

Root Source Sort

Sort words by the language of their key roots.

12.L.V.2.a “Deconstruct unknown words or phrases using etymology knowledge, common Greek and Latin roots, root words, and/or affixes to determine meaning as used in grade-level texts. (I)”

NAME _____

DATE _____

GREEK-ROOTED

The main meaning-bearing roots come from Greek.
Split the word into parts and connect the Greek parts to its meaning.

philanthropy: phil (love) + anthropos (people)
points to concern for people.

LATIN-ROOTED

The main meaning-bearing roots come from Latin.
Split the word into parts and connect the Latin parts to its meaning.

transport: trans (across) + port (carry) points to
carrying across.

1 SORT _____ 8 items

For each word, circle GREEK or LATIN by tracing its main roots, then in Part 2 choose two items and explain which roots or affixes helped you decide and what they mean.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. The biographer examined the leader's private letters. | ☐ GREEK ☐ LATIN |
| 2. The scientist monitored geothermal activity near the volcano. | ☐ GREEK ☐ LATIN |
| 3. The treaty was declared intractable after negotiations failed. | ☐ GREEK ☐ LATIN |
| 4. The archivist kept a chronological record of each event. | ☐ GREEK ☐ LATIN |
| 5. Her benevolent gift funded the clinic. | ☐ GREEK ☐ LATIN |
| 6. The hikers entered a subterranean passage. | ☐ GREEK ☐ LATIN |
| 7. The physician used a thermometer to check the patient's temperature. | ☐ GREEK ☐ LATIN |
| 8. A seismograph recorded the earthquake's vibrations. | ☐ GREEK ☐ LATIN |

2 PROVE IT Explain your thinking

Pick two items from Part 1. For each one, tell how you knew where it belonged.

ITEM # _____ HOW I KNEW _____

ITEM # _____ HOW I KNEW _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN One of each

Write one new Greek-rooted word and one new Latin-rooted word. Break each word into meaningful parts and state its meaning.

GREEK _____

LATIN _____

CHALLENGE

Find or create a hybrid word with one Greek meaning-bearing part and one Latin meaning-bearing part. Name the parts and explain the word's meaning.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The biographer examined the leader's private letters.	GREEK	bio means life and graph means write, both Greek roots.
2	The scientist monitored geothermal activity near the volcano.	GREEK	geo means earth and therm means heat, both Greek roots.
3	The treaty was declared intractable after negotiations failed.	LATIN	in means not and tract means handle or draw, from Latin.
4	The archivist kept a chronological record of each event.	GREEK	chrono means time and log comes from Greek logos, meaning word, account, or study.
5	Her benevolent gift funded the clinic.	LATIN	bene means good and vol means wish, from Latin.
6	The hikers entered a subterranean passage.	LATIN	sub means under and terra means earth, from Latin.
7	The physician used a thermometer to check the patient's temperature.	GREEK	therm means heat and meter means measure, both Greek roots.
8	A seismograph recorded the earthquake's vibrations.	GREEK	seismo means earthquake or shaking and graph means record or write, both Greek roots.

PART 2 • PROVE IT

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 • MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **GREEK:** telescope = tele (far) + scope (look), an instrument used to see far away.
- **LATIN:** audible = aud (hear) + ible (able to), able to be heard.

Challenge: television combines Greek tele, meaning far, and Latin vision, meaning seeing, so it means seeing from far away.

Accept answers that identify the main roots and reasonably connect those roots to the word's meaning. Some English words use borrowed endings, so students should classify them by their main meaning-bearing roots.