

Understand Roots

A root is a word or word base from which other words are made by adding a prefix or a suffix. Knowing the common roots can help you figure out the meaning of difficult words.

aster [<i>star</i>] asterisk (starlike symbol [*]) asteroid (resembling a star)	aud [<i>hear, listen</i>] audible (can be heard) auditorium (a place to listen to speeches and performances)	bibi [<i>book</i>] Bible (sacred book of Christianity) bibliography (list of books)	bio [<i>life</i>] biography (book about a person's life) biology (the study of life)	chrome [<i>color</i>] monochrome (having one color) polychrome (having many colors)	chron [<i>time</i>] chronological (in time order) synchronize (to make happen at the same time)	cide [<i>the killing of, killer</i>] homicide (the killing of one person by another person) pesticide (pest [bug] killer)	cise [<i>cut</i>] incision (a thin, clean cut) incisors (the teeth that cut or tear food) precise (cut exactly right)	cord, cor [<i>heart</i>] cordial (heartfelt) coronary (relating to the heart)	corp [<i>body</i>] corporation (a legal body; business) corpse (a dead human body)
cycl, cyclo [<i>wheel, circular</i>] bicycle (a vehicle with two wheels) cyclone (a very strong circular wind)	dem [<i>people</i>] democracy (ruled by the people) epidemic (affecting many people at the same time)	dent, dont [<i>tooth</i>] dentures (false teeth) orthodontist (dentist who straightens teeth)	derm [<i>skin</i>] dermatology (the study of skin) epidermis (outer layer of skin)	fac, fact [<i>do, make</i>] factory (a place where people make things) manufacture (to make by hand or machine)	fin [<i>end</i>] final (the last of something) infinite (having no end)	flex [<i>bend</i>] flexible (able to bend) reflex (bending or springing back)	flu [<i>flowing</i>] fluent (flowing smoothly or easily) fluid (waterlike, flowing substance)	forc, fort [<i>strong</i>] forceful (full of strength or power) fortify (to make strong)	fract, frag [<i>break</i>] fracture (to break) fragment (a piece broken from the whole)