

# Analyze 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 Analyze Greek and Latin roots in multi-syllable words
- 2 Combine roots with prefixes and suffixes to decode meaning
- 3 Distinguish between similar roots that share or differ in meaning
- 4 Apply root analysis to infer the meaning of unfamiliar academic vocabulary

## MINI LESSON

Most academic English vocabulary is built from Greek and Latin roots. A root carries the core meaning, while prefixes shift it and suffixes change its grammatical role. When you analyze a long word into its parts, you can often decode its meaning even if you have never seen the word before.

### Greek roots — building blocks of science and ideas

- graph (write / draw) — autograph, polygraph, seismograph, choreography
- phon (sound) — phonics, polyphonic, cacophony, megaphone
- bio (life) — biology, biome, antibiotic, symbiosis
- geo (earth) — geology, geothermal, geopolitics
- spect (look) — spectator, inspect, retrospect, perspective

### Latin roots — building blocks of action and law

- port (carry) — transport, deport, portable, rapport
- dict (say / tell) — predict, contradict, verdict, dictate
- rupt (break) — interrupt, erupt, disrupt, bankrupt
- aud (hear) — audience, auditorium, audible, audition
- scribe / script (write) — describe, transcript, manuscript, prescription
- vid / vis (see) — video, visible, evidence, supervise
- mit / miss (send) — transmit, dismiss, omit, admission

! When you meet a long word, peel it like an onion: take off the prefix, take off the suffix, and look at the root in the middle. The root almost always carries the central clue.

#### Worked example

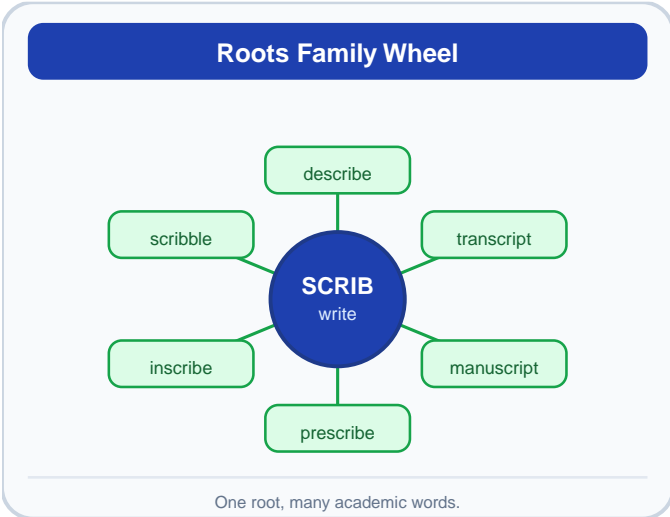
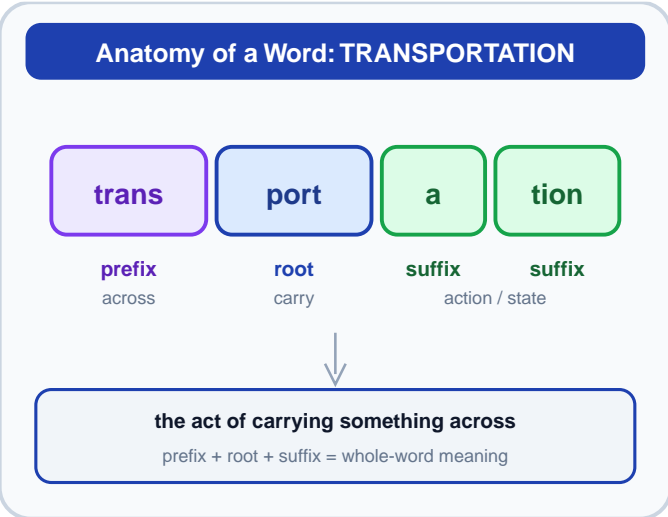
Take the word *spectator* and break it into its parts.

#### What does *spectator* literally mean?

"One who looks" — root *spect* (look) + suffix *-ator* (one who).

Now try the same method on *misanthrope*: *mis* (hate) + *anthrop* (human) = "one who hates humans."

VOCABULARY	
<b>root</b>	The base part of a word that carries its core meaning. <i>e.g. The Latin root "port" means carry, as in transport and portable.</i>
<b>prefix</b>	A word part attached to the beginning of a root that modifies its meaning. <i>e.g. The prefix "trans-" means across, as in transport.</i>
<b>suffix</b>	A word part attached to the end of a root that often signals its part of speech. <i>e.g. The suffix "-able" turns a verb into an adjective: portable.</i>
<b>morpheme</b>	The smallest unit of language that carries meaning. <i>e.g. "Un-", "happy", and "-ness" are three morphemes in unhappiness.</i>
<b>cognate</b>	A word that shares a root or origin with a word in another language. <i>e.g. "Familia" in Spanish is a cognate of "family" in English.</i>
<b>academic vocabulary</b>	Words used frequently in textbooks and formal writing. <i>e.g. "Hypothesis" and "analyze" are academic vocabulary.</i>



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## MINI-BOOK

## The Word Etymologist

## PAGE 1

Sofia's class had been given a single mystery word: "incorruptible." Most of her classmates groaned — five syllables, no idea where to start. But Sofia had a method. "Every long word is a sandwich," she whispered. "Prefix on the outside, root in the middle, suffix on the other side."

1

## PAGE 2

She began peeling. The "in-" at the front meant "not." The "-ible" at the end meant "able to be." That left "corrupt" sitting in the middle. Inside it she could see another root: "rupt" — meaning break. And "cor-" was a Latin form of "com-" meaning together or thoroughly. So corrupt literally meant "thoroughly broken."

2

## PAGE 3

Sofia put the parts back together: not + thoroughly broken + able to be. "Incorruptible" = "not able to be thoroughly broken." A person who is incorruptible cannot be bribed or weakened — their character will not break. Without ever opening a dictionary, she had unlocked the meaning by analyzing roots.

3

## PAGE 4

Her teacher smiled. "You are an etymologist now, Sofia — a word scientist." From that day on, every long word felt less scary. Whether it was "transcription," "geothermal," or "audiovisual," Sofia simply peeled prefix, root, and suffix and read the clues hidden inside.

4

~ The End ~

## EXERCISES — MATCH THE PAIRS

Draw a line to match each Greek or Latin root to its meaning.

1. graph

2. phon

3. bio

4. geo

5. port

6. dict

A. earth

B. life

C. sound

D. write / draw

E. hear

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 — FILL IN THE BLANKS

Use the root meaning given to complete each word.

- A scientist who studies living things — using the root bio (life) — works in the field of \_\_\_\_\_
- logy.
- A device that records earthquakes — using the root graph (write) — is called a seismo \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ .
- A handwritten document — using the root scrib/script (write) — is called a manu \_\_\_\_\_ .
- \_\_\_\_\_ .
- When two people argue against each other — using the root dict (say) — they contra \_\_\_\_\_
- one another.
- A camera that captures moving images — using the root vid/vis (see) — records \_\_\_\_\_ eo.
- \_\_\_\_\_ s.
- A signal sent from one tower to another — using the root mit/miss (send) — is trans \_\_\_\_\_
- ted.
- A person watching a game — using the root spect (look) — is called a \_\_\_\_\_ ator.
- \_\_\_\_\_ ator.

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

1. bio 2. graph 3. script 4. dict 5. vid 6. rupt 7. mit 8. spect

### EXERCISES — MULTIPLE CHOICE

Circle the best answer.

1. In the word "biography," which two roots combine, and what does the word literally mean?

- bio (life) + graph (write) — "life writing"
- bi (two) + graph (write) — "two writings"
- bio (life) + ography (story) — "life story"

2. Which word does NOT contain the root "spect" meaning "look"?

- spectator
- inspector
- specific

**3. A "polygraph" is a device that detects lies by recording physical signals. Using the roots, what does the word literally mean?**

- "Many writings" — poly (many) + graph (write)
- "Honest speech" — poly (truth) + graph (say)
- "One picture" — poly (one) + graph (image)

**5. You meet the new word "audiologist." Using roots, what is the BEST inference?**

- A specialist who studies hearing
- A specialist who studies the earth
- A specialist who writes books

**7. Why is knowing roots especially useful in Grade 5 reading?**

- It tells you exactly how to pronounce every word
- It lets you decode the meaning of long academic words you have never seen before
- It helps you spell words from memory without practice

**4. The roots "vid" and "vis" both mean "see." Which sentence uses a "vid/vis" word correctly?**

- The lawyer asked for the evidence — visible proof of what happened.
- The audience sat down to listen to the visible singer.
- She used a microphone to make her vision louder.

**6. Which set of words ALL share the same root meaning?**

- erupt, disrupt, bankrupt — all share "rupt" (break)
- audience, auditorium, audacious — all share "aud" (hear)
- transport, important, opportunity — all share "port" (carry)

**8. The word "transmission" combines which parts?**

- trans (across) + mit/miss (send) + -ion (act of) — "the act of sending across"
- trans (across) + miss (lost) + -ion (object) — "a lost object"
- trans (change) + mission (job) — "a changed job"

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

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

## ASSESSMENT

### PARENT / TEACHER CHECKLIST

- Match all eight Greek and Latin roots to their correct meanings.
- Use root meanings to correctly complete at least seven of eight sentences.
- Explain how breaking a long word into prefix + root + suffix helps you infer its meaning.
- Name two words that share the same root and explain how their meanings are connected.