

Root Words 2

Log

Log is an interesting root. It comes from the Greek word *logos*, meaning ‘word’, ‘speech’ or ‘reason’, and is found in the English words *logic*, *logo*, *dialogue*, *analogous* and others. It is also found in the suffix **-logy** and its derivatives, as in *ecology*, *astrologer*, *psychologist* and *zoological*.

Building words

Knowledge of foreign root words, prefixes and suffixes can help you to build words up and take them apart. For example, **auto-** means ‘self’, **bio-** means ‘life’, **graph-** means ‘write’, and **-er** means ‘somebody who does something’. So an *autobiographer* is a person who writes about his or her own life. If you know that **hydro-** means ‘water’ and **-phobia** means ‘fear’, you should have no difficulty in creating the word for ‘fear of water’. If you know that **pseudo-** means ‘false’ and **-nym** means ‘name’, you should not need to use a dictionary to find out what a *pseudonym* is.

How many new words can you make from these ‘building blocks’?

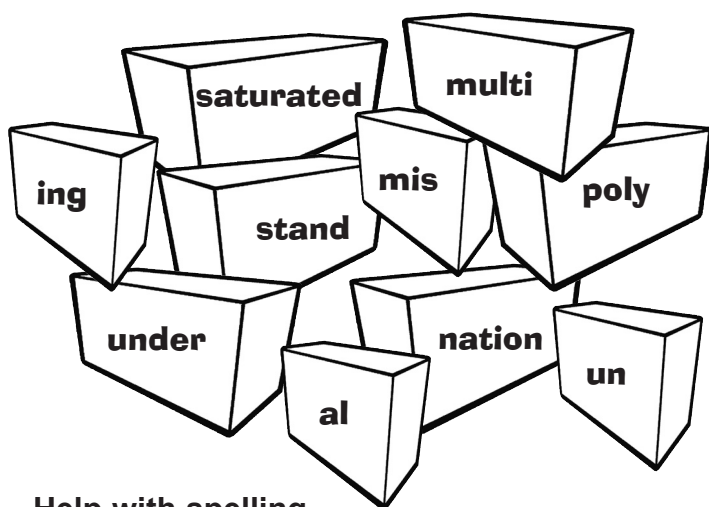
tele	ped	ion	dict	photo
contra	graph	ition	ex	vis

Here are some pairs of words that you can ‘mix and match’ to make a different pair with the same roots. Can you think of any more pairs like these?

biography, geology	→	biology, geography
telephone, microscope	→	telescope, microphone

Building blocks

Three long words have been broken into pieces to make building blocks. Can you draw lines between the blocks to match the pieces up again? Then write out the original three words on the lines, matching each word with its meaning.



- _____ a mistake about meaning
- _____ of a company; having branches in several different countries
- _____ of oil; containing no cholesterol

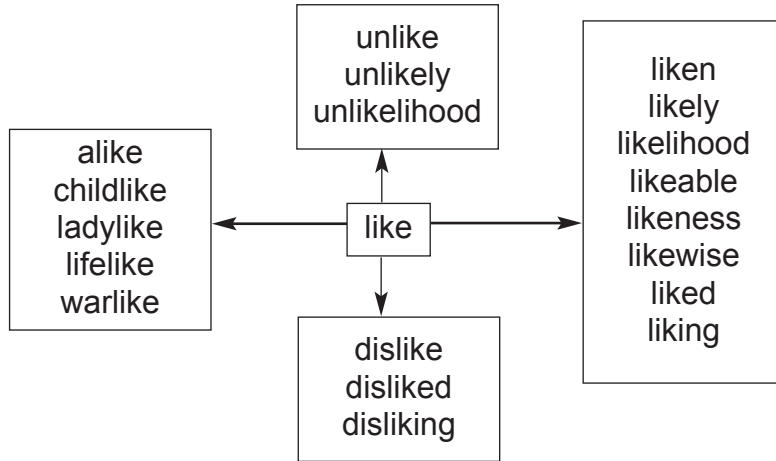
Help with spelling

Knowledge of foreign root words can help with spelling. The words *pneumatic* and *pneumonia* share the root *pneum*, which means ‘air’ or ‘breath’: *pneumatic* tyres are filled with air, and *pneumonia* is a disease of the lungs, through which we breathe. The root *scien*, which means ‘knowing’, is a difficult letter pattern that is found in words such as *science*, *scientific*, *conscience* and *conscientious*.

WORD WEBS

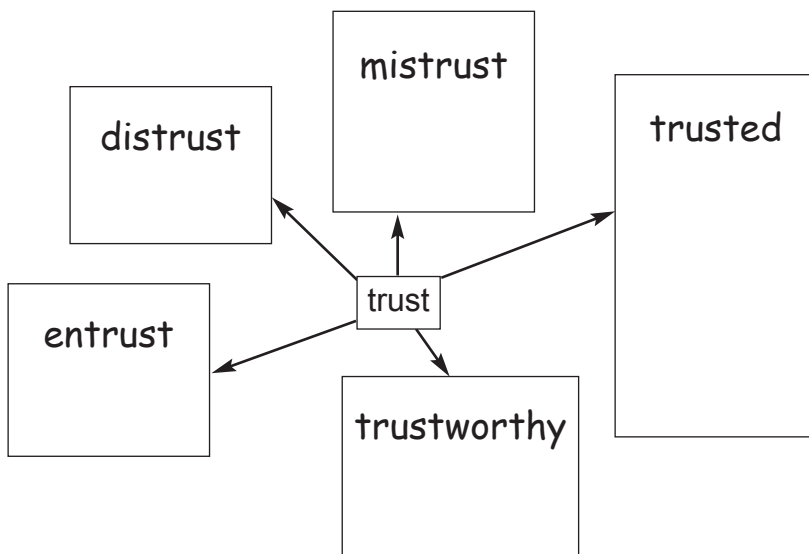
A *word web* is a diagram showing how one word may be linked to several other groups of words. For example, the word *insignificant* can be linked to words with the prefix **in-** (for example *inedible, informal*), words with the suffix **-ant** (for example *arrogant, buoyant*), words containing the root *sign* (for example *signature, designer*), and words related to *significant* (*significance, signify*).

To make a word web, place the key word in a box in the centre, with arrows leading out to boxes containing the other word groups.



Here are some words related to the word *trust*. Can you fit them into the word web below? Remember to group words carefully in the same way as in the word web for *like*. A suggested starting point for each box has been filled in for you.

- | | | | |
|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------|
| trustee | mistrust | trustily | trusting |
| distrustful | trusted | trustworthiness | mistrustful |
| trustingly | trusteeship | distrustfully | trustworthy |
| entrust | mistrustfulness | trustiness | entrusting |
| trustworthily | entrusted | distrust | trusty |



Can you make webs for words related to *friend*, like *befriend, girlfriend, and friendly*? Now choose some more words and draw your own word webs for each. What is the biggest word web you can make?