



Roots and Shoots

Spelling

[Membean Root Trees](#)

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The lists of Greek and Latin roots and affixes is not complete. Please refer to [Membean Root Trees](#) for further resources.

What is a base word? A base word is the main part of a word once prefixes and suffixes have been stripped away. They can always stand alone.

What is a root? Roots are parts of words which contain meaning, usually stemming from Latin and Greek. They often cannot stand alone as words. E.g. Aud – hearing. It does not make sense on its own, but linked with other letters it does: audible.

Morphological Awareness

Word Study – Independent spelling exploration

If you have pupils that already have a high spelling age and you want to not only stretch them but help them to know more about how words work, then Morphological awareness may be one way to go.

This is a programme of independent study, which means that the teacher is freed up to work with those who need more direct teaching.

There are two main sections to this pack.

Section one

The pupil works through a list of base words. It is best to do this in pairs or trios. For each base word, they look for ways to grow the word by adding prefixes and suffixes. They study the change in meaning that these affixes bring to the word.

happy		
Meaning: feeling good		
Can you add a prefix?	Un happy	Meaning: not feeling good
Can you add a suffix?	Happily	It is describing the good feeling of how something is being done.
Can you add a prefix and a suffix?	unhappily	It is describing the bad feeling of how something is being done.
Can you find other words which can be changed using the same prefix or suffix?		
Prefix - un		Suffix - ly
Unimpressed Unreal Unnecessary		Sadly Quickly Loudly
Can you work out any rules for the changes in spelling when a suffix is added? Happy → happily When I add ly to a word ending in a y , I change the y to an i and add ly .		
My spelling list for this week is: Happy Unhappy Happily Unhappily Unimpressed Unreal Unnecessary Sadly Quickly loudly		

Section Two

Each week the pupils are given one spelling word. This will be a multi base word. They will also have a list of Latin and Greek roots. With their one word, they will break it down into its roots. They will investigate what each root means and what the word means with the roots together.

Next taking one root at a time, they research other words which contain that root. These words become part of their spelling list.

This can be done individually or with a partner. If working with a partner, they can test each other's spelling and understanding of the word.

They could use the words, to create a class illustrated dictionary.

telescope		
tele ↓ Far away	scope ↓ To see	telescope ↓ To see far away
Can you grow telescope, by adding a prefix or suffix?		
Telescopic, telescopes, telescoping		
Other words with tele	Other words with scope	
television telephoto teleconference telepathic telemarketing teleshopping telekinesis	microscope horoscope periscope kaleidoscope	
My spelling list for this week is: Telescope Telescopes Telescoping television telephoto teleconference telepathic telemarketing teleshopping telekinesis microscope horoscope periscope kaleidoscope		
The meanings of some of the words I have found.		
A television lets us see things that are far away. I can see tiny things with a microscope that I can't see without it. I can see things far away with a telephoto lens. A horoscope means looking at something in time.		

Glossary of terms

Root	A root is the smallest part of a word which contains a meaning from which a word can be grown.
Base word	A base word has no prefix or suffix. It is the most basic part of the word.
Prefix	A group of letters added to the start of a word to change its meaning e.g. possible - im possible (im is a prefix making possible to mean not possible)
Suffix	A group of letters added to the end of a word to change its meaning e.g. possible – possibly (ly is a suffix which usually changes a word into an adverb)
	<p>If you can put a or the in front of a word, it is usually a noun.</p> <p>If you can put to or can or am in front of a word then it is usually a verb.</p> <p>If the word is describing a noun, it will be an adjective.</p> <p>If the word is describing a verb, it will be an adverb. A lot of adverbs end in ly.</p>

Possible list of starter words for Section One

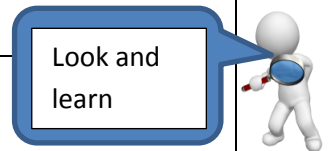
Care	Happy	Correct
Suit	Faith	Electric
Freeze	Act	Love
Talk	Dark	Comfort
Excite	Decide	Cover
Employ	Stand	Play
Cook	Comb	Child
Hop	shop	rain
Sleep	window	door

Section One

Word:			
Meaning:			
	Prefix	Meaning of prefix	New word
Can you add a prefix?			Meaning:
Can you add a suffix?			Meaning:
Can you add a prefix and a suffix?			Meaning:
Can you find other words which can be changed using the same prefix or suffix?			
Prefix -		Suffix -	
Can you work out any rules for the changes in spelling when a suffix is added?			
My spelling list for this week is:			

Section Two – Word with two roots.

Word: Write this in your spelling list	
Root: ↓	Root: ↓
Meaning:	Meaning:
Can you grow telescope, by adding a prefix or suffix?	
Write these in your spelling list.	
Other words with the root:	Other words with the root:
Write these in your spelling list	Write these in your spelling list
My spelling list for this week is:	
Sentence that show the meanings of some of the words I have found.	



Possible list of starter words for Section Two

Horoscope	Multicultural	Multimedia
Circumnavigate	Aquamarine	Hypothermia
Thermometer	Hypodermic	Pseudonym
Arachnophobia	Multilingual	Malevolent
Malapropism	photograph	submarine
Zoology	manuscript	interrupt
Sympathy	transport	discredit
Distrust	cyclone	tripod
Tenacious	autograph	manufacture
Microphone	rectangle	portable
Antipathy	psychology	chronological
Conduct	transform	interchange
Introduce	intercom	contradict
Conjunction	intact	

Section Two – Word with three roots.

Word: Write this in your spelling list		
Root: ↓	Root: ↓	Root: ↓
Meaning:	Meaning:	Meaning:
Can you grow telescope, by adding a prefix or suffix?		
Write these in your spelling list.		
Other words with the root:	Other words with the root:	Other words with the root:
Write these in your spelling list	Write these in your spelling list	Write these in your spelling list
My spelling list for this week is:		
Sentence that show the meanings of some of the words I have found.		



Greek and Latin Roots

Root	Origin	Meaning	Examples
act	Latin	do	action, actor, react, transact & enact
aero	Greek	air	aerobics, aerodynamics, aeronautics & aerate
agr	Latin	field	agriculture, agrarian, agronomy & agribusiness
alter	Latin	other	alter, alternate, alternative, altercation & alter ego
anim	Latin	life, spirit	animate, animosity, animal & inanimate
ann	Latin	year	annual, anniversary & annuity
enn	Latin	year	biennial & millennium
aqua	Latin	water	aquarium, aquatic, aqueous & aquamarine
ast	Greek	star	astronaut, astronomy, asterisk & asteroid
aud	Latin	hear	audience, auditorium, audible & audition
biblio	Greek	book	bibliography, bibliophile, & Bible (portion of)
bio	Greek	life	biology, biography, biochemistry, biopsy & biosphere
card	Latin	heart	cardiac, cardiology, cardiogram & cardiovascular
cord	Latin	heart	cordial, accord, concord & discord
chron	Greek	time	chronological, synchronize, chronicle & chronic
claim	Latin	shout	proclaim, exclaim & acclaim
clam	Latin	shout	clamour & exclamation
cogn	Latin	know	recognize, incognito, cognition & cognizant
Con	Latin	With, together	Conduct, concert, contagious
corp	Latin	body	corporation, corpse, corps, corpus & corpuscle

cosm	Greek	universe	cosmos, cosmopolitan, microcosm & cosmonaut
cred	Latin	believe	credit, discredit, incredible, credential & credulous
cycl	Greek	circle, ring	bicycle, cyclone, cycle & recycle
Dem	Latin	People	Democrat, democracy, epidemic
dic	Latin	speak	dictate, predict, contradict, verdict & diction
dis	Latin	Apart, not	Displeased, disconnected, distrust
doc	Latin	teach	doctrine, document, doctor, indoctrinate & docile
don	Latin	give	donor & pardon
donat	Latin	give	donation & donate
duc	Latin	lead	duct, conduct, educate, induct & aqua duct
fac	Latin	make, do	factory, manufacture, benefactor & facsimile
fic	Latin	make, do	efficient, proficient, sufficient & beneficial
flect	Latin	bend	reflect, deflect, reflection, inflection & genuflect
flex	Latin	bend	reflex & flexible
form	Latin	shape	form, uniform, transform, reform & formal
gen	Greek	birth, race	generation, generate, genocide, progeny & genealogy
geo	Greek	earth	geography, geometry, geology & geophysics
gram	Greek	letter, written	telegram, diagram, grammar, epigram & monogram
graph	Greek	write	photograph, autograph, biography & phonograph
homo, hom	Latin	man	Homo sapiens, homicide, homage & hombre
inner	Latin	within	innermost, innerspring
inter	Latin	among, between or shared by	interchange, intercom & interface
intro	Latin	into, inward or within	introduce, introvert & introspection

junct	Latin	join	juncture, conjunction, adjunct & injunction
jud	Latin	law	judge & judicial
jur	Latin	law	jury & jurisdiction
jus	Latin	law	justice & justify
lab	Latin	work	labor, laboratory, collaborate & elaborate
liber	Latin	free	liberty, liberal, liberate & libertine
loc	Latin	place	location, locate, dislocate, allocate & local
Log	Latin	Study, work, reason	Geology, psychology, astrology
man	Latin	hand	manual, manufacture, manuscript & manipulate
mar	Latin	sea	marine, submarine, mariner & maritime
mater	Latin	mother	maternal, maternity & matricide
matr	Latin	mother	matrimony, matron & matriarch
Merge		Plunge	Submerge, emerge, emergency
meter	Greek	measure	thermometer, centimeter, diameter & barometer
migr	Latin	change, move	migrate, immigrant, emigrate & migratory
miss	Latin	send	missile, dismiss, mission & remiss
mit	Latin	send	submit, remit, admit & transmit
mob	Latin	move	mobile, automobile & mobilize
mot	Latin	move	motion, motor, promote, demote & motile
mov	Latin	move	remove, movement
morph	Greek	shape	amorphous, metamorphoses & morphology
mort	Latin	death	mortician, mortuary, mortal, immortal & mortify
nat	Latin	born	natal, native, nation, nativity & innate
ordin,	Latin	row, rank	ordinary, ordinal, extraordinary, ordinance & order

order			
ortho	Greek	straight, right	orthodontist, orthodox, orthopedist & orthography
pater, patr	Latin	father	paternity, paternal, patricide & patriarch
path	Greek	disease, feeling	pathology, sympathy, empathy, antipathy & pathos
ped	Greek	child	pediatrician, pedagogy & encyclopedia
ped	Latin	foot	pedal, pedestrian, biped & pedestal
phil	Greek	love	philosophy, philanthropist, philharmonic & philology
phon	Greek	sound	phonograph, symphony, telephone, microphone & phonics
photo	Greek	light	photograph, telephoto, photosynthesis & photogenic
pod	Greek	foot	podiatrist, podium & tripod
poli	Greek	city	metropolis, cosmopolitan, police & political
port	Latin	carry	portable, transport, import, export & porter
pysch	Greek	mind, soul	psychology, psyche, psychopath & psychiatrist
ques, quer, quis	Latin	ask, seek	question, inquest, request, query & inquisitive
rad	Latin	ray, spoke	radius, radio, radiation, radium, radiator & radiology
rect	Latin	straight	erect, rectangle, rectify, direction & correct
rupt	Latin	break	rupture, erupt, interrupt, abrupt & bankrupt
san	Latin	health	sanitary, sanitation, sane, insanity & sanitarium
saur	Greek	lizard	dinosaur, brontosaurus & stegosaurus
sci	Greek	know	science, conscience, conscious & omniscient
scop	Greek	see	microscope, telescope, periscope & stethoscope
scribe	Latin	write	inscribe, describe & prescribe

script	Latin	write	script, transcript & scripture
sign	Latin	mark	signal, signature, significant & insignia
spec	Latin	see	inspect, suspect, respect, spectator & spectacle
struct	Latin	build	structure, construct, instruct & destruction
sym	Latin	With or together	Sympathy, symbiotic, symbolic
tact	Latin	touch	tactile, intact, contact & tact
terr	Latin	land	territory, terrain, terrestrial & terrace
therm	Greek	heat	thermometer, thermal, thermostat & thermos
tract	Latin	pull, drag	tractor, attract, subtract, traction, extract & contract
tran	Latin	Across	Transcript, transgender, transport
trib	Latin	give	contribute, tribute, tributary & attribute
urb	Latin	city	urban, suburb, urbane & suburban
vac	Latin	empty	vacant, evacuate, vacate & vacuum
var	Latin	different	vary, invariable, variant, variety & various
vid	Latin	see	video, evidence, provide, providence
vis	Latin	see	visible, vision, visual & visualize
voc	Latin	voice	vocal, advocate, evocation & convocation
void	Latin	empty	void, devoid, avoid, voided & unavoidable
vol	Latin	wish, will	volition, volunteer, voluntary & benevolent
volv	Latin	turn	revolve, involve, evolve, revolver & revolution

completely or very	de-, ob-		define
Thoroughly, together	con		Conjunction, context,
down	de-, ob-		devolve
four	quad-	tetra-	Quadbike, tetrapod
good	ben-, bene-	eu-	Beneficial, euphoria
half, partially	semi-	hemi-	Semicircle, hemisphere
in, into	il-, im-, in-, ir-	en-	Illuminate, impact, enter
in front of	pro-	pro-	Provide, prominent
inside	intra-	endo-	Introspection, endoscopy
large	(macro-, from Greek)	macro-	macroscopic
many	multi-	poly-	Multipack, polygon
not*	de-, dis-, in-, ob-	a-, an-	Deskill, disperse, anonymous
on		epi-	epidemic
one	uni-	mono-	Unicycle, monolingual
out of	ex-, e-	ek-	excursion
outside	extra-, extro-	ecto-, exo-	Extracurricular,
over	ob- (sometimes)	epi-	Obsolete, epidermis
self	ego-	auto-, aut-, auth-	Egotistical, autobiography, author
small		micro-	microclimate
three	tri-	tri-	tricycle
through	trans-	dia-	diameter
to or toward	ad-, a-, ac-, as-	epi-	Advance, epicentre
two	bi-	di-	Bicycle, dilemma
under, insufficient	sub-	hypo-	Submarine, hypodermic

with	co-. com-, con-	sym-, syn-	Cofounder, compare, sympathy, synonym
within, inside	intra-	endo-	intracellular
without	dis- (sometimes)	a-, an-	Disclaimer

Suffix	Meaning	Example
able, ible	able, capable	capable, agreeable, edible, visible
ade	result of action	blockade
age	act of, state of, result of	storage, wreckage, damage
al	relating to	gradual, manual, natural
algia	pain	neuralgia, nostalgia, myalgia
an, ian	native of, relating to	African, riparian,
ance, ancy	action, process, state	assistance, allowance, defiance
ary, ery, ory	relating to, quality, place where	aviary, bravery, dormitory
cian	possessing a specific skill or art	magician, physician,
cy	action, function	hesitancy, prophecy, normalcy
cule, ling	very small	molecule, ridicule, animalcule, duckling, sapling
dom	quality, realm	freedom, kingdom, wisdom
ee	one who receives the action	refugee, nominee, lessee
en	made of, to make	silken, frozen, wooden
ence, ency	action, state of, quality	difference, confidence, urgency, agency
er, or	one who, that which	baker, miller, professor
escent	in the process of	adolescent, senescence, putrescence
ese	a native of, the language of	Javanese, Japanese, Balinese
esis, osis	action, process, condition	genesis, hypnosis, neurosis, osmosis
ess	female	goddess, lioness, actress
et, ette	small one, group	midget, baronet, sextet, lorgnette
fic	making, causing	scientific, specific

ful	full of	frightful, careful, helpful
fy	make	beautify, fortify, simplify
hood	order, condition, quality	manhood, adulthood
ic	nature of, like	metallic, acidic, bucolic, simplistic
ice	condition, state, quality	justice, malice
id, ide	a thing connected with or belonging to	fluid, fluoride, bromide
ile	relating to, suited for, capable of	juvenile, senile, purile, missile
ine	nature of	feminine, genuine, medicine
ion, sion, tion	act, result, or state of	cancellation, contagion, infection, crenellation
ish	origin, nature, resembling	foolish, Irish, clownish, impish
ism	system, manner, condition, characteristic	alcoholism, communism, capitalism,
ist	one who, that which	artist, dentist, flautist
ite	nature of, quality of, mineral product	prelate, Mennonite, dynamite, graphite, Israelite
ity, ty	state of, quality	celebrity, captivity, clarity, poverty
ive	causing, making	abusive, exhaustive, abortive
ize, ise	make	emphasize, exercise, bowdlerize, bastardize, idolize, fanaticize
logy	study, science, theory	biology, anthropology, geology, neurology
ly	like, manner of	carelessly, fearlessly, hopelessly
ment	act of, state or, result	containment, contentment, amendment
ness	state of	carelessness, restlessness
nomy	law	autonomy, economy, taxonomy

oid	resembling	asteroid, spheroid, rhomboid, anthropoid
ous	full of, having	gracious, nervous, pompous,
ship	state of, office, quality	assistantship, friendship, authorship
some	like, apt, tending to	lonesome, lissome, threesome, gruesome
tude	state of, condition of	gratitude, aptitude, multitude
ure	state of, act, process, rank	culture, literature, rupture, rapture
ward	in the direction of	eastward, downward, backward
y	inclined to, tend to	cheery, crafty, faulty

