

Greek and Latin Roots

Knowing the meanings of common Greek and Latin roots can help you figure out the meanings of dozens of related words.

Root	Origin	Meaning	Example
aero	Greek	air	aerobics, aerate
agri	Latin	field	agriculture, agrarian
alter	Latin	other	alternate, altercation
ambi	Latin	both	ambiguous, ambidextrous
amo	Latin	love	amorous, enamored
ang	Latin	bend	angle, triangle
anim	Latin	life, spirit	animate, animal
ann, enn	Latin	year	annual, biennial
anthropo	Greek	human	anthropology
apt, ept	Latin	fasten	inept, aptitude
aqua	Latin	water	aquarium, aqueduct
arch	Greek	primitive	archaic, archetype
art	Latin	skill	artisan, artist
aud	Latin	hear	audible, audition
baro	Greek	weight	barometer, isobar
belli	Latin	war	bellicose, rebellion
biblio	Greek	books	bibliography, bible
bio	Greek	life	biology, biosphere
brev	Latin	short	abbreviate, brevity
cam	Latin	field	campus, campaign
cap	Latin	head	captain, decapitate
cardi	Greek	heart	cardiac, cardiogram
cede, ceed	Latin	go, yield	precede, succeed
centr	Latin	center	central, eccentric
cert	Latin	sure	certain, certify
cess	Latin	go, yield	cessation, process
chron	Greek	time	chronic, chronicle
cide, cise	Latin	cut, kill	scissors, suicide
claim, clam	Latin	shout	clamor, exclaim
clar	Latin	clear	clarity, declare
cline	Latin	lean	decline, incline
cogn	Latin	know	incognito, recognize

Root	Origin	Meaning	Example
commun	Latin	common	communal, commune
corp	Latin	body	corpse, corporation
cosm	Greek	universe	cosmos, microcosm
crat	Greek	rule	autocrat, bureaucrat
cred	Latin	believe	credit, incredible
cycl	Greek	circle, ring	bicycle, cyclone
dem	Greek	people	democrat, epidemic
dic	Latin	speak	dictate, verdict
div	Latin	separate	divide, division
domin	Latin	rule	dominate, dominion
duc	Latin	lead	conduct, educate
fer	Latin	bear, carry	ferry, transfer
firm	Latin	strong	affirm, confirm
flect	Latin	bend	deflect, reflect
form	Latin	shape	transform, uniform
frag	Latin	break	fragile, fragment
fug	Latin	flee	fugitive, refuge
gen	Greek	birth, race	generate, progeny
geo	Greek	earth	geography, geology
grad	Latin	step, stage	graduate, gradual
gram	Greek	letter	grammar, telegram
graph	Greek	write	autograph, graph
grat	Latin	pleasing	gratify, ungrateful
hab, hib	Latin	hold	habitat, prohibit
hom	Latin	alike	homogeneous, homogenize
hydr	Greek	water	hydrant, hydroelectric
imag	Latin	likeness	image, imagery
init	Latin	beginning	initial, initiate
integ	Latin	whole	integer, integrate
jud, jur, jus	Latin	law	judge, jury, justice
laps	Latin	slip	elapse, relapse
liber	Latin	free	liberate, liberty
log, logy	Greek	word	dialogue, prologue
luc	Latin	light	lucid, translucent
lum	Latin	light	illumine, luminous
luna	Latin	moon	lunar, lunatic
man	Latin	hand	manual, manipulate

mar	Latin	sea	mariner, submarine	sci	Latin	know	conscience, science
mater, matr	Latin	mother	maternal, matron	scop	Greek	see	microscope, periscope
mech	Greek	machine	mechanic, mechanize	scribe	Latin	write	inscribe, describe
mens, ment	Latin	mind	demented, mental	script	Latin	written	transcript, script
migr	Latin	depart	migrate, migrant	sect	Latin	cut	dissect, intersect
miss, mit	Latin	send	missile, submit	sed	Latin	settle	sedate, sediment
mon	Latin	warn	admonish, monitor	sens	Latin	feel	sensation, senses
mort	Latin	death	mortal, mortician	sign	Latin	mark	insignia, signal
mot, mov	Latin	move	promote, remove	sim	Latin	like	similar, simile
narr	Latin	tell	narrate, narrative	sol	Latin	alone	desolate, solitary
nat	Latin	born	nation, native	solv	Latin	loosen	solvent, resolve
nav	Latin	ship	naval, navigate	son	Latin	sound	sonar, sonnet
not	Latin	mark	denote, note	spéc	Latin	see	inspect, spectator
nun, noun	Latin	declare	enunciate, announce	sta	Latin	stand	static, stagnant
nov	Latin	new	innovate, novel	strict	Latin	draw tight	constrict, restrict
numer	Latin	number	enumerate, numeral	struct	Latin	build	construct, instruct
ocu	Latin	eye	binocular, oculist	sum	Latin	highest	summary, summit
opt	Greek	visible	optic, optician	tact, tang	Latin	touch	contact, tangent
opt	Latin	best	optimal, optimist	ten	Latin	hold	tenant, tenure
orig	Latin	beginning	aborigine, origin	terr	Latin	land	terrace, terrain
pater, patr	Latin	father	paternal, patriarch	the	Greek	god	monotheism, theology
path	Greek	feeling	empathy, pathos	therm	Greek	heat	thermal, thermos
ped	Latin	foot	pedal, pedometer	tract	Latin	pull, drag	attract, tractor
pend	Latin	hang	appendix, suspend	trib	Latin	give	contribute, tribute
phon	Latin	sound	telephone, phonics	turb	Latin	confusion	disturb, turbulence
photo	Greek	light	telephoto, photograph	urb	Latin	city	suburb, urban
phys	Greek	nature	physical, physician	vac	Latin	empty	evacuate, vacant
pod	Latin	foot	podiatrist	vag	Latin	wander	vagrant, vague
poli	Greek	city	metropolis, police	var	Latin	different	variety, vary
pop	Latin	people	populace, popular	ver	Latin	truth	verdict, veracity
port	Latin	carry	import, porter	vic	Latin	conquer	conviction, victor
psych	Greek	mind	psyche, psychology	vid	Latin	see	evidence, video
put	Latin	think	deputy, computer	voc	Latin	voice	advocate, vocal
ques	Latin	ask, seek	quest, question	void	Latin-	empty	avoid, devoid
rect	Latin	straight	erect, rectangle	vol	Latin	wish, will	benevolent, volition
rid	Latin	laugh	deride, ridicule	volv	Latin	roll	involve, revolve
rupt	Latin	break	erupt, rupture	vor	Latin	eat	herbivorous, voracious
san	Latin	health	insanity, sanitary				
scend	Latin	climb	ascend, transcend				