

What follows are lists of common Greek and Latin roots. Some obvious ones are omitted - you likely know what the prefix *anti*-means, for example, so it isn't listed. Some roots also act as prefixes or suffixes, and vice versa; these are only listed once.

Helpful Roots

Root	What It Means	Example
<i>aco(u)</i>	to hear, hearing	acoustic
<i>act, ag</i>	to act, to do, to drive	active, agent
<i>agog(ue), agogy</i>	to lead, leader, guiding, inducing	demagogue
<i>agon, agonist</i>	struggle, content	agony, antagonist
<i>alg, algesia, algia</i>	pain	analgesic
<i>am, amat</i>	to love	amiable, amorous
<i>ambul</i>	to walk	circumambulate, amble
<i>andro, andry</i>	male	android, androgynous
<i>anim</i>	mind, feeling, life	animate
<i>anthrop</i>	man, human being	philanthropy, anthropology
<i>aqu</i>	water	aquatic, aquarium
<i>arch</i>	first, ancient, rule	archaic, archive
<i>aud</i>	to hear, hearing, aloud	audible, audience
<i>aug, auct, auth, aux</i>	to increase, to create	augment, author, auxiliary
<i>auto</i>	of, by, for, or in oneself	autobiography, autocrat, autodidact
<i>bene, bon</i>	good	bonus, benefit
<i>brac, brachi</i>	the arm	brachiate, bracelet
<i>cant, cent</i>	to sing	canticle, chant, recant, incantation
<i>cap, capt, cep, cept</i>	box, to take, contain, seize	capture, receipt, capacious
<i>capit, capt, cipit</i>	head, chief	capital, precipitate, chapter, capitulate
<i>carn</i>	flesh	carnal, incarnate, carnivore
<i>caus, cuse</i>	to cause	causal, excuse, accuse
<i>ced, cede, ceed, cess</i>	to yield, to go	cede, accessible, necessary
<i>cern, cert, cret, crim</i>	to separate, to distinguish	discern, uncertain
<i>chrom, chromat</i>	color	chromatic, polychromatic
<i>chron</i>	time	synchronous, chronicle
<i>cid, cide</i>	to kill	regicide, suicide, genocide
<i>cis, cise</i>	to cut	excise, scissors
<i>cog, cogit</i>	to think	cognitive, cogent
<i>coll</i>	glue, to stick together	colloquy, collage
<i>corp, cors</i>	body	corporeal, corpulent
<i>cosm</i>	universe, order	cosmic, cosmopolitan
<i>creant, cred, creed</i>	to believe, to trust	credence, credit, incredible
<i>cruc, crus</i>	cross, significant	crux, crusade, crucial
<i>de, div</i>	concerning God or deities	divine, deity
<i>dic, dict, diction</i>	to say, speech, word	dictate, indicate, edict, benediction
<i>doc, doct, dog, dox</i>	to teach, learning	doctrine, dogma, orthodox
<i>dom</i>	house, master	domestic, dominate
<i>equ, qui</i>	equal, even	equate, adequate, equinox
<i>esthe, esthesia</i>	to feel, sensation	anesthesia, esthetics
<i>fid, fidel</i>	faith, trust	fidelity, confidence, infidel
<i>fin, finite</i>	end, purpose	infinite, definite
<i>flu, fluor, flux, fluv</i>	to flow	affluence, fluid, superfluous
<i>for, fort</i>	strong	fortress, enforce, comfort

<i>fract, frag, frang, fring</i>	to shatter	fracture, fragment, fragile, refract
<i>gen, gon</i>	birth, race, kind	genetic, gonad, congenital, gender
<i>ger, gest</i>	to carry, to produce	gestate, gesture, digest
<i>grad, grade, gress</i>	to step, a degree or grade	gradual, degree, progress
<i>gram, graph</i>	a written record, to write	telegram, autograph
<i>grat</i>	pleasing, thankful	gratitude, congratulate, ingratiate
<i>greg</i>	society, group	aggregate, gregarious
<i>gynec, gyn, gynist</i>	female	gynecologist, misogyny
<i>hier, hieratic</i>	holy, sacred	hierarchy, hieroglyphic
<i>hol</i>	whole	holistic, hologram
<i>hydr, hydro</i>	water, liquid	hydraulics, hydrant
<i>ideo</i>	idea, philosophy	ideology, idol, ideal
<i>idi, idio</i>	personal, private	idiosyncratic, idiom
<i>iso</i>	equal, similar	isometric, isotope
<i>ject, jet</i>	to throw	eject, inject, jettison, projectile
<i>jud, jur, just</i>	right, law	jury, judgment, judicious, injury, perjury
<i>jug, junct</i>	a link, to join	junction, conjunction, conjugate
<i>kine, kinesia, kinesis</i>	movement, energy	kinetic, cinema
<i>lat, late, lation</i>	to bear, to carry	collate, correlate, legislate, translate
<i>lect, leg, lig</i>	to choose, to read	legible, intelligent, dialect, collect
<i>lev, lieve, life</i>	to lift, light in weight	alleviate, elevator, relief
<i>lign, line</i>	line	delineate, lineage
<i>locut, loqu, loquy</i>	to speak, speech	locution, circumlocution, eloquent, ventriloquist
<i>log, logue, logy, lexico</i>	speech, word, study of	logic, lecture, analogy
<i>luc, lumin, lux</i>	light, to shine	illuminate, lucent, luminary, elucidate
<i>macro</i>	large	macrocosm
<i>mal</i>	bad	malady, malcontent, malefactor
<i>medi, meso, mid</i>	in the middle of	intermediate, mediocre, medium
<i>micro</i>	small	microscope
<i>mis</i>	hate	misanthrope, misogyny
<i>mor, mort</i>	death	mortal, mortician, mortify
<i>neg</i>	to deny	negate, neglect, renege
<i>neo</i>	new	neologism, neonate
<i>noct, nox</i>	night	nocturnal, equinox
<i>nom, num</i>	law	nomad, economy, astronomy
<i>od, odia</i>	smell	odor, odious
<i>opt, optic</i>	eye, vision	panopticon, optics,
<i>ov, ovul</i>	egg, egg-shaped	oval, ovulate
<i>par, pare</i>	equal	pair, parity, peer, compare
<i>part, patri</i>	father	patriot, patronage, patriarch, paternal
<i>path, pathic, pathy</i>	emotion, suffering	pathological, pathetic, sympathy, empathy
<i>pel, puls</i>	to drive, driven	pulse, compulsion, expel, impulse
<i>phil, philia</i>	love, fondness for	philosophy, philanthropy, philander, philology
<i>phob, phobo</i>	fear	phobia
<i>plaud, plaus, plod, plos</i>	to make a loud noise	applaud, explode
<i>plen, plet</i>	to fill, full	plentiful, plethora, replenish
<i>prim, prin</i>	first	primary, primate, premier
<i>pur, purg</i>	to clear of guilt, to get rid of something unwanted	purge, pure, expurgate, purgatory
<i>quest, quir, quisit</i>	to ask	request, inquest, question, acquire, conquer
<i>qui, quil, quit</i>	rest	quiet, quit, acquiesce, acquit

<i>rad, radic</i>	root	radical, eradicate
<i>rati, reas</i>	to think, calculate	rate, ratify, rational, reasonable
<i>rect, reg, rig</i>	to rule or guide, proper, straight	rectify, regal, region, regulate, rigorous
<i>rupt</i>	to break, to sever	rupture, abrupt, disrupt, corrupt, interrupt
<i>salu, salv</i>	safety, health	salubrious, salvage, salutary
<i>scrib, scribe, script</i>	to write, something written	circumscribe, ascribe, describe, inscribe, prescribe
<i>secut, sequ</i>	to follow, to ensue	sequence, consequence, execute, consecutive
<i>sen, senil</i>	old, old age	senior, senator, senescence
<i>ser, sor</i>	a series, attachment	serial, desert, assert
<i>solute, solv</i>	to release, to loosen, to free	dissolve, absolute, insoluble
<i>soph, sophy</i>	wisdom	philosophy, sophisticated
<i>spec, spect, spic</i>	to look, to see	aspect, specific, spectator, spectrum, specimen
<i>spir, spire</i>	to breathe, breath, spirit	aspire, expire, conspire, transpire
<i>stant, stat, stit</i>	to stand, to stay, to state	assistant, consistent, constant, status, stance, destiny
<i>stru, struct</i>	to build, a building or pattern	destructive, instruct, obstruct, structural
<i>tact, tang, teg, ting</i>	to touch	tactile, taste, tangible, contact, contingent
<i>temper, tempor, temp</i>	time, balance	temporize, temporary, contemplate, temperature
<i>ten, tain, tent, tin</i>	to hold	tenable, tenacious, tenet, contain, detain
<i>tend, tens</i>	to stretch	extend, distend, tension, tendril
<i>top, tope, topy</i>	place	topic, topology, utopia
<i>tract, treat</i>	to draw, to extend, to attract	extract, treatise, contract, retreat, subtract
<i>trib, tribe, trit</i>	to rub, to wear down	tribulation, trite, attrition
<i>trop, tropic, tropy</i>	to turn, a change or turn	trope, tropic, entropy
<i>troub, turb</i>	confusion, whirling	disturb, perturb, turbine, turbulence
<i>vac, van, vast, void</i>	empty, desolate	vacuum, vacant, vanity, devastate, avoid
<i>vail, val</i>	to be strong, to be worthy	valiant, valor, validate, valence
<i>ver, veri</i>	true	veracious, verdict, verify
<i>vit, viv</i>	life, to live	vital, survive, viable, vivify
<i>voc, vok, vow</i>	voice, to call or summon	vocalize, vociferous, avow, equivocate
<i>vol</i>	will, desire, wish	volition, volunteer, involuntary
<i>vor, vorous, vour</i>	to eat, to swallow	voracious, carnivorous
<i>xene, xeno, xeny</i>	foreign	xenophobe, xenogamy
<i>zoa, zo, zoo, zoon</i>	life, living	zoo, zodiac, metazoan