

Common Greek and Latin Roots

This list is meant as resource to teachers. Teachers should select those Greek and Latin roots which apply to their instructional plans. In the following list, Greek roots are indicated with (g) and Latin roots with (l).

<u>ROOT</u>	<u>MEANING</u>	<u>EXAMPLES</u>
act (l)	do	action, actor, react, transact, enact
agri (l)	field	agriculture, agrarian, agronomy
alt (l)	high	altitude, altimeter, alto
alter (l)	other	alternate, alternative, altercation
ambul (l)	walk, go	ambulance, amble, preamble
ambi or amphi (l)	both, around	ambidextrous, amphibian
amo, ami (l)	love	amiable, amorous, amateur, amity
ang (l)	bend	angle, triangle, quadrangle, angular
anim (l)	life, spirit	animate, animosity, animal, inanimate
ann, enn (l)	year	annual, biennial, anniversary, annuity
anthr (g)	man	anthropology, philanthropist
apt, ept (l)	suitable	aptitude, inept, adept, apt
aqua (l)	water	aquarium, aquatic, aquamarine
arch (g)	chief	monarch, archbishop, archenemy
arch (g)	primitive, ancient	archaeology, archaic, archive
art (l)	skill	artisan, artist, artificial, artifact
ast (g)	star	astronaut, astronomy, disaster, asterisk
aud (l)	hear	audience, auditorium audiovisual, audible
auto (g)	self	automatic, autobiography
belli (l)	war	bellicose, antebellum, belligerent, rebellion
ben (l)	good	benevolent, beneficial, benediction
biblio (g)	book	bibliography, Bible
bio (g)	life	biology, biography, biochemistry, biopsy
brev (l)	short	abbreviation, brevity
cam (l)	field	camp, campus, campaign
cand (l)	glow, white	candle, candidate, incandescent
cap (l)	head	cap, captain, capital, decapitate
cede, ceed (l)	go, yield	proceed, exceed, succeed, concede
ceive, cept (l)	take, receive	receive, reception, accept, conception
centr (l)	center	central, centrifugal, egocentric, eccentric
cert (l)	sure	certain, certify, ascertain, certificate
cess (l)	go, yield	process, recess, access, cessation
chron (g)	time	chronological, synchronize, chronicle
cide, cise (l)	cut, kill	suicide, scissors, incision, insecticide
cip (l)	take, receive	recipient, incipient, participate, recipe
circ (l)	around, circle	circulation, circumvent
claim (l)	shout	proclaim, exclaim, acclaim, clamor
clar (l)	clear	clarity, declare, clarify, declaration
cline (l)	lean	incline, recline, decline, inclination
clud (l)	shut	include, conclude, exclude, seclude
cogn (l)	know	recognize, cognition, incognito
commum (l)	common	community, communicate, communism
cord (l)	heart	cordial, accord, concord, discord

ROOT**MEANING****EXAMPLES**

corp (l)	body	corporation, corpus, corpse, corps
cosm (g)	universe	cosmos, cosmopolitan, microcosm
cred (l)	believe	credible, incredible, credo
crat (g)	rule	democrat, aristocrat, bureaucracy
cred (l)	believe	credit, discredit, incredible
cur (l)	care	cure, manicure, curable
cur (l)	run	current, occur, excursion
cycl (g)	circle, ring	bicycle, cycle, encyclopedia
dem (g)	people	democrat, epidemic, demography
dent (l)	tooth	dentist, trident, indent
dic (l)	speak	dictate, predict, verdict, contradict
div (l)	divide	divide, divorce, dividend
doc (l)	teach	doctrine, document, doctor
don, donat (l)	give	donation, donor, pardon, donate
duc (l)	lead	duct, conduct, educate, induct
fac (l)	make, do	factory, benefactor, facsimile
fer (l)	bear, carry	transfer, ferry, infer, refer
fic (l)	make, do	efficient, proficient, sufficient
fid (l)	faith	fidelity, confidence, bona fide
fig (l)	form	figure, configuration, disfigure
flect (l)	bend	reflect, reflection, deflect
flex (l)	bend	reflex, flexible
form (l)	shape	form, uniform, transform, reform
fract (l)	break	fracture, fraction
frag (l)	break	fragment, fragile
frater (l)	brother	fraternal, fraternity, fratricide
fric (l)	rub	friction, dentifrice
fug (l)	flee	fugitive, refugee, centrifugal, refuge
function (l)	perform	function, malfunction, dysfunctional
gam (g)	marriage	polygamy, monogamy, bigamy
gen (g)	birth, race	generation, genocide, genealogy
geo (g)	earth	geography, geometry, geology
gon (g)	angle	pentagon, octagon, diagonal
grad (l)	step, stage	grade, gradual, graduation
gram (g)	letter, written	telegram, diagram, grammar
graph (g)	write	telegraph, photograph, autograph
grat (l)	pleasing	gratitude, congratulate, ungrateful
greg (l)	gather	gregarious, congregation, segregation
hab, hib (l)	hold	habit, habitat, prohibit, exhibit
hosp, host (l)	host	hostess, hospital, hospitality
hydr (g)	water	hydrogen, hydrant, hydrate
iatr (g)	medical care	psychiatry, pediatrician, geriatrics
imag (l)	likeness	image, imagine, imaginative, imagery
init (l)	beginning	initial, initiate, initiative
integ (l)	whole	integrate, integral, integrity, integer

ROOT**MEANING****EXAMPLES**

ject (l)	throw	project, inject
junct (l)	join	juncture, conjunction, adjunct
jud (l)	law	judge, judicial, judicious
jur (l)	law	jurisdiction, jury
just (l)	law	justice, just, justify
kine, cine (g)	movement	kinetic, kinesthetic, cinema
lab (l)	work	labor, laboratory, collaborate, elaborate
laps (l)	slip	elapse, collapse, relapse
lat (l)	carry	translate, relate, collate
lat (l)	side	lateral, bilateral, unilateral
liber (l)	free	liberty, liberal, liberate
loc (l)	place	location, locate, dislocate, allocate
log (g)	word	prologue, apology, dialogue, eulogy
luc (l)	light	lucid, elucidate, translucent
lud (l)	play	ludicrous, interlude, elude
lum (l)	light	luminous, illuminate, luminescent
luna (l)	moon	lunar, lunatic
lus (l)	play	illusion, illusive
lust (l)	shine	luster, illustrate, lackluster, illustrious
lys (g)	break down	analysis, paralysis, catalyst, electrolysis
man (l)	hand	manual, manufacture, manuscript, manipulate
mand (l)	order	command, demand, mandate
mania (g)	madness	maniac, pyromania, kleptomania
mar (l)	sea	marine, maritime, submarine, mariner
mater (l)	mother	maternal, maternity
matr (l)	mother	matricide, matrimony, matron, matrix
max (l)	greatest	maximum, maximize
mech (g)	machine	mechanic, mechanism, mechanize
mem (l)	mindful of	memory, remember, memorial, commemorate
ment (l)	mind	mental, mention, demented
merge (l)	dip	submerge, emerge, merge, merger
mers (l)	dip	immerse, submerge
meter (g)	measure	thermometer, centimeter, diameter
migr (l)	change, move	migrate, immigrant, emigrate, migratory
mim (l)	same	mime, mimic, pantomime
min (l)	small, less	minute, mini, minor, minus, minimize
minist (l)	serve	minister, administer, administration
miss (l)	send	missile, dismiss, mission, remiss
mit (l)	send	submit, remit, admit, transmit
mob (l)	move	automobile, mobile, mobilize, mobility
mon (l)	advise	admonish, premonition, admonition, monitor
morph (g)	shape	metamorphosis, amorphous, anthropomorphic
mort (l)	death	mortician, mortuary, mortal, immortal
mot (l)	move	motion, motor, promote, demote
mov (l)	move	remove, movement, unmoved
mut (l)	change, interchange	mutation, mutual, commute

ROOT**MEANING****EXAMPLES**

narr (l)	tell	narrate, narrative, narrator
nat (l)	born	native, nation, nativity
nav (l)	ship	navy, naval, navigate
neg (l)	no	negation, negative, renege
neo (g)	new	neoclassic, neon, neonatal
not (l)	mark	notation, notable, denote, notice
nun, noun (l)	declare	announce, pronounce, denounce
nov (l)	new	novel, novelty, novice, innovate
numer (l)	number	numeral, enumerate, numerous
ocu (l)	eye	oculist, binocular
onym (g)	name	synonym, antonym, pseudonym
opt (g)	eye	optician, optometrist, optic, optical
ord (l)	row	order, ordinary, extraordinary
orig (l)	beginning	origin, original, originate
ortho (g)	straight, right	orthodontist, orthodox, orthopedist
pater (l)	father	paternity, paternal, patriarch
path (g)	feeling, suffer	pathology, sympathy, empathy
ped (g)	child	pediatrician, encyclopedia, pedagogical
ped (l)	foot	pedal, pedestrian, biped, pedestal
pel (l)	drive	compel, propel, expel, repel
pend (l)	hang	pendulum, suspend, append, appendix
pens (l)	weigh	pensive, pension, compensate
phil (g)	love	philosophy, philanthropist, philharmonic
phob (g)	fear	claustrophobia, acrophobia
phon(g)	sound	phonograph, symphony, telephone, phonics
photo (g)	light	photograph, telephoto, photosynthesis
phys (g)	nature	physical, physique, metaphysical, physician
plex (l)	fold	complex, duplex, plexiglass, perplex
plic (l)	fold	complicated, multiplication, duplicate
plur (l)	more	plural, plurality, pluralism
pod (g)	foot	podiatrist, podium, tripod
poli (g)	city	metropolis, cosmopolitan, police, political
pon (l)	place	opponent, exponent, proponent, postpone
pop (l)	people	population, popular, pop, populace
port (l)	carry	portable, transport, import, porter
pos (l)	place	position, compose, deposit, composite
psych (g)	mind, soul	psychology, psyche, psychiatrist
pug (l)	fight	pugnacious, pugilist, repugnant
pul (l)	urge	compulsory, expulsion, compulsion, repulse
put (l)	think	computer, reputation, deputy, disrepute
quer, quir (l)	ask, seek	query, inquiry
ques (l)	ask, seek	question, inquest, request, quest

ROOT**MEANING****EXAMPLES**

rad (l)	ray, spoke	radius, radio, radiology, radium
ras (l)	scrape	erase, abrasive, rasp, razor
rect (l)	straight	erect, rectangle, rectify, direction, correct
reg (l)	guide, rule	regal, reign, regulate, regime, regent
retro (l)	back	retroactive
rid (l)	laugh	ridiculous, deride, ridicule, derisive
rupt (l)	break	erupt, interrupt, abrupt, rupture, bankrupt
san (l)	health	sanitary, sanitarium, sane, insanity
scend (l)	climb	ascend, descend, descendent, transcend
sci (l)	know	science, conscience, conscious, scientific
scop (g)	see	microscope, telescope, periscope
scribe (l)	write	scribe, inscribe, describe, prescribe
script (l)	write	script, transcript, scripture
sect (l)	cut	section, dissect, intersect, sect
sed (l)	settle	sedative, sediment, sedentary, sedate
sens (l)	feel	sensation, sense, sensitive, sensible, sensory
sent (l)	feel	consent, sentimental, dissent, assent
serv (l)	save, keep	conserve, preserve, reserve, reservoir
serv (l)	serve	serve, servant, service, servile
sign (l)	mark	signature, signal, significant, insignia
sim (l)	like	similar, simultaneous, simulate, simile
sist (l)	stand	consist, resist, subsist, assist
sol (l)	alone	solo, solitary, desolate, soliloquy
solv (l)	loosen	dissolve, solve, solvent, resolve
son (l)	sound	sonar, sonata, sonnet, unison, sonorous
soph (g)	wise	philosopher, sophomore, sophisticated
spec (l)	see	inspect, suspect, respect, spectator, spectacle
spir (l)	breathe	respiration, inspire, spirit, perspire
sta (l)	stand	station, status, stagnant, statue, stationary
stell (l)	star	stellar, constellation
stimu (l)	goad	stimulate, stimulus, stimulant
strict (l)	draw tight	strict, restrict, constrict, stricture
struct (l)	build	structure, construct, instruct, destruction
sum (l)	highest	summit, summary, sum, summons
surg (l)	rise	surge, insurgent, resurgent
surr (l)	rise	resurrect, insurrection, resurrection
tact (l)	touch	tactile, intact, contact, tact
tain (l)	hold	retain, contain, detain, attain
tang(l)	touch	tangible, tangent, intangible
ten (l)	hold	tenacious, tenure, tenant, retentive
ten (l)	stretch	tendon, tendency, tension, tent, tense
term (l)	end	terminal, determine, exterminate
terr (l)	land	territory, terrain, terrestrial, terrace
tex (l)	weave	text, texture, textile, context
the (g)	god	theology, monotheism, polytheism, atheism
therm (g)	heat	thermometer, thermal, thermostat, thermos

ROOT**MEANING****EXAMPLES**

tort (l)	twist	torture, contort, retort, tort
tract (l)	pull, drag	tractor, attract, subtract, traction
trib (l)	give	contribute, tribute, tributary, attribute
trud (l)	push	intrude, protrude, intruder
trus (l)	push	intrusive, obtrusive
turb (l)	confusion	disturb, turbulent, perturb, turbine
urb (l)	city	urban, suburb, urbane, suburban
vac (l)	empty	vacant, vacation, vacuum, evacuate
vag (l)	wander	vagrant, vague, vagabond, vagary
var (l)	different	vary, invariable, variant, variety
ven (l)	come	convene, convention, advent, invent, venue
ver (l)	truth	verdict, verify, veracity
ver (l)	turn	convert, reverse, versatile, introvert
vict (l)	conquer	victory, victim, conviction
vid (l)	see	video, evidence, provide, providence
vinc (l)	conquer	convince, invincible
voc (l)	voice	vocal, advocate, convocation
void (l)	empty	devoid, avoid, void, voided
vol (l)	wish, will	volition, volunteer, voluntary, benevolent
volv (l)	roll	revolve, involve, evolve, revolution
vor (l)	eat	carnivorous, voracious, herbivorous