

Grade 6 Playlist: Affixes and Roots

Aligns with *CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.6.4.B*:

- Use common, grade-appropriate Greek or Latin affixes and roots as clues to the meaning of a word (e.g., *audience*, *auditory*, *audible*).

Welcome

The English language is influenced by Latin and Greek. Many English words are formed from prefixes, suffixes, and roots that have Latin or Greek origins. Knowledge of common affixes and roots can help a reader figure out what a word means.

Objectives

In this playlist, the student will learn and practice how to:

- determine the meaning of words with common Greek and Latin roots
- describe how common Greek and Latin affixes change the meaning of roots

Review

Key Terms

- A **root** is the base of a word. There are no affixes attached.
- An **affix** is a letter or group of letters added onto a word that affects its meaning.
- A **prefix** is an affix attached to the beginning of a root.
- A **suffix** is an affix attached to the end of a root.

Here is an example of a word with a root, a prefix, and a suffix:

inaudible - unable to be heard

Prefix	in-	Meaning: not
Root	aud	Meaning: related to sound or hearing
Suffix	-ible	Meaning: able to be

Notice how the two affixes change the root, **aud**, that describes sound or hearing. Adding the suffix **-ible** shows that the word is describing the ability to hear something. Adding the prefix **in-** shows that the word is describing the opposite of being able to hear.



Exploring the Standard

Examining the different parts of a word can help a reader figure out what it means. Not all longer words use affixes, but many do. Being able to identify when a Greek or Latin affix or root is being used can improve reading comprehension. This playlist will discuss some of the most common affixes and roots.

Watch!

This rap song describes how prefixes, suffixes, and roots show a word's meaning:

- <https://www.opened.com/video/prefixes-suffixes-roots-rap-www-educationalrap-com/115045>

A Closer Look: Roots

When readers strip away affixes, they are left with a root as the base. Think about the word **abbreviate**. It's a relatively long word with four syllables, but the base of this word is the root **brev**. This root means that something is **short**. **Abbreviate** means to shorten something. The word **brevity** also has the root **brev**. A speaker that is known for his **brevity** often uses **short, concise** sentences.

This chart lists some common roots from Greek and Latin:

Root	Meaning	Examples
anni, annu, enni	Year	anniversary, annually, millennial
bio	Life	biology, biography
cred	belief	incredible, credit
equ	equal	equator
hydr, hydra, hydro	water	dehydrate, hydrant, hydrogen
loc, loco	place	location, local, locomotion
multi	many, much	multinational, multiple
ped, pod	foot	pedal, centipede, pedestrian
phon	sound	telephone, symphony, phonetic
spec, spect, spic	look	spectator, conspicuous
therm	heat	thermometer, hypothermia
viv, vita, vivi	alive, life	revive, vivacious, vital
voc	Call	vocal, vocation
zoo	animal	zoo, zoology

Read!

The list of Greek and Latin roots is pretty long. This site provides a longer list of common roots:

- <http://www.readingrockets.org/article/root-words-roots-and-affixes>

