

Build a Word Family Card

Record a root word, two related forms and a sentence showing how each form works in the subject.

5 min preparation | Science, Maths and Humanities

Before the lesson

Select a useful root and related forms in real sentences.

Teach it in four steps

1. Record a root word, two related forms and a sentence showing how each form works in the subject.
2. Connect each part to a change in meaning or word function.
3. Test related forms in subject sentences.
4. Use the appropriate form in a new sentence and explain the choice.

Worked example: Build a Word Family Card

Predict is a verb; prediction is a noun. "We predict a rise" and "Our prediction was supported" have related meanings but different sentence structures.

Teacher prompt: "Show the relationship and explain the choice you made."

Check understanding

Ask learners to repair "We prediction a rise" and explain why the form changes.

Fade the support

Remove the word-family chart and retain only the root as a reminder.

Adapt it across subjects

Science: react, reaction, reactive. Humanities: migrate, migration, migrant; discuss meaning as well as form.

Adjust the language support

A1-A2 access: keep the subject goal; use visuals, a small word bank, pointing or drawing and partner rehearsal. Use a home language to establish meaning where helpful.

B1-B2 extension: ask for fuller explanations, precise subject vocabulary and qualifications. Reduce sentence openings when learners can organise the response independently.

These are starting points, not placement rules. Judge support from the learner's response to this task; proficiency can differ across skills.