

# Greek and Latin Roots and Derivatives

*Reference cards and card sort / memory game for 40 Greek and Latin roots and 80 derivative words*

## Greek and Latin Roots and Derivatives Cards

This material includes both reference cards and card sort activities intended for practice in identifying the correct meaning of various Greek and Latin roots and derivative words of those roots.

In case you're not familiar with these terms, a "root" must be combined with other parts (prefixes, suffixes) to create a word. That is, the root cannot stand on its own. A derivative is a word that is derived from, or uses, a root.

Some of the roots have multiple versions, so those have been included when appropriate (e.g. "ast, aster, astro" and "therm, thermo").

Please note that the more formal terminology for Latin roots is "stems." This term can be introduced later if you like, but for the purpose of this material, "root" will be used for both Greek and Latin terms. Also, for word definitions, the most commonly-used definition has been chosen for the cards. It can be pointed out to students, however, that there may be more than one definition for any given word. Research by the student to find more definitions may be completed if the interest is there.

The 40 roots that have been used in this material include:

<b>aer, aero</b>	<b>arch</b>
<b>ast, aster, astro</b>	<b>aud</b>
<b>bene</b>	<b>bio</b>
<b>chron</b>	<b>crit</b>
<b>cycl, cyclo</b>	<b>dem, demo</b>
<b>dic, dict</b>	<b>equa, equi</b>
<b>fac, fact, fect</b>	<b>fin</b>
<b>form</b>	<b>ge, geo</b>
<b>grad, gress</b>	<b>graph, graphy</b>
<b>logo</b>	<b>logy</b>
<b>man, mani, manu</b>	<b>metr, meter</b>
<b>mob, mot</b>	<b>ortho</b>
<b>pan</b>	<b>ped, pede, pedi</b>
<b>phobia</b>	<b>phon</b>
<b>photo</b>	<b>port</b>
<b>rupt</b>	<b>scop, scope, scopy</b>
<b>sect, seg</b>	<b>sens, sent</b>
<b>spir</b>	<b>stru, struct</b>
<b>terr, terra</b>	<b>therm, thermo</b>
<b>tract</b>	<b>ver, vers, vert</b>

## Included in this material

- **40 large root and meaning reference cards**
  - Greek roots have a green border; Latin roots have a blue border
  - *If you do not want colored borders, simply print in black and white (choose black/grayscale from the printer properties – see screen shot to the right)*
- **80 small root cards and meaning cards** for card sort / memory game
- **160 derivatives and definitions cards** for card sort / memory game
- **Answer keys**

## Introducing Roots and Meanings

Before use, print cards. Cardstock paper is recommended.

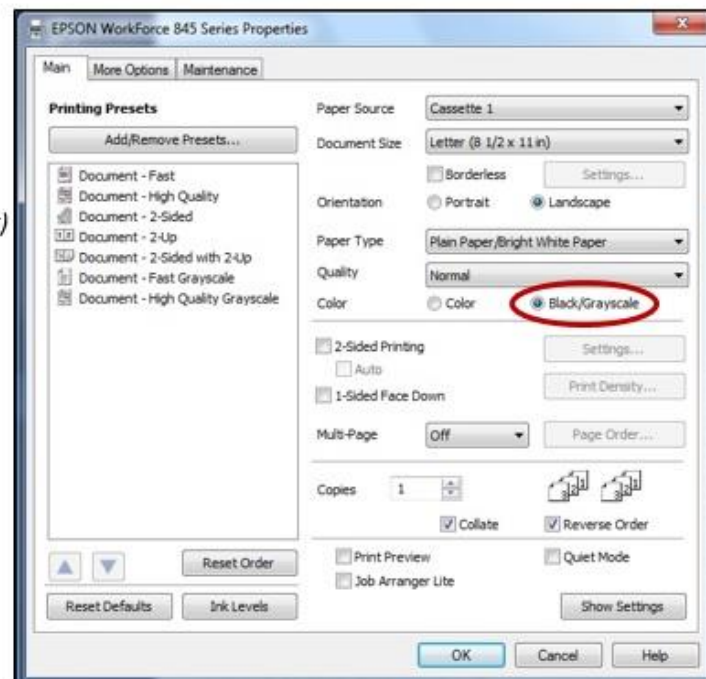
1. To introduce the roots, it is suggested to first identify a subset of roots to use (typically 6-10 or so at a time). Show students the derivatives using those selected roots. For example, if introducing the two roots **therm/thermo** and **stru/struct**, you would present the cards for **thermos**, **thermostat**, **construct**, and **obstruct**.
2. Have students identify among themselves which two derivatives have the same root and discuss what the meaning of those roots may be.
3. After the students' discussion, the roots' meanings can be confirmed or clarified.
4. Alternatively, the roots and their meanings could be simply introduced with their meanings, being given directly to students.

## Using the Root and Meaning Reference Cards

Before use, print cards. Cardstock paper is recommended.

1. Select which set of root cards will be used (typically 6-10 new roots at a time).
2. Have students cut out their cards.
3. Review the meaning of the roots.
4. Ask students to write a sentence including a word that is a derivative of the root on the card.
5. Invite students to illustrate the meaning of the root on the back of the card.
6. Have students research other words that use the root and list them on the card.
7. To store the cards, students can place the cards in an envelope, pocket folder, or punch holes in one corner and secure with a ring clip.
8. They can be used now as reference cards for the students.

***In addition, the root and meaning cards pages can be printed for use as reference charts to hang in the room.***





## Using the Root & Meaning and Derivative & Definition Cards

Before use, print cards. Cardstock paper is recommended.

These smaller cards can be used two ways: for a card sort or as a memory game, matching meanings to roots in either case.

The cards are laid out on each page so that the root card is above the meaning card. The roots are all bold, while the meanings are italicized. For the derivative and definition cards, the derivatives are bold and the definitions are italicized.

### Card Sort Instructions for Root & Meaning Cards

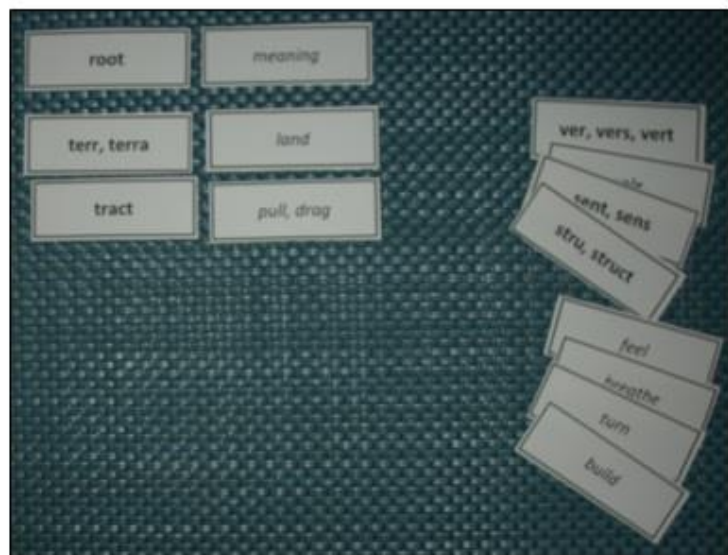
1. Set out the column heading cards ("root" and "meaning").
2. Have the student choose a root card and set it out under the "root" column.
3. The student then finds the meaning card to correspond to the root card set out and places it to the right of the meaning card.
4. Continue until all cards have been sorted.
5. Record in a language notebook, if desired.
6. For the derivative & definition card sort, follow instructions 1-5, but use the derivative & definition column headers and cards instead.

### Memory Game Instructions for Root & Meaning Cards

1. Have students sort the root cards (bold text) and meaning cards (italicized text) into two separate piles.
2. Students then set out the root cards and meaning cards in rows across from each other, turned over so no words are showing.
3. Each child takes a turn turning over one card from each section. When a root card is matched with its meaning card, the child keeps the pair. If no pair is found, turn both cards back over and the other child takes a turn.
4. Continue until all matches have been found.
5. To use the derivative & definition cards, follow steps 1-4 for the game, using these cards instead.

## Extension Activity – Root Hunt

While reading either a magazine, newspaper, or book, tell students to be on the lookout for the roots they've studied. Ask them to record any words that contain one of the roots they have learned. Have them compare notes with a friend!



## Reference Cards, 4 per page

Greek roots – green; Latin roots – blue

<b>aer, aero</b> <i>air</i>	<b>arch</b> <i>chief</i>
<b>ast, aster, astro</b> <i>star, stars, outer space</i>	<b>bio</b> <i>life</i>
<b>aud</b> <i>hear</i>	<b>bene</b> <i>good, well</i>
<b>dic, dict</b> <i>speak</i>	<b>ema, emi</b> <i>internal</i>
<b>chron</b> <i>time</i>	<b>crit</b> <i>judge</i>
<b>cycl, cyclo</b> <i>circle, ring</i>	<b>dem, demo</b> <i>people</i>

## Card Sort / Memory Game Cards, 18 per page

Root and meaning cards:

<b>aer, aero</b>	<b>arch</b>	<b>ast, aster, astro</b>
<i>air</i>	<i>chief</i>	<i>star, stars, outer space</i>
<b>bio</b>	<b>chron</b>	<b>crit</b>
<i>life</i>	<i>time</i>	<i>judge</i>
<b>cycl, cyclo</b>	<b>dem, demo</b>	<b>ge, geo</b>
<i>circle, ring</i>	<i>people</i>	<i>earth, ground, soil</i>
<b>graph, graphy</b>	<b>logo</b>	<b>logy</b>
<i>writing, recording, written</i>	<i>word, reason, thought</i>	<i>study</i>
<b>meter, metr</b>	<b>ortho</b>	<b>pan</b>
<i>measure</i>	<i>correct, straighten</i>	<i>all</i>
<b>phobia</b>	<b>phon</b>	<b>photo</b>
<i>fear</i>	<i>sound</i>	<i>light</i>

## Derivative and meaning cards:

<b>aerial</b>	<b>aerosol</b>	<b>anarchy</b>
Taking place in the air or atmosphere	Particles dispensed in a gas; a substance dispensed from a pressurized container	The absence of a government
<b>archenemy</b>	<b>astronomy</b>	<b>astronaut</b>
A primary enemy	The study of objects and matter beyond the earth's atmosphere	A person trained to travel in space
<b>biography</b>	<b>biology</b>	<b>chronological</b>
A written history of a person's life	The study of living organisms	Arranged by the time events occurred

<b>synchronize</b>	<b>critique</b>	<b>pocron</b>
To have things happen at the same time	A critical review	A person who pretends to be something he is not
<b>recycle</b>	<b>tricycle</b>	<b>democracy</b>
To treat or process an item so that it can be reused	A vehicle with three wheels	A government by the people; rule of the majority
<b>epidemic</b>	<b>geography</b>	<b>geode</b>
Affecting a large number of people in a community or region at the same time	A science that focuses on various characteristics of the earth's surface	A piece of stone with crystals or minerals inside

## Answer keys

Roots and their Meanings Answer Key - Listed in alphabetical order by roots			
aer, aero	air	arch	chief
ast, aster, astro	star, stars, outer space	aud	hear
bene	good, well	bio	life
chron	time	crit	judge
cycl, cyclo	circle, ring	dem, demo	people
dic, dict	speak	equa, equi	equal
fac, fact, fect	do, make	fin	final, end
form	shape	ge, geo	earth, ground, soil
grad, gress	step, stage	graph, graphy	writing, recording, written
logo	word, reason, thought	logy	study
man, mani, n	hand	metr, meter	measure
mob, mo		ortho	correct, straighten
pan, pa		ped, pede, pedi	foot
phon		phon	sound
			carry
			look, examine, write

Derivatives and their Definitions Answer Key - Listed in alphabetical order			
aerosol	Particles dispensed in a gas; a substance dispensed from a pressurized container	aerial	Taking place in the air or atmosphere
anarchy	The absence of a government	arachnophobia	Fear of spiders
archenemy	A primary enemy	astronaut	A person trained to travel in space
astronomy	The study of objects and matter beyond the earth's atmosphere	audience	A group of people listening, usually to a show or performance
auditorium	A large gathering place for an audience	autograph	One's name, written by that person
benefactor	One that makes a gift on another's behalf	benefit	An advantage
biography	A written history of a person's life	biology	The study of living organisms
centimeter	A measurement that is 1/100 of a meter	chronological	Arranged by the time events occurred
claustrophobia	Fear of enclosed places	consensus	A group agreement of opinion
construct	To build something from various parts	contradict	To strongly state the opposing side to something
critique	A critical review	democracy	A government by the people; rule of the majority



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