

stillness Someone was behind memperiod

# 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.

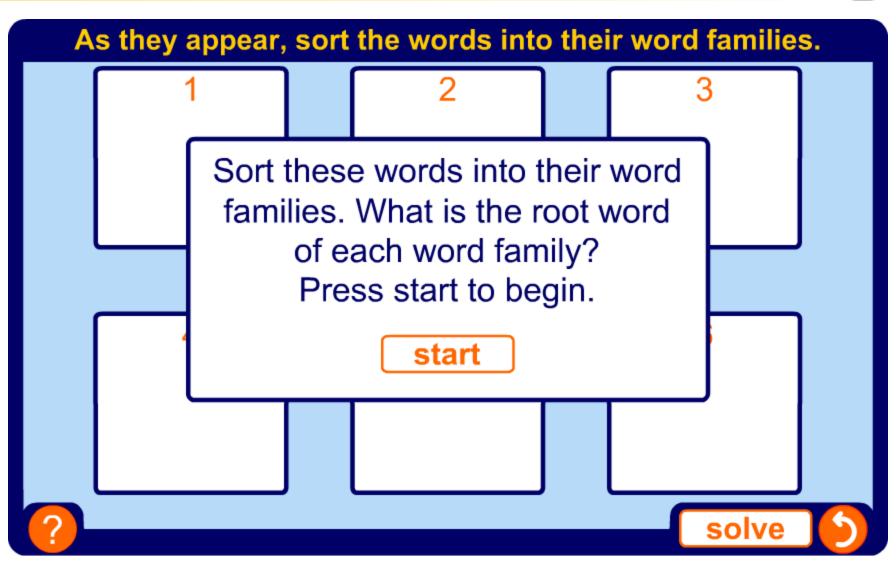
unemployment employer unemployed employing employee employment unemployable employ





## **Word families**







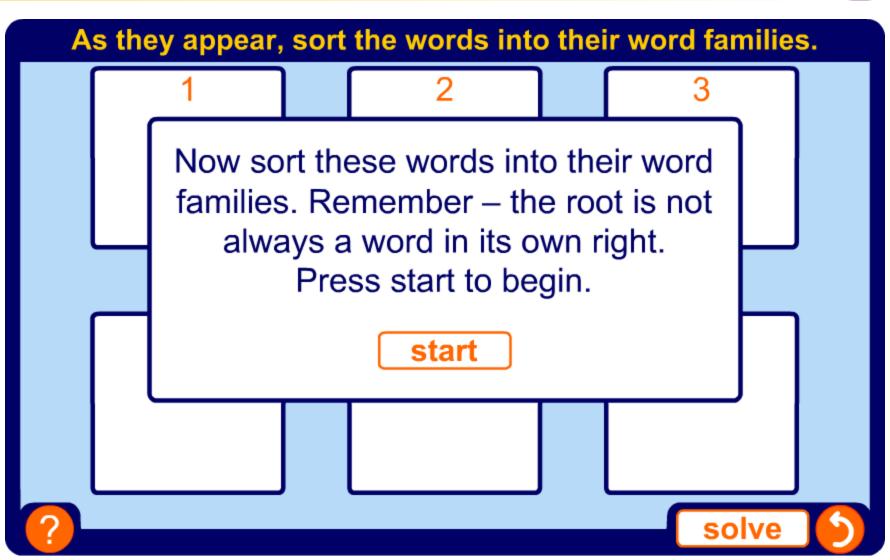


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### **Word families**











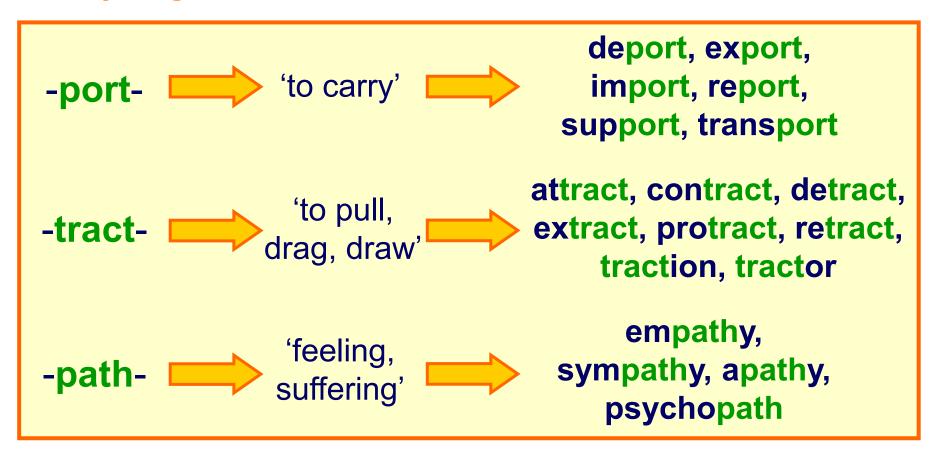
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## **Root meanings**



Look at these root words.

Can you guess what each one means?







## **Creating word families**



#### 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





#### **Latin roots**



Many roots have classical origins.

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

scribe scribble script describe description

prescribe

subscribe

prescription

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')?



#### **Latin roots**



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'.





#### **Latin roots**



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





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