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

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.)

LIVEWORKSHEETS

1 **Mark the stress on these words. Use the APP 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

LIVEWORKSHEETS