

## Words Their Way Classroom © 2019

### Virtual Program Activation: Frequently Asked Questions

#### Where can I get help with questions I have about Savvas Realize, Google Classroom, or another platform?

We offer a wide range of training resources regarding our platform Savvas Realize (including how it interacts with Google Classroom) on our teacher and administrator training site [My Savvas Training](#). Specifically, our platform training resources can be found on the [Realize page](#).

#### Where can I get further assistance if my question isn't answered here or I can't find my answer in the materials found on My Savvas Training?

Our curriculum specialists and educational consultants are at times available to live chat, and you can also leave messages for them so that they can get back to you as soon as possible. Both of those options are available on [the Ask a Training Specialist page of My Savvas Training](#). Please note that you must be logged in to My Savvas Training to access this feature.

#### Is there a way for students to complete PDF worksheet assignments without having to download and print the worksheets prior to submitting them?

Yes, Savvas Realize includes a new Interactive PDFs editing tool that now enables students to complete and submit PDF assignments 100% digitally. Please view this [short support video](#) that reviews the key features of our new Interactive PDFs student editing tool within Savvas Realize.

## What is the program philosophy for Foundational Literacy Skills and Shared Reading?

*Words Their Way Classroom* is a foundational program that helps students develop the skills targeted in the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). Specifically, *Words Their Way Classroom* supports the CCSS's Reading Foundational Skills and Language Standards in Grades K-5. The depth and breadth of word knowledge developed through the *Words Their Way Classroom* approach to word study also supports the CCSS's emphasis on students' reading more-complex literary and informational texts.

## How does *Words Their Way Classroom* provide differentiation to meet the needs of all learners?

Recognizing that students in the classroom are at different developmental stages of word study, as well as at different levels within a particular stage, will help differentiate instruction for them. In addition to having them work with sorts at their developmental levels, teachers can meet individual differences by adjusting the pace of instruction or making sorts easier or harder. *Words Their Way Classroom* uses these strategies to differentiate instruction with students learning English, in tiered instruction in the classroom and in interventions, and with advanced instruction.

## How have the words that appear at each stage been selected?

The *Words Their Way Classroom* authors have selected, organized, and sequenced words according to the follow criteria: Developmental appropriateness; Frequency in reading and in students' writing; Common spelling patterns reflecting sound and/or meaning; At the Syllables & Affixes and Derivational levels, common morphological elements (affixes and word roots)

## How can teachers use the program within an existing core curriculum?

You can use *Words Their Way Classroom* as a supplement to any core reading program or as a Tier 2 intervention for struggling students. From pre-Kindergarten to middle school, students receive instruction in *Words Their Way Classroom* according to their developmental spelling level, and the program provides teachers with specialized guidance on how to help students generalize and apply their existing word knowledge to other contexts to achieve reading success.

## What is the intended use of each type of *Words Their Way Classroom* assessment?

To place students in *Word Study Notebook* level, develop word study groups, and administer the **Qualitative Spelling Inventory (QSI)**. Spelling inventories are made up of words specially chosen to represent a variety of spelling features or patterns at increasing levels of difficulty. The results of a spelling inventory lead to establishing the small groups for instruction. The following are used to identify students' developmental stages; determine the features of the program that require instruction; and create and/or restructure groups. You can administer **Spelling Inventories** up to three times during the year to assess progress and determine whether changes need to be made in student groupings or instructional focus. You can use periodic **Spell Checks** to fine-tune student placement. Students who score between 50 percent and 75 percent on a Spell Check should be ready to study that feature. Spell Checks can also be used as a spelling pretest; to assess students' prior knowledge before new instruction begins; or as a posttest immediately following instruction or administered several weeks after instruction to determine what students have retained over time.

## Are there QSIs included in *Palabras*?

*Palabras* includes one version of the Qualitative Spelling Inventory--a **Spanish Spelling Inventory** is included in the program.

## Where can teachers locate resources to introduce the word sorts?

The *Words Their Way Classroom* digital course includes word and picture lists that teachers can project via the Realize Reader. Alternately, teachers who wish to create a set of sort cards for their classes can do so by purchasing an extra Student Edition.

## Why is the *Palabras Teacher Resource Guide* written primarily in English?

Since many people who will evaluate and use these materials are English-dominant, Savvas decided to use English as the main language for information directed at the teacher; content that is to be delivered to students by the teacher is written in Spanish.

## Since the teacher can only score the QSI as correct or incorrect if delivering it digitally, is it true that there is no automated way to analyze the data?

While the Realize platform does not allow for automated student grouping, Excel-based scoring sheets are accessible within the digital course to aid teachers in recording and tallying the qualitative spelling inventories.

## Why have certain Spell Check assessment items on Realize been modified from Fill-in-the Blank (auto-score) to Open Response (teacher-scored)?

This change was made to ensure that students receive credit for identifying the correct spelling pattern, but not be penalized for misspelled words.

## How are the Interactive Sorts scored online?

The **Check Answers/Try Again** button will identify correct/incorrect answers, and give students the opportunity to try a second time. The **Start Over** button will move all of the tiles back to their starting position. To receive a percentage score, students must first check their answers before turning in the assignment.

## **Why don't the Interactive Writing Sorts match the hands-on activities that appear in the *Student Word Study Notebooks*?**

It is intentional that the hands-on sorts located in the *Student Word Study Notebooks* differ from that of what appears online, so that students have two mediums by which to practice their sorting techniques. The first two stages (EELN and LN) use a Drag-and-Drop functionality because most children at these stages have not yet honed their keyboarding skills. Drag-and-Drop functionality also allows for scoring on the Realize platform.

## **What is the easiest way to access Teacher materials online?**

The Interactive Teacher Resource Guide is just like the print version, but with point-of-use access to digital versions of sort resources and activities. The top of the page lists the focus of the sort. Under Sort Overview, you'll find information about the Generalization that the sort addresses along with the student objective. Click each item listed under the Materials section to open the digital version.

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## **Is there a way to turn off the auto-spell correct feature when students are taking assessments online?**

While there is no way for the Savvas Realize platform to suppress this, the devices used for administering online assessments can disable the auto-spell correct feature (for example, in Chrome: Edit>Spelling and Grammar>Check Spelling While Typing).

## **Has the Scope & Sequence been updated from the previous copyright edition?**

The Scope & Sequence has been updated to match the authors' most up-to-date research findings, as have various word sorts across the five stages.