

Name: _____ Class Number: _____

It's All Greek to Me!

Using Prefixes, Suffixes, and Roots

Some larger words may be hard to understand the first time you encounter them. However, knowing some **Greek** and **Latin** terms will allow you to understand parts of the words. Then you can make an inference about the meaning. You can understand many new words if you understand their parts. Approximately 80 percent of the words in our English dictionary are formed using Greek and Latin parts, also known as "prefixes and suffixes". Knowledge of these prefixes and suffixes will help you break down unfamiliar words and remember their meanings.

Let's look at the word "**democracy**".

dem = people

cracy = rule or government

democracy: a government ruled by the people

1. Can you figure out the meaning of this word? "**monocracy**"

mono = one

cracy = rule or government

monocracy:

2. Can you figure out the meaning of this word? "**hydrobiology**"

hydro = water

bio = life

logy = study

hydrobiology:

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Greek Roots: photo, auto, bio

Many words in English come from Greek. If you know the meaning of Greek roots, it will help you understand these words when you read.

Greek Root	Meaning	Example
photo	light	photograph
auto	self	automobile
bio	life	biology



A Study the chart above. Then use it to complete each sentence. You may use a word more than once.

1. An _____ moves on its own power.
2. The study of living things is called _____.
3. In a _____, film is exposed to light.
4. You might learn about plants and animals in a _____ class.
5. The invention of the _____ changed the way people travel.

B Choose a word from the box to complete each sentence.

autocade photocopier biohazard autograph biography

1. Have you ever asked a rock star to sign an _____?
2. A _____ is someone's life story.
3. A procession of cars is an _____.
4. You can reproduce a photo on a _____.
5. A _____ can cause health problems.



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C Underline the Greek root in each word. Then circle the best meaning for the word.

- biographer** a. writer of a life story b. a follower c. a kind person
- photogenic** a. a very smart person b. photographs well c. a loud sound
- automotive** a. a rock slide b. a way to measure c. self-moving
- automatic** a. relating to fall b. to give power c. self-operating
- biome** a. pair of field glasses b. community of living things c. field of engineering

D Read the words, then follow the directions.

telephoto	biopsy	photostat	automation
autobus	biosphere	photocopy	biological
biofeedback	photoplay	photographer	automat

- Write the words with the Greek root that means "life."

- Write the words with the Greek root that means "light."

- Write the words with the Greek root that means "self."

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E Read each question. Then circle the best answer.

- Which one is a life scientist? a. artist b. violinist c. biologist
- Which one writes about herself? a. biographer b. grasshopper c. autobiographer
- Which one uses light? a. telegraph b. photograph c. autograph
- Which one is about life on earth? a. biosphere b. hemisphere c. unisphere
- Which one is a lightbulb? a. flash flood b. folklore c. photoflash

F Read the paragraph and circle the words with the Greek roots from this lesson. Then answer the questions.

The students in Miss Hull's class were learning about careers. Jan wanted to be a photographer. Miles wanted to design automobiles. Cindy said she would be a movie star and sign autographs for fans. Other students were interested in biology and biochemistry careers. Sonny said he would be an author and write a biography for each classmate who became famous.

- Why were the students talking about the work they wanted to do?

- What skills do you think Miles would need for his career?

- What advice would you give to these students about succeeding in their careers?
