

- hanging basket
 [,hæŋıŋ 'baiskit]
- 2. soil [sɔɪəl]
- 3. basil ['bæzəl]
- flowerpot ['flauəpot] / planter ['pla:ntə]
- 5. raised bed
- [reizd 'bed]
- 6. dill [dɪ1]
- 7. parsley ['pɑːsli]
- 8. mint [mɪnt]
- 9. sage [seid3]
- 10. chives [t∫aīvz]
- 11. thyme [taɪm]
- 12. marjoram
- ['maːdʒərəm]
- 13. rosemary ['rəʊzməri]
- 14. seed tray
- ['sitd trei] 15. seeds [sitdz]
- 16. root[ru:t]
- 17. seedling ['siːdlıŋ]
- 18. window box
 - ['wɪndəʊ bɒks]

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VOCABULARY

Growing herbs

Fresh or dried herbs add flavour to any dish. ANNA HOCHSIEDER presents language to talk about growing them in your garden or on your windowsill.

MEDIUM PLUS

Location

Many herbs **thrive** both indoors and outdoors — in **terracotta pots**, **window boxes** or **hanging baskets**, in **flower beds** and **vegetable patches**. While most herbs do not need highly **fertile soil**, they do need plenty of **natural sunlight**. When growing herbs indoors, choose a **windowsill** that faces south or south-west.

Propagation

Sow seeds in **seed trays** or **small pots** in late winter, and **plant** the **seedlings** in the garden once there is no longer any danger of **frost**. Some **hardy annuals** such as **parsley**, **coriander** or **dill** can be **sown** outdoors in early spring. **Perennials** can be **propagated** by taking **cuttings** from existing plants; or you can divide older plants by carefully pulling the **roots** apart.

Watering and fertilization

Most herbs do not **grow** in **wet soil**, so be careful not to **overwater** them, and make sure there is **good drainage**. Herbs in **containers** should be fed regularly with **fertilizer** during the **growing season**.

Harvesting

Herbs are best **harvested** before the plants start to **bloom**. Freshly picked **sprigs** and **leaves** can be dried or frozen for later use.

PRACTICE

Now try the following exercises to practise talking about growing your own herbs.



Exercise 1

Choose the correct gardening verb to complete each sentence below.

- A. You don't need green fingers to grow / sow herbs.
- B. Mediterranean herbs such as rosemary plant / thrive in sandy soil.
- C. Dry/Water your plants more frequently during periods of hot weather.
- D. Herbs grown in containers should be fertilized / propagated every four weeks.
- E. To freeze / harvest chives, cut them about one centimetre above the soil, using sharp scissors.

Exercise 2

Complete the following definitions with the correct nouns from the opposite page.

- A. A(n) is the small, hard part of a plant from which a new plant can grow.
- B. A(n) is a young plant that has grown from a seed.
- C. A(n) is the part of a plant that grows under the ground.
- D. A(n) . is a plant that grows and dies within one year.
- E. A(n) is a plant that lives for more than two years.
- F. A(n) is a <u>stem</u> or very small branch cut from a plant.

branch[braint∫]

- Zweig
- garnish ['gaını∫] - garnieren
- fertilize ['f3:təlaız] düngen
- propagate['propageIt] vermehren
- Stängel, Stiel thrive [0raiv]

stem[stem]

- gedeihen

Exercise 3

Ē

M

Which herb is it?

- A. ______ is used in Italian cooking, for example to make pesto. Garnish dishes with fresh leaves just before serving, as heat destroys their flavour.
- B.look like grass, taste something like onion and are often used to flavour soft white cheese. The name of this herb is a plural noun.
- C. leaves are used to flavour hot and cold drinks, chewing gum and toothpaste. The plant grows quickly and is difficult to control.
- D. leaves are grey-green and covered in short, soft hairs. This herb is used in cooking, but also to treat throat infections.
- E. leaves look like needles and have a strong smell and taste. The name of this herb is also a girl's name.

Pronouncing the letter "h"

Note this difference between British and North American English pronunciation:

- In the UK, people speak of **a herb** [ə 'h3:b], while North American speakers often use the article "an" and do not pronounce the "h": an herb [ən '3:b].
- The letter "h" is silent in both British and American English in certain other words of French origin, such as "honest" and "hour".
- In the past, some speakers would drop the "h" and use the article "an" before words beginning with "h" in an unstressed syllable, for example "hotel" [ən əu'tel] and "historian" [ən ɪ'stəːriən]. Today, this is considered to be old-fashioned.



A

Answers

Water fertilize harvest .. seed . seedlir . root . annua . perenr . sprig чпсі чқщ