

# 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

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Explanations	
<b>1. B</b>	<b>tele-</b> = <i>far</i> and <b>graph</b> = <i>writing</i> ; together: <b>writing across distance</b> . 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).
<b>2. D</b>	<b>aqua-</b> = <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.
<b>3. C</b>	<b>port-</b> = <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.
<b>4. A</b>	<b>dict-</b> = <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.
<b>5. B</b>	<b>bio-</b> = <i>life</i> and <b>graph</b> = <i>writing</i> ; <b>life writing</b> = 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).
<b>6. D</b>	<b>spect-</b> = <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.
<b>7. A</b>	<b>geo-</b> = <i>earth</i> and <b>-logy</b> = <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).
<b>8. C</b>	<b>aud-</b> = <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.
<b>9. B</b>	<b>struct-</b> = <i>build</i> ; the prefix <b>con-</b> = <i>together</i> ; together: <b>build together</b> . A is the opposite ( <i>destruct</i> ); C is <i>port-</i> (carry); D is <i>spect-</i> (look).
<b>10. D</b>	<b>tract-</b> = <i>pull/drag</i> ; the prefix <b>re-</b> = <i>back/again</i> ; together: <b>pull back</b> . 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.

