Root Origin Detectives

Trace Greek and Latin parts to unlock meaning.

9.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-BUILT WORDS

These words are built mainly from Greek roots or affixes. Use the Greek parts to infer a meaning.

Telegraph: Greek tele means far and graph means write, pointing to a system that sends written messages far away.

LATIN-BUILT WORDS

These words are built mainly from Latin roots or affixes. Use the Latin parts to infer a meaning.

Submarine: Latin sub means under and marin means sea, pointing to a vessel that travels under the sea.

1 SORT

8 items

For Part 1, circle GREEK or LATIN for each word, then for Part 2, choose two words and name the parts that helped you infer each meaning.

1. The report included a chronology of the expedition. GREEK LATIN

2. The company will transport supplies across the desert. GREEK LATIN

3. Her benevolent choice to cover a stranger's meal surprised everyone. GREEK LATIN

4. The laboratory purchased a microscope for the biology class. GREEK LATIN

5. The town expanded its geothermal heating system. GREEK LATIN

6. The novel warned that the nation was becoming an autocracy. GREEK LATIN

7. The lawyer tried to contradict the witness's statement. GREEK LATIN

8. The circumspect editor checked every claim before publishing the article. 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

For Part 3, write one new Greek-built word and one new Latin-built word. For each word, name its parts and explain the meaning you infer.

GREEK _____

LATIN _____

CHALLENGE

Find a new word that combines a Greek part and a Latin part. Name both parts and explain the word's meaning.

ANSWER KEY # Root Origin Detectives

GRADE 9 · 9.L.V.2.a

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The report included a chronology of the expedition.	**GREEK**	Greek chron means time, and -logy relates to an account or study.
2	The company will transport supplies across the desert.	**LATIN**	Latin trans means across, and port means carry.
3	Her benevolent choice to cover a stranger's meal surprised everyone.	**LATIN**	Latin bene means well, and volent relates to wishing.
4	The laboratory purchased a microscope for the biology class.	**GREEK**	Greek micro means small, and scope relates to viewing.
5	The town expanded its geothermal heating system.	**GREEK**	Greek geo means earth, and therm means heat.
6	The novel warned that the nation was becoming an autocracy.	**GREEK**	Greek auto means self, and -cracy means rule or power.
7	The lawyer tried to contradict the witness's statement.	**LATIN**	Latin contra means against, and dict means say.
8	The circumspect editor checked every claim before publishing the article.	**LATIN**	Latin circum means around, and spect means look.

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**: Biography combines bio, life, and graph, write, so it means a written account of a life.
- **LATIN**: Retract combines re, back, and tract, pull, so it means pull back or take back.

Challenge: Television combines Greek tele, far, with Latin vision, seeing. It means seeing images from far away.

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item. Accept accurate root or affix evidence that connects to the word's meaning. For Part 2, students may explain the parts in their own words as long as the language origin and inferred meaning are correct.