Name _____ Date _____

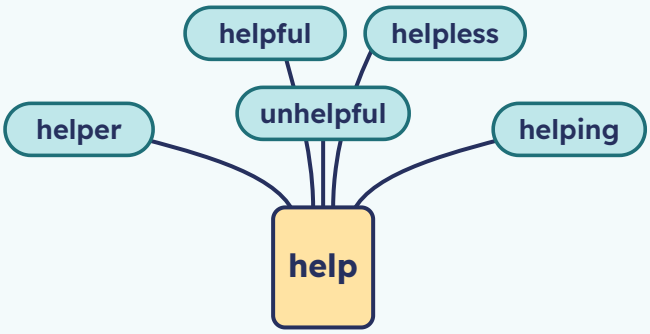
Word families

Words that grow from the same root, and adding -ly.

1 Learn



A **word family** is a group of words that grow from the same **root word**. They share letters **and** meaning: helper, helpful and unhelpful are all about **help**.



Not in the family: helicopter, helmet.

They start with "hel", but they have nothing to do with helping. Family words share a **meaning**, not just letters.

Adding -ly turns a describing word into a "how" word: quick → quickly. Watch these rules:

Most words: just add -ly
quick → quickly
sad → sadly

Ends in consonant + y: y → i
happy → happily
easy → easily

Ends in -le: le → ly
gentle → gently
simple → simply

Flip's tip: to test if words are in the same family, ask: "Is this word about the root's meaning?" A **helper** helps. A **helicopter** doesn't!

Warm up: ring the word that is **not** in the family.

play | player | playful | plate | replay

Grown-ups: the -ly rules are part of the Year 2 and Year 3 spelling programme. Words ending in -ic add -ally (basically): your child will meet these later.

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2 Try it together

a child and a grown-up, about 10 minutes



Grow a family tree

You need: a big sheet of paper, a pencil and some coloured pencils.

1. Draw a tree trunk and write a root word on it: **play**, **kind** or **care**.
2. Take turns adding family words on the branches. Try adding things to the front (re-, un-) and the end (-er, -ful, -less, -ly, -ing).
3. For each new word, check: is it a real word, and is it about the root's meaning?
4. Count your family, then write the words in the table.

Root word	Family words we found	How many?

Grown-ups: play: player, playful, playing, replay, playground · kind: kindly, kindness, unkind · care: careful, careless, caring, carefully. Silly made-up words are fine to laugh about, then check if they're real.

3 Practise

A. Odd one out! Ring the word that only **looks** like it belongs.

1 help | helper | helicopter | helpful

2 careful | careless | caring | carrot

3 kind | kindness | unkind | kingdom

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B. Add **-ly** to each word. Check the rules on page 1.

quick	sad	gentle	happy
_____	_____	_____	_____
simple	easy	loud	angry
_____	_____	_____	_____

C. Change the word in brackets into a family word that fits.

1 The _____ (help) shopkeeper carried our bags.

2 She smiled _____ (kind) at the new girl.

3 Our _____ (teach) read us a story.

4 Please carry the eggs _____ (care).

D. Pick the root word **light**. Write three words in its family.

_____ _____ _____

Challenge

Leo wrote: **"The nurse spoke gentlely."** Is **gentlely** right? Which rule should he use?

_____

_____

I can...

Tick when you can.

- [ ] find words in the same family as a root word
- [ ] spot words that only look alike
- [ ] add -ly to words like quick, happy and gentle