

# How plants climb

## Suggested ways of using this resource:

- Separate the words and images and ask learners to match them
- Give each learner an image, and hang the definitions around the space - ask learners to find the definition that matches their given image, before sharing findings as a group.
- Encourage learners to explore your outdoor space to see if they can find any of these type of plants growing already. Where might they be most likely to find them? What climbing strategy are they using?



## Tendrils

A very thin, leafless stem that reaches out from the main stem and coils itself around other plants or structures to support itself. It can look like a spiral or a spring. Some have sticky pads to stick to supports.



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## Twining stem

A stem which twists itself around whatever it touches. The whole plant spirals upwards, wrapping itself round and round.



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# Scrambler

A climber that cannot support itself. They grow lots of long stems – sometimes with thorns – to tangle themselves into other plants or structures. Gardeners usually tie them (or train them) using string or wires.



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# Aerial roots

Extra roots that grow out of the main stem of a plant. These support them to move both along the ground, and up structures like walls or trees.



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# Trained trees and shrubs

Plants can be “trained” by carefully pruning (trimming) during growth. Fruit trees are often trained into flat shapes to grow up or along a wall or fence.



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