



Last week's word was **enlighten**.

1. Can you remember the definition of **enlighten**?
2. Can you use the word **enlighten** in a sentence?
3. Last term we learned the word **epiphany**. What does **epiphany** mean?

Learning Objectives



Be able to use the word in a sentence

Understand the meaning of the word

Know the word (be able to read and pronounce it)

SO THAT...

I can understand how the word is used in a text, use it in my own writing and improve my vocabulary.

Introduce the word:

BUILDING
BRILLIANT
VOCABULARY

Incredulous

Adjective: incredulous

Noun: incredulity



Word example: read the story and discuss

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Task 1: Jamie's incredulity

Jamie was usually very unlucky. One day, he decided to do something he had never done before. He bought a lottery ticket. He knew he was far too unlucky to stand a chance of winning, but he thought he would give it a try anyway. To his complete surprise, he won! He simply couldn't believe it! When he told his friends and family they couldn't believe it either: his mum even fainted when she heard the news!

Discuss:

Has anything completely unbelievable ever happened to you?

Introduce the meaning:

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Jamie couldn't believe that he had won the lottery. When we don't or can't believe something, we can say that we are **incredulous**. Jamie was **incredulous** because he couldn't believe that he had won. His mum was **incredulous** too.

Definition:

To be **incredulous** means that you cannot or do not believe something is true.

Checking your understanding:

BUILDING BRILLIANT VOCABULARY

Look at the sentences below. Put a tick in the box if you think the sentence uses the word 'incredulous' correctly. Put a cross in the box if you think it uses the word 'incredulous' incorrectly.

- | | ✓ / ✗ |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| 1. There is nothing incredulous about vegetables. | ☒ |
| 2. Your face looks incredulous these days. | ☐ |
| 3. She gave him an incredulous glance. | ☒ |
| 4. I am completely incredulous of this news story. | ☒ |
| 5. He was at first incredulous, but eventually accepted the truth. | ☒ |
| 6. I love your car: it's absolutely incredulous! | ☐ |
| 7. 'You're still in bed?' shouted Mum, totally incredulous. | ☒ |
| 8. I am an incredulous person every day. | ☐ |
| 9. Your hair looks incredulous in the sunlight. | ☐ |
| 10. Olivia had already done the dishes because she was incredulous. | ☐ |

Where does the word 'incredulous' come from?

The word 'incredulous' comes from two Latin root words:

in

+

credulus

The root word *in* means 'not' and the root word *credulus* means 'to believe'. So the word 'incredulous' means 'something we cannot believe'.

We have already seen the Latin root *in* when we studied the word 'inevitability'. Can you think of any other words that use the Latin root *in*?

Read about the word:

BUILDING
BRILLIANT
VOCABULARY

The Earth is flat

Nowadays, we all know that the Earth is a sphere. However, this hasn't always been believed.

In the ancient Greek era, famous poets such as Homer and Hesiod believed that the world was flat. Ancient Greek philosophers such as Democritus and Thales also believed that the world was flat. For thousands of years, most people believed that the earth was flat.

Many people believed that 15th-century explorer Christopher Columbus first discovered that the earth was a sphere by sailing all the way around the world. The story is that his men were terrified to go any further as they believed that they would fall off the edge of the world.



But Christopher Columbus was not the first person to discover that the world was a sphere. Ancient Greek thinkers Pythagoras and Eratosthenes made the discovery. Eratosthenes performed an experiment and used his understanding of angles to work out the circumference of the earth. The Greek philosopher Aristotle also believed that the world was a sphere.

Interestingly, many people alive today are incredulous of the theory that the earth is a sphere, and they still believe that the earth is flat.

Writing
about the
word:

BUILDING
BRILLIANT
VOCABULARY

Answer the questions in your booklet.

1. What did the Greek poets Homer and Hesiod believe about the Earth?
2. Who discovered that the Earth is a sphere?
3. What were Christopher Columbus' sailors apparently afraid of and why?