

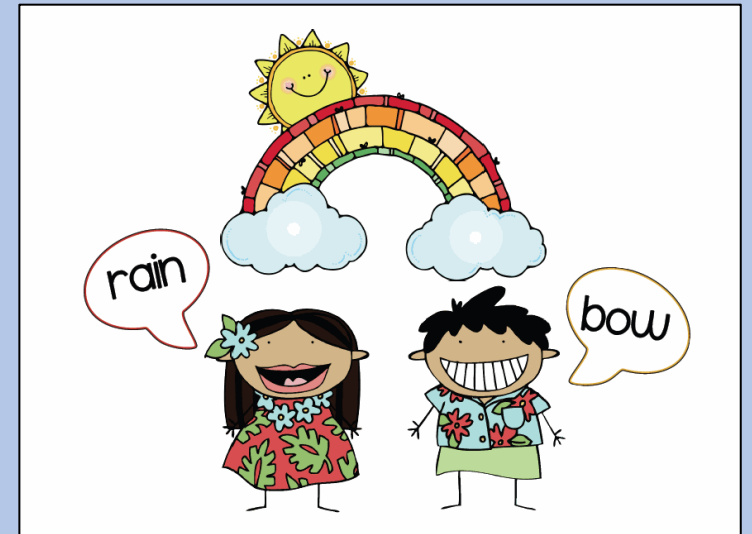
# B2R2c. Can use a range of strategies to decode unfamiliar words

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# What can you do to decode an unfamiliar word?

- Recognise graphemes in the word.
- Break the word into syllables.
- Recognise words within words.
- Use root words, prefixes and suffixes.



# Using graphemes to decode unfamiliar words

A grapheme is a letter or a number of letters that represent a sound (phoneme) in a word. Another way to explain it is to say that a grapheme is a letter or letters that spell a sound in a word.

A one letter  
grapheme (graph)  
**c** a t

A two letter  
grapheme (digraph)  
l **ea** f

A three letter  
grapheme (trigraph)  
n **igh** t

A four letter  
grapheme  
(quadgraph)  
th r **ough**

Say the words out loud. What sound (phoneme) do the graphemes make?

Some sounds can be represented by several different graphemes.

How many ways can you write the following phonemes?

/k/

c, k or ck

/ee/

ee, ea, ie, ei,  
e, e-e

/or/

or, ore, aw,  
au

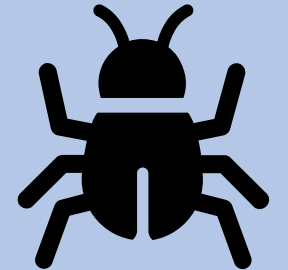
Using graphemes can help us to decode tricky words by sounding out the graphemes in a word and blending them together into a word.

Let's look at how to use our knowledge of graphemes to decode some unfamiliar words.

mislead

creature

Sound out the separate graphemes then read the whole word back.



m/i/s/l/**ea**/d

c/r/**ea**/t/ure

**Your turn:** separate these words into graphemes. Then read them back.

recognise

collision

disappoint

enclosure

neighbour

electrician

Syllables are chunks or beats of sound that a word has. Breaking a word into syllables can help us to read and spell it. Clapping or tapping the syllables helps to make them clear.

prefer pre/fer

Two syllables.

nature na/ture

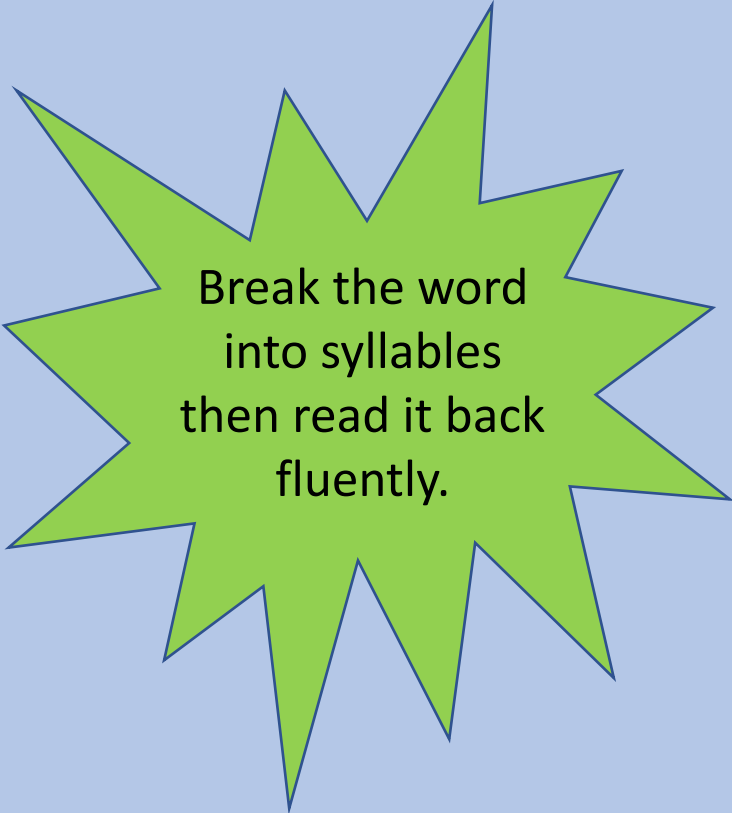
Two syllables.

beginner be/gin/ner

Three  
syllables.

serious se/ri/ous

Three  
syllables.



Break the word  
into syllables  
then read it back  
fluently.

When organising words into syllables remember:-

1. Each vowel sound is a syllable (except silent vowels - often found at the end of words e.g. *came* or *be-come*).
2. Two vowels together usually count as one vowel sound e.g. *moon*, *soil-ing*. (But be careful as there are exceptions e.g. *li-on*, *gi-ant*.)
3. Split words into syllables between pairs of the same consonants e.g. *hap-py*, *shop-ping*.
4. However, keep other paired letters together e.g. *stack-ing*, *ex-plain-ing*.
5. Split words before a single consonant e.g. *be-have*, *tra-vel*, (unless first syllable has a short sound e.g. *cab-in*).
6. Prefixes and suffixes are syllables in themselves e.g. *pre-pare*, *dis-ap-point*, *sta-tion*.



**Your turn:** break these words into syllables. Then, practise writing them down to check you have learned them.

hesitation

Four syllables.

irrelevant

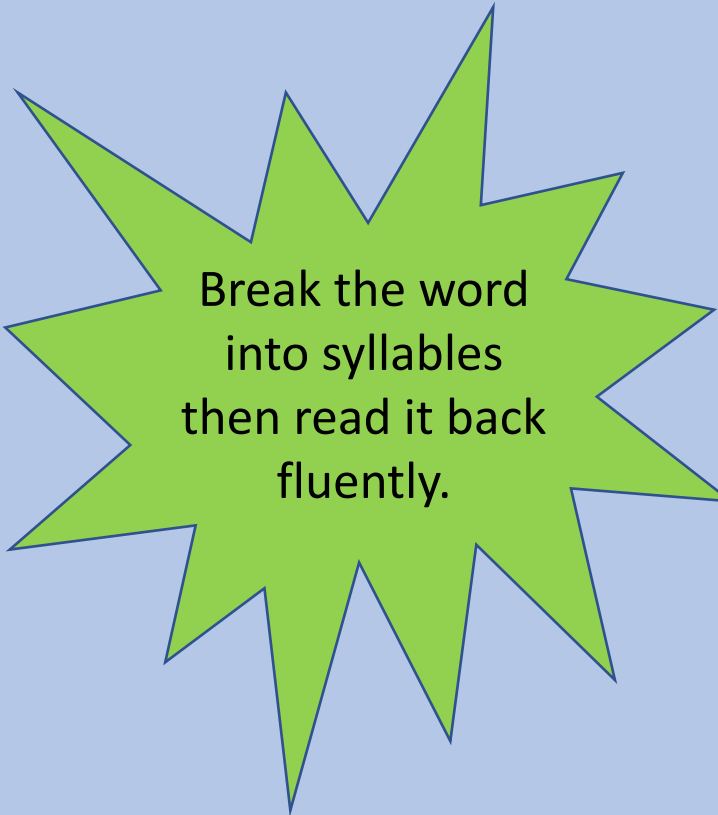
Four syllables.

tremendous

Three  
syllables.

magician

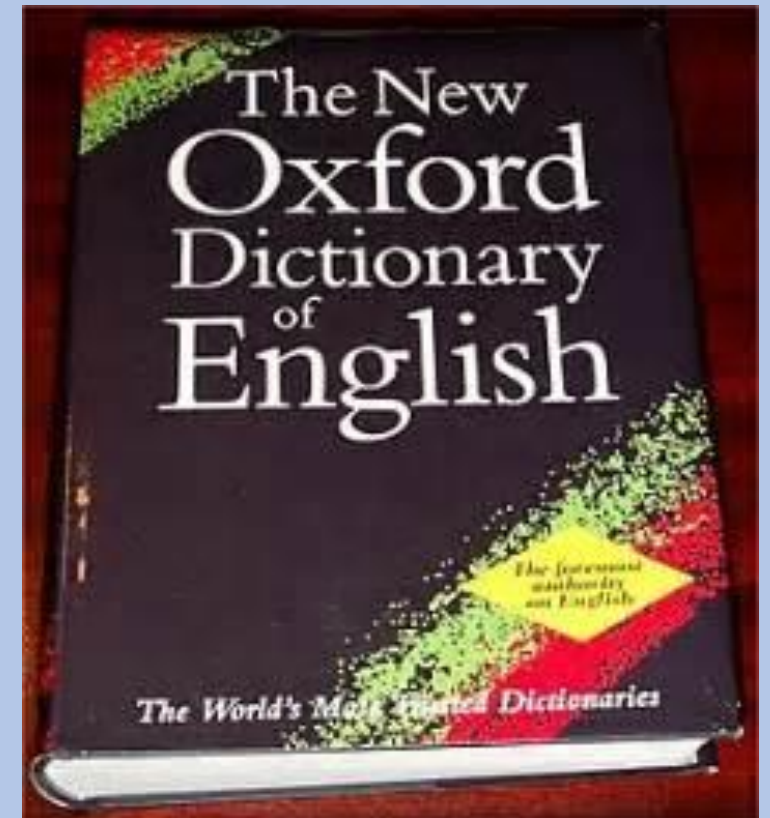
Three  
syllables.



Break the word  
into syllables  
then read it back  
fluently.

## Using syllables – further activity

Why not try looking at a page in a dictionary and practise breaking the words into syllables? Remember to read them back fluently.



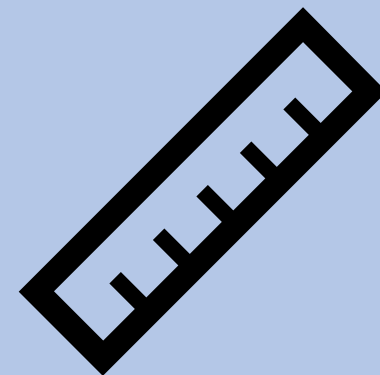
Be a reading detective – find words within words.

Sometimes we can decode unfamiliar words by finding words within words.

sometimes = some + times

interesting

meaasures



**Your turn**: can you find the words within these words? When you have found them, read the whole word back.

business

**business**

important

im**portant**

forwards

for**wards**

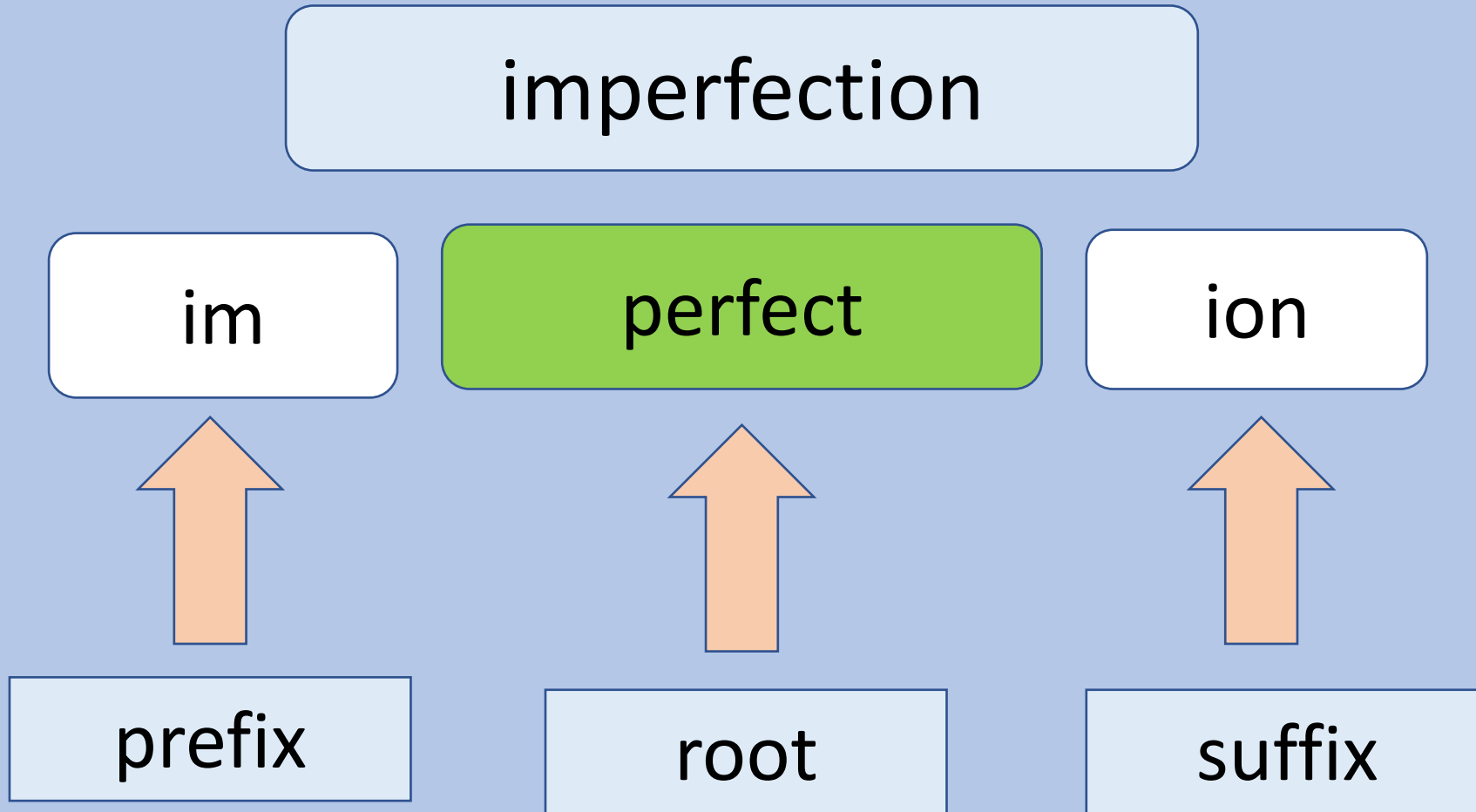
contests

con**tests**

pressure

press**ure**

Using root words, prefixes and suffixes to decode unfamiliar words.



By identifying the root word and the prefix/suffix attached, we can decode some quite tricky words.



### Steps

1. Identify the root word.
2. Identify the prefix and/or the suffix.
3. Read back the whole word fluently.

re/appear/ance

appear

re -

-ance

reappearance

**Your turn**: can you identify the root words in these words? Go through the steps to read the word accurately.

predictable

**predict**-able

preference

**prefer**-ence

disagreement

dis-**agree**-ment

measurement

**measure**-ment

uncomplicated

un-**complicate**-d

So, when you come across an unfamiliar words when you are reading, there are several strategies to try.

- Recognise graphemes in the word.
- Break the word into syllables.
- Recognise words within words.
- Use root words, prefixes and suffixes.

