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Grammarsaurus



nativity

"the state of birth, usually an important birth"

The word **nativity** is a stem.

Can you hypothesise which five morphemes combine to build this word? We've added the first letter of some morphemes, and connecting vowel letter **i**, to help you.

___ ⊕ **a**___ ⊕ **i**___ ⊕ **i** ⊕ _____

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Let’s look at how each morpheme contributes to the sense of the word **nativity**.

ty

“state, quality or concept”

Words ending in suffix **-ty** often function as nouns when written into sentences.

*connecting vowel letter

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ive + i + ty

“quality”

“state, quality or concept”

Suffix **-ive** can bring a sense of a “**quality**”. So, together, **-ive** and **-ty** help us **name** the “**state, quality or concept**” of something, rather than just describing it.

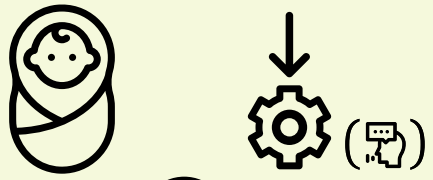
*connecting vowel letter

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nativity

"the state of birth, usually an important birth"

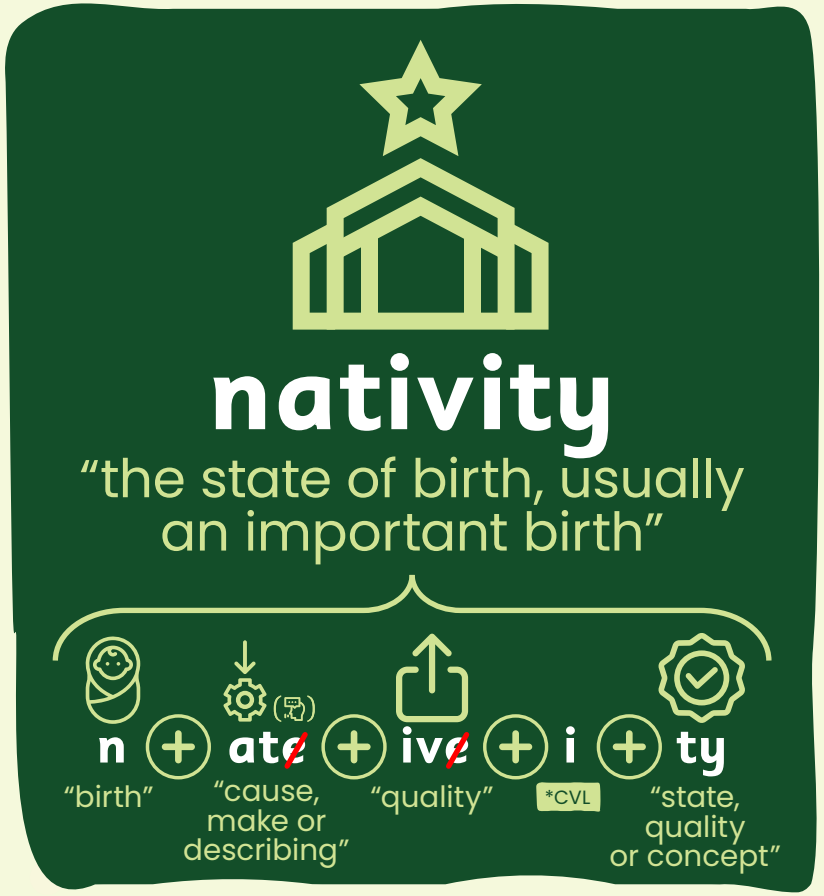




Together, these morphemes bring a sense of "**cause to be born**".

*connecting vowel letter

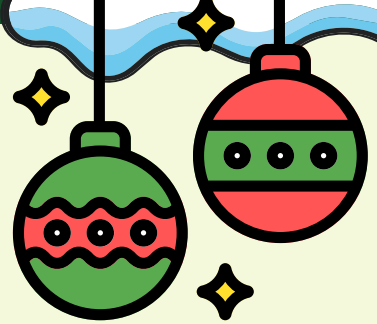
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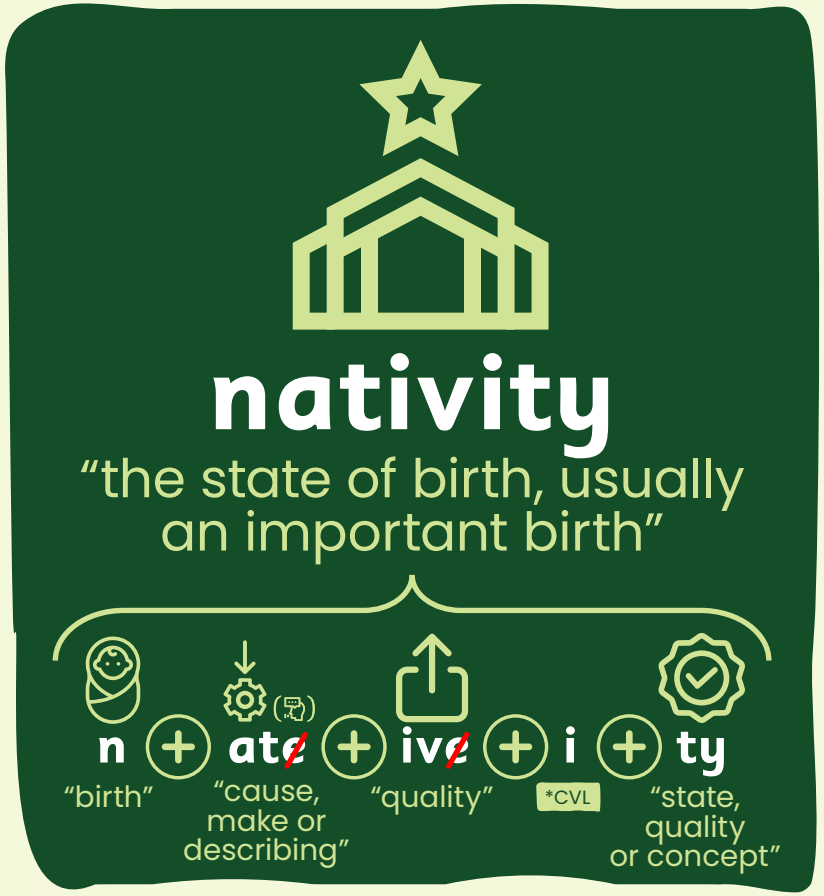
So, when we bring all of these morphemes together, they bring a sense of "**the state of birth, usually an important birth**".

*connecting vowel letter

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The word **nativity** came into English from the Old French word nativité, which came from the Latin word nativitas, meaning "**birth**".

If we travel even further back, we find the Latin word **nasci**, meaning "**be born**".

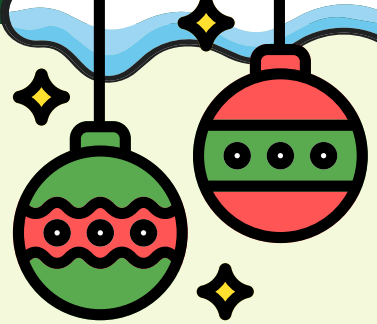
Long ago, the word **nativity** could also describe the place, time and things happening around someone's birth.

Today, we often use the word **Nativity** to describe the Christian story of Jesus's birth, including the people, places and events surrounding it.



*connecting vowel letter

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Let's read some sentences containing stem **nativity**.



nativity

"the state of birth, usually an important birth"

n + ate + ive + i + ty

n	ate	ive	i	ty
"birth"	"cause, make or describing"	"quality"	*CVL	"state, quality or concept"

The children dressed as shepherds and angels for the school **Nativity** play.

The historian studied the king's **nativity** to discover where and when he was born.

In ancient times, astrologers believed a person's **nativity** could reveal clues about their future.

What does the word nativity mean in every sentence?



*connecting vowel letter

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