

# Root Words

Root words are words from another language which have been used to form words in our language. If you can recognise common root words and know their meanings, it can help you to understand new and unfamiliar words which use these roots.

Below is a list of some common root words which you may recognise in many of the words we use every day. Discover roots in your wider reading. You can record those that interest you on the next page.

ROOT	MEANING	ROOT	MEANING	ROOT	MEANING
acro-	top	derm	skin	paed-	child
aeq.	equal	ducere	lead	pan-	all
aero	air	duo-	two	patho-	suffering
alter	other	dys-	bad	pedi-	foot
alto	high	equis	horse	pendere	hang
amor	love	endo-	within, inside	penta-	five
amphi-	on all sides	entero-	intestine	-phasia	disordered speech
-androus	male	ethno-	race, tribe	phen	benzene derivative
anima	breath, life	facto	do	-philia	lover of
aniso-	unlike	fertilis	fruitful	phlebo-	vein
anthropo-	human	finis	end	-phobia	fear
apia	bee	fluor	flow	phon-	sound, voice
aqua	water	gastro-	stomach	-phorous	bearing, having
audio-	hear	geo-	earth	phosp-	phosphorus
auto-	self	-gerous	producing	photo-	light
avi-	bird	-gram	letter, writing	physio-	physical
baro-	weight	-graph	write	phyto-	plant
bene-	good, well	-gyno	woman	-plasty	formulation
bi	twice	gyro-	circle	poly-	many
biblio	book	hetero-	other	portare	carry
bio	life	holo-	whole	prima	first
brevi-	short	homo-	same	project	throw
cardio-	heart	ideo-	idea	proto-	first
capere	take	manus	hand	pseudo-	false
caput	head	mille	thousand	psych-	mind
centum	hundred	mini-	small	ptero-	wing
-chrome	colour	minuere	to lessen	pyo-	pus
chrono-	time	mittere	to send	quadri-	four
-cide	killer	mono-	one, alone	quinque-	five
circum-	around	-morph	form	recti-	set upright
civis	citizen	morph	sleep	scrib	write
-claudere	shut	movere	move	-sect	cut
cor	heart	multi-	many	septum	seven
cosmeo	world	my-	muscle	sex-	six
counter-	against	myc-	fungus	Sino-	Chinese
cranium-	skull	myth-	myth	spectro-	look
credo	belief	myx-	slimy	-spermal	sperm
crypto-	hidden	natus	born	-sphere	sphere
crystallo-	crystal	navis	ship	spiro-	spiral
cursus	running	necro	dead	-stat	stationary
cycl-	cycle	neo-	new	statua	statue
		nepho-	cloud	terra	earth