



Reading Comprehension

Word Roots

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Word Roots

Every speech language pathologist, teacher, and tutor understands how important a strong receptive lexicon is to comprehension of content, and learning common word roots is one of the best ways to expand vocabulary knowledge. Each of these two worksheets, along with answer keys, provides students with ten word roots, their definitions, and example words. Students must then define other example words contained within sentences, and come up with their own sentences containing either a provided or new word.

Name _____

Date _____

Word Roots

Roots: **act** **audio** **equi** **max** **mini**

Directions: Define roots, discuss sentence meanings, and add final sentences.

***act** means _____ (examples: action, active, actor)

- 1) It's time to activate the machine.
- 2) My cousin is a political activist.
- 3) Activism should always be for a noble cause.
- 4) The activation sequence has begun.
- 5) The gymnast actualized her dreams when she won the gold medal.
- 6) _____

***audio** means _____ (examples: audiobook, auditory)

- 1) The police audiotaped the interview.
- 2) My friend, the audio engineer, has worked with lots of musicians.
- 3) Speech language pathologists need to take a couple of audiology classes.
- 4) My sister has to go see an audiologist.
- 5) Your audiovisual presentation was very informative.
- 6) _____

***equi** means _____ (examples: equivalent, equator)

- 1) You can't equate money with happiness.
- 2) I want you to draw an equilateral triangle.
- 3) Women and minorities continue to fight for equality.
- 4) Do you feel like that solution is equitable for everyone involved?
- 5) When I got off the roller coaster I realized I had lost my equilibrium!
- 6) _____

***max** means _____ (examples: maximum, maximal)

- 1) Putting in extra effort will maximize your results.
- 2) When it comes to designing, he is a maximalist.
- 3) I love your flowing maxi dress.
- 4) _____

***mini** means _____ (examples: miniskirt, miniature)

- 1) Politicians are thinking of raising the minimum wage.
- 2) Don't minimize my feelings!
- 3) Sally loves her miniature poodle.
- 4) When it comes to packing for a vacation, I am a minimalist.
- 5) French restaurants are known for serving miniscule portions.
- 6) _____



Word Roots—Answer Key

Roots: **act** **audio** **equi** **max** **mini**

Directions: Define roots, discuss sentence meanings, and add final sentences.

***act** means to do (examples: action, active, actor)

- 1) It's time to activate the machine.
- 2) My cousin is a political activist.
- 3) Activism should always be for a noble cause.
- 4) The activation sequence has begun.
- 5) The gymnast actualized her dreams when she won the gold medal.
- 6) Gardening is a relaxing activity.

***audio** means sound (examples: audiobook, auditory)

- 1) The police audiotaped the interview.
- 2) My friend, the audio engineer, has worked with lots of musicians.
- 3) Speech language pathologists need to take a couple of audiology classes.
- 4) My sister has to go see an audiologist.
- 5) Your audiovisual presentation was very informative.
- 6) His whisper was barely audible.

***equi** means equal (examples: equivalent, equator)

- 1) You can't equate money with happiness.
- 2) I want you to draw an equilateral triangle.
- 3) Women and minorities continue to fight for equality.
- 4) Do you feel like that solution is equitable for everyone involved?
- 5) When I got off the roller coaster I realized I had lost my equilibrium!
- 6) My cousin's house is equidistant from my apartment and my job.

***max** means greatest (examples: maximum, maximal)

- 1) Putting in extra effort will maximize your results.
- 2) When it comes to designing, he is a maximalist.
- 3) I love your flowing maxi dress.
- 4) The cheetah is going at her maximum speed.

***mini** means small or less (examples: miniskirt, miniature)

- 1) Politicians are thinking of raising the minimum wage.
- 2) Don't minimize my feelings!
- 3) Sally loves her miniature poodle.
- 4) When it comes to packing for a vacation, I am a minimalist.
- 5) French restaurants are known for serving miniscule portions.
- 6) I'm getting bogged down by all the minutia.



Name _____

Date _____

Word Roots—2

Roots: **bene** **mal** **ject** **geo** **nov**

Directions: Define roots, discuss sentence meanings, and add final sentences.

***bene** means _____ (examples: beneficial, beneficiary)

- 1) Each beneficiary will receive \$100,000.
- 2) The teacher told us it would be beneficial if we completed the extra credit assignment.
- 3) The annual charity event benefits the homeless.
- 4) The generous benefactor donated his fortune to charity
- 5) The doctor announced that the tumor was benign with a sigh of relief.
- 6) _____

***mal** means _____ (examples: malignant, dismal)

- 1) The children I saw at the homeless shelter appeared malnourished.
- 2) His sense of failure turned him malevolent toward those who were successful.
- 3) She received the heartbreaking news that the tumor was malignant.
- 4) The dismal weather made me want to stay inside all day.
- 5) We don't always see eye to eye, but there's never any real malice between us.
- 6) _____

***ject** means _____ (examples: reject, eject)

- 1) The teacher rejected my offer to help her grade tests.
- 2) The computer ejected the disc.
- 3) At the doctor's office, the nurse injected me with insulin.
- 4) _____

***geo** means _____ (examples: geography, geology)

- 1) Hank the geologist hates when his wife Marie refers to his minerals as rocks.
- 2) The teacher provided insight into the ways geography has shaped cultures.
- 3) Geothermal power has been around for more than a century.
- 4) In geometry, I am currently learning about angles.
- 5) _____

***nov** means _____ (examples: renovate, novice)

- 1) It is hard to be the novice on the team.
- 2) My mom wanted to renovate our outdated kitchen.
- 3) The salesman had an innovative idea.
- 4) The novelty of my new car soon wore off.
- 5) _____



Word Roots—2—Answer Key

Roots: **bene** **mal** **ject** **geo** **nov**

Directions: Define roots, discuss sentence meanings, and add final sentences.

***bene** means good or well (examples: beneficial, beneficiary)

- 1) Each beneficiary will receive \$100,000.
- 2) The teacher told us it would be beneficial if we completed the extra credit assignment.
- 3) The annual charity event benefits the homeless.
- 4) The generous benefactor donated his fortune to charity
- 5) The doctor announced that the tumor was benign with a sigh of relief.
- 6) Kindness benefits both the receiver and the giver.

***mal** means bad (examples: malignant, dismal)

- 1) The children I saw at the homeless shelter appeared malnourished.
- 2) His sense of failure turned him malevolent toward those who were successful.
- 3) She received the heartbreaking news that the tumor was malignant.
- 4) The dismal weather made me want to stay inside all day.
- 5) We don't always see eye to eye, but there's never any real malice between us.
- 6) Mosquito nets significantly decrease the spread of malaria.

***ject** means throw (examples: reject, eject)

- 1) The teacher rejected my offer to help her grade tests.
- 2) The computer ejected the disc.
- 3) At the doctor's office, the nurse injected me with insulin.
- 4) She always needed to interject her opinions into the conversation.

***geo** means earth (examples: geography, geology)

- 1) Hank the geologist hates when his wife Marie refers to his minerals as rocks.
- 2) The teacher provided insight into the ways geography has shaped cultures.
- 3) Geothermal power has been around for more than a century.
- 4) In geometry, I am currently learning about angles.
- 5) My cousin is studying geophysics.

***nov** means new (examples: renovate, novice)

- 1) It is hard to be the novice on the team.
- 2) My mom wanted to renovate our outdated kitchen.
- 3) The salesman had an innovative idea.
- 4) The novelty of my new car soon wore off.
- 5) Given time to think creatively, artists are better able to innovate.