

Greek and Latin Roots and Affixes

Name: _____

Date: _____

Score: _____ / 10



Quick Review

Many English words come from Greek and Latin roots. Knowing a few common roots unlocks the meaning of dozens of words. Some to know: **tele-** (far), **photo-** (light), **graph-/graph** (write/writing), **port-** (carry), **dict-** (say/speak), **scope-** (look), **struct-** (build), **bio-** (life), **geo-** (earth), **aud-** (hear), **vid-/vis-** (see), **scrib-/script** (write), **spect-** (look), **aqua-** (water), **terr-** (earth/land), **tract-** (pull/drag).

PRACTICE

Use the Greek or Latin root to choose the *BEST* meaning. Distractors are meanings of *OTHER* common roots that students often confuse.

- Based on the root **tele-**, what does *telegraph* most likely mean?
 - a tool that measures heat
 - a device for writing or sending messages over long distances
 - a tool for looking at small things up close
 - a record of someone's life
- Based on the root **aqua-**, what does *aquatic* most likely mean?
 - related to fire
 - related to the sky
 - related to mountains
 - related to water
- Based on the root **port-**, what does *portable* most likely mean?
 - able to be repaired
 - able to be seen
 - able to be carried
 - able to be heard
- Based on the root **dict-**, what does *dictation* most likely mean?
 - the act of speaking words for someone to write down
 - the act of writing a long story
 - the act of looking through a lens
 - the act of carrying heavy boxes



5. Based on the root **bio-**, what does *biography* most likely mean?
 - A. a writing about earth
 - B. a writing about a person's life
 - C. a writing about water
 - D. a writing about distant places
6. Based on the root **spect-**, what does *spectator* most likely mean?
 - A. a person who hears
 - B. a person who reads
 - C. a person who travels
 - D. a person who watches
7. Based on the root **geo-**, what does *geology* most likely mean?
 - A. the study of the earth
 - B. the study of living things
 - C. the study of stars
 - D. the study of water
8. Based on the root **aud-**, what does *audible* most likely mean?
 - A. able to be moved
 - B. able to be seen clearly
 - C. able to be heard
 - D. able to be eaten
9. Based on the root **struct-**, what does *construct* most likely mean?
 - A. to take apart
 - B. to build
 - C. to carry away
 - D. to look at
10. Based on the root **tract-**, what does *retract* most likely mean?
 - A. to break into many pieces
 - B. to make new again
 - C. to look back at
 - D. to pull back



Answer Keys

- 1 A B C D
- 2 A B C D
- 3 A B C D
- 4 A B C D
- 5 A B C D

- 6 A B C D
- 7 A B C D
- 8 A B C D
- 9 A B C D
- 10 A B C D

Explanations

1. B	tele- = <i>far</i> and graph = <i>writing</i> ; together: writing across distance . A is meter / -therm; C is microscope (<i>scope-</i> = look + <i>micro-</i> = small); D is biography (<i>bio-</i> = life + <i>graph</i> = writing).
2. D	aqua- = <i>water</i> . A is <i>pyro-</i> (fire); B is <i>aero-</i> (air/sky); C is <i>mont-</i> (mountain). Aquatic animals live in water.
3. C	port- = <i>carry</i> . A confuses with no specific root; B is <i>vis-/vid-</i> (see); D is <i>aud-</i> (hear). A portable speaker is one you can carry.
4. A	dict- = <i>say/speak</i> . B is <i>scrib-/script-</i> (write); C is <i>spect-/scope-</i> (look); D is <i>port-</i> (carry). When you take dictation, someone speaks and you write.
5. B	bio- = <i>life</i> and graph = <i>writing</i> ; life writing = a person's life story. A is <i>geography</i> (<i>geo-</i> = earth); C is <i>aqua-</i> ; D is <i>tele-</i> (far).
6. D	spect- = <i>look/watch</i> . A is <i>aud-</i> (hear); B is <i>lect-</i> (read/choose); C is <i>tract-/port-</i> . A spectator at a game watches the action.
7. A	geo- = <i>earth</i> and -logy = <i>study of</i> . B is biology (<i>bio-</i> = life); C is astronomy (<i>astro-</i> = star); D is hydrology (<i>hydro-</i> = water).
8. C	aud- = <i>hear</i> . A is <i>mob-/mot-</i> (move); B is <i>vis-/vid-</i> (see); D is <i>edi-</i> (eat). If a whisper is audible, you can hear it.
9. B	struct- = <i>build</i> ; the prefix con- = <i>together</i> ; together: build together . A is the opposite (<i>destruct</i>); C is <i>port-</i> (carry); D is <i>spect-</i> (look).
10. D	tract- = <i>pull/drag</i> ; the prefix re- = <i>back/again</i> ; together: pull back . A is <i>frag-</i> (break); B is <i>nov-</i> (new) plus <i>re-</i> ; C is <i>spect-</i> (look) plus <i>re-</i> . To retract a statement is to pull it back.



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