Word Families

In this lesson pack, we have broken down the idea of a word family to help Y3 children to understand one of the following key concepts: either how words can be grouped by a common meaning; or by adding prefixes and suffixes; or by making grammatical changes to them.

According to the 2014 National Curriculum, a word family is:

'the words in a word family are normally related to each other by a combination of morphology, grammar and meaning.'

The examples that this document gives include:

- Teach – teacher
- Extend – extent – extensive
- Grammar – grammatical – grammarian

The lesson presentation in this pack mentions 'partial root words'. These also create or belong to word families but often make no sense on their own in English, because they may derive from Latin or Greek origins e.g. 'tri'. This may be too complex for your class, so please use your discretion as to whether to include this information when teaching word families.