

**bene** In Latin, *bene* means “well”; its near-opposite, *mal*, means “bad” or “poorly.” Both usually appear at the beginnings of words. We may hope to use this root often to list **benefits** and describe **beneficial** activities.

**benediction** \ˌbe-n@-'dik-sh@n\ The pronouncement of a blessing, especially at the close of a worship service.

- The restless children raced out to the church picnic immediately after the benediction.

**beneficent** \b@-'ne-f@s@nt\ Doing or producing good; especially performing acts of kindness or charity.

- Even the busy and poor willingly contribute to organizations recognized as beneficent.

**benefactor** \'be-n@-ˌfak-t@r\ A person or group that confers aid, such as a charitable donation.

- Construction of the new playground had been funded by a generous benefactor.

**bio** *Bio* comes from the Greek word for “life.” Thus, **biology** means the study of all living forms and life processes, and **biotechnology** uses the knowledge gained through biology. **Antibiotics** fight off bacteria, which are life forms, but not viruses, which may not be.

**bionic** \bi-'ä-nik\ Having normal biological ability enhanced by electronic or mechanical devices.

- A 1970s TV series featuring “the Bionic Woman” sparked interest in robotics.

**biopsy** \'bi-ˌmāp-sē\ The removal and examination of tissue, cells, or fluids from the living body.

- Until the biopsy results came back, there was no way to tell if the lump was cancerous.

**symbiosis** \ˌsim-bē-'ō-s@s\ The intimate living together of two dissimilar organisms, especially when mutually beneficial.

- In a display of symbiosis, the bird stands on the crocodile’s teeth and pecks leeches off its gums.

**chron** This root comes from the Greek word for “time.” A **chronicle** records the events of a particular time. **Chronometry** is the measuring of time, which can be done with a **chronometer**, a timepiece more accurate than an ordinary watch or clock.

**chronic** \'krä-nik\ Marked by long duration or frequent recurrence; habitual.

- Her roommate was a chronic complainer, who started off every day grumbling about something new.

**anachronism** \@-'na-kr@-ˌni-z@m\ 1: The error of placing a person or thing in the wrong period. 2: One that is out of its own time.

- After the collapse of the Soviet Union, some analysts felt that NATO was an anachronism.

**chronology** \kr@-'nä-l@-ˌjē\ An arrangement of events in the order of their occurrence.

- Keeping a journal throughout her trip gave Joan an accurate record of its chronology afterward.

**circum** *Circum* means “around” in Latin. So to **circumnavigate** is “to navigate around,” often around the world, and **circumference** means the “distance around” a circle or other object. A **circumstance** is a fact or event accompanying (“standing around”) another.

**circumvent** \μs@r-k@m-'vent\ To evade or defeat, especially by trickery or deception.

- During Prohibition, many citizens found ways to circumvent the laws against alcohol.

**circumspect** \μs@r-k@m-'spekt\ Careful to consider all circumstances and consequences; cautious; prudent.

- Unlike his impulsive twin brother, Claude was sober, circumspect, and thoughtful.

**circumstantial** \μs@r-k@m-'stan-sh@l\ 1: Describing evidence based on inference, not directly observed facts. 2: Incidental.

- The fact that he was gone all night was only circumstantial evidence, but still extremely important.

**cosm** *Cosm* comes from the Greek word meaning “order.” Ultimate order, for the Greeks, related to the universe and the worlds within it, so **cosmos** for us means the universe. A **cosmonaut** was a space traveler from the former Soviet Union.

**cosmopolitan** \μkāz-m@-'pā-l@-t@n\ International in outlook; sophisticated; worldly.

- The cosmopolitan actress Audrey Hepburn was born in Belgium and educated in England but won fame in America.

**cosmology** \kāz-'mä-l@-jē\ 1: A branch of astronomy dealing with the origin and structure of the universe. 2: A theory that describes the nature of the universe.

- New Age philosophies and science fiction suggest a variety of possible cosmologies.

**microcosm** \'mī-kr@-μkā-z@m\ An individual or community thought of as a miniature world or universe.

- Early thinkers saw the whole human world as a microcosm of the universe, which was considered the macrocosm.

## Quiz 2

1. In ant-aphid \_\_\_\_\_, the aphids are protected by the ants, who “milk” them for their honeydew.
2. A \_\_\_\_\_ witch could end a drought by casting a spell to bring rain.
3. The diner’s hours depended on such \_\_\_\_\_ factors as whether the cook’s car had gotten repossessed.
4. Phenomena such as time warps and black holes made theoretical \_\_\_\_\_ the strangest subject in the curriculum.
5. Church members were surprised by the closing \_\_\_\_\_, “May God *deny* you peace, but grant you love.”
6. Neuroscientists believe they will soon have developed a complete \_\_\_\_\_ ear.
7. Identifying a suspicious tumor almost always calls for a \_\_\_\_\_ procedure.
8. The children’s clinic was built soon after a significant gift by a single \_\_\_\_\_.
9. Both candidates had managed to \_\_\_\_\_ campaign finance laws through fraud.
10. Measles and flu are acute illnesses, while asthma and diabetes are \_\_\_\_\_ conditions.

11. Shakespeare's *Macbeth*, set in the eleventh century, contains such \_\_\_\_\_s as a reference to clocks.
12. A detailed \_\_\_\_\_ of the actions of company executives from April to July revealed some suspicious patterns.
13. Office life, with all its dramas and secrets, seemed to her a \_\_\_\_\_ of the world outside.
14. When we have only flimsy evidence, we should be \_\_\_\_\_ in our opinions.
15. With its international nightlife and a multitude of languages spoken on its beaches, Martinique is a \_\_\_\_\_ island.