

3 Word families

By learning words that are part of the same word family, you can often increase your vocabulary quickly and easily. For example, you will probably know the words in the left-hand column below, but do you know the related words?

| Word | Related word and its meaning | Example |
|-------------------------------|---|--|
| mistake n | mistake sb/sth for sb/sth <i>v</i> wrongly think that sb/sth is sb/sth else | <i>I mistook the woman in the café for a friend of mine.</i> |
| certain adj | certainty n the state of being completely sure about sth OPP uncertainty | <i>Is there any certainty things will improve?</i> |
| problem n | problematic adj difficult to deal with; full of problems | <i>Some places can be problematic for journalists.</i> |
| possession n | possess v formal have or own sth | <i>Some players just possess natural ability.</i> |
| benefit n, v | beneficial adj having a good or useful effect | <i>The extra money has been very beneficial.</i> |
| require v | requirement n sth that you need or that you must have or do | <i>A university degree is a minimum requirement.</i> |
| house n | housing n buildings for people to live in household all the people who live in one house | <i>We need more family housing. Most households have at least one car.</i> |
| likely adv | likelihood n the chance of sth happening | <i>There's not much likelihood of success.</i> |
| handle v | handling n the way sb deals with sth/sb | <i>The situation needs careful handling.</i> |
| guide n, v | guidelines n (usually pl) official rules guidance n help or advice | <i>There are guidelines on repairing old buildings. Our teacher gave us some guidance.</i> |
| apologize v | apologetic adj showing you are sorry | <i>It's his fault and he's very apologetic.</i> |
| notice v | noticeable adj easily seen/noticed | <i>The scar on his face is quite noticeable.</i> |
| include v | inclusive adj (of the cost of sth) including everything inclusion n the fact of including sb/sth; the fact of being included | <i>Bed and breakfast is £80, fully inclusive. The inclusion of dancing as part of the entertainment was unnecessary.</i> |
| compare v | comparable adj similar; able to be compared | <i>This year looks good. Are there comparable figures for last year?</i> |
| replace v | replacement n a thing that replaces sth that is old, broken, etc. irreplaceable cannot be replaced | <i>The coffee machine isn't working, so can we get a replacement? My wedding ring is irreplaceable.</i> |
| human n, adj | humanity n all the people in the world SYN the human race humanitarian concerned with trying to make people's lives better | <i>War crimes are crimes against humanity. The war has caused a humanitarian crisis.</i> |
| race n (of people) | racism n the unfair treatment of people who belong to a different race. The person who does this is a racist . racist adj | <i>We must take action to stop racism in the workplace. He was attacked by a group of racists. The newspaper was racist and was closed down.</i> |
| recognize v | recognition n the fact that you can identify sb/sth that you see | <i>She'd seen me several times but showed no sign of recognition.</i> |

SPOTLIGHT related words with different meanings

Words in the same word family do not always have similar meanings. For example, the adjective **worth** can mean:

- 1 having a particular value;
- 2 used as a way of recommending: *The castle is worth seeing.*

It also has these related forms and meanings:

- *The necklace is worthless.* (= without value)
- *He's a worthy champion.* (= one who deserved to win)
- *The meeting was worthwhile.* (= important, interesting, etc.)

1 **Mark the stress on these words. Use the  to help you.**

| | | | | |
|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|---------------|
| problematic | likelihood | requirement | benefit | beneficial |
| worthwhile | recognition | comparable | apologize | irreplaceable |
| apologetic | household | humanity | humanitarian | possess |

2 **Circle the correct answer.**

- 1 This painting is unique; it's *unreplaceable* / *irreplaceable*.
- 2 You get flights, accommodation, and food; the holiday is fully *included* / *inclusive*.
- 3 There is a *noticeable* / *noticed* difference between the two performances.
- 4 We're amateurs and they're professionals, so we're not *comparable* / *comparative*.
- 5 People are dying. It's a *humanitarian* / *humanity* crisis.
- 6 I enjoyed the trip; it was very *worthy* / *worthwhile*.
- 7 The delay was his fault, but he wasn't *apologizing* / *apologetic* about it.
- 8 People are homeless because there's a shortage of cheap *households* / *housing*.

3 **Rewrite the sentences using a related word of the word in capitals. Keep the same meaning.**

| | | |
|--|-----------|--|
| ► Are you sure it will happen? | CERTAIN | Is there any certainty it will happen? |
| 1 He deserved to win. | WORTH | |
| 2 Is there a chance we'll win? | LIKELY | |
| 3 Most families earn more than in the past. | HOUSE | |
| 4 Can you see that he's lost a lot of weight? | NOTICE | |
| 5 It's an unusual vase but has no value. | WORTH | |
| 6 People don't realize the importance of these measures. | RECOGNIZE | |
| 7 It was a very interesting conference. | WORTH | |
| 8 The tablets had a positive effect. | BENEFIT | |

4 **Complete the dialogues with a suitable word.**

| | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| 1 Are there enough homes in the area? | ~ No, we need more |
| 2 What can people do about the danger of infection? | ~ The government has issued |
| 3 Was she sorry? | ~ Yes, very |
| 4 Is that £65 for everything? | ~ Yes, it's fully |
| 5 It's a difficult class to teach. | ~ Yes, they're very |
| 6 Climate change affects everyone. | ~ Yes, it's a problem for |
| 7 This lamp doesn't work. | ~ Yes, I've already ordered a |
| 8 It's a difficult situation. | ~ Yes, and it needs careful |

5 **Complete the sentences with a suitable word.**

- 1 Some young parents would benefit from more on how to bring up children.
- 2 Several charities have warned that we are facing a crisis in parts of Africa.
- 3 The post office said the parcel would be delivered tomorrow, but there's no of that.
- 4 The of meals makes the total price very expensive.
- 5 Do you think Ivan the right qualities for the job?
- 6 I walked off with someone else's coat: I it for my own.
- 7 Flats in big cities are expensive in England. A flat in Spain would cost a lot less.
- 8 Some say we will win, others say we'll lose. There is a lot of about the result.

6 **ABOUT YOUR COUNTRY** Write answers to the questions, or talk to another student.

- 1 Do hotels usually give a fully inclusive price for a room and breakfast?
- 2 Is housing a particular problem in any part of the country?
- 3 Are prices generally comparable with other countries nearby, or are they very different?
- 4 Is there a minimum requirement for going to university?
- 5 Do you feel there are any problems with racism in your country?
- 6 Do you feel a degree of certainty about your future career?

 **TEST YOURSELF**