

Understanding English GREEK AND LATIN ROOTS



It helps to understand the English language well in order to learn a foreign language. This guide compiles most of the Greek and Latin roots found in English words (and in French and Spanish words of course).

A. At the beginning of words

AGR-O- ,(field)	agronomy, agriculture
AMPHI- ,(around, AND double)	amphibian, amphitheatre
ANTROPO- ,(mankind)	anthropology, anthropophagy
AQU-A, (water)	aquatic, aquarium
This root has given <i>agua</i> (water in Spanish).	arborist, arboriculture
ARBOR-I, (tree)	
This root has given the words <i>arbre</i> (tree in French) and <i>árbol</i> (tree in Spanish)	
ARCHEO-, (ancient)	archaic
AUTO-, (self)	automatic, autodidact
AVI-, (bird)	aviation
BIBLIO-, (book)	bibliography
BIO-, (life)	biology
CALOR-, (heat)	calorific, calorimeter
This has given the word <i>calor</i> (heat in Spanish).	
CAPIT-, (head)	capital
CARNI-, (flesh)	carnivorous
CHRONO-, (time)	chronometer, chronological
COSMO-, (universe, world)	cosmic
DEMO-, (people)	demographic, democracy
DYNAM-I-, (strength)	dynamic, dynamite
EQUI-, (equal)	equivalent, equidistant
GASTRO-, (stomach)	gastronomy, gastric
GEO-, (earth)	geological, geography
GRAPHO-, (write, describe)	graphic
HEMI-, (half)	hemisphere
HETERO-, (other)	heterogeneous, heterosexual
HOMEO-, HOMO-, (similar)	homogeneous
HYDR-O-, (water)	hydration
HYPNO-, (sleep)	hypnotic, hypnotherapy
IGNI-, (fire)	ignition, ignite
MAN-I-, (hand)	manual, manicure
MELO-, (music)	melodramatic
MICRO-, (small)	microscope, microbicidal
MONO-, (only)	monologue, monotonous
OMNI-, (all)	omnipotent, omnivorous

ORTHO-, (right, correct)	orthography, Orthodox
PED-, (child)	pedagogy
PEDI-, (foot)	pedicure
PETR-O-, (stone)	petrify
PHILO-, (friend)	philosopher, philology
PHONO-, (sound, voice)	phonetics
PHOTO-, (light)	photographer, photogenic
POLY-, (many)	polygon, polypod
PROTO-, (first)	prototype
PSYCHO-, (soul)	psychology, psychiatrist
TELE-, (far, distant)	television

B. At the end of words

-GOGY, (guide)	demagogy
-ALGIA, (pain)	nostalgia
-CRACY, (force, government)	democracy, aristocracy
-DOX-Y, (opinion)	orthodoxy, paradox
-FIC, (to do/make)	magnific, somnific
-LOGUE, -LOGY, (discourse, treaty)	monologue, psychology
-NOMY, (law, rule)	astronomy
-ONYM, (name)	pseudonym
-PHAGUS, (to eat)	oesophagus, anthropophagus
-PHILE, (friend)	Francophile
-PHOBIA, -PHOBIC (fear, aversion)	anthropophobia, homophobic
-PHONE, (voice, sound)	telephone
-SCOPE, (to examine)	telescope