

# 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).

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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

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## 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>Bene</i> (good) + <i>vol</i> (wish) = <b>showing goodwill or kindness toward others</b> . 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) = <b>a person whose energy and attention turn inward</b> . 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 <b>sound</b> over distance; a <i>symphony</i> is a large piece of <b>sound</b> made by many instruments. The shared meaning is <b>sound</b> . 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) = <b>tending to look back at past events</b> . 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) = <b>a time period before a war</b> . 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 <b>break</b> in a bone; a <i>fragment</i> is a <b>broken</b> piece of something. The shared meaning is <b>break</b> . 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) = <b>knows everything about every character and event</b> — 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 <b>OVERLY</b> active; <i>hyperbole</i> is <b>OVER</b> -the-top exaggeration. The prefix <b>hyper-</b> adds <b>over, above, or excessive</b> . 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.	<b>Answer:</b> A <b>misanthrope</b> literally means <i>one who hates human beings</i> — a person who distrusts or dislikes people in general. A <b>philanthropist</b> 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.	<b>Answer:</b> (a) To <b>transcribe</b> 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) <b>Subterranean</b> describes something located under the ground; the main parts are <i>sub-</i> (under) + <i>terra</i> (earth). (c) Someone <b>malevolent</b> wishes harm or ill toward others; the main parts are <i>mal-</i> (bad) + <i>vol</i> (wish).




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