

Using Prefixes, Suffixes, and Roots

You can figure out the meanings of new words by using the three word parts: prefixes, suffixes, and roots. Before you can do this, however, you must become familiar with a number of common word parts.

Prefixes

Prefixes are those “word parts” that come *before* the root word. (*Pre-* means “before.”) Prefixes often change the intent or meaning of the root word.

- a, an [*not, without*] amoral (without a sense of moral responsibility), atypical, atom (not cuttable), apathy (without feeling)
- ab, abs, a [*from, away*] abnormal, avert (turn away), abduct (lead away)
- acro [*high*] acropolis (high city), acrobat, acronym, acrophobia (fear of height)
- ambi, amphi [*both*] ambidextrous (skilled with both hands), ambiguous, amphibious (living on both land and water)
- ana [*on, up, backward*] analysis (loosening up or taking apart for study), anatomy
- ante. [*before*] antedate, anteroom, antebellum, antecedent (happening before)
- anti [*against*] anticommunist, antidote, anticlimax
- be [*on, away*] bedeck, belabor, bestow, beloved
- bene, bon [*well*] benefit, bonus, benefactor, benevolent, benediction, bonanza
- bi [*both, double, twice*] bicycle, biweekly, binoculars, bilateral
- by [*side, close, near*] bypass, bystander, by-product, bylaw, byline
- cata [*down, against*] catalog, catapult, catastrophe, cataclysm
- cerebro [*brain*] cerebral, cerebellum, cerebrum, cerebrospinal
- circum, circ [*around*] circumference, circumnavigate, circumspect
- co, con, col, cor, com [*together, with*] copilot, conspire, collect, correspond, compose
- contra, counter [*against*] controversy, contradict, counterpart
- de [*from, down*] demote, depress, degrade, deject, deprive
- deca [*ten*] decade, decathlon, decapod (ten feet)
- di [*two, twice*] divide, dilemma, dilute
- dia [*through, between*] diameter, diagonal, diagram, dialogue (speech between people)
- dis [*apart, away, reverse*] dismiss, distort, distinguish
- dys [*badly, ill*] dyspepsia (digesting badly), indigestion, dystrophy, dysentery
- em, en [*in, into*] embrace, enslave
- epi [*upon*] epidermis (upon the skin, outer layer of skin), epitaph, epithet
- eu [*well*] eulogize (speak well of, praise), eupesia, euphony, eugenics
- ex, e [*out*] expel (drive out), ex-mayor, exorcism, eject, emit
- extra [*beyond*] extraordinary (beyond the ordinary), extracurricular
- fore [*before in time*] forecast, foretell (to tell beforehand), foreshadow, forefather, foregone, foreleg, foreground
- hemi, demi, semi [*half*] semicircle (half of a circle), hemisphere, hemicycle, demitasse, semigloss
- hex [*six*] hexameter, hexagon
- homo [*man*] Homo sapiens, homicide (ma killing)
- hyper [*over, above*] hypersensitive (oversensitive), hypertensive, hyperactive
- hypo [*under*] hypodermic (under the skin), hypothesis
- il, ir, in, im [*not*] illegal, irregular, incorrect, immoral
- in, im [*into*] inject, inside, impose, imprison

infra [*beneath*] infrared
inter [*between*] intercollegiate, interfere, intervene, interrupt (break between)
intra [*within*] intravenous (within the veins), intramural (within the walls)
intro [*into, inward*] introduce, introvert (turn inward)
macro [*large, excessive*] macrodent (having large teeth), macrocosm
mal [*badly, poor*] maladjusted, malnutrition, malfunction, malady
meta [*beyond, after, change*] metabolism, metaphor, metamorphosis (change in form), metaphysical
mis [*incorrect, bad*] misuse, misprint
miso [*hatred*] misanthropist (one who hates people), misogamy
mono [*one*] monoplane, monotone, monochrome, monocle
multi [*many*] multiply, multiform
neo [*new*] neopaganism, neoclassic, neologism, neophyte
non [*not*] nontaxable (not taxed), nontoxic, nonexistent, nonsense
ob, of, op, oc [*toward, against*] obstruct, offend, oppose, occur
oct [*eight*] octagon, octameter, octave
paleo [*ancient*] paleoanthropology (pertaining to ancient man), paleontology (study of ancient life-forms)
para [*beside, almost*] parasite (one who eats beside or at the table of another), paraphrase, parody, parachute, paramedic, parallel
penta [*five*] pentagon (figure or building having five angles or sides), pentameter, pentathlon
per [*throughout, completely*] pervert (completely turn wrong, corrupt), perfect, perceive, permanent, persuade
peri [*around*] period, periphery, perimeter (measurement around an area), periscope, pericardium
poly [*many*] polygon (figure having many angles or sides), polygamy, polyglot
post [*after*] postpone, postwar, postscript, posterity
pre [*before*] prewar, preview, premonition, precede, prevent
pro [*forward, in favor of*] project (throw forward), progress, promote, prohibition

pseudo [*false*] pseudonym (assumed false name), pseudo, pseudopodia
quad [*four*] quadruple (four times as much), quadriplegic, quadratic, quadrant
quint [*five*] quintuplet, quintuple, quintessence, quintile
re [*back, again*] reclaim, revive, revoke, rejuvenate, retard, reject, return
retro [*backward*] retroactive, retrospective (looking backward), retrorocket
se [*aside*] seduce (lead aside), segregate, secede, secrete
self [*by oneself*] self-determination, self-employed, self-service, selfish
sesqui [*one and a half*] sesquicentennial (one and one-half centuries)
sex, sest [*six*] sexagenarian (sixty years old), sexennial, sextant, sextuplet, sestertius
sub [*under*] submerge (put under), submarine, subhuman, substitute, suburb, suburb
suf, sup, sus [*from under*] suffer, support, suspect, suspend
super, supr [*above, over, more*] supermajority, supreme, supernatural, superstitious
syn, sym, sys, syl [*with, together*] sympathy, system, synthesis, symphony, syllable, synchronize (time together), synonym
trans, tra [*across, beyond, through*] transatlantic, oceanic, transmit (send across land, sea, or space), transfusion, traverse
tri [*three*] tricycle, triangle, tripod, trilateral
ultra [*beyond, exceedingly*] ultraconservative, ultramodern, ultraviolet
un [*not, release*] unfair, unnatural, unbuttoned
under [*beneath*] underground, underlying
uni [*one*] unicycle, uniform, unify, unique (one of a kind)
vice [*in place of*] vice president, vice admiral

Numerical Prefixes

| Prefix | Symbol | Multiples and Submultiples | Equivalent |
|--------|--------|----------------------------|-----------------|
| tera | T | 10^{12} | trillionfold |
| giga | G | 10^9 | billionfold |
| mega | M | 10^6 | millionfold |
| micro | μ | 10^{-6} | millionth part |
| nano | n | 10^{-9} | billionth part |
| pico | p | 10^{-12} | trillionth part |

Suffixes

Suffixes come at the end of a word. Sometimes a suffix will tell you what part of speech a word is. For example, many adverbs end in the suffix *ly*. Study suffixes carefully.

- able, ible** [*able, can do*] capable, agreeable, edible, visible (can be seen)
- age** [*act of, collection of*] salvage (act of saving), storage, forage
- al** [*relating to*] gradual, industrial, manual, natural (relating to nature)
- an, ian** [*native of, relating to*] Canadian (native of Canada), African
- ance, ancy** [*action, process, state*] assistance, allowance, defiance, resistance
- ant** [*performing, agent*] assistant, servant
- ar, er, or** [*one who, that which*] doctor, baker, miller, teacher, racer, amplifier
- ary, ery, ory** [*relating to, quality, place where*] dictionary, dietary, bravery, dormitory (a place where people sleep)
- asis, esis, osis** [*action, process, condition*] hypnosis, neurosis, osmosis
- ate** [*cause, make*] segregate (cause a group to be set aside), liquidate
- cian** [*having a certain skill or art*] musician, beautician, magician, physician
- cide** [*kill*] homicide, pesticide, genocide (killing a certain group of people)
- cule, ling** [*very small*] molecule (a small particle), duckling, sapling
- cy** [*action, function*] hesitancy, prophecy, normalcy (function in a normal way)
- dom** [*quality, realm, office*] boredom, freedom, wisdom (quality of being wise)
- ee** [*one who receives the action*] employee, nominee (one who is nominated), refugee
- en** [*made of, make*] silken, frozen, oaken (made of oak), wooden, lighten
- ence, ency** [*action, state of, quality*] difference, conference, urgency
- ese** [*a native of, the language of*] Japanese, Vietnamese
- fic** [*making, causing*] scientific, specific
- ful** [*full of*] frightful, careful, helpful (full of help)
- fy** [*make*] fortify (make strong), simplify, amplify
- hood** [*time or period*] manhood, womanhood, childhood, adulthood
- ic** [*nature of, like*] metallic (of the nature of metal), heroic, poetic, acidic
- ice** [*condition, state, quality*] justice, malign
- ile** [*relating to, suited for, capable of*] juvenile, senile (related to being old), missile
- ion, sion, tion** [*act of, state of, results of*] action, injection, infection (state of being infected)
- ish** [*origin, nature, characteristic of*] Irish, Finnish, clownish, foolish
- ism** [*system, manner, condition*] alcoholism, heroism, Communism
- ist** [*one who, that which*] artist, dentist, violinist
- ite** [*nature of, quality of, mineral product*] Israelite, dynamite, graphite, sulfite
- ity, ty** [*state of, quality*] captivity, clarity
- ive** [*causing, making*] abusive (causing abuse), exhaustive
- ize** [*make*] emphasize, publicize (make public), idolize, penalize
- less** [*without*] baseless, careless (without care), artless, fearless, helpless
- ly** [*like, manner of*] carelessly, fearlessly, hopelessly, shamelessly
- ment** [*act of, process, result of*] contentment, amendment (act of amending), achievement (result of achieving)
- ness** [*state of*] carelessness, restlessness, lifelessness
- ology** [*study, science, theory*] anthropology, biology, geology, neurology
- ous** [*full of, having*] gracious, nervous, spacious, vivacious (full of life)
- ship** [*office, state, quality, skill*] friendship, authorship, dictatorship
- tude** [*state of, condition of*] gratitude, aptitude, multitude (condition of being many)
- ure** [*state of, act, process*] culture, literature, rupture (state of being broken)
- ward** [*in the direction of*] eastward, forward, backward
- y** [*inclined to, tend to*] cheery, crafty, itchy

Roots

Knowing the **root** of a word—especially a difficult word—can help you understand and remember it much better. This can be very useful when learning new words in all your classes. Because vocabulary is so important to success in all areas, knowing the following roots will be very valuable.

acer, acid, acri [*bitter, sour, sharp*] acerbic (sour or bitter), acidity, acrid, acrimony

acu [*sharp*] acute, acupuncture

ag, agi, ig [*do, move, go*] agent (doer), agenda (things to do), navigate (move by sea), ambiguous (going both ways, not clear), agitate

ali, alter [*other*] alias (a person's other name), alternative, alibi, alien (from another country or planet), alter (change to another form)

altus [*high, deep*] altimeter (a device for measuring heights), altitude

am, amor [*love, liking*] amorous, enamored, amiable

anni, annu, enni [*year*] anniversary, annually (yearly), centennial (occurring once in 100 years)

anthrop [*man*] anthropology (study of mankind), misanthrope (hater of mankind), philanthropic (love of mankind)

arch [*chief, first, rule*] archangel (chief angel), architect (chief worker), archaic (first; very early), archives, monarchy (rule by one person), matriarchy (rule by the mother), patriarchy (rule by the father)

aster, astr [*star*] aster (star flower), asterisk, asteroid, astrology (lit., star-speaking; study of the influence by stars and planets), astronomy (star law), astronaut (lit., star traveler; space traveler)

aud [*hear, listen*] audible (can be heard), auditorium, audio, audition, auditory, audience

aug, auc [*increase*] auction, augur, augment (add to; increase)

auto, aut [*self*] automobile (self-moving vehicle), autobiography (lit., self-life writing), automatic (self-acting), autograph (self-writing; signature)

belli [*war*] rebellion, belligerent (warlike or hostile)

bibl [*book*] Bible, bibliography (writing, list of books), bibliomania (craze for books), bibliophile (book lover)

bio [*life*] biology (study of life), biograph, biopsy (cutting living tissue for examination), microbe (small, microscopic living thing)

breve [*short*] abbreviate, brief, brevity

calor [*heat*] calorie (a unit of heat), calor (to make hot), caloric

cap, cept [*take*] capable, capacity, capture, accept, except, forceps

capit, capt [*head*] decapitate (to remove the head from), capital, captain, captior

carn [*flesh*] carnivorous (flesh-eating), incarnate, reincarnation

caus, caut [*burn, heat*] cauterize (to make hot; burn), cauldron, caustic

cause, cuse, cus [*cause, motive*] because, excuse (to attempt to remove the blame), cause, accusation

ced, ceed, cede [*move, yield, go, surrender*] proceed (move forward), cede (yield), secede (move aside from), accede, concede, intercede, precede, recede

centri [*center*] concentric, centrifugal, center, tripetal, eccentric (out of center)

chrom [*color*] chromosome (color body), genetics, Kodachrome, monochrome (one color), polychrome (many colors)

chron [*time*] chronological (in order of time), chronometer (time-measured), chronicle (record of events in time), synchronize (make time with, set time together)

cide [*kill*] suicide (self-killer), homicide (human killer), pesticide (pest killer), germicide (germ killer), insecticide (insect killer)

cise [*cut*] decide (cut off uncertainty), precise (cut exactly right), concise, incisive, scissors

cit [*to call, start*] incite, citation, cite

***civ** [*citizen*] civic (relating to a citizen), civil, civilian, civilization

clam, claim [*cry out*] exclamation, clamor, proclamation, reclamation, acclaim

clud, clus, claus [*shut*] include (to take in), recluse (one who shuts himself away from others), claustrophobia (abnormal fear of being shut up, confined), conclude

cognosc, gnos [*know*] prognosis (forward knowing), diagnosis (thorough knowledge), recognize (to know again), incognito (not known)

cord, cor, card [*heart*] cordial (hearty, heart-felt), accord, concord, discord, record, courage, encourage (put heart into), discourage (take heart out of), core, coronary, cardiac

corp [*body*] corporation (a legal body), corpse, corpulent

cosm [*universe, world*] cosmos (the universe), cosmic, cosmology, cosmopolitan (world citizen), cosmonaut, microcosm, macrocosm

crat [*rule, strength*] autocracy, democratic

cred [*believe*] creed (statement of beliefs), credo (a creed), credence (belief), credit (belief, trust), credulous (believing too readily, easily deceived), credentials (statements that promote belief, trust), incredible

cresc, cret, crease, cru [*rise, grow*] crescendo (growing in loudness or intensity), crescent (growing, like the moon in first quarter), concrete (grown together, solidified), increase, decrease, accrue (to grow)

cur, curs [*run*] current (running or flowing), concurrent, concur (run together, agree), curriculum (lit., a running, a course), incur (run into), precursor (forerunner), recur, occur, courier

cura [*care*] manicure (caring for the hands), curator, curative

cus, cuse (see *cause*)

cycl, cyclo [*wheel, circular*] Cyclops (a mythical giant with one eye in the middle of his forehead), cyclone (a wind blowing circularly; a tornado), unicycle, bicycle

deca [*ten*] decade, decalogue, decathlon

dem [*people*] demography (vital statistics of the people: deaths, births, etc.), democracy (people-rule), epidemic (on or among the people)

dent, dont [*tooth*] dental (relating to teeth), orthodontist, denture, dentifrice

derm [*skin*] hypodermic (under skin injected under the skin), dermatology (skin study), epidermis (on skin; outer layer), taxidermy (arranging skin; mounting animals)

dic, dict [*say, speak*] diction (how one speaks, what one says), dictionary, dictator, dictaphone, dictatorial, edict, predict, verdict, contradict, benediction

doc [*teach*] indoctrinate, documentation, doctrine

domin [*master*] domain, dominion, dominate, predominant

don [*give*] donate (make a gift), condone

dorm [*sleep*] dormant, dormitory

dox [*opinion, praise*] orthodox (having correct, commonly accepted opinion), heterodox (differing opinion; contrary to the standard), paradox (self-contradictory)

duc, duct [*lead*] duke (leader), induce (lead into, persuade), seduce (lead astray), aqueduct (water leader, artificial channel), subdue, viaduct, conduct, condense, produce, reduce

dura [*hard, lasting*] durable, duration, endurance

dynam [*power*] dynamo (power-producing machine), dynamic, dynamite, hydrodynamics (study of water power)

end, endo [*within*] endoral (within the mouth), endocardial (within the heart), endoskeletal

equi [*equal*] equinox, equilibrium

erg [*work*] energy, erg (unit of work), allergy, ergophobia (morbid fear of work), ergometer, ergograph

fac, fact, fic [*do, make*] factory (the place where workmen are employed in making goods of various kinds), manufacture, facility, amplification

fall, fals [*deceive*] fallacy, falsify

fer [*bear, carry*] ferry (carry by water), coniferous (bearing cones, as a pine tree), fertile (bearing richly), defer, infer, referee, referendum, circumference

fic, fect (see *fac*)

fid, feder [*faith, trust*] fidelity, confidence, confidante, infidelity, infidel, federal, federacy, Fido

fila, fili [*thread*] filament (a thread of conductor heated by electrical current), filter, file

fin [*end, ended, finished*] final, finite, finish, confine, fine, refine, define, finale

fix [*attach*] fixation (the state of being attached), fixture, affix, prefix, suffix

flex, flect [*bend*] flex (bend), reflex (bending back), flexible, flexor (muscle for bending), inflexibility, reflect, deflect, genuflect (bend the knee)

flu, fluc, fluv [*flowing*] influence (to flow in), fluctuate (to wave in an unsteady motion), fluviograph (instrument for measuring the flow of rivers), fluid, flue, flush, fluently

form [*shape, structure*] form, uniform, conform, deform, reform, perform, formative, formation, formal, formula

fort, forc [*strong*] fort, fortress (a strong point, fortified), fortify (make strong), forte (one's strong point), forte (strong, loud in music), fortitude (strength for endurance), force

fract, frag [*break*] fragile (easy to break), fracture (a break), infraction, fraction (result of breaking a whole into equal parts), refract (to break or bend, as a light ray), fragment

fum [*smoke*] fume (smoke; odor), fumigate (destroy germs by smoking them out), perfume

gam [*marriage*] bigamy (two marriages), monogamy, polygamy (literally, many marriages)

gastro [*stomach*] gastric, gastronomic, gastritis (inflammation of the stomach)

gen [*birth, race, produce*] genesis (birth, beginning), genus, genetics (study of heredity), genealogy (lineage by race, stock), generate, genitals (the reproductive organs), congenital (existing as such at birth), indigenous (born, or produced naturally in a region or country), genetic

geo [*earth*] geometry (earth measurement), geography (lit., earth-writing), geocentric (earth centered), geology

germ [*vital, part*] germination (to grow), germ (seed; living substance, as the germ of an idea), germane

gest [*carry, bear*] congest (bear together, clog), suggestion (mental process by which one thought leads to another), congestive (causing congestion), gestation, suggestion

gloss, glot [*tongue*] epiglottis, polyglot (many tongues), glossary

glu, glo [*lump, bond, glue*] glue, conglomerate (bond together), agglutinate (make to hold in a bond)

grad, gress [*step, go*] grade (step, degree), gradual (step by step), graduate (make a the steps, finish a course), graduated (in steps or degrees), aggressive (stepping toward, pushing), congress (a going together, assembly)

graph [*write, written*] graph, graphic (written; vivid), photography (light-writing), graphite (carbon used for writing), autograph (self-writing; signature), phonograph (sound-writing), bibliography

grat [*pleasing*] congratulate (express pleasure over success), gratuitous (gratis), gratuity (mark of favor, a tip), grateful, gracious, ingrate (not thankful; hence unpleasant)

grav [*heavy, weighty*] grave, gravity, aggravate, gravitate

greg [*herd, group, crowd*] congregation (group functioning together), gregarious (belonging to a herd), segregate (tending to group aside or apart)

hab, habit [*have, live*] habitat (the place in which one lives), inhabit (to live in to establish as residence), rehabilitate, habitual

helio [*sun*] heliograph (an instrument for using the sun's rays), heliotrope (a plant that turns to the sun)

hema, hemo [*blood*] hematid (red blood corpuscle), hemotoxic (causing blood poisoning), hemorrhage, hemoglobin, hemophilia

here, hes [*stick*] adhere, cohere, cohesion

hetero [*different*] heterogeneous (different in composition), heterograft (a tissue graft taken from a different species)

homo [*same*] homogeneous (the same composition), homonym (word with same name or pronunciation as another), homogenize

hum, human [*earth, ground, man*] humility (quality of lowliness), humane (marked by sympathy, compassion for other human beings and animals), humus, exhume (take out of the ground)

hydr, hydro, hydra [*water*] dehydrate (take water out of; dry), hydrant (water faucet), hydraulic (pertaining to water)

to liquids), hydraulics, hydrophobia (fear of water), hydrogen

hypn [*sleep*] hypnosis, Hypnos (god of sleep), hypnotherapy (treatment of disease by hypnosis)

ignis [*fire*] ignite, igneous, ignition

ject [*throw*] deject, inject, project (throw forward), eject, object

join, junct [*join*] junction (act of joining), enjoin (to lay an order upon; to command), juncture, conjunction, adjoining, joiner, injunction

jud, judi, judic [*judge, lawyer*] judge (a public officer who has the authority to give a judgement), judicial (relating to administration of justice), judicious, prejudice

jur, jus [*law*] justice (a just judgement), conjure (to swear together), jurisdiction, juror

juven [*young*] juvenile, rejuvenate (to make young again)

later [*side, broad*] lateral, latitude

leg [*law*] legal (lawful; according to law), legislate (to enact a law), legislature (a body of persons who can make laws), legitimize (make legal)

lic, licit [*permit*] license (freedom to act), illicit (not permitted), licit (permitted; lawful)

lit, liter [*letters*] literary (concerned with books and writing), literature, literal, alliteration, obliterate

liver, liber [*free*] liberal (relating to liberty), delivery (freedom; liberation), liberalize (to make more free: as, to liberalize the mind from prejudice), deliverance

loc, loco [*place*] locomotion (act of moving from place to place), locality (locale; neighborhood), allocate (to assign; to place), relocate (to put back into place)

log, logo, ology [*word, study, speech*] zoology (animal study), psychology (mind study), logic (orig., speech; then reasoning), prologue, epilogue, dialogue, catalogue, logorrhea (a flux of words; excessively wordy)

loqu, locut [*talk, speak*] eloquent (speaking out well and forcefully), loquacious (talkative), colloquial (talking together; conversational or informal), circumlocution (talking around a subject), soliloquy

luc, lum [*light*] lumen (a unit of light), luminary (a heavenly body; someone who shines in his profession), translucent (letting light come through)

lude [*play*] ludicrous, prelude (before play), interlude

magn [*great*] magnificent, magnify (make great, enlarge), magnanimous (great of mind or spirit), magnate, magnitude, magnum

man [*hand*] manual, manage, manufacture, manacle, manicure, manifest, maneuver, emancipate

mand [*command*] remand (order back), mandatory (commanded), countermand (order against, cancelling a previous order), mandate

mania [*madness*] mania (insanity; craziness), monomania (mania on one idea), kleptomania (thief mania; abnormal tendency to steal), pyromania (insane tendency to fires), maniac

mar, mari, mer [*sea, pool*] mermaid (fabulous marine creature, half fish), marine (sailor serving on shipboard), marsh (wetland, swamp), maritime (relating to sea and navigation)

matri, mater [*mother*] matrimony (state of wedlock), maternal (relating to mother), matriarch

medi [*half, middle, between, halfway*] mediate (come between, intervene), medieval (pertaining to the Middle Ages), mediterranean (lying between lands), mediocre

mega [*great*] megaphone (great sound), megalopolis (great city; an extensive urban area including a number of cities), megacycle (a million cycles), megaton

mem [*remember*] commemoration (the act of remembering by a memorial or ceremony), memo (a note; a reminder), memento, memoir, memorable

meter [*measure*] meter (a measure), voltmeter (instrument to measure volts in an electric circuit), barometer, thermometer

micro [*small*] micron (a millionth of a meter), microscope, microfilm, microwave, micrometer (device for measuring very small distance), micromite (small living thing), omicron (small)

migra [*wander*] migrate (to wander), migrant (one who leaves a country), immigrate (to come into the land to settle)

mit, miss [*send*] emit (send out, give off), remit (send back, as money due), submit, admit, commit, permit, transmit (send across), omit, mission, missile

mob, mot, mov [*move*] mobile (capable of moving), motionless (without motion), motor (that which imparts motion; source of mechanical power), emotional (moved strongly by feelings), motivate, promotion

mon [*warn, remind*] admonish (warn), monument (a reminder or memorial of a person or event), monitor, premonition (forewarning)

mori, mort, mors [*mortal, death*] mortal (causing death or destined for death), immortal (not subject to death), mortality (rate of death), immortality, mortician (one who buries the dead), mortuary (place for the dead, a morgue)

morph [*form*] amorphous (with no form, shapeless), Morpheus (the shaper, god of dreams), metamorphosis (a change of form, as a caterpillar into a butterfly), morphology

multi, multus [*many, much*] multifold (folded many times), multilingual (one who speaks many languages), multiped (an organism with many feet), multiply

nat [*to be born, to spring forth*] nature (the essence of a person a thing), innate (inborn), natal, native, nativity

neur [*nerve*] neuritis (inflammation of a nerve), neuropathic (having a nerve disease), neurologist (one who practices neurology), neural, neurosis, neurotic

nom [*law, order*] autonomy (self-law, self-government), economy (household law, management), astronomy

nomen, nomen [*name*] nominate (name someone for an office), nomenclature

nounce, nunci [*warn, declare*] announcer (one who makes announcements publicly), enunciate (to declare carefully), pronounce (declare; articulate), denounce

nov [*new*] novel (new; strange; not formerly known), renovate (to make like new again), novice, nova, innovate

nox, noc [*night*] nocturnal, equinox (equal nights), noctilucent (something that shines by night)

numer [*number*] numeration (act of counting), numeral (a figure expressing a number), enumerate (count out, one by one), innumerable

omni [*all, every*] omnipotent (all-powerful), omnipresent (present everywhere), omniscient (all-knowing), omnivorous (all-eating)

onym [*name*] pseudonym (false name), anonymous (without a name), antonym (against name; word of opposite meaning), synonym

oper [*work*] operate (to labor; function), cooperate (work together)

ortho [*straight, correct*] orthodox (of the correct or accepted opinion), orthodontist (one who straightens teeth), orthopedic (originally pertaining to straightening a child), unorthodox

pac [*peace*] pacifist (one for peace opposed to war), pacify (make peaceful), Pacific Ocean (peaceful ocean)

pan [*all*] Pan American, panacea (cure-all), pandemonium (place of all the demons), wild disorder), pantheon (place of all the gods)

pater, patr [*father*] patriarch (head of a tribe, family), patron (a wealthy person who supports as would a father), paternal (fatherhood, responsibility, etc.), patriot

path, pathy [*feeling, suffering*] pathos (feeling of pity, sorrow), sympathy, antipathy (against feeling), empathy (feeling or identifying with another), telepathy (feeling; thought transference)

ped, pod [*foot*] pedal (lever for a foot), impede (get the feet in a trap, hinder), pedestal (foot or base of a statue), pedestrian (foot traveler), centipede, tripod (three-footed support), podiatry (care of the feet), antipodes (opposite feet)

pedo [*child*] orthopedic, pedagogue (child leader; teacher), pediatrics (medical care of children)

pel, puls [*drive, urge*] compel, disperse, expel, repel, propel, pulse, impulsive, pulsate, compulsory, expulsion, repulsive, compulsive

pend, pens [*hang, weigh*] pendant (a hanging object), pendulum, depend, impend, suspend, perpendicular, pending, dispense, pensive (weighing thought)

phil [*love*] philosophy (love of wisdom), philanthropy, philharmonic, bibliophile, Philadelphia (city of brotherly love)

phobia [*fear*] claustrophobia (fear of closed spaces), acrophobia (fear of high places), hydrophobia (fear of water)

phon [*sound*] phonograph, phonetic (pertaining to sound), symphony (sounds with or together)

photo [*light*] photograph (light-writing), photoelectric, photogenic (artistically suitable for being photographed), photosynthesis (action of light on chlorophyll to make carbohydrates), photometer (light meter)

plac, plais [*please*] placid (calm, peaceful), placebo, placate, complacent (self-satisfied)

plenus [*full*] replenish (to fill again), plentiful, plenteous, plenary

pneuma, pneumon [*breath*] pneumatic (pertaining to air, wind or other gases), pneumonia (disease of the lungs)

pod (*see ped*)

poli [*city*] metropolis (mother city; main city), police, politics, Indianapolis, megapolis, Acropolis (high city, upper part of Athens)

pon, pos [*place, put*] postpone (put afterward), component, opponent (one put against), proponent, expose, impose, deposit, posture (how one places oneself), position

pop [*people*] population (the number of people in an area), populous (full of people), popular

port [*carry*] porter (one who carries), portable, transport (carry across), report, export, import, support, transportation

portion [*part, share*] portion (a part; a share, as a portion of pie), proportion (the relation of one share to others)

potent [*power*] potent, omnipotent, impotent (without power)

prehend [*seize*] apprehend (seize a criminal), comprehend (seize with the mind), comprehensive (seizing much, extensive)

prim, prime [*first*] primacy (state of being first in rank), primitive (from the earliest or first time), primary, primal

proto [*first*] prototype (the first model made), protocol, protagonist, protozoan

psych [*mind, soul*] psyche (soul, mind), psychic (sensitive to forces of the mind or soul), psychiatry (hearing of the mind), psychology, psychosis (serious mental disorder), psychotherapy (mind treatment)

punct [*point, dot*] punctual (being exactly on time), punctuation, puncture, acupuncture, punctilious

put [*think*] computer (a thinking machine), dispute, repute

que, qui [*ask, seek*] question, inquire, acquire, inquisitive

reg, recti [*straighten*] correct, direct, regular, rectify (make straight), regimen, rectangle

ri, ridi [*laughter*] ridicule (laughter at the expense of another; mockery), deride (make mock of; jeer at), ridiculous

rog, roga [*ask*] prerogative (privilege; as in before), interrogation (questioning; the act of questioning), derogatory

rupt [*break*] rupture (break), interrupt (break into), abrupt (broken off), disrupt (break apart), erupt (break out), incompressible (unable to be broken down)

sacr, secr [*scared*] sacred, consecrate, dedicate, sacrate, sacrosanct

salv, salu [*safe, healthy*] salvation (act of being saved), salvage (that which is saved after appearing to be lost), salutary (promoting health), salute (wish health to)

sangui [*blood*] sanguine, sanguinity, sanguinaria (bloodroot)

sat, satis [*enough*] satisfy (to give pleasure; to give as much as is needed), satisfy (giving pleasure, satisfying), saturate

sci [*know*] science (knowledge), conscious (knowing, aware), omniscient (knowing everything)

scope [*see, watch*] telescope, microscope, kaleidoscope (instrument for seeing beautiful forms), periscope, stethoscope

scrib, script [*write*] scribe (a writer), manuscript (written by hand), scribe, inscribe, describe, subscribe, prescribe

sed, sess, sid [*sit*] preside (sit before), president, reside, subsidize, sediment (that which sits or settles out of a liquid), session (a sitting), obsession (an idea that stubbornly in the mind), possess

sen [*old*] senior, senator, senile (old; showing the weakness of old age)

sent, sens [*feel*] sentiment (feeling), resent, dissent, sentimental (having strong feeling or emotion), sense, sensation, sensitive, sensory, dissension

sequ, secu [*follow*] sequence (following of one thing after another), sequence, consequence, subsequent, consecutive (following in order)

serv [*save, serve*] servant, service, subservient, servitude, reservation, preserve, conserve, deserve, observe, conservation

sign, signi [*sign, mark, seal*] signal (a gesture or sign to call attention), signature (the mark of a person written in his own handwriting), design, insignia (distinguishing marks)

simil, simul [*like, resembling*] simulate (pretend; put on an act to make a certain impression), similar, assimilate (to make similar to), simile

sist, sta, stit, stet [*stand*] assist (to stand by with help), circumstance, stamina (power to withstand, to endure), persist (stand firmly; unyielding; continue), substitute (to stand in for another), status (standing), state, static, stable, stationary

solus [*alone*] solo, soliloquy, solitaire, solitude, solitary

solv, solu [*loosen*] solvent (a loosener, a dis-solver), solve, absolve (loosen from, free from), resolve, soluble, solution, resolution, resolute, dissolute (loosened morally)

somnus [*sleep*] insomnia (not being able to sleep), somnambulist (a sleepwalker)

soph [*wise*] sophomore (wise fool), philosophy (love of wisdom), sophisticated (world wise)

spec, spect [*look*] specimen (an example to look at, study), specific, spectator (one who looks), spectacle, speculate, aspect, expect, inspect, respect, prospect, retrospective (looking backward), introspective

sphere [*ball, sphere*] sphere (a planet; a ball), stratosphere (the upper portion of the atmosphere), hemisphere (half of the earth), spheroid

spir [*breath*] spirit (lit., breath), conspire (breathe together; plot), inspire (breathe into), aspire (breathe toward), expire (breathe out; die), perspire, respiration

spond, spons [*pledge, answer*] sponsor (one who pledges responsibility to a project), correspond (to communicate by letter; sending and receiving answers), irresponsible, respond

strict [*draw tight*] strict, restrict, constrict (draw tightly together), boa constrictor (snake that constricts its prey)

stru, struct [*build*] structure, construct, instruct, obstruct, construe (build in the mind, interpret), destroy, destruction

sume, sump [*take, use, waste*] consume (use up), assume (to take; to use), presume (to take upon oneself before knowing sure), sump pump (a pump that takes water)

tact, tang, tag [*touch*] contact (touch), contagious (transmission of disease by touching), intact (untouched, uninjured), intangible (not able to be touched), tangible, tactile

tele [*far*] telephone (far sound), telegraph (far writing), telegram, telescope (far look), television (far seeing), telephoto (far photography), telecast, telepathy (far feeling)

tempo [*time*] tempo (rate of speed), temporary, pro tem (for the time being), extemporaneously, contemporary (those who live at the same time)

ten, tin, tain [*hold*] contain, tenacious (holding fast), tenant, detention, retention, content, pertinent, obstinate, abstain, detain, obtain, maintain

tend, tens [*stretch, strain*] tension (stretching, strain), tendency (a stretching), extend, intend, contend, pre-tend, superintend, tender, tent

terra [*earth*] territory, terrestrial, terrarium

test [*to bear witness*] testament (a written bearing witness to someone's wishes), detest, attest (certify; affirm; bear witness to), testimony

therm [*heat*] thermometer, therm (heat unit), thermal, thermos bottle, thermocouple (a device for keeping heat constant), hypothermia (low body temperature)

tom [*cut*] atom (not cuttable; smallest particle of matter), appendectomy (cutting an appendix), tonsillectomy, dichotomy (cutting in two; a division), anatomy (cutting to study structure)

tort, tors [*twist*] torsion (act of twisting), torsion bar, torture (twisting to inflict pain), retort (twist back, reply sharply), extort (twist out), distort (twist out of shape), contort, tortuous (full of twists)

tox [*poison*] toxic (poisonous), intoxication, antitoxin

tract, tra [*draw, pull*] tractor, attract, extract, tractable (can be led or handled), abstract (to draw away), subtrahend (number to be drawn away from another), traction

trib [*pay, bestow*] tribute (to pay honor to), contribute (to give money to a cause), attribute, retribution, tributary

tui, tut [*guard, teach*] tutor (one who teaches a pupil), tuition (payment for instruction or teaching fees), intuition

turbo [*disturb*] turbulent, turmoil, disturb, turbid

typ [*print*] type, prototype (first print, model), typical, typography, typewriter, typology (study of types, symbols), typify

uni [*one*] unicorn (a legendary creature with one horn), unify (make into one), university, unanimous, universal

vac [*empty*] vacate (to make empty), vacuum (a space entirely devoid of matter), evacuate (to remove troops or people), vacation, vacant

val [*strength, worth*] valor, (value; worth), validity (truth; legal strength), equivalent (of equal worth), evaluate (find out the value; appraise actual worth), valiant, value

ven, vent [*come*] convene (come together, assemble), intervene (come between), circumvent (coming around), convention, venture, venue, event, avenue, prevent

vert, vers [*turn*] reverse (turn back), avert (turn away), divert (turn aside, amuse), invert (turn over), introvert (turn inward, one interested in his or her own reactions), controversy (a turning against; a dispute)

vict, vinc [*conquer*] victor (conqueror, winner), victorious, evict (conquer out, expel), convict (prove guilty), convince (conquer mentally, persuade), invincible (not able to be conquered)

vid, vis [*see*] video (television), vision,udent, provide, providence, visible, review, supervise (oversee), vista, visit

viv [*alive, life*] revive (make live again), survive (live beyond, outlive), vivid (full of life), vivisection (surgery on a living animal), vivacious (full of life)

voc [*call*] vocation (a calling), avocation (occupation not one's calling), convocation (a calling together), invocation (calling to), evoke, provoke, revoke, advocate, proactive, vocal, vocabulary

vol [*will*] malevolent, benevolent (one's goodwill), volunteer, volition

volcan, vulcan [*fire*] Vulcan (Roman god of fire), volcano (a mountain erupting with fiery lava), volcanize (to undergo volcanic heat)

vor [*eat greedily*] voracious, carnivorous (flesh-eating), herbivorous (plant-eating), omnivorous (eating everything), devout

zo [*animal*] zoology (study of animals), zodiac (circle of animal constellations), protozoa (first animals; one-celled animals), zoo (short for zoological garden), zoomorphism (attributing animal form to God)

The Human Body

| | | | | | |
|----------------|---------|---------------|---------|---------------|--------|
| arthral | joint | gastro | stomach | oral | mouth |
| audio | hearing | glos | tongue | osteo | bone |
| capit | head | hem | blood | ped | foot |
| card | heart | man | hand | pneuma | lungs |
| corp | body | myo | muscle | psych | mind |
| dactyl | finger | nephro | kidney | rhino | nose |
| dent | tooth | neur | nerve | sarco | flesh |
| derm | skin | oculo | eye | spir | breath |