



# Pu Latin and Greek Roots in Academic Vocabulary

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 Social Studies and Language Arts. Use the back of this page to test yourself.

Common Root	Meaning	Origin	Examples
<b>arist</b>	<i>excellence</i>	Greek	aristocrat, aristocracy
<b>aut, auto</b>	<i>self</i>	Greek	autograph, automatic, automobile, autonomy, autonomous, autism, autistic
<b>bene</b>	<i>good, well</i>	Latin	benefit, beneficial, beneficiary, benefactor, benevolent, benediction
<b>civ</b>	<i>citizen</i>	Latin	civil, civilian, civilized, civility, civilization, civic, civics
<b>cracy, crat</b>	<i>rule, government</i>	Greek	democracy, democrat, bureaucracy, bureaucrat, autocracy, theocracy
<b>crit</b>	<i>judge, separate</i>	Greek	critic, critical, criticize, critique, criterion
<b>dem, demo</b>	<i>people</i>	Greek	democracy, democratic, democrat, demography, demographic
<b>dict</b>	<i>say, speak</i>	Latin	contradict, dictate, dictator, dictatorship, dictation, dictionary, edict, predict
<b>eu</b>	<i>good, well</i>	Greek	euphemism, euphoria, euthanasia, eulogy
<b>ism</b>	<i>system</i>	Greek	anarchism, monotheism, polytheism, nihilism, pantheism
<b>jud</b>	<i>judge</i>	Latin	judge, judgement, judgemental, judicial, judiciary
<b>lab</b>	<i>work</i>	Latin	labor, elaborate, laboratory, laborious, labored
<b>lib</b>	<i>free</i>	Latin	liberty, libertarian, liberate, liberation, liberal, liberalize
<b>mal</b>	<i>bad, not well</i>	Latin	malicious, malice, malign, malignant, malady, malevolent, malnutrition, malpractice
<b>ment</b>	<i>mind</i>	Latin	mental, mentality, dementia, demented, mention, memento
<b>ortho</b>	<i>straight</i>	Greek	orthodox, orthodoxy, orthodontist, orthography, orthopedics
<b>para</b>	<i>beside, along side of</i>	Greek	paradox, paradigm, paramount, paraprofessional, paralegal
<b>pol</b>	<i>city</i>	Greek	police, metropol, monopoly, megalopol, policy, politics, politician, political
<b>prim</b>	<i>first</i>	Latin	primary, primitive, primate, primer, primeval, supremacy
<b>serv</b>	<i>save, serve</i>	Latin	servant, conserve, conservative, conservation, reserve, preserve, deserve, service