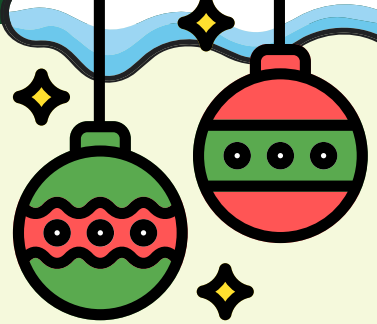

18
Grammarsaurus








# December

"the twelfth month of the year"

The word **December** is a stem.

Can you hypothesise which two morphemes combine to build this word?

_____ ⊕ _____ = _____








# December

"the twelfth month of the year"

10 **Decem** "ten" + "describing" **ber**

The word **December** is a stem.

Did you break it down like this?

10 **Decem** "ten" + "describing" **ber** = **December**

**What do you notice?**

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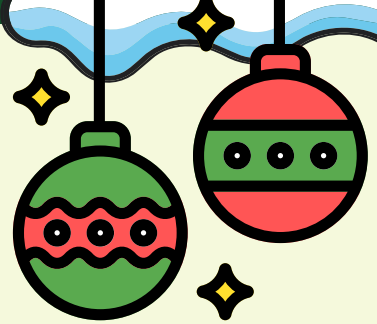



DEC

# December

"the twelfth month of the year"

10 **Decem** "ten" + **ber** "describing"

Did you notice that the morphemes that make up the word **December** actually bring a sense of "**the 10th month**"?

Long ago, the Romans had a calendar with only **ten** months, starting in March. This left about 60 winter days with no named month.

In around 700 BCE, a Roman leader fixed the problem by adding **January** (named after **Janus**, god of gates) and **February** (from **Februa**, relating to "**purifying and making amends**"). This made the year complete, with 12 months. But it also pushed the old months back. **December** (from **decem**, meaning "**ten**") became the **12th** month, although it kept its name.



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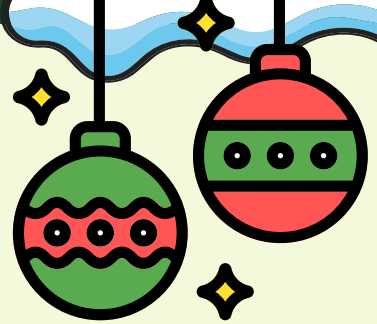



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Base **decem** is part of a family of related Latin and Greek bases meaning "**ten**".

| 10 | 10 | 10 |
|---|---|---|
| **dece** | **decem** | **deca** |

Can you think of any words containing any of these bases?



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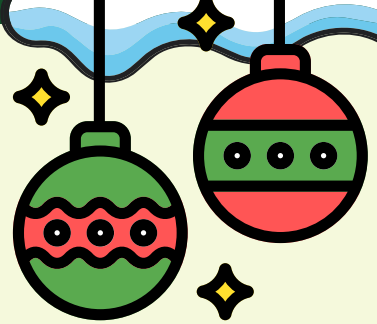



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10 **Decem** "ten" + **ber** "describing"

How did you do?

| 10 | 10 | 10 |
|---|---|---|
| **dece** | **decem** | **deca** |
| decimal<br>decade<br>decathlon | December | decagon<br>decapod |

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