

Roots/Stems Study

Learning the following 125 roots and stems will help you understand words when reading even if you've never seen a word before. Here's how:

- Pretend you've never seen the word *autograph*. Using your knowledge of roots and stems, you can "dissect" it to understand its meaning.

auto	graph
self	write
to write by oneself	

During each two week period you will learn ten words through an introduction, classroom activities, and self-study at home. You can expect the following each week:

- Introduction of roots/stems at the beginning of a two week period
- Classroom activities and games to practice and learn roots/stems
- Roots/stems will be incorporated into weekly Do Tonight
- Quiz at the end of two week period on any words we have already covered
- *You can also expect a more comprehensive, cumulative test each grading period*

In order to master your roots and stems and ace the bi-weekly quiz, you are expected to study your words at home. Consider doing any or all of the following:

- Creating flashcards
- Repeatedly copying the week's roots and stems
- Creating a quizlet account with online flashcards
- Identifying roots and stems in text
- Having someone quiz you orally

Where can you study your roots and stems other than at your house or in class?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____



"I find the easiest way to expand my vocabulary is to make up words."

One Hundred Twenty-Five Essential Roots & Stems for Sixth Grade

	Root/Stem	Definition	Example	Another Example
1.	er	one who does	teacher	
2.	ful	full of	wonderful	
3.	meso	Middle	mesosphere	
4.	or	one who does	doctor	
5.	ante	before	antechamber	

	Root/Stem	Definition	Example	Another Example
6.	anti	against	anticlimax	
7.	bi	two	binoculars	
8.	circum	around	circumference	
9.	com/con	with	communicate	
10.	crypt	hidden	cryptic	
11.	de	down	descend	
12.	equi	equal	equilateral	
13.	extra	beyond	extraordinary	
14.	inter	between	interject	
15.	intra	within	intrastate	
16.	intro	into	introduce	
17.	mal	bad	malevolent	
18.	mis	wrongly	misuse	
19.	non	not	nonstop	
20.	post	after	postscript	
21.	pre	before	prehistoric	
22.	semi/hemi	one-half	semicircle	
23.	sub	under	submarine	
24.	super	over	supernatural	
25.	sym/syn	together	sympathy	
26.	medi	middle	Mediterranean	
27.	tri	three	tricycle	
28.	un	not	unfit	
29.	alt	high	altitude	
30.	pod/ped	foot/feet	pedal	
31.	uni	one	united	
32.	ann	year	anniversary	
33.	ist	one who does	artist	
34.	ize	to make	hypothesize	
35.	quad	four	quadruplets	
36.	terra	earth	terrestrial	
37.	less	without	homeless	
38.	opt	eye	optometrist	
39.	ad	to	adapt	
40.	aqua	water	aquarium	
41.	archy	government	monarchy	
42.	ard	always	coward	
43.	audi	hear	audience	
44.	auto	self	autograph	
45.	biblio	book	bibliography	
46.	bio	life	biology	
47.	cap	take	capture	
48.	cede	go	proceed	

	Root/Stem	Definition	Example	Another Example
49.	cent	one hundred	century	
50.	centri	center	centrist	
51.	cide	kill	homicide	
52.	cise	cut	incisor	
53.	reg	king	regal	
54.	dict	speak	dictionary	
55.	ician	specialist	beautician	
56.	itis	inflammation	tonsillitis	
57.	miss, mit	send	missionary	
58.	logy	study or science of	biology	
59.	port	carry	transport	
60.	scrib	write	scribble	
61.	duct	lead, carry	conduct	
62.	ex/exo	out	exit	
63.	-fer	carry	transfer	
64.	homo	same	homonym	
65.	hydro	water	hydroelectric	
66.	ten(d) (s) (u)	stretch	tension	
67.	micro	small	microscope	
68.	mono	one	monotone	
69.	omni	all	omniscient	
70.	vis/vid	look	vision	
71.	penta	five	pentagon	
72.	phon	sound	phonics	
73.	photo	light	photograph	
74.	poly	many	polygon	
75.	-able, ible	state of	capable	
76.	pseudo	false	pseudonym	
77.	re	again	rewrite	
78.	spec	look	inspect	
79.	tele	far	telescope	
80.	philia/phile	attraction/love	bibliophile	
81.	viv	life	vivid	
82.	amphi/ambi	both	ambidextrous	
83.	bene	good	beneficial	
84.	-fy	make	stupefy	
85.	-ity	state or quality of	ability	
86.	phobia	fear	arachnophobia	
87.	-ship	quality, characteristic	friendship	
88.	fore	front	forewarn	
89.	chron	time	chronological	
90.	demo	people	democracy	
91.	geo	earth	geology	

	Root/Stem	Definition	Example	Another Example
92.	mov, mob, mot	move	mobility	
93.	sphere	round	hemisphere	
94.	meter	measure	thermometer	
95.	oct	eight	octagon	
96.	son	sound	sonic	
97.	therm	heat	thermometer	
98.	trans	across	trans-Atlantic	
99.	man	hand	manuscript	
100.	co	with	coworker	
101.	graph	write	autograph	
102.	in	not	inconsiderate	
103.	-ous	quality, characteristic	wondrous	
104.	-ation	process	flirtation	
105.	magna	large	magnificent	
106.	-age	action or process	dosage	
107.	ab	away	abduct	
108.	-ual	quality, characteristic	annual	
109.	multi	many	multiple	
110.	germ	begin/beget	germinate	
111.	lum	light	luminous	
112.	ethn	race or culture	ethnic	
113.	ultra	beyond	ultraviolet	
114.	somn	sleep	insomnia	
115.	hypo	under	hypothesis	
116.	-drome	structure	hippodrome	
117.	theo	god	theology	
118.	troph	nourishment	autotroph	
119.	hetero	different/other	heterogeneous	
120.	chlor	green	chlorophyll	
121.	quan	number	quantity	
122.	qual	characteristic	inequality	
123.	thigmo	touch	thigmotropic	
124.	-ial	quality, characteristic	congenial	
125.	en	cause	enable	

Clarifications

Stem – word parts that can change the root but cannot stand alone as a word (ex. *un*). Prefixes and suffixes (affixes) are stems.

Affix – a word part

Prefix – a word part that begins a word

Suffix – a word part that ends a word

Root /Base – the part of a word that carries its general meaning (ex. *archy*)

Considerations:

1. Just 4 prefixes (un-, in-, dis-, non-) account for nearly 50% of all prefixed words.
2. Prefixes are not consistent in their meanings.
3. False analysis with prefixes can occur.
4. Looking only at word parts sometimes mislead the reader in determining the meaning of the word.
5. Knowing your prefixes, suffixes, roots, and stems gives you the power to know new words!

