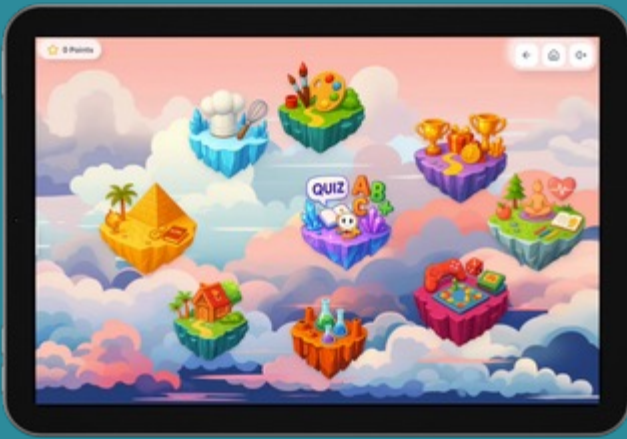


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Etymological Word Origins - Year 4

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WORD ORIGINS: CLUES ACROSS LANGUAGES



A WORD CAN HOLD A CLUE



ROOT

the core part that carries meaning

PREFIX

added before the root

SUFFIX

added after the root

ROOT EXAMPLES



tele = far • telescope



bio = life • biography



graph = write • autograph



therm = heat • thermometer



audi = hear • audience

LOANWORDS TRAVEL



sushi — Japanese



café — French



kindergarten — German



boomerang — Dharug



ASK: What clue does this word give me?

ROOT ROUTE

Follow the clues from START to FINISH.



HOW TO PLAY

1. Roll a die and move.
2. Read the root on the space.
3. Say its meaning and one related word.
4. If correct, stay. If not, move back one.





ROOT ROUTE RECORDING SHEET



Name: _____

Date: _____

Record a clue each time you land on a root.



ROOT	MEANING	RELATED WORD	MY CLUE SENTENCE

Which root helped you most? Explain.



BORROWED WORD PASSPORT

WORD CARDS

Cut out the cards and place each word on the matching origin zone.

sushi



tsunami



karaoke



café



ballet



menu



kindergarten



pretzel



waltz



boomerang



dingo



wombat





BORROWED WORD PASSPORT



WORD SORTING MAT

Place each word into its origin zone.

JAPANESE



FRENCH



GERMAN



DHARUG

Local language of the Sydney region





BORROWED WORD PASSPORT



SORTING MAT

Place each word into its origin zone. **ANSWERS**



JAPANESE

sushi

tsunami

karaoke



FRENCH

café

ballet

menu



GERMAN

kindergarten

pretzel

waltz



DHARUG

an Aboriginal language of the Sydney region

boomerang

dingo

wombat



ROOT DETECTIVE

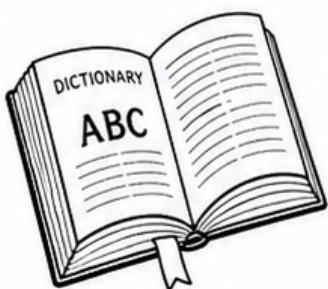


Name: _____

Date: _____

Underline the root in each word. Write its meaning. Then explain the whole word.

WORD	ROOT	ROOT MEANING	WHOLE-WORD MEANING
audible			
biography			
geography			
autograph			
thermometer			
telescope			
dentist			
chronology			



CHALLENGE

Choose one word. Write a sentence that shows its meaning.



ROOT DETECTIVE



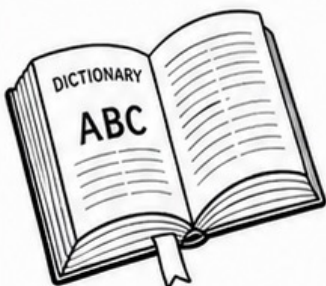
Name: _____

ANSWERS

Date: _____

Underline the root in each word. Write its meaning. Then explain the whole word.

WORD	ROOT	ROOT MEANING	WHOLE-WORD MEANING
<u>audible</u>	audi	hear or listen	able to be heard
<u>biography</u>	bio	life	writing about a life
<u>geography</u>	geo	Earth	study of Earth
<u>autograph</u>	auto	self	a person's own signature
<u>thermometer</u>	therm	heat	tool that measures temperature
<u>telescope</u>	tele	far	tool for viewing far objects
<u>dentist</u>	dent	tooth	person who cares for teeth
<u>chronology</u>	chron	time	events arranged in time order



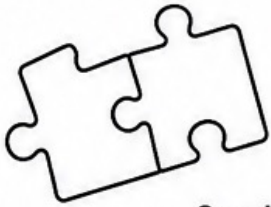
CHALLENGE

Choose one word. Write a sentence that shows its meaning.

The telescope helped us see the distant moon.

Name: _____

Date: _____



BUILD A WORD



Combine the word parts. Then match each built word to its meaning.

PART A — BUILD

1. bio + logy = _____
2. tele + scope = _____
3. auto + graph = _____
4. photo + graph = _____
5. hydro + plane = _____

PART B — MATCH

Write the correct letter beside each built word.

A. a tool for viewing objects

B. a picture showing what

the study of living things

D. a person's own written signature

E. a craft that moves over water

biology

telescope

autograph

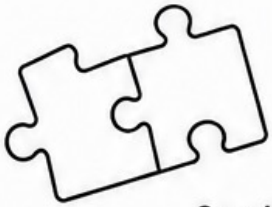
photograph

hydroplane

☐
☐
☐
☐
☐


CHALLENGE

Choose one built word. Circle its root and explain how the root helps its meaning.



BUILD A WORD



Combine the word parts. Then match each built word to its meaning.

PART A — BUILD

1. bio + logy = biology
2. tele + scope = telescope
3. auto + graph = autograph
4. photo + graph = photograph
5. hydro + plane = hydroplane

PART B — MATCH

Write the correct letter beside each built word.

A. a tool for viewing objects
B. a picture of something
C. the study of living things
D. a person's own written signature
E. a craft that moves over water

biology

C

telescope

A

autograph

D

photograph

B

hydroplane

E



CHALLENGE

Choose one built word. Circle its root and explain how the root helps its meaning.

In telescope, **(tele)** means far. It helps explain that a telescope lets us view far-away objects.



BORROWED WORD TRAIL



Name: _____

Date: _____

Match each borrowed word to its origin clue. Then explain what the word means today.

WORD BANK

sushi • café • kindergarten • boomerang • shampoo • robot

ORIGIN CLUES

- A. JAPANESE** — a dish made with sea food and rice
B. FRENCH — a small restaurant or coffee place
C. GERMAN — a “children’s garden” school
D. DHARUG — a curved throwing tool
E. HINDI — linked to washing and massaging the hair
F. CZECH — first used for a created worker in a play



WORD	ORIGIN LETTER	MEANING TODAY

Use one borrowed word in a clear sentence.





BORROWED WORD TRAIL



Name: **ANSWERS**

Date: _____

Match each borrowed word to its origin clue. Then explain what the word means today.

WORD BANK

sushi • café • kindergarten • boomerang • shampoo • robot

ORIGIN CLUES

- A.** JAPANESE — a dish made with seasoned rice
B. FRENCH — a small restaurant or coffee place
C. GERMAN — a “children’s garden” school class
D. DHARUG — a curved throwing tool
E. HINDI — liquid used to wash and massaging the hair
F. CZECH — first used for a created worker in a play



WORD	ORIGIN LETTER	MEANING TODAY
sushi	A	a dish made with seasoned rice
café	B	a small restaurant or coffee place
kindergarten	C	an early-years school or class
boomerang	D	a curved throwing tool
shampoo	E	liquid used to wash hair
robot	F	a machine that carries out tasks

Use one borrowed word in a clear sentence.

We ordered sushi for lunch.



WORD FAMILY WEBS

Name: _____

Date: _____

Complete each web with the root meaning and two related words.

WORD BANK

audience • audible • biology • biography • autograph • graphic • telescope • telephone

meaning: _____



audi

related word: _____

related word: _____

meaning: _____



bio

related word: _____

related word: _____

meaning: _____



graph

related word: _____

related word: _____

meaning: _____



tele

related word: _____

related word: _____

Choose one related word. Explain how its root gives a meaning clue.

WORD FAMILY WEBS

Name: ANSWERS

Date: _____

Complete each web with the root meaning and two related words.

WORD BANK

audience • audible • biology • biography • autograph • graphic • telescope • telephone

meaning:

hear or listen



audi

related word:

audience

related word:

audible

meaning:

life



bio

related word:

biology

related word:

biography

meaning:

write or record



graph

related word:

autograph

related word:

graphic

meaning:

far



tele

related word:

telescope

related word:

telephone

Choose one related word. Explain how its root gives a meaning clue.

Telephone contains tele, meaning far, because it carries voices across distance.

ETYMOLOGY IN CONTEXT

Name: _____

Date: _____

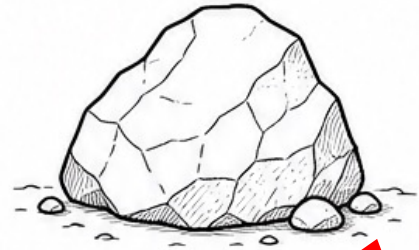
Use the root clue to infer each word's meaning. Tick the best answer.

1. The geologist studied rocks and landforms.

ROOT CLUE: geo = earth

geologist most likely means:

- ☐ A. a person who studies Earth
- ☐ B. a person who writes plays
- ☐ C. a person who measures heat



2. The audience became quiet inside the auditorium.

ROOT CLUE: audi = hear or listen

auditorium most likely means:

- ☐ A. a place designed for people to listen
- ☐ B. a room used for washing
- ☐ C. a tool used to draw maps

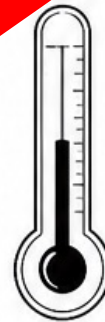


3. The thermometer showed that the water was warm.

ROOT CLUE: therm = heat

thermometer most likely means:

- ☐ A. a tool that measures temperature
- ☐ B. a lens for viewing far objects
- ☐ C. a book about a person's life



4. The timeline showed the events in chronological order.

ROOT CLUE: chron = time

chronological most likely means:

- ☐ A. arranged in time order
- ☐ B. borrowed from another language
- ☐ C. written by the same person

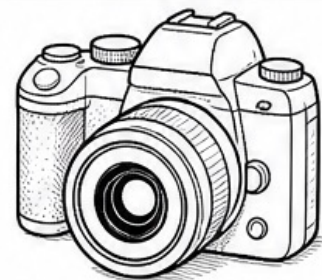


5. The photographer adjusted the camera.

ROOT CLUES: photo = light; graph = write or record

photographer most likely means:

- ☐ A. a person who records images using light
- ☐ B. a person who cares for teeth
- ☐ C. a person who steers ships



Explain one answer using its root clue.

ETYMOLOGY IN CONTEXT

Name: _____ **ANSWERS**

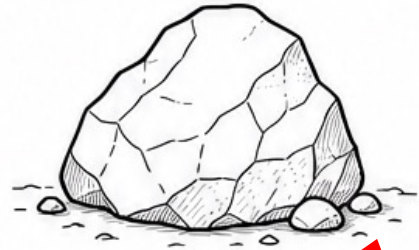
Date: _____

Use the root clue to infer each word's meaning. Tick the best answer.

1. The geologist studied rocks and landforms.

ROOT CLUE: geo = earth
geologist most likely means:

- ☒ A. a person who studies Earth
- ☐ B. a person who writes plays
- ☐ C. a person who measures heat



2. The audience became quiet inside the auditorium.

ROOT CLUE: audi = hear or listen
auditorium most likely means:

- ☒ A. a place designed for people to listen
- ☐ B. a room used for washing
- ☐ C. a tool used to draw maps



3. The thermometer showed that the water was warm.

ROOT CLUE: therm = heat
thermometer most likely means:

- ☒ A. a tool that measures temperature
- ☐ B. a lens for viewing far objects
- ☐ C. a book about a person's life



4. The timeline showed the events in chronological order.

ROOT CLUE: chron = time
chronological most likely means:

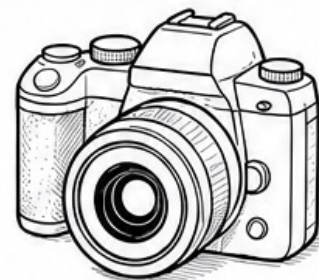
- ☒ A. arranged in time order
- ☐ B. borrowed from another language
- ☐ C. written by the same person



5. The photographer adjusted the camera.

ROOT CLUES: photo = light; graph = write or record
photographer most likely means:

- ☒ A. a person who records images using light
- ☐ B. a person who cares for teeth
- ☐ C. a person who steers ships



Explain one answer using its root clue.

—Therm means heat, so a thermometer is a tool that measures temperature.—



WORD ORIGIN INVESTIGATORS



PART A

Name: _____

Date: _____

Score: ____ / 15

1. MATCH THE ROOTS – 6 marks



Write the correct meaning letter beside each root.

a. audi

b. bio

c. geo

d. tele

e. therm

f. graph

A. far

B. hear or listen

C. earth

D. heat

E. write

W. record

2. FIND THE ROOT – 4 marks



Underline the root in each word.

a. audience

b. topography

c. telescope

d. thermometer

3. INFER THE MEANING – 3 marks



a. A thermometer does:

☐ Earth

☐ heat

☐ sound

b. A telegraph helps voices travel:

☐ by heat

☐ across a far distance

☐ underground

c. An autograph is:

☐ a person's own signature

☐ a life story

☐ a hearing tool

4. BORROWED WORD – 2 marks



Circle the word borrowed from Japanese:

sushi

menu

robot

What does that word mean today?



WORD ORIGIN INVESTIGATORS



PART A

Name: **ANSWERS**

Date: _____

Score: **15** / 15

1. MATCH THE ROOTS — 6 marks



Write the correct meaning letter beside each root.

a. audi

B

b. bio

E

c. geo

C

d. tele

A

e. therm

D

f. graph

F

A. far

B. hear or listen

C. earth

D. heat

E. life

F. write or record

2. FIND THE ROOT — 4 marks



Underline the root in each word.

a. audience

b. biography

c. telescope

d. thermometer

3. INFER THE MEANING — 3 marks



a. A thermometer measures:

☒ Earth

☐ heat

☐ sound

b. A stethoscope helps voices travel:

☐ by heat

☒ across a far distance

☐ underground

c. An autograph is:

☒ a person's own signature

☐ a life story

☐ a hearing tool

4. BORROWED WORD — 2 marks



Circle the word borrowed from Japanese:

sushi

menu

robot

What does that word mean today?

a dish made with seasoned rice



WORD ORIGIN INVESTIGATORS

PART B



Name: _____ Date: _____ Score: ____ / 10

Create a Word Museum label that explains one word's history and meaning.

WORD BANK

geography • autograph • photograph • telephone • chronology • booming

MUSEUM WORD

ROOT OR ORIGIN LANGUAGE

WORD PARTS

WHAT EACH PART MEANS

MEANING TODAY

EXAMPLE SENTENCE

ILLUSTRATION

WHY IT HELPS

Explain why word origins help readers understand unfamiliar words.





WORD ORIGIN INVESTIGATORS

PART B



Name: ANSWERS Date: _____ Score: 10 / 10

Create a Word Museum label that explains one word's history and meaning.

WORD BANK

geography • autograph • photograph • telephone • chronology • booming

MUSEUM WORD

photograph

ROOT OR ORIGIN LANGUAGE

Greek roots

WORD PARTS

photo + graph

WHAT EACH PART MEANS

photo = light

graph = write or record

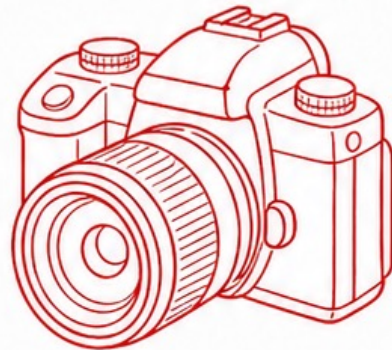
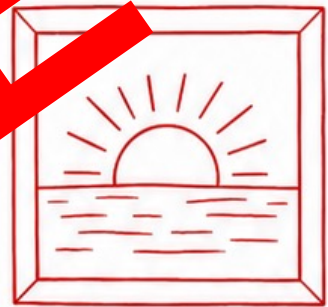
MEANING TO ME

An image recorded with a camera using light

CLUE SENTENCE

The photographer took a photograph of the sunrise.

ILLUSTRATION



WHY IT HELPS

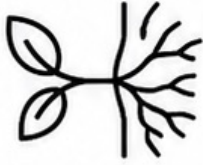
Explain why word origins help readers understand unfamiliar words.

Roots reveal meaning clues, so readers can make a
sensible guess before checking a dictionary.





ETYMOLOGICAL WORD ORIGINS RUBRIC



Student: _____

Date: _____

Total: ____ / 25

CRITERIA	BEGINNING 1	DEVELOPING 2	ACHIEVING 3	CONFIDENT 4	EXCEEDING 5
IDENTIFIES ROOTS AND ORIGINS	Identifies few roots or origins.	Identifies some roots with some accuracy.	Identifies familiar roots and origins accurately.	Identifies and explains most examples accurately.	Analyses roots and origins precisely.
EXPLAINS WORD-PART MEANINGS	Meanings are missing or unclear.	Gives partly correct meanings.	Explains root meanings clearly.	Connects word parts to whole-word meaning.	Makes precise, detailed connections.
INFERS UNFAMILIAR WORDS	Guesses without using a clue.	Uses a clue inconsistently.	Attempts to make a sensible inference.	Uses several clues and checks the meaning.	Justifies a precise inference.
USES EVIDENCE AND EXAMPLES	Gives little relevant evidence.	Gives one limited example.	Uses a relevant example.	Uses well-chosen evidence.	Uses varied, precise evidence.
COMMUNICATES CLEARLY	Response is unclear or incomplete.	Response is partly clear.	Ideas are clear and complete.	Ideas are organised and detailed.	Ideas are polished and insightful.

TEACHER FEEDBACK _____

NEXT STEP _____

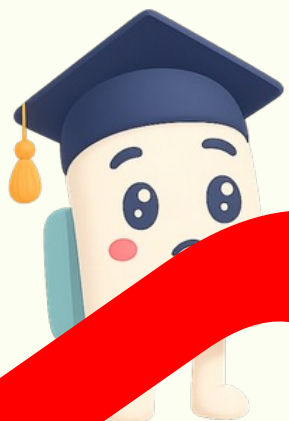
Etymological Word Origins



Learning Intention & Success Criteria

We are learning to explain how the history and parts of a word can help us to understand its meaning.

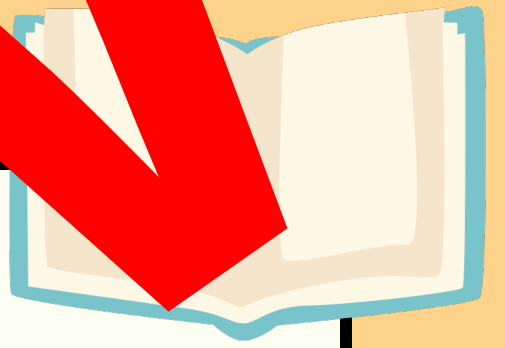
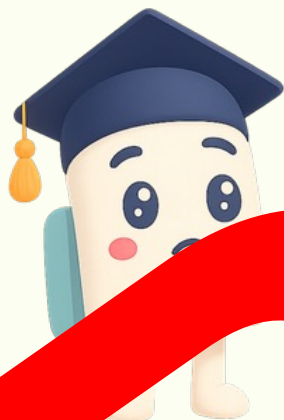
- I can identify a root and explain its meaning.
- I can recognise words borrowed from other languages.
- I can use word origin to infer an unfamiliar word's meaning.



What Is Etymology?

Etymology is the study of a word's history. It investigates where a word came from, how people used it, and how its form or meaning changed over time.

Knowing a word's history can turn an unfamiliar word into a set of useful clues.



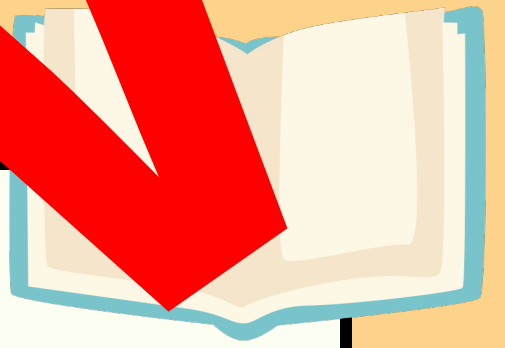
Words Have Parts

A root is the core part that carries meaning.

A prefix is added before a root.

A suffix is added after a root.

Example: scope - microscope



Root Clues: audi and bio

audi = hear or listen

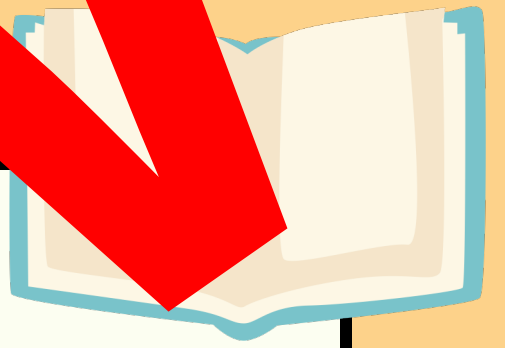
audible — able to be heard

audience — a group that listens

bio = life

biology — the study of living things

biography — writing about a life



Root Clues: geo and graph

geo = earth

geography – the study and description of Earth

graph = write or record

autograph – a person's own written signature

photograph – an image recorded using light



Root Clues: tele and therm

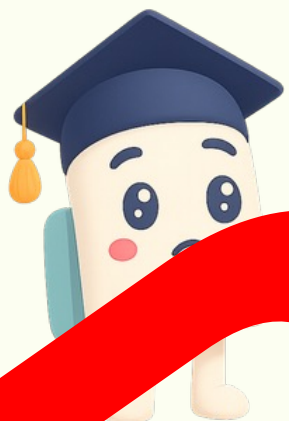
tele = far

telephone — carries voices across distance

telescope — helps us view far-away objects

therm = heat

thermometer — a tool that measures temperature



Borrowed Words Travel

English has borrowed and adapted words through travel, trade, learning and everyday contact.

sushi — Japanese

café — French

kindergarten — German

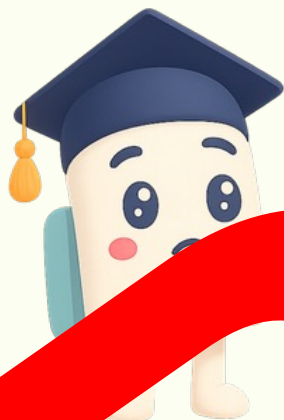
robot



Australian English Has Many Histories

Australian English developed through contact among many dialects and languages. Migration continues to add new words and expressions.

English also includes words from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages. Boomerang, dingo, and wombat are associated with Yugambeh, an Aboriginal language of the Sydney region.

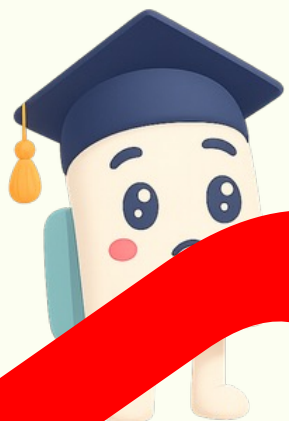


How Australia Got Its Name

European mapmakers once used the Latin name *Terra Australis*, meaning 'southern land'.

Dutch explorers later used New Holland for parts of the continent.

Matthew Flinders suggested the name Australia, which became the name used today.



A Word Detective Strategy

1. NOTICE the unfamiliar word.
2. SPLIT it into possible word parts.
3. CONNECT a known root to the set of words.
4. CHECK the meaning in context or in a dictionary.

A root clue guides a possible inference.



Guided Practice: telescope

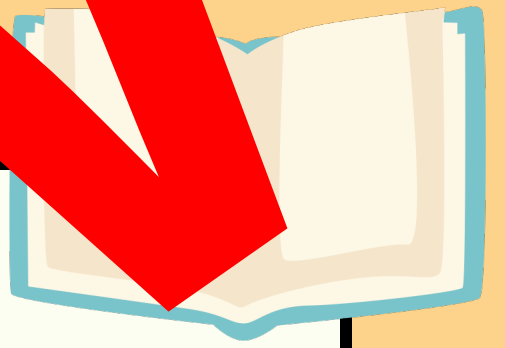
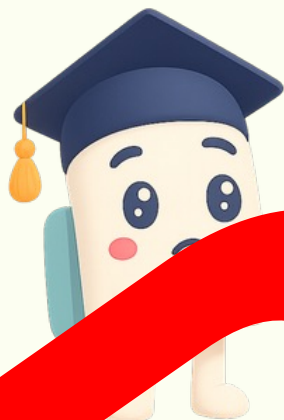
tele = far

scope = viewing instrument

Put the clues together:

A telescope is an instrument used to view far-away objects.

Where do we use a telescope?



Guided Practice: biography

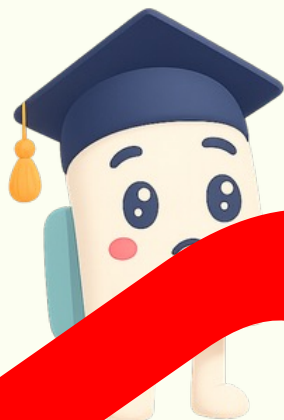
bio = life

graph = write or record

-y helps form a noun

Put the clues together

A biography is written about a person's life.



Guided Practice: thermometer

therm = heat

meter = measure

Put the clues together:

A thermometer is a _____ that measures temperature.

What words begin with therm?

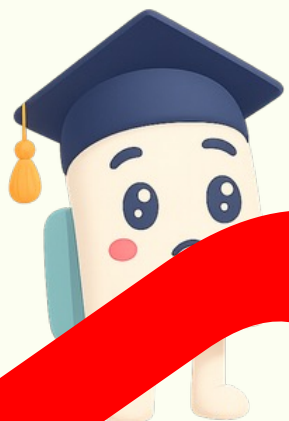


Language Keeps Changing

Speakers borrow words, invent words and give old words new meanings.

For example, tablet once named a writing surface. Today, it also mean a portable digital device.

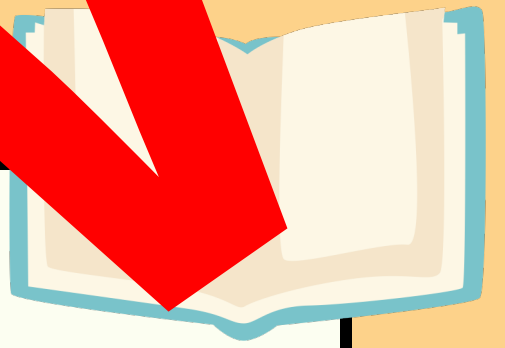
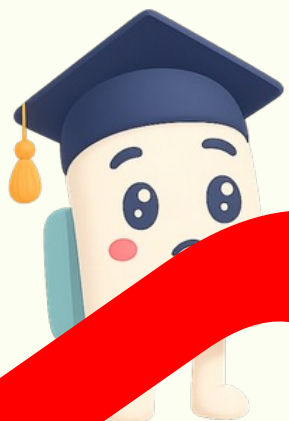
A word's history is connected to how people communicate.



Word Origins Review

- Roots carry useful meaning clues.
- Borrowed words show how languages connect.
- Etymology reveals a word's history.
- Context helps us check our inference.

Exit prompt: What word will you investigate next?





Well Done!



Etymological Word Origins Quiz



Question 1

The words century, centimetre and cents share the prefix cent.

What does cent mean?

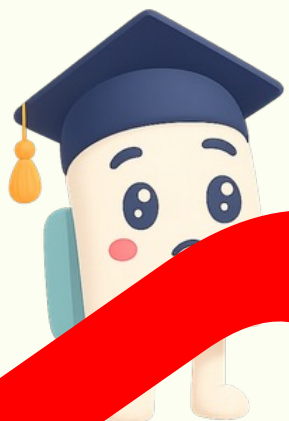
- A. one
- B. ten
- C. one hundred
- D. one thousand



Answer 1

C. one hundred

The root cent means one hundred.

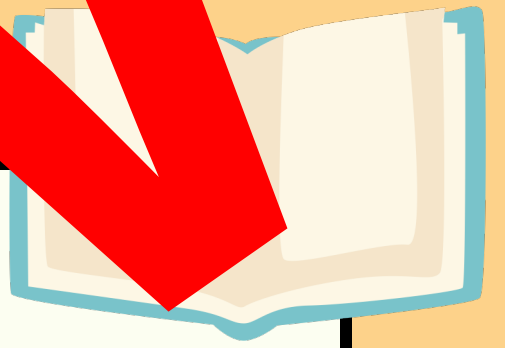


Question 2

Short answer

The words audible and audience share a root aud.

What does audi mean?



Answer 2

audi means hear or listen.

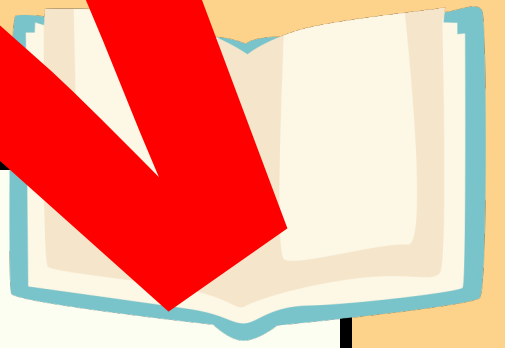
An audible sound can be heard, and audience listens.



Question 3

True or false?

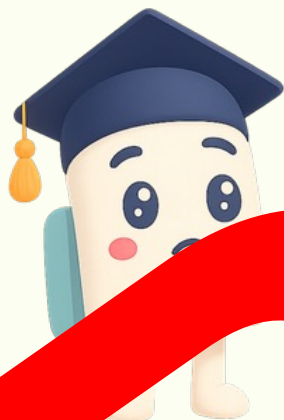
A biography is writing about a person's life.



Answer 3

True

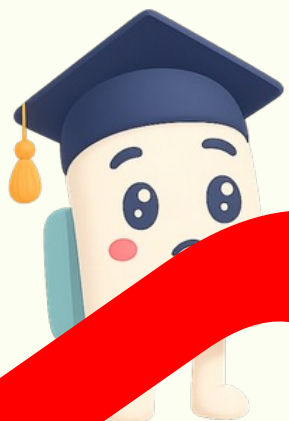
bio means life, and graph means written record.



Question 4

Which word contains the root geo, meaning earth?

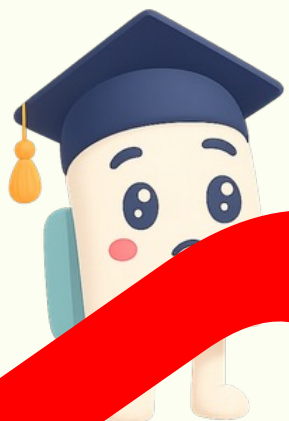
- A. geography
- B. audience
- C. telescope
- D. thermos



Answer 4

A. geography

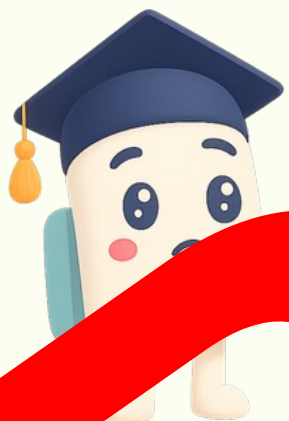
geo means earth.



Question 5

Short answer

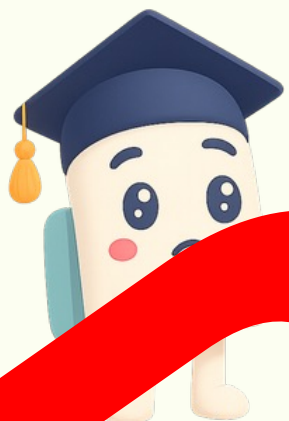
Use the root clue tele = far to explain the word telescope.



Answer 5

A telescope is a tool used to view far-away objects.

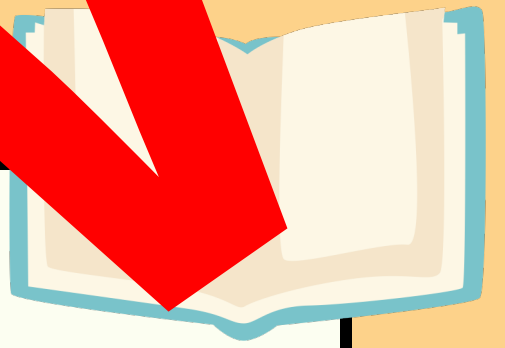
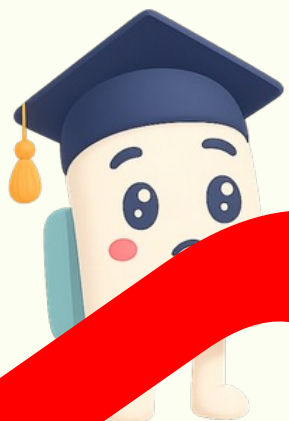
The root tele gives the clue far.



Question 6

Which word entered English from Japanese?

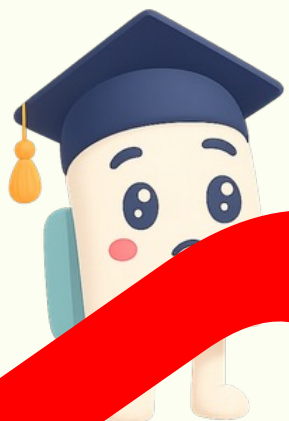
- A. ballet
- B. sushi
- C. robot
- D. kindergarten



Answer 6

B. sushi

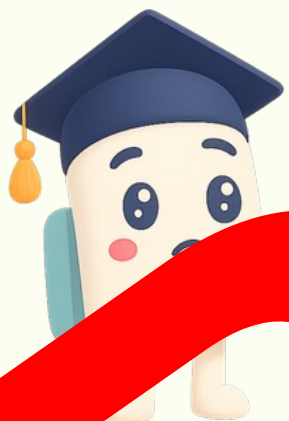
English borrowed sushi from Japan



Question 7

True or false?

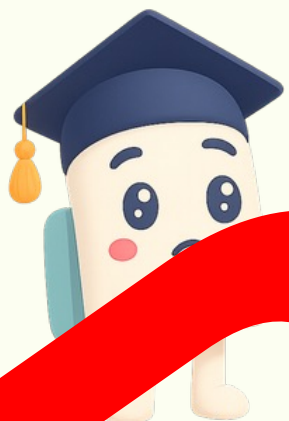
Etymology studies only the spelling of a word.



Answer 7

False

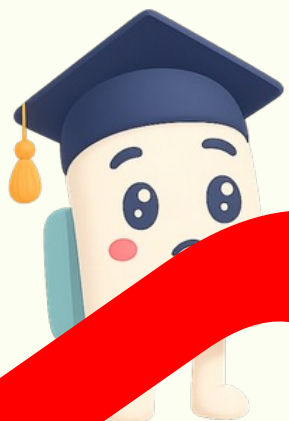
Etymology studies a word's history, and changes in form and meaning.



Question 8

Short answer

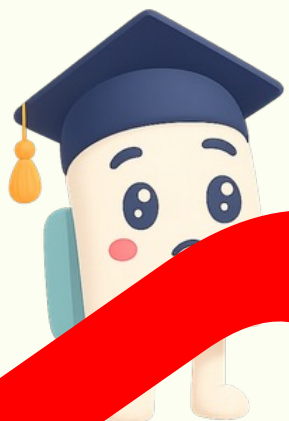
The root therm means heat. What is a thermometer used to do?



Answer 8

A thermometer measures temperature.

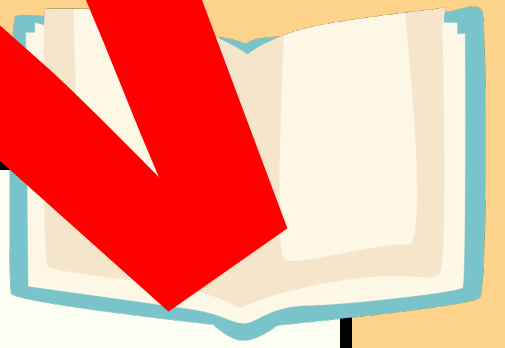
The root therm gives the clue heat.



Question 9

Which pair shares the root graph, meaning write or record?

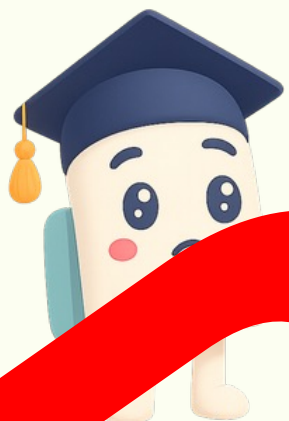
- A. audience and audible
- B. autograph and biography
- C. telescope and thermometer
- D. dentist and chronology



Answer 9

B. autograph and biography

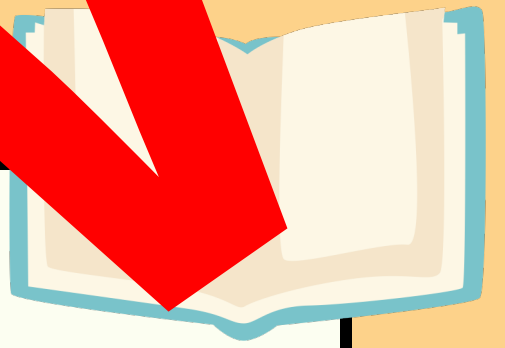
Both words contain graph, meaning a record



Question 10

Short answer

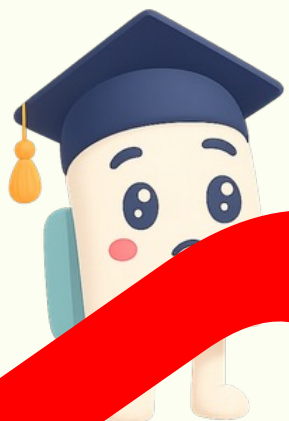
Explain one way word origins can help a reader understand an unfamiliar word.



Answer 10

Roots and word histories provide meaning clues. Reader can use those clues within the sentence to make a sensible inference.

Equivalent clear answers are correct.





Well Done!



DRIVE