

Word Families

Part A

Word families are groups of words that have a similar meaning or spelling pattern. They sound similar and share some of the same root words or the same letters, with different prefixes or suffixes added.

Choose the right word from these word family lists to fill the gaps. The first one has been done for you.

play	played	playing	replay	display	player
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1. Dog is **playing** with the duck feathers.
2. Bee seems to _____ disappointment that she can only pluck feathers.
3. If Glinting Fang were a football _____, I bet she would be amazing!

history	historic	prehistoric	historian
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4. Mammoths lived in _____ times but they are not alive today.
5. A _____ came to our school to tell us about how Stone Age tribes lived.
6. It was a _____ event when Glinting Fang killed the cave lion.

circle	circular	circled	circus	circling
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7. The elders _____ the fire as they danced.
8. When the tribe carried out the Ritual, they looked a little like _____ performers in their striking robes.
9. Dad rubbed the brain goo onto the deerskin in _____ movements.

hurt	unhurt	hurtful	hurting
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10. Write one or more sentences using words from the word family for 'hurt'.

Part B

Word families are groups of words that have a similar meaning or spelling pattern. They sound similar and share some of the same root words or the same letters, with different prefixes or suffixes added.

For example, the root word in this list is 'play'. The words have different prefixes, suffixes and meanings but they are linked together as a word family by the meaning of the root word 'play'.

play	played	playing	replay	display	player
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List other words that are in the same family as the word underlined in each sentence. You could use a dictionary to help. The first one has been done for you.

1. I especially hate feathers covered in dog slime.

special, speciality, specialist, specialise

2. It's so unfair.

3. I could be a mighty hunter too.

4. Travelling is boring.

5. Dog gets excited whenever I shout.

6. Well, I don't hate ducks.

7. He continues to sing happily.

8. I could learn to build the fire.

★ ★
★ Challenge Task ★

List words in the same word family as 'help' and write some sentences using these words. You could use a dictionary to help.

Word Families Answers

Part A

2. Bee seems to display disappointment that she can only pluck feathers.
3. If Glinting Fang were a football player, I bet she would be amazing!
4. Mammoths lived in prehistoric times but they are not alive today.
5. A historian came to our school to tell us about how Stone Age tribes lived.
6. It was a historic event when Glinting Fang killed the cave lion.
7. The elders circled the fire as they danced.
8. When the tribe carried out the Ritual, they looked a little like circus performers in their striking robes.
9. Dad rubbed the brain goo onto the deerskin in circular movements.
10. Example answers:

Bee found it hurtful when Rat was rude to her.

Luckily, Bee was unhurt when Dad threw a dead duck at her!

Part B

Example answers:

1. I especially hate feathers covered in dog slime.
covering, uncover, recover, cover
2. It's so unfair.
fair, fairly, unfairly, fairest, fairness
3. I could be a mighty hunter too.
might, almighty, mightiness
4. Travelling is boring.
travel, traveller, travels
5. Dog gets excited whenever I shout.
excitable, exciting, excite, excitement, unexciting, overexcite
6. Well, I don't hate ducks.
hatred, hateful, hated, hating

7. He continues to sing happily.

happy, happiness, unhappy, unhappiness

8. I could learn to build the fire.

building, builder, rebuild, built

★ ★
★ Challenge Task ★

Example answers: *help, helpful, helper, helped, helping, unhelpful, helpfully, unhelpfully.*

Bee wants to be helpful to the rest of her tribe.

Bee's job is helping to pluck duck feathers.

Unhelpfully, Dog ran away with the stick.