



Volume 3
April 2021



WISE WORDS



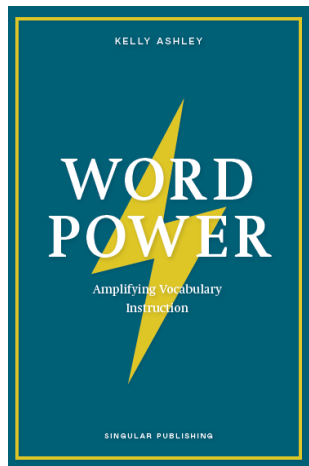
WORD
POWER

Fun facts to inspire
conversations about the
English language



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@WordPowerLeague (Instagram)

What is Word Power?



Word Power is a contextual approach to vocabulary instruction, providing practical ideas and strategies for the explicit teaching of vocabulary as part of a literature-rich curriculum. At the heart of the approach are the eight, dynamic members of the *Word Power League* of superheroes – each carefully designed to support teachers and pupils as they *unlock, power-up, charge and recharge* new language in rich contexts, choosing and using language for a real purpose.

For more information about *Word Power* professional development or to order your copy of *Word Power: Amplifying vocabulary instruction*, visit:
<https://kellyashleyconsultancy.wordpress.com/>

Phoneme Phantom



Hear
it.




Say
it.

Vocabulary Superpowers:

- ✓ **Powerful ears** – Listen to sounds in words.
- ✓ **Shield Transmitter** – Practise reading aloud to build fluency.
- ✓ **Hair Stick** – Repeat words aloud to help them 'stick' in memory.



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When you speak, are there extra words that often slip into your sentences (either consciously or not)? These are called **CRUTCH WORDS** – *honestly, literally* and *like* are a few examples that you will probably be familiar with. Which crutch words do you tend to use? Challenge yourself to talk about a familiar topic for a minute. Ask a partner keep a tally of how many times you use crutch words.




Phoneme Phantom explores how words sound. Repeating words out loud and thinking about shared sounds can help build word memory.



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Phoneme Phantom challenges you to find your own facts about the English language that tell us more about the sounds in words, phrases or sentences.



Which new and interesting facts will YOU find and share?

Share your ideas using the hashtag **#WiseWords**.



Phoneme Phantom explores how words sound. Repeating words out loud and thinking about shared sounds can help build word memory.

Graphic Guardian




Vocabulary Superpowers:

- ✓ **Iron Fist** – Write new words to build word memory.
- ✓ **Direction Glasses**– Think about how letters are formed.
- ✓ **Super Strength** – Build hand strength for writing stamina.



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Are you **LEFT-HANDED**? There is actually a day that has been designated as a celebration for left-handers, so don't feel 'left' out! 13 August is the official 'left-handers' day. On average, 90% of the population are right-handed. What do you think the challenges would be if you were to write left-handed and why? If you write left-handed, can you share your experiences?




Graphic Guardian uses his super strength and iron fist to 'anchor' new words when writing. Remember to write new words correctly.



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Graphic Guardian challenges you to find your own facts about the English language that tell us more about the shape of letters and words when we write and different handwriting styles.



Which new and interesting facts will YOU find and share?

Share your ideas using the hashtag #WiseWords.



Graphic Guardian uses his super strength and iron fist to ‘anchor’ new words when writing. Remember to write new words correctly.

Spelling Spy




Look for
shared
patterns.

Vocabulary Superpowers:

- ✓ **Utility Belt** – Use a range of strategies to spell new words.
- ✓ **Pattern Glasses** – Look for patterns in words to make connections.
- ✓ **Tricky Tome** – Edit and proofread spelling errors in writing.



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Did you know that there aren't any English **WORDS** that **END** in the letters 'v' or 'u'? These sounds are always represented as 've' or 'ue' at the end of words – *have, eve, glue, rescue*. Can you think of any other words that follow these same word-ending patterns?



Spelling Spy uses visual power to spot and make connections between words based on their shared visual features or spelling patterns.

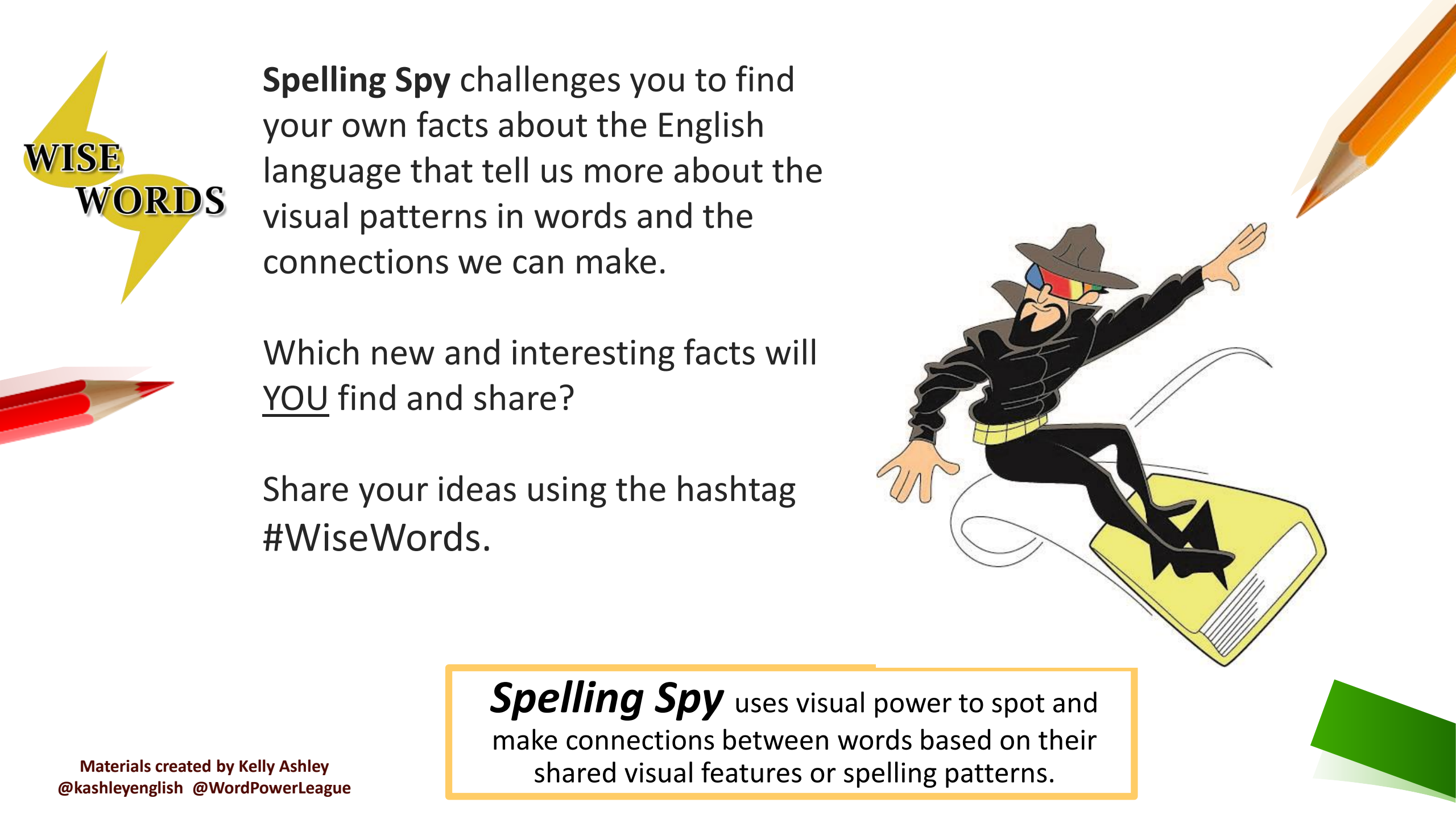


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Spelling Spy challenges you to find your own facts about the English language that tell us more about the visual patterns in words and the connections we can make.

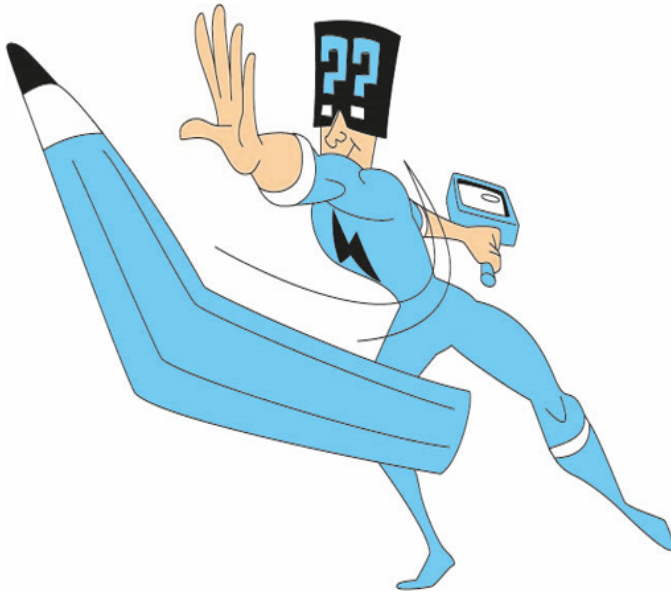
Which new and interesting facts will YOU find and share?

Share your ideas using the hashtag **#WiseWords**.



Spelling Spy uses visual power to spot and make connections between words based on their shared visual features or spelling patterns.

Professor Personal



Make a
personal
link.

Vocabulary Superpowers:

- ✓ **Question Power** – Ask and answer questions about words.
- ✓ **Boomerang Pen** – ‘Catch’ new words to discuss with others.
- ✓ **Spyglass** – Use inference and prediction to ‘spy’ the hidden meanings of words.



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We often use **PREDICTION** to help us make sense of new language when reading and listening. When we *predict*, we think about what might happen next, using information from the text or the speaker to verify, refine or improve our predictions. When we predict, we use our prior knowledge and experience – connecting new information with things we already know. How can *prediction* help us when we are exploring new words?



Professor Personal thinks carefully about the personal connections he can make with language using inference, prediction and questioning skills.

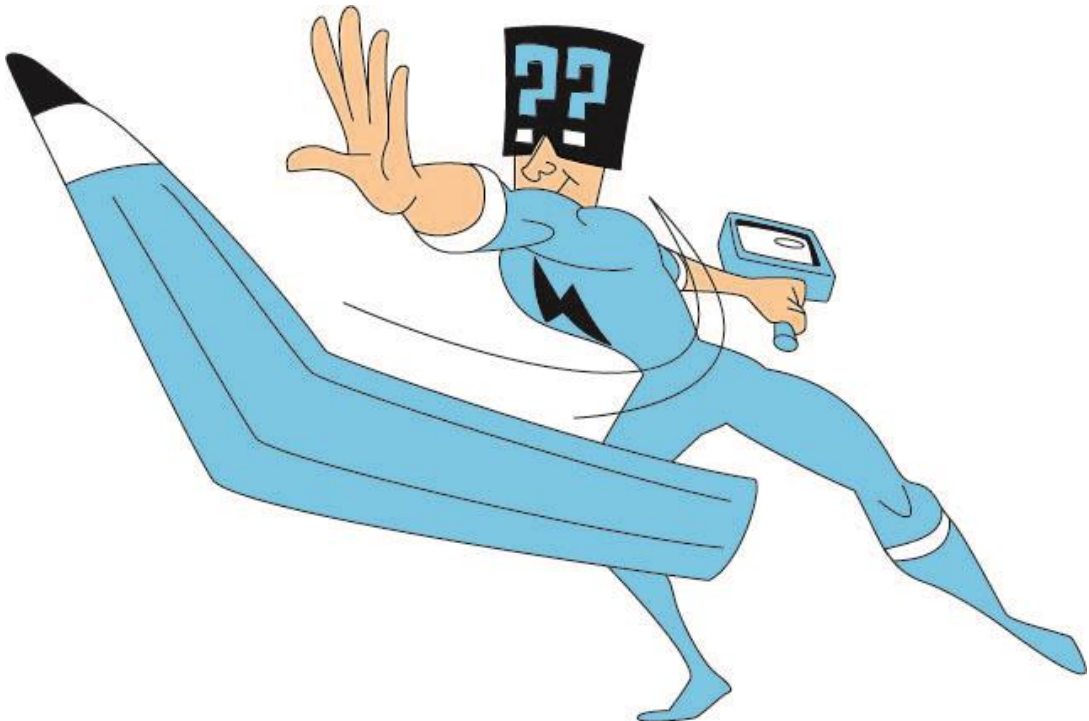


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Professor Personal challenges you to find your own facts about the English language that make us think about our personal connections with different words.

Which new and interesting facts will YOU find and share?

Share your ideas using the hashtag **#WiseWords**.



Professor Personal thinks carefully about the personal connections he can make with language using inference, prediction and questioning skills.

Captain Connector




Connect
new words
and ideas.

Vocabulary Superpowers:

- ✓ **Bountiful Bucket** – 'Collect' connections using word webs.
- ✓ **Super Flexibility** – 'Stretch' connections by thinking about how words are used in different contexts and in different kinds of texts.
- ✓ **Connection Catcher** – 'Catch' connections between the meanings and uses of words across the curriculum.



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When exploring connections with words, always consider when and how words can be used for **DIFFERENT PURPOSES**. Think about the word 'legion' (from the Latin word 'legere' meaning 'to gather'). In a historical context, *legion* refers to a military unit of the ancient Roman army. We can also, however, find the word *legion* used for a different purpose in fictional texts, referring to a large group of people. Can you find other words that are used specifically in history, geography or science that can also be used for other purposes?




Captain Connector makes wider connections between words. She thinks carefully about how we use language for different purposes.



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Captain Connector challenges you to find your own facts about the English language that make us think about different connections we can make as we use words for different purposes.



Which new and interesting facts will YOU find and share?

Share your ideas using the hashtag **#WiseWords**.



Captain Connector makes wider connections between words. She thinks carefully about how we use language for different purposes.

Meaning Mastermind



Think of a
personal
definition.



Vocabulary Superpowers:

- ✓ **Context Vest** – Explore word meaning 'in context.'
- ✓ **Multi-coloured Hair**– Think of 'multiple' or other word meanings.
- ✓ **Super Slippers**– 'Slip in' new words when communicating to recharge and build word memory.



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Have you ever considered how some common **EXPRESSIONS FOR EMOTION** share language themes? Think about expressions that refer to an 'upward' movement – *top form, top dog, top notch, high as a kite, things are looking up*. All of these express a feeling of happiness. Now think of 'down' expressions – *down in the dumps, feeling low, downtrodden*. All of these represent feelings of sadness. Can you think of other examples of 'up' and 'down' expressions?



Meaning Mastermind thinks carefully about word meaning in context. She uses the grammar and structure of sentences around words to understand meaning.



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Meaning Mastermind challenges you to find your own facts about the English language that make us think about the meanings of words and how they are used in different situations.

Which new and interesting facts will YOU find and share?

Share your ideas using the hashtag #WiseWords.



Meaning Mastermind thinks carefully about word meaning in context. She uses the grammar and structure of sentences around words to understand meaning.

Morpheme Marvel




Think of root words, prefixes and suffixes.

Vocabulary Superpowers:


- ✓ **Root Suit** – Explore the meaning of 'root' words.
- ✓ **Laser Mask** – Look for and connect word parts between different words (prefixes, suffixes, roots).
- ✓ **M-belt Badge** – Remember to use 'M'orpheme Marvel's powers by thinking about word roots when spelling new words.



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WORD FAMILIES are groups of words with a shared *base* or *stem*. For example, the words *subscription*, *scripture*, and *script* are all in the same family as they share the ‘script’ stem. We can work out what these words mean if we know that ‘script’ means something that is written. If you come across an unfamiliar word when reading, see if you can spot the *stem* or *base* word and think about what you know about this smaller part of the word. Can you think of word families that share these stems – *chrono*, *geo*, *photo*?




Morpheme Marvel thinks about meaning units (morphemes) in words such as root words, prefixes and suffixes. He uses this word knowledge to help him make connections.



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Morpheme Marvel challenges you to find your own facts about the English language that make us think about the meaning units within words (morphemes) – prefixes, suffixes and root words.



Which new and interesting facts will YOU find and share?

Share your ideas using the hashtag **#WiseWords**.



Morpheme Marvel thinks about meaning units (morphemes) in words such as root words, prefixes and suffixes. He uses this word knowledge to help him make connections.

Doctor Derivation



Think about word history, social and cultural influences.

Vocabulary Superpowers:

- ✓ **Field Glasses** – Look for historical, cultural or social connections within and between words.
- ✓ **Multi-lingual Headphones** – Explore words borrowed into English from other languages.
- ✓ **Time-travelling Watch** – Think about how word meaning, spelling and/or pronunciation changes over time.



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Many words were absorbed into the English language when opportunities arose for **FOREIGN TRADE**. The word *bazaar* (market) was borrowed into English from the Italian language; *coffee* and *kiosk* (a small hut for selling goods) were borrowed from Turkish via French; *curry* (the popular meal) was adopted from the Tamil language; *flannel* (a small piece of soft fabric) was taken from Welsh and *trousers* from Irish Gaelic. What can you discover about other words that we've borrowed from other languages?




Doctor Derivation uses her knowledge of the history of words to make connections. She also enjoys exploring words that have been borrowed into English from other languages.




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Doctor Derivation challenges you to find your own facts about the English language that make us think about the origins of word meanings and how words from other languages arrived into English.



Which new and interesting facts will YOU find and share?

Share your ideas using the hashtag **#WiseWords**.



Doctor Derivation uses her knowledge of the history of words to make connections. She also enjoys exploring words that have been borrowed into English from other languages.