Word Roots and Stems

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Root** | **Meanings** | **Sample Words and Definitions** |
| **a/an**  | not, without | **a**byss: without bottom |
| **a** | on | **a**fire: on fireashore: on shore **a**side: on the side |
| **act** | do | **act**ivity: something that a person doesre**act**: to do something in response |
| **aer/aero** | air | **aero**space: the air space**aero**bic: exercise with air (oxygen) |
| **agri/agro** | farming | **agri**culture: management of the land**agr**arian: relating to management of land |
| **ambi** | both, on both sides | **ambi**dextrous: can use both hands equally**ambi**guous: having more than one meaning |
| **ambul** | walk or move | **ambul**ance: a vehicle that moves a patient**ambl**e: to walk in a slow, relaxed way |
| **ami/amo** | love | **ami**able: friendly and pleasant**amo**rous: showing romantic love |
| **ana** | up, back, against, again, throughout | **ana**lysis: close examination of something**ana**tomy: structure of something is visible when cut up |
| **andr/andro** | man, male | **andr**oid: resembling a human |
| **anim** | life, spirit | **anim**al: a living organism**anim**ate: to make alive |
| **ann/enn** | year | **ann**iversary: a date observed once a year**ann**ual: happening once a yearmill**enn**ium: 1,000 years |
| **ante** | before, in front | **ante**meridian: before noon**ante**cede: to come before something |
| **anthro****anthropo** | human | **anthro**pology: the study of mankindphil**anthrop**y: love to mankind expressed through good deeds |
| **anti** | against, opposite of | **anti**body: a substance that destroys micro-organisms**anti**social: opposing social norms |
| **aqu/aqua** | water | **aqua**rium: a water container for fish**aqu**educt: a pipeline for water |
| **arbor** | tree | **arbor**ous: having many trees**arbor**: a shady area formed by trees |
| **arch/archi** | chief, most | **arch**enemy: worst enemy |
| **art** | skill | **art**ifact: object made by a person’s skill**art**ist: a person who creates skillfully |
| **astro** | star, stars, outer | **astro**naut: a person traveling to the stars |
| **aud/audi/audio** | hear | **aud**ible: loud enough to be heard**audi**ence: people who listen to a program |
| **auto** | self, same, one | **auto**graph: a person’s own signature**auto**matic: moving by itself |
| **bene** | good, well | **bene**volent: showing kindness or goodwill**bene**ficial: producing a good effect |
| **bi/bin** | two, twice | **bi**annual: happening twice a year**bin**oculars: optical device with two lenses |
| **bibli/biblio** | book | **biblio**graphy: a list of books used as sources**biblio**phile: a person who loves books |
| **bio** | life, living matter | **bio**graphy: a life story written by another person**bio**logy: the science of life |
| **capt/cept** | take, hold | inter**cept**: to stop or interruptre**capt**ure: taking something back |
| **centri****centri/centro** | center | ego**centr**ic: self-centered**centri**fugal: moving outward from a center |
| **cert** | sure | as**cert**ain: to find out something with certainty**cert**ify: to state that something is true |
| **chron/chrono** | time | **chron**ic: lasting for a long timesyn**chron**ize: happening at the same time |
| **circum/circle** | around, about | **circum**spect: looking around**circum**navigate: to sail around |
| **claim/clam** | shout, speak out | **clam**or: to should and make noiseex**claim**: to cry out loudly and suddenly |
| **cline** | lean | in**clin**ation: a leaning towardre**cline**: to lean back and relax |
| **co** | with, together, joint | **co**author: write who collaborates with another author**co**operate: work together with others |
| **col** | together, jointly | **col**laborate: to work together**col**lision: smashing together |
| **cogn/cogni** | know | **cogni**tion: process of acquiring knowledgein**cogni**to: disguised so no one knows you |
| **con** | with, jointly | **con**cur: to agree with someone**con**vention: a gathering of people with a common interest |
| **contra/contro** | against, opposite | **contra**dict: to argue against**contro**versy: disagreement |
| **counter** | opposite, opposing | **counter**act: to oppose the effects of an action**counter**offensive: attack against an attack |
| **cranio** | skull | **crani**um: skull of vertebrates |
| **cred** | believe | in**cred**ible: unbelievable**cred**ence: belief that something is true or valid |
| **crypto** | hidden, secret | **crypt**ic: of hidden meaningen**crypt**: encode into secret code |
| **cumul** | mass, heap | ac**cumul**ate: to gather or pile up**cumul**ative: gradually building up |
| **cycl** | circle, ring | bi**cycl**e: a vehicle with two wheels**cycl**e: a sequence that is repeated |
| **de** | reduce, away, down, remove | **dec**elerate: to slow down, reduce speed**de**bug: to remove bugs |
| **dec/deca** | ten | **dec**ade: ten years**deca**gon: a ten-sided figure |
| **dem/demo** | people | **demo**cracy: government of the peopleepi**dem**ic: spreading among people in a region |
| **di/dis** | apart, away | **dis**appear: to move out of sight**di**ssect: to cut apart, piece by piece |
| **dia** | through, between, apart, across | **dia**gnosis: understanding a condition by going through a detailed review of symptoms**dia**log: conversation between two people |
| **dict** | speak | contra**dict**: to express the opposite ofpre**dict**ion: a statement foretelling the future |
| **duc/duct** | lead | e**duc**ate: to lead to knowledgecon**duct**: to lead musicians in playing music |
| **du/duo** | two, twice | **du**et: a musical composition for two voices or instruments**du**plicate: make an identical copy |
| **dur** | harden, to last, lasting | **dur**ation: the length of time something lastsen**dur**ance: able to last or keep going |
| **dys** | abnormal, bad | **dys**topia: an imaginary place of total misery**dys**lexia: impairment of the ability to handle words |
| **ego** | I, self | **ego**mania: excessive preoccupation with oneself |
| **em/en** | into, cover with, cause | **em**pathy: intention to feel like another person**em**power: put into power |
| **enn/enni/anni** | years | bicent**enni**al: of or relating to an age or period of 200 yearsper**enni**al: lasting through many years |
| **ep/epi** | on, upon, over, among, at, after, to, outside | **epi**demic: the rapid spread of something negative**epi**center: the center of an earthquake |
| **equ/equi** | equal, equality | **equ**ation: a statement of equality**equi**distant: an equal distance from two points |
| **ethno** | race, people | **ethn**ic: pertaining to a defined group of people**ethno**logy: the science of people and races |
| **ex** | from, out | **ex**cavate: to dig out**ex**hale: to breathe out |
| **extra/extro** | outside, beyond | **extra**terrestrial: outside the Earth**extro**vert: an outgoing person |
| **fer** | bear, bring, carry | con**fer**: to bring an honor to someonetrans**fer**: to move to another place |
| **flect** | bend | de**flect**: to bend course because of hitting something**flex**ible: easy bending |
| **flor/flora/fleur** | flower | **flor**al: flowerlike |
| **fore** | in front of, previous, earlier | **fore**bode: to give an advance warning of something bad**fore**cast: a preview of events to be |
| **fract/frag** | break | **fract**ure: a break**frag**ile: easy to break |
| **funct** | perform, work | **funct**ion: to work or perform a role normallyde**funct**: no longer working or alive |
| **gen/geno/gene****genesis** | birth, production, formation, kind | **gene**ology: the study of the history of a family**gene**ration: all the people born at approximately the same time |
| **geo** | earth, soil, global | **geo**graphy: study of the earth’s surface**geo**ponics: soil based agriculture |
| **giga** | a billion | **giga**byte: unit of computer storage space |
| **gon** | angle | deca**gon**: a polygon with ten anglespoly**gon**: many angles |
| **gram** | letter, written | dia**gram**: a simple drawing**gram**mar: rules of how to write words in sentences |
| **graph/graphy** | writing, recording, written | **graph**ology: the study of handwritingsseismo**graph**: a machine noting strength and duration of earthquakes |
| **heli/helio** | sun | **helio**tropism: movement or growth relating to the sun**heli**anthus: genus of plants including sunflowers |
| **hemi** | half, partial | **hemi**sphere: one half of the earth**hemi**stich: half a line of poetry |
| **hem/hemo/hema** | blood | **hemo**rrhage: clotting of the blood**hemo**globin: red blood particle |
| **herbi** | grass, plant | **herbi**cide: any chemical used to kill unwanted plants**herbi**vore: plant-eating animal |
| **hetero** | different, other | **hetero**geneous: made up of unrelated parts |
| **homo/homeo** | like, alike, same | **homo**geneous: of the same nature or kind**homo**nym: sounding alike |
| **hydr/hydro** | liquid, water | **hydr**ate: to add water to**hydr**aulic: operated by force created by liquid |
|  |  |  |