

52 Most Common Greek Roots

ROOT	ENGLISH MEANING	EXAMPLES
anti	against, opposite	antibiotic, antidote, antisocial, antifreeze
anthrop	human, people	anthropology, anthropologist, philanthropy, misanthrope
arch	chief, ruler, first	architect, monarchy, archetype, archbishop
astro	star	astronaut, astronomy, astrology, asteroid
auto	self	autobiography, autograph, automatic, automobile
bio	life	biology, biography, biodiversity, biosphere
biblio	book	bibliography, bibliophile, bibliographic, bibliomania
chron	time	chronology, chronological, chronic, synchronize
cosm	world, universe, order	cosmos, cosmic, cosmology, microcosm
crat	rule, power	democrat, aristocrat, autocrat, bureaucrat
cycl	circle, wheel	bicycle, cyclone, cyclic, encyclopedia
demo	people	democracy, demographic, epidemic, demography
derm	skin	dermis, dermatology, dermatologist, epidermis
dyn	power	dynamic, dynamite, dynamo, dynamism
gam	marriage	monogamy, polygamy, bigamy, gamete
gen	birth, origin, kind	genetics, generation, genealogy, pathogen
geo	earth	geography, geology, geometry, geothermal
gon	angle	polygon, pentagon, hexagon, diagonal
graph	write, record	autograph, paragraph, photograph, telegraph
gram	written or recorded thing	diagram, telegram, program, epigram
helio	sun	heliocentric, heliograph, heliotrope, heliotherapy
hemi	half	hemisphere, hemisphere, hemiplegia, hemistich
hydr	water	hydration, hydraulic, hydroelectric, dehydrate
hyper	over, excessive	hyperactive, hypersensitive, hypertension, hyperbole
hypo	under, below	hypothermia, hypothesis, hypodermic, hypocrite
log/logy	word, study	biology, geology, psychology, zoology
lith	stone	monolith, lithograph, megalith, lithosphere
meter/metr	measure	thermometer, diameter, perimeter, metric
micro	small	microscope, microscopic, microorganism, microchip
mono	one, single	monologue, monotone, monopoly, monorail
morph	form, shape	morphology, metamorphosis, amorphous, polymorph
neo	new	neonate, neonatal, neoclassical, neologism
ology	study of	biology, geology, psychology, sociology
pan	all	panorama, pandemic, panacea, pantheon
path	feeling, suffering	sympathy, empathy, pathology, apathetic
ped/pod	foot	podiatry, tripod, antipodes, podiatrist
phil	love	philosophy, philanthropy, bibliophile, philology
phobia	fear	claustrophobia, arachnophobia, hydrophobia, xenophobia
phon	sound	telephone, microphone, phonics, symphony
photo	light	photograph, photosynthesis, photocopy, photosensitive
poly	many	polygon, polysyllable, polyglot, polymer
psych	mind	psychology, psychiatrist, psychic, psychosomatic
pseudo	false	pseudonym, pseudoscience, pseudonymity, pseudointellectual
scope	look, examine	microscope, telescope, periscope, horoscope
soph	wisdom	philosophy, sophisticated, sophomore, sophistry
tele	far, distant	telephone, television, telescope, telegraph
theo	god	theology, theocracy, monotheism, atheist
therm	heat	thermometer, thermal, thermos, geothermal
top	place	topography, topology, utopia, ectopic
troph	nourish, grow	autotroph, heterotroph, atrophy, trophic
xen	foreign, strange	xenophobia, xenophile, xenon, xenodochy
zoo	animal	zoology, zoologist, zoological, zoological garden