

Greek and Latin Terms

50 things you should know, and probably already do

Roots	Language	Meaning	Examples
aqua	Latin	water	aquarium, Aquaman, aquatic, aqua lung
astro	Latin	star	astronomy, astronaut, asteroid
bio	Latin	life	biology, bionic, biowarfare, biography
chron, chrono	Greek	time	synchronize, chronicle, anachronism, chronology
cycl, cyclo	Latin	cycle, circle	cyclone, bicycle, cyclical, cyclops, recycle
geo	Greek	earth, land	geology, geography, geodes, geothermal
graph	Greek	to write	biography, graphic, graphite, seismograph
hydro	Latin	water	hydrate, hydroelectric, hydrogen, hydraulic lift
litho	Greek/L	stone, rock	monolith, lithium, lithograph, lithosphere
luna	Latin	moon	lunar, lunatic, luna moth, Luna Lovegood
mar	Latin	sea	marine, maritime, marinate, maroon, marsh
morph	Greek/L	shape, form	metamorphic, Morpheus, morphine, morph
phon, phone	Greek	sound	telephone, phonics, microphone, cell phone
photo	Greek/L	light	photograph, photosynthesis, photon, photic
port	Latin	to carry	portable, teleport, transport, porter, portal
sci	Latin	to know	science, scintillating, conscious, discipline
scope	Latin	to see, purpose, aim	microscope, kaleidoscope, periscope
scrib, script	Latin	to write	scribble, scripture, describe, proscribe
sol	Latin	sun	solar, parasol, solarium, solstice
stella	Latin	star	constellation, stellar, interstellar
struct	Latin	draw, build	construct, instruct, structure, destruction
terra	Latin	earth, land	terrestrial, terrain, territory, terrace
therm	Greek	heat, temperature	thermal, thermometer, thermals, thermos
vid, vis	Latin	to see	vision, visible, video, advise, supervise, visit
vor, vore	Latin	to eat	carnivore, savor, flavor, voracious

Prefixes	Language	Meaning	Examples
a, an, ab	Latin/Gk	without, not	amoral, atheist, abiotic, abnormal, anonymous
anti	Latin/Gk	against	antibiotic, anti-theft, anti-smoking
bi / di	Latin/Gk	two	divide, binoculars, bicycle, dioxide,
com, co	Latin	with, together	communicate, cooperate, compare, co-worker
endo	Greek	inside, within	endoskeleton, endothermic, endorse, enter
ex, exo	Greek	outside, off	exoskeleton, exit, external, expel
hemi, semi, demi	Latin/Gk	half, part	hemisphere, semicircle, semiautomatic
hetero	Greek	other, different	heterosexual, heterogenous, heterodoxy, heterotroph
homo	Greek	same, similar	homogenize, homologous, homonym, <i>Homo sapiens</i>
hyper	Greek	over, above	hyperventilate, hyperactive, hyperextend, hyperbole
hypo	Greek	under, beneath	hypodermic, hypoallergenic, hypothermia
mega	Greek	large, million	megatron, megabyte, Megamind, megaphone
micro	Greek	small, millionth	microscope, microbiology, microchip, microphone
para	Greek	beside, beyond	parasite, paranormal, parallel, compare, paranoia
poly	Greek	many, excessive	polygon, polygamy, polyester, polygraph, polynomial
post	Latin	after	posterior, post-op, postdated, postponed, postscript
pre	Latin	before	prehistoric, pre-cut, preface, preheat, premature
re	Latin	again, back	reflect, resuscitate, re-read, repeat, retrain
strat	Latin	layered (blankets)	stratus clouds, stratified layers, strategy, substrate
sub	Latin	beneath, under, inferior	subway, submerge, subtract, subdivision, subdue
super	Latin	above, higher than	Superman, supersonic, supervise, superior, s. glue
tele	Greek	distant, far	telephone, telescope, television, teleport, telemetry
trans	Latin	across	transfer, transport, transcontinental, transmit, transact
tri	Greek	three	tricycle, tripod, triangle, triathlon, triceratops, trident
uni	Latin	one	unicycle, unicorn, unique, unicellular, unite, uniform