



A dog howled, ~~braeking~~ the
comma → breaking

stillness. Someone was behind me...
period ← ellipsis

Word Families and Patterns



What is a word family?

Words can be made up of one or more parts.

un

truth

ful

The beginning part of the word, called a **'prefix'**.

The main part of the word, called a **'root'**. Some roots are complete words, others are just combinations of letters.

The end part of the word, called a **'suffix'**.

One root can be combined with different prefixes and/or suffixes. We call group of words that share a root a **'word family'**.

Knowing about word families can help you to understand the meanings of unfamiliar words – and help you to spell them.

An example of a word family

These words are in a word family.



What is the root word of this word family?



As they appear, sort the words into their word families.

1

2

3

Sort these words into their word families. What is the root word of each word family?
Press start to begin.

start



solve



As they appear, sort the words into their word families.

1

2

3

Now sort these words into their word families. Remember – the root is not always a word in its own right.
Press start to begin.

start



solve



Look at these root words.

Can you guess what each one means?

-port-	→	'to carry'	→	deport, export, import, report, support, transport
-tract-	→	'to pull, drag, draw'	→	attract, contract, detract, extract, protract, retract, traction, tractor
-path-	→	'feeling, suffering'	→	empathy, sympathy, apathy, psychopath

Create word families for the words below.

You will need to think of the different prefixes and/or suffixes that can be added to each word to form new words.

happy

weight

excite

take

suit

friend



Many roots have classical origins.

What do you think the Latin
'-scrib-' or **'-script-'** means?

scribe
scribble
script
describe
description
prescribe
prescription
subscribe
subscription

It means
'to write',
'writing'.

What do you think the
Latin **'populous'** means?

population
(un)**popular**
popularly
populate(d)
popularity
popularize
populist

It means
(the)
people.

How many words can you think of that
contain the stem **'-dict-'** ('say')?

Each pair of words shown here shares a common Latin root that can tell us more about the meaning of the words.

Can you figure out what the root is and what it means?

octopus
octagon



Linked by the Latin root word '**octo**' meaning '**eight**'.

geology
geography



Linked by the Greek root '**ge**' meaning '**earth**'.

aqualung
aquarium



Linked by the Latin root '**aqua**' meaning '**water**'.



Link words in the first and second columns that share the same Latin root to their meaning in the third column.

manual

audience

foot

multiple

pedal

hand

pedestrian

multiply

place

local

ignition

hear

ignite

locate

fire

audio

manipulate

many



solve

