

Common Word Roots

There are hundreds of Latin word roots that are used frequently with prefixes and suffixes. This is only a partial list of the most frequently used roots. The roots with asterisks (*) are the 14 roots that provide clues to the meaning of over 100,000 words.

Aud: to hear

Auditory, audible, audiology, audiotape, audiovisual, audition, auditorium

Capit or capt: head, chief, leader

Capital, decapitate, capitol, capitalize, captain, caption, recapitulate

*Cept, cap, ciev, or ceit: to take to seize, receive

Capable, capsule, captive, captor, capture, accept, deception, exception, intercept, conception, receptable, susceptible, perceptive, precept receive, receipt, deceive, deceit

Cred: to believe

Credit, credential, credible, incredible, creditable, accredit, credence, incredulity

Dic or dict: to say, tell

Dictate, dictator, predict, diction, dictation, contradict, contradictory, edict, indicate, indict, indictment

*Duc, duce, or duct: to lead

Conduct, deduct, educate, induce, introduction, produce, reduce, reduction, reducible, production

*Fac, fact, fic, or fect: to make

Fact, manufacture, faculty, facility, facile, facilitate, satisfaction, factor, beneficiary, amplification, certificate, confection, affect, defective, disinfect, efficacy magnificent, personification, proficient, sufficient

*Fer: to bring, bear, yield

Refer, reference, confer, conference, inference, suffer, transfer, defer, difer, difference, fertile, fertilize, fertilization, circumference, odoriferous

Flect or flex: to bend

Flex, flexible, flexibility, deflect, inflection, reflect, reflexive, reflective, reflector, circumflexion

Form: to shape

Reform, deform, inform, information, transform, conform, formula, formal, informal formality, informative

Jac or jec or ject: to throw, lie

Dejected, rejection, adjective, conjecture, eject, injection, interjection, interjection, object, objective, project, rejection, adjacent

*Mit or miss: to send

Mission, missile, missive, admit, admission, commit, dismissed, emissary, intermission, intermittent, remiss, remit, remittance, submit, submission, transmit, transmission, emit, permit, permission, permissive

Ped or pod: foot (*ped* is Latin; *pod* is Greek)

Pedestrian, pedestal, podium, pedestrian, pedometer, centipede, pedal, expedition, impede, podiatry, podiatrist

Pel or puls: to drive, push, throw

Impulse, compel, compulsion, expel, propel, dispel, impulsive, pulsate, compulsive, repel, repellent

Pend or pens: to hang

Pendant, suspend, suspense, pendulum, pending, dependent, perpendicular, appendix

*Plic or ply: to fold

Implicit, implicitness, explicit, explicate, implication, replicate, complicated, application, ply, apply, imply, reply

Port: to carry

Import, export, portable, transport, porter, deport, report, support, portal, important, importantly, unimportant

*Pos, pon, or pose: to put, place, set

Compose, composite, dispose, disposable, oppose, component, postpone, proponent, deposit, compound, depose, proposal, preposition, disposal, exposition, exponent, expose, impose, suppose, opponent, proposition, position

Rupt: to break

Rupture, disrupt, disruptive, disruption, abruptly, bankrupt, corruption, erupted, eruption, interrupt

*Scrib or script: to write

Scribble, ascribe, describe, description, conscript, inscribe, inscription, superscription, prescribe, prescriptive, script, scripture, transcribe, transcript, transcription

*Sist, sta, or stat: to stand, endure

Persist, consistent, consist, desist, assist, resist, insist, stamina, constant, circumstance, distant, obstacle, standard, substance

*Spec or spect: to see, watch, observe

Spectator, spectacular, spectacle, respect, spectrum, specter, disrespect, inspect, inspector, retrospective, species, special specimen

Stru or struct: to build

Structure, structural, construct, construction, destructive, reconstruct, instruct, instructor, obstruct, instrument, construe

*Ten, tent, or tain: to have, hold

Tenant, tenable, tenacity, tenacious, contents, contended, discontented, contentment, intent, maintain, retain, retentive

*Tend or tens or tent: to stretch, strain

Intend, intention, intently, extended, tense, intense, pretense tension, intensity, attention, inattention, unintentionally, distend, detention, détente

Tract: to draw or pull

Tractor, attract, abstract, contract, retract, contractual, detract, distract, extract, subtract, tractable, intractable, traction, protract, protractor

Vis: to see

Visual, visa, visor, vision, visible, visitor, visitation, visualize, invisible, visibility

Vet or vers: to turn

Convert, convertible, revert, reversible, extrovert, introvert, divert, avert, aversion, aversive, vertigo

Greek Combining Forms:

Beginning: auto, phono, photo, biblio, hydro, hyper, hypo, tele, chrom, arch, phys, psych, micro, peri, bi, semi, hemi, mono, metro, demo

Examples: automobile, phonograph, bibliography, hydroelectric, hyperactive, telephone, telegraphy, chromosome, physical, periodontal, semicircle, demonstration

Ending: *graph, gram, meter, *ology, sphere, scope, crat, cracy, polis

Examples: photograph, microscope, hemisphere, telegram, chronometer, physiology, metropolis, perimeter, archeology, bibliography, democracy, autocrat

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