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Greek Roots

Definition

Greek roots are word parts from ancient Greek that form the foundation of many English words. These roots carry specific meanings that remain consistent across different words, helping readers determine the meaning of unfamiliar terms.

Example

Greek Root	Meaning	Words With This Root
bio	life	biology, biography, biodiversity
graph	write	photograph, autograph, biography
tele	far, distant	telephone, television, telescope
phon	sound	microphone, symphony, phonics
chrono	time	chronology, synchronize, chronicle

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PART 1: Matching Greek Roots with Meanings **Match each Greek root to its correct meaning.**

1. ____ theo
2. ____ anthro
3. ____ cosmo
4. ____ myth
5. ____ hiero

- a. universe, order
- b. god, divine
- c. human
- d. sacred, holy
- e. story, tale

PART 2: Multiple Choice - Identify the Greek Root **Choose the Greek root that gives meaning to each underlined word related to Greek mythology.**

1. The theology of ancient Greece involved worship of many different gods and goddesses.
 - a) theo (god)
 - b) logos (study)
 - c) geo (earth)
 - d) philo (love)
2. Mount Olympus was considered the cosmological center of the Greek universe.
 - a) logos (study)
 - b) cosmo (universe)
 - c) astro (star)
 - d) geo (earth)

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3. The hierarchy of Greek gods placed Zeus at the top as king of the gods.

- a) arche (rule, government)
- b) hiero (sacred)
- c) demos (people)
- d) hydro (water)

4. Greek theocracy meant that religious officials often held significant political power.

- a) demos (people)
- b) kratos (power)
- c) theo (god)
- d) polis (city)

5. Many archaeological sites in Greece reveal ancient temples and religious artifacts.

- a) archeo (ancient)
- b) logos (study)
- c) geo (earth)
- d) graph (write)

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PART 3: Complete the Word

Fill in the blank with the appropriate Greek root from the box to complete each word related to Greek mythology.

bio chrono poly psych demo

1. Greek mythology includes a ____theism system where people worshipped multiple gods.
2. The ____logy of Greek religious festivals followed seasonal patterns throughout the year.
3. The Oracle at Delphi used ____ic methods to connect with Apollo and predict the future.
4. Greek myths often explored the ____graphy of heroes who accomplished extraordinary deeds.
5. The ____cracy of Athens allowed citizens to vote on which gods received new temples.

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PART 4: Define Based on Greek Roots

Use your knowledge of Greek roots to define each term related to Greek mythology and religious worship.

Theophany:

Anthropomorphic:

Hierophant:

Mythology:

Necromancy:

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PART 5: Apply Greek Roots in Context

Read each sentence about Greek mythology. Then identify the underlined word's Greek roots and explain how they contribute to the word's meaning.

1. The amphitheater was often used for religious dramas that honored the gods.

Greek roots: _____ Meaning: _____

2. The pantheon included twelve major deities who lived on Mount Olympus.

Greek roots: _____ Meaning: _____

3. Greek priests performed liturgies as public religious services to honor the gods.

Greek roots: _____ Meaning: _____

4. Ancient Greeks believed in metamorphosis stories where humans changed into animals or plants.

Greek roots: _____ Meaning: _____

5. The chronology of creation myths explained how the gods formed the universe.

Greek roots: _____ Meaning: _____

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Greek Roots – Answer Key

PART 1: Matching Greek Roots with Meanings

1. b - theo (god, divine)
2. c - anthro (human)
3. a - cosmo (universe, order)
4. e - myth (story, tale)
5. d - hiero (sacred, holy)

PART 2: Multiple Choice - Identify the Greek Root

1. a) theo (god)
2. b) cosmo (universe)
3. b) hiero (sacred)
4. c) theo (god)
5. a) archeo (ancient)

PART 3: Complete the Word

1. polytheism
2. chronology
3. psychic
4. biography
5. Democracy

PART 4: Define Based on Greek Roots

1. Theophany: The appearance or manifestation of a deity to a human
2. Anthropomorphic: Having human-like characteristics or form
3. Hierophant: A person who interprets sacred mysteries or religious ceremonies
4. Mythology: The study or collection of myths or stories
5. Necromancy: Divination through communication with the dead

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Greek Roots – Answer Key

PART 5: Apply Greek Roots in Context

1. Greek roots: amphi (around/both) + theatron (viewing place)

Meaning: A circular or oval building with tiers of seats rising around a central open area

2. Greek roots: pan (all) + theos (god)

Meaning: All the gods of a people or religion collectively

3. Greek roots: leitōs (public) + ergon (work)

Meaning: A form of public religious service or worship

4. Greek roots: meta (change) + morphe (form)

Meaning: A change of form or nature, transformation

5. Greek roots: chronos (time) + logos (study)

Meaning: The arrangement of events or dates in order of occurrence