Word families

Words can be grouped together in families because they are related to one another. They may be derived from the same (often Latin or Greek) word.

GETTING STARTED

Find the Latin or Greek word from which the following words originate. Write in the centre of the diagram.

MOVING ON

See how many words you can find in the following word families. One word is given to start you off.

1. **terra** (Latin meaning ‘earth’)
   - terrain

2. **pathos** (Greek meaning ‘suffering or feeling’)
   - pathetic

3. **scribere** (Latin meaning ‘to write’)
   - scribble

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**diction** noun

1. a person’s way of speaking words • clear diction
2. a writer’s choice of words.

[from Latin *dictio* = saying, word]

**Usage** There are a number of English words that are related to *diction* because part of their original meaning comes from the Latin words *dicere* meaning ‘to say or speak’ or *dictio* meaning ‘saying or word’. These include *benediction*, *contradict*, *dictate*, *dictator*, *dictionary*, *dict* *tract*, *interdict*, and *predict*.

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How many did you get right?

2 = Novice 4 = Expert 6 = Maestro

You can use your Oxford English Dictionary for Schools, School, and your Student’s Dictionaries for these activities.