

Greek and Latin Roots



This list is meant as a resource to teachers. Select those Greek and Latin roots that apply to your curriculum. If you want a more extensive list, use Google to find one.

ROOT	MEANING	WORDS
act - Latin	do	action, actor, transact, enact
agri - Latin	field	agriculture, agrarian
alt - Latin	high	altitude, altimeter, alto
alter - Latin	other	alternate, alternative, altercation
ambul - Latin	walk, go	ambulance, amble, preamble
ambi, amphi - Latin	both, around	ambidextrous, amphibian
amo, ami - Latin	love	amiable, amorous, amateur
anim - Latin	life, spirit	animate, animosity, animal
ann, enn - Latin	year	annual, biennial, anniversary
anthr - Greek	man	anthropology, philanthropist
aqua - Latin	water	aquarium, aquatic, aquamarine
arch - Greek	chief	monarch, archbishop, archenemy
arch - Greek	primitive, ancient	archaeology, archaic, archive
art - Latin	skill	artist, artificial, artifact
ast - Greek	star	astronaut, astronomy, asterisk
aud - Latin	hear	audience, auditorium, audible
auto - Greek	self	automatic, autobiography
belli - Latin	war	bellicose, belligerent, rebellion
ben - Latin	good	benevolent, beneficial, benediction
biblio - Greek	book	bibliography, Bible
bio - Latin	life	biology, biography, biochemistry
brev - Latin	short	abbreviation, brevity
cam - Latin	field	camp, campus, campaign
cand - Latin	glow, white	candle, candidate, incandescent
cap - Latin	head	captain, capital, decapitate
cede, ceed - Latin	go, yield	proceed, exceed, succeed
ceive, cept - Latin	take, receive	receive, reception, accept
centr - Latin	center	central, centrifugal, egocentric
cert - Latin	sure	certain, certify, ascertain, certificate
chron - Greek	time	chronological, synchronize

ROOT	MEANING	WORDS
cise, cide - Latin	cut, kill	scissors, incision, insecticide
circ - Latin	around, circle	circulation, circumvent
claim - Latin	shout	proclaim, exclaim, acclaim, clamor
clar - Latin	clear	declare, clarify, declaration
cline - Latin	lean	incline, recline, decline, inclination
clud - Latin	shut	include, conclude, exclude, seclude
cogn - Latin	know	recognize, cognition, incognito
commun - Latin	common	community, communicate
corp - Latin	body	corpse, corporation, corps
cosm - Greek	universe	cosmos, cosmopolitan, microcosm
cred - Latin	believe	credible, incredible, credo
crat - Greek	rule	democrat, aristocrat, bureaucracy
cur - Latin	run	current, occur, excursion
cycl - Greek	circle, ring	bicycle, cycle, encyclopedia
dem - Greek	people	democrat, epidemic, demography
dent - Latin	tooth	dentist, trident, indent
dic - Latin	speak	dictate, predict, contradict
div - Latin	divide	divide, divorce, dividend
doc - Latin	teach	doctrine, document, doctor
don, donat - Latin	give	donation, donor, pardon, donate
duc - Latin	lead	duct, conduct, educate, induct
fac - Latin	make, do	factory, benefactor, facsimile
fer - Latin	bear, carry	transfer, ferry, infer, refer
fig - Latin	form	figure, configuration, disfigure
flect - Latin	bend	reflect, reflection, deflect
form - Latin	shape	form, uniform, transform, reform
frag - Latin	break	fragment, fragile
fug - Latin	flee	fugitive, refugee, centrifugal, refuge
gen - Greek	birth, race	generation, genocide, genealogy
geo - Greek	earth	geography, geometry, geology
gon - Greek	angle	pentagon, octagon, diagonal

ROOT	MEANING	WORDS
grad - Latin	step, stage	grade, gradual, graduation
gram - Greek	letter, written	telegram, diagram, grammar
graph - Greek	write	telegraph, photograph, autograph
grat - Latin	pleasing	gratitude, congratulate, ungrateful
hab, hib - Latin	hold	habit, habitat, prohibit, exhibit
hosp, host - Latin	host	hostess, hospital, hospitality
hydr - Greek	water	hydrogen, hydrant, hydrate
imag - Latin	likeness	image, imagine, imaginative
integ - Latin	whole	integrate, integral, integrity, integer
ject - Latin	throw	project, inject
junct - Latin	join	junction, conjunction, adjunct
jud - Latin	law	judge, judicial, judicious
jur - Latin	law	jurisdiction, jury
just - Latin	law	justice, just, justify
kine, cine - Greek	movement	kinetic, kinesthetic, cinema
lab - Latin	work	labor, laboratory, collaborate
laps - Latin	slip	elapse, collapse, relapse
lat - Latin	carry	translate, relate, collate
liber - Latin	free	liberty, liberal, liberate
loc - Latin	place	location, locate, dislocate, allocate
log - Greek	word	prologue, apology, dialogue, eulogy
luc - Latin	light	lucid, elucidate, translucent
lud - Latin	play	ludicrous, interlude, elude
lum - Latin	light	luminous, illuminate, luminescent
luna - Latin	moon	lunar, lunatic
lus - Latin	play	illusion, illusive
lust - Latin	shine	luster, illustrate, lackluster
lys - Greek	break down	analysis, paralysis, catalyst
man - Latin	hand	manual, manufacture, manuscript
mand - Latin	order	command, demand, mandate
mar - Latin	sea	marine, maritime, submarine

ROOT	MEANING	WORDS
mater - Latin	mother	maternal, maternity
max - Latin	greatest	maximum, maximize
mech - Greek	machine	mechanic, mechanism, mechanize
mem - Latin	mindful of	memory, remember, memorial
ment - Latin	mind	mental, mention, demented
merge - Latin	dip	submerge, emerge, merge, merger
meter - Greek	measure	thermometer, centimeter, diameter
migr - Latin	change, move	migrate, immigrant, migratory
mim - Latin	same	mime, mimic, pantomime
min - Latin	small, less	minute, mini, minor, minus
minist - Latin	serve	minister, administer, administration
miss - Latin	send	missile, dismiss, mission, remiss
mit - Latin	send	submit, remit, admit, transmit
mob - Latin	move	automobile, mobile, mobilize
morph - Greek	shape	metamorphosis, anthropomorphic
mort - Latin	death	mortuary, mortal, immortal
mot - Latin	move	motion, motor, promote, demote
mov - Latin	move	remove, movement, unmoved
narr - Latin	tell	narrate, narrative, narrator
nat - Latin	born	native, nation, nativity
nav - Latin	ship	navy, naval, navigate
neg - Latin	no	negation, negative, renege
not - Latin	mark	notation, notable, denote, notice
nun, noun - Latin	declare	announce, pronounce, denounce
nov - Latin	new	novel, novelty, novice, innovate
numer - Latin	number	numeral, enumerate, numerous
onym - Greek	name	synonym, antonym, pseudonym
opt - Greek	eye	optician, optometrist, optic, optical
ord - Latin	row	order, ordinary, extraordinary
orig - Latin	beginning	origin, original, originate
ortho - Greek	straight, right	orthodontist, orthodox, orthopedist
pater - Latin	father	paternity, paternal, patriarch

ROOT	MEANING	WORDS
path - Greek	feeling, suffer	pathology, sympathy, empathy
ped - Latin	foot	pedal, pedestrian, biped, pedestal
pel - Latin	drive	compel, propel, expel, repel
pend- Latin	hang	pendulum, suspend, appendix
pens - Latin	weigh	pensive, pension, compensate
phob - Greek	fear	claustrophobia, acrophobia
phon - Greek	sound	symphony, telephone, phonics
photo - Greek	light	photograph, photosynthesis
phys - Greek	nature	physical, metaphysical, physician
plex - Latin	fold	complex, duplex, perplex
plur - Latin	more	plural, plurality, pluralism
pod - Greek	foot	podiatrist, podium, tripod
poli - Greek	city	metropolis, cosmopolitan, political
pon - Latin	place	opponent, exponent, proponent
pop - Latin	people	population, popular, populace
port - Latin	carry	portable, transport, import, porter
pos - Latin	place	position, compose, deposit
psych - Greek	mind, soul	psychology, psyche, psychiatrist
pug - Latin	fight	pugnacious, pugilist, repugnant
pul - Latin	urge	compulsory, expulsion, compulsion
put - Latin	think	computer, reputation, disrepute
ques - Latin	ask, seek	question, inquest, request, quest
rupt - Latin	break	erupt, interrupt, rupture, bankrupt
san - Latin	health	sanitary, sanitarium, sane, insanity
scend - Latin	climb	ascend, descend, transcend
sci - Latin	know	conscience, conscious, scientific
scop - Greek	see	microscope, telescope, periscope
scribe - Latin	write	scribe, inscribe, describe, prescribe
script - Latin	write	script, transcript, scripture
sect - Latin	cut	section, dissect, intersect, sect
sed - Latin	settle	sediment, sedentary, sedate
sens - Latin	feel	sensation, sense, sensitive, sensory

ROOT	MEANING	WORDS
sent - Latin	feel	consent, sentimental, dissent, assent
serv - Latin	save, keep	conserve, preserve, reserve, reservoir
serv - Latin	serve	serve, servant, service, servile
sign - Latin	mark	signature, signal, significant, insignia
sim - Latin	like	similar, simultaneous, simulate
sol - Latin	alone	solo, solitary, desolate, soliloquy
solv - Latin	loosen	dissolve, solve, solvent, resolve
son - Latin	sound	sonar, sonata, sonnet, sonorous
soph - Latin	wise	philosopher, sophisticated
spec - Latin	see	inspect, suspect, spectator, spectacle
spir - Latin	breathe	respiration, inspire, spirit, perspire
sta - Latin	stand	station, status, stagnant, stationary
stimu - Latin	goad	stimulate, stimulus, stimulant
strict - Latin	draw tight	restrict, constrict, stricture
struct - Latin	build	structure, construct, instruct
sum - Latin	highest	summit, summary, summons
surg - Latin	rise	surge, insurgent, resurgent
surr - Latin	rise	resurrect, insurrection, resurrection
tact - Latin	touch	tactile, intact, contact, tact
tain - Latin	hold	retain, contain, detain, attain
tang - Latin	touch	tangible, tangent, intangible
ten - Latin	hold	tenacious, tenure, tenant, retentive
ten - Latin	stretch	tendon, tendency, tension, tense
term - Latin	end	terminal, determine, exterminate
terr - Latin	land	territory, terrain, terrestrial, terrace
tex - Latin	weave	text, texture, textile, context
theo - Greek	god	theology, monotheism, polytheism
therm - Greek	heat	thermometer, thermal, thermostat
tort - Latin	twist	torture, contort, retort
tract - Latin	pull, drag	tractor, attract, subtract, traction
trib - Latin	give	contribute, tribute, tributary, attribute
trud - Latin	push	intrude, protrude, intruder

ROOT	MEANING	WORDS
turb - Latin	confusion	disturb, turbulent, perturb
urb - Latin	city	urban, suburb, urbane, suburban
vac - Latin	empty	vacant, vacation, vacuum, evacuate
vag - Latin	wander	vagrant, vague, vagabond
var - Latin	different	vary, invariable, variant, variety
ven - Latin	come	convene, convention, invent, venue
ver - Latin	truth	verdict, verify, veracity
ver - Latin	turn	convert, reverse, introvert
vict - Latin	conquer	victory, victim, conviction
vid - Latin	see	video, evidence, provide
vinc - Latin	conquer	convince, invincible
voc - Latin	voice	vocal, advocate, convocation
void - Latin	empty	devoid, avoid, void, voided
vol - Latin	wish, will	volition, volunteer, voluntary
volv - Latin	roll	revolve, involve, evolve, revolution
vor - Latin	eat	carnivorous, voracious, herbivorous