Root Words & Prefixes: Quick Reference

Looking for suffixes (word endings)?
You find them on a separate list of suffixes.

Jump directly to a root word: a b c d e f g h i j k l m n o p q r s t u v w x y z

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<tr>
<th>Link</th>
<th>Root word</th>
<th>Meanings</th>
<th>Origin</th>
<th>Examples and Definitions</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a/n</td>
<td>not, without</td>
<td>Greek</td>
<td>abyss - without bottom; achromatic - without color; anhydrous - without water</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a</td>
<td>on</td>
<td>Latin</td>
<td>afire - on fire; ashore - on the shore; aside - on the side</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a, ab/s</td>
<td>from, away, off</td>
<td>Latin</td>
<td>abduct - carry away by force; abnormal - away from normal, not normal; absent - away, not present; aversion - the act of turning away from; abbreviate: to shorten.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a/c/d</td>
<td>to, toward, near</td>
<td>Latin</td>
<td>accelerate - to increase the speed of; accessible - easily entered, approached, or obtained; admittance - allowing into;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>acro</td>
<td>top, height, tip, beginning</td>
<td>Greek</td>
<td>acrobat - a &quot;high walker&quot;; acronym - a word formed from the first (capital) letters of a word; acrophobia - fear of height</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>act</td>
<td>do</td>
<td>Latin</td>
<td>activity - something that a person does; react - to do something in response; interaction - communication between two or more things</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>aer/o</td>
<td>air</td>
<td>Greek</td>
<td>aerate - to let air reach something; aerial - relating to the air; aerospace - the air space</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>agr/i/o</td>
<td>farming</td>
<td>Latin</td>
<td>agriculture - management of the land, agribusiness - making money by utilizing land; agrarian - relating to the management of land</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>alg/o</td>
<td>pain</td>
<td>Latin</td>
<td>neuralgia - pain caused by a nerve; analgesic - a drug that makes one pain free; nostalgie - aching for the familiar</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ambi, amphi</td>
<td>both, on both sides, around</td>
<td>Latin</td>
<td>ambidextrous - able to use both hands equally; ambiguous - having more than one meaning; ambivalence - conflicting or opposite feelings toward a person or thing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ambul</td>
<td>walk, move</td>
<td>Latin</td>
<td>amble - to walk in a slow, relaxed way; ambulant - walking or moving around; ambulance - a vehicle that moves a patient</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ami/o</td>
<td>love</td>
<td>Latin</td>
<td>amiable - friendly, pleasant, lovable; amity - friendly and peaceful relations; amorous - showing romantic love</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>andr/o</td>
<td>man, male</td>
<td>Greek</td>
<td>androgynous - being both male and female; android - resembling a human; misandry - hatred towards men</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>anim</td>
<td>life, spirit</td>
<td>Latin</td>
<td>animal - a living organism; animate - to make alive; equanimity - of balanced spirit</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ann/enn</td>
<td>year</td>
<td>Latin</td>
<td>anniversary - a date observed once a year; annual - happening once a year;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ante - before, in front - Antecedent - to come before something in time; Antemidian - before noon; Anteroom - a small room before the main room

anth/o - flower - Chrysanthemum and amaranth - names of flowers; Anthology - a collection of treasured writings; Anthozoan - half plant, half animal, like anemones and corals.

anthrop/o - human - Anthropology - the study of mankind; Anthropomorphism - giving human form to non-human things; philanthropy - the love to mankind (expressed through good deeds)

anti - against, opposite of - Antidote - a substance that destroys micro-organisms; antisepic - preventing infection; antisocial - opposing social norm

apo, apha - away, off, separate - Aphorism - a short expression of a general truth; apology - an explicit expression of regret, apostrophe - a small dash used in place of an omitted letter

aqu/a - water - Aquarium - a water container for fish; Aquatic - relating to water; Aqueduct - a pipeline for water

arb/or - tree - Arborist - someone working with trees; Arbor - a shady area formed by trees; Arborous - having stone

arch/i - chief, most important, rule - Archbishop - the highest ranking bishop; Archenemy - chief or worst enemy; Matriarch - a female who rules a group; Monarch - a king or queen

arch/a/i - primitive, ancient - Archaeology - the study of ancient cultures; Archaic - belonging to an earlier period; Archive - a collection of historical materials

arthr/o - joint - Arthroscope - a tool to see inside a joint; Arthritis - inflammation of a joint; Arthropod - invertebrates with jointed legs, like spiders, crustaceans, insects

art - skill - Artifact - object made by a person's skill; Artisan - a person skilled in a craft; Artist - a person who creates skillfully

astro, aster - star, stars, outer space - Astronaut - a person traveling to the stars; Astronomer - someone who studies the stars; Asterisk - a star-shaped sign used as a reference tool

aud/i/io - hear - Audible - loud enough to be heard; Audience - people who listen to a program; Audiovisual - relating to sound and vision

auto - self, same, one - Autocrat - a person who governs with absolute power; Autograph - a person's own signature; Automatic - moving by itself

avi/a - bird - Aviary - a large enclosure for birds; Aviatrix - a female airplane pilot; Aviation - the art of designing or operating aircraft

bar/o - pressure, weight - Baric - pertaining to pressure, esp. of the atmosphere; Milliard - metric unit, equal to 1/1000th of a bar; Baryon - heavy elementary particle

bell/i - war - Belliscose - warlike; Belligerent - hostile, ready to fight; Rebel - a person who opposes and fights

bene - good, well - Benefactor - a person who gives money to a cause; Beneficial - producing a good effect; Benevolent - showing kindness or goodwill

bi/n - two, twice, once in every two - Biannual - happening twice a year; Binoculars - optical device with two lenses; Bilateral - either or involving two sides

bibli/o - book - Bibliography - a list of books used as sources; Bibliomania - an extreme love of books; Bibliophile - a person who loves books

bio - life, living matter - Biology - the science of life; Biosphere - Earth's surface inhabited by living things

blast/o - cell, primitive, immature cell - Blastula - an early stage of embryonic development; Fibroblast - a cell that forms connective tissue; Blastoderm - the layer surrounding the inside of an egg

burs - pouch, purse - Bursar - an administrative officer in charge of funds; Bursary - the treasury of a college or monastery; Disburse - to expend especially from a public fund

calc - stone - Calcite; Calcium - the flame of acetylene gas generated by reaction of calcium carbide with water; Calcification - impregnation with calcareous matter

cand - glowing, iridescent - Candid - free from bias, prejudice, or malice; Candle - something that gives light; Incandescent - white, glowing, or luminous with intense heat

capt, cept, ceive - take, hold - Intercept - to stop or interrupt; Perceive - to take notice of something; Captivating - taking hold of

cardi/o - heart - Cardiac - relating to the heart; Cardiogenic - resulting from heart disease; Cardiologist - a heart doctor

carn/i - flesh, meat - Carnivorous - flesh-eating; Carnal - pertaining to the body or flesh; Incarnate - given bodily form

cata - down, against completely, intensively, according to - Cataclysm - a flood or other disaster; Catalog - a complete listing; Catastrophe - turning for the worst, a substantial disaster

caust, caut - to burn - Cauterize - to burn with a hot instrument; Caustic - capable of burning or eating away; Holocaust - total devastation, especially by fire

cede, ceed, cess - go, yield - Exceed - to go beyond the limits; Recede - to go back; Accessible - easily entered, approached, or obtained
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<tr>
<td>celer</td>
<td>fast</td>
<td>Latin</td>
<td>accelerate - to increase the speed of; decelerate - to reduce the speed of</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cent/i</td>
<td>hundred, hundredth</td>
<td>Latin</td>
<td>centennial - the 100th anniversary; centimeter - 1/100 of a meter; century - 100 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>centr/o/i</td>
<td>center</td>
<td>Greek</td>
<td>egocentric - self-centered; eccentric - not having a common center, not according to norm; centrifugal - moving outward from a center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cephal/o</td>
<td>head</td>
<td>Greek</td>
<td>encephalitis - inflammation of the brain; cephalic - pertaining to the head; cephalopod - marine mollusks like octopus and squid who have tentacles growing from their head</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cerebr/o</td>
<td>brain</td>
<td>Latin</td>
<td>cerebral - pertaining to the brain; cerebrate - to use the brain; cerebrospinal - pertaining to the brain and the spinal cord</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cert</td>
<td>sure</td>
<td>Latin</td>
<td>ascertain - to find out something with certainty; certain - being absolutely sure; certify - to state that something is true</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>chrom/o chromat/o, chros</td>
<td>color, pigment</td>
<td>Greek</td>
<td>achromatic - without color; chromium - a blue-white metallic chemical element, chromatrics - the study of color</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>chron/o</td>
<td>time</td>
<td>Greek</td>
<td>chronic - lasting for a long time; chronological - arranging events in time order, synchronize - happening at the same time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>chrys/o</td>
<td>gold, yellow</td>
<td>Greek</td>
<td>chrysanthemum and helichrysum - golden/yellow flowers; chrysolite - a yellowish gem</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cide, cise</td>
<td>cut, kill</td>
<td>Latin</td>
<td>homicide - murder; incisor - a sharp tooth for cutting food; insecticide - a chemical used to kill insects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>circum, circle</td>
<td>around, about</td>
<td>Latin</td>
<td>circumnavigate - to sail around; circumscribe - to draw around; circumspect - looking around</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>claim, clam</td>
<td>shout, speak out</td>
<td>Latin</td>
<td>clamor - to shout and make noise; exclaim - to cry out loudly and suddenly; proclamation - something announced officially in public</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>clar</td>
<td>clear</td>
<td>Latin</td>
<td>clarification - an explanation; clarify - to make something clear; declare - to state something clearly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>clud, clus</td>
<td>close</td>
<td>Latin</td>
<td>conclusion - the end or last part; exclusion - shutting out, rejecting; seclude - to keep away from; to isolate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cline</td>
<td>lean</td>
<td>Latin</td>
<td>inclination - a leaning toward; incline - a surface that slopes or leans; recline - to lean back and relax</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>co</td>
<td>with, together, joint</td>
<td>Latin</td>
<td>coauthor - writer who collaborates with another author; coeducation - educating males and females together; cohousing - planning your neighborhood in an intentional neighborly fashion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>col</td>
<td>together, jointly</td>
<td>Latin</td>
<td>Collaborate - to work together; collision - smashing together; colloquial - words formed by everyday interaction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>com</td>
<td>together, common</td>
<td>Latin</td>
<td>commemorate - to memorize together; composition - an arrangement or putting together of parts; commune - living together while owning things in common</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cogn/i</td>
<td>know</td>
<td>Latin</td>
<td>cognition - process of acquiring knowledge; incognito - disguised so no one knows you; recognize - to discover that one knows</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>con</td>
<td>with, jointly</td>
<td>Latin</td>
<td>concur - to agree with someone; contemporary - of the same time period as others; convention - a gathering of people with a common interest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>contra/o</td>
<td>against, opposite</td>
<td>Latin</td>
<td>contradict to argue against, Contraflow, contraception, contrary not in agreement, controversy disagreement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>corp/o</td>
<td>body</td>
<td>Latin</td>
<td>corporation - a company recognized by law as a single body; corpse - a dead body; corporal - pertaining to the body</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cosm/o</td>
<td>universe</td>
<td>Greek</td>
<td>cosmonaut - a Russian astronaut; cosmos - the universe; microcosm - a miniature universe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>counter</td>
<td>opposite, contrary, opposing</td>
<td>Latin</td>
<td>counteract - to oppose the effects of an action; countermand - to cancel a previous order; counteroffensive - attack against an attack</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cranio</td>
<td>skull</td>
<td>Greek</td>
<td>craniology - the study of skull characteristics; cranium - skull of vertebrates; cranial - pertaining to the skull</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cred</td>
<td>believe</td>
<td>Latin</td>
<td>credence - belief that something is true or valid; credulous - believing things too easily, gullible; incredible - unbelievable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cruc</td>
<td>cross</td>
<td>Latin</td>
<td>crucial-characteristic of or having the form of a cross ; crucifix- the cross itself as a Christian emblem; ex cruciating- so intense as to cause great pain or anguish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>crypto</td>
<td>hidden, secret</td>
<td>Greek</td>
<td>cryptic - of hidden meaning; cryptography - science of secret codes; encrypt - encode into secret code</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cumul</td>
<td>mass, heap</td>
<td>Latin</td>
<td>accumulate - to gather or pile up; cumulative - gradually building up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>curr, curs</td>
<td>run</td>
<td>Latin</td>
<td>concurrent- running parallel; current- flowing easily and smoothly; cursive- having a flowing, easy, impromptu character</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cycl</td>
<td>circle, ring</td>
<td>Greek</td>
<td>bicycle - a vehicle with two wheels; cycle - a sequence that is repeated; cyclone - a storm with circling winds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>de</td>
<td>reduce, away, down, remove</td>
<td>Latin</td>
<td>decelerate - to slow down, reduce speed; dethrone - to remove from power; debug - to remove bugs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dec/a, deka</td>
<td>ten</td>
<td>Greek</td>
<td>decade - 10 years; decathlon - athletic contest that includes 10 disciplines in which each participant competes; December - formerly the 10th month of the Roman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Root</td>
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<td>Example</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>deci</td>
<td>one tenth</td>
<td>Latin</td>
<td>declutter - a tenth of a liter; decimate - reduce dramatically; decibel - one tenth of the sound volume unit bel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>demi</td>
<td>people</td>
<td>Greek</td>
<td>democracy - government of the people; demographic - the study of people; epidemic - spreading among people in a region</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dendr/o/i</td>
<td>half, less than tree</td>
<td>Latin</td>
<td>philodendron - a climbing plant that grows on trees; dendrochronology - dating events by studying growth rings in trees; dendroform - in the shape of a tree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dent, dont</td>
<td>tooth</td>
<td>Greek</td>
<td>dental - relating to teeth; dentist - a doctor for the teeth; dentures - a set of false teeth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>derm/a</td>
<td>skin</td>
<td>Greek</td>
<td>dermatologist - a doctor for the skin; pachyderm - a class of animals with very thick skin (elephant, rhinoceros); dermatitis - inflammation of the skin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>di/plo</td>
<td>two, twice</td>
<td>Greek</td>
<td>dichromatic - displaying two colors; diploma - a certificate, literally &quot;a letter folded double&quot;; dilemma - a situation that requires a choice between two alternatives.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>di/s</td>
<td>apart, away, not, to the opposite</td>
<td>Latin</td>
<td>digression - a departure from the main issue, subject; disappear - to move out of sight; dissect - to cut apart piece by piece.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dia</td>
<td>through, between, apart, across</td>
<td>Greek</td>
<td>diabetes - disease characterized by excessive thirst and discharge of urine; diagnosis - understanding a condition by going through a detailed review of symptoms; dialog - conversation between two people.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dict</td>
<td>speak</td>
<td>Latin</td>
<td>contradict - to express the opposite of; prediction - a statement foretelling the future; dictate - to speak out loud for another person to write down.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>domin</td>
<td>master</td>
<td>Latin</td>
<td>dominate - to be the master of; domineering - excessively controlling; predominate - to have more power than others</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>don/at</td>
<td>give</td>
<td>Latin</td>
<td>donation - a contribution or gift; donor - someone who gives something; pardon - to give forgiveness for an offense</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>duc/t</td>
<td>lead</td>
<td>Latin</td>
<td>conduct - to lead musicians in playing music; educate - to lead to knowledge; deduction - a subtraction of an amount.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>du/o</td>
<td>two, twice</td>
<td>Latin</td>
<td>duplicate - make an identical copy; duet - a musical composition for two voices or instruments; duo - a pair normally thought of as being together.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dur</td>
<td>harden, to last, lasting</td>
<td>Latin</td>
<td>durable - having the quality of lasting; duration - the length of time something lasts; enduring - able to last.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dyn/a/am</td>
<td>power, energy, strength</td>
<td>Greek</td>
<td>dynamo - a generator of energy; dynamic - having physical energy/power; dynamite - a powerful explosive.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dys</td>
<td>abnormal, bad</td>
<td>Greek</td>
<td>dyspepsia - abnormal digestion; dystopia - an imaginary place of total misery; dyslexia - impairment of the ability to handle words.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e-</td>
<td>out, away</td>
<td>Latin</td>
<td>eloquent - speaking beautifully and forcefully; emissary - a representative of a country or group sent on a mission; eject - throw out forcefully.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ego</td>
<td>self</td>
<td>Latin</td>
<td>egoistic - self-centered; alter ego - a higher aspect of oneself; egomania - excessive preoccupation with oneself.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>em, en</td>
<td>into, cover, with, cause</td>
<td>Greek</td>
<td>empathy - intention to feel like another person; empower - put into power; engorge - make larger.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>endo</td>
<td>within, inside</td>
<td>Greek</td>
<td>endotherm - a creature that can keep its inside temperature fairly constant; endocrine - relating to glands that secrete directly into the blood or lymph; endogamy - the custom to marry within one's clan, tribe etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>enn/i, anni</td>
<td>years</td>
<td>Latin</td>
<td>bicentennial - of or relating to an age or period of 200 years; centennial - of or relating to an age or period of 100 years; perennial - lasting through many years.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>en, in</td>
<td>inside, inwards</td>
<td>Latin</td>
<td>envision - to picture in the mind; enclose - lock inside; inwards - towards the inside.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ep/i</td>
<td>on, upon, over, among, at, after, to, outside</td>
<td>Greek</td>
<td>epidemic - the rapid spread of something negative; epilogue - a short speech delivered after a play; epicenter - the center of an earthquake.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>equi/i</td>
<td>equal, equally</td>
<td>Latin</td>
<td>equidistant - an equal distance from two points; equanimity - calm temperament, evenness of temper; equation - a statement of equality.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>erg/o</td>
<td>work</td>
<td>Greek</td>
<td>ergonomics - study of the working environment; energy - the power to accomplish work; energetics - science that looks at energy and its transformation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>esth/aesth</td>
<td>feeling, sensation, beauty</td>
<td>Latin</td>
<td>esthetician - someone who beautifies; aesthetic - pertaining to a sense of beauty; kinesthesia - the sensation of bodily movement.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ethno</td>
<td>race, people</td>
<td>Greek</td>
<td>ethnic - pertaining to a defined group of people; ethnocentric - focusing on the ethnicity of people; ethnology - the science of people and races.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>eu</td>
<td>good, well</td>
<td>Greek</td>
<td>euphemism - replacing an offensive word with an inoffensive one; euphonious - having a pleasant sound; euphoria - feeling of well-being.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ex</td>
<td>from, out, outside, beyond</td>
<td>Latin</td>
<td>excavate - to dig out; exhale - to breathe out; extract - to pull out.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>extra, extru</td>
<td>extraordinary, beyond ordinary, extraterrestrial - outside the Earth; extrovert - an outgoing person.</td>
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Word roots: The web's largest root words and prefix directory

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<th>Meaning</th>
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<th>Example</th>
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<tr>
<td>fac/t</td>
<td>make, do</td>
<td>Latin</td>
<td>artifact - an object made by a person; factory - a place where things are made; malefact - a person who does wrong.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fer</td>
<td>bear, bring, carry</td>
<td>Latin</td>
<td>confer - to bring an honor to someone; ferry - a boat that carries passengers; transfer - to move to another place.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fid</td>
<td>faith</td>
<td>Latin</td>
<td>confide - place trust in someone, fidelity - faithfulness; fiduciary - a trustee;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fleck</td>
<td>bend</td>
<td>Latin</td>
<td>deflect - to bend course because of hitting something; inflection - a bending in the voice's tone or pitch; flexible - easily bending.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>flor/a, fleur</td>
<td>flower</td>
<td>Latin</td>
<td>florist - someone working with flowers; floral - flowerlike; flora - the plant life of a particular time or area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>for</td>
<td>completely (used to intensify the meaning of a word)</td>
<td>Latin</td>
<td>forsaken or forfeited - completely lost; forgiven - completely given (a release of debt).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fore</td>
<td>in front of, previous, earlier</td>
<td>Latin</td>
<td>forebear - ancestor; forebode - to give an advance warning of something bad; forecast - a preview of events to be.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>form</td>
<td>shape</td>
<td>Latin</td>
<td>conformity - correspondence in form, manner, or character; formation - something that is formed; reformatory - intended for reformation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fract, frag</td>
<td>break</td>
<td>Latin</td>
<td>fracture - a break; fragile - easy to break; fragment or fraction - a part or element of a larger whole;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fug</td>
<td>flee, run away, escape</td>
<td>Latin</td>
<td>fugitive - a person who is running away; refuge - a sheltered place to flee to; refugee - a person seeking protection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>funct</td>
<td>perform, work</td>
<td>Latin</td>
<td>defunct - no longer working or alive; function - to work or perform a role normally; malfunction - to fail to work correctly.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fus</td>
<td>pour</td>
<td>Latin</td>
<td>confusion - being flooded with too much information that is hard to make sense of; fuse - to melt by heating; infuse - to put into.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gastr/o</td>
<td>stomach</td>
<td>Greek</td>
<td>gastric - pertaining to the stomach; gastronomy - serving the stomach by providing good food; gastritis - inflammation of the stomach.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gen/o/e, genesis</td>
<td>birth, production, formation, kind</td>
<td>Greek</td>
<td>genealogy - the study of the history of a family; generation - all the people born at approximately the same time; genetic - relating to heredity encoded in the genes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>geo</td>
<td>earth, soil, global</td>
<td>Greek</td>
<td>geography - study of the earth's surface; geology - study of the structure of the earth; geoponics - soil based agriculture.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ger</td>
<td>old age</td>
<td>Greek</td>
<td>geriatrics - medicine pertaining to the elderly; gerontocracy - the rule of the elders; gerontology - the science of aging.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>giga</td>
<td>a billion</td>
<td>Greek</td>
<td>gigabyte - unit of computer storage space; gigahertz - unit of frequency (one billion Hz/sec); gigawatt unit of electric power (one billion watts).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gon</td>
<td>angle</td>
<td>Latin</td>
<td>decagon - a polygon with 10 angles; diagonal - a slanting line running across a space; octagon - a geometrical figure with 8 angles.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gram</td>
<td>letter, written</td>
<td>Greek</td>
<td>diagram - a simple drawing; grammar - rules of how to write words in sentences; telegram - a message sent by telegraph.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gran</td>
<td>grain</td>
<td>Latin</td>
<td>granary - a storehouse or repository for grain especially after it is threshed or husked; granola - a mixture of rolled oats and other ingredients; granule - a little grain (as of sugar)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>graph/y</td>
<td>writing, recording, written</td>
<td>Greek</td>
<td>Graphology - the study of handwritings; autograph - written with one's own hand; seismograph - a machine noting strength and duration of earthquakes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>grat</td>
<td>pleasing</td>
<td>Latin</td>
<td>gratify - to please someone; grateful - feeling thankful; gratuity - a tip, token of appreciation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gyn/o/e</td>
<td>woman, female</td>
<td>Greek</td>
<td>gynecology - the science of female reproductive health; gynephobia - fear of women; gynecoid - resembling a woman.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gress, grad/e/i</td>
<td>to step, to go</td>
<td>Latin</td>
<td>digression - a departure from the main issue, subject, etc.; progress - movement forward or onward; gradual - step by step.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hect/o, hecat</td>
<td>hundred</td>
<td>Greek</td>
<td>hectoliter - 100 liters; hectare - metric unit equaling 100 ares or 10,000 square meters; hectometer - 100 meters.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>helic/o</td>
<td>spiral, circular</td>
<td>Greek</td>
<td>helicopter - an aircraft with horizontal rotating wing; helix - a spiral form; helicon - a circular tuba.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>heli/o</td>
<td>sun</td>
<td>Greek</td>
<td>heliotropism - movement or growth in relation to the sun; heliograph - apparatus used to send message with the help of sunlight; helianthus - genus of plants including sunflowers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hemi</td>
<td>half, partial</td>
<td>Greek</td>
<td>hemicycle - a semicircular structure; hemisphere - one half of the earth; hemistich - half a line of poetry.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hem/o/a</td>
<td>blood</td>
<td>Latin</td>
<td>hemorrhage - clotting of the blood; hemorrhoids - swelling of the blood vessels; hemoglobin - red blood particle.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hepa</td>
<td>liver</td>
<td>Latin</td>
<td>hepatitis - inflammation of the liver; hepatoma - a tumor of the liver; hepatotoxic - toxic and damaging to the liver.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
hept/a

seven Greek heptagon - a shape with seven angles and seven sides; Heptateuch - the first seven books of the Old Testament; heptamer - a line of verse consisting of seven metrical feet.

herbi

group, plant Latin herbicide - any chemical used to kill unwanted plants, etc.; herbivorous - plant-eating; herbal - relating to plants.

hetero

different, other Greek heterogeneous - made up of unrelated parts; heteronyms - words with same spelling but different meanings; heterodox - not conforming to traditional beliefs.

hex/a

six Greek hexagon - a shape with six angles/sides; hexameter - a verse measured in six; hexapod - having six legs.

histo

tissue Greek histology - study of the microscopic structure of tissues; histochemistry - study of the chemical constitution of cells and tissues.

homo, homeo

like, alike, same Latin homogeneous - of the same nature or kind; homonym - sounding alike; homeopath - a therapy that is based on treating "same with same".

hydr/o

liquid, water Greek hydrate - to add water to; hydrophobia - intense fear of water; hydroponics - growing plants in liquid nutrient solution; hydraulic - operated by force created by a liquid.

hygr/o

moisture, humidity Greek hygrometer - tool used to measure humidity; hyrograph - instrument for recording variations in atmospheric humidity.

hyper

too much, over, excessive Greek hyperactive - very restless; hypercritical - too critical; hypertension - above normal pressure.

hyp/o

under Greek hypoglycemia - an abnormally low level of sugar in the blood; hypothermia - abnormally low body temperature; hypothesis - a theory that is unproven but used under the assumption that it is true.

iatr/o

medical care Greek geriatrics - medical care of the elderly; pediatrician - a doctor who treats children; podiatry - medical care for feet.

icon/o

image Greek icon - an (often religious) image, in modern usage a simplified graphic of high symbolic-content; iconology - science of symbols and icons; iconoclast - someone who destroys religious images and traditional beliefs.

idio

peculiar, personal, distinct Greek idiomatic - Peculiar to a particular language; idiosyncracy - a physical or mental characteristic typical of a particular person; idiot - someone who is distinctly foolish or stupid.

il, in

in, into Latin illuminate - to give light to; innovation - a new idea, method, or device; inspection - the act of examining or reviewing.

ig, ii, im, in, ir

not, without Latin illegal - not legal; impossible - not possible; inappropriate - not appropriate; irresponsible - not responsible.

imag

likeness Latin image - a likeness of someone; imaginative - able to think up new ideas or images; imagine - to form a picture or likeness in the mind.

infra

beneath, below Latin infrastructure - underlying framework of a system; infrared - below the regular light spectrum.

inter

between, among, jointly Latin international - involving two or more countries; intersection - place where roads come together; intercept - to stop or interrupt the course of.

intra, intro

within, inside Latin intrastate - existing in one state; intravenous - inside or into a vein; introvert - shy person who keeps within him/herself.

ir

not Latin irredeemable - not redeemable; irrefromable - not reformable; irrational - not rational.

iso

equal Greek isobar - a line on a map connecting points of equal barometric pressure; isometric - having equality of measure; isothermal - having equal or constant temperature.

iect

throw Latin eject - to throw someone/something out; interject - to throw a remark into a discussion; project - to cast or throw something.

jud

law Latin judgment - a decision of a court of law; judicial - having to do with judges or courts of law; judiciary - a system of courts of law.

junct

join Latin conjunction - a word that joins parts of sentences; disjunction - a disconnection; junction - a place where two things join.

juven

young Latin juvenile - youthful or childish; rejuvenate - to bring back to youthful strength or appearance.

kilo

thousand Greek kilobyte - 1,000 bytes; kilometer - 1,000 meter; kilograms - 1,000 grams.

kine/t

motion, division Greek kinetics - study of the force of motion; psychokinesis or telekinesis - the ability to move objects with your mind; cinematography - motion picture making.

lab

work Latin collaborate - to work with a person; elaborate - to work out the details; laborious - requiring a lot of hard work.

lact/o

milk Latin lactate - to give milk, nurse; lactose - the sugar contained in milk; lactic acid.

later

side Latin bilateral - of or involving two sides; unilateral - affecting one side of something.

leuk/o

white, colorless Greek leukemia - abnormal increase of white blood cells in the blood; leukocyte - a mature white blood cell; leucine - a white, crystalline amino acid.

lex

word, law, reading Greek lexicology - the study and history of words; alexia - loss of the ability to read; illegal - not authorized by the official rules or laws.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Definition</th>
<th>Language(s)</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>liber</td>
<td>free</td>
<td>Latin</td>
<td>liberate - to set free; libertine - a person with a free, wild lifestyle; liberty - freedom.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lingu</td>
<td>language, tongue</td>
<td>Latin</td>
<td>linguist - one who studies languages; multilingual - able to communicate in multiple languages; linguine - long, flat &quot;tongue-shaped&quot; pasta.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lip/o</td>
<td>fat</td>
<td>Greek</td>
<td>liposuction - the mechanical removal of fat reserves in the tissue; lipase - enzyme that breaks down fat; lipid - resembling fat.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lite, ite, lith/o</td>
<td>mineral, rock, fossil</td>
<td>Greek</td>
<td>apatite - a group of common minerals; granite - a hard, granular rock; monolith - a remarkable, unique stone.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>loc</td>
<td>place</td>
<td>Latin</td>
<td>dislocate - to put something out of its usual place; location - a place; relocate - to move to a new place.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>log/o</td>
<td>word, doctrine, discourse</td>
<td>Greek</td>
<td>logic - correct reasoning; monologue - a long speech by one speaker; analogy - similarity, especially between things otherwise dissimilar.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>loqu, locu</td>
<td>speak</td>
<td>Latin</td>
<td>eloquent - speaking beautifully and forcefully; loquacious - very talkative; elocution - art of public speaking.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>luc</td>
<td>light</td>
<td>Latin</td>
<td>elucidate - to explain, to throw light on; lucid - easily understood, giving off light; translucent - allowing light through.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lud, lus</td>
<td>to play</td>
<td>Latin</td>
<td>prelude - introduction to the major performance; illusion - misleading optical image or impression; delude - to mislead, deceive.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lumin</td>
<td>light</td>
<td>Latin</td>
<td>illuminate - to fill with light; lumen - unit measuring light.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lun/a/i</td>
<td>moon</td>
<td>Latin</td>
<td>lunar - relating to the moon; lunarscape - the surface of the moon; lunatic - insane (as if driven mad by the moon).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>macro</td>
<td>large, great</td>
<td>Greek</td>
<td>macroevolution - large scale evolution; macromolecule - a large molecule; macroeconomics - study of the overall forces of economy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>magn/a/i</td>
<td>great, large</td>
<td>Latin</td>
<td>magnify - make larger; magnificent - grand; magnate - a powerful person, especially in business or industry.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mal/e</td>
<td>bad, ill, wrong</td>
<td>Latin</td>
<td>malcontent - wrong content; malaria - &quot;bad air&quot;, infectious disease thought to originate from the &quot;bad air&quot; of the swamps, but caused by the bite of an infected mosquito; malicious - showing strong ill will.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>man/i/u</td>
<td>hand</td>
<td>Latin</td>
<td>maneuver - to move by hand; manual - done with the hands; manuscript - a book written by hand.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mand</td>
<td>to order</td>
<td>Latin</td>
<td>command - an order or instruction; demand - a hard-to-ignore order; mandate - an official order.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mania</td>
<td>madness, insanity, excessive desire</td>
<td>Greek</td>
<td>bibliomania - a crazy love of books; egomania - a mad love of oneself; maniac an insane person.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mar/i</td>
<td>sea</td>
<td>Latin</td>
<td>marina - a harbor for pleasure boats; maritime - relating to the sea; submarine - an underwater boat; aquamarine - color of sea water.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mater, matr/i</td>
<td>mother</td>
<td>Latin</td>
<td>maternal - relating to motherhood; maternity - the state of being a mother; matriarch - a woman head of a household.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>max</td>
<td>greatest</td>
<td>Latin</td>
<td>maximal - the best or greatest possible; maximize - to make as great as possible; maximum - the greatest amount.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>medi</td>
<td>middle</td>
<td>Latin</td>
<td>medieval - pertaining to the Middle Ages; medium - in the middle; mediocre - only of medium (inferior) quality.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mega</td>
<td>great, large, million</td>
<td>Greek</td>
<td>megalopolis - an area with many nearby cities; megaphone - a device that projects a loud voice; megastructure - huge building or other structure.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>melan/o</td>
<td>black</td>
<td>Greek</td>
<td>melancholy - a state of dark emotions; melanoma - malignant dark tumor of the skin; melodrama - a dark, pathetic drama.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>memor/i</td>
<td>remember</td>
<td>Latin</td>
<td>commemorate - to honor the memory of, as by a ceremony; memorial - related to remembering a person or event; memory: an ability to retain knowledge or an individual's stock of retained knowledge.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>merge, mers</td>
<td>dip, dive</td>
<td>Latin</td>
<td>immerge or immerse - to put or dip something into a liquid; submerge to dip something completely into water.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>meso</td>
<td>middle</td>
<td>Latin</td>
<td>Mesoamerica - Middle America; meson - elementary particle with a mass between an electron and a proton.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>meta</td>
<td>change, after, beyond, between</td>
<td>Greek</td>
<td>metaphysics - study of nature and reality; metamorphosis - a complete change of form; metastasis - the transmission of disease to other parts of the body.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>meter, metr/y</td>
<td>measure</td>
<td>Greek</td>
<td>audiometer - an instrument that measures hearing acuteness; chronometer - an instrument that measures time; metric - measured.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>micro</td>
<td>very small, short, minute</td>
<td>Greek</td>
<td>microbe - a very small living thing; microchip - a tiny wafer with an integrated circuit; microscope - a device to see very small things.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mid</td>
<td>middle</td>
<td>Latin</td>
<td>midriff - the area between the chest and the waist; midterm - middle of a term in school; midway - halfway between.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>migr</td>
<td>move</td>
<td>Latin</td>
<td>immigrant - a person who moves to a new country to settle; migrant - person who moves from place to place; migration - the process of moving.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
milli
  onethousandth
  Latin
  millimeter - one thousandth of a meter; millibar - one thousandth of a bar; milliliter - one thousandth of a liter.

min/i
  small, less
  Latin
  mini - something that is very small; minuscula - extremely tiny; minutiae - very small or trivial details.

mis/o
  bad, badly, wrong, wrongly, to hate
  Greek
  misbehave - to behave badly; misprint - an error in printing; misnomer - an error in naming a person or thing.

miss, mit
  send, let go
  Latin
  dismiss - to send someone away; missile - a weapon sent into the air; emit - to send something out; admittance - entry.

mob
  move
  Latin
  immobilize - to stop from moving; mobile - able to move freely; mobility - the quality of being able to move.

mon/o
  one, single, alone
  Greek
  monochromat - having one color; monologue - a speech spoken by one person; monotheism - belief in one god.

mot, mov
  move
  Latin
  motion - the act of moving; motivate - to move someone to action; promote to move someone forward; removable - able to be taken or carried away.

morph/o
  form
  Greek
  metamorphosis - complete change of form; endorphins - chemical in the brain able to transform pain; amorphous - without distinct shape or form.

mort
  death
  Latin
  immortal - living forever, unable to die; mortal - certain to die; mortician - an undertaker.

multi
  many, more than one or two
  Latin
  multicolored - having many colors; multimedia - using a range of media; multitasking - doing many things at once.

mut
  change
  Latin
  immutable - not changing; mutant - an organism that has undergone change; mutate - to undergo a change.

my/o
  muscle
  Latin
  myocardium - the middle muscle of the heart; myasthenia - muscle fatigue or weakness; myosin - common protein in muscle tissue.

narr
  tell
  Latin
  narrate - to tell a story; narrative - a story; narrator - a person who tells a story.

nat
  born
  Latin
  innate - included since birth; natal - relating to birth; natural - gotten at birth, not afterward.

nav
  ship
  Latin
  circumnavigate - to sail around a place; naval - relating to a navy or warships; navigate - to sail a ship through a place.

necr/o
  dead, death
  Greek
  necrophil - loving death; necrosis - the death of tissue due to disease or injury; necrology - a list of persons who have recently died.

neg
  no
  Latin
  negate - to say it didn't happen; negative - meaning "no"; renegotiate - to go back on a promise.

neo
  new, recent
  Latin
  neoclassic - a revival of classic form, neocolonialism - the indirect ("new") economical and political control of a region by a more powerful foreign power; neonatal - a newborn child, especially the first few weeks.

nephr/o
  kidney
  Greek
  nephritis - inflammation of the kidneys; nephrotomy - surgical incision of a kidney; nephron - a single, excretory unit in the kidney.

neur/o
  nerve
  Greek
  neuralgia - pain along a nerve; neurologist - doctor specializing in the nerves; neuropathic - mental disorder that usually does not include an impaired perception of reality.

nom/in
  name
  Latin
  misnomer - an error in naming a person or thing; nominal - being something in name only but not in reality; nominate - to name for election or appointment, to designate.

non
  no, not, without
  Latin
  nondescript - with no special characteristics; nonfiction - true, real, not made up; nonsense - without sense.

not
  mark
  Latin
  notable - marked as worthy of attention; notarize - to certify a signature on a legal document; annotate - to add remarks.

noun, nunc
  declare
  Latin
  announce - to declare in public; denounce - to proclaim harsh criticism; enunciate - to speak or declare something clearly.

nov
  new
  Latin
  innovate - to introduce a new way; novelty - something new; novice - a person who is new at a job; renovate - to make something like new again.

numer
  number
  Latin
  enumerate - to name a number of items on a list; numerology - the study of magical uses of numbers; numerous - a large number.

ob, op
  in the way, against
  Latin
  object - to be against something; obscure - hard to understand; opposition - the act of resistance or action against.

oct/a/o
  eight
  Greek
  octagon - a figure with 8 sides and 8 angles; octogenarian - person in his or her 80s; octopus - sea animal with 8 arms.

ocu/o
  eye
  Latin
  binoculars - lens device for seeing distances; monocula - relating to one eye; oculist - an eye doctor.

od
  path, way
  Greek
  diode - an electron tube having two electrodes, a cathode and an anode; odometer - an instrument attached to a vehicle to measure the distance traversed; triode - an electron tube with an anode, a cathode, and a control grid

omni
  all
  Latin
  omnipotent - with all the power; omniscient - knowing all things; omnivorous eating all foods.

op/t/s
  eye, visual
  Greek
  optic - relating to the eyes; optician - a person who fits eyeglasses; autopsy - the
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word Root</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>opt</td>
<td>best</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ortho</td>
<td>straight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>osteo</td>
<td>bone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>out</td>
<td>goes beyond, surpasses, exceeds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>over</td>
<td>excessive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>oxi/oxy</td>
<td>sharp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pale/o</td>
<td>ancient</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pan</td>
<td>all, any, everyone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>para</td>
<td>beside, beyond, abnormal, assistant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>para</td>
<td>protection from</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pater, patr/i</td>
<td>father</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>path</td>
<td>feeling, emotion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ped/i/e</td>
<td>foot, feet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pel</td>
<td>drive, force</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pent/a</td>
<td>five</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pept, peps</td>
<td>digestion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>per</td>
<td>through, throughout</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>peri</td>
<td>around, enclosing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>phag/e</td>
<td>to eat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>phil/o</td>
<td>love, friend</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>phon/o/e/y</td>
<td>sound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>phot/o</td>
<td>light</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>phyll/o</td>
<td>leaf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>phys</td>
<td>nature, medicine, the body</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>phyt/o/e</td>
<td>plant, to grow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>plas/t/m</td>
<td>to form, development, forming cells</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>plaud, plod, plaus, plos</td>
<td>approve, clap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pneum/o</td>
<td>breathing, lung, air, spirit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pod/e</td>
<td>foot</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **root** examination of a dead body. 
- **opt** optimal - the best, the most desirable; optimize - to make the best of; optimum - the best something could be. 
- **ortho** orthodontist - a dentist that straightens teeth; orthopedic - a doctor concerned with the proper alignment of the bones; orthography - the correct way of writing. 
- **osteo** osteitis - inflammation caused by degeneration of the joints; osteopathy - therapy that uses among others manipulation of the skeleton to restore health; osteology - the study of bones. 
- **out** Outgoing - being of lively, sharing nature; outdoing - doing better than; outdoor - outside. 
- **over** overconfident - more confident than is appropriate; overstock - more supplies than is desirable; overexcited - more excited than one should be. 
- **oxi/oxy** oxymoron - combining two ideas that sharply contradict each other; oxidize - corrode a surface. 
- **pale/o** paleontologist - study of ancient fossils; paleography - the study of ancient forms of writing; Paleolithic - period of the Stone Age. 
- **pan** panacea - a cure for all diseases or problems; panorama - an all-around view; pantheism - the worship of all gods; pandemic - affecting all. 
- **para** parasite - an organism that lives on and off another living being; parallel - alongside and always an equal distance apart; paragraph - a portion of a written document that presents a distinct idea. 
- **para** parachute - protection from falling; parasol - an umbrella used to protect from the sun; 
- **pater, patr/i** paternal - relating to fathers; paternity - fatherhood; patriarch - a man who rules a group. 
- **path** antipathy - a feeling of great dislike; apathy - a lack of feeling or interest; empathy - ability to understand another's feelings. 
- **ped/i/e** pedal - a lever pushed by the foot; pedestrian - one who walks; pedicure - cosmetic treatment of feet and toes. 
- **pel** compel - to force someone to act; expel - to drive someone out of a place; repel - to force back. 
- **pent/a** pentagon - shape having 5 angles and 5 sides, pentagram - a five-pointed star formerly used as a symbolic figure in magic; pentathlon - an athletic contest that includes five events. 
- **pept, peps** dyspepsia - abnormal digestion; peptic - aiding digestion; pepsin - a digestive enzyme. 
- **per** permanent - lasting throughout all time; permeate - to spread throughout; perennial - lasting through many years. 
- **peri** periodontal - pertaining to bone and tissue around a tooth; peripheral - lying outside of the center; perimeter - the outer boundary of an area. 
- **phag/e** esophagus - muscular tube that carries food to the stomach; anthropophagy - cannibalism; xylophobia - fear of wood. 
- **phil/o** philanthropist - one who loves humanity; philology - the love of words; philosophy - the love of wisdom; bibliophil - loving books. 
- **phon/o/e/y** cacophony - loud, unpleasant sounds; microphone - a device that records and amplifies sound; phonetic - relating to human speech sounds. 
- **phot/o** photogenic - caused by light; photograph - image made on light-sensitive film; photon - the smallest possible unit of light. 
- **phyll/o** chlorophyll - a group of green pigments found in leaves; phyllotaxis - the arrangement of leaves on a stem; phyllite - a rock that forms sheets, similar to slate. 
- **phys** physical - relating to the body; physician - a doctor; physique - nature and shape of one's body. 
- **phyt/o/e** epiphyte - a plant growing independently on the surface of another; hydrophyte - a plant that grows only in water; neophyte - a beginner, especially a person recently converted to a new belief. 
- **plas/t/m** protoplasm - something that is the first made or formed, also the living portion of a cell; plastic - able to be formed, especially when warm; plaster - a mixture of lime, sand and water that forms a smooth solid covering for walls. 
- **plaud, plod, plaus, plos** applaud - to show approval especially by clapping the hands; explosion - an act of exposing something as invalid or baseless; plausible - worthy of being applauded. 
- **pneum/o** pneumonia - inflammation of the lungs; pneumatic - using the force of air; dyspnea - difficulty breathing. 
- **pod/e** podiatrist - a doctor for the feet; podium - a small platform to stand on; tripod - a
poli
city
Greek
metropolis - a large city; police - people who work for the government to maintain order in a city; politics - actions of a government or political party.

poly
many, more than one
Greek
polychrome - with many colors; polyglot - a person fluent in many languages; polygon - shape with 3 or more straight sides.

pon
place, put
Latin
opponent - a person who places him/herself against an action, idea, etc.; postpone - to put off doing something.

pop
people
Latin
popular - appealing to a lot of people; population - all of the people who live in a particular area; populist - a supporter of the rights of people.

port
carry
Latin
export - to carry goods out of a place; portable - able to be carried; porter - a person who carries luggage.

pos
place, put
Latin
deposit - to place or drop something; expose to place out into the open for all to see; position - the place where someone is.

post
after, behind
Latin
posthumous - after someone's death; postpone - to delay something; postscript - an addition to an already completed document.

pre
earlier, before, in front of
Latin
preamble - a part in front of a formal document; prepare - to get ready in advance; prediction - a statement foretelling the future.

pro
before, in front of, for, forward
Greek
prognosis - a prediction of what will happen; prologue - a passage before the main part; prophet - a person who foretells the future.

prot/o
primitive, first, chief
Greek
prototype - the first of a kind; proton - one of the very basic parts of an atom; protocol - a first draft from which a document is prepared.

pseud/o
wrong, false
Greek
pseudonym - a fictitious name; pseudoscience - theories presumed without proof of a scientific nature; pseudopregnancy - a false pregnancy.

psych/o
mind, mental
Greek
psyche - the human spirit or soul; psychic - relating to the human mind or someone who has supernatural mental abilities; psychology - the study of the mind.

deposit

pul
urge
Latin
compulsion - a very strong urge; expulsion - to someone out; impulsive - having a spontaneous urge to do something.

purg
clean
Latin
purgation - removal of anything undesirable; purgatory - according to Roman Catholics a place where souls must clean themselves of sin; expurgate - remove objectionable passages from a publication.

put
think
Latin
computer - an electronic thinking device; dispute - to disagree with what another person thinks; input - contribution of one's thinking.

pyr/o
fire, heat
Greek
pyrotechnics - the art of making fireworks; pyrometer - a thermometer for measuring high temperature; pyretic - relating to or producing fever.

quad/r/ri
four
Latin
quadrant - open space with buildings on 4 sides; quadrennium - period of 4 years; quadrupe - a 4-footed animal.

quart
fourth
Latin
quarter - one fourth; quart - a fourth of a gallon; quartet - a musical composition or group involving 4 voices or instruments.

quin/t
five, fifth
Latin
quintet - a composition for 5 voices or instruments; quintessence - pure essence, based on the ancient philosophy that there was a fifth element that was present in all things; quintuple - fivefold.

radic, radix
root
Latin
eradicate - pull out at the roots; radical - fundamental, looking at things from a drastic point of view; radish - an edible root of the mustard family.

radio
radiation, ray
Latin
radioactive - emitting radiation; radiologist - someone diagnosing or treating via radiation.

ram/i
branch
Latin
ramification - the resulting consequence of a decision; ramify - to spread or branch out; ramus - a branchlike part.

re
again, back, backward
Latin
rebound - to spring back again; rewind - to wind something backward; reaction: a response; recognize - to identify someone or something seen before.

reg
guide, rule
Latin
regent - a person who rules on behalf of a king or queen; regime - a government that rules; regulate - to apply a rule.

retro
backward, back
Latin
retroactive - relating to something in the past; retrogress - to go back to an earlier condition; retrospect - the remembering of past events.

rhin/o
nose
Greek
rhinoceros - a species of animals with a big horn on the snout; rhinoplasty - surgery of the nose; rhinovirus - viruses that are causing the common cold.

rhod/o
red
Greek
rhododendron - a flower with red/pink flowers; rhodium - an element which produces a red solution; rhodospin - a purple pigment in the retina that is needed for vision.

rid
laugh
Latin
deride - to make fun of someone; ridicule - to make fun or mock; ridiculous - silly, causing laughter.

rrh/ea/oea/ag
flow, discharge
Latin
diarrhea - abnormally excessive bowel movement; hemorrhage - heavy blood flow; cataract - inflammation of a mucous membrane, especially the nose and throat.

rub
red
Latin
rub - to rub, to move or revolve the surface of something; rubella - measles; bilirubin - reddish pigment in bile.

rupt
break, burst
Latin
bankrupt - unable to pay because you're "broke"; interrupt - to break into a
san

health
Latin

conversation or event, to disturb; rupture - a break in something.

scend
climb, go
Latin

ascend - to climb upward; crescendo - a climbing up of the volume of music; descend - to go or climb down.

sci
know
Latin

conscience - sense of knowing right from wrong; conscious - knowing what is happening; omniscient - knowing everything.

scler/o
hard
Greek

arteriosclerosis - hardening of the arterial walls; multiple sclerosis - disease which causes the tissue of the brain and spinal cord to harden; sclerometer - instrument for measuring hardness.

scop/e/y
see, examine, observe
Greek

microscope - a device used to see tiny things; periscope - a seeing instrument on a submarine; telescope - a device used to see over a distance.

scrib, script
write, written
Latin

scribble - to write letters or words on a surface; scribe - a person who writes out documents; describe - to represent with words or pictures.

se
apart
Latin

secede - to formally break away from; seclude - to keep away from; serum - a liquid isolated out of another.

sect
cut
Latin

dissect - to cut apart piece by piece; intersection - the place or point where two things cross each other; bisect - to cut into two equal parts.

sed, sid, sess
sit
Latin

reside - be stationed; sediment - the matter that settles to the bottom of a liquid; session - an actual or constructive sitting of a body

self
of, for, or by itself

self-discipline - the ability to discipline yourself; self-respect - respect for yourself; selfish concerned only with your own interests.

semi
half, partial
Latin

semiannual - every half year; semicircle - half a circle; semiconscious - partly conscious; semiannual - every half of a year.

sept/i
seven
Latin

September - this used to be the seventh month in the Roman calendar; septet - a group of seven musicians; septuagenarian - a person in his/her seventies.

serv
save, keep
Latin

conserve - to save or keep something safe; preserve - to save something; reservation - a place kept for a person.

sex
six
Latin

sexet - a composition or group of six; sextuple - sixfold; sexagenarian - person in his/her sixties.

sol
alone
Latin

desolate - lonely, dismal, gloomy; solitary - done alone, by yourself; solo - a performance done by one person alone.

sol
sun
Latin

solar - involving the sun; parasol - umbrella protecting from the sun; solarium - a room where one is exposed to sunlight.

somn/I
sleep
Latin

insomnia - inability to fall asleep; somniloquy - talking in your sleep; somnolent - feeling sleepy.

son
sound
Latin

consonant - a speech sound; sonorous - producing loud, full, rich sounds; supersonic - faster than sound; unison - as one voice.

soph
wise
Greek

philosopher - a wise person; sophisticated - wise about the ways of the world; sophism - a clever but misleading argument.

spec/t, spic
see, look
Latin

circumspect - cautious, looking all around; retrospective - a looking back at past things; spectator - a person who sees an event.

sphere
ball
Greek

biosphere - the whole round surface of the earth; hemisphere - half the earth spherically shaped like a ball.

spir
breathe
Latin

inspire - to stimulate or animate; transpire - to give of vapor with waste product through the skin or a membrane; spirit - invisible life force.

sta
stand
Latin

stable - standing steady and firm; stagnant - standing still, not moving; stationary - at a standstill, fixed.

stell
star
Latin

constellation - a group of stars that forms a pattern; interstellar - between the stars; stellar - relating to stars.

struct
build
Latin

construct - to build; destruction - the act of destroying something that was built; structure - something built; infrastructure - underlying framework of a system.

sub
under, lower than, inferior to
Latin

submarine - an underwater boat; submerge - to put underwater; substandard - inferior to accepted standards.

sum
highest
Latin

sum - the combined total of everything; summation - the total, highest amount; summit the highest point or top.

super
higher in quality or quantity
Latin

Super bowl - the final annual football game; superior - above average, better in quality; supersonic - faster than the speed of sound.

sy/m /n/l/s
together, with, same
Greek

symmetry - similarity in size, form or arrangement; synergy - the combined effect; synchronize - to cause to occur at the same time.

tact, tang
touch
Latin

contact - a state in which two things touch; tactile - relating to the sense of touch; tangible - able to be touched; intact - with nothing missing.

tax/o
arrangement
Greek

syntax - the systematic arrangement of words; taxonomy - the science of classification; ataxia - loss of the ability to coordinate muscle action.

techno
technique, skill
Greek

technology - the practical application of knowledge; technocracy - rule of technology; technologically - characterized by technology.

https://www.learnthat.org/pages/view/roots.html#z
**Word roots: The web's largest root words and prefix directory**

- **tel/e/o** far, distant, complete – *Greek*
  - Telephone - a device to talk to a distant person; telescope - a device to view distant objects; television - a device to receive pictures from afar; telecommuting - working remotely, bridging the distance via virtual devices.

- **temp/or** time – *Latin*
  - Contemporary - existing at the same time; temporal - relating to time; temporary - lasting for a limited time.

- **ten, tin, tent** hold – *Latin*
  - Contend - serving to restrain or limit; detention - the act or fact of detaining, tenacious - having parts or elements strongly adhering to each other.

- **ter, trit** rub – *Latin*
  - Attrition - the act of rubbing together or wearing down; detritus - a product of disintegration or wearing away; trite - used or occurring so often as to have lost interest, freshness, or force.

- **term/ina** end, limit – *Latin*
  - Determine - to find something out at the end of an investigation; terminate - to end; exterminate - to destroy or get rid of completely.

- **terr/a/i** land, earth – *Latin*
  - Extraterrestrial - existing outside the earth; terrain - ground or land; territory - an area of land.

- **tetra** four – *Latin*
  - Tetrapod - having 4 legs; tetrarchy - government by 4 rulers; tetrose - a monosaccharide with four carbon atoms.

- **the** put – *Greek*
  - Bibliotheca - a list or catalog of books; theme - a proposition for discussion or argument; thesis - a dissertation embodying results of original research and especially substantiating a specific view.

- **the/o** god – *Greek*
  - Monotheism - belief in one god; polytheism - worshiping more than one god; theology - the study of religion, god, etc.

- **therm/o** heat – *Greek*
  - Thermal - relating to heat; thermos - an insulated jar that keeps heat in; thermostat - a device that controls heat.

- **tort** twist – *Latin*
  - Contortion - a twisted shape or position; distort - to alter the shape or condition of; retort - reply in a manner that is supposed to change the effect of something previously said.

- **tox** poison – *Latin*
  - Detoxification - the process of removing poisons; toxic - poisonous; toxicology - the study of poisons; intoxicated - influenced by drugs.

- **tract** pull, drag – *Latin*
  - Attract - to pull objects nearer; distract - to drag attention away from something; tractor - a motor vehicle that pulls things.

- **trans** across, beyond, through – *Latin*
  - Transcontinental - across the continent; transfer - to move from one place to another; transport - to carry something across a space.

- **tri** three, once in every three, third – *Greek*
  - Triangle - a figure with 3 sides and 3 angles; triathlon - an athletic contest with 3 events; tricycle - a 3-wheel vehicle with pedals.

- **ultra** beyond, extreme, more than – *Latin*
  - Ultrahigh - extremely high; ultramodern - more modern than anything else; ultrasonic - sound waves beyond human hearing.

- **un** not, opposite of, lacking – *Latin*
  - Unabridged - not shortened; unfair - opposite of fair; unfriendly - lacking friendliness.

- **uni** one, single – *Latin*
  - Unicycle - a vehicle with one wheel; unilateral - decided by only one person or nation; unique - the only one of its kind; unison - as one voice.

- **urb** city – *Latin*
  - Suburb - residential area on the edge of a city; urban - relating to a city; urbanology - the study of city life.

- **vac** empty – *Latin*
  - Evacuate - to empty a dangerous place; vacant - empty, not occupied; vacation - a time without work.

- **ven/t** come – *Latin*
  - Circumvent - to go around or bypass restrictions; convention - a gathering or assembly of people with a common interest; intervene - to come between.

- **ver/I** truth – *Latin*
  - Veracious - truthful, honest; veracity - the truth; verify - to make sure that something is true.

- **verb** word – *Latin*
  - Verbalize - to put into words; adverb - a word relating to a verb; proverb - a short saying that expresses a well-known truth.

- **vers, vert** turn – *Latin*
  - Reverse - to turn around; introvert - being turned towards the inside; version - a variation of an original; controversy - a conversation in which positions are turned against each other.

- **vice** acting in place of, next in rank – *Latin*
  - Vice-president - the person next in rank to the president.

- **vid** see – *Latin*
  - Evident - clearly seen.

- **vince, vic** conquer – *Latin*
  - Convince - to win someone over; invincible - not able to be conquered; victory - the conquest of an enemy.

- **vis, vid** see – *Latin*
  - Vision - the ability to see; envision - to picture in the mind; evident - clearly visible.

- **vit** live, life – *Latin*
  - Revival - the act of bringing back to life; vital - pertaining to live; vivacious - high-spirited and full of life.

- **voc/i** voice, call – *Latin*
  - Advocate - to speak in favor of; equivocate - to use misleading language that could be interpreted two different ways; vocalize - to produce with your voice.

- **vol/i/u** wish, will – *Latin*
  - Benevolent - showing good will and kindness; volition - the act of making a choice or decision, voluntary - resulting from your own free will.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Root</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>vor,</td>
<td>eat</td>
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<tr>
<td>xanth</td>
<td>yellow</td>
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<tr>
<td>xen/o</td>
<td>foreign</td>
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<td>xer/o/I</td>
<td>dry</td>
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<tr>
<td>xyl</td>
<td>wood</td>
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<tr>
<td>zo/o</td>
<td>animal life</td>
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<td>zyg/o</td>
<td>pair</td>
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