



# ROOT WORDS

Word	Meaning	Examples
<b>A</b>		
A	On	ashore-on the shore, afire-on fire
a/an	not, without	abyss-without bottom, achromatic-without color
ab/a	from, away, off	aversion-to run away from, abhor-to hate or detest
Ac	bitter, sharp	acid-unpleasantly sharp or bitter, acrimony-bitter animosity
ac, ad	to, toward, near	accessible- easily approached, admittance-allowed into
acro	top, height, tip	acrophobia-fear of height, acronym-a word formed from first letters of words
aer/aero	Air	aerate-to let air reach, aerospace-the air space
alg, algo	Pain	analgesic-a painkiller
ambi/amphi	both sides, around	ambiguous-having more than one meaning, ambivalence-conflicting or opposite feelings
ambul	walk, move	amble-to walk in slow, relaxed steps
ami, amo	Love	amiable-friendly and lovable, enamored-inflamed with love
andr	Male	android-resembles a human, misandry-hatred towards men
anim	life, spirit	animate-to make alive, equanimity-of balanced spirit
ann, enn	Year	anniversary-a date observed once in an year, millenium-1000 years
ante	before, in front	antecede-to come before something in time, ante meridian-before noon
antho	flower	anthography-description of flowers
anthrop	human	anthropology-study of mankind, philanthropy-love to mankind
anti	against, opposite of	antipathy-hatred
Apt	Skill	aptitude-natural ability to do something, adapt-become adjusted to new conditions
aqua	water	aquatic-related to water
arbor	Tree	arborist-someone working with trees
arch	chief, most important	monarch-king or queen
archa, archae, archi	ancient	archaic-ancient
arthr, arthro	Joint	arthritis-inflammation of joints
astro, aster	stars, outer space	astronaut-a person travelling to the stars
auto	self, same, one	autocrat-a person who governs with absolute power
Avia	Bird	aviation-the art of designing or operating aircraft
<b>B</b>		
baro	pressure, weight	Barometer-an instrument to measure pressure
bell, belli	War	bellicose-warlike, belligerent-hostile and ready to fight
bene	good, well	benefactor-person who gives money for a cause, benevolent-showing kindness or goodwill

Bi	Twice, in every two	bilateral-involving two sides
bibli	book	bibliophile-a person who loves books
Bio	Life	Biology-study of life
brev	short	brevity-concise and exact use of words in writing or speech

## C

Cap	take, seize	captivate-attract and hold the attention of
cardio	heart	Cardiologist- a doctor who treats heart diseases
carn	flesh, meat	incarnate- given bodily form
cata	down, intensive, against completely	cataclysm-a flood or other disaster, catastrophe- turning for the worst
caust, caut	to burn	caustic-capable of burning or eating away
cede, cede, cess	go, yield	recede-to go back, accede-agree to a demand or request, accessible-easily entered
cephal	Head, brain	encephalitis-inflammation of the brain
cerebr	Brain	cerebrate-to use the brain
cert	sure	certify-to state something as true, ascertain-to find out something with certainty
chrom, chromat	color, pigment	achromatic-without color
chron, chrono	time	chronological-arranging events in time
cide, cise	cut, kill	regicide-killing of a king, concise-giving information clearly in few words
circum	around, about	circumference-boundary of a circle
clar	clear	clarify-to make something clear
Co	with, together, joint	co-educational-involving both girls and boys
Cog	to know	cognition-process of acquiring knowledge, incognito-disguised so as no one knows you
Col	together, jointly	collaborate-work together
com	together, common	commune-living together while owning things in common
contra, contro	against, opposite	contrary-not in agreement
corp, corpo	body	corpse-dead body
cosmo	universe	cosmos-universe
cred	believe	credence-belief that something is true or valid, credulous-believing things too easily
crypto	hidden, secret	cryptic-of hidden meaning
culp	guilt	culpable-deserving blame
cumul	mass, heap	accumulate-to gather up
cycl	circle, ring	Cyclic-having a cycle

## D

De	reduce, away, remove	dethrone-to remove from power, debug-to remove bugs
Dei	God	deify-worship or regard as god
dem, demo	People	demography-the study of people
derm	Skin	dermal-related to skin
Di	two, twice	dilemma-a situation that requires choice between two alternatives
di, dis	apart, away	digression-departure from the main issue

dict	Speak	diction-speech
Dol	suffer, pain	dolorous-full of pain or sorrow, indolence-state of being lazy or slothful
domin	Master	domineering-excessively controlling
don	Give	pardon-to forgive
Dox	belief, opinion	heterodox-not confirming to accepted standards
Dur	harden, to last, lasting	enduring-able to last
Dyn	power, energy, strength	dynamic-having power
Dys	abnormal, bad	dyslexia-impairment of the ability to handle words

## E

Ego	Self	egoistic-self-centered, egomania-excessive preoccupation with oneself
endo	within, inside	endotherm-a creature that can keep its internal body temperature fairly constant
erg, ergo	Work	ergonomics-study of the working environment
ethno	race, people	ethnicity-pertaining to a group of people
Eu	good, well, true	euphoria-feeling of well-being, eulogy-speech in praise of someone
extra	outside, beyond	extradite-to hand over an accused to the state where crime was committed

## F

Fac	make, do	benefactor-a person who gives money for a cause
Fer	bear, bring, carry	confer-to bring an honor to someone
Fid	Faith	confide-place trust in someone, fidelity-faithfulness
flect	Bend	flexible-easily bent
fore	in front of, previous, earlier	fore-bearer-ancestor, forebode-to give an advance warning about something bad
fract, frag	Break	fragile-easy to break
Fug	flee, run away, escape	fugitive-a person who is running away
funct	perform, work	defunct-no longer working

## G

gam	Marriage	Polygamy-practice of keeping multiple wives
gastr, gastro	Stomach	Gastric- related to stomach
gene, genesis	birth, production, formation	congenital-existing from birth
Geo	earth, soil, global	Geography-study of earth's landmasses
Ger	old age	geriatrics-medicine pertaining to the elderly
graph	Graph	Graph-a pictorial representation of data
grat	Pleasing	gratify-to please someone, gratuity-a token of appreciation, ingratiate-to bring oneself in the favor of others by deliberate efforts
gress, grad	to step, to go	digression-departure from the main issue, gradual-step by step
Gyn	female	gynophobia-fear of females

# H

helio	sun	Helios-related to sun
hem, haem	blood	hemorrhage-clotting of blood
hepa	liver	Hepatitis-disease of the liver
herbi	plant	Herbivores-animals who feed on plants
hetero	different, other	Heterodox-having opinions different from others
Hex	six	Hexagon-six sided polygon
homo	alike, same	homonym-sounding alike
hydr, hydro	liquid, water	Hydrophobia-fear of water
hygr, hygro	moisture, humidity	hygrometer-tool used to measure humidity
hyper	too much, over	hyperactive-very restless, hypercritical-too critical
hypo	under	hypothermia-abnormally low body temperature

# I

Idio	peculiar, personal, distinct	idiomatic-peculiar to a particular language, idio-syncrasy-a physical or mental characteristic typical of a specific person
infra	beneath, below	infrastructure-underlying framework of a system
inter	between, among, jointly	Intermission-break in between
intra, intro	within, inside	Intra-among different organizations
Iso	equal	isometric-having equality of measure

# J

ject	throw	interject-to throw a remark into a discussion
Jud	law	judgement-a decision by court
juven	young	juvenile-a young person, rejuvenate-to be full of youth and energy

# K

klept	steal	kleptomaniac-a person who is habitual of stealing
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# L

lact	milk	lactic-related to milk
leuk, leuc	white, colorless	leukemia-disease of the blood
Lex	word, law, reading	alexia-loss of ability to read
liber	free	libertine-a person with free wild lifestyle
lingu	language, tongue	linguist-one who studies many languages
lip, lipo	throw	liposuction-mechanical removal of fat reserves in the tissues
Log	word	epilogue-speech at the end of a book or play
loqu, locu	speak	eloquent-speaking beautifully or forcefully, elocution-art of public speaking, loquacious-very talkative, grandiloquent-pompous or inflated in language
luc, lumin	light	elucidate-to explain, illuminate-to fill with light

# M

macro, magma, magni	large, great	magnificent-grand
Mal	bad, ill	malicious-showing strong ill will, malevolence-ill will, malediction-a curse malign-to speak ill about someone, maladroitness-clumsy and tactless
mand	to order	mandate-an official order
mania	madness, excessive desire	egomania-a mad love of oneself
manu	hand	maneuver-to move by hand, manuscript-a book written by hands
mari	sea	Marine-related to sea
mater	mother	maternal-related to mother
mega	great, large	megalopolis-an area with many nearby cities
melan	black	melancholy-a state of dark emotions
meta	change, after, beyond	Metamorphosis-transformation
meter	measure	Meter-SI unit of length
micro	very small, short, minute	Microbes-very small organisms
mis, miso	bad, wrong, to hate	misnomer-an error in naming a person or thing
miss, mit	send, let go	dismiss-to send someone away, emit-to send something out
mob	move	mobility-the quality of being able to move
mon	warn	premonition-a strong feeling that something bad is about to happen, admonition-a firm warning or reprimand
mono	one, single, alone	monologue-a speech given by one person
morph	form	amorphous-without distinct shape or form
mort, mor	death	morbid-gruesome and grisly, moribund-decaying
mot, mov	move	promote-to move someone forward
mut	change	mutate-to undergo a change, immutable-not changing

# N

narr	Tell	narrative- to tell a story
Nat	Born	innate-included since birth, natal-relating to birth
Nav	Ship	Navigate-to guide over a specified route
necro	dead, death	necrophilia-loving death
Neo	new, recent	neoclassic-a revival of classic form
nephro	Kidney	Nephrology-study of kidneys
neuro	Nerve	Neurology-study of nerves and brain
nom, nomin	Name	being something in name only and not in reality
noun, nunc	declare	denounce-to proclaim harsh criticism, enunciate-to speak or declare something
noct	Night	nocturnal-one who stays awake at night
Nov	New	novelty-something new, novice-a person who is new at a job
nym	name, word	pseudonym-a false name used especially by an author

# O

ob, op	in the way, against	obscure-hard to understand, obfuscate-confuse or darken, obstreperous-noisily defiant
Oct	Eight	Octagon-eight sided polygon
Ocu	Eye	Ocular-related to vision
omni	All	omniscient-knowing all things, omnipresent-present everywhere
Opt	Best	optimal-the best, optimum-the best something could be
ortho	straight	Orthogonal-perpendicular
Oxy	Sharp	oxymoron-combining two ideas that sharply contradict each other

# P

paleo	ancient	Paleontology-study of fossils
Pan	all, any, everyone	panacea-a cure for all diseases, panorama-an all-round view
para	protection from	Parameter- aspects
path	feeling, emotion	empathy-identification with and understanding of another's feelings, apathy-a lack of feeling or interest, antipathy-a feeling of great dislike, sympathy-sharing someone's feelings
Ped	Foot	Pedestrian-one who walks on foot
Pel	drive, force	compel-to force someone to act, repel-to force back, expel-to drive someone out
pent	Five	Pentagon-five sided polygon
Per	through, throughout	perennial-lasting through many years
peri	around, enclosing	Perimeter-boundary
phil	love, friend	philatelist-one who collects stamps
phono, phony	Sound	cacophony-loud, unpleasant sounds
photo	Light	Photolysis-break down due to sunlight
pod	Foot	podium-a small platform to stand on
poly	more than one	polyglot-a person fluent in many languages
port	Carry	Transport-to carry something across
Pos	place, put	deposit-to place something
post	after, behind	posthumous-after someone's death
Pot	Power	potent-having great power, omnipotent-having unlimited power
Pre	earlier, before	Prepone-to hold an event before the decided day
Pro	before, in front of	prognosis-a prediction of what will happen
proto	primitive, first, chief	prototype-the first of its kind
pseudo	wrong, false	Pseudonym-a false name or identity
psych, psycho	mind, mental	psyche-the human spirit or soul
pugna	to fight	pugnacious-having a quarrelsome or aggressive nature
purge	clean	purge-remove anything undesirable, expurgate-remove objectionable passages from a publication
pulchr-	beautiful	pulchritude-beauty
Put	think	compute-calculate

pyro	fire, heat	Pyrometer-instrument to measure heat
Q		
quad	four	quadrilateral-a polygon of four sides
quer, quis	ask	query-question, inquisition-a period of prolonged and intensive questioning
R		
rad-, ras-	scrape, shave	abrasion-process of scraping or wearing something away
Reg	guide, rule	regime-a rule by the king
retro	backward, back	retrogress-to go back to an earlier condition, retrospect-the remembering of past events
rhino	nose	Rhinovirus-virus causing cold
Rid	laugh	deride-to make fun of someone, ridicule-to make fun or mock, ridiculous-silly that causes laughter
rupt	break, burst	interrupt-to break into a conversation, rupture-a break in something
Rur	country	rural-village
S		
San	health	sane-mentally healthy
Sci	know	prescient-ability to perceive events before they occur
scope	see, examine, observe	Microscope- an instrument to examine microbes
sect	cut	dissect-to cut apart piece by piece
serve	save, keep	Service-to provide help
Sol	alone	desolate-lonely and dismal, soliloquy-the act of speaking to oneself
somn	sleep	somnolent-feeling sleepy, somnambulist-sleep walker, somniloquy-talking in one's sleep
Son	sound	Sonorous-related to sound
spect	see, look	retrospective-a looking back at past things
stell	star	interstellar-between the stars
struct	build	construct-to build
suav	sweet	suave-charming, confident and elegant
Sub	inferior to	substandard-inferior to accepted standard
sum	highest	summit-the highest point of something
surd-	deaf	absurd-atypical
surg	rise	resurgent-reviving after a period of time
sy-	with	sync-along with
T		
tact, tang	touch	tactile-relating to the sense of touch, tangible-able to be touched
tard	slow	tardy-slow in action or response or sluggish
tax, taxo	arrangement	syntax-the systematic arrangement of words
tele	far, distant	Telephone-call distant
temp	time	contemporary-existing at the same time

ten-	hold onto something firmly	tenacious-holding onto something firmly
tep-	be warm	tepid-warm
term	end, limit	determine-to find out something at the end of investigation, exterminate-to destroy or get rid of completely
terr	land, earth	Terrain-earth landmass
tetra	four	Tetrahedron-a pyramidal shape with four faces
than	death	euthanasia-practice of intentionally ending a life to relieve pain and suffering
the, theo	god	monotheism-belief in one god, theology-the study of nature of god and religious beliefs
therm	heat	Thermal-related to heat
tim-	fearful	timid-fearful
tort	twist	distort-to alter the shape, contortion-a twisted shape or position
Tox	poison	detox-removing poison
tract	pull, drag	intractable-stubborn
trans	across, beyond, through	Transport-travelling across
Tri	once in every three	Trimester-three months

## U

ultra	beyond, extreme, more than	ultrahigh-extremely high
Un	opposite of	unabridged-not shortened
Uni	one, single	unilateral-decided by only one group
Urb	city	urbane-showing high sense of refinement

## V

Vac	empty	vacant-empty, vacuous-lacking intelligence
vad-, vas-	go	evade-to hide from something, pervasive-present everywhere
vap-	lack of	vapid-offering nothing that is challenging
Vel	veil	revelation-a fact disclosed to others
ven, vent	come	intervene-to come between, circumvent-to bypass restrictions
vener	respectful	venerate-regard with great respect
Ver	truth	veracious-truthful and honest, aver-to say that something is certainly true
verb	word	verbalize-to put into words
vers, vert	turn	introvert-being turned towards the inside
Vic	to change	vicissitude-an unpleasant change of circumstances or fortune
vice	next in rank, acting in place of	Vice-president – next to president
vince, vic	conquer	invincible-not able to be conquered
Vir	green	virid- bright greenish
viv, vit	live, life	vivacious-high spirited and full of life, vivid-lively
Voc	voice, call	equivocate-to use misleading language to generate confusion, vocalize-to produce with your voice



Vol	wish, will	benevolent-showing goodwill and kindness, volition-the act of making a choice or decision
vor, vour	eat	voracious-desiring or eating food in great amounts

## X

xanth	yellow	xanthanoids-yellow pigments in leaves
xeno	foreign	xenophile-attracted to foreigners
Xer	dry	Xerography
xiph	sword	xiphoid- sword shaped
Xyl	wood	xylem-vascular tissue in plants

## Z

Zoo	animal	Zoology-study of animals
Zon	belt, girdle	zone-area
Zyg	yoke	zygote-human cell
Zym	ferment	enzyme-chemicals produced in body by endocrine glands