

Words From Latin

Extra Background
Latin is a 'dead language'. Although it is still used for certain documents and specific situations (e.g. the Church), no one speaks Latin as their native language.

Pupil Guidance
It's important to distinguish the meaning of similarly spelt prefixes. 'Anti', meaning 'against' or 'preventing', is not the same as 'ante', meaning 'before' or 'in front of'.

Pupil Guidance
Many of the prefixes will go with several different root words. Other answers could be 'retract', 'conspire', 'deflect', 'detract' or 'inscribe'.

Extension Idea
Ask pupils to create a set of prefix and suffix 'clouds' in their books. Get them to write as many words as they can using the prefixes and suffixes, but with different roots.

Section 2 — Ancient Meanings

Words From Latin



Sometimes you might come across a word that you don't recognise. Don't panic though! Try to split the word into smaller chunks to help you understand the meaning.

Lots of words that come from Latin can be split into prefixes, suffixes and roots. Dividing Latin words up can help you understand their meaning.

Prefix: trans- means across
Root: -port means carry
So 'transport' means 'carry across'.



Here's a list of prefixes and roots from Latin. Use them to make as many words as you can.

prefixes	roots
ab-, a-	-dict speak
circum-	-fact make
con-, co-	-flect bend
contra-, contra-	-fect throw
de-	-mit send
ex-, e-	-scribe write
in-	-sect cut
inter-	-spire breathe
post-	-tain have, hold
re-	-tract drag
sub-	-vene come
super-	-vert turn

inject, subject
inject, contain
contract, convert
defect, describe
detain, expire
extract, inject
inject, inspire
subvert

Using the tables above, what do you think 'contradict' means?

I think it means to speak against something or someone.

Using the tables above, what do you think 'retain' means?

I think it means to hold back.

Think of the words 'spectacles' and 'spectator'. What do you think 'spect' means?

I think it means 'look' because a spectator watches.



Section 2 — Ancient Meanings

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Extension Idea

Get pupils to see how many other words beginning with 'spect' they can think of. Answers might include 'spectacular' or 'spectrum'. Encourage the use of a dictionary for this.

- Words From Latin — Aims:**
- to demonstrate to pupils how many different Latin roots and prefixes are used in English
 - to encourage pupils to consider how meaning is constructed from these roots and prefixes
 - to give pupils the opportunity to create words of their own from Latin roots and prefixes.

The words in the table below can be made from a Latin prefix and root. Look at the meaning column, then use the list of Latin prefixes and roots from p12 to help you find the English word.

Meaning	Prefix + Root	English Word
send back	prefix meaning 'back' + root meaning 'send'	remit
throw out	re + mit	eject
hold together	e + ject	contain
drag back	con + tain	retract
turn back	re + tract	revert
	re + vert	



Look at this dictionary definition of a made-up word.

circumtract (v) to drag around
Etymology: from Latin *circum* ('around') + *tract* ('drag')
My little sister has a car which she circumtracts everywhere she goes.
A sentence using the word

Use a Latin prefix and root to make up your own word. Then write your own dictionary entry.

supervert (v) to turn over
Etymology: from Latin 'super' (over) and 'vert' (turn).
When I superverted my plant pot I found a slug.



How does understanding the meaning of Latin words help you to understand English?

If you know the meaning of the different Latin prefixes and roots, it can help you to work out the meaning of words.



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Section 2 — Ancient Meanings

Pupil Guidance

Some children may also recognise that knowing roots and prefixes can help them with spelling.

Extra Background
Some words from Latin may no longer have their literal meaning. For example, 'conspire' literally means 'breathe together', but we now take it to mean 'join together in a secret act'.

Extension Idea
Ask students to create a list of words whose meanings have changed from the literal meaning. They may need the help of a dictionary.

Suggested Scaffolding
Encourage pupils to think of the English meanings first (using the right-hand columns on page 12), and then fit the translated Latin root and prefix together.

Saxon Versus Latin

Extra Background

Synonyms are words which have similar meanings, but even synonyms can have different shades of meaning. E.g. synonyms for 'thin' might have positive connotations ('slim') or negative connotations ('gaunt').

Suggested Scaffolding

If pupils get stuck, give them clues by providing them with the opposites. For example, 'the opposite of 'deep' is...'

Pupil Guidance

Students may wish to use each word in a sentence to see how the meanings vary.

14

Saxon Versus Latin



There are lots of words from Latin which mean pretty much the same thing as words from Saxon. This means that writers have plenty of synonyms to choose from.

Use a dictionary or a thesaurus to complete these pairs of synonyms.



From Saxon
luck
freedom
w i s d o m
see-through
climb up

From Latin
f o r t u n e
l i b e r t y
i n t e l l i g e n c e
t r a n s p a r e n t
a s c e n d
superficial



Synonyms are different words that have similar meanings.

Do these pairs of words mean exactly the same thing? Have a think about how you might use them differently.

Often in English, there are nouns which come from Saxon roots, but the adjective comes from Latin. Fill in this table, using the hints to help you.

Noun from Saxon	Adjective from Latin	Hint
cat	f e l l o w	Latin for cat is 'felines'.
dog	c a n i n e	Latin for dog is 'canis'.
night	n o c t u r n a l	Latin for night is 'nox'.
mother	m a t e r n a l	Latin for mother is 'mater'.
brother	f r a t e r n a l	Latin for brother is 'frater'.
year	a n n u a l	Latin for year is 'annus'.

Section 2 — Ancient Meanings

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Saxon Versus Latin — Aims:

- to understand that there are often both Latin and Saxon words for the same thing in English
- to show pupils how using Latin or Saxon words can create different effects in writing.

15

Have another look at the words on the opposite page. Can you come to any conclusions about how words with Saxon roots are different from words with Latin roots?

Words from Saxon tend to be **short, common** and have **fewer syllables**. They are used to talk about **ordinary, familiar things**.

Words from Latin tend to be **longer, have more syllables** and can be **fancy**. They are more **unusual words**.

Use these words to help you:

- "fancy"
- "familiar"
- "fewer syllables"
- "more syllables"
- "unusual"
- "common"

Read these descriptions of characters taken from two novels. Look up any words you don't know in the dictionary.

Describing 'Joe' from 'Bleak House' by Charles Dickens:
"Dirty, ugly, disagreeable to all the senses, in body a common creature of the common streets, only in soul a heathen. Homely filth begrimes him, homely parasites devour him, homely sores are in him, homely rags are on him..."



Describing 'Emma Woodhouse' from 'Emma' by Jane Austen:
"Emma Woodhouse, handsome, clever, and rich, with a comfortable home and happy disposition, seemed to unite some of the best blessings of existence; and had lived nearly twenty-one years in the world with very little to distress or vex her"



Look at the words in bold. In one text they are from Saxon, in the other they are from Latin. Can you tell which is which? Why might each writer have decided to use these sorts of words? I think that **the description of Joe has Saxon words in it** because **the words are short and basic like 'sores', 'ugly' and 'dirty'**. The words in 'Emma' are longer, so are probably from Latin. This makes me think that Emma is a more well-spoken character than Joe.

Explain how words from Saxon and Latin give you choices in your writing.

You often have the choice between a word from Saxon or from Latin. Each will give a different feel to your writing.



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Section 2 — Ancient Meanings

Pupil Guidance

Many people think that it's impressive to use Latin words whenever possible because it makes their writing sound 'posh' and 'grown-up'. This isn't always the case. Sometimes overusing Latin words can sound a bit pompous, e.g. saying 'unfavourable climatic conditions' instead of 'bad weather.'

Extension Idea

Ask students to rewrite the passage from 'Bleak House' replacing the highlighted words with longer, more unusual words. Then see if they can rewrite the 'Emma' passage, but this time replacing the Latin words with plainer, simpler words.

Suggested Scaffolding

Encourage pupils to look at the length of the bolded words, reminding them that words from Latin tend to be longer.

Extension Idea

Some of these examples have corresponding adjectives from the Saxon word, e.g. 'nightly', 'brotherly', 'yearly'. Ask pupils to think about where they might use the word 'yearly' and where they might use the word 'annual'. Then discuss whether they have exactly the same meaning.

Words From Ancient Greek

Extra Background

Most of the Ancient Greek words we use today actually came into the language through Latin. The Romans valued Ancient Greek over Latin as the language for anything scientific, using Greek terms and ideas in mathematics and science.

Pupil Guidance

Encourage students to write down new words they didn't know before.

Extension Idea

Ask students to create a mind map with a selection of Ancient Greek suffixes from the ones here, along with: 'pod' (foot), '-morph' (form), '-itis' (inflammation or infection) and '-chrome' (colour). They could then write down all the words they know ending with the suffixes before using a dictionary to expand their mind maps.

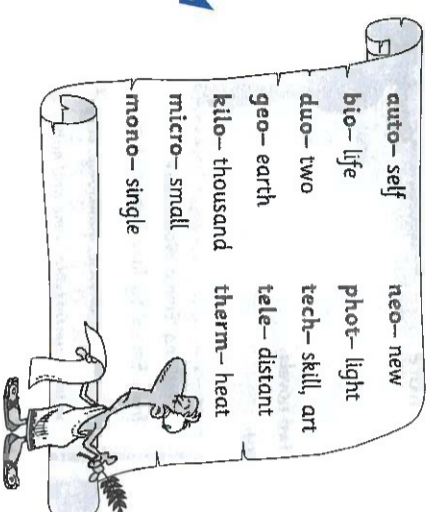
16

Words From Ancient Greek



If you can recognise a few prefixes, suffixes and roots from Greek, then you can work out the meanings of lots of unfamiliar words.

Look at these prefixes from Ancient Greek on the scroll. Find two words from the dictionary starting with two different Ancient Greek prefixes, then write down their definitions.



My first word is **kilogram**.
It means **one thousand grams**.

My second word is **biography**.
It means **a piece of writing about someone's life**.

Here are some suffixes from Greek. How many words can you think of that end with these suffixes?

- graph write
 - scope look at
 - ology study
 - meter measuring device
 - sophy wisdom
 - phobia fear of
 - nomy word, name
 - meter measuring device
 - sophy wisdom
- telegraph, autograph, telescope, microscope, synonym, antonym, arachnophobia, pyromania, biology, psychology, technology, thermometer, speedometer, philosophy

These groups of words have the same Greek part. Can you figure out what the highlighted part means?

- tripod triangle tricycle
- Tri means three.**
- octopus octagon octave
- Oct means eight.**

Section 2 — Ancient Meanings

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Suggested Scaffolding

Ask pupils to think of the number of sides on a triangle, number of wheels on a tricycle, number of legs on an octopus and number of sides on an octagon.

Words From Ancient Greek — Aims:

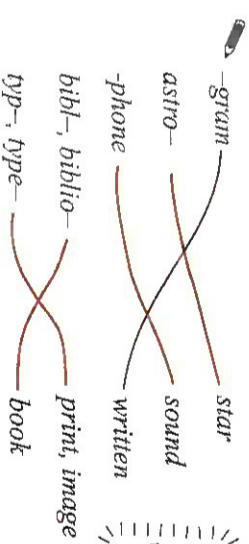
- to enable pupils to understand that some words have come from Ancient Greek
- to enable pupils to see how words are created from Ancient Greek prefixes and suffixes
- to allow students to derive the meaning of a word by looking at its prefixes and suffixes.

17

Have a go at decoding these English words using what you know from page 16.

English word	Prefix + suffix	Original meaning
thermometer	therm means 'heat' meter means 'measuring device'	Heat measuring device
telescope	tele + scope	To see something from afar.
autograph	auto + graph	To write something oneself.
geology	geo + ology	To study the earth.

Can you match up the Greek prefixes and suffixes to the correct meanings?



Think about other words you know that use the same prefix or suffix.

Have a go at making up your own Greek word.

My Greek word is **astrogram**.
It means **a message sent from a star**.

Now use your word in a sentence.
It's expensive to send an astrogram to Earth.

What have you learnt about Greek words from these pages?

I've learnt that we have lots of Greek words in our language.

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Pupil Guidance

Pupils may make the leap that lots of the Greek words we use today are scientific or mathematical. This is a perfect introduction to the next page.

Extra Background

On occasion, the meanings of the original Ancient Greek words have changed. For example, the literal meaning of the Greek word 'semantic' is 'significant', but today it has the more common meaning of 'relating to the study of language'.

Suggested Scaffolding

Write down a selection of Greek prefixes and suffixes on flashcards to enable students to arrange them as they wish.

Extension Idea

Pupils could use some of their created words in a story. 'Astrogram' for example, would lend itself to a science fiction story. They could combine this with their imaginary animal from the next page as well, to add more interest to their writing.