



VOCABULARY

Root Words Lesson & Worksheet

Prefixes, suffixes and Greek/Latin origins with practice exercises

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Root Words: Building Blocks of Language

A root word is the most basic part of a word that carries its main meaning. Root words can stand alone or combine with prefixes and suffixes to create new words with related meanings.

Part 1: Understanding Root Words

What makes a root word? - Cannot be broken down further into smaller meaningful parts - Carries the core meaning of related words - Can combine with prefixes (beginning) and suffixes (ending)

Example:

Root: HELP

Word	Breakdown
help	root alone
helpful	root + suffix
unhelpful	prefix + root + suffix
helper	root + suffix

Part 2: Common Root Words and Their Meanings

Latin Roots

Root	Meaning	Example Words
port	carry	transport, portable, export
dict	say/speak	dictate, predict, dictionary
rupt	break	interrupt, disrupt, corrupt
scrib/script	write	describe, manuscript, scripture
struct	build	construct, instruct, structure
ject	throw	eject, project, reject
tract	pull/drag	attract, traction, extract
vis/vid	see	visible, video, vision

Greek Roots

Root	Meaning	Example Words
bio	life	biology, biography, biome



graph	write	autograph, photograph, graphic
phone	sound	telephone, microphone, phonics
tele	far	telescope, television, teleport
auto	self	automatic, autobiography, automobile
therm	heat	thermometer, thermal, thermostat
hydro	water	dehydrate, hydrant, hydroelectric
geo	earth	geography, geology, geometry

Part 3: How Root Words Work

Building Words with Roots

Root: STRUCT (build)

Word	Meaning
construct	build together
instruct	build knowledge in
destruct	break down what is built
structure	something that is built

Root: GRAPH (write)

Word	Meaning
photograph	writing with light
biography	writing about life
autograph	writing of oneself
graphic	relating to writing/drawing

WORKSHEET

Exercise 1: Identify the Root

Circle the root word in each word below and write its meaning.

1. portable - Root: _____ Meaning: _____

2. biography - Root: _____ Meaning: _____





3. predict - Root: _____ Meaning: _____
4. telephone - Root: _____ Meaning: _____
5. construct - Root: _____ Meaning: _____
6. visible - Root: _____ Meaning: _____
7. autograph - Root: _____ Meaning: _____
8. eject - Root: _____ Meaning: _____

Exercise 2: Match the Root to Its Meaning

Draw a line connecting each root to its correct meaning.

#	Root		Letter	Meaning
1	therm		A	say/speak
2	port		B	water
3	bio		C	carry
4	dict		D	heat
5	hydro		E	life

Exercise 3: Word Building

Use the root and the prefix or suffix to create a new word, then write its definition.

- 1 Root: GRAPH (write) + Prefix: AUTO (self) = _____ Definition: _____
- 2 Root: PORT (carry) + Suffix: -ABLE = _____ Definition: _____
- 3 Root: STRUCT (build) + Prefix: DE- (down/apart) = _____ Definition: _____
- 4 Root: VIS (see) + Prefix: IN- (not) = _____ Definition: _____
- 5 Root: JECT (throw) + Prefix: RE- (back) = _____ Definition: _____

Exercise 4: Word Family Tree

Choose ONE root word from the list and create a word family tree with at least 5 related words.

Roots to choose from: port, graph, bio, struct, dict

Exercise 5: Use Context Clues

Read each sentence and use your knowledge of root words to determine the meaning of the underlined word.

- 1 The hydroelectric plant uses water to generate power.

Meaning: _____

- 2 She used a thermometer to check if she had a fever.





Meaning: _____

3 The magician will eject the card from the deck.

Meaning: _____

4 Can you predict what will happen next in the story?

Meaning: _____

5 The autobiography tells the story of her own life.

Meaning: _____

Challenge Activity: Create Your Own Words!

Imagine you could invent new words using roots. Combine a root with a prefix or suffix to create a made-up word and give it a meaning.

Example: HYDRO (water) + -PHONE (sound) = HYDROPHONE (a device that listens to underwater sounds)
-- This is a real word!

Your turn: 1. Root combination: _____ = _____ Meaning:
_____ 2. Root combination: _____ = _____ Meaning:

ANSWER KEY

Exercise 1: 1. port (carry) 2. bio (life) 3. dict (say) 4. phone (sound) 5. struct (build) 6. vis (see) 7. graph (write) 8. ject (throw)

Exercise 2: 1-D 2-C 3-E 4-A 5-B

Exercise 3: 1. autograph (signature/self-writing) 2. portable (able to be carried) 3. destruct (to tear down/break apart) 4. invisible (cannot be seen) 5. reject (to throw back/refuse)

Exercise 5: 1. using water for electricity 2. device that measures heat/temperature 3. to throw out 4. to say what will happen before it does 5. story of one's own life written by oneself