



Root words from Foreign Languages and their use in English

What is a root word?

A root word is the most basic form of a word. In English grammar, a root is a word or portion of a word from which other words grow, usually through the addition of prefixes and suffixes. By learning root words, we can expand our vocabulary and become a better English speaker.

What is a root word?

Learning just one root word can help us understand several words in English. So, by learning just 20 or 30 root words, we can expand our English vocabulary to include hundreds of new words.

What is a root word?

A root can be any part of a word that carries meaning: the beginning, middle or end. Prefixes, bases, and suffixes are types of roots. The prefix appears at the beginning of a word, the base in the middle and the suffix at the end.

What is a root word?

Most English root words came from the Greek and Latin languages. The root of the word "vocabulary," for example, is *voc*, a Latin root meaning "word" or "name." This root also appears in such words as "advocacy," "convocation," "vocal".

Latin root words

Root	Meaning	Examples
ab	to move away	abstract, abstain
duc	lead, make	deduce, produce, educate
audi	hear	audible, audience, auditorium
bene	good	benefit, benign, benefactor
brev	short	abbreviate, brief
circ	round	circus, circulate
dict	say	dictate, edict, dictionary

Latin root words

Root	Meaning	Examples
fund	bottom	founder, foundation, funding
gen	to birth	gene, generate, generous
lev	to lift	levitate, elevate, leverage
log, logue	thought	logic, apologize, analogy
luc, lum	light	lucid, illuminate, translucent
manu	hand	manual, manicure, manipulate
mis, mit	send	missile, transmit, permit

Greek root words

Root	Meaning	Examples
anti	against	antibacterial, antidote, antithesis
ast(er)	star	asteroid, astronomy, astronaut
aqu	water	aquarium, aquatic, aqualung
auto	self	automatic, automate, autobiograph
biblio	book	bibliography, bibliophile
bio	life	biography, biology, biodegradable
chrono	time	chronic, synchronize, chronicle

Greek root words

Root	Meaning	Examples
doc	teach	document, docile, doctrinal
dyna	power	dynasty, dynamic, dynamite
geo	earth	geography, geology, geometry
graph	write	autograph, graphic, demographic
hydr	water	dehydrate, hydrant, hydropower
kinesis	movement	kinetic, photokinesis
logos	word, study	astrology, biology, theologian

Exercise: Find the root word. Take away the suffix to find the root word

- Useless –use (solved example)
- Movement
- Slowly
- Entrepreneurship
- Cafeteria
- Attachment
- Magician
- Direction
- Colorful

Thank You....

