

Homework without the hassle

Sukindi is an Australian learning platform that supports Teachers, Parents and Students with an interactive homework app and downloadable resources.



Scan to start your
free 7-day trial

www.sukindi.com.au



Word Etymology - Year 5

Table of Contents	
Presentation: Word Etymology	
Classroom Display and Reference: Etymology Detective Toolkit	
Activity Pack: Root Words in Action	
Game: Root Word Quest	
Worksheet 1: Find the Root	
Worksheet 2: Root Word Equations	
Worksheet 3: Build a Word Family	
Worksheet 4: Meaning Through Context	
Worksheet 5: Meanings Then and Now	
Worksheet 6: Where Did That Word Come From?	
Quiz: Word Etymology	
Assessment: Etymology Check-In	
Rubric: Etymology Investigation	



ETYMOLOGY DETECTIVE

Etymology is the study of word histories.



1. NOTICE the root, prefix and suffix.



2. USE context to predict the meaning.



3. VERIFY the word history in a reliable dictionary.



4. CONNECT the earlier meaning to the meaning today.

ROOT WORD TOOLKIT

auto — self



audi — hear



bio — life



chron — time



dict — speak or say



geo — earth



graph — write



hydr — water



ject — throw



rupt — break or burst



spect — look



therm — heat



Use the root, the context and a reliable dictionary
to test your prediction.



CUSTOM ROOT WORD BUNTING



Choose a root. Add its meaning and three example words. Cut out and display.



ROOT

MEANING

EXAMPLE WORDS

ROOT

MEANING

EXAMPLE WORDS

ROOT

MEANING

EXAMPLE WORDS

ROOT

MEANING

EXAMPLE WORDS



CUSTOM ROOT WORD BUNTING



Choose a root. Add its meaning and three example words. Cut out and display.



ROOT

MEANING

EXAMPLE WORDS



ROOT

MEANING

EXAMPLE WORDS



ROOT

MEANING

EXAMPLE WORDS



ROOT

MEANING

EXAMPLE WORDS



1 I HAVE, WHO HAS?

— **ROOT LOOP** —

I have auto.

Who has the root
meaning life?



3 I HAVE, WHO HAS?

— **ROOT LOOP** —

I have geo.

Who has the root
meaning hear?



2 I HAVE, WHO HAS?

— **ROOT LOOP** —

I have bio.

Who has the root
meaning earth?

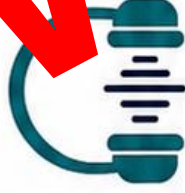


I HAVE, WHO HAS?

— **ROOT LOOP** —

I have audi.

Who has the root
meaning write?



5

I have **graph**.

Who has the root
meaning far off?



6

I have **tele**.

Who has the root
meaning look?



7

I have **spect**.

Who has the root
meaning heat?



8

I have **therm**.

Who has the root
meaning water?



9

I have **hydr**.

Who has the root
meaning throw?



10

I have **ject**.

Who has the root
meaning break
or burst?



11

I have **rupt**.

Who has the root
meaning time?



12

I have **chron**.

Who has the root
meaning born
or birth?



13 I HAVE, WHO HAS?

— ROOT LOOP —

I have **nat**.

Who has the root
meaning **foot**?



15 I HAVE, WHO HAS?

— ROOT LOOP —

I have **dict**.

Who has the root
meaning **light**?



14 I HAVE, WHO HAS?

— ROOT LOOP —

I have **ped**.

Who has the root
meaning **speak or say**?



I HAVE, WHO HAS?

— ROOT LOOP —

I have **photo**.

Who has the root
meaning **self**?



ROOT WORD QUEST



Roll a die. Move along the path.
Say what the root means and
give an example word.
If you need help, use the
Root Word Toolkit.

START

1

auto

2

audi

3

bio

4

chron

5

clim

6

geo

12

therm

11

spect

10

rupt

9

fect

8

hydr

7

graph

14

tele

13

photo

15

ped

16

nat

17

act

18

nav

19

brev

20

dent

21

scope

22

micro

23

astro

24

magn

FINISH



DETECTIVE HINT: Work as a team —
discuss, explain and celebrate
clever word connections.

ROOT WORD QUEST – RECORDING SHEET

Name: _____

Date: _____



Record six roots you land on. Write the meaning, an example word and how the root helps explain the word.



1	ROOT	
	MEANING	
	EXAMPLE WORD	
	HOW IT HELPS	
2	ROOT	
	MEANING	
	EXAMPLE WORD	
	HOW IT HELPS	
3	ROOT	
	MEANING	
	EXAMPLE WORD	
	HOW IT HELPS	
4	ROOT	
	MEANING	
	EXAMPLE WORD	
	HOW IT HELPS	
5	ROOT	
	MEANING	
	EXAMPLE WORD	
	HOW IT HELPS	
6	ROOT	
	MEANING	
	EXAMPLE WORD	
	HOW IT HELPS	



FIND THE ROOT



Name: _____ Date: _____

Find the root inside each example word. Write the root, then write the letter of its meaning from the Meaning Bank.

	ROOT	MEANING LETTER
1. audible		
2. biology		
3. geology		
4. telephone		
5. inspect		
6. thermometer		
7. dehydrate		
8. reject		
9. interrupt		
10. chronological		
11. pedestrian		
12. predict		

MEANING BANK

A earth
B heat
C hear
D throw
E life
F time

G far off
H break or burst
I foot
J look
K water
L speak or say



FIND THE ROOT



Name: ANSWERS Date: _____

Find the root inside each example word. Write the root, then write the letter of its meaning from the Meaning Bank.

	ROOT	MEANING LETTER
1. audible	audi	C
2. biology	bio	E
3. geology	geo	A
4. telephone	tele	G
5. inspect	spect	J
6. thermometer	therm	B
7. dehydrate	hydr	K
8. reject	ject	D
9. interrupt	rupt	H
10. chronological	chron	F
11. pedestrian	ped	I
12. predict	dict	L

MEANING BANK

A earth
B heat
C hear
D throw
E life
F time

G far off
H break or burst
I foot
J look
K water
L speak or say

ROOT WORD EQUATIONS

Name: _____ Date: _____

Join the word parts. Write the complete word, then explain it using the root meanings.

1. auto + bio + graph + y

Complete word: _____

Meaning: _____

2. geo + graph + y

Complete word: _____

Meaning: _____

3. tele + scope

Complete word: _____

Meaning: _____

4. therm + ometer

Complete word: _____

Meaning: _____

5. audi + ble

Complete word: _____

Meaning: _____

6. inter + rupt

Complete word: _____

Meaning: _____

7. pre + dict

Complete word: _____

Meaning: _____

8. spect + ator

Complete word: _____

Meaning: _____

ROOT SUPPORT

auto self | **bio** life | **graph** write | **geo** earth | **tele** far off | **scope** look |
therm heat | **audi** hear | **rupt** break | **dict** say | **spect** look

ROOT WORD EQUATIONS

ANSWERS

Date: _____

Join the word parts. Write the complete word, then explain it using the root meanings.

1. auto + bio + graph + y

Complete word: autobiography

Meaning: a person's life written by that person

2. geo + graph + y

Complete word: geography

Meaning: writing or study about Earth

3. tele + scope

Complete word: telescope

Meaning: an instrument for looking far away

4. therm + omer

Complete word: thermometer

Meaning: an instrument that measures heat or temperature

5. audi + ble

Complete word: audible

Meaning: able to be heard

6. inter + rupt

Complete word: interrupt

Meaning: break into or stop something

7. pre + dict

Complete word: predict

Meaning: say what may happen beforehand

8. spect + ator

Complete word: spectator

Meaning: a person who looks or watches

ROOT SUPPORT

auto self | bio life | graph write | geo earth | tele far off | scope look |
therm heat | audi hear | rupt break | dict say | spect look

BUILD A WORD FAMILY

Name: _____

Date: _____

Sort each word into the correct root family. Then explain the core idea shared by the family.

WORD BANK

action

active

react

autograph

paragraph

graphic

inspect

spectator

respect

predict

dictionary

medic

act — do

Shared

graph — write

Shared idea:

spect — look

Shared idea:

dict — speak or say

Shared idea:

BUILD A WORD FAMILY

ANSWERS _____

Date: _____

Sort each word into the correct root family. Then explain the core idea shared by the family.

WORD BANK

action

active

react

autograph

paragraph

graphic

inspect

spectator

respect

predict

dictionary

verdict

act — do

action

active

react

doing

Shared

graph — write

autograph

paragraph

graphic

Shared idea:

writing or recording

spect — look

inspect

spectator

respect

Shared idea:

looking or observing

dict — speak or say

predict

dictionary

verdict

Shared idea:

speaking, saying or declaring

MEANING THROUGH CONTEXT

Name: _____ Date: _____



Use the root and the sentence context to explain the bold word.
Underline the clue that helped.



1. The **geothermal** pool was heated by energy from inside Earth.

Meaning: _____

Clue: _____

2. From the lookout, the **spectators** watched the race.

Meaning: _____

Clue: _____

3. The guide used a **telescope** to view the distant island.

Meaning: _____

Clue: _____

4. The microphone made the speaker clearly **audible**.

Meaning: _____

Clue: _____

5. The power cut **interrupted** the concert.

Meaning: _____

Clue: _____

6. The class arranged the events in **chronological** order.

Meaning: _____

Clue: _____

ROOT BOX

geo earth | therm heat | spect look | tele far off | audi hear | rupt break | chron time

MEANING THROUGH CONTEXT

Name: **ANSWERS** Date: _____



Use the root and the sentence context to explain the bold word.
Underline the clue that helped.



1. The **geothermal** pool was heated by energy from inside Earth.

Meaning: heated by energy inside Earth

Clue: heated, inside Earth

2. From the lookout, the **spectators** watched the race.

Meaning: people who watched

Clue: lookout, watched

3. The guide used a **telescope** to view the distant island.

Meaning: instrument for viewing far away

Clue: view, distant

4. The microphone made the speaker clearly **audible**.

Meaning: able to be heard

Clue: speaker

5. The power cut **interrupted** the concert.

Meaning: stopped or broke into

Clue: power cut

6. The class arranged the events in **chronological** order.

Meaning: ordered by time

Clue: events, order

ROOT BOX

geo earth | therm heat | spect look | tele far off | audi hear | rupt break | chron time



MEANINGS THEN AND NOW



Name: _____

Date: _____

Match each familiar meaning to the newer technology meaning. Then explain what caused the meaning to expand.

☐

tablet — a flat slab for writing

☐

mouse — a small animal

☐

cloud — water droplets in the sky

☐

stream — a small flowing body of water

☐

viral — relating to a virus

☐

text — written words

NEWER MEANINGS

A

a digital message or the act of sending one

B

a computer pointing device

C

online storage services

D

media delivered continuously online

E

spreading rapidly online

F

a portable touchscreen computer

Choose one word. How did technology or culture help its meaning expand?





MEANINGS THEN AND NOW



Name: **ANSWERS**

Date: _____

Match each familiar meaning to the newer technology meaning. Then explain what caused the meaning to expand.

- F** **tablet** — a flat slab for writing
- B** **mouse** — a small animal
- C** **cloud** — water droplets in the sky
- D** **stream** — a small flowing body of water
- E** **viral** — relating to a virus
- A** **text** — written words

NEWER MEANINGS	
A	a digital message or the act of sending one
B	a computer pointing device
C	online storage or services
D	media delivered continuously online
E	spreading rapidly online
F	a portable touchscreen computer

Choose one word. How did technology or culture help its meaning expand?

New inventions and online communication reused familiar words for ideas that shared a shape, action or effect.



WHERE DID THAT WORD COME FROM?

Name: _____

Date: _____



Match each borrowed word to the language it travelled from into English.
Then use the clue to explain the connection.



1. **kindergarten** —
a children's garden

☐

2. **safari** —
a journey

☐

3. **robot** —
forced work or labour

☐

4. **impoverish** —
make poor or press

☐

5. **ballet** —
a dance

☐

6. **algebra** —
restoring or reuniting

☐

LANGUAGE BANK

A Arabic

B Czech

C French

D German

E Hindi

F Swahili

WHERE DID THAT WORD COME FROM?

Name: **ANSWERS**

Date: _____



Match each borrowed word to the language it travelled from into English.
Then use the clue to explain the connection.



1. **kindergarten** — a children's garden **D** German; the word combined the ideas of children and garden.
2. **safari** — a journey **F** Swahili; the earlier word referred to a journey.
3. **robot** — forced work or labour **B** Czech; the earlier word related to forced work.
4. **hampi** — massage or press **E** Hindi; the earlier command related to pressing or massaging.
5. **ballet** — a dance **C** French; English kept the dance meaning.
6. **algebra** — restoring or reuniting **A** Arabic; the mathematical term developed from an earlier idea of restoring.

LANGUAGE BANK

A Arabic

B Czech

C French

D German

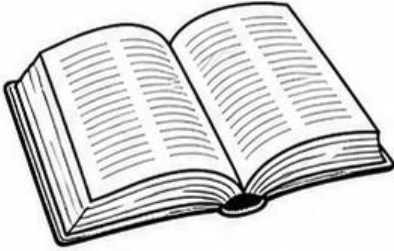
E Hindi

F Swahili

WORD ORIGIN RESEARCH PLANNER

Name: _____

Date: _____



Investigate two words in a reliable dictionary.
Record evidence; do not guess.



WORD 1

Word today _____

Source language or languages _____

Earlier form _____

Earlier meaning _____

How the meaning connects today _____

Reliable source used _____

WORD 2

Word today _____

Source language or languages _____

Earlier form _____

Earlier meaning _____

How the meaning connects today _____

Reliable source used _____

What surprised you about the journey of one word?

ETYMOLOGY CHECK-IN — PAGE 1

Name: _____

Date: _____

/15

SECTION A — Match each root to its meaning. Write the letter.

Roots

1 audi

2 geo

3 therm

4 rupt

5 chron

Meaning Bank

A time

B hear

C break or burst

D earth

E heat

SECTION B — Use roots and context to explain each bold word.

6. The **prediction** described what might happen next.

7. The **geothermometer** measures warm.

8. Her voice was clearly **audible**.

9. The timeline was **chronological**.

10. The **interruption** stopped the music.

ETYMOLOGY CHECK-IN — PAGE 1

Name: _____

ANSWERS

Date: _____

15/15

SECTION A — Match each root to its meaning. Write the letter.

Roots

1 audi

B

2 geo

D

3 therm

E

4 rupt

C

5 chron

A

Meaning Bank

A time

B hear

C break or burst

D earth

E heat

SECTION B — Use roots and context to explain each bold word.

6. The **prediction** described what might happen next.

a statement about what may happen next

7. The **geothermal** energy was warm.

heat from inside Earth

8. Her voice was clearly **audible**.

able to be heard

9. The timeline was **chronological**.

arranged in time order

10. The **interruption** stopped the music.

something that broke into or stopped the music

ETYMOLOGY CHECK-IN — PAGE 2

Name: _____

Date: _____

/15

11. Break autobiography into meaningful parts. Write each part and its core idea. (4)

12. Use those parts to explain the whole word. (3)

13. Explain how the word *mouse* gained a technology meaning. (3)

14. List the steps an etymology detective should use to investigate an unfamiliar word. (3)

15. Explain one way word origins can improve vocabulary or spelling. (2)

PREVIEW

ETYMOLOGY CHECK-IN — PAGE 2

Name: **ANSWERS**

Date: _____

15/15

11. Break autobiography into meaningful parts. Write each part and its core idea. (4)

auto = self; bio = life; graph = write; y = process or result. _____

12. Use those parts to explain the whole word. (3)

A person's life story written by that person. _____

13. Explain how the word *mouse* gained a technology meaning. (3)

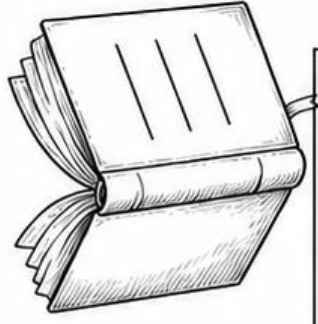
The computer device was named after the small animal because its shape and cord suggested a mouse; the word gained an additional sense. _____

14. List the steps an etymology detective should use to investigate an unfamiliar word. (3)

Notice word parts; use context to predict; verify with a reliable dictionary word history. _____

15. Explain one way word origins can improve vocabulary or spelling. (2)

Roots connect related words, helping a learner infer meaning and remember spelling. _____



ETYMOLOGY INVESTIGATION RUBRIC

Name: _____

Teacher: _____

CRITERION	BEGINNING	DEVELOPING	ACHIEVING	CONFIDENT	EXCEEDING
Roots and word parts	Identifies little or inaccurately; misses most roots or word parts.	Identifies roots or word parts with some support; some confusion remains.	Identifies roots and word parts accurately and explains their meaning clearly.	Applies knowledge of roots and word parts accurately across unfamiliar examples.	Makes precise, insightful connections between roots and word parts and verifies evidence independently.
Meaning from roots and context	Derives little or inaccurate meaning from roots or context clues.	Derives some meaning with support; clues used with limited accuracy.	Derives meaning accurately from roots and context and explains clearly.	Applies meaning from roots and context accurately to unfamiliar words.	Makes precise, insightful meaning connections from roots and context and verifies evidence independently.
Word origin and change	Identifies little or inaccurate information about a word's origin or changes.	Finds some information about origin or change with support.	Identifies word origin and accurately explains changes.	Applies understanding of origin and change across unfamiliar examples accurately.	Makes precise, insightful connections about origin and change and verifies evidence independently.
Evidence and explanation	Provides little or irrelevant evidence; explanation is unclear or missing.	Provides some relevant evidence with support; explanation is basic.	Provides relevant evidence and explains clearly with logical reasoning.	Uses strong evidence accurately and explains ideas clearly and coherently.	Provides precise, well-chosen evidence and explains insightfully, verifying sources independently.

Overall level: _____

Feedback: _____



World Etymology



Learning Intention



We are learning to use word histories, roots and changing meanings to understand unfamiliar words



Success Criteria



- Identify familiar roots and word parts.
- Combine word parts to explain a complete word.
- Infer meaning from roots and sentence context.
- Explain how a word's meaning has changed or expanded.
- Record a simple version of word origin finding.



What Is Etymology?



Etymology is the study of word histories.

It asks where a word came from, what it meant earlier and how its form or meaning changed.

A word history is evidence, not guess based only on how a word looks.



Words Have Parts



ROOT or BASE — carries the core meaning

PREFIX — added before the root or base

SUFFIX — added after the root or base

re + act + ion → reaction



Why Roots Matter



A root carries a core idea across a word family.

act → action, active, react

Knowing one root helps us connect, spell, and decode many words.

Always test the root meaning against the whole word and its context.



Root Word Toolkit



auto self • audi hear • bio life • chron time
dict speak or say • geo earth • graph write • hydr water
ject throw • rupt break or burst • spect look • therm heat



Model I — Audible



audi = hear

audible = able to be heard

Context: The microphone made the speaker clearly audible.

The root and the sentence clue support the same meaning.



Model 2 — Geography



geo = earth • graph = write or record

Geography developed around describing and studying the Earth.

A word can contain more than one meaningful root.

Use the roots as clues, then verify the whole word.



Model 3 — Interrupt



inter- = between or among • rupt = break or burst

interrupt = break into or stop an action

Context: The power cut interrupted the concert.

The event broke into what was already happening.



English Borrows Words



English has borrowed and adapted words from many languages.

kindergarten — German • safari — Swahili

robot — Czech • shampoo — Hindi

ballet — French • algebra — Arabic

A reliable dictionary and this chart helps us verify the journey.



Meanings Can Expand



A familiar word can gain an additional sense when culture or technology changes.

The new sense often connects to the older one through shared association or effect.

The earlier meaning does not have to disappear.

We use context to decide which sense is intended.



Then and Now



mouse: small animal → computer pointing device

cloud: water droplets → online storage or service

stream: flowing water → media delivered continuously online

tablet: writing slab → portable touchscreen computer

viral and text also have new communication senses.



Etymology Detective Routine



1. NOTICE the root, prefix and suffix.
2. USE sentence context to predict the meaning.
3. CHECK whether the parts and context agree.
4. VERIFY the word history in a reliable dictionary.
5. RECORD the source language and earlier meaning.
6. EXPLAIN how the earlier and current meanings connect.



Guided Practice I



geothermal — Which roots can you see?

spectator — What core idea does spect carry?

chronological — How does chron explain the order?

For each word, explain your thinking using both the root and the sentence context.



Guided Practice 2



Compare the natural-world and technology senses of creek and stream.
What connection can you see between each of these new meanings?
How would the surrounding science help you choose the intended sense?
Share one careful explanation with your partner.



Review and Reflection



1. What does etymology study?
2. What is the difference between a prefix and a suffix?
3. Decode one unfamiliar word using a root and context.
4. Give one example of a morpheme that expands a word.

Exit sentence: We use the word because ...





PREVIEW

Well Done!



Word Etymology Quiz



Question 1 — Multiple Choice



What does etymology study?

- A. Only spelling rules
- B. Word histories, origins and change
- C. Only sentence punctuation
- D. The number of letters in a word



Answer 1

B. Word histories, origins and change

Etymology investigates where words came from, their original meanings and how they changed.



Question 2 — True or False



A familiar root can help you infer the meaning of an unfamiliar word.

True or false?



Answer 2



True

A root supplies a core meaning of a word, but the word's meaning and sentence context must also make sense.



Question 3 — Short Answer



What core idea does the root audi carry?
Write one example word that contains audi.



Answer 3

audi carries the idea of hearing, listening or sound.
Examples include audible, audience and audio.



Question 4 — Multiple Choice



What does geo mean?

- A. water
- B. earth
- C. time
- D. heat



Answer 4

B. earth

The root geo appears in words such as geography and geothermal.



Question 5 — True or False



A prefix always comes after the root or base.
True or false?



PREVIEW

Answer 5

False

A prefix comes before a root or base. A suffix comes after a root or base.



Question 6 — Short Answer



Use the root audi and this sentence to explain audible.

The microphone made the speaker clearly audible.



Answer 6

Audible means able to be heard.

The root audi and the context clue speaker both support the meaning.



Question 7 — Multiple Choice



Which word contains a root meaning heat?

- A. thermal
- B. predict
- C. spectator
- D. hydrate



Answer 7

A. thermal

The root therm carries the core id of he



Question 8 — Short Answer



How has the meaning of mouse expanded?
Explain the connection between the two senses.



Answer 8



Mouse names both a small animal and a computer pointing device.
The device gained the name because its shape and color suggested the animal.



Question 9 — Multiple Choice



In interrupt, what core idea does rupt carry?

- A. write
- B. look
- C. break or burst
- D. speak or c



Answer 9

C. break or burst

To interrupt is to break into or stop what is happening



Question 10 — Short Answer



Name two kinds of evidence an etymology teacher can use to investigate a word.



Answer 10

Any two of:

- word parts • sentence context
- a reliable dictionary word history
- source language • early meaning • related words





PREVIEW

Well Done!

