

# Roots

*The following is a list of some of the most important roots of English words.*

ROOT	MEANING	SAMPLE WORDS
ACRO	height, high, tip, end	acrophobia, acrobat, acronym, acropolis
AGR	field, land	agriculture, agrarian, agronomy, peregrinator
ALG, ALGOS	pain	nostalgia, analgesic, neuralgia, cardialgia
ALI	another	alias, alien, unalienable, alienate
ALT	tall, high	altitude, alto, altimeter, exalt
ALTER, ALTR	other	alternate, alternative, alter ego, altruism
AMA, AMI	love	amateur, amiable, amicable, amorous
AMBUL	walk	amble, ambulatory, somnambulist, perambulator
ANGLE, ANGUL	corner	angle, rectangle, quadrangle, triangular
ANNUS	year	anniversary, annual, biannual, annuity
ANTHROPO	man, humankind	anthropology, misanthrope, philanthropist, anthropopathism
AQUA	water	aquarium, aquatic, aquamarine, aqueduct
ARCH	chief	architect, monarch, archbishop, hierarchy
ARCH, ARCHE	ancient, first	archaeology, archaic, archive, archetype
ARM	weapon	armor, armory, armistice, armada
ASTER, ASTRO	star	asterisk, disaster, astronomy, astronaut
ATHL, ATHION	prize, contest	athlete, athletic, decathlon, pentathlon
AUD	hear	auditorium, audience, audition, audible
AUTO	self	autobiography, autocracy, autonomy, autograph
AVI	bird	aviator, aviary, aviculture, avicide
BARO	weight	barometer, barograph, baroscope, isobar
BELLI	war	belligerent, bellicose, post-bellum, ante-bellum
BENE	good, well	benediction, benefit, beneficiary
BIBL	book	Bible, Biblical, bibliography, bibliophile
BIO	life	biology, biography, biopsy, antibiotic
BREV	short	brevity, breviary, abbreviate, breve
BRONCH	windpipe	bronchitis, bronchial, bronchotomy, bronchopneumonia
BURSA	bag, purse	bursar, bursitis, reimburse, disburse
CAMERA	vault, chamber	bicameral, camera, unicameral, cameral
CAND	glow, white, pure	candle, candidate, candelabra, incandescent
CANT	song	canto, incantation, canticle, cantor
CAP	head	cap, captain, capital (city), decapitate
CAPT	take, receive	capture, captivity, captivate, captor
CARDI	heart	electrocardiogram, cardiac, cardiograph, cardiectomy
CARN	flesh	chili con carne, incarnation, carnivorous, carnal
CAV	hollow	cave, cavern, concave, excavate
CED, CEED	go, yield	precede, recede, accede, antecedent
CENS	judge	ensor, censorship, census, censure
CEPT	take, receive, catch	reception, conception, accept, receptive
CHOREIA, CHORUS	dancing	choreography, chorus, chorister, Terpsichore
CHRON	time	anachronism, chronicle, chronic, chronological
CIDE	kill	suicide, fratricide, herbicide, genocide
CIRC	ring, around	circle, circus, circuitous, circuit
CIV	citizen	civilization, civil, civility, civic
CLAIM	shout	acclaim, exclaim, declaim, proclaim
CLAM	shout	exclamation, proclamation, acclamation, clamor
CLAR	clear	clarify, declarative, declaration, clarity

ROOT	MEANING	SAMPLE WORDS
CLASS	class, group	classify, classical, classic, declassify
CLIN	lean	declination, decline, recline, incline
CLUD	shut	include, preclude, exclude, seclude
CLUS	shut	conclusive, exclusive, seclusion, inclusion
COGN	know	recognize, cognitive, cognizant, incognito
COLO, CULT	cultivate, settle	colony, agriculture, culture, cultivate
COMMUN	common	community, commune, communicate, communicable
CORNU	horn	unicorn, cornucopia, bicorn, cornet
CORP	body	corporation, corps, corpuscle, corpulent
COSM	order, universe	cosmopolitan, microcosm, cosmos, macrocosm
CRACY, CRAT	rule	aristocracy, democratic, bureaucrat, plutocrat
CRED	believe	creditor, credulous, credentials, credibility
CRIM	judge, accuse	crime, criminal, incriminate, discriminate
CRIT	separate, judge	critic, criticize, criterion, critical
CRYPT	secret	cryptic, crypt, cryptogram, cryptography
CULP	fault, blame	culpable, exculpate, culprit, inculcate
CUM	pile up	accumulate, cumulative, cumulate, cumulus
CUMB, CUB	lie, recline	incubate, incumbent, succumb, incumbency
CUR, COUR	run	course, courier, current, excursion
CUR	care	cure, manicure, accurate, curator
CYCL	ring, circle	bicycle, cyclic, cyclone, cyclist
DAT	give	data, postdate, mandate, antedate
DEB	owe	debt, indebted, debtor, debit
DECOR	proper, fitting	decoration, decor, indecorous, decorum
DEI	god	deity, deify, deiform, deism
DEMOS	people	democracy, epidemic, demography, demagogue
DENT	tooth	dentist, dental, dentifrice, trident
DERM	skin	hypodermic, dermatology, dermatitis, epidermis
DIA, DIE	day	diary, per diem, sine die, dismal
DIC, DICT	say	dictate, predict, verdict, contradict
DIGN	worth	dignity, dignitary, condign, dignify
DIV	separate	divide, divisor, divisive, dividend
DO	give	donate, donor, condone, donee
DOC	teach	doctor, doctrine, indoctrinate, documentary
DORM	sleep	dormitory, dormant, dormer, dormancy
DOXA	belief, praise	unorthodox heterodoxy, orthodoxy, paradox
DUC	lead	conduct, abduct, aqueduct, seduce
DUR	hard	durable, endurable, endure, duress
DYN	power	dynamite, dynamic, dynasty, dynamo
EGO	I	egotistic, ego, egocentric, egomania
EM, EMPT	buy, obtain	exempt, caveat emptor, redemption, preempt
EMIA, HEMIA	blood	anemia, leukemia, hemostat, hemorrhage
ENNI	year	biennial, centennial, perennial, bicentennial
EQU	equal, even, just	equality, equator, inequity, equation
ERG	work	energy, erg, energy, synergy
ERR	wander	err, error, erratic, erroneous
ESTH	feeling	esthetic, anesthetic, esthete, anesthetist
FAC	make, do	manufacture, factory, benefactor, facsimile
FALL, FALS	deceive	fallacy, infallible, falsify, false
FEMINA	woman	female, feminine, feminist, effeminate
FER	carry, bear	transfer, refer, infer, melliferous
FIC	do, make	efficient, beneficial, sufficient, proficient
FID	faith	confide, fidelity, infidel, bona fide
FILI	son, daughter	filial, affiliate, filicide, affiliation

ROOT	MEANING	SAMPLE WORDS
FIN	end	final, finite, infinite, finale
FIRM	steady	confirm, infirm, affirm, confirmation
FIX	fasten	suffix, affix, fixture, prefix
FLAM	blaze	flame, inflammable, flammable, flamboyant
FLECT	bend	reflect, reflector, deflect, inflection
FLEX	bend	reflex, flexible, flex, circumflex
FLOR	flower	flora, floral, efflorescent, florist
FLU	flow	fluid, fluent, influx, affluent
FOL	leaf	portfolio, foliage, folio, defoliate
FORM	shape	uniform, reform, formation, transform
FORT	strong	fort, fortify, fortification, fortitude
FRACT, FRAG	break	fraction, fracture, fragment, fragile
FRAT	brother	fraternity, fraternal, fraternize, fratricide
FRU	enjoy	fruit, fruitful, fructify, fruition
FUG	flee	fugitive, refuge, refugee, centrifugal
FUNCT	perform	functional, malfunction, defunct, dysfunction
FUS	pour	transfusion, fusion, diffuse, profuse
GAM	marriage	monogamy, bigamy, trigamy, polygamy
GEN	race, birth	generation, progeny, genetics, genocide
GEO	earth	geography, geology, apogee, perigee
GNOS	know	agnostic, diagnose, diagnostic, prognosticate
GON	angle	trigonometry, octagonal, polygon, pentagon
GRAD	step	degrade, graduation, gradation, retrograde
GRAM	letter, written	monogram, telegram, grammar, epigram
GRAN	grain	grain, granary, grange, granulated
GRAPH	write	autograph, paragraph, graphite, biography
GRAT	please, thank	grateful, congratulate, gratis, gratitude
GREG	herd	congregation, gregarious, aggregate, desegregate
GYN	woman	monogyny, polygyny, gynecologist, misogynist
HEDR	side, seat	polyhedron, tetrahedron, cathedral, ex cathedra
HELI	sun	helium, heliotrope, heliocentric, heliograph
HOM	man	homage, homo sapiens, homicide, hombre
HOMO	same	homogenized, homonym, homograph, homophone
HUM	earth, soil	humus, humiliate, exhume, inhume
HYDR	water	hydrant, hydrogen, hydrophobia, dehydrate
IATRIK, IATRO	healing art	pediatrician, psychiatric, geriatrics, podiatry
IDENT	same	identify, identical, identification, identity
IDIO	peculiar	idiot, idiom, idiomatic, idiosyncrasy
IGN	fire	ignite, ignition, igneous, ignitron
IMPERI	command	imperative, empire, emperor, imperious
INSUL	island	peninsula, insulate, insularity, insular
INTEG	whole untouched	integrity, integrate, integral, integer
IR	anger	irritate, irate, ire, irascible
IT	go	exit, initiate, obit
JECT	throw	project, inject, reject, eject
JOCUS	joke	joke, jocose, jocular, jocund
JOURN	daily	journal, journalism, journey, sojourn
JU, JUD	law, right	judge, judicial, judgment, judicious
JUNCT	join	junction, conjunction, juncture, adjunct
JUR	law, right	jury, perjury, jurisdiction, jurisprudence
JUS	law, right	just, justice, injustice, justification
LABOR	work	collaborate, laboratory, elaborate, laborious
LAPS	slip	elapse, relapse, lapse, collapse
LAT	side	lateral, unilateral, bilateral, quadrilateral

ROOT	MEANING	SAMPLE WORDS
LECT	gather, choose	collect, elect, select, electoral
LECT, LEG	read	lectern, legend, legible, illegible
LEG	law, contract	legal, delegate, legitimate, legislate
LEV	raise, lift	elevator, leverage, lever, levee
LIBER	free	liberty, liberate, libertarian, liberal
LIBR	book	library, librarian, librettist, libretto
LINGU	tongue	lingual, linguistics, linguist, bilingual
LITERA	letter	literature, literary, illiterate, literal
LITH	stone	monolith, paleolithic, neolithic, lithograph
LOC	place	local, location, dislocate, localize
LOCU	speak	locution, elocution, circumlocution, interlocutor
LOG, LOGUE, LOGY	speech	dialogue, prologue, epilogue, eulogy
LOP	run, leap	elope, interloper, elopement, lope
LOQU	speak	eloquence, soliloquy, colloquial, loquacious
LU	wash	deluge, antediluvian, ablution, dilute
LUC	light	lucid, translucent, elucidate, Lucifer
LUD	play	interlude, prelude, postlude, ludicrous
LUNA	moon	lunar, lunatic, translunar
MAGNI	great	magnify, magnitude, magnanimity, magnificent
MAL	bad	malice, malady, malign, malignant
MAN	hand	manual, manuscript, manipulate, manicure
MAND	order	command, demand, mandatory, mandate
MARE	sea	marine, submarine, mariner, maritime
MATER, MATRI	mother, source	maternal, maternity, alma mater, matron
MED	middle	medium, mediate, medieval, mediocre
MEMORIA	memory	commemorate, memorize, memorandum, memorial
MENT	mind	mental, demented, mentality, memento
MERG	plunge, dip	merge, submerge, merger, emerge
METER	measure	diameter, barometer, altimeter, perimeter
METR	measure	metric, geometric, isometric, symmetrical
MIGR	move	migrate, emigrate, immigrant, migratory
MIL	soldier	militant, military, militia, militate
MIM	imitate	mimic, mimeograph, pantomime, mime
MISER	wretched, pity	miserable, miser, misery, commiserate
MISS	send, let go	mission, missionary, missive, missile
MNEM	memory	amnesia, mnemonic, amnesty, Mnemosyne
MOB	move	automobile, mobile, immobile, mobility
MON	advise, warn	admonish, monitor, admonition, premonition
MOR	custom	moral, morality, morals, mores
MORT	death	mortal, immortal, mortality, mortician
MOT	move	motion, motor, promote, demote
MOV	move	move, movable, remove, movie
MUT	change, exchange	mutual, commute, mutuality, mutation
NAT	born	native, nativity, natal, innate
NAUS, NAUT	ship	nausea, nautical, nautilus, aquanaut
NAV	ship	navy, navigate, naval, circumnavigate
NES	island	Indonesia, Polynesian, Micronesia, Dodecanese
NOM	law, arrangement	astronomy, economy, autonomy, taxonomy
NOMEN	name	nomenclature, denomination, nominative, nominate
NOV	new	novel, novelty, novice, innovate
NUMER	number	numeral, numerator, numerous, enumerate
OCUL	eye	ocular, oculist, binoculars, monocular
ONYM	name	antonym, synonym, homonym, acronym
OP, OPT	sight	myopic, optic, optometrist, optical

ROOT	MEANING	SAMPLE WORDS
ORARE	speak, pray	oral, oracle, orator, oratory
OSS, OSTEO	bone	ossify, osteopath, osteomyelitis, osteotomy
OV	egg	oval, ovum, ovary, oviparous
PAED, PED	child, teach	encyclopedia, pedantic, pedagogue, pediatrician
PAR	give birth	parent, parentage, biparous, viviparous
PAR	equal, compare	compare, comparable, parable, parity
PAST	shepherd	pastor, pastoral, pasture
PATER, PATR	father	paternal, patriarch, patriot, repatriation
PATH	feel, suffer	sympathy, empathy, pathos, antipathy
PED	foot	pedal, pedestrian, biped, centipede
PEL	drive	repel, dispel, expel, propel
PEN, PUN	punishment	penal, penitentiary, penalize, punitive
PEND, PENS	hang	pendulum, appendage, suspend, appendix
PETR	rock	petrify, petroleum, petrification, petrol
PHAG	eat	esophagus, dysphagia, sarcophagus, anthropophagi
PHIL	love	philharmonic, philosopher, philatelist, Philadelphia
PHOBOS	fear	Phobos, agoraphobia, claustrophobia, acrophobia
PHON	sound	phone, symphony, phonics, telephone
PHOR	to carry	euphoria, dysphoria, metaphor, semaphore
PHOTO	light	photocell, photosynthesis, photography, photostatic
PLAC	please	placate, placid, complacent, placebo
PNE	air, lung, breathe	pneumatic, pneumonia, apnea,
PD, PUS	foot	bipod, tripod, chiroprapist, octopus
POLI, POLIT	city	acropolis, metropolis, politics, politician
PORT	carry	transport, import, export, deport
PORTA	gate	port, seaport, portal, Puerto [Porto] Rico
POS	place, set	depose, deposit, preposition, apposition
PTER	wing, feather	helicopter, pterodactyl, pterosaur, lepidopterous
PULS	drive, push	repulse, expulsion, compulsory, propulsion
QUER, QUEST, QUIR	seek, ask	query, questionnaire, inquest, inquire
RECT	straight, right	correct, rectify, erect, rectangle
REFERRE	carry back	refer, reference, referendum, referent
REG, REGN	rule	regal, regime, regency, interregnum
RID, RIS	laugh	deride, ridiculous, ridicule, derision
ROD, ROS	gnaw	rodent, erode, corrode, erosion
ROGARE	ask, request	interrogate, interrogative, prerogative, abrogate
ROTA	wheel, round	rotate, rotary, rotunda, rotor
RUPT	to break	rupture, erupt, interrupt, disrupt
SACR	holy	sacrifice, sacrament, sacred, sacrilege
SAN	healthy, sound	sane, sanity, sanitation, sanitarium
SANCT	holy	sanctuary, sanctity, sanctify, sanctimonious
SAT, SATIS	enough	satiety, saturate, insatiable, satisfy
SAUR	lizard	dinosaur, tyrannosaurus, sauropod, brontosaurus
SCEND, SCEN	climb	descend, ascend, transcend, ascension
SCHOLE	leisure, school	school, scholastic, scholarship, scholar
SCI	know	science, conscious, scientific, omniscient
SCOPE	to watch	telescope, microscope, periscope, kaleidoscope
SCRIB, SCRIPT	write	describe, inscribe, manuscript, inscription
SEC, SECT	cut	dissect, bisect, insect, intersect
SED, SESS, SID	sit, settle	sedative, sedentary, session, preside
SEMIN	seed	seminary, disseminate, seminarian, seminar
SEN	old	senator, senior, seniority, senile
SENS, SENT	feel	sensitive, sensation, assent, dissent
SEPS, SEPT	decay	antiseptic, septic, aseptic, septicemia

ROOT	MEANING	SAMPLE WORDS
SEQU	follow	sequence, subsequent, sequel, consequently
SERV	save, keep	reservoir, reservation, preservation, conservation
SERVUS	slave, server	service, servitude, subservient, servile
SEXUS	division, sex	sex, sexual, sexism, bisexual
SIGNI	mark, sign	signify, signal, signature, insignia
SIMIL, SIMUL	like, same	similarity, simile, simultaneous, simulate
SOL	alone	solitude, solitary, desolate, soliloquy
SOLIDUS	solid	solid, solidarity, consolidate, solidify
SOLU, SOLV	loosen, free	soluble, dissolve, solvent, absolve
SOMN	sleep	insomnia, insomniac, somnambulist, somnolent
SON	sound	unison, sonorous, dissonant, subsonic
SOPH	wise	philosopher, sophisticated, sophomoric, sophistry
SPEC, SPECT	look	spectator, spectacular, spectacle, prospect
SPHER	ball, sphere	atmosphere, hemisphere, stratosphere, spherical
SPIR	breathe, live	conspirator, inspire, respiration, expire
SPOND, SPONS	answer	respond, respondent, correspondent, responsive
STA	stand	stationary, standard, stability, stagnant
STRU	build	construct, structure, instruct, structural
STUDEO	be eager	student, studious, study, studio
SURG, SURR	rise	surge, resurgence, resurrection, insurrection
SYLLABA	take together	syllable, syllabus, syllabify, syllabification
TABL, TABULA	board, tablet	table, tablet, entablature, tabular
FACT, TANG	touch	intact, tangent, tangible, intangible
TAIN, TEN	hold	attain, retain, detain, tenacious
TACT, TAX	to arrange, order	tactics, syntactical, syntax, taxidermist
TELE	distant	telephone, telegraph, telescope, television
TEMP	time, season	temporary, contemporary, temporal, extemporaneous
TEND, TENS, TENT	tend, stretch	extend, tendon, tensile, extent
TERRERE	to frighten	terrify, terror, terrorist, terrible
TESTARE	to witness	testify, testimony, testament, intestate
THANATOS	death	thanatophobia, thanatopsis, euthanasia, Thanatos
THE	god	theism, atheist, theology, monotheism
THERMO	heat	thermos, thermometer, thermal, thermostat
TOM	cut	appendectomy, tonsillectomy, neurectomy, anatomy
TOPOS	place, spot	topical, topography, utopia, topology
TORT	twist, turn	distort, extort, retort, torture
TOX	poison	toxin, antitoxin, toxic, intoxication
TRACT	pull, draw, drag	attract, tractor, distract, extract
TRUD	thrust	intrude, protrude, extrude, obtrude
TUITUS	watch over	tuition, tutorial, tutelage, tutor
TURB	whirling, turmoil	turbine, turbid, turbulent, perturb
ULTIMUS	last	antepenult, ultimate, penult, ultimatum
UMBER, UMBRA	shade, shadow	umbra, umbrella, adumbrate, penumbra
UNDA	wave	undulate, inundate, abundant, redundant
URB	city	urban, urbane, suburb, suburban
VACA, VACU	empty, hollow	vacate, vacant, vacuum, evacuate
VAD, VAS	go	invade, evade, pervade, evasive
VAG	wander	vagrant, vagrancy, vagabond, extravagant
VAL	strong, worth	valid, equivalent, invalid, valetudinarian
VAN	front, forward	vanguard, van, avant-garde, vantage point
VAPOR	steam	vapor, vaporous, vaporizer, evaporate
VARI	different, various	vary, variant, variety, variegated
VEN	come	convention, convent, intervention, convene
VEN	sale	vend, vendor, venal, caveat vendor

ROOT	MEANING	SAMPLE WORDS
VEN	vein	vein, venous, intravenous, venule
VER	true	verdict, verify, veracity, verification
VER, VERER	fear, awe	reverence, reverend, revere, irreverent
VERB	word	verb, adverb, proverb, verbatim
VERS, VERT	turn	reverse, inverse, divert, invert
VESPER	evening	vespers, Vesper, Hesperus, vespertilionid
VEST	clothing	vest, vestment, divest, investiture
VETER	old, experienced	vet, veteran, veterinary, veterinarian
VIA	way	viaduct, trivial, trivia, deviate
VICT	conquer	victory, evict, victorious, victor
VID	see	video, providence, evident, videotape
VIS	see	vision, visualize, visible, supervision
VIT	live	vitamin, vitality, vital, revitalize
VIV	live	survive, revive, vivid, vivacious
VOC, VOKE	call	vocal, vocabulary, avocation, evoke
VOL	wish, will	volunteer, benevolent, malevolent, involuntary
VOL, VOLV	roll, turn	revolt, revolve, evolve, revolver
VOR	eat	devour, voracious, carnivorous, herbivorous
XYLO	wood	
ZO	animal	zoo, zoologist, protozoan, zodiac