

ETYMOLOGY

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Etymology

The basics of word development

Root words & Mythology in the English Language

In this unit, we will focus on words from the root up because the basis of word development through history is truly from the ground up - its called “**etymology**.” Many words begin with or contain a part of a word that is the same as another word and that is called a **root word**. With the knowledge of root words, understanding the basic background and meaning of many other words is made much easier. In keeping with learning vocabulary from the ground up, many of our words arrived via Greek, Roman, and Norse mythology (such as *echo*). The stories behind the words are interesting and will help you to better understand the words.

Etymology: Instructions

↓ Words will be arranged into three columns

word/root	definition	example
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1. **First**, copy all of the words/roots; definitions; and all of the examples.

carn	flesh	carnage, carnivorous, carnal
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2. **After** you have finished copying the list, get/share a dictionary, look up the definition of ONE example for **each** word in the list, copy both the example word **and** the definition on a separate sheet of paper **and** use the example word in a sentence. **What is not finished in class in homework.** This will be collected at the beginning of class the following day.

carnal	relating to the physical; and/or towards physical “desires”
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Although the young man pretended to love his girlfriend, his real feelings were **carnal**.

Etymology: Root Words 1

1. a	without	agnostic, amoral, atrophy, atypical
2. ab/abs	off, away from, apart, down	abnormal, abduct, abhor, abstract
3. ac/acr	sharp, bitter	acerbate, acidity, acute, acrid, exacerbate
4. act/ag	to do, to drive, to force, to lead	act, agent, agile
5. ad/al	to, toward, near	adapt, addict, advice, allure, alloy
6. al/ali/alter	other, another	alias, alibi, alien, alienation, altruist, allegory
7. am	love	amateur, amorous, enamored, amity, paramour, altruist, allegory
8. amb	to go, to walk	ambitious, amble, preamble, ambulance

Etymology: Root Words 1

9. amb/amph	around	amphitheater, ambience
10. amb/amph	both, more than one	ambiguous, amphibian, ambivalent
11. anim	life, mind, soul, spirit	animosity, unanimous, equanimity
12. ante	before	ante, anterior, antecedent, antedate, antebellum
13. anthro/andr	man, human	anthropology, android, misanthrope
14. annu/enni	year	annual, anniversary, biannual, biennial
15. anti	against	antidote, antiseptic, antipathy, antichrist
16. apo	away	apology, apostle, apocalypse