**Common Word Roots**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Root** | **Meaning** | **Example** | **Definition** |
| agri | field | agronomy | field-crop production and soil management |
| anthropo | man | anthropology | the study of man |
| astro | star | astronaut | one who travels in interplanetary space |
| bio | life | biology | the study of life |
| cardio | heart | cardiac | pertaining to the heart |
| cede | go | precede | to go before |
| chromo | color | chromatology | the science of colors |
| demos | people | democracy | government by the people |
| derma | skin | epidermis | the outer layer of skin |
| dyna | power | dynamic | characterized by power and energy |
| geo | earth | geology | the study of the earth |
| helio | sun | heliotrope | any plant that turns toward the sun |
| hydro | water | hydroponics | growing of plants in water reinforced with nutrients |
| hypno | sleep | hypnosis | a state of sleep induced by suggestion |
| ject | throw | eject | to throw out |
| magni | great, big | magnify | to enlarge, to make bigger |
| man(u) | hand | manuscript | written by hand |
| mono | one | monoplane | airplane with one wing |
| ortho | straight | orthodox | right, true, straight opinion |
| pod | foot | pseudopod | false foot |
| psycho | mind | psychology | study of the mind in any of its aspects |
| pyro | fire | pyrometer | an instrument for measuring temperatures |
| script | write | manuscript | hand written |
| terra | earth | terrace | a raised platform of earth |
| thermo | heat | thermometer | instrument for measuring heat |
| zoo | animal | zoology | the study of animals |

**Common Prefixes**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| ante- | before | antebellum | before the war |
| anti- | against | antifreeze | liquid used to guard against freezing |
| auto- | self | automatic | self-acting or self-regulating |
| bene- | good | benefit | an act of kindness; a gift |
| circum- | around | circumscribe | to draw a line around; to encircle |
| contra- | against | contradict | to speak against |
| de- | reverse, remove | defoliate | remove the leaves from a tree |
| dis- | apart | dislocate | to unlodge |
| dys- | bad | dysfunctional | not functioning |
| ecto- | outside | ectoparasite | parasite living on the exterior of animals |
| endo- | within | endogamy | marriage within the tribe |
| ex- | out  | excavate | to dig out |
| equi- | equal | equidistant | equal distance |
| extra- | beyond | extraterrestrial | beyond the earth |
| hyper- | over | hypertension | high blood pressure |
| hypo- | under | hypotension | low blood pressure |
| in- | in | interim | in between |
| inter- | between | intervene | come between |
| intra- | within | intramural | within bounds of a school |
| intro- | in, into | introspect | to look within, as one's own mind |
| macro- | large | macroscopic | large enough to be observed by the naked eye |
| mal- | bad | maladjusted | badly adjusted |
| micro- | small | microscopic | so small that one needs a microscope to observe |
| multi- | many | multimillionaire | one having two or more million dollars |
| neo- | new | neolithic | new stone age |
| non- | not | nonconformist | one who does not conform |
| pan- | all | pantheon | a temple dedicated to all gods |
| poly- | many | polygonal | having many sides |
| post- | after | postgraduate | after graduating |
| pre- | before | precede | to go before |
| pro- | for | proponent | a supporter |
| proto- | first | prototype | first or original model |
| pseudo- | false | pseudonym | false name; esp., an author's pen-name |
| re-, red- | back again | rejuvenate | to make young |
| re-, red- | together | reconnect | to put together again |
| retro- | backward | retrospect | a looking back on things |
| semi- | half | semicircle | half a circle |
| sub- | under | submerge | to put under water |
| super- | above | superfine | extra fine |
| tele- | far | telescope | seeing or viewing afar |
| trans- | across | transalpine | across the Alps |

**Number prefixes**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| uni- one | tetra- four | oct- eight |
| mono- one | quint- five | nov- nine |
| bi- two | pent- five | dec- ten |
| duo- two | sex- six | lat- side |
| di- two | hex- six | ped- foot |
| tri- three | sept- seven | pod- foot |
| quad- four | hept- seven |  |

**Math & Science Affixes and Roots**

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| --- | --- |
| **Root or Affix** | **Example** |
| aqua (water) | aquarium |
| hydro (water) | hydroplane |
| hemi (half) | hemisphere |
| semi (half) | semicircle |
| equi (equal) | equivalent |
| tele (far off) | telescope |
| micro (small) | microfilm |
| onomy (science of)http://academic.cuesta.edu/acasupp/IMAGES/SPACER.GIF | astronomy |
| ology (study of) | geology |
| uni (one) | universe |
| bi (two) | bicycle |
| tri (three) | triangle |
| octa (eight) | octagon |
| dec (ten) | decade |
| centi (hundred) | centimeter |
| milli (thousand) | millimeter |
| bio (life) | biology |
| astro (star) | astronaut |
| thermo (heat) | thermodynamic |
| meter (measure) | diameter |
| ped (foot) | pedestrian |
| pod (foot) | tripod |

**Prefixes that mean "no": a- de- dis-, in- non- un-, contra**

Examples: disqualify, nondescript, unscrupulous, contradict, inadvertent

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Prefix** | **Meaning** | **Examples** |
| a-, an- | without, not | asexual, atypical, amoral, anarchy |
| de- | reverse action, away | defrost, demystify, desensitize, deduct |
| dis-, dif-, di- | not, apart | dissatisfied, disorganized, different, divert |
| in-, il-, it-, im- | not | inappropriate, invisible, illegal, impossible |
| non- | not | nonproductive, nonessential, nonsense |
| un- | not | unlikely, unnoticeable, unreliable |
| contra-, counter- | against | contrary, contradict, counterproductive |

**Prefixes that indicate "when," "where," or "more": pre-, post-, ante-, inter-, infra-, traps-, sub-, circum-, ultra­**

Examples: premature, postscript, anteroom, intervene, transformation

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| **Prefix** | **Meaning** | **Examples** |
| pre-, pro- | before | pre-dinner, preliminary, previous, prologue |
| post- | after | postwar, postoperative, postpone |
| ante- | before | antecedent, antechamber |
| inter- | between, among | interstate, intercept, interfere |
| intra- | within | intramural, intrastate, intravenous |
| trans- | across | transcontinental, transparent, transaction |
| sub- | under | submarine, submerge, subjugate |
| circum- | around | circumnavigate, circumference |
| ultra- | beyond, on the far side of, excessive | ultrasonic, ultraviolet, ultraconservative |