

Lesson 12

Greek and Latin Word Parts

CCSS

L.7.4.b: Use common, grade-appropriate Greek or Latin affixes and roots as clues to the meaning of a word (e.g., *belligerent*, *bellicose*, *rebel*).



Introduction

Many English words have Greek and Latin roots and affixes.

- A **root** is a word part that contains the core meaning of the word. In the word *science*, for example, the root *sci* means “knowledge.”

Root	Meaning	Root	Meaning
<i>belli</i>	“war”	<i>flect, flex</i>	“bend”
<i>tract</i>	“draw, pull”	<i>sci</i>	“knowledge”
<i>hydr</i>	“water”	<i>form</i>	“shape, form”

- An **affix** is a word part added to a root. Affixes include **prefixes**, which come before the root, and **suffixes**, which come after the root.

Prefix	Meaning	Suffix	Meaning
<i>de-, dis-</i>	“do the opposite”	<i>-ous, -ious</i>	“characterized by”
<i>re-</i>	“again, anew”	<i>-ent</i>	“inclined to”
<i>con-</i>	“with”	<i>-able, -ible</i>	“capable of, tending”



Guided Practice

Read the passage. Circle the roots in the underlined words. On a separate piece of paper, write the meanings of the word parts and define the word.

Hint

A root’s meaning will sometimes not fit well with the definition of the word. You’ll need to make an inference (an educated guess) to see the connection between the root and the meaning.

My dog Sam has a belligerent personality. The moment he becomes conscious of a cat, he gives chase. No matter what I do to distract him, nothing works. The problem is intractable.

One day, Sam approached a stray cat, which raised its spiky fur, bared its teeth, and took off after him. Sam returned later, dehydrated, hot, and humble. But did Sam reform his behavior? No! My dog is just too inflexible to change his habits.



For numbers 1–4, read each sentence. Then answer the question.

1 When I bring Sam his leash for a walk, his response is effusive.

The prefix *ef-* means “out,” and the root *fus* means “pour.” What is the meaning of effusive as it is used in the sentence?

- A** showing quiet pleasure
- B** showing great enthusiasm
- C** showing boredom and weariness
- D** showing confusion

2 Being a quadruped, Sam is often frustrated by my slow pace.

The prefix *quadr-* means “four,” and the root *ped* means “foot.” What is the meaning of quadruped as it is used in the sentence?

- A** a four-foot-long animal
- B** a four-footed animal
- C** a four-speed bicycle
- D** a four-wheeled scooter

Answer Form

1 (A) (B) (C) (D)

2 (A) (B) (C) (D)

3 (A) (B) (C) (D)

4 (A) (B) (C) (D)

Number Correct

4

3 When we turn toward home, Sam reacts badly to the brevity of our outing.

The root *brev* means “brief,” and the suffix *-ity* means “degree.” What is the meaning of brevity as it is used in the sentence?

- A** slowness
- B** suddenness
- C** shortness
- D** frequency

4 He sits down on the sidewalk and is tenacious about staying there.

The root *ten* means “hold,” and the suffix *-ious* means “characterized by.” What is the meaning of tenacious as it is used in the sentence?

- A** happy and content
- B** full of rage
- C** unable to move
- D** unwilling to give in