

Greek and Latin Roots and Affixes

Name: _____

Date: _____

Score: _____ / 10



Quick Review

Most long English words are built from smaller parts. Knowing a few Greek and Latin roots unlocks hundreds of words. **Greek roots:** auto- (self), bio- (life), graph (write), hydro- (water), micro- (small), photo- (light), tele- (far), therm- (heat), chrono- (time), geo- (earth).

Latin roots: aud- (hear), dict- (speak), port- (carry), rupt- (break), scrib/script (write), spect- (see), struct- (build), vis/vid (see), vert- (turn), tract- (pull). **Prefixes:** pre- (before), re- (again/back), sub- (under), trans- (across), dis- (not/apart), mal- (bad), post- (after), anti- (against), inter- (between). **Suffixes:** -able/-ible (can be), -less (without), -ous (full of), -tion/-sion (act/state of), -ity (quality of).

PRACTICE

Use the meaning of the root, prefix, or suffix to choose the *BEST* definition of each word.

- The word **chronological** contains the Greek root *chrono-*, meaning *time*. **Chronological** most likely means —
 - arranged by importance.
 - arranged in time order.
 - arranged alphabetically.
 - arranged by topic.
- The word **transport** contains the Latin root *port*, meaning *carry*, and the prefix *trans-*, meaning *across*. **Transport** most likely means —
 - to break apart into pieces.
 - to look across a great distance.
 - to send a message far away.
 - to carry from one place to another.
- Two words share the Greek root **bio-**: *biography* and *biology*. What does this root most likely mean?
 - life
 - writing
 - earth
 - study



4. The word **inaudible** contains the Latin root *aud*, meaning *hear*, the prefix *in-*, meaning *not*, and the suffix *-ible*, meaning *able to be*. **Inaudible** most likely means —
- A. able to be heard clearly.
 - B. loud enough to be heard.
 - C. not able to be heard.
 - D. spoken in a foreign language.
5. The word **dictate** contains the Latin root *dict*, meaning *speak* or *say*. **Dictate** most likely means —
- A. to write words by hand quickly.
 - B. to speak words for someone else to write down or follow.
 - C. to listen carefully to a teacher's words.
 - D. to argue back and forth with another person.
6. Two words share the Latin root **spect**: *inspect* and *spectator*. What does this root most likely mean?
- A. look or watch
 - B. build or make
 - C. carry or move
 - D. speak or say
7. The word **submerge** contains the prefix *sub-*, meaning *under*, and the root *merge*, meaning *dip* or *plunge*. **Submerge** most likely means —
- A. to lift up high above the surface.
 - B. to dip lightly across the top of water.
 - C. to combine two things into one.
 - D. to put completely under the surface of water.
8. Two words share the prefix **mal-**: *malfunction* and *malnourished*. What does this prefix most likely add to a word?
- A. the meaning *before*.
 - B. the meaning *between*.
 - C. the meaning *bad* or *wrong*.
 - D. the meaning *again*.
9. The word **antibiotic** is built from three parts: *anti-* (against), *bio-* (life), and *-tic* (an adjective ending). Using the meanings of the parts, explain in 2–3 sentences why doctors prescribe antibiotics. Be sure to mention what kind of *life* the word refers to.



10. Use roots and affixes to define each underlined word in 1 short sentence each. Then name the root that gives the main meaning.

(a) thermometer (b) visible (c) interrupt



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
- 10

Explanations

1. B	<i>Chrono-</i> = <i>time</i> , so a chronological list is arranged in time order (earliest to latest, or the reverse). A, C, and D each name a real way to organize information — but they ignore the <i>chrono-</i> root, which fixes the meaning to time.
2. D	<i>Trans-</i> (across) + <i>port</i> (carry) = to carry from one place to another . A uses the wrong root (<i>rupt</i> = break). B ignores <i>port</i> and uses <i>spect-</i> (look) instead. C ignores <i>port</i> and uses <i>tele-</i> (far) plus <i>graph</i> (write/send) instead.
3. A	Both <i>biography</i> (writing about a life) and <i>biology</i> (study of living things) share the meaning life . B is the <i>graph</i> part of <i>biography</i> , not <i>bio-</i> . C is <i>geo-</i> (earth), a different root. D is the <i>-logy</i> ending of <i>biology</i> , not the shared <i>bio-</i> root.
4. C	<i>In-</i> (not) + <i>aud</i> (hear) + <i>-ible</i> (able to be) = not able to be heard . A drops the negative prefix. B reverses the meaning by ignoring <i>in-</i> . D ignores the root altogether and guesses based on sound.
5. B	<i>Dict</i> = speak , so a person who dictates speaks words for someone else to write down or follow . A uses <i>scrib/script</i> (write), the opposite role. C uses <i>aud</i> (hear), the listener's role. D names a verbal exchange but loses the one-way <i>speak-and-record</i> meaning.
6. A	An inspector looks at things closely; a spectator watches a game. The shared meaning is look or watch . B is <i>struct</i> (build). C is <i>port</i> (carry). D is <i>dict</i> (speak). Students sometimes mix up <i>spect</i> with <i>spec</i> in <i>specific</i> — that is a different word family.
7. D	<i>Sub-</i> (under) + <i>merge</i> (dip/plunge) = to put completely under the surface . A reverses the prefix <i>sub-</i> with <i>super-</i> (above). B drops the <i>sub-</i> and treats the action as surface-level only. C grabs another meaning of <i>merge</i> (combine) but ignores the water root altogether.
8. C	A <i>malfunction</i> is when something works badly; a <i>malnourished</i> animal is fed badly. The prefix mal- means bad or wrong . A is <i>pre-</i> . B is <i>inter-</i> . D is <i>re-</i> . Each distractor is a real prefix — just not the one shared by these two words.
9.	Answer: Antibiotic literally means <i>against life</i> . The <i>life</i> it acts against is bacterial life — tiny living organisms that can cause infection. Doctors prescribe antibiotics to fight bacterial infections by killing the bacteria or stopping their growth, while leaving the patient's own cells alone.
10.	Answer: (a) thermometer is a tool that measures heat or temperature; the main root is <i>therm-</i> (heat). (b) Something visible is able to be seen; the main root is <i>vis-</i> (see). (c) To interrupt someone is to break in between their words or actions; the main root is <i>rupt-</i> (break), with the prefix <i>inter-</i> (between).



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