

27 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.

diction NOUN

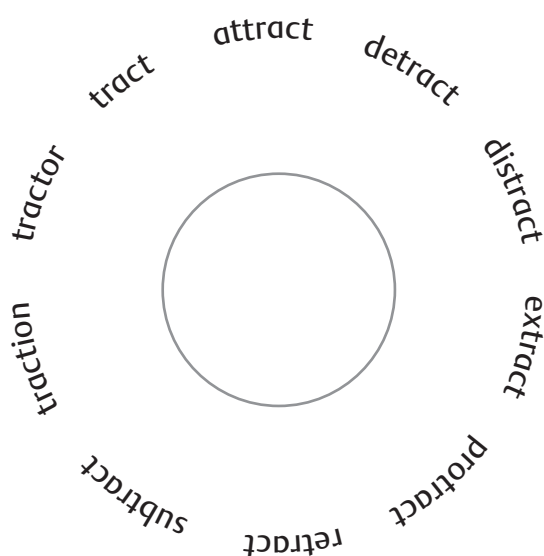
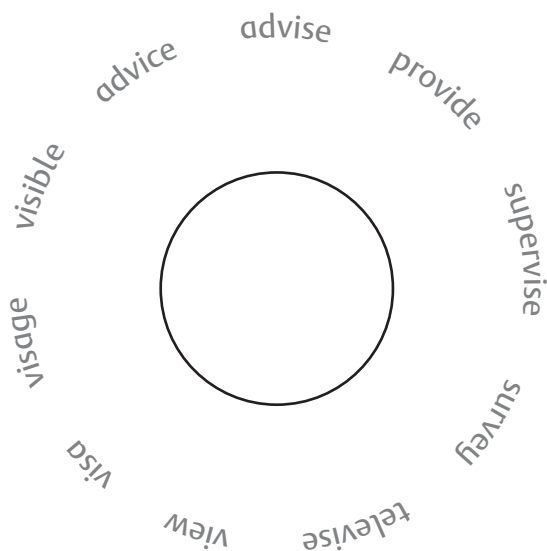
1 a person's way of speaking words • *clear diction.* **2** a writer's choice of words. [from Latin *dictio* = saying, word]

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, edict, interdict, and predict.*



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 _____

How many did you get right?

2 = NOVICE

4 = EXPERT

6 = MAESTRO