



Happy

EVERYDAY EVENT:

This week's Exceptional Expression for Everyday Events studies the word *happy*. A teacher may be *happy* with the way a group of students' works quietly and diligently on their reading assignment. Students may also feel *happy* because they received an "A" on the aforementioned reading assignment. In either example, someone is feeling different degrees of

happiness during the school day.

The word *happy* is an excellent word to explore on a word line. There are subtle differences in how happy a person feels.

EXCEPTIONAL EXPRESSION:

The word *happy* has numerous meanings. First, the word *happy* can be used to signify a state of being, such as a person who is in high spirits or in a positive mood. This usage of the word *happy* is descriptive (adjective) of a person's general feeling or attitude.

Happy can also be used to describe a situation that is fortunate or lucky. For instance, an occurrence can be considered *happy* because it is beneficial to us in one way or another, such as rain letting up so that kids can play outside.

A person may also use the word *happy* to describe something that is merely apt or suitable. An example of this usage is when a teacher tells a student that it would make him/her *happy* if the student turned his paper in on time. The teacher, in this case, is not saying that he/she would be ecstatic if the student turned his paper in on time, rather that it would be suitable or appropriate if the student did so.

FOLLOW-UPS

- What is the difference between being happy and ecstatic?
- When do we use the word happy when we actually mean appropriate or suitable?
- How might we describe various degrees of happiness within the classroom?

THE SPANISH CONNECTION:

The word *happy* comes from an Early Middle-English word *hap*. It is believed that *hap* is an adaptation of an Old Norse word, *happ*, which means chance, or good luck. The Spanish word for *happy* is *feliz*. Although *feliz* is not a cognate of *happy*, *feliz* is related to other words in English such as *felicity* or *felicitous*.

WORD CHANGES:

1) IDIOMS

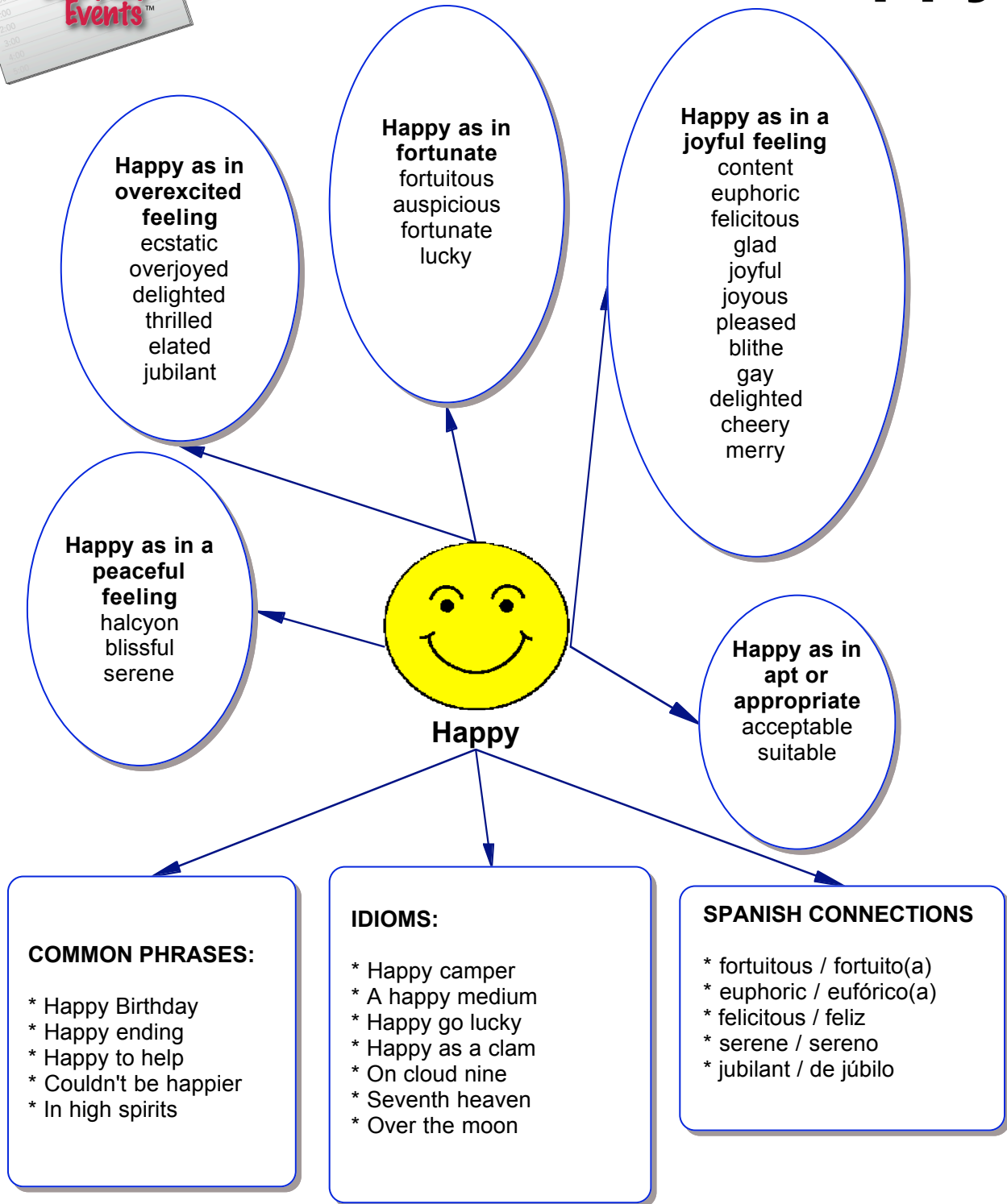
- Happy camper
- A happy medium
- Happy go lucky
- Happy as a clam
- On cloud nine
- Seventh heaven
- Over the moon

2) COMMON PHRASES

- Happy Birthday
- Happy ending
- Happy to help
- Couldn't be happier
- In high spirits



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