

Word

Origins

**A list of common Latin, Greek
and Old English root words.**



Word origins

a - b

Root	Origin	Meaning	Example
ago, agree, actus	L	I act, do; to act, do	actor, reaction
anima	L	wind, soul, breath, life	animal
annus	L	year	annual, anniversary
audio	L	I hear; to hear	audible, audience
aster	G	star	astrology, asterisk
bibli, biblio	G	book, paper	bibliography
bio, bios	G	life	biology



Word origins

C

Root	Origin	Meaning	Example
cado	L	I fall; to fall	cascade
capio, cepi	L	I take; to take	capture, accept
caput	L	the head	capital
card, cardi	G	the heart	cardiac
carn, carneo	L	flesh	carnivore
cedo, cessus	L	I go, move, yield; to go, move, yield	proceed, ancestor
celest, celesti	L	heavenly	celestial
cent	L	hundred	century
circ, circi,	G	ring, circle	circus
claudo	L	I shut, close; to shut, to close	conclude, include
cogito	L	I think; to think	cognition
colo	L	I till; to till	cultivate, colony
cor	L	heart	courage, core
coron, corona	L	a crown	coronate, coronavirus
craft	OE, OF	of a skill or ability	woodcraft
credo	L	I trust	credibility, incredible



Word origins

d - e

Root	Origin	Meaning	Example
dens	L	tooth	dentist, trident
derma	G	skin	dermatologist
demos	G	people	demographic
dico	L	I say; to say	dictate
duco	L	I lead; to lead	conduct, produce
ego	L	myself, self	egotistical
ethos	G	nation	ethnic, ethnography



Word origins

f - g

Root	Origin	Meaning	Example
facio, factus	L	I make; to make	manufacture, fact,
flect	L	bend	deflect
flex	L	bend, pliant	flexible
finis	L	end	final, finish
fortis	L	strong	fortify
frango, fractus	L	I break; to break	fracture, fragile
funct	L	perform	function
genero	L	I produce; to produce	generate,
geo	G	the earth	geography
gon	G	angle	polygon
grad	L	step, walk, slope, grade	gradual
graphos	G	write, writing	autograph



Word origins

h - l

Root	Origin	Meaning	Example
hydro	G	water	hydrated
jacio, jactus	L	I throw; to throw	eject, projection
jungo, junctus	L	I join; to join	junction
lego, lectus	L	I read, gather, choose; to read, gather, choose	elect, lecture
liber	L	free	liberate
ligo, lictus	L	I bind, I tie; to bind, to tie	ligament, oblige
locus	L	place	location, dislocate
logos	G	word, reason, account, study	logic, biology
locus	L	place	location, dislocate
logos	G	word, reason, account, study	logic, biology



Word origins

m

Root	Origin	Meaning	Example
magnus	L	great	magnify, major
malus	L	evil, bad	malignant, dismal
manus	L	hand	manual, manager
mater	L	mother	maternal, matron
mentor	L	mindful	memory, mentor
metron	G	measure	metre, metric
mens	L	mind, opinion, intellect	mental, demented
mimos	G	to copy, imitate	mimic, mime
morphe	G	form	morphology
multus	L	much, many	multiple, multiply



n - o

Root	Origin	Meaning	Example
nasci	L	to be born	national, prenatal
nautes	G	sailor, to sail	nautical
nomen	L	name	nominal
nox, noctis	L	night, of night	nocturnal
nullus	L	nothing	null, annul
optikos	G	sight	optical
opus	L	work, labour	operate



Word origins

p - q

Root	Origin	Meaning	Example
pater	L	father	paternal
pathos	G	feeling	pathology, sympathy
pello, pelsus	L	I push, drive; to push, drive	propel, repulse
pes	L	foot	pedal, tripod
pendeo, pendere	L	I hang; to hang	suspend, pendulum
philas	G	loving	verbophile, philosophy
phobos	G	fear	phobia, arachnophobia
phonos	G	sound	symphony, telephone
phos	G	light	photosynthesis
polis	G	city	metropolitan
pono, positus	L	I place; to place	position, deposit
populus	L	the people	population
porto	L	I carry; to carry	transport, importance
puto, putatis	L	I consider, suppose; to consider	reputation, computer



Word origins

r, s

Root	Origin	Meaning	Example
rego	L	I rule; to rule	regal, regulate
saura	G	lizard	dinosaur
scribo	L	I write; to write	scribble, describe
simile	L	likeness, resemblance	similar, simile
sol	L	sun	solar
solus	L	alone	solitude
solvo, solver	L	I solve; to solve	solution, resolve
sonus	L	sound, noise	sonic
specto; specere	L	I look at, observe; to look, observe	inspect, spectate
spiro, spirare	L	I breathe; to breathe	inspire, respiratory
stella	L	star	constellation



Word origins

t - z

Root	Origin	Meaning	Example
tango	L	I touch; to touch	contact, tangible
tekhne	G	art, skill	technical
tendo, tentum	L	I stretch; to stretch	extend, tension
therme	G	heat	thermal, thermometer
venio, ventus	L	I come; to come	adventure, prevent
verto	L	I turn	invert, convert
video, visus	L	I see; to see	video, vision, view
vinco, vincere	L	I conquer; to conquer	victim, invincible
vivo, victim	L	I live; to be alive	survive, vital
voco, vocare, vox	L	I call; to call; call, voice	voice, vocal, vocabulary
volo, velle	L	I wish; to be willing	volunteer
volvo, voltum	L	I turn; to turn	evolve, revolve
zoon	G	animal	zoology



N Numbers

Number	Latin	Greek	Example
1	unus	mono	unique, monopoly
2	duo	duo	
3	tres	treis	trident, triple
4	quatuor	tetra	quadbike, tetrahedron
5	quinque	penta	quintuple, pentagon
6	sex	hexa	sextet, hexagon
7	septem	hepta	September, heptathlon
8	octo	okta	octopus, octagonal
9	novem	nona	November, nonagenerian
10	decem	dekem	December, decade