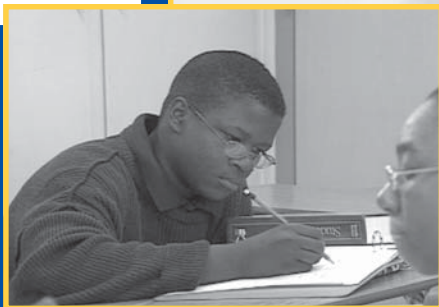
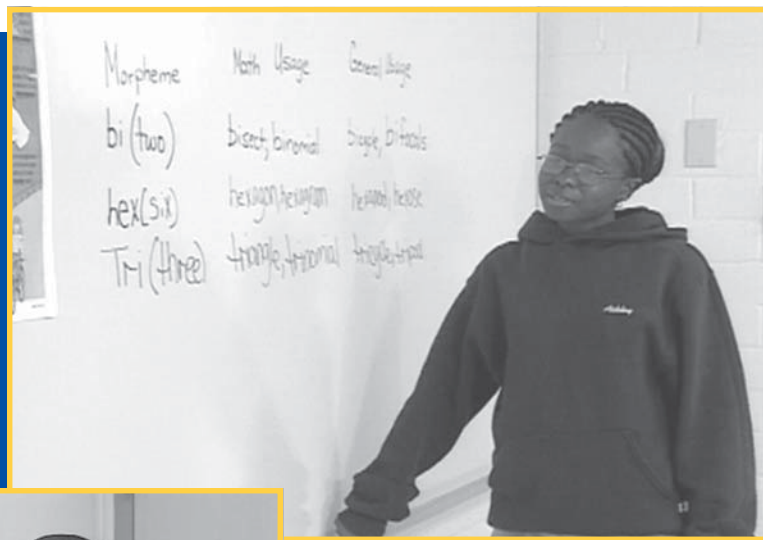


Literacy Strategy

Morphemic Analysis

A morpheme can be defined as the smallest unit of language that has an associated meaning. This small unit cannot be subdivided into smaller units that have meaning. Thus, the purpose of morphemic analysis is to study the morphemes of words to aid in understanding the meaning of those words. In mathematics, this literacy strategy can be applied to study meaningful parts of words. For example, the word triangle has two morphemes, *tri* and *angle*. These morphemes mean three and the relationship of rays respectively; thus, a triangle is a three-sided or angled figure.

Morphemic Analysis in the mathematics classroom involves selecting words, identifying a morpheme of that word, defining the morpheme, identifying mathematics words with that morpheme, and relating it to words of general usage with the same morpheme. Going through this process with students helps them understand the meanings of specific words and the relationships between words. For example, *tri* in *tripod* means three and *tri* in *triangle* means three as well. In the mathematics classroom, students in small groups can identify difficult terminology. As a whole class, the students can create a chart listing a morpheme, mathematics words that use that morpheme, and finally general usage words that use the same morphemes.



Morphemic Analysis