

# 3

## Using Prefixes and Suffixes

**W**hen you come across unfamiliar words without context, breaking those words into their parts can help you determine their meaning. This lesson reviews prefixes and suffixes and how you can use them to add new words to your vocabulary—and better understand words you already know. Before you begin learning and reviewing prefixes and suffixes, take a few minutes to take this ten-question *Benchmark Quiz*. These questions are similar to the type of questions that you will find on important tests. When you are finished, check the answer key carefully to assess your results. Your Benchmark Quiz analysis will help you determine how much time you need to spend on prefixes and suffixes as well as the specific words you need to learn in order to increase your vocabulary power. A complete list of the vocabulary words used in this lesson is provided at the end of this chapter.

### **BENCHMARK QUIZ**

Choose the best answer to each question using your knowledge of prefixes and suffixes.

1. *Antecedent* means:
  - a. fighting against.
  - b. looking after.
  - c. coming before.
  - d. under the authority of.
  - e. recent.
  
2. *Multifaceted* means:
  - a. two-faced.
  - b. many sided.
  - c. uniform.
  - d. cut into parts.
  - e. chaotic.
  
3. *Circumspect* means:
  - a. relating to the circus.
  - b. to examine thoroughly.
  - c. put forth in writing.
  - d. in an uncomfortable position.
  - e. looking around carefully.
  
4. *Consensus* means:
  - a. general agreement by a group.
  - b. an individual opinion.
  - c. a counting of individuals.
  - d. to issue a warning.
  - e. separate and dissimilar.
  
5. *Supercilious* means:
  - a. less than the norm, disappointing.
  - b. exactly as expected.
  - c. speaking in a measured, exact tone.
  - d. haughty, with an air of superiority.
  - e. achieving what one intended to achieve.
  
6. To *presage* means:
  - a. to warn in advance.
  - b. to send a message.
  - c. to pressure.
  - d. to age gracefully.
  - e. to be slow to realize.

7. *Dubious* means:
- a. one who doubts, a non-believer.
  - b. to doubt or question.
  - c. doubtful, questionable.
  - d. to be uncertain.
  - e. uncertainty, doubt.
8. *Agrarian* means:
- a. incapable of making a decision.
  - b. to cultivate.
  - c. to be out of date.
  - d. relating to land or land ownership.
  - e. the process of testing for impurities.
9. *Parity* means:
- a. to make equal in status, amount, or degree.
  - b. the state of being equal in status, amount, or degree.
  - c. one who is equal in status, amount, or degree.
  - d. the act of making someone or something equal in status, amount, or degree.
  - e. to cause to become equal in status, amount, or degree.
10. *Galvanize* means:
- a. to be active or aware.
  - b. the state of becoming active or aware.
  - c. one who becomes active or aware.
  - d. the act of making someone or something become active or aware.
  - e. to cause to become active or aware.

## BENCHMARK QUIZ SOLUTIONS

How did you do on remembering prefixes and suffixes? Check your answers here, and then analyze the results to figure out your plan of attack for mastering these topics.

### ► **Answers**

1. c. The prefix *ante-* means before. *Antecedent* means that which precedes; the thing, circumstance, or event that came before.

2. **b.** The prefix *multi-* means many. *Multifaceted* means having many facets or aspects; complex.
3. **e.** The prefix *circum-* means around, on all sides. *Circumspect* means cautious, wary, watchful.
4. **a.** The prefix *con-* means with, together. *Consensus* means general agreement or accord; an opinion or position reached by a group.
5. **d.** The prefix *super-* means above, over, or exceeding. *Supercilious* means with an air of superiority (as if one is above or better than another); haughty, scornful, disdainful.
6. **a.** The prefix *pre-* means before. To *presage* means to indicate or warn of in advance; to predict, foretell.
7. **c.** The adjective suffix *-ous* means having the quality of, relating to. *Dubious* means doubtful, questionable; fraught with uncertainty, wavering.
8. **d.** The adjective suffix *-ian* means one who is or does, related to. *Agrarian* means relating to or concerning land and its ownership or cultivation.
9. **b.** The noun suffix *-ity* means state of being. *Parity* means having equality in status, amount, value or degree; equivalence.
10. **e.** The verb suffix *-ize* means to cause, to bring about. To *galvanize* means to stimulate or rouse into awareness or action.

## BENCHMARK QUIZ RESULTS

If you answered 8–10 questions correctly, well done! You are already skilled at using prefixes and suffixes to determine meaning. Give the lesson a quick review and do the practice exercise. If your score on the practice test is equally high, move on to Chapter 4.

If you answered 4–7 questions correctly, you are familiar with some of the most common prefixes and suffixes and how to use them to determine meaning. But you need more practice to really sharpen this skill. Be sure to set aside some time to carefully review the complete list of common prefixes and suffixes located in Appendix A.

If you answered 1–3 questions correctly, perhaps it has been a while since

you reviewed prefixes and suffixes, or perhaps English is not your primary language. Study the lesson that follows carefully, and do the practice quiz on a separate sheet of paper so that you can do the exercise several times if necessary. Take extra time to learn the complete list of common prefixes and suffixes located in Appendix A.

### JUST IN TIME LESSON—PREFIXES AND SUFFIXES

A good knowledge of prefixes and suffixes is essential to building an effective vocabulary. The more familiar you are with these fundamental word parts, the easier it will be to determine the meaning of unfamiliar words.

There are dozens of prefixes and suffixes in the English language. The good news is that you probably already know a majority of them and use them every day without even thinking about it. This lesson will review some of the most common prefixes and suffixes so that you can use them to understand the meaning of new vocabulary words.

### IF ENGLISH IS NOT YOUR PRIMARY LANGUAGE

Learning prefixes and suffixes in another language may seem like a daunting task, but the job may be easier than you think. Though prefixes and suffixes often appear in books like this with sophisticated vocabulary words, you are already using the same prefixes and suffixes with simple words that you already know well. In the prefix and suffix lists, both in this chapter and in the appendix, everyday examples have been provided for you, rather than the kind of vocabulary words you are likely to see on an exam. This will help you more easily memorize the prefix and suffix meanings.

### PREFIXES

**Prefixes** are syllables attached to the beginning of words to change or add to the meaning of the root word in some way. For example, the word *prefix* itself uses the prefix *pre-*, meaning before. Thus the meaning of the root word, *fix*, changes:

*fix*: to place securely or firmly

*prefix*: something placed at the beginning of a word

Several of the vocabulary words you studied in Chapter 2 used prefixes, including *incontrovertible* and *inept*, which both use the prefix *in-*, meaning *not*—not disputable and not suitable or competent.

Knowledge of prefixes can help you in many ways as you build your vocabulary and as you take your exam. Although you can't determine meaning based on a prefix alone—you also need to know the root of the word—you *can* often use a prefix to determine whether a word is positive or negative, to eliminate incorrect answers, and to provide partial context for the meaning of the word. For example, take the word *polyglot*. If you know that the prefix *poly-* means many, you can eliminate all but the correct answer in the question below:

A *polyglot* is:

- a. someone who is an expert in global issues.
- b. someone who administers lie detector tests.
- c. someone who is easily frightened.
- d. someone who speaks many languages.
- e. someone who travels.

Choice **d** is the only answer that includes the idea of *many* or *multiple*. Thus, it is the only possible correct answer.

## GLOSSARY

**ROOT** the main part of a word; the base upon which prefixes and suffixes are added

**PREFIX** syllable(s) attached to the beginning of a word to change or add to its meaning

**SUFFIX** syllable(s) attached to the end of a word to change or add to its meaning

You will not always be so lucky as to eliminate all of the incorrect answers, but even eliminating two or three will be a great help. For example, knowing that the prefix *mal-* means bad, evil, or wrong can help you significantly narrow down your choices in the following question:

To *malign* means:

- a. to arrange.
- b. to speak badly about.
- c. to charm, enchant.
- d. to cast an evil spell.
- e. to flatter.

With your knowledge of prefixes, you can eliminate choices **a**, **c**, and **e**, leaving you with a 50-50 chance of choosing the correct answer. If you recall any context in which you have heard the word *malign* before, you may be able to choose the correct answer, **b**. To *malign* is to say evil, harmful, and often untrue things about someone; to speak ill of.

Below you will find a list of the prefixes for the vocabulary words in this lesson. For each prefix, we have provided two examples of words that use that prefix. With a few exceptions, these examples are not test-prep words;

rather, they are basic words that are probably already part of your vocabulary. This will help you remember the meaning of each prefix—and show you just how well you already know them.

**a, an:** not, without

*amoral* (not moral), *atypical* (not typical)

**ab, abs:** from, away, off

*abduct* (to take by force), *abnormal* (away from or apart from the standard)

**ante:** prior to, in front of, before

*anterior* (placed before), *antedate* (to proceed in time, come before)

**anti, ant:** opposite, opposing, against

*antibiotic* (substance that kills microorganisms), *antidote* (remedy for counteracting the effects of a poison),

**circ, circum:** around, about, on all sides

*circumference* (the outer boundary of a circle), *circumstance* (the conditions or state of affairs surrounding or affecting an event; a particular incident or occurrence)

**co, com, con:** with, together, jointly

*cooperate* (to work together, comply), *connect* (to bind or fasten together)

**dis:** away from, apart, reversal, not

*dismiss* (to send away from, eject), *disobedient* (not obedient)

**ex:** out, out of, away from

*exit* (go out), *expel* (to drive out or away)

**in:** not

*inaccurate* (not accurate), *informal* (not formal)

**inter:** between, among, within

*intercept* (to stop someone or something between its starting point and destination), *intervene* (to come, occur, appear, or lie between two points of time or things)

**mal:** bad, abnormal, evil, wrong

*malfunction* (to fail to function properly), *malpractice* (wrongdoing, especially improper or negligent treatment of a patient by a physician)

**mis:** bad, wrong, ill; opposite or lack of

*misbehave* (to behave badly), *misspell* (to spell incorrectly)

**multi:** many, multiple

*multimedia* (the combined use of several media), *multiple* (having several or many parts or elements)

**neo:** new, recent, a new form of

*neonatal* (of or relating to a newborn child), *neologism* (a new word or phrase)

**non:** not

*nonfiction* (the genre of literature that includes all types of books other than fiction), *nonsmoker* (someone who does not smoke)

**poly:** many, much

*polygamy* (the system of having more than one wife at a time), *poly-syllabic* (having three or more syllables)

**pre:** before

*precaution* (something done in advance to avoid risk), *predict* (to forecast, make known in advance)

**re:** back, again

*rebuild* (to build again after destruction), *replace* (to put back in its former position; to take the place of)

**sub:** under, beneath, below

*subdue* (to overcome, bring under control), *submarine* (a ship that can operate under water)

**super:** above, over, exceeding

*superb* (grand, magnificent, of unusually high quality, excellent), *superman* (a man with powers exceeding ordinary human capacity)

**uni:** one

*unify* (to form into a single unit, unite), *unite* (to join together, make or become one)

A more comprehensive list of the most common English prefixes is located in Appendix A. After you have completed this lesson, make sure you review the list carefully and study any prefixes that are unfamiliar to you.

## SOUNDS LIKE . . .

As you use your knowledge of prefixes and suffixes to determine meaning, see if you can recall hearing or using any words with similar roots or sounds. For example, when you were taking the Benchmark Quiz, you may have realized that *agrarian* sounds like it shares a root word with *agriculture*—and it does. Even if you don't know exactly what *agriculture* means, you might know that it has something to do with land and its cultivation. Thus you would have been able to more quickly narrow down the answer choices to **b** (to cultivate) and **d** (relating to land or land ownership). Once you realize that the suffix *-ian* calls for an adjective, not a verb, then you can eliminate **b** and choose the correct answer, **d**.

## SUFFIXES

**Suffixes** are syllables added to the end of words to change or add to their meaning. They often change a word's part of speech, thereby also changing how the word functions in a sentence. Suffixes tell you whether a word



is a person, place, or thing (a **noun**); an action or state of being (a **verb**); or a modifier, which is a word that describes (an **adjective** or **adverb**).

## PARTS OF SPEECH—A QUICK REVIEW

The following table offers a quick reference guide for the main parts of speech.

PART OF SPEECH	FUNCTION	EXAMPLES
<b>noun</b>	names a person, place, thing, or concept	<i>cloud, Helen, car, Elm Court, brush, valor</i>
<b>verb</b>	shows an action, occurrence, or state of being	<i>go, jump, feel, imagine, interrupt</i>
<b>adjective</b>	describes nouns and pronouns; can also identify or quantify; tells what kind, which one, how many, how much	<i>white, oblong, ancient, exhilarating that (e.g., that dog) several (e.g., several dogs)</i>
<b>adverb</b>	describes verbs, adjectives, other adverbs, or entire clauses; tells where, when, how and to what extent	<i>slowly, clumsily, never, very, here, soon</i>

For example, look how the suffixes below change the word *antagonist* from a noun to an adjective to a verb (and don't forget to notice the prefix, *ant-*):

<b>antagonist</b>	noun	one who opposes or contends with another; an adversary, opponent
<b>antagonistic</b>	adjective	opposing, combating, adversarial
<b>antagonize</b>	verb	to oppose actively, contend; to provoke the hostility of

Likewise, the word *venerate* changes from a verb to an adjective to a noun, depending upon its suffix:

<b>venerate</b>	verb	to regard with deep respect or reverence; to honor with a sense of awe, revere
<b>venerable</b>	adjective	worthy of deep respect or reverence; deserving of honor and respect
<b>venerator</b>	noun	one who shows deep respect or reverence

Again, just knowing suffixes won't enable you to determine the full meaning of an unfamiliar word, but it can help you determine the function of the word, zero in on its meaning, and eliminate incorrect answers on an exam. For example, if you know that the suffix *-ity* means state of being, you know that a word with this ending is probably a noun describing a state of being, such as *equality* (state of being equal). Similarly, if you know that *-ish* is a common suffix for adjectives, you can eliminate answer choices that do not match that part of speech:

*Squeamish* means:

- a. to scream or squeal.
- b. recurring illness.
- c. extremely shy.
- d. easily disgusted.
- e. the belief that animals have rights similar to humans.

Choices **a**, **b**, and **e** are definitions for other parts of speech—a verb, a noun, and another noun, respectively. Only choices **c** and **d** define adjectives, and only choice **d** is correct. *Squeamish* means easily sickened, disgusted, nauseated or shocked.



#### RULE BOOK: MOST OF THE TIME, BUT NOT ALWAYS

While prefixes and suffixes are fundamental components of our vocabulary, it's important to remember that they are tools to use in conjunction with other vocabulary skills. For example, *vanquish* and *varnish* both end in *-ish*, but they are both verbs, not adjectives.

But most words that end in *-ish* are adjectives describing a characteristic. Thus, as you come across vocabulary words with common prefixes and suffixes, use your knowledge of prefixes and suffixes, but look for other clues to meaning as well, including context (see Chapter 2) and word roots (see Chapters 3, 4, and Appendix A) to be sure you are on the right track.

Here is a list of the suffixes you need to know for the practice exercises in this lesson. For each suffix, we have again provided two examples of words that use that suffix, and again, these examples are basic words that are part of your everyday vocabulary.

#### ► **Noun Suffixes**

**-ance, -ence:** action, process, or state of  
*adolescence* (the state of growing up from childhood to adulthood;

the transitional period between youth and maturity), *dependence* (the state of being dependent)

**-ion:** act or process; state or condition

*detection* (the act of detecting), *election* (the act or power of electing)

**-ism:** act, practice, or process; state or doctrine of

*feminism* (belief in the social, political, and economic equality of the sexes), *materialism* (the belief that the acquisition of material possessions is the highest good)

**-ist:** one who (performs, makes, produces, believes, etc.)

*dentist* (one who is trained and licensed to practice dentistry), *pianist* (one who plays the piano)

**-ity:** quality, state, or degree

*equality* (the state or quality of being equal), *fidelity* (the quality of being faithful)

**-sis:** process or action

*diagnosis* (the process of identifying the nature or cause of a disease or injury), *paralysis* (loss of sensation or ability to move or function)

**-ure:** act, condition, process, function

*enclosure* (the act of enclosing or state of being enclosed), *failure* (the condition or act of not achieving a desired end; the act or fact of failing to perform as expected or requested)



### SHORT CUT

You may try to kill two birds with one stone by memorizing a difficult vocabulary word for each prefix or suffix. However, you can quickly and accurately learn the most common prefixes and suffixes by remembering examples of words you already know, such as *cooperate* and *dismiss*. Because the words are already so familiar to you, you don't have to worry about forgetting their meaning and you will be able to recall them easily even while under the pressure of an exam.

## ► Adjective Suffixes

**-able, -ible:** capable or worthy of; tending or liable to

*dependable* (worthy of being depended on, trustworthy), *incredible* (not credible; unable to be believed, improbable)

**-al, -ial, ical:** having the quality of, relating to, or characterized by

*practical* (of or relating to practice or action; useful), *ethical* (of or relating to ethics or morals)

**-an, -ian:** one who is or does; related to, characteristic of

*humanitarian* (one who is devoted to the promotion of human welfare; relating to, or characteristic of a humanitarian), *politician* (one who seeks or holds a political office)

- ic**: pertaining or relating to, having the quality of  
*dramatic* (of or relating to drama, theatrical), *realistic* (of or relating to the representation of things as they really are)
- ile**: having the qualities of  
*fragile* (easily broken, damaged, or destroyed; frail), *servile* (pertaining to or befitting a slave; abjectly submissive, slavish)
- ish**: having the character of  
*childish* (characteristic of, pertaining to, or resembling a child), *foolish* (devoid of good sense or judgment; exhibiting folly, in the manner of a fool)
- ive**: performing or tending towards (an action); having the nature of  
*cooperative* (marked by a willingness to cooperate; done with or working with others for a common purpose), *defensive* (serving to defend or protect)
- ous, -ose**: full of, having the quality of, relating to  
*glorious* (having or deserving glory, famous), *nauseous* (causing nausea, sickening)

### ► **Verb Suffixes**

- ate**: to make, cause to be or become  
*deteriorate* (to make worse, impair; to make inferior in quality or character), *irritate* (to cause annoyance or disturbance in; to make impatient, angry, annoyed)
- ify, -fy**: to make, form into  
*beautify* (to make beautiful), *specify* (to state explicitly or in detail)
- ize**: to cause to be or become, to bring about  
*colonize* (to establish a colony), *democratize* (to make or become democratic)

### **TIPS AND STRATEGIES**

A good knowledge of prefixes and suffixes is an invaluable asset when you are building your vocabulary and studying for an exam. Here are some specific tips and strategies to use as you develop this skill and prepare for your test.

- Take the time to memorize the most common prefixes and suffixes. By memorizing these essential word parts, you will be able to learn new words more quickly and better determine the meaning of unfamiliar words.
- Use words that you are very familiar with as examples when you study prefixes and suffixes. The more familiar the word is to you

(e.g., *cooperate*), the easier it will be for you to remember the meaning of the prefix or suffix.

- Remember that you use prefixes and suffixes every day, all the time. Do not feel intimidated by the long lists in this chapter or in Appendix A. You already know much of this material.
- Remember that prefixes and suffixes alone do not create meaning; rather, they change or add to the meaning of the root word. Use as many vocabulary skills as you can to determine meaning, including prefixes and suffixes, word roots (covered in the next two chapters), and context.
- Allow for exceptions. Although most words ending in *-ist* are nouns defining a kind of person (one who does), not every *-ist* word is such a noun. *Elitist* is an example of an adjective with this ending. Check prefixes, word roots, and context if possible to confirm meaning.
- Use your knowledge of prefixes and suffixes to eliminate incorrect answers. The more you narrow down your choices, the better your chances of choosing the correct answer.
- Once you have narrowed down your answer choices, determine the part of speech of each remaining choice. Does it match the part of speech of the definition according to the suffix?
- If you know the prefix or suffix but still aren't sure of meaning, try to recall another word with a similar root. Plug in that meaning with the prefix or suffix and see if it makes sense.



#### EXTRA HELP

If you would like additional review or further practice with prefixes and suffixes, see Chapters 5 and 6 in LearningExpress's *Vocabulary and Spelling Success in 20 Minutes a Day, 3rd edition*.

### PRACTICE

Choose the best answer to each question.

1. *Exorbitant* means:
  - a. belonging to a group.
  - b. to orbit.
  - c. in a new location.
  - d. beneath conscious awareness.
  - e. far beyond what is normal or reasonable; very high.

2. *Denunciation* means:
  - a. to denounce or openly condemn.
  - b. critical, of or like a condemnation.
  - c. one who denounces or openly condemns another.
  - d. the act of denouncing or openly condemning.
  - e. to cause to denounce or openly condemn.
  
3. *Metamorphosis* means:
  - a. to transform.
  - b. one who has changed.
  - c. a transformation.
  - d. tending to change frequently.
  - e. capable of dramatic change.
  
4. To *reconcile* means:
  - a. to reestablish a close relationship between.
  - b. to move away from.
  - c. to undermine.
  - d. to surpass, outdo.
  - e. to put before something else, prioritize.
  
5. *Didactic* means:
  - a. a teacher or instructor.
  - b. intended to instruct, moralizing.
  - c. to preach, moralize.
  - d. the process of instructing.
  - e. capable of making moral decisions.
  
6. *Unilateral* means:
  - a. to multiply.
  - b. understated.
  - c. literal.
  - d. one-sided.
  - e. a complete equation.
  
7. *Subordinate* means:
  - a. under someone else's authority or control.
  - b. organized according to rank, hierarchical.
  - c. something ordinary or average, without distinction.
  - d. repeated frequently to aid memorization.
  - e. unrealistic, highly fantastical.

8. *Incisive* means:
- insight.
  - worthy of consideration.
  - penetrating, biting in nature.
  - to act forcefully.
  - the act of penetrating.
9. *Intermittent* means:
- badly handled.
  - occurring at intervals between two times or points.
  - greatly varied.
  - a number between one and ten.
  - gathered together in defiance or opposition.
10. *Miscreant* means:
- someone who is unconventional.
  - someone who lacks creativity.
  - a very naïve person.
  - a newly elected official.
  - an evil person, villain.
11. *Perennial* means:
- lasting a very long time, constant.
  - one who plants a garden.
  - to establish contact.
  - the process of encoding a message.
  - a person who is trustworthy and dependable.
12. *Imperialism* means:
- one who acquires items from other empires.
  - an empire built by acquiring other territories.
  - relating to the acquisition of territories.
  - the policy of extending an empire by acquiring other territories.
  - to extend an empire by force.
13. To *subjugate* means:
- to be the subject of a sentence or conversation.
  - to conquer, bring under control.
  - to be wrongly or unevenly distributed.
  - to be surrounded on all sides.
  - to drive away from the source.

14. *Benevolence* means:
- kindness, generosity.
  - a kind, generous ruler.
  - to be generous with one's time or money.
  - kind, giving charitably.
  - deserving thanks for one's kindness.
15. To *coalesce* means:
- to dig up, mine.
  - to carry out an ill-conceived or poorly planned course of action.
  - to combine and form a whole; join together.
  - to withdraw silently, especially in shame.
  - to be very small, barely detectable.
16. *Docile* means:
- one who domesticates animals.
  - the management of domestic affairs.
  - obedience.
  - willing to obey, easily managed or taught.
  - to obey authority.
17. *Anomaly* means:
- regularity, consistency.
  - something that is irregular, abnormal, or deviates from the usual form.
  - a surprising collaboration, the cooperation of unlikely individuals.
  - discontent among a specific group within a larger population.
  - excessive greed.
18. *Lamentable* means:
- regrettable, unfortunate.
  - to regret.
  - an unfortunate occurrence.
  - to do something regrettable.
  - one who feels regret.
19. To *abscond* means:
- to create a secret hiding place.
  - to do something without telling anyone.
  - to go away secretly and hide.
  - to do something ahead of deadline.
  - to be opposed to.



20. *Disparate* means:
- a. chosen from within.
  - b. exceeding expectations.
  - c. from the same origin.
  - d. able to move across barriers.
  - e. fundamentally different, distinct or apart from others.
21. *Rectify* means:
- a. to correct.
  - b. a correction.
  - c. a surprising error.
  - d. an editor.
  - e. erroneous.
22. *Inscrutable* means:
- a. teaching a lesson.
  - b. having little or no impact.
  - c. kept between or within members of a family.
  - d. not fathomable; incapable of being understood.
  - e. surrounded by smoke or fog.
23. *Antipathy* means:
- a. that which occurred previously.
  - b. a strong aversion or dislike.
  - c. an examination of all aspects of an issue.
  - d. the act of separating from the source.
  - e. an incorrect accusation.
24. *Neophyte* means:
- a. original, unique.
  - b. something that comes from multiple sources.
  - c. a roommate; someone who lives with another.
  - d. a beginner or novice.
  - e. a person who refuses to compromise.
25. *Nonchalant* means:
- a. challenging.
  - b. done with the intent of harming another.
  - c. not showing anxiety or excitement; indifferent.
  - d. reversing a previous opinion or decision.
  - e. ancient.

**ANSWERS**

1. **e.** The prefix *ex-* means out, out of, away from. *Exorbitant* means greatly exceeding (far away from) the bounds of what is normal or reasonable.
2. **d.** The noun suffix *-tion* means the act or state of. *Denunciation* means the act of denouncing, especially in public; to openly condemn or accuse of evil.
3. **c.** The noun suffix *-sis* means the process of. *Metamorphosis* means a transformation, a marked change of form, character, or function. Choices **b** and **c** are both nouns, but for choice **b** to be correct, it would require the suffix *-ist*.
4. **a.** The prefix *re-* means back, again. To *reconcile* means to reestablish a close relationship between, to bring back to harmony.
5. **b.** The adjective suffix *-ic* means pertaining or relating to, having the quality of. *Didactic* means intended to instruct; tending to be excessively instructive or moralizing. Only choices **b** and **e** define a quality, and choice **e** would require the suffix *-able/ible*.
6. **d.** The prefix *uni-* means one. *Unilateral* means one-sided. Notice also the adjective suffix *-al*, meaning action or process.
7. **a.** The prefix *sub-* means under, beneath, below. The adjective *subordinate* means (1) of a lower or inferior class or rank; secondary; (2) subject to the authority or control of another. As a noun it means one that is subordinate to another, and as a verb (notice the *-ate* suffix) it means (1) to put in a lower or inferior rank or class; (2) to make subservient; subdue.
8. **c.** The adjective suffix *-ive* means having the nature of. *Incisive* means penetrating and clear; sharp, acute, biting.
9. **b.** The prefix *inter-* means between or among. *Intermittent* means occurring at intervals, not continuous; periodic, alternate.
10. **e.** The prefix *mis-* means bad, evil, wrong. *Miscreant* means a villain, criminal; an evil person.

11. a. The adjective suffix *-ial* means having the quality of, related to, suitable for. *Perennial* means lasting an indefinitely long time, forever; constantly recurring, happening again and again or year after year. Choice **a** is the only adjective definition.
12. d. The noun suffix *-ism* means state or doctrine of. *Imperialism* means the policy of extending rule of a nation or empire by acquiring other territories.
13. b. The prefix *sub-* means under or below. To *subjugate* means to conquer, subdue, bring under control. Notice also the verb suffix *-ate*, meaning one that performs, promotes, or causes an action; being in a specified state or condition.
14. a. The noun suffix *-ence* means state of. *Benevolence* means the inclination to be kind and generous; a disposition to act charitably.
15. c. The prefix *co-* means with, together. *Coalesce* means to combine and form a whole; to join together, fuse.
16. d. The adjective suffix *-ile* means having the qualities of. *Docile* means willing to obey, reading and willing to be taught, or easily managed.
17. b. The prefix *a-* means not, without. *Anomaly* means something that deviates from the general rule or usual form; one that is irregular or abnormal.
18. a. The adjective suffix *-able* means capable or worthy of. *Lamentable* means regrettable, unfortunate; inspiring grief or mourning.
19. c. The prefix *ab-* means off, away from, apart, down. To *abscond* means to go away secretly and hide oneself, especially after wrongdoing.
20. e. The prefix *dis-* means away from, apart, reversal, not. *Disparate* means fundamentally different or distinct; dissimilar, varied.
21. a. The verb suffix *-ify* means to make. To *rectify* means to make right, correct.
22. d. The prefix *in-* means not. *Inscrutable* means baffling, unfathomable, incapable of being understood. Notice also the adjective suffix *-able*, which means to be capable of.

23. b. The prefix *anti-* means against, opposed to. *Antipathy* means a strong aversion or dislike.
24. d. The prefix *neo-* means new, recent, a new form of. *Neophyte* means a beginner or novice.
25. c. The prefix *non-* means not. *Nonchalant* means indifferent or cool, not showing anxiety or excitement.

**WORD LIST**

- abscond** (ab·'skond) *v.* to go away secretly and hide oneself, especially after wrongdoing to avoid prosecution.
- agrarian** (ă·'grair-i·ăn) *adj.* relating to or concerning land and its ownership or cultivation.
- anomaly** (ă·'nom-ă·lee) *n.* something that deviates from the general rule or usual form; one that is irregular, peculiar, or abnormal.
- antagonist** (an·'tag-ō·nist) *n.* one who opposes or contends with another; an adversary, opponent.
- antecedent** (an·ti·'see-děnt) *n.* that which precedes; the thing, circumstance, event that came before.
- antipathy** (an·'tip-ă·thee) *n.* 1. a strong aversion or dislike 2. an object of aversion.
- benevolence** (bě·'nev-ō·lēns) *n.* the inclination to be kind and generous; a disposition to act charitably.
- circumspect** ('sur·kŭm·spekt) *adj.* cautious, wary, watchful.
- coalesce** (koh·ă·les) *v.* to combine and form a whole; to join together, fuse.
- consensus** (kŏn·'sen·sŭs) *n.* general agreement or accord; an opinion or position reached by a group.
- denunciation** (di·nun·si·'ay·shŏn) *n.* the act of denouncing, especially in public; to openly condemn or accuse of evil.
- didactic** (dī·'dak·tik) *adj.* 1. intended to instruct 2. tending to be excessively instructive or moralizing.
- disparate** ('dis·pă·rit) *adj.* fundamentally different or distinct; dissimilar, varied.
- docile** ('dos·īl) *adj.* 1. willing to obey, tractable 2. ready and willing to be taught 3. easily managed or handled.
- dubious** ('doo·bi·ŭs) *adj.* 1. doubtful, questionable 2. fraught with uncertainty, wavering.

- embellish** (em·'bel-ish) *v.* 1. to make beautiful by adding ornamentation; decorate, adorn 2. to expand a story by adding details that are interesting but often fictitious.
- exorbitant** (ig·'zor·bi-tānt) *adj.* greatly exceeding the bounds of what is normal or reasonable; inordinate and excessive.
- galvanize** ('gal·vā·nīz) *v.* 1. to stimulate or rouse into awareness or action 2. to coat with zinc to protect from rust 3. to stimulate by electric shock.
- imperialism** (im·'peer·i·ā·liz·ēm) *n.* the policy of extending the rule or authority of a nation or empire by acquiring other territories or dependencies.
- incisive** (in·'sī·siv) *adj.* penetrating and clear; sharp, acute, biting.
- inscrutable** (in·'scroo·tā·bēl) *adj.* baffling, unfathomable, incapable of being understood.
- intermittent** (in·tēr·'mit·ēnt) *adj.* occurring at intervals, not continuous; periodic, alternate.
- lamentable** ('lam·ēn·tā·bēl) *adj.* 1. regrettable, unfortunate; inspiring grief or mourning 2. deplorable, pitiable.
- malign** (mā·'līn) *v.* to say evil, harmful and often untrue things about someone; to speak evil of.
- metamorphosis** (met·ā·'mor·fō·sis) *n.* a transformation, a marked change of form, character, or function.
- miscreant** ('mis·kree·ānt) *n.* a villain, criminal; evil person.
- multifaceted** (mul·tee·'fas·ē·tid) *adj.* having many facets or aspects; complex.
- neophyte** ('nee·ō·fit) *n.* 1. a beginner or novice 2. a recent convert to a belief.
- nonchalant** (non·shā·lahnt) *adj.* indifferent or cool, not showing anxiety or excitement.
- parity** ('par·i·tee) *n.* equality in status, amount, value, or degree; equivalence.
- perennial** (pē·'ren·i·āl) *adj.* 1. lasting an indefinitely long time, forever 2. constantly recurring, happening again and again or year after year 3. of plants, living for more than three years.
- polyglot** ('pol·i·glot) *n.* one who speaks or understands several languages.
- presage** ('pres·ij) *v.* to indicate or warn of in advance; to predict, foretell; *n.* an omen, prophesy or warning of a future occurrence; an intuition about what is going to occur.
- reconcile** ('rek·ōn·sīl) *v.* 1. to reestablish a close relationship between, especially after a quarrel or estrangement; to bring back to harmony 2. to bring oneself to accept, come to terms with 3. to make compatible or consistent.
- rectify** ('rek·tī·fī) *v.* 1. to set right, correct 2. to purify or refine.

**squeamish** ('skwee·mish) *adj.* easily sickened, disgusted, nauseated or shocked.

**subjugate** ('sub·jū·gayt) *v.* to conquer, subdue, bring under control or domination; vanquish.

**subordinate** (sū·'bor·dī·nit) *adj.* 1. of a lower or inferior class or rank; secondary 2. subject to the authority or control of another; *n.* one that is subordinate to another; (sū·'bor·dī·nayt) *v.* 1. to put in a lower or inferior rank or class 2. to make subservient; subdue.

**supercilious** (soo·pěr·'sil·i·ūs) *adj.* with an air of superiority; haughty, scornful, disdainful.

**unilateral** (yoo·nĭ·'lat·ĕ·rāl) *adj.* one-sided; performed or undertaken by or affecting only one side, person, group, nation, etc.

**venerate** ('ven·ĕ·rayt) *v.* to regard with deep respect or reverence; to honor with a sense of awe, revere.

# 4

## Latin Word Roots

**P**refixes and suffixes attach to word roots—the base parts of words that typically convey the bulk of their meaning. The more word roots you know, the more you will be able to determine the meaning of unfamiliar words and the better you will understand words you already know. This chapter reviews common Latin word roots. Before you begin learning and reviewing Latin word roots, take a few minutes to take this ten-question *Benchmark Quiz*. These questions are similar to the type of questions that you will find on important tests. When you are finished, check the answer key carefully to assess your results. Your Benchmark Quiz analysis will help you determine how much time you need to spend on this area as well as the specific words you need to learn in order to increase your vocabulary power. A complete list of the vocabulary words used in this lesson is provided at the end of the chapter.

**BENCHMARK QUIZ**

For each question below, use the Latin word root to determine the meaning of the italicized word.

1. An *amiable* person is:
  - a. talkative, loud.
  - b. truthful, honest.
  - c. highly educated.
  - d. friendly, good natured.
  - e. full of life, energetic.
  
2. A *lucid* argument:
  - a. is very clear and intelligible.
  - b. is loosely held together, tenuous.
  - c. frequently digresses.
  - d. errs repeatedly in its logic.
  - e. assigns blame to others.
  
3. A *complacent* person:
  - a. frequently makes mistakes, but does not accept responsibility.
  - b. likes to pick fights.
  - c. is contented to a fault, self-satisfied.
  - d. is known to tell lies, embellish the truth.
  - e. is full of life, vivacious.
  
4. To *exacerbate* a problem means:
  - a. to solve it.
  - b. to analyze it.
  - c. to lessen it.
  - d. to worsen it.
  - e. to ignore it.
  
5. To measure the *veracity* of something is to measure its:
  - a. value or worth.
  - b. truthfulness.
  - c. weight.
  - d. circumference.
  - e. life force.



6. Something that is *eloquent* is:
  - a. dull, trite, hackneyed.
  - b. expressed in a powerful and effective manner.
  - c. very old, antiquated.
  - d. not fit for consumption, inedible.
  - e. equally divided or apportioned.
  
7. To *indict* someone is to:
  - a. pick a fight with that person.
  - b. stop or block that person from doing something.
  - c. harm that person.
  - d. charge that person with a crime.
  - e. love that person dearly.
  
8. A *quiescent* place is:
  - a. very isolated.
  - b. tumultuous, chaotic.
  - c. harmful, dangerous.
  - d. sacred.
  - e. still, at rest.
  
9. A *noxious* odor is:
  - a. harmful.
  - b. unscented.
  - c. tantalizing.
  - d. refreshing.
  - e. nostalgic.
  
10. A person with *equanimity*:
  - a. has a violent temper.
  - b. is very stubborn.
  - c. enjoys the company of others.
  - d. is even-tempered and composed.
  - e. is guilty of wrongdoing.

## BENCHMARK QUIZ SOLUTIONS

How did you do on identifying Latin word roots? Check your answers here, and then analyze the results to figure out your plan of attack for mastering this topic.

**► Answers**

1. **d.** The root *am* means love. *Amiable* means friendly and agreeable; good natured, likeable, pleasing.
2. **a.** The root *luc/lum/lus* means light. *Lucid* means very clear, easy to understand, intelligible.
3. **c.** The root *plac* means to please. *Complacent* means contented to a fault; self-satisfied (pleased with oneself).
4. **d.** The root *ac* means sharp, bitter. To *exacerbate* means to make worse; to increase the severity, violence, or bitterness of.
5. **b.** The root *ver* means truth. *Veracity* means truth, truthfulness.
6. **b.** The root *loc/log/loqu* means word, speech. *Eloquent* means expressed in a powerful, fluent, and persuasive manner.
7. **d.** The root *dic/dict/dit* means to say, tell, use words. To *indict* means to formally accuse of or charge with a crime.
8. **e.** The root *qui* means quiet. *Quiescent* means inactive, quiet, at rest.
9. **a.** The root *nec/nic/noc/nox* means harm, death. *Noxious* means unpleasant and harmful, unwholesome.
10. **d.** The root *equ* means equal, even. *Equanimity* means calmness of temperament, even-temperedness; patience and composure, especially under stress.

**BENCHMARK QUIZ RESULTS**

If you answered 8–10 questions correctly, well done! You are already skilled at using Latin word roots to determining meaning. Give the lesson a quick review and do the practice exercise. If your score on the practice test is equally high, move on to Chapter 5.

If you answered 4–7 questions correctly, you are familiar with some of the most common Latin word roots and how to use them to determine meaning. But you need more practice to really sharpen this skill. Be sure to set aside some time to carefully review the complete list of common Latin word roots located in Appendix A.

If you answered 1–3 questions correctly, perhaps it has been some time since you reviewed word roots. Study the lesson that follows carefully, and do the practice quiz on a separate sheet of paper so that you can do the exercise several times if necessary. Take extra time to learn the complete list of common Latin word roots located in Appendix A.

## JUST IN TIME LESSON—LATIN WORD ROOTS

Just as many Americans have their roots in other countries, so, too, do many of the words in the English language. In fact, most English words have been borrowed from other languages throughout the centuries, and it is composed largely of words built upon root words from other cultures. The two most important categories of roots to learn are Latin and Greek because so many English words are built upon Latin and Greek word bases. For example, *manual* and *manufacture* share the Latin root *man*, meaning hand; *anonymous* and *synonym* share the Greek root *nom/nym*, meaning name.

Needless to say, the more roots you know, the stronger your vocabulary will be. As you break down unfamiliar words into their parts, you will be more likely to recognize the roots and therefore more accurately determine meaning. You will also have a better understanding of the words you already know.

## GLOSSARY

**ETYMOLOGY** the history of a word, the study of its origin and development

On occasion, Latin and Greek roots are themselves words. The Latin roots *err* and *pug*, for example, are English words as well, meaning to make a mistake and a boxer, respectively. But most of the time, roots are the base to which prefixes and suffixes (and sometimes other roots) are attached to create a rich variety of meaning. Take, for example, the Latin root *ced/ceed/cess*, meaning to go, yield, stop. Notice how many different words can be created by adding different prefixes and suffixes to this root and how the different prefixes and suffixes change meaning:

- antecedent:** that which precedes or comes before
- cessation:** a stopping, a bringing to an end
- concede:** to acknowledge or admit as true, proper, etc. (often with reluctance); to yield, surrender
- concession:** the act of conceding or yielding; a thing yielded, an acknowledgement or admission
- exceed:** to extend beyond or outside of; surpass
- precede:** to come or go before in time, place, rank, or importance
- predecessor:** one who precedes or comes before another in time (as in holding an office or position)

**proceed:** to go forward or onward, especially after an interruption; move on, advance

**procedure:** the act or manner of proceeding; a course of action or conduct; process

Thus, *recede* means:

- a. to go forward blindly.
- b. to stop or abandon before completion.
- c. to move or go back, retreat.
- d. to go together with others.
- e. to yield to the decision of a superior.

Remember your prefixes from Chapter 3. *Re-* means back, again; *ced* means to go, yield, stop. *Recede* means c, to move back, withdraw, retreat.

Now add the noun suffix *-sion*, meaning the act or state of, and you get:

*recession:* the act of withdrawing or going back

With your knowledge of prefixes and suffixes, you can also answer this question:

*Incessant* means:

- a. traveling to many places or locations, itinerant.
- b. not stopping, continuing without interruption.
- c. to move or go below the surface, subliminal.
- d. going between, through, or among; not direct.
- e. yielding readily under pressure.

The correct answer is **b**. The prefix *in-* means not; *cess* means to go, stop, or yield; and the suffix *-ant* means being in a state or condition of; performing or causing an action. Thus, *incessant* means continuing without interruption; ceaseless, continuous.

Here are several words formed from another Latin root, *plac*, meaning to please. Again, notice the rich variety of meaning created by adding different prefixes and suffixes to the root word:

**placate:** to appease, pacify; to allay the anger of, especially by making concessions

**implacable:** incapable of being placated or appeased; inexorable

**placid:** calm and peaceful; free from disturbance or tumult

**complacent:** contented to a fault; self-satisfied, unconcerned

**placebo:** an inactive, harmless substance of no medicinal value given to patients to reassure them or to members of a control group in experiments testing the efficacy of a drug



### SHORTCUT: MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR LEARNING STYLE

For many people, especially visual learners, the best way to memorize words is to create a picture in the mind associated with that word. For example, to remember the root *pug*, you might picture a pug dog in a boxing ring, or a boxer with a pug nose. Similarly, you might picture a stop sign with the root *ced* written on it instead of *stop*, or a yield sign with *cess* instead of *yield*. You could also picture a traffic light for the root *ced/ceed/cess*, since the colors of the traffic light correspond with the three meanings of this root: go, stop, yield.

If you are an auditory learner, you can come up with rhymes or short sentences to help you remember root meanings. For example, you could try one of these sentences for the root *am*, meaning love:

I *am* love.  
I love *Amy*.  
I love *ham*.

Below is a list of some of the most common Latin word roots. You have already seen some of these roots in the words from the Benchmark Quiz and this lesson. Review the list carefully, taking note of the examples, which once again are mostly everyday words that are already part of your permanent vocabulary. A more comprehensive list of the most common Latin and Greek word roots is located in Appendix A. After you have completed this lesson, make sure you review the list carefully and study any roots that are unfamiliar to you.

### COMMON LATIN WORD ROOTS

**ac, acr:** sharp, bitter

*acid* (something that is sharp, sour, or ill natured), *acute* (extremely sharp or severe; keenly perceptive)

**am:** love

*amorous* (inclined to love; romantic, affectionate), *enamored* (inflamed or inspired by love; captivated)

**bel:** war

*antebellum* (before the war, especially the American Civil War), *rebel* (to resist or defy authority)

**cast, chast:** cut

*caste* (a social class separated from others by hereditary rank, profession, etc.), *chastise* (to punish severely, as with a beating; to rebuke)

**ced, ceed, cess:** to go, yield, stop

*antecedent* (that which precedes), *exceed* (to extend beyond or outside of; surpass)

**culp:** blame

*culprit* (person accused or guilty of a crime), *mea culpa* (Latin, “my fault”)

**dic, dict, dit:** to say, tell, use words

*dictate* (to say or read aloud; to issue orders or commands), *predict* (to foretell, make known in advance)

**equ:** equal, even

*equate* (to make or consider two things as equal), *equidistant* (equally distant)

**err:** to wander

*err* (to make a mistake), *error* (a mistake; an incorrect or wrong action)

**ferv:** to boil, bubble, burn

*fervid* (very hot, burning; ardent, vehement), *effervescent* (bubbling up, as a carbonated liquid; high spirited, animated)

**loc, log, loqu:** word, speech

*dialogue* (a conversation between two or more people), *neologism* (a new word or phrase)

**luc, lum, lus:** light

*illuminate* (to brighten with light; enlighten), *translucent* (almost transparent; allowing light to pass through diffusely)

**lug, lut, luv:** to wash

*dilute* (to make thinner or weaker by adding a liquid such as water; to lessen the force or purity of), *pollute* (to make impure or unclean; to make unfit or harmful to living things)

**mag, maj, max:** big

*magnify* (to increase in size, volume or significance; to amplify), *maximum* (the greatest possible quantity or degree)

**man:** hand

*manual* (operated by hand), *manufacture* (to make by hand or machinery)

**min:** to project, hang over

*prominent* (standing out, conspicuous; projecting or jutting beyond the line or surface), *eminent* (towering above or more prominent than others; lofty, distinguished)

**nas, nat, nai:** to be born

*native* (a person born in a particular country), *innate* (possessed at birth; inborn, inherent)

**nec, nic, noc, nox:** harm, death

*innocent* (uncorrupted by evil; free from guilt; not dangerous or harmful), *obnoxious* (offensive, hateful)

**omni:** all

*omnipresent* (everywhere at once), *omnipotent* (all powerful)

**plac:** to please

*placid* (calm and peaceful), *placate* (to appease or pacify)

**pon, pos, pound:** to put, place

*deposit* (to put or set down; place), *transpose* (to reverse or transfer the order or place of; interchange)

**pug:** to fight

*pug* (a boxer), *repugnant* (highly offensive or distasteful; hostile, disposed to fight)

**qui:** quiet

*quiet* (making little or no noise; calm, still), *tranquil* (free from disturbance, anxiety, or tension)

**rog:** to ask

*interrogate* (to examine by asking a series of questions), *prerogative* (an exclusive privilege or right belonging to a person or group)

**sci:** to know

*conscious* (knowing and perceiving, aware), *science* (knowledge, especially that gained through systematic study)

**tac, tic:** to be silent

*tacit* (not spoken; implied), *taciturn* (habitually untalkative, reserved)

**ver:** truth

*verdict* (the findings of a jury in a trial; decision or judgment), *verify* (to confirm the truth of)

**vi:** life

*vivid* (evoking life-like images in the mind; true to life; bright, brilliant, distinct), *vigorous* (energetic, forceful, active, strong)

**voc, vok:** to call

*vocal* (of or pertaining to the voice; tending to express oneself often and freely, outspoken), *revoke* (to cancel, call back, reverse, withdraw)

## CHEAT SHEET: THE POWER OF ASSOCIATION

Need more help memorizing word roots? Use the power of association. A rebel, for example, fights in a war; the meaning of the root *bel* is war. The acute pain you felt in your ankle when you sprained it was very sharp; the root *ac* means sharp, bitter.

Similarly, as you are learning roots and trying to determine the meaning of unfamiliar words, especially on an exam, think of other words that sound like they might share a root word. For example, if you don't know the meaning of *amiable* but you do know what *enamored* means, you can at least determine that *amiable* is probably a positive thing and that it probably has something to do with love or friendship.

Now you have the tools to really break down words and work out their meanings. By memorizing common prefixes, suffixes, and word roots, you will be able to accurately guess the meaning of many unfamiliar words, and this will both dramatically expand your vocabulary and significantly improve your score on your exam.



#### EXTRA HELP

If you would like additional review or further practice with word roots, see Lessons 7 and 8 in LearningExpress's *Vocabulary and Spelling Success in 20 Minutes a Day, 3rd edition*.

### TIPS AND STRATEGIES

When you are faced with an unfamiliar word in your reading or on an exam, your best strategy is to break it down into its parts and look for a familiar word root. Here are some specific strategies for sharpening this skill and using it in a test situation.

- Take the time to memorize as many Latin roots as you can. There are more words built upon Latin roots than any other in the English language. By memorizing these word bases, you will be able to learn new words more quickly and better determine the meaning of unfamiliar words.
- Use words that you are very familiar with as examples when you study word roots. The more familiar the word is to you (e.g., *predict*, *equate*), the easier it will be for you to remember the meaning of the root word. Use words that create a vivid picture in your imagination.
- Remember that you use common word roots every day, often without realizing it. Do not feel intimidated by the long lists in this chapter or in Appendix A. You already know much of this material.
- Remember that word roots work with prefixes and suffixes—and sometimes other root words—to create meaning. Look at all parts of the word and the context, if possible, to determine meaning.
- Remember the power of elimination on an exam. Use your knowledge of word roots to eliminate incorrect answers. The more you narrow down your choices, the better your chances of choosing the correct answer.
- Use the power of association. If you don't know or can't remember the root word, try to recall the meaning of another word with a similar root.



**PRACTICE**

Choose the best answer for each question below.

1. A *belligerent* person is:
  - a. from another country, foreign.
  - b. kind, eager to help.
  - c. eager to fight, hostile.
  - d. loving, devoted.
  - e. bitter and angry.
  
2. Someone who is *omniscient*:
  - a. often speaks without thinking.
  - b. receives the maximum benefit.
  - c. blames others for his or her own faults.
  - d. is eager to please.
  - e. is all-knowing.
  
3. A *renaissance* is:
  - a. a rebirth.
  - b. a punishment.
  - c. a lie.
  - d. a mistake.
  - e. a speech.
  
4. To *equivocate* is to:
  - a. burn or sting.
  - b. speak in a way that conceals the truth.
  - c. put something in its proper place.
  - d. calm or quiet.
  - e. cause harm or damage to, especially by accident.
  
5. Something that is *manifest* is:
  - a. everywhere.
  - b. newborn.
  - c. obvious.
  - d. deadly.
  - e. large.

6. Something that is *luminous* is:
  - a. bright, shining.
  - b. even, equal.
  - c. excessive.
  - d. full of knowledge.
  - e. silent.
  
7. A person who is *culpable* is:
  - a. capable.
  - b. vocal.
  - c. energetic, full of life.
  - d. burning with anger.
  - e. guilty.
  
8. Something that is *innocuous* is:
  - a. dangerous or deadly.
  - b. irrelevant, wandering from the main path or point.
  - c. harmless, inoffensive.
  - d. clean, thoroughly washed.
  - e. projecting over the edge.
  
9. To *juxtapose* is to:
  - a. place side by side.
  - b. overwhelm, flood.
  - c. be born again.
  - d. speak in a round-about manner.
  - e. wash away, erode.
  
10. Someone who is *reticent* is:
  - a. fair, judging equally.
  - b. reserved, silent.
  - c. bubbling over with enthusiasm.
  - d. deeply in love.
  - e. a great warrior.
  
11. A *veritable* autograph is:
  - a. very valuable.
  - b. an autograph by a famous person.
  - c. genuine.
  - d. a forgery or fake.
  - e. worthless.

12. To *abrogate* is to:
- abolish, revoke.
  - fight, quarrel.
  - rest quietly.
  - know intimately.
  - witness silently.
13. An *acrimonious* relationship is one that:
- has existed for a long time.
  - is extremely friendly.
  - exists only in the imagination.
  - is bitter or resentful.
  - is enlightened.
14. A *vicarious* action is one that:
- is experienced through the life or action of another.
  - enables a guilty person to be set free.
  - surrenders the rights of others.
  - has a pleasing and lasting affect on others.
  - is of great importance.
15. If there is *amity* between two nations, there is:
- war.
  - equality.
  - bitterness.
  - trading of blame.
  - friendship.
16. An *edict* is:
- a place to rest.
  - a place to stop.
  - the act of seeing or shining.
  - a formal proclamation or command.
  - a state of danger or peril.
17. A *magnanimous* person is:
- highly noble, generous.
  - extremely talkative.
  - given to wordy, rambling speech.
  - a wanderer, hobo.
  - someone with a sharp wit, sarcastic.

18. To *acquiesce* is to:
- to call attention to.
  - to speak in a whisper.
  - to mask the truth.
  - to give in to, comply with another's wishes.
  - to wish to live another's life, to want to be someone else.
19. A *pugnacious* person is best described as:
- nosy.
  - combative.
  - talented.
  - ruthless.
  - evil.
20. Something that is *erratic*:
- moves at a constant, steady pace.
  - is properly ordered; appropriate, in its proper place.
  - seems to be harmless but is actually very dangerous.
  - is cut or divided into equal parts.
  - is unpredictable, meandering, straying from the norm.
21. To feel *fervor* is to feel:
- carefree, light-hearted.
  - burdened, as with guilt.
  - intense, fiery emotion.
  - calmness, peace.
  - an inability to express oneself.
22. A *loquacious* person:
- has good intentions, but often ends up doing things that end up hurting others.
  - tends to talk a great deal.
  - often has difficulty finding things.
  - tends to like everyone; is not discerning.
  - believes in doing what pleases him or herself.
23. To *castigate* means to:
- pick a fight with, tease.
  - disturb the peace.
  - verbally abuse, cut down; punish harshly.
  - to expand to so great a size as to outgrow; balloon, distend.
  - to accept blame for another's wrongdoing.

24. A *deluge* is:
- a. a mask, something hidden.
  - b. a skillfully-told lie.
  - c. an aggressive or hostile person.
  - d. a flood, an overwhelming amount.
  - e. a decree abolishing something, a revocation.
25. Something that is *preeminent*:
- a. stands out above or surpasses others.
  - b. is related to a specific branch of scientific knowledge.
  - c. reflects the opinions, feelings, etc. of everyone within the group.
  - d. is handled carefully and tactfully; diplomatic.
  - e. is easily permeated by water.

## ANSWERS

1. c. The root *bel* means war. The adjective suffix *-ent* means in a state or condition; performing or causing a specified action. *Belligerent* means hostile and aggressive, showing an eagerness to fight.
2. e. The root *omni* means all; the root *sci* means to know. *Omniscient* means having infinite knowledge, knowing all things.
3. a. The root *nas/nat/nai* means to be born. The prefix *re-* means back or again; the suffix *-ance* means state of. *Renaissance* means a rebirth or revival.
4. b. The root *equ* means equal; the root *voc/vok* means to call; the suffix *-ate* means to make, cause to be. To *equivocate* means to use unclear or ambiguous language in order to mislead or conceal the truth. Thus, someone who equivocates is “equally” lying and telling the truth (or rather, not quite doing either).
5. c. The root *man* means hand. *Manifest* means clear and unmistakable, obvious; thus, at hand. The correct answer can be achieved here through the process of elimination, as the other answers correspond with different roots.
6. a. The root *luc/lum/lus* means light; the suffix *-ous* means having the quality of or relating to. *Luminous* means shining, emitting light; full of light, brilliant.

7. e. The root *culp* means blame. The adjective suffix *-able* means capable or worthy of. *Culpable* means deserving blame or censure for doing something wrong or harmful; blameworthy, guilty.
8. a. The root *nec/nic/noc/nox* means harm, death. The prefix *in-* means not; the suffix *-ous* means having the quality of or relating to. Thus, *innocuous* means harmless, having no adverse or ill effects.
9. a. The root *pon/pos/pound* means to put, place. To *juxtapose* means to place side by side, especially to compare or contrast.
10. b. The root *tac/tic* means to be silent. *Reticent* means tending to keep one's thoughts and feelings to oneself; reserved, untalkative, silent.
11. c. The root *ver* means truth. The suffix *-able* means capable or worthy of. *Veritable* means real, true, genuine.
12. a. The root *rog* means to ask. The prefix *ab-* means off, away from, away, down; the suffix *-ate* means to make, cause to be. To *abrogate* means to abolish, do away with, formally revoke.
13. d. The root *ac/acr* means sharp, bitter. The adjective suffix *-ous* means having the quality of or relating to. *Acrimonious* means bitter and sharp in language or tone.
14. a. The root *vi* means life. The adjective suffix *-ous* means having the quality of or relating to. *Vicarious* means felt through imaging what another has experienced; acting or suffering for another.
15. e. The root *am* means love. The noun suffix *-ity* means state of being. *Amity* means friendship; a state of friendly or peaceful relations.
16. d. The root *dic/dict/dit* means to say, tell, use words. An *edict* is an official order or decree; a formal proclamation or command issued by someone in authority.
17. a. The root *mag/maj/max* means big. The adjective suffix *-ous* means having the quality of or relating to. *Magnanimous* means very noble and generous; understanding and forgiving of others.

18. d. The root *qui* means quiet. To *acquiesce* means to comply, give in, consent without protest—thereby “quieting” the other to whom one gives in.
19. b. The root *pug* means to fight. The adjective suffix *-ous* means having the quality of or relating to. *Pugnacious* means quarrelsome, combative, inclined to fight.
20. e. The root *err* means to wander. The adjective suffix *-ic* means pertaining or relating to, having the quality of. *Erratic* means moving or behaving in an irregular, uneven, or inconsistent manner; deviating (wandering) from the normal or typical course of action, opinion, etc.
21. c. The root *ferv* means to boil, bubble, burn. The suffix *-or* means a condition or activity. *Fervor* means zeal, ardor, intense emotion.
22. b. The root *loc/log/loqu* means word, speech. The adjective suffix *-ous* means having the quality of or relating to. *Loquacious* means very talkative, garrulous.
23. c. The root *cast/chast* means cut. The verb suffix *-ate* means to make, cause to be. To *castigate* means to inflict a severe punishment on; to chastise (verbally abuse, cut down) severely.
24. d. The root *lug/lut/luv* means to wash. A *deluge* is a great flood or inundation; something that overwhelms, an overwhelming number or amount.
25. a. The root *min* means to project, hang over. The prefix *pre-* means before; the suffix *-ent* means in a state or condition; performing or causing a specified action. *Preeminent* means greater to others in importance, degree, significance, or achievement; superior, surpassing—thus, coming before, standing above others in its class.

**WORD LIST**

**abrogate** ('ab-rō-gayt) *v.* to abolish, do away with, formally revoke.

**acquiesce** (ak-wi-'es) *v.* to comply, give in, consent without protest.

**acrimonious** (ak-rī-'moh-ni-ūs) *adj.* bitter and sharp in language or tone.

**amiable** ('ay-mi-ā-bēl) *adj.* friendly and agreeable; good natured, likable, pleasing.

**amity** ('am-ī-tee) *n.* friendship; a state of friendly or peaceful relations.

**belligerent** (bi-'lij-ēr-ēnt) *adj.* hostile and aggressive, showing an eagerness to fight.

**castigate** ('kas-tī-gayt) *v.* to inflict a severe punishment on; to chastise severely.

**complacent** (kōm-'play-sēnt) *adj.* contented to a fault; self-satisfied, unconcerned.

**concede** (kōn-'seed) *v.* 1. to acknowledge or admit as true, proper, etc. (often with reluctance); to yield, surrender 2. to grant as a right or privilege.

**culpable** ('kul-pā-bēl) *adj.* deserving blame or censure for being or doing something wrong or harmful; blameworthy, guilty.

**deluge** ('del-yooj) *n.* 1. a great flood or inundation 2. something that overwhelms, an overwhelming number or amount; *v.* 1. to overrun with water, inundate 2. to overwhelm with a large number or amount, swamp.

**edict** ('ee-dikt) *n.* an official order or decree; a formal proclamation or command issued by someone in authority.

**eloquent** ('el-ō-kwēnt) *adj.* expressed in a powerful, fluent, and persuasive manner; clear, vivid, and effective expression.

**equanimity** (ee-kwā-'nim-i-tee) *n.* calmness of temperament, even-temperedness; patience and composure, especially under stressful circumstances.

**equivocate** (i-'kwiv-ō-kayt) *v.* to use unclear or ambiguous language in order to mislead or conceal the truth.

**erratic** (i-'rat-ik) *adj.* 1. moving or behaving in an irregular, uneven, or inconsistent manner 2. deviating from the normal or typical course of action, opinion, etc.

**exacerbate** (ig-'zas-ēr-bayt) *v.* to make worse; to increase the severity, violence, or bitterness of.

**fervor** ('fur-vōr) *n.* zeal, ardor, intense emotion.

**implacable** (im-'plak-ā-bēl) *adj.* incapable of being placated or appeased; inexorable.



- incessant** (in·'ses·ănt) *adj.* continuing without interruption; ceaseless, continuous.
- indict** (in·'dīt) *v.* to formally accuse of or charge with a crime.
- innocuous** (i·'nok·yoo·ŭs) *adj.* harmless, having no adverse or ill effects; not likely to upset or offend.
- juxtapose** (juk·stă·'pohz) *v.* to place side by side, especially to compare or contrast.
- loquacious** (loh·'kway·shŭs) *adj.* very talkative, garrulous.
- lucid** ('loo·sid) *adj.* 1. very clear, easy to understand, intelligible 2. sane or rational.
- luminous** ('loo·mī·nŭs) *adj.* shining, emitting light; full of light, bright, brilliant.
- magnanimous** (mag·'nan·ŭ·mŭs) *adj.* very noble and generous; understanding and forgiving of others.
- manifest** ('man·ī·fest) *adj.* clear and unmistakable; obvious; *v.* to show or demonstrate clearly; to become apparent and visible.
- noxious** ('nok·shŭs) *adj.* unpleasant and harmful, unwholesome.
- omniscient** (om·'nish·ĕnt) *adj.* having infinite knowledge; knowing all things.
- placate** ('play·kayt) *v.* to appease, pacify; to allay the anger of, especially by making concessions.
- placebo** (plă·'see·boh) *n.* an inactive, harmless substance of no medicinal value given to patients to reassure them or to members of a control group in experiments testing the efficacy of a drug.
- placid** ('plas·id) *adj.* calm and peaceful; free from disturbance or tumult.
- preeminent** (pree·'em·i·nĕnt) *adj.* greater to others in importance, degree, significance, or achievement; superior, surpassing.
- pugnacious** (pug·'nay·shŭs) *adj.* quarrelsome, combative, inclined to fight.
- quiescent** (kwi·'es·ĕnt) *adj.* inactive, quiet, at rest; dormant, latent.
- renaissance, renascence** (ri·'nas·ĕns, ri·'nay·sĕns) *n.* a rebirth or revival.
- reticent** ('ret·i·sĕnt) *adj.* tending to keep one's thoughts and feelings to oneself; reserved, untalkative, silent.
- veracity** (vē·'ras·i·tee) *n.* truth, truthfulness.
- veritable** ('ver·i·tă·bĕl) *adj.* real, true, genuine.
- vicarious** (vī·'kair·i·ŭs) *adj.* 1. felt through imagining what another has experienced 2. acting or suffering for another.



# Greek Word Roots

**T**his chapter builds on your knowledge of word roots by reviewing some of the most common roots from the Greek language. Before you begin learning and reviewing Greek word roots, take a few minutes to take this ten-question *Benchmark Quiz*. These questions are similar to the type of questions that you will find on important tests. When you are finished, check the answer key carefully to assess your results. Your Benchmark Quiz analysis will help you determine how much time you need to spend on this area as well as the specific words you need to learn in order to increase your vocabulary power. A complete list of the vocabulary words used in this lesson is provided at the end of the chapter.

## **BENCHMARK QUIZ**

Choose the best answer to each question.

1. To have *autonomy* means:
  - a. to have a great deal of wealth.
  - b. to be independent, self-governing.
  - c. to be very brave, courageous.
  - d. to have very strong opinions.
  - e. to have the ability to feel what others feel.

2. *Empathy* means:
  - a. doing good for others.
  - b. having a great love for others.
  - c. being the same as everyone else.
  - d. identifying with another's feelings.
  - e. being an overachiever, obsessed with success.
  
3. A state of *euphoria* is:
  - a. a state of happiness, bliss.
  - b. a state of total control by an absolute ruler.
  - c. a state of self-denial.
  - d. a state of timelessness, suspension.
  - e. a state of disbelief.
  
4. Something that is *peripheral* is:
  - a. central.
  - b. a matter of opinion.
  - c. dissecting, cutting in two.
  - d. secret, hidden.
  - e. on the outer edge or boundary.
  
5. A *pseudonym* is:
  - a. a false name.
  - b. a god or deity.
  - c. a harsh sound.
  - d. a long-lasting illness.
  - e. an excessively long and critical speech.
  
6. In a state of *anarchy*, there is:
  - a. great suffering.
  - b. a strong emphasis on education.
  - c. total lawlessness.
  - d. great respect for the individual.
  - e. the worship of only one god.
  
7. Something that is *amorphous*:
  - a. has no definite shape.
  - b. is unable to speak or communicate.
  - c. without love or compassion.
  - d. has no name.
  - e. has a strong resemblance to another.

8. A person who is *dogmatic*:
- a. has a distorted sense of reality.
  - b. is unable to tolerate those who are different.
  - c. asserts his or her opinion in an absolute, arrogant manner.
  - d. has difficulty handling situations in which he or she must lead others.
  - e. is secretive, shrouded in mystery.
9. A state of *pandemonium* is:
- a. calm, quiet.
  - b. ruled by consensus.
  - c. all-encompassing, complete.
  - d. noisy and chaotic.
  - e. inspirational, generating hope.
10. *Philanthropy* is:
- a. the love of humankind.
  - b. a tendency toward or preference for something.
  - c. a widespread rumor.
  - d. the use of force to rule or control others.
  - e. the end of innocence after witnessing or experiencing evil.

## BENCHMARK QUIZ SOLUTIONS

How did you do on identifying Greek word roots? Check your answers here, and then analyze the results to figure out your plan of attack for mastering this topic.

### ► Answers

1. b. The root *auto* means self. *Autonomy* means personal or political independence; self-government, self-determination.
2. d. The root *pas/pat/path* means feeling, suffering, disease. *Empathy* means understanding and identifying with another's feelings, situation, or motives.
3. a. The root *eu* means good, well. The noun suffix *-ia* identifies names or diseases. *Euphoria* means a feeling of well-being or high spirits.

4. e. The root *peri* means around. The adjective suffix *-al* means of or relating to. *Peripheral* means of or relating to the periphery or edge, on the outer boundary; not of central importance or relevance.
5. a. The Greek root *pseudo* means false, fake. The root *nom/nym* means name. A *pseudonym* is a fictitious name, especially a pen name used by a writer.
6. c. The prefix *a-* means not, without. The root *arch/archi/archy* means chief, principal, ruler. *Anarchy* means the complete absence of government or control resulting in lawlessness; political disorder and confusion.
7. a. The prefix *a-* means not, without. The root *morph* means shape. The adjective suffix *-ous* means having the quality of or relating to. *Amorphous* means having no definite form or distinct shape, shapeless; of no particular kind or character, anomalous.
8. c. The root *dog/dox* means opinion. The adjective suffix *-ic* means pertaining or relating to, having the quality of. *Dogmatic* means asserting something in a positive, absolute, arrogant way; of or relating to dogma.
9. d. The root *pan* means all, everyone; the root *dem* means people. *Pandemonium* means a state of extreme disorder or chaos; a wild uproar, noisy confusion.
10. a. The root *phil* means love; the root *anthro/andro* means man, human. *Philanthropy* means love of humankind; voluntary action intended to promote the welfare of others, or an institution dedicated to this.

## BENCHMARK QUIZ RESULTS

If you answered 8–10 questions correctly, well done! You are already skilled at using Greek word roots to determine meaning. Give the lesson a quick review and do the practice exercise. If your score on the practice test is equally high, move on to Chapter 6.

If you answered 4–7 questions correctly, you are familiar with some of the most common Greek word roots and how to use them to determine meaning. But you need more practice to really sharpen this skill. Be sure to set aside some time to carefully review the complete list of common Greek word roots located in Appendix A.

If you answered 1–3 questions correctly, perhaps it has been some time since you reviewed word roots. Study the lesson that follows carefully, and do the practice quiz on a separate sheet of paper so that you can do the exercise several times if necessary. Take extra time to learn the complete list of common Greek word roots located in Appendix A.

### JUST IN TIME LESSON—GREEK WORD ROOTS

Just as you can better understand a person by learning about that person's past, you can also better understand words and more effectively build your vocabulary by learning about the history of words. The study of word origins and development is called **etymology**. When you break down a word and identify a root word from another language, you are tracing the etymology or history of that word.

#### GLOSSARY

**ETYMOLOGY** the history of a word, the study of its origin and development

Many words have a rich history, and a detailed etymological study will show you not only where a word comes from but also how its meaning has changed over time. For now, however, the focus of this lesson remains on learning some of the most common roots so that you can better determine meaning and succeed on your exam.

Greek word roots work in exactly the same way as Latin roots; they are the bases to which we add prefixes, suffixes, and sometimes other roots to change and create meaning. For example, look at the etymology of the word *homogeneous*:

<i>homo:</i>	Greek root meaning <i>same</i>
<i>gen:</i>	Latin root meaning <i>birth, kind</i>
<i>ous:</i>	suffix meaning <i>having the quality of, related to</i>

Thus, *homogeneous* (also spelled *homogenous*) means of the *same* or similar nature or *kind*; having a uniform structure or composition throughout.

As you know from Chapter 4, many different words can be built from a single root. For example, look at the number of words and the rich variety of meaning that comes from the Greek root *chron*, meaning time:

**chronic:** continuing for a long time; on-going, habitual; long-lasting or recurrent

**chronology:** the arrangement of events in time; the sequence in which events occurred

**chronicle:** a detailed record or narrative description of past events; to record in chronological order, make a historical record

**chronological:** relating to chronology; arranged in order of time of occurrence

**chronometer:** an exceptionally accurate clock; a precise instrument for measuring time

**synchronize:** to cause to occur at the same time or agree in time; to occur at the same time, be simultaneous

By changing the suffix of *synchronize*, we can create even more words. For example, we can turn it into the noun *synchronicity*, which is the state or fact of being *synchronous*, an adjective that means occurring or existing at the same time.

Now use your knowledge of prefixes, suffixes, and roots to answer the following question:

An *anachronism* is:

- a. two people born at the same time.
- b. something that is out of date or placed in the wrong time period.
- c. the quality of being timely or punctual.
- d. someone who has too much time on his or her hands.
- e. a temporary state of confusion or disorder.

The correct answer is **b**. The prefix *a-* means not, without, so you know that the definition should somehow express something negative or a lack of something. This effectively eliminates choices **a**, **c**, and **d**. The root *chron*, of course, means time; this rules out choice **e**, which has nothing to do with time. The suffix *-ism* means a state or doctrine of, thus doubly eliminating choices **a**, **c**, and **d**. Thus, an *anachronism* is something that is placed into an incorrect historical period; a person, custom, or idea that is out of date.

Here is a list of some of the most common Greek word roots. You have already seen some of these roots in the words from the Benchmark Quiz and the lesson thus far. Review the list carefully, taking note of the examples, which once again are mostly everyday words that are already part of your permanent vocabulary. A more comprehensive list of the most common Latin and Greek word roots is located in Appendix A. After you have completed this lesson, make sure you review the list carefully and study any roots that are unfamiliar to you.

**COMMON GREEK WORD ROOTS****anthro, andro:** man, human

*android* (a very human-like machine or robot, especially one made of biological materials), *anthropology* (the social science that studies the origins and social relationships of human beings)

**arch, archi, archy:** chief, principal, ruler

*architect* (one who plans or devises; one who creates plans for buildings), *monarchy* (a state ruled by a monarch (a sole and absolute ruler, such as a king))

**auto:** self

*automatic* (operating without external influence or control; having inherent power of action or motion), *autopsy* (examination of a dead body to determine cause of death; seeing with one's own eyes)

**card, cord, cour:** heart

*cardiac* (of or relating to the heart), *encourage* (to inspire with hope, courage, or confidence; to give support, hearten)

**chron:** time

*chronic* (continuing for a long time; on-going, habitual; long-lasting or recurrent), *chronology* (the arrangement of events in time; the sequence in which events occurred)

**cli, clin:** to lean toward, bend

*incline* (to lean, slant, slope, or cause to do so; to have a tendency or disposition toward something), *recline* (to lie back or down)

**crypt:** hidden

*crypt* (an underground vault or chamber, especially one used as a burial place), *cryptography* (secret writing; the process or skill of communicating in or deciphering coded messages)

**dem:** people

*democracy* (government by the people through elected representatives), *epidemic* (a widespread outbreak of a disease affecting many people at the same time)

**di, dia:** apart, through

*diameter* (a straight line passing through the center of a circle; thickness, width), *digress* (to turn aside, deviate, or swerve; to stray from the main subject in writing or speaking)

**dog, dox:** opinion

*dogged* (stubbornly unyielding, obstinate), *dogma* (a system of principles or beliefs, a prescribed doctrine)

**dys:** faulty, abnormal

*dysfunctional* (impaired or abnormal in function), *dyslexia* (an impaired ability to read)



**eu:** good, well

*eulogy* (a verbal or written tribute, especially one praising someone who has died), *euthanasia* (the act of painlessly ending the life of someone suffering from a terminal illness)

**(h)etero:** different, other

*heterosexual* (a person sexually attracted to members of the opposite sex), *heterodox* (disagreeing with or departing from accepted beliefs)

**(h)omo:** same

*homogeneous* (of the same or similar nature or kind; having a uniform structure or composition throughout), *homophone* (a word that sounds the same as another but has a different meaning)

**hyper:** over, excessive

*hyperactive* (highly or excessively active), *hyperventilate* (to breathe excessively and abnormally fast)

**morph:** shape

*metamorphosis* (a transformation, a marked change of form, character, or function), *polymorphous* (having or assuming a variety of forms)



### SHORTCUT: USING MNEMONIC DEVICES

Mnemonic devices, as you know, are those tricks such as rhymes that we use to help us remember things. Use them to remember the meaning of word roots. For example, you can use the following catchy sentences to remember these roots:

My name is *Nom*.

He is hidden in the *crypt*.

*Archie* is a good ruler.

All the eggs are in the *pan*.

*Phil* loves to help others.

Here's a trick to remember the difference between *hetero* (different) and *homo* (same): *homo* has the same number of letters as *same*.

If you are a visual learner, again, use pictures to help you remember words. For example, to remember that the root *dog/dox* means opinion, you can imagine a dog explaining his opinion on an important issue. To remember that *eu* means good or well, you can picture the letters EU on a well.

**nom, nym:** name

*nominate* (to name as a candidate), *synonym* (a word having the same or nearly the same meaning as another)

**pan:** all, everyone

*panorama* (a complete view in every direction), *pantheon* (a temple dedicated to all the gods; all the gods of a people or region)

**pas, pat, path:** feeling, suffering, disease

*compassion* (deep awareness of and sympathy for another's suffering),  
*sympathy* (sharing another person's feelings; feeling pity or tenderness toward another's pain or suffering; harmony, agreement between two people)

**ped:** child, education

*encyclopedia* (a comprehensive reference work on a wide range of subjects),  
*pediatrician* (a physician specializing in the care of infants and children)

**peri:** around

*perimeter* (the outer limits or boundary of an area), *periscope* (an optical instrument that provides a view of an otherwise obstructed field)

**phil:** love

*bibliophile* (a lover of books), *philosophy* (love and pursuit of wisdom; a systematic investigation of questions about knowledge, existence, and ethics)

**phone:** sound

*phonics* (a method of teaching reading by training beginners to associate letters with their sound values), *symphony* (a long and complex sonata for an orchestra; a large orchestra)

**theo:** god

*atheist* (one who denies the existence of a god or supreme being),  
*theology* (the study of god and religion)

Now you have a larger store of word roots in your vocabulary—and a greater ability to break down unfamiliar words and use their roots to determine meaning. Keep reviewing common word roots as well as prefixes and suffixes as you prepare for your test. The more familiar you are with these word parts, the more accurately you will be able to determine the meaning of unfamiliar words and achieve a higher score on your exam.

#### CHEAT SHEET: ASSOCIATE AND ELIMINATE

**Remember the power of two key vocabulary test strategies: association and elimination. Use association to remember root meanings and to determine the meaning of unfamiliar words. Use elimination to narrow down your answer choices on an exam. That way, even if you guess, you have a much better chance of guessing the correct answer.**

#### TIPS AND STRATEGIES

Many words in the English language come from Greek word roots. Here again are some specific strategies for using your knowledge of word roots to build your vocabulary and improve your score on an exam.

- Take the time to memorize as many Greek word roots as you can. By memorizing these word bases, you will be able to learn new words more quickly and better determine the meaning of unfamiliar words.
- Use words that you are very familiar with as examples when you study word roots. The more familiar the word is to you (e.g., *incline*, *democracy*), the easier it will be for you to remember the meaning of the root word. Use words that create a vivid picture in your imagination.
- Remember that you use common word roots every day, often without realizing it. Do not feel intimidated by the long lists in this chapter or in Appendix A. It is likely that you already know a lot of this material.
- Remember that word roots work with prefixes and suffixes—and sometimes other root words—to create meaning. Look at all parts of the word and the context, if possible, to determine meaning.
- Remember the power of elimination on an exam. Use your knowledge of word roots to eliminate incorrect answers. The more you narrow down your choices, the better your chances of choosing the correct answer.
- Use the power of association. If you don't know or can't remember the root word, try to recall the meaning of another word that sounds like it or shares the same root word.



#### EXTRA HELP

If you would like additional review or further practice with word roots, see Lessons 7 and 8 in LearningExpress's *Vocabulary and Spelling Success in 20 Minutes a Day, 3rd edition*.

### PRACTICE

Use your knowledge of word roots and prefixes and suffixes to choose the best answer to each question.

1. Something that is *unorthodox*:
  - a. does not accurately represent reality.
  - b. is mislabeled or misnamed.
  - c. does not conform to traditionally held beliefs.
  - d. is conspicuously out of place.
  - e. is unable to function due to excessive wear and tear.

2. A *euphemism* is:
  - a. a highly fatal disease.
  - b. a nice word to replace something offensive.
  - c. something rare, unique.
  - d. a name with an ancient origin.
  - e. a theory of education in which humanities should be emphasized over the sciences.
  
3. A *nominal* leader:
  - a. does not have any real power.
  - b. does not have any education.
  - c. does not accurately represent his or her constituents.
  - d. implements policies similar to his or her predecessor.
  - e. believes him or herself to be a god.
  
4. Someone who is *apathetic*:
  - a. is very sensitive to noise.
  - b. is so dependent upon others he or she has difficulty functioning alone.
  - c. lacks the strength to do what is right or good.
  - d. shows a lack of concern or emotion.
  - e. has difficulty determining his or her position on important issues.
  
5. A *panacea* is:
  - a. a malfunctioning machine or appliance.
  - b. a cure-all.
  - c. a well-wisher.
  - d. a secret lover.
  - e. a copy or duplicate.
  
6. An *automaton* is:
  - a. a musician.
  - b. a world traveler.
  - c. someone who frequently exaggerates.
  - d. a robotic person.
  - e. a disfigured person.
  
7. A person who is *peripatetic*:
  - a. is poor, destitute.
  - b. is in good health, both emotionally and physically.
  - c. walks around from place to place.
  - d. is related to royalty.
  - e. is prone to excessive spending.

8. A *dystopia* is:
- an imaginary place filled with terror and oppression.
  - a school devoted to religious training.
  - an incision made by slicing diagonally through something.
  - a congenital disease of the heart.
  - an uneven or twisted path, especially one through a mountain.
9. A *heterogeneous* group:
- meets at the same time each week.
  - is the group that determines the rules or regulations that others must abide by.
  - is composed of very different people.
  - donates money to numerous charities.
  - is well-rounded and efficient.
10. A *hyperbole* is:
- a long detour.
  - a great exaggeration.
  - a similarity or sameness.
  - a coincidence; something that happens at the same time.
  - a token of support or encouragement.
11. Something that is *cryptic*:
- is known by name.
  - is round or spherical in shape.
  - is designed for very young children.
  - has a secret meaning.
  - shares the opinion of the majority.
12. A *diatribe* is:
- a bitter, cutting verbal attack.
  - an unexpected test result.
  - a self-destructive behavior.
  - a large group of like-minded people.
  - a heart-warming story, especially one in which family members are reunited.
13. Someone who is *pedantic*:
- enjoys playing music, especially with others.
  - tends to favor one person over others although all have equal qualifications.
  - refuses to listen to the opinions of others.
  - is constantly trying to show how much he or she knows.
  - is obsessed with a celebrity, especially one who is dead.

14. When there is *discord* between two people, there is:
- a deeply loving relationship.
  - a lack of agreement or harmony.
  - a shared opinion or belief.
  - a mutual respect.
  - an inability to respect the differences between them.
15. A *proclivity* is:
- an impairment; something that prevents something from working properly.
  - a natural tendency or inclination.
  - an unlikely friendship or cooperative effort between two or more people.
  - a formal statement of one's beliefs.
  - a regulation or rule that all must abide by.
16. Someone who is a *misanthrope*:
- loves meeting new people or having new experiences.
  - changes his or her name frequently.
  - tends to side with the majority or winning side.
  - dutifully records events in a diary or journal.
  - dislikes or distrusts most other people.
17. You have an *oligarchy* when:
- all sides are equal.
  - the government is run by a few powerful people.
  - there is widespread discontent among the members of an organization.
  - there is a revolution in teaching methods or in a curriculum.
  - there is an overabundance of material, supplies, etc.
18. A *pandemic* flu would:
- affect a great many people over a very large area.
  - cause great suffering to an individual who contracts it.
  - be annoying but essentially harmless.
  - stem from an unknown or hidden source.
  - last a long time and tend to recur frequently.

19. A *cacophony* is:
- something fake; a copy or forgery.
  - an immature or childish person.
  - a harsh or jarring sound; clamor.
  - a tribute to a deity.
  - something tangled or twisted; a complex or intricate design or shape.
20. An *apotheosis* is:
- a medical doctor specializing in hereditary diseases.
  - a belief in the supremacy of human beings.
  - a refusal to acknowledge similarities between two people, ideas, etc.
  - a glorification, the elevation of a person to a divine status.
  - a means of removing obstructions without causing damage to the existing structure.
21. *Anthropomorphic* means:
- attributing human characteristics to an animal or object.
  - functioning independently.
  - reduced to the smallest possible amount; the core.
  - named after an ancestor.
  - something that is required in order for something else to take place; a prerequisite.
22. A *paradox* is something that:
- is highly offensive.
  - has a three-dimensional shape or form.
  - seems to contradict a generally accepted opinion.
  - a trick or sleight of hand; something cunning or deceitful.
  - has a beneficial effect, especially on health.
23. *Demography* is the study of:
- disease.
  - abnormal behaviors.
  - types or systems of government.
  - human populations.
  - religious figures, especially saints.
24. If you feel a *disinclination* towards something, you feel:
- passion.
  - reluctance.
  - a strong connection, synergy.
  - pity.
  - discomfort.

25. A *dichotomy* is:
- a cutting or dividing into two parts.
  - something used to diagnose personality disorders.
  - a chamber in the heart.
  - a tool used to bend something that is straight.
  - a universal principle or belief.

## ANSWERS

1. **c.** The prefix *un-* means not, against. The root *dog/dox* means opinion. *Unorthodox* means breaking with convention or tradition, not orthodox; nonconformist.
2. **b.** The root *eu* means good, well. The noun suffix *-ism* means state or doctrine of. A *euphemism* is a mild or inoffensive word or phrase substituted for one that is considered harsh or offensive.
3. **a.** The root *nom/nym* means name; the adjective suffix *-al* means of or relating to. *Nominal* means of or relating to names; existing in name only, not real; so small as to be trivial or insignificant. Thus, a nominal leader is a leader in name only and has no real power.
4. **d.** The prefix *a-* means not, without. The root *pas/pat/path* means feeling, suffering, disease. The adjective suffix *-ic* means pertaining or relating to, having the quality of. *Apathetic* means feeling or showing a lack of interest, concern, or emotion; indifferent, unresponsive.
5. **b.** The root *pan* means all, everyone. A *panacea* is a remedy of all ills, evils, difficulties, or diseases; a cure-all.
6. **d.** The root *auto* means self. An *automaton* is someone who acts or responds in a mechanical or robotic way; a self-operating or automatic machine, a robot.
7. **c.** The root *peri* means around. The adjective suffix *-ic* means pertaining or relating to, having the quality of. *Peripatetic* means walking about from place to place, itinerant.
8. **a.** The root *dys* means faulty, abnormal. The noun suffix *-ia* identifies names or diseases. A *dystopia* is an imaginary state in which the condition of life is extremely bad, as from deprivation, terror, or oppression; a story describing such a state.



9. c. The Greek root *hetero* means different, other; the Latin root *gen* means birth, kind. The adjective suffix *-ous* means having the quality of or relating to. *Heterogeneous* means consisting of elements or parts that are dissimilar, unrelated, not of the same kind or nature.
10. b. The root *hyper* means over, excessive. A *hyperbole* is a figure of speech using exaggeration for emphasis or effect.
11. d. The root *crypt* means hidden. The adjective suffix *-ic* means pertaining or relating to, having the quality of. *Cryptic* means having a hidden or secret meaning, mysterious; hidden, secret, occult.
12. a. The root *dia* means apart, through. A *diatribe* means a bitter, abusive verbal attack; an acrimonious denunciation.
13. d. The root *ped* means child, education. The adjective suffix *-ic* means pertaining or relating to, having the quality of. *Pedantic* means marked by a narrow, tiresome focus on or display of learning, especially of rules or trivial matters.
14. b. The prefix *dis-* means away from, apart, reversal, not. The root *card/cord/cour* means heart. *Discord* means a lack of agreement or harmony among persons, groups, or things; tension resulting from such disagreement.
15. b. The prefix *pro-* means for, forward. The root *cli/clin* means to lean toward, bend. The noun suffix *-ity* means state of being. *Proclivity* means a natural tendency, disposition, or inclination; predisposition.
16. e. The prefix *mis-* means wrong, ill. The root *anthro/andro* means man, human. A *misanthrope* is one who hates or distrusts mankind.
17. b. The root *arch/archi/archy* means chief, principal, ruler. An *oligarchy* is a form of government in which the power is in the hands of a few people. *Olig* means few.
18. a. The root *pan* means all, everyone; the root *de* means people. The adjective suffix *-ic* means pertaining or relating to, having the quality of. A *pandemic* is an epidemic affecting a wide geographical area and affecting a large portion of the population.

19. c. The root *phone* means sound. A *cacophony* is a loud, jarring, discordant sound; clamor, din.
20. d. The root *theo* means god. The noun suffix *-sis* means the process of. An *apotheosis* is a deification, an exalted or glorified ideal.
21. a. The root *anthro/andro* means man, human; the root *morph* means shape. The adjective suffix *-ic* means pertaining or relating to, having the quality of. *Anthropomorphic* means attributing human characteristics, motivations, or behavior to animals or inanimate objects.
22. c. The prefix *para-* means beside. The root *dog/dox* means opinion. A *paradox* is a statement that seems to be contradictory or absurd but may nonetheless be true, a self-contradictory assertion; a statement contrary to received opinion.
23. d. The root *dem* means people. The noun suffix *-graphy* means writing about or representation of a specific subject or object. *Demography* means the study of the characteristics of human populations, such as size, growth, births, mortality, and economic standing.
24. b. The prefix *dis-* means away from, apart, reversal, not. The root *cli/clin* means to lean toward, bend. The noun suffix *-tion* means action, process, or the result of an action or process; state, condition, or quality of. *Disinclination* means a mild dislike, unwillingness, reluctance; a lack of inclination.
25. a. The root *di/dia* means apart, through. The noun suffix *-y* means condition, state, or quality. A *dichotomy* is a division into two usually contradictory parts or kinds.

**WORD LIST**

- amorphous** (ă·'mor·fūs) *adj.* 1. having no definite form or distinct shape; shapeless 2. of no particular kind or character, anomalous.
- anachronism** (ă·'nak·rō·niz·ëm) *n.* 1. something that is placed into an incorrect historical period 2. a person, custom, or idea that is out of date.
- anarchy** ('an·ăr·kee) *n.* 1. the complete absence of government or control resulting in lawlessness 2. political disorder and confusion.
- anthropomorphic** (an·thrō·pō·'mor·fik) *adj.* attributing human characteristics, motivations, or behavior to animals or inanimate objects.
- apathetic** (ap·ă·'thet·ik) *adj.* feeling or showing a lack of interest, concern, or emotion; indifferent, unresponsive.
- apotheosis** (ă·poth·i·'oh·sis) *n.* deification, an exalted or glorified ideal.
- automaton** (aw·'tom·ă·tōn) *n.* someone who acts or responds in a mechanical or robotic way 2. a self-operating or automatic machine, a robot.
- autonomy** (aw·'ton·ō·mee) *n.* personal or political independence; self-government, self-determination.
- cacophony** (kă·'kof·ō·nee) *n.* loud, jarring, discordant sound; clamor, din.
- chronic** ('kron·ik) *adj.* 1. continuing for a long time; on-going, habitual 2. long-lasting or recurrent.
- chronicle** ('kron·i·kēl) *n.* a detailed record or narrative description of past events; *v.* to record in chronological order; make a historical record.
- chronological** (kron·ō·'loj·i·kāl) *adj.* relating to chronology; arranged in order of time of occurrence.
- chronology** (krō·'nol·ō·jee) *n.* the arrangement of events in time; the sequence in which events occurred.
- chronometer** (krō·'nom·i·tēr) *n.* an exceptionally accurate clock; a precise instrument for measuring time.
- cryptic** ('krip·tik) *adj.* having a hidden or secret meaning, mysterious; hidden, secret, occult.
- demography** (di·'mog·ră·fee) *n.* the study of the characteristics of human populations, such as size, growth, births, mortality, and economic standing.
- diatribe** ('dī·ă·trīb) *n.* a bitter, abusive verbal attack; an acrimonious denunciation.
- dichotomy** (dī·'kot·ō·mee) *n.* division into two usually contradictory parts or kinds.
- discord** ('dis·kord) *n.* 1. a lack of agreement or harmony among persons, groups, or things; tension resulting from such disagreement 2. a harsh or jarring sound or combination of sounds.

- disinclination** (dis·in·kli·'nay·shŏn) *n.* a mild dislike, unwillingness, or reluctance; a lack of inclination.
- dogmatic** (dawg·'mat·ik) *adj.* 1. asserting something in a positive, absolute, arrogant way 2. of or relating to dogma.
- dystopia** (dis·'to·pi·ă) *n.* 1. an imaginary state in which the condition of life is extremely bad, as from deprivation, terror, or oppression 2. a story describing such a state.
- empathy** ('em·pă·thee) *n.* understanding and identifying with another's feelings, situation, or motives.
- euphemism** ('yoo·fĕ·miz·ĕm) *n.* a mild or inoffensive word or phrase substituted for one that is considered harsh or offensive, e.g., *passed away*.
- euphoria** (yoo·'fohr·i·ă) *n.* a feeling of well·being or high spirits.
- heterogeneous** (het·ĕ·rŏ·'jee·ni·ŭs) *adj.* consisting of elements or parts that are dissimilar, unrelated, not of the same kind or nature.
- homogeneous** (hoh·mŏ·'jee·ni·ŭs) *adj.* of the same or similar nature or kind; having a uniform structure or composition throughout.
- hyperbole** (hĭ·'pur·bŏ·lee) *n.* a figure of speech using exaggeration for emphasis or effect, e.g., *I've told you a million times*.
- misanthrope** (mis·'an·throhp) *n.* one who hates or distrusts humankind.
- nominal** ('nom·ĭ·năl) *adj.* 1. of or relating to a name or names 2. existing in name only, not real 3. so small as to be trivial or insignificant.
- oligarchy** ('ol·ĭ·gahr·kee) *n.* a form of government in which the power is in the hands of a few people.
- panacea** (pan·ă·'see·ă) *n.* a remedy for all ills, evils, difficulties, or diseases; a cure·all.
- pandemic** (pan·'dem·ik) *adj.* 1. widespread, existing everywhere; *n.* an epidemic affecting a wide geographical area and affecting a large portion of the population.
- pandemonium** (pan·dĕ·'moh·ni·ŭm) *n.* a state of extreme disorder or chaos; a wild uproar, noisy confusion.
- paradox** ('par·ă·doks) *n.* 1. a statement that seems to be contradictory or absurd but may nonetheless be true; a self·contradictory assertion 2. a statement contrary to received opinion.
- pedantic** (pi·'dăn·tik) *adj.* marked by a narrow, tiresome focus on or display of learning, especially of rules or trivial matters.
- peripatetic** (per·i·pă·'tet·ik) *adj.* walking about from place to place; itinerant.
- peripheral** (pĕ·'rif·ĕ·răl) *adj.* 1. of or relating to the periphery or edge; on the outer boundary 2. not of central importance or relevance.

**philanthropy** (fi·'lan·thrō·pee) *n.* 1. love of humankind 2. voluntary action intended to promote the welfare of others; an institution dedicated to this.

**proclivity** (proh·'kliv·i·tee) *n.* a natural tendency, disposition, or inclination; predisposition.

**pseudonym** ('soo·dō·nim) *n.* a fictitious name, especially a pen name used by a writer.

**synchronize** ('sing·krō·nīz) *v.* 1. to cause to occur at the same time 2. to cause to agree in time 3. to occur at the same time, be simultaneous.

**unorthodox** (un·'or·thō·doks) *adj.* breaking with convention or tradition, not orthodox; nonconformist.