

99 Roots that You Should Know

(Along with a few affixes)

	Root	Meaning	Examples
1	quis, quer	ask	query, inquisition
2	meta, met	behind, between	metacognition—behind the thinking
3	dox	belief, opinion	orthodoxy, paradox, heterodoxy
4	cred	believe	credible, credulous, credit, creed
5	hemo, hema, hem	blood	hemophilia, hematology, hemoglobin
6	corp	body	corpus, corpse, corporal
7	biblio	book	bibliography, bibliophile
8	amphi	both ends or all sides	amphibian
9	spir	breathe	inspire, respiration, conspire, perspiration
10	frater	brother	fraternal, fraternize
11	voc	call	revoke, invocation, vocal, convocation
12	port	carry	portable, transport, portage, report
13	mut	change	mutant, mutability, mutate
14	arch	chief, leader, ruler	archangel, monarch, archenemy
15	scent, scend	climb	ascend, ascent
16	chrom-	color	chromatic, monochrome, polychrome
17	ven, vent	come, go	intervene, convene, contravene
18	sec, sect	cut	dissect, section
19	mor, mort	death	mortal, mortician, immortality
20	schizo, schiz	division, split	schizophrenic
21	geo-; terr-	earth	geology, geography, terrain
22	vac	empty	vacation, vacuum, vacuous, vacant
23	equ	equal	equal, equity, equate
24	pater	father	paternity, patricide, patriotic
25	sens, sent	feel, be aware	sensible, sentient
26	path	feeling, suffering	sympathy, apathy, empathy, pathology
27	pugna	fight	pugnacious, pugilist
28	plan	flat	plantation, plane
29	sequ, secu	follow	sequence, sequel, consecutive
30	ped, pod	foot	pedal, pedometer, centipede, gastropod
31	morph	form, structure	metamorphosis, amorphous, morphology
32	dei	god	deity, deify
33	theo	god, deity	theology, polytheism, atheist, monotheism
34	culp	guilt	culpable, culprit
35	man	hand	manufacture, manual, manuscript
36	pend	hang, weigh	pendulum, pendant, suspend, pending
37	therm-	heat	thermal, thermos, thermometer
38	crypt	hidden	cryptogram, cryptology, cryptic
39	ten, tent	hold	tentative, tenable, tenuous
40	anthrop	human, man	anthropology, anthropomorphic, misanthrope
41	jud	judge	judicial, judge, adjudicate
42	cogn, sci	know	recognize, cognitive, incognito, scientific
43	magn	large	magnify, magnate, magnificent
44	duc, duct	lead	induce, deduce, seduction, conduct, abduct
45	bio-	life	biography, autobiography, biology, antibiotic

46	vit	life	vital, revitalize, vitamin
47	luc	light	lucid, elucidate
48	spec, spic	look, see	spectacles, spectator, inauspicious, prospect
49	ami, amic-	love	amiable, amicable
50	fac	make, do	manufacture, factory, benefactor
51	gam-	marriage	monogamy, polygamy, bigamy
52	metri, meter-	measure	geometric, thermometer, odometer
53	carn	meat	carnivorous, chili con carne
54	mater	mother	maternal, maternity, matriarchy, matricide
55	mob, mot, mov	move	mobile, automobile, motion, promote, movie
56	nomen /nomin	name	nominal, nominate, nomenclature
57	neuro	nerve	neurology, neurosis, neurobiology
58	nov	new	novel, renovate, innovation, novella
59	alter	other	alternate, alter ego
60	pac	peace	pacify, Pacific Ocean, pacifist
61	demo-	people	demography, democracy, epidemic
62	loc	place	local, location
63	dynam-; pot- spond, spons	power promise, answer for	dynamo, hydrodynamics, omnipotent respond, responsible
64			
65	pel, puls	push	pulsate, repulsive, impulse, compel, propel
66	leg, lect	read, choose	legible, lectern, lecturer, election
67	crac, crat	rule, ruler	autocrat, democracy, bureaucrat, democracy
68	simil	same	similar, assimilate, simile, facsimile (fax)
69	mar	sea	marine, mariner
70	ego	self	egotist, egomania
71	mit, miss	send	permit, submission, mission, emit,
72	brev	short	brief, abbreviate
73	derm-	skin	dermatology, epidermis, hypodermic
74	min	small	minority, minuscule, minute
75	psych-	soul, spirit, mind	psychology, psychic, psychobiography
76	aud, son	sound	auditorium, audible, sonar
77	phon-, phono-	sound, voice	telephone, euphony, cacophony, phonograph
78	dic	speak, say	dictate, predict, diction, indict
79	stat	stay, position	station
80	grad, gress	step	gradual, progression, transgression
81	ortho-	straight, correct	orthodox, orthodontist, orthopedic
82	sol	sun	solar
83	cap	take, seize	capture, captivate, capacity
84	ject	throw	inject, reject, subject, projection
85	chron-, temp	time	chronicle, chronology, temporary
86	dent, odonto	tooth	dentist, dentifrice, dentin, orthodontist
87	tang, tact	touch	tactile, tangible
88	ver	truth	veracity, verify, verity
89	vert	turn	introvert, irreversible, vertigo
90	bell	war	belligerent, bellicose
91	mon	warn	premonition, admonition
92	aqua, hydro, hydr	water	aquatic, aquarium, dehydrate, hydraulics
93	soph	wisdom, knowledge	philosophy, sophisticated, sophomore (wise fool)
94	gyn-	woman	gynecologist, androgynous
95	nym, onym	word, name	synonym, acronym, anonymous, pseudonym
96	scrib, script	write	manuscript, scribe, proscribe, scripture

97	graph-	writing, printing	graphology, biography, telegraph, geography
98	ann, enni	year	anniversary, annual, biennial, perennial
99	ced	yield, go	recede, secede, proceed, intercede, concession

	Prefix	Meaning	Examples
1	a-, an-	not, without	amoral, anesthetic, apolitical, asocial
2	ab-	away from	abduction, abstain, abnormal
3	ad-	to, toward	adjoin, adjacent (lying near to)
4	ambi-	both	ambidextrous, ambivalent
5	ana-	up, back, again	analogy, anatomy, anagram
6	anti-	against	antipathy, antiwar, antisocial
7	apo-	from, away from	apology, apologize
8	auto-	self	autobiography, automobile, autocracy, automaton
9	bene-	good	benediction benevolent benefactor
10	cata-, cat-	down, against	catastrophe--a turning down
11	centro, centri-	around, center	concentric, centrifugal
12	circum-	around	circumlocution circumference, circumvent
13	com-	with, together	communal, community
14	con-	with, together	connect, confide conspire
15	contra-	against	contradict, contravene
16	de-	down, away	descend, deject (cast down)
17	dia-, di-	through, across	diameter, division
18	dis-	apart, not	disengage, discord, discomfort
19	dys-	ill, difficult, bad	dysfunctional, dysentery
20	e-	out of, from	elect (choose out of), eject (throw out)
21	ecto-	on the outside	ectoderm--outer skin
22	en-, em-	in	empathy--feeling in
23	endo-	within, inside	endoscope--instrument for observing inside
24	epi-	upon	epitaph epidermis, epicenter
25	eso-	inward, within	esoteric--more inward, esophagus
26	eu-	well, good	euthanasia--good death
27	ex-	out of, from	exhume, exhale, exodus
28	hetero-	other, different	heterosexual, heterodoxy, heterodox heterogeneous
29	homo-	same	homosexual, homogeneous, homogenized
30	hyper-	over	hypertension, hypersensitive, hyperactivity
31	hypo-	under	hypotension, hypodermic
32	il-	not	illegitimate, illicit, illegal, illegible
33	im-	not	imperfect, impolite, impossible
34	im-	into	imbibe (drink in, take in)
35	in-	not	indiscreet, invisible
36	in-	into	incorporate (take into the body)
37	inter-	between	intervene (come between), interstate
38	intra-	within	intrastate, intramural
39	ir-	not	irregular, irrational, irredeemable
40	macro-	large	macrocosm, macroeconomics
41	mal, male-	bad, evil	malediction malevolent, malnutrition
42	meta-	beyond	metaphysical
43	micro-	small	microscope, microcosm, microeconomics
44	mono-	one, single	monologue, monotheism, monarchy, monogamy
45	neo-	new, recent	neologism, neo-liberal, neonatology. neolithic
46	ob-	against	object, obstruct (build against)

47	palin-, pali-	back, again	palindrome
48	pan-	all, every	pantheism, Pan-Hellenic, panorama, pandemic
49	per-	through	percolate (flow through) perforate (punch through)
50	peri-	around	perimeter, periscope
51	phil-, philo-	like, lover of	philosophy, Francophile, bibliophile, philanthropy
52	poly-	many, several	polygon, polygamy, polytechnic, polytheism
53	post-	after	postgraduate, posthumous postpone
54	pre-	before	precede, predict (tell before)
55	pro-	for, forward	promote, project
56	pros-	toward, in front	prospect—view in front, something coming up
57	proto-	first	prototype, protoplasm, protobiology
58	pseudo, para-	false, fake	pseudonym, pseudoscience, paramilitary, paralegal, parachute
59	re-	again, back	repeat, recede, regress (step back)
60	retro-	back	retrogression, retroactive
61	se-	away from	seduce (lead away), secede
62	sub-	under	submarine, subject, subhuman subterranean
63	sur-, super-	over, above	superhuman, superego, superintend, surpass
64	syn-, sym-, syl-, sys-	with, together	symphony, synonym, system, syllable
65	tele-	distant, far off	telephone, telepathy, television, telegram
66	trans-	across	transient, Transatlantic, transport (carry across)

	Suffix	Definition	Examples
1	-agog, -agogue	leader	demagogue, pedagogue
2	-cide	kill(ing)	patricide, infanticide, herbicide, suicide
3	-ectomy	cutting	appendectomy, splenectomy
4	-ia, -y	act, state	amnesia, mania, democracy, anarchy
5	-ic, -tic, -ical, -ac	having to do with	anthropomorphic, dramatic, biblical, cardiac
6	-ics	things having to do with	optics, physics
7	-isk, -iscus	small	asterisk--a little star
8	-ism	the belief in	pacifism, terrorism, socialism, communism
9	-ist	one who believes in	pacifist, terrorist, socialist, communist
10	-ite	one connected with	meteorite, polite, cosmopolite
11	-logy	study field of	biology, geology, etymology, cardiology
12	-oid	resembling, like-shaped	asteroid, spheroid
13	-or, -er	one who takes part in	doctor, actor, teacher, driver
14	-phobia	exaggerated fear	photophobia, claustrophobia, agoraphobia
15	-sis	act, state, condition of	analysis