



Greek and Latin Roots

3rd – 5th Grade Sample List

Root	Meaning	Examples	Origin
ant, anti	against, opposed to, preventative	antagonist, antibiotic	Greek
aqua	water	aquarium, aquatic	Latin
aud	to hear	audiobook, audience	Latin
auto	self	autobiography, autograph	Greek
bio	life	biology, biography	Greek
cent	one hundred	century, percent	Latin
chron	time	chronological, chronic	Greek
cir/circum	around	circumference, circumstance, circular	Latin
duc/duct	lead, make	deduce, produce, educate	Latin
form	shape	formation, format	Latin
geo	earth	geography, geology	Greek
graph	write	autograph, graphic	Greek
hetero	different	heteronym, heterogeneous	Greek
homo	same	homonym, homogenous	Greek
logy	study of	biology, zoology	Greek
mal	bad	malfunction, malpractice, maleficence	Latin
meter/metr	measure	thermometer, perimeter	Greek
micro	small	microscope, microphone	Greek
mono	one	monologue, monotonous	Greek
multi	many	multimedia, multitask	Latin
photo	light	photograph, photosynthesis	Greek
port	to carry	import, transportation	Latin
scope	viewing instrument	microscope, telescope	Greek
spect	to look	inspection, spectator	Latin
tele	far off	television, telephone	Greek
vid/vis	to see	visual, video	Latin

**6th - 8th Grade Sample List**

Root	Meaning	Examples	Origin
ast/aster/astro	star	astrology, astronomy, astronaut	Greek
bene	good	beneficial, benefactor	Latin
contra/counter	against, opposite	contraindicated, counterintuitive	Latin
ante, anti	before, prior to	antecedent, anticipate	Latin
dys	bad, difficult	dysfunction, dyslexia	Greek
fac	to do, to make	factory, manufacture	Latin
hydr	water	hydration, dehydrate	Greek
hypo	under, beneath	hypothermia, hypodermic	Greek
ject	throw	projector, object	Latin
jud	judge	judgment, misjudge	Latin
morph	form, shape	morpheme, metamorphosis	Greek
mis/miso	hate	misanthrope, misogyny	Greek
nym	name	synonym, antonym	Greek
phob	fear	agoraphobia, claustrophobic	Greek
psych	mind	psychology, psychedelic	Greek
scrib/scribe	to write	scribble, script	Latin
therm	heat	thermal, thermometer	Greek



Common Prefixes

Prefix	Definition	Examples
anti-	against	antibiotic, anticlimax
auto-	self	autograph, autobiography
bi-	two	bicycle, binocular
de-	opposite	devalue, dehumidify
dis-	not, opposite of	detach, deploy
en-, em-	cause to	empower, entangle
fore-	before, front of	forecast, foresee
in-, im-, il-, ir-	not	impossible, innocent
inter-	between, among	international, interject
micro-	small	microscope, microwave
mid-	middle	midway, midday
mis-	wrongly	misunderstand, misconduct
multi-	many, much	multicolor, multipurpose
non-	not	nonsense, nondescript
oct-	eight	octopus, octagon
over-	over, too much	overall, overworked
poly-	many, much	polygon, polymer
pre-	before	prevent, preview
quad-	four	quadrilateral, quadrant
re-	again	rebuild, recall
semi-	half, partly, not fully	semicircle, semiformal
sub-	under	submarine, subconscious
tele	far, distant	telephone, television
trans-	across, change, through	transfer, transportation
super-	above, beyond	superhuman, superficial
trans-	across	transcontinental, translucent
tri	three	tripod, triangle
un-	not, opposite of	unable, unhappy
uni-	one	unicycle, unicorn
under-	under, too little	underground, undercurrent



Common Suffixes

<i>Suffix</i>	<i>Part of Speech</i>	<i>Definition/Meaning</i>	<i>Examples</i>
-able, -ible	adjective	is; can be	collectable, gullible
-age	noun	result of an action; collection	manage, acreage
-al, -ial	adjective	having characteristics of	circumstantial, seasonal
-an	noun	one having a certain skill; relating/belonging to	American, electrician
-ate	verb	to make, have, become	differentiate, duplicate
-ed	verb/adjective	past tense verbs; adjectives	accomplished, accepted
-en	noun/adjective	made of	hydrogen, mistaken
-ence, -ance	noun	act; condition of	excellence, importance
-ent, -ant	noun	an action; condition; causing a specific action	student, contestant
-er, -or	noun	one who; action or process; more	teacher, boxer
-est	adjective	the most	coldest, largest
-ful	adjective	full of	beautiful, hateful
-ic	adjective	having characteristics of	historic, asymmetric
-ies	noun	plural, more than one	parties, babies
-ify	verb	to make, have, become	amplify, justify
-ing	verb	verb forms; present participles	helping, running
-ion, -tion, -ation,	noun	act; process	confusion, inspection
-ish	adjective	like; similar	childish, bookish
-ist	noun	the person who is _____	loyalist, nutritionist
-ity, -ty	noun	state of	responsibility, specialty
-ive, -ative, -itive	adjective	adjective form of noun	active, comparative
-ize	verb	to make; to cause to become	criticize, apologize
-less	adjective	without	helpless, effortless
-logy, -ology	noun	science of; study of	biology, archeology
-ly	adverb	how something is	fluently, briefly
-ment	noun	state of being; act of	payment, employment
-ness	noun	state of; condition of	sickness, wilderness
-ous, -eous, -ious	adjective	having qualities of	courageous, gracious
-s, -es	noun	more than one	books, boxes
-ship	noun	the state of being something	friendship, leadership
-y	adjective	characterized by	cloudy, thirsty



Foreign Words and Phrases

Latin Phrase	English Meaning	French Phrase	English Meaning
ad hoc ad 'hāk	concerned with a particular purpose; improvised	au revoir o rəv'wār	goodbye, until we see each other again
bona fides bō-nə-'fī-,dēz	good faith; sincere, involving no deceit or fraud	avant garde avānt'gārd	unorthodox, experimental
carpe diem kärpā 'dē,em	seize the day	bon mot bän 'mō	a witty remark
caveat emptor kavē,ät 'em(p),tōr	let the buyer beware	carte blanche kärt 'blänSH	unlimited authority
de facto dā 'faktō	in reality, actually existing	c'est la vie sei lə 'vi:	that's life, that's how things happen
in extremis in ik'strāmīs	in extreme circumstances	coup de grâce kü-də-'grās	a decisive finishing blow
in medias res in 'mēdēəs 'res	in the midst of things	coup d'état kü-(,)dā-'tä	overthrow of a government by a group
in toto in 'tōdō	altogether	de rigueur də-(,)rē-'gər	proper
modus operandi mōdəs ,äpə'randē	a method of procedure	déjà vu dā-,zhä-'vü	something overly familiar
modus vivendi mōdəs vi'vendē	a way of living, getting along	fait accompli 'fä-tə-,käm-'plē	an accomplished fact, presumably irreversible
persona non grata pər sōnə ,nän 'grādə	an unacceptable or unwelcome person	faux pas 'fō-,pä	a social blunder
prima facie prīmā 'fäSHē	at first view, apparently; self-evident	je ne sais quoi zhə-nə-,sä-'kwä	an admirable quality that cannot be adequately described
pro bono prō-,bō-nō	for the good	merci mər'si	thank you
pro forma prō 'fōrmə	for the sake of form, carried out as a matter of formality	pièce de résistance pē,es də rə,zi'stāns	showpiece
quid pro quo kwid ,prō 'kwō	something given or received in exchange for something else	raison d'être rāzôn 'detrə	reason for being
requiescat in pace re.kwi'e:s.kat in 'pa:.ke	may he or she rest in peace	tête-à-tête tādə'tāt	private conversation between two people
sub rosa səb 'rōzə	secretly	vis-à-vis vēzə'vē	in relation to