

GREEK AND LATIN ROOTS OF ENGLISH WORDS

Refer to the table below for information about Greek and Latin word roots and their meanings and examples of English words that contain those roots.

Root	Origin	Meaning	English Examples
aqu-	Latin	water	aqua, aquarium, aqueduct, aquifer
ab-, abs-	Latin	away from	abnormal, absent, abstract
agri-	Latin	field	agriculture
av-	Latin	desire	avid, avarice
audi-	Latin	to hear	audible, audio
ben-	Latin	good or well	benefit
bi-	Latin	two or twice	bicycle, bigamy
biblio-	Greek	book	bibliography, bibliophile
bio-	Greek	life	biology, biopsy, biography
calc-	Latin and Greek	stone	calcium, recalcitrant
cani-	Latin	dog	canine, canines (teeth)
can-, cin-, cant-	Latin	sing	cantor, cantata, recant
chron-	Greek	time	chronic, chronicle
circ-	Latin	to circle, ring	circle, circus, circumnavigate
deb-	Latin	owe	debt, debtor
dec-	Greek	ten	decimal, decade
del-	Latin	delete	delegate, delete
din-	Greek	terrible or fearful	dinosaur
ex-	Latin	from, out of	exist, experience, exit, exact
err-	Latin	stray	error, err
eur-	Greek	wide	Europe
fel-	Latin	cat	feline

Root	Origin	Meaning	English Examples
fer-	Latin	To bear, carry	differ, offer, transfer
fing-, fig-	Latin	to form or shape	figurine, disfigure
ge-, geo-	Greek	earth	geography, geology
glob-	Latin	sphere	global, globe
grav-	Latin	heavy	gravity, grave
hab-, habit-	Latin	have	habitat
hemi-	Greek	half	hemisphere
here-; hes-	Latin	cling, stick	adhere, cohesive
hyper-	Greek	above, over	hyper, hyperlink
igni-	Latin	fire	ignite, ignition
inter-	Latin	among or between	intermission
judici-	Latin	judge	judge, judgment
juven-	Latin	young	juvenile
jur-; just-	Latin	law, justice	jury, just, justice, justify
labor-	Latin	work	collaborate, labor, laboratory
larg-	Latin	large	enlarge, large, largo
later-	Latin	side	lateral, collateral
lav-	Latin	wash	laundry, lavatory
lax-	Latin	slack, not tense	laxative, relax
leg-	Latin	choose, read	legend, legible
mal-	Latin	bad, wretched	dismal, malicious
manu-; mani-	Latin	hand	manual, manufacture, manicure
mater-, matr-	Latin	mother	maternal, matrimony
medi-	Latin	middle	media, median, mediate
myth-	Greek	story	myth, mythology

Root	Origin	Meaning	English Examples
nas-	Latin	nose	nasal
non-	Latin	not	none, non-fiction
nox-	Latin	harm	obnoxious
nutri-	Latin	nourish	nutrition, nurture
ocul-	Latin	eye	ocular
oper-	Latin	work	operate, opera
opt-	Latin	choose	adopt, option
ov-	Latin	egg	oval
pac-	Latin	peace	appease, pacify
par-	Latin	equal	compare, subpar
phon-	Greek	sound	telephone, phonics
photo-	Greek	light	photo, photograph, photogenic
pict-	Latin	paint	depiction, picture
plen-	Latin	full	plenty, replenish
reg-	Latin	king	regal, reign
resid-	Latin	left behind	reside, residue, resident
rot-	Latin	wheel	rotate, rotation
rur-	Latin	farm, countryside	rural, rustic
salv-	Latin	save	salvage, salvation, salve
soci-	Latin	group	social, society
sci-	Latin	know	science, conscience
serv-	Latin	save, protect	observe, deserve, service
tapet-	Latin	carpet	tapestry
tex-	Latin	weave	textile, text
tri-	Greek	three	triangle, triad

Root	Origin	Meaning	English Examples
un-	Latin	one	unite, unify
urb-	Latin	city	urban, suburb
ven-	Latin	come	advent, invent, adventure
xyl-	Greek	wood	xylophone
zo-	Greek	animal	zoo, zoology

Sources:

Wikipedia. (n.d.). List of Greek and Latin roots in English/A-G.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Greek_and_Latin_roots_in_English/A-G

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