

Name: _____

Greek Roots

Root words are parts of words that have meaning but are not usually words by themselves. They need affixes, other roots, or both to make a full word.

Many English words have roots that come from Greek or Latin. Recognizing root words can help you spell words correctly and guess the meaning of unknown words.

The table below lists some common Greek roots and their meanings.

Root	Meaning
<i>arch</i>	ruler; chief
<i>aster/astr</i>	star
<i>bio</i>	life
<i>chron</i>	time
<i>cosm</i>	world; universe
<i>crit/cris</i>	judge; separate
<i>cycl</i>	circle
<i>dem</i>	people
<i>derm</i>	skin
<i>gen</i>	birth; produce
<i>geo</i>	earth
<i>gram/graph</i>	write; draw
<i>heter/hetero</i>	different; other
<i>hom/homo</i>	same
<i>hydr</i>	water
<i>logo</i>	word; reason
<i>logy</i>	study
<i>meg</i>	great; large
<i>meter/mettr</i>	measure

Root	Meaning
<i>micro</i>	small
<i>naut</i>	ship; sailor
<i>pan</i>	all
<i>path</i>	feeling; disease
<i>phil/phile</i>	love; friendship
<i>phob</i>	fear
<i>phon</i>	sound
<i>phos/phot</i>	light
<i>poli</i>	city
<i>prot</i>	first; original
<i>psych</i>	mind; spirit
<i>scept/scop</i>	to see; observe
<i>syn/sym/sys</i>	with; together
<i>techn</i>	skill; art; build
<i>tele</i>	far; distant
<i>theos</i>	god
<i>therm</i>	heat
<i>top</i>	place; location
<i>zo</i>	animal

Can you identify the Greek parts of these words? Which words do you know? Guess the meaning of the ones you don't—and confirm with a dictionary!

hydrophobia astronaut zoology telescope synchronous
megaphone biogenesis microcosm homologous

