Or Latin and Greek Roots in Academic Vocabulary

Math and Sciences

Most modern English words originated in other languages, especially Latin and Greek. Learning the meaning of these common Latin and Greek roots will help you with English academic vocabulary, especially in Math and Sciences. Use the back of this page to test yourself.

Common Root	Meaning	Origin	Examples
cent	hundred	Latin	centimeter, century, centenary, percentile, centennial
eco	house	Greek	ecology, ecosystem, ecological, economy, economical, economic
equi	equal	Latin	equal, equality, equivalent, equidistant, equilateral, equilibrium, equilibrate, equinox
form	shape	Latin	formation, deformed, deformity, reform, conform, formal, format, inform, information
fract, frag	break	Latin	fraction, fracture, fragment, fragmentate, infraction, refraction
gen	kind, birth	Greek	gen, genetic, genetics, genocide, homogeneous, heterogeneous, gender, genre,
geo	earth	Greek	geography, geographic, geology, geologic, geothermal, geocenter, geometer
grad	step	Latin	grade, gradual, gradient, degrade, graduate, graduation
log	word, thought	Greek	logic, logical, logistics, monologue, dialogue, biology, geology, astrology
long	long	Latin	longitude, longitudinal, longevity, elongate, elongation
macro	large	Greek	macrocomputer, macreoconomy, macroscopic, macrostructure, macrobiotic, macrocosm
micro	small	Greek	microchip, microscopic, microbe, microfiber, microcosm, microeconomics, microwave, microcomputer
opt	eye	Greek	optic, optical, optometry, optometrist, optician
phys	nature	Greek	physical, physics, physician, physiology, physiotherapy, physiotherapist
pon, posit	put	Latin	position, component, composition, postpone
psych	mind, soul	Greek	psychology, psychologist, psyche, psychopath, psychiatrist
schem	plan	Greek	scheme, schematic, schemata
scop	look at, observe	Greek	telescope, microscope, microscopic, stethoscope, kaleidoscope, horoscope
sci	know	Latin	science, scientific, scientist, omniscient
semi	half	Latin	semicircle, semicircular, semisphere, semicolon, semibold, semiconductor

Common Core State Standard Language 6: Acquire and use accurately grade-appropriate general academic and domain-specific words and phrases.

Or