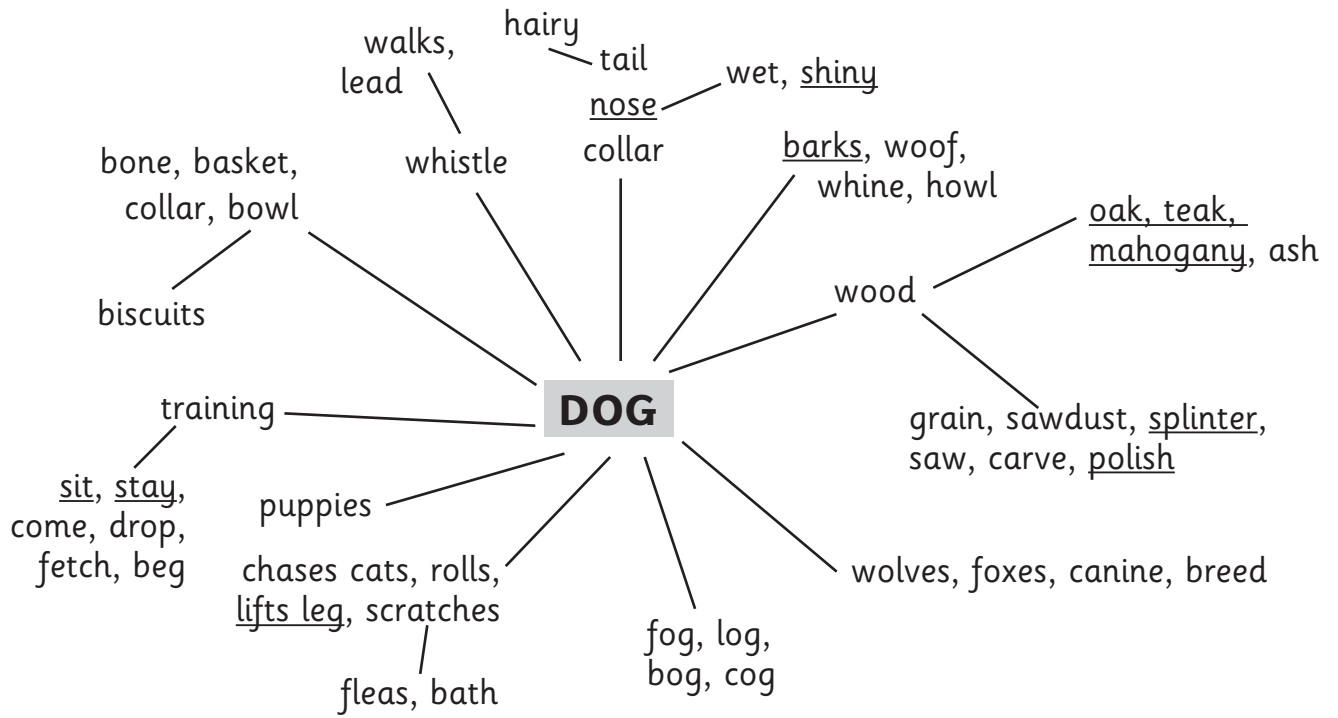


# Broaden the appeal of writing

A wooden ornamental dog was the inspiration for the poem below. Look at this spidergraph. It began with the word 'dog' in the middle. Then the poet brainstormed related words and ideas. Only the ideas underlined ended up in the finished poem.



**My Wooden Dog**  
 His ears are carved mahogany,  
 His nose is polished oak,  
 His coat is sleek, it's made of teak,  
 The grain so smooth to stroke.  
 He never lifts his leg at trees  
 When I take him to the park,  
 He thinks they are his family  
 And barks at their ... bark!  
 My wooden dog is my best friend,  
 He loves to run and play.  
 Splinter, come! Splinter, sit!  
 Good boy, Splinter – stay!

Celia Warren

Grain instead of hair or fur

Rhyme pattern established

Something real dogs do – mixing real with imaginary

Wordplay – two different sorts of barks

Realistic training commands

Wordplay – using a word associated with wood as dog's name