are the purpose of spelling
- ◆ demonstrates how English words are structured to represent meaning
- ◆ explains the historical forces behind Modern English spellings
- ◆ considers the constraints and conventions of phoneme (sound) and grapheme (letter) patterns
- ◆ questions the conventional wisdom about phonologically-driven models of teaching
- ◆ provides both print and online resources for ongoing learning and consultation
- ◆ offers tools and strategies to implement the next day

## Participants in the seminar will

- ◆ learn to analyze English words — break them apart — for meaningful, sensible spelling
- ◆ study the suffix addition rules that impact all of English orthography
- ◆ see so-called “irregular” words in a new light
- ◆ be engaged with and energized by the facts of English spelling, rather than memory devices and tricks
- ◆ take vigorous and robust spelling knowledge and strategies back to their classrooms and clinics
- ◆ understand the *why* of spelling as well as the *how*

## Materials

- ◆ a spelling workbook will be available for use in the seminar and beyond
- ◆ additional materials, while not required for use or implementation, will be available for purchase

Fax, mail, or email your registration form by 2/12/14 to:

LEX: Linguist Educator Exchange ◆ P.O. Box 163 ◆ Eureka, IL 61530  
(760) 454-3639 (fax) [ginarama.lex@gmail.com](mailto:ginarama.lex@gmail.com)

**Seeing the Sense in Spelling**

**Registration Fee: \$100.00**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Check (payable to LEX) \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card (Visa, MC) # \_\_\_\_\_ Billing ZIP Code \_\_\_\_\_

Exp: \_\_\_\_\_ CVV: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

***Please bring a lunch, as there are no eateries nearby!***



<http://linguisteducatorexchange.wordpress.com>