The rule

Adding the suffix **-ous** turns a noun into an adjective. It means 'full of'.

For most root words ending with a **consonant**, just add **-ous**.

For most root words ending with **e**, drop the **e** before adding **-ous**.

For most root words ending with a **consonant+y**, change the **y** to **i** before adding **-ous**.

The exceptions

If a root word ends with **-our**, this is changed to **-or** before adding **-ous**.

If a root word ends with **-ge**, the e is not dropped before adding **-ous**.

There are many words that end with **-ous** which do not have an obvious root word, for example, **serious**, **hideous**.

Root words.

Get thinking!

Try adding -ous to the following:

- hazard
- joy
- mountain
- courage
- nerve
- luxury
- humour