

Greek and Latin Roots and Affixes

Name: _____

Date: _____

Score: _____ / 10



Quick Review

Long Grade 7 words almost always break into smaller pieces. Know the pieces, unlock hundreds of words. **Greek roots:** bio (life), chrono (time), graph (write), hydra/hydro (water), macro (large), micro (small), photo (light), phono (sound), thermo (heat), tele (far). **Latin roots:** bene (good), mal (bad), magn (great), dict (speak), scrib/script (write), port (carry), spec/spect (see), tract (pull), vert (turn), rupt (break), fract/frag (break), ject (throw). **Prefixes:** ante- (before), post- (after), pre- (before), sub- (under), super- (above), trans- (across), inter- (between), intra- (within), anti- (against), dis- (not/apart), mis- (wrong), non- (not), omni- (all), semi- (half), hyper- (over), hypo- (under). **Suffixes:** -able/-ible (can be), -ous (full of), -ful (full of), -less (without), -ity (quality of), -tion/-sion (act or state of), -ize/-fy (make), -ment (result of), -ist (one who), -ism (belief or practice).

PRACTICE

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

- The word **benevolent** contains the Latin root *bene*, meaning *good*, and the root *vol*, meaning *wish* or *will*. **Benevolent** most likely means —
 - wishing harm or ill toward others.
 - showing goodwill or kindness toward others.
 - skilled at speaking in front of crowds.
 - able to read at a very fast pace.
- The word **introvert** contains the prefix *intro-*, meaning *inside*, and the Latin root *vert*, meaning *turn*. **Introvert** most likely describes —
 - a person who turns against the rules.
 - a person who carries heavy loads.
 - a person who speaks loudly in any setting.
 - a person whose energy and attention turn inward.
- Two words share the Greek root **phono-**: *telephone* and *symphony*. What does this root most likely mean?
 - sound
 - light
 - small
 - writing



4. The word **retrospective** contains the prefix *retro-*, meaning *back*, the Latin root *spec/spect*, meaning *look* or *see*, and the suffix *-ive*, meaning *tending to*. **Retrospective** most likely means —
- A. tending to predict events that have not happened yet.
 - B. tending to break apart under pressure.
 - C. tending to look back at past events.
 - D. tending to speak in front of large crowds.
5. The word **antebellum** contains the prefix *ante-*, meaning *before*, and the Latin root *bell*, meaning *war*. **Antebellum** most likely describes —
- A. a time period that occurred against a war.
 - B. a time period before a war.
 - C. a time period after a war has ended.
 - D. a time period during the middle of a war.
6. Two words share the Latin root **fract/frag**: *fracture* and *fragment*. What does this root most likely mean?
- A. break
 - B. carry
 - C. see
 - D. turn
7. The word **omniscient** contains the prefix *omni-*, meaning *all*, and the Latin root *sci*, meaning *know*. An **omniscient** narrator is one who —
- A. knows nothing and must guess at events.
 - B. knows only what one character thinks.
 - C. knows how to write in many different languages.
 - D. knows everything about every character and event.
8. Two words share the prefix **hyper-**: *hyperactive* and *hyperbole*. What does this prefix most likely add to a word?
- A. the meaning *under* or *below*.
 - B. the meaning *between* or *among*.
 - C. the meaning *over*, *above*, or *excessive*.
 - D. the meaning *before* in time.
9. The word **misanthrope** is built from two Greek parts: *mis-* (hate) and *anthropos* (human being). Using the meanings of the parts, explain in 2–3 sentences what a misanthrope is and how the word differs from *philanthropist* (*phil-* = love).



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

(a) transcribe (b) subterranean (c) malevolent



Answer Keys

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Explanations	
1. B	<i>Bene</i> (good) + <i>vol</i> (wish) = showing goodwill or kindness toward others . A reverses <i>bene</i> into <i>mal</i> (bad) and lands on <i>malevolent</i> . C uses <i>dict</i> (speak) instead of <i>vol</i> . D ignores both roots entirely.
2. D	<i>Intro-</i> (inside) + <i>vert</i> (turn) = a person whose energy and attention turn inward . A swaps <i>intro-</i> for <i>anti-</i> (against). B uses <i>port</i> (carry) instead of <i>vert</i> . C describes the opposite trait (extroversion).
3. A	A <i>telephone</i> carries sound over distance; a <i>symphony</i> is a large piece of sound made by many instruments. The shared meaning is sound . B is <i>photo</i> (light). C is <i>micro</i> (small). D is <i>graph</i> (writing), which appears in <i>telegraph</i> but not in either word above.
4. C	<i>Retro-</i> (back) + <i>spect</i> (look) + <i>-ive</i> (tending to) = tending to look back at past events . A reverses the direction (a <i>prospective</i> view looks forward). B uses <i>rupt</i> (break) instead of <i>spect</i> . D ignores <i>spect</i> and uses <i>dict</i> (speak).
5. B	<i>Ante-</i> (before) + <i>bell</i> (war) = a time period before a war . A confuses <i>ante-</i> with <i>anti-</i> (against). C confuses <i>ante-</i> with <i>post-</i> (after). D drops the time-shift of the prefix and lands in the middle. Mixing up <i>ante-</i> and <i>anti-</i> is a common Grade 7 error.
6. A	A <i>fracture</i> is a break in a bone; a <i>fragment</i> is a broken piece of something. The shared meaning is break . B is <i>port</i> (carry). C is <i>spect</i> (see). D is <i>vert</i> (turn). Each distractor names a real root, just not the one shared by these two words.
7. D	<i>Omn-</i> (all) + <i>sci</i> (know) = knows everything about every character and event — the all-knowing narrator. A drops the prefix entirely and reverses the meaning. B is a <i>limited</i> narrator, the opposite of omniscient. C confuses knowing-everything with knowing-many-languages (a different word, <i>polyglot</i>).
8. C	<i>Hyperactive</i> means OVERLY active; <i>hyperbole</i> is OVER -the-top exaggeration. The prefix hyper- adds over, above, or excessive . A is its opposite, <i>hypo-</i> — the classic Grade 7 mix-up. B is <i>inter-</i> . D is <i>pre-</i> or <i>ante-</i> . Each distractor is a real prefix, just not this one.
9.	Answer: A misanthrope literally means <i>one who hates human beings</i> — a person who distrusts or dislikes people in general. A philanthropist swaps <i>mis-</i> for <i>phil-</i> (love), so it means <i>one who loves human beings</i> , usually shown by giving time or money to help others. The shared root <i>anthropos</i> is what links the two words; the opposing prefixes are what flip the meaning.
10.	Answer: (a) To transcribe is to write something across from one form to another (for example, speech to text); the main parts are <i>trans-</i> (across) + <i>scrib</i> (write). (b) Subterranean describes something located under the ground; the main parts are <i>sub-</i> (under) + <i>terra</i> (earth). (c) Someone malevolent wishes harm or ill toward others; the main parts are <i>mal-</i> (bad) + <i>vol</i> (wish).




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