

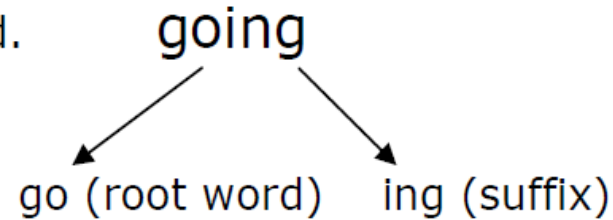
PREFIXES, SUFFIXES AND ROOT WORDS

Introduction

ROOT WORDS

A root word is a real word and you make new words from it by adding prefixes and suffixes.

A suffix is attached to the end of a root word.



Root words are helpful because:

You can use a root word to help you with other spellings.

If you recognise the root of a word when you are reading it can help you to work out what the word is and what it means.

There are spelling rules for adding suffixes and prefixes to root words.

Learning

Learn ing

successful

Success ful

SUFFIXES

Adding suffixes to words can change or add to their meaning, but most importantly they show how a word will be used in a sentence and what part of speech (e.g. noun, verb, adjective) the word belongs to.

e.g. If you want to use the root word 'talk' in the following sentence:

I was (talk) to Samina.

You need to add the suffix 'ing' so that the word 'talk' makes better sense grammatically:

"I was talking to Samina".

SUFFIXES

- ◉ Activity 1:
- ◉ Write down as many suffixes as you can think of.
- ◉ You have 5 minutes!

Suffix
ed

Example
walk + ed = **walked**

ing

say + ing = **saying**

er

tall + er = **taller**

tion

educate + tion =
education

sion

divide + sion =
division

cian

music + cian =
musician

fully

hope + fully =
hopefully

est

large + est =
largest

Suffix
ness

Example
happy + ness =
happiness

al

accident + al =
accidental

ary

imagine + ary =
imaginary

able

accept + able =
acceptable

ly

love + ly = **lovely**

ment

excite + ment =
excitement

ful

help + ful +
helpful

y

ease + y = **easy**

SUFFIXES... COMMON ERRORS

-less with less than two ss is **useless**.

Care**less**

hope**less**

relent**less**

Root words ending in 'e'. Remember to drop the 'e' when adding 'ing'!

Take + ing = taking

make + ing = making

-ful is always a three-letter word - unless it's used as a word on its own:

Someone who's **full** of care is **careful**.

Mind**ful**

success**ful**

hope**ful**

regret**ful**

PREFIXES

- ◉ A prefix is a group of letters which you can add to the **beginning** of a root word to change the meaning of the word.

e.g. **mis** + fortune = **misfortune**

Prefix meanings:

Every prefix has a meaning, for example:

The prefix '**un**' means 'not'

The root word '**clear**' means 'bright', 'free from difficulty'

un + **clear** = **unclear** which means 'not clear' or 'dim', 'difficult to see or understand'

PREFIXES

- ◉ Activity 1:
- ◉ Write down as many prefixes as you can think of.
- ◉ You have 5 minutes!
- ◉ Extra points if you can also write down the meaning of the prefix!

PREFIXES

Generally when you add a prefix to a root word the spelling of the prefix and the root words stays the same.

(Think of mobile phone tariffs, you can choose to add 'bolt ons' to your contract to suit a purpose)

Prefix	+	Root word	=	Word
un	+	kind	=	unkind
im	+	mature	=	immature
bi	+	cycle	=	bicycle
mis	+	fire	=	misfire
in	+	visible	=	invisible

PREFIXES... COMMON ERRORS

When the prefix 'all' is added to a root word the final 'l' of 'all' is dropped.

all + together = altogether

all + ways = always

dis - only has one 's' when being used at the start of a word:

Dis+ appear + disappear

dis + respect = disrespect

MIX IT UP!

You can also add a prefix to a word which already has a suffix added to it.

Prefix	+	Root word	+	Suffix	=	Word
re	+	play	+	ing	=	replaying
un	+	want	+	ed	=	unwanted

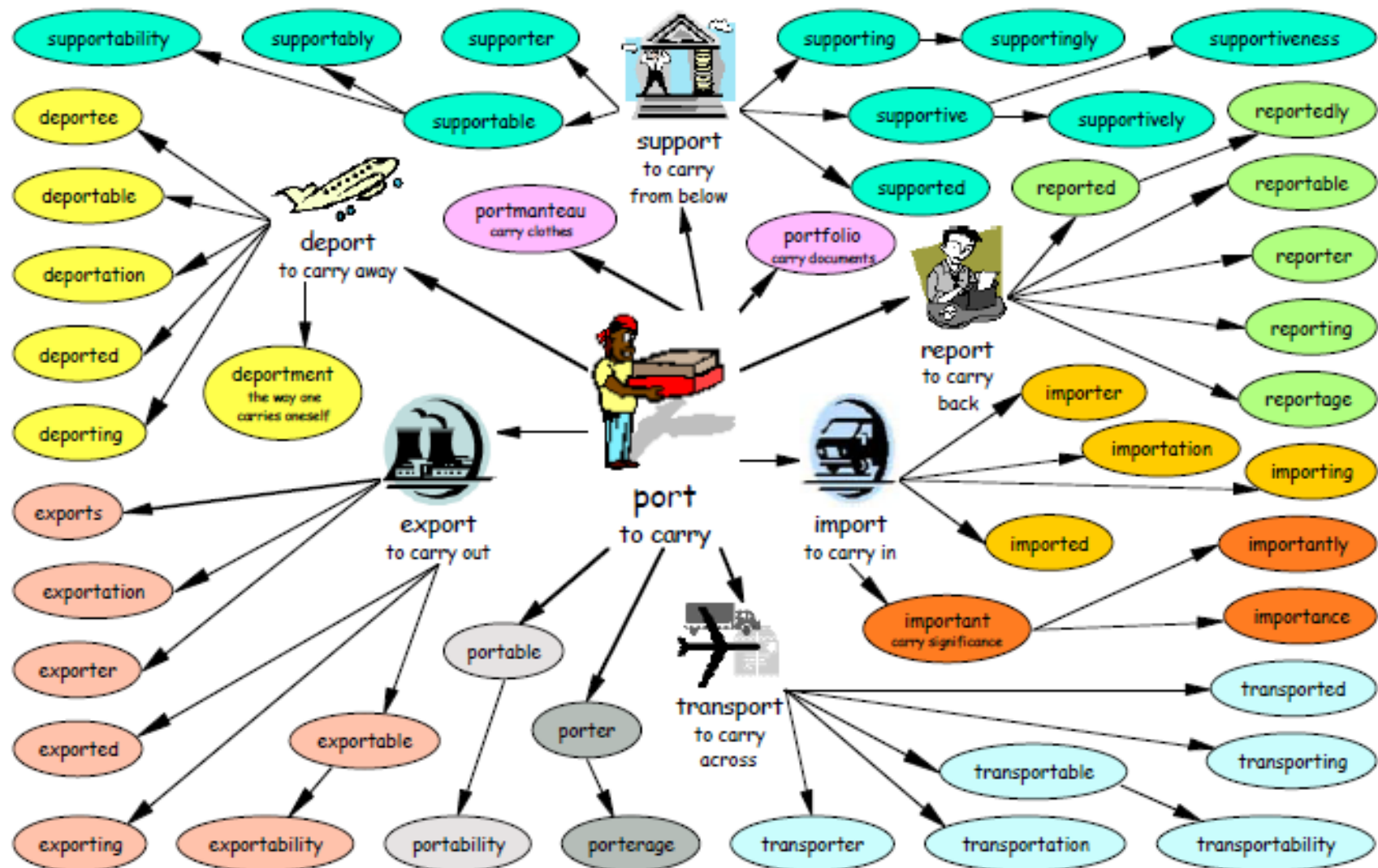
HOW MANY WORDS CAN YOU MAKE?



port

to carry

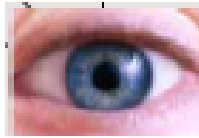
ANSWER



CREATE YOUR OWN WORD MAP

Choose a root word from the list below and create a word map adding suffixes and prefixes.

○ spect -



spect

Latin word root
from *specere* = to
look

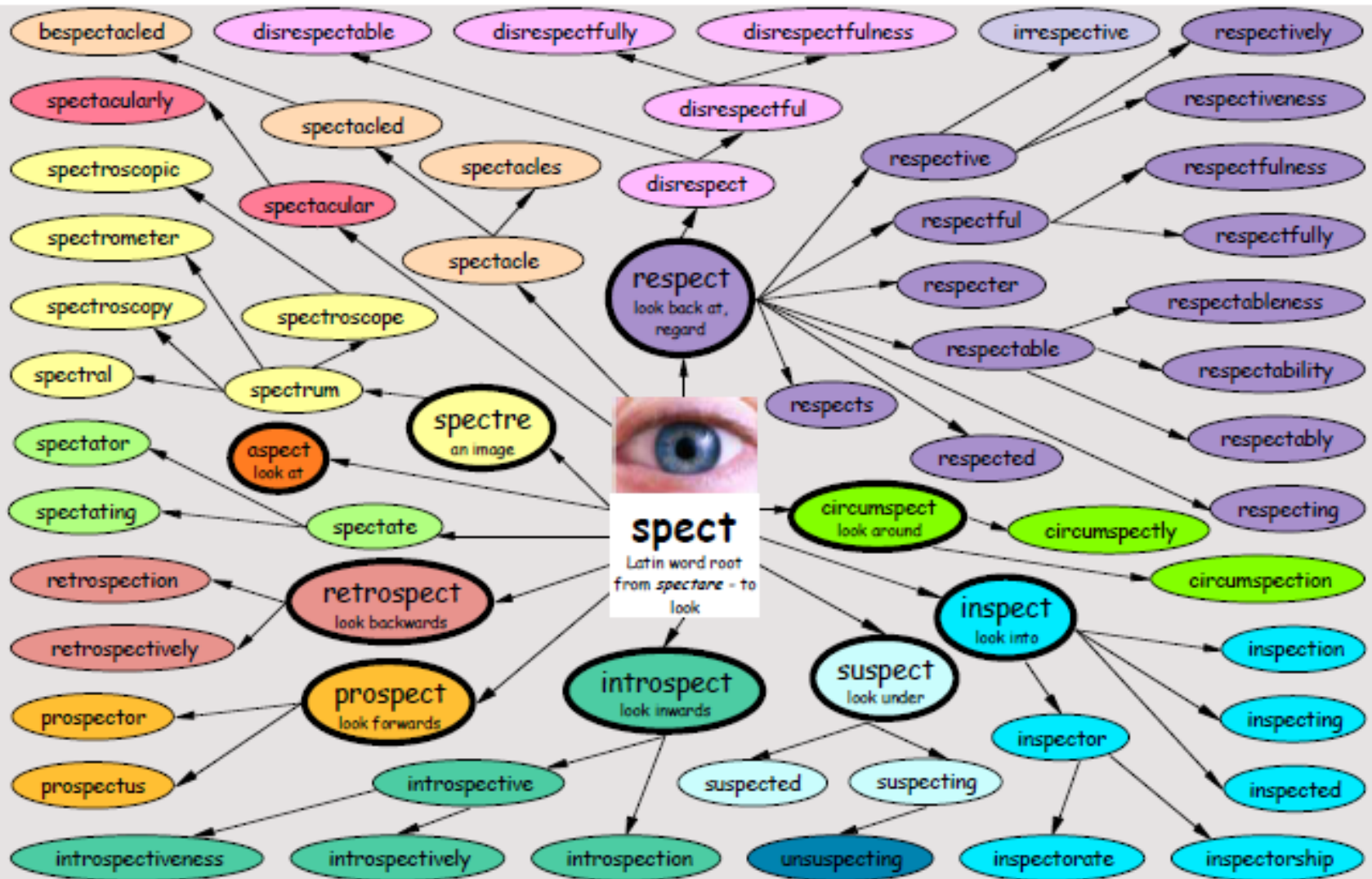
use

○ late

act

If you are uncertain whether the prefix you have used is correct, check the word in a dictionary when you proof-read your writing!

WORD MAPS



TO SUM UP

- ⦿ A root word is...

- ⦿ A suffix is...

For example:

- ⦿ Identify the prefix in the word below:

Antibacteria

- ⦿ Is it 'full' or 'ful' and the end of a word?

- ⦿ Is it 'dis' or 'diss' at the start of a word?