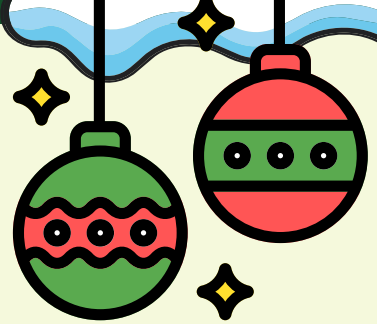
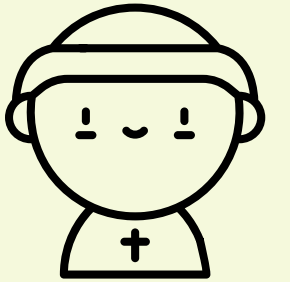

6
Grammarsaurus







mage

"sorcery or learned"

You might have heard of the Three Kings or the Three Wise Men in the Christmas story, but did you know that they're also called the **Magi**?

Christians believe these people travelled from the East, following a star, to visit Jesus and bring him gifts.

The word **magi** comes from the ancient Persian word **magush**, which was used for priests who studied things such as the stars. The word travelled through Greek and Latin before reaching English.





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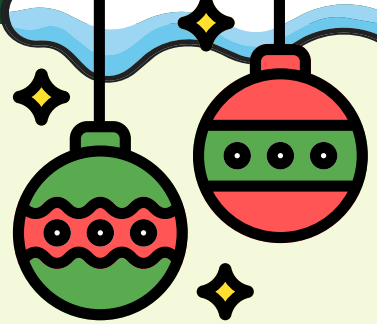

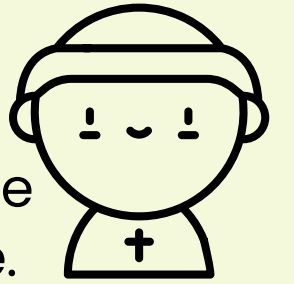



mage

“sorcery or learned”

In Latin, **magus** referred to one of these wise men, while **magi** referred to more than one.

But why does the word end in **-i** instead of suffix **-s**?

In Latin, many words ending in **-us** formed their plurals by changing **-us** to **-i**.

English has borrowed some of these words along with their Latin plural forms!

For example:

magus → **magi**
cactus → **cacti**
fungus → ***fungi***







mage

"sorcery or learned"

Over time, related words developed different meanings, including **magic** and **magician**!

Today, we often think of **magic** as spells, tricks and extraordinary powers.

But thousands of years ago, these words were connected to people who were believed to have special knowledge.

Use the matrix to build different words using base **mage**.
Talk about your new words with your partner.

mage "sorcery or learned"	2+ (+) **es** more than one or present simple tense			
	ic related to or like	**al** action, process or related to	**ly** how	
		i connecting vowel letter	**an** person with a skill, belief or linked to	2+ (+) **s** more than one or present simple tense

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