

# Use Greek and Latin Roots

**How to use:** Print first for the main practice. Then use the device to repeat activities and save progress.

## LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- 1 Identify common Greek and Latin roots in unfamiliar words
- 2 Use root meanings to work out the meaning of new vocabulary
- 3 Build words by combining roots with prefixes and suffixes

## MINI LESSON

Many English words come from Greek and Latin roots. A root is the core part of a word that carries its basic meaning. When you know a root, you can often work out the meaning of many new words.

### Common Greek Roots

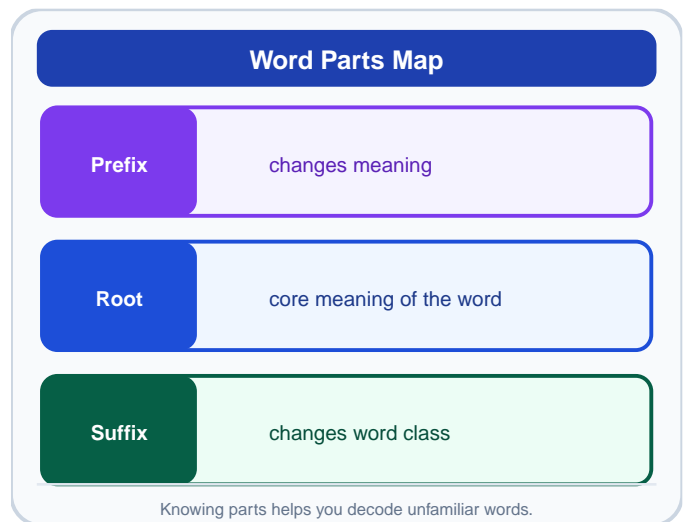
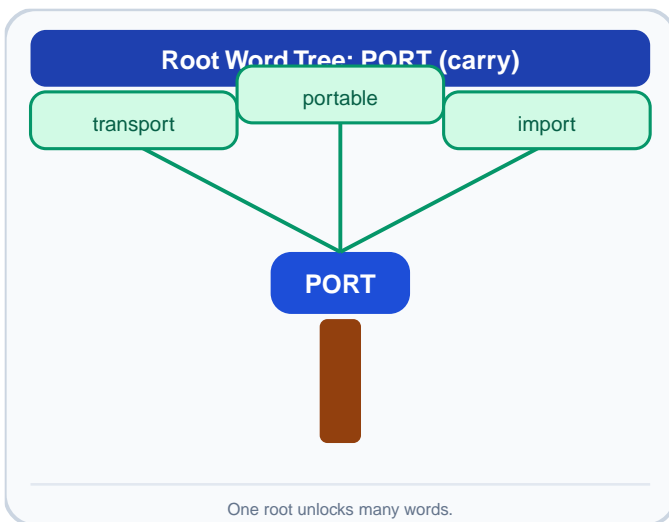
- graph (write) — biography, photograph, autograph
- phon (sound) — telephone, microphone, symphony
- bio (life) — biology, biography, antibiotic
- geo (earth) — geography, geology, geometry
- tele (far) — television, telescope, telephone

### Common Latin Roots

- port (carry) — transport, import, export, portable
- dict (say/tell) — dictionary, predict, verdict
- rupt (break) — interrupt, erupt, disrupt
- scribe/script (write) — describe, manuscript, inscription
- aud (hear) — audience, auditorium, audible

! When you spot a root you know, cover the prefix and suffix. The root in the middle often gives you the key meaning.

VOCABULARY	
<b>root</b>	The base part of a word that carries its main meaning. <i>e.g. The root "port" means carry, as in transport.</i>
<b>prefix</b>	A word part added to the beginning of a root that changes its meaning. <i>e.g. The prefix "un-" in "unhappy" means not.</i>
<b>suffix</b>	A word part added to the end of a root that changes its meaning or word class. <i>e.g. Adding "-ful" to "care" makes "careful".</i>
<b>Greek root</b>	A word part borrowed from ancient Greek. <i>e.g. "Bio" is a Greek root meaning life, as in biology.</i>
<b>Latin root</b>	A word part borrowed from Latin. <i>e.g. "Aqua" is a Latin root meaning water, as in aquarium.</i>
<b>word origin</b>	The language a word came from. <i>e.g. "Telephone" comes from Greek roots tele and phone.</i>



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MINI-BOOK  
**The Word Detective**

**PAGE 1**

Maya loved words. One day her teacher said, "Many English words carry hidden clues — their Greek and Latin roots. Learn the root and you can unlock hundreds of words."

1

**PAGE 2**

Maya found the root "port" in her reading book. Transport, import, export, portable — they all meant something to do with carrying! "The root is the key," she thought.

2

**PAGE 3**

Next she spotted "phon" — in telephone, microphone, and symphony. All about sound! Then "graph" appeared — photograph, biography, autograph. All about writing.

3

**PAGE 4**

By the end of the week Maya could unlock new words just by spotting their roots. "I am a word detective," she told her teacher. Her teacher smiled. "You certainly are."

4

~ **The End** ~

## EXERCISES — FILL IN THE BLANKS

Use the root meaning given to complete each word.

- The root graph means "write." A person who writes your life story writes a \_\_\_\_\_ graphy.  
The root phon means "sound." A device that carries sound to your ear is a telephone — fill in: tele \_\_\_\_\_ .
- \_\_\_\_\_ .
- The root port means "carry." Something easy to carry is \_\_\_\_\_ able.
- The root aud means "hear." People who listen to a performance are called an \_\_\_\_\_ ience.
- The root rupt means "break." When a volcano suddenly breaks open, it e \_\_\_\_\_ s.
- The root dict means "say." A book that tells you what words mean is a \_\_\_\_\_ ionary.
- The root bio means "life." The science of living things is called \_\_\_\_\_ logy.

8. The root geo means "earth." The study of the earth's surface is called \_\_\_\_\_ graphy.

"Flip the page upside down to see the answer key"

1. bio 2. phone 3. port 4. and 5. rupt 6. dict 7. bio 8. geo

### EXERCISES — MATCH THE PAIRS

Draw a line to match each root to its meaning.

1. graph

A. earth

2. phon

B. life

3. bio

C. sound

4. geo

D. write

5. port

E. hear

6. dict

F. break

7. rupt

G. say / tell

8. aud

H. carry

Write the matching letter next to each number (e.g. 1-B, 2-A, 3-C...).

1 — \_\_\_\_ 2 — \_\_\_\_ 3 — \_\_\_\_ 4 — \_\_\_\_ 5 — \_\_\_\_ 6 — \_\_\_\_ 7 — \_\_\_\_ 8 — \_\_\_\_

"Flip the page upside down to see the answer key"

1-D 2-C 3-B 4-A 5-H 6-G 7-F 8-E

### EXERCISES — MULTIPLE CHOICE

Circle the best answer.

1. What is a root in a word?

- A letter added to the start of a word
- The core part of a word that carries its basic meaning
- A punctuation mark used in writing

2. The root "phon" appears in all of the following EXCEPT:

- microphone
- symphony
- photograph

3. What does the Latin root "port" mean?

- Carry
- See
- Write

4. Using the root "aud" (hear), what does "audible" mean?

- Able to be seen
- Able to be heard
- Able to be felt

**5. Which word contains the Greek root "geo" (earth)?**

- geography
- biography
- telephone

**6. What does the root "rupt" mean in the word "interrupt"?**

- Write
- Carry
- Break

**7. Which word is built from the root "dict" (say/tell)?**

- predict
- transport
- microphone

**8. How does knowing a root help you as a reader?**

- It tells you how to spell every word correctly
- It helps you work out the meaning of unfamiliar words that share the same root
- It shows you which words come from other languages

*"Flip the page upside down to see the answer key"*

1. b 2. c 3. a 4. b 5. a 6. c 7. a 8. b

## ASSESSMENT

### PARENT / TEACHER CHECKLIST

- Identify the root and its meaning in at least four new words.
- Use a root to correctly build or complete at least six words in the fill-in exercise.
- Match all eight roots to their correct meanings.