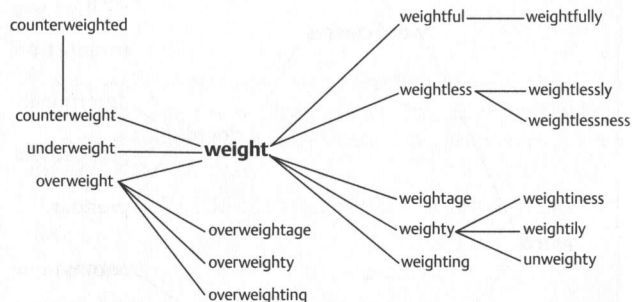


- prepositions
- pronouns
- verbs.

word family

One **stem** combined with a variety of **prefixes** and **suffixes** produces a group or 'family' of words (more formally described as a 'lexical pattern'). Thus the stem *weight* is the parent of this word family:



word structure

Words can consist of one or more parts:

PREFIX	STEM/BASE	SUFFIX
	weight	
	weight	less
counter	weight	
counter	weight	ed

The ways in which these parts are combined to form words constitute the structure of those words. All the words built up on the stem *weight* constitute a **word family**.

Words can also be formed by the combination of two existing words into a **compound word**:

bookseller paper-knife ice cream

See also: **base**; **derivational morphology**; **diminutive**; **root**; **syllable**.

would

A **modal auxiliary verb** used to refer to a range of possibilities in the future. For example:

I think she **would** feel left out.

If Catherine wanted something, I **would** give it to her.

The effect of using *would* instead of *will* can be seen when we make the substitution:

I think she **will** feel left out.

If Catherine wants something, I **will** give it to her.

The versions using *will* are more open: the event may or may not happen. The sentences using *would* seem less open and less likely, although the event is still theoretically possible.

Other uses of *would* are:

- habitual actions in the past:

Often she **would** go to Nairobi or the coast for a break.

- actions that are regarded as typical:

He **would** do that, wouldn't he?

Would is often followed by *have*, which turns it into a past tense:

I don't suppose they **would have** liked it.

In speech this is often shortened to *would've*, which is sometimes confused with *would of*:

Anywhere else **would of** been fine. ✗

This should be:

Anywhere else **would have** been fine. ✓

yes/no question

A question that is framed in such a way that the only possible answers are 'yes', 'no', or 'I don't know'. In questions of this type the form of the verb and the word order are changed:

She	won	first prize.	
subject	verb	object	
		↓	
Did	she	win	first prize?
auxiliary verb	subject	main verb	object