Spelling LI: To understand how words are created

Our language had evolved over thousands of years to become what we use today (and it is still growing and changing all the time). Over all those years, the English language we use now has borrowed words from lots of other languages—some still spoken and some long ago left behind. It is what makes our language so rich and descriptive and why we have so many words for the same thing. For example, ‘enormous’ comes originally from Latin, ‘huge’ is from French and ‘giant’ is originally Greek.

Understanding a little about how words are created can help us with understanding new words and also with our spelling. We are going to explore root words to help us with this.

Root words are the very basic parts of words, the bit that we add prefixes and suffixes to in order to make complete words with different meanings, for example ‘chron’ means time (from Greek) and then by adding other endings, you get different words—chronic means something lasting a long time, chronological means putting something in order of when it happened.

In order to understand which words are created from the same root, you need to understand what the root word means because some words contain the same patterns but are not related to the original root.

For example, the root word ‘bi’ comes from the Latin meaning for twice or two.

If you know this, you can look up words that contain the root ‘bi’ - you will need to use a computer for this).

Look at the words that include the root word ‘bi’ and think about which ones are related to the meaning—this requires using your HOT skills to evaluate the evidence you have in the meanings you have found. You need to understand the meanings of the new words to ensure they have the root you are investigating.

e.g.  bicycle—a cycle with two wheels
      biplane—a plane with two sets of wings
      biannual—something that happens twice a year
      biology—the scientific study of life

All these words contain ‘bi’ but only the top three are related to the correct root word ‘bi’ meaning two or twice, (‘bio’ comes from Greek and means life!).

Your task: Use the prompt cards in this pack to explore root words. Before using a computer to look up the words that contain the given roots, try to think of any that you already know. Saying the word aloud can get you thinking about what words you already know! Then use a computer to ask ‘what words use the root …’. Explore what you find, make a list of new words and definitions that you may use in future.
Spelling LI: To understand how words are created

root word: auto
meaning: self, same, one
from: Greek

SC: I can identify words made from a given root word

root word: cert
meaning: sure
from: Latin

root word: ami
meaning: love
from: Latin

root word: com
meaning: together
from: Latin

SC: I can identify words made from a given root word
Spelling LI: To understand how words are created

root word : chron
meaning : time
from : Greek

SC: I can identify words made from a given root word

root word : agro or agri
meaning : farming
from : Latin and Greek

SC: I can identify words made from a given root word

root word : ambi
meaning : both
from : Latin

SC: I can identify words made from a given root word

root word : cycl
meaning : circle, ring
from : Greek

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root word: dict
meaning: speak
from: Latin

SC: I can identify words made from a given root word

root word: inter
meaning: between, among
from: Latin

SC: I can identify words made from a given root word

root word: flect
meaning: bend
from: Latin

SC: I can identify words made from a given root word

root word: graph
meaning: writing, recording
from: Greek

SC: I can identify words made from a given root word
Spelling LI: To understand how words are created

root word: rupt
meaning: break, burst
from: Latin

SC: I can identify words made from a given root word

root word: put
meaning: think
from: Latin

SC: I can identify words made from a given root word

root word: vac
meaning: empty
from: Latin

SC: I can identify words made from a given root word

root word: equ or equi
meaning: equal, equally
from: Latin

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root word: memor
meaning: remember
from: Latin

SC: I can identify words made from a given root word

Spelling LI: To understand how words are created

root word: sta
meaning: stand
from: Latin

SC: I can identify words made from a given root word

Spelling LI: To understand how words are created

root word: stell
meaning: star
from: Latin

SC: I can identify words made from a given root word

Spelling LI: To understand how words are created

root word: tele or telo
meaning: far, distant
from: Greek

SC: I can identify words made from a given root word
Spelling LI: To understand how words are created

root word: pop
meaning: people
from: Latin

SC: I can identify words made from a given root word

root word: temp
meaning: time
from: Latin

root word: lab
meaning: work
from: Latin

SC: I can identify words made from a given root word

root word: pan
meaning: all, any, everyone
from: Greek

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Spelling LI: To understand how words are created

root word: log or logo
meaning: word, learning
from: Latin

SC: I can identify words made from a given root word

root word: magna or magni
meaning: great, large
from: Latin

SC: I can identify words made from a given root word

root word: loc
meaning: place
from: Latin

SC: I can identify words made from a given root word

root word: mal
meaning: bad, ill, wrong
from: Latin

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Spelling LI: To understand how words are created

root word: bene
meaning: good, well
from: Latin

SC: I can identify words made from a given root word

Spelling LI: To understand how words are created

root word: bio
meaning: life, living things
from: Greek

SC: I can identify words made from a given root word

Spelling LI: To understand how words are created

root word: cand
meaning: glowing
from: Latin

SC: I can identify words made from a given root word

Spelling LI: To understand how words are created

root word: clam or claim
meaning: shout, speak out
from: Latin

SC: I can identify words made from a given root word
Spelling LI: To understand how words are created

root word: dem or demo
meaning: people
from: Greek

SC: I can identify words made from a given root word

Spelling LI: To understand how words are created

root word: dent or dont
meaning: teeth
from: Latin

SC: I can identify words made from a given root word

Spelling LI: To understand how words are created

root word: fact
meaning: make, do
from: Latin

SC: I can identify words made from a given root word

Spelling LI: To understand how words are created

root word: flect
meaning: bend
from: Latin

SC: I can identify words made from a given root word
Spelling LI: To understand how words are created

root word: form
meaning: shape
from: Latin

SC: I can identify words made from a given root word

Spelling LI: To understand how words are created

root word: fus
meaning: pour
from: Latin

SC: I can identify words made from a given root word

Spelling LI: To understand how words are created

root word: gram
meaning: letter, written
from: Greek

SC: I can identify words made from a given root word

Spelling LI: To understand how words are created

root word: hydr or hydro
meaning: liquid, water
from: Greek

SC: I can identify words made from a given root word
Spelling LI: To understand how words are created

root word: hyper
meaning: too much, over
from: Latin and Greek

SC: I can identify words made from a given root word

root word: hypo
meaning: under
from: Greek

SC: I can identify words made from a given root word

root word: ject
meaning: throw
from: Latin

SC: I can identify words made from a given root word

root word: jud
meaning: law
from: Latin

SC: I can identify words made from a given root word
Spelling LI: To understand how words are created

root word: liber
meaning: free
from: Latin

SC: I can identify words made from a given root word

root word: mand
meaning: to order
from: Latin

SC: I can identify words made from a given root word

root word: medi
meaning: middle
from: Latin

SC: I can identify words made from a given root word

root word: mob
meaning: move
from: Latin

SC: I can identify words made from a given root word
root word: mort
meaning: death
from: Latin

root word: opt or ops
meaning: eye, visual
from: Greek

root word: not
meaning: to mark
from: Latin

root word: ped
meaning: foot, feet
from: Latin
Spelling LI: To understand how words are created

root word: phon
meaning: sound
from: Greek

SC: I can identify words made from a given root word

Spelling LI: To understand how words are created

root word: photo
meaning: light
from: Greek

SC: I can identify words made from a given root word

Spelling LI: To understand how words are created

root word: poli
meaning: city
from: Greek

SC: I can identify words made from a given root word

Spelling LI: To understand how words are created

root word: port
meaning: carry
from: Latin

SC: I can identify words made from a given root word
Spelling LI: To understand how words are created

root word: rupt
meaning: break, burst
from: Latin

SC: I can identify words made from a given root word

root word: san
meaning: health
from: Latin

SC: I can identify words made from a given root word

root word: scrib
meaning: write, written
from: Latin

SC: I can identify words made from a given root word

root word: serv
meaning: save, keep
from: Latin

SC: I can identify words made from a given root word
Spelling LI: To understand how words are created

root word: sol
meaning: alone
from: Latin

SC: I can identify words made from a given root word

root word: son
meaning: sound
from: Latin

SC: I can identify words made from a given root word

root word: sol
meaning: sun
from: Latin

SC: I can identify words made from a given root word

root word: struct
meaning: build
from: Latin

SC: I can identify words made from a given root word
Spelling LI: To understand how words are created

root word: therm
meaning: heat
from: Greek

SC: I can identify words made from a given root word

Spelling LI: To understand how words are created

root word: tract
meaning: pull, drag
from: Latin

SC: I can identify words made from a given root word

Spelling LI: To understand how words are created

root word: trans
meaning: across, beyond
from: Latin

SC: I can identify words made from a given root word

Spelling LI: To understand how words are created

root word: voc
meaning: voice, call
from: Latin

SC: I can identify words made from a given root word