

ROOTS

Building your vocabulary is one of the most important things you can do to succeed in academic reading, writing, and test taking. One good way is to become familiar with common English roots, because breaking an unfamiliar word into parts can sometimes help you guess its meaning.

English root words have often been adapted from other languages like Greek, Latin, and French.

Prefix	Meaning	Example
agri	field, farming	agribusiness, agriculture
anthrop	man, humankind	anthropology, misanthropic
andr	man, male	androgyny, android
anim	spirit	animated, equanimity
arch	rule, ruler, most important	archangel, monarchy
astr	star	astronaut, astronomy
aud	to hear	auditorium, auditory
auto	self	autobiography, autoimmune
bell, belli	war	belligerent, rebellion
burs	purse	bursar, reimburse
cardi	heart	cardiac, cardiology
cede	to go, to yield	cede, proceed, precede
cent	one hundred	century, percent
chrom	color	chromatic, polychrome
chron	time	chronicle, chronological
crat, cracy	rule	autocrat, plutocrat
cycle	circle, wheel	bicycle, cyclone
demos	people	demography, epidemic
derm	skin	dermatology, hypodermic
dox	opinion, praise	orthodox, doxology
duc, duct	to lead	aqueduct, deduce, reduce
dura	hard, lasting	durable, duration, endure
dynam	power	dynamite, thermodynamic
endo	inside	endocrine, endogamy
ergo	work	energy, ergonomic
fac	to do, to make	artifact, manufacture
fall, fals	to deceive	fallacy, false
fid, fide	faith, trust	confident, fidelity
fort	strength	fortify, fortress
Prefix	Meaning	Example

fract, frag	to break	fraction, fragment, refracted
gam	marriage	bigamous, exogamy
gen, geno, gene	birth, kind	genetic, genotype
graph	writing	autograph, orthography
gyn	female	gynecology, misogyny
hydro	water	dehydrate, hydraulic
hypno	sleep	hypnotic, hypnotherapy
ject	to throw	eject, project
join, junct	to connect	conjunction, adjoin
jud	judge	judicatory, prejudicial
lab	work	collaborate, laboratory
leg	law	illegitimate, legislate
log, logo, logy	speech, study	biology, dialogue, epilogue
miss, mit	to send	emit, manumission
morph	form, shape	amorphous, metamorphosis
mort	death	mortician, mortal
onym	name	anonymous, synonym
phil	to love	philosophy, bibliophile
port	to carry	import, portable
sci, scient	to know	conscience, omniscient
scrib, script	to write	describe, scribble
sec, sect	to cut	dissect, section
sent, sens	to feel	consent, sense, sensibility
spect	to look	spectacle, inspection
spir	to breathe	aspire, expiration
terra	earth	terrain, terrestrial
tech	art, science, skill	architect, technology
tract	to pull	retract, tractor
urb	city	suburb, urbane
vac	empty	evacuate, vacuum
ver	truth	aver, verdict, verity
vid, vis	to see	evidence, vista
vinc, vict	to conquer	invincible
viv	alive	revive, vitality, viviparous
voc	to call	provoke, revoke, vocation

Last Revised Fall 2016