



# Implementing a “Word of the Week” Greek & Latin Root Routine: Building Academic Vocabulary & Word Recognition in Secondary Classrooms

**Big Idea:** When students understand word parts, they unlock thousands of academic words. **Morphology instruction = Access to grade-level text.**

## Day 1: Predict & Activate Prior Knowledge

**Goal:** Engage curiosity and activate schema.

- **Teacher Actions:**
  - Introduce the root (post visibly).
  - Ask students to predict the meaning.
  - Have students write what they already know.
  - Invite students to share words they've seen with the root.
- **Why It Matters:**
  - Activates background knowledge.
  - Encourages academic risk-taking.
  - Surfaces misconceptions early.
- **Instructional Tip:**
  - Capture responses on an anchor chart for comparison on Day 2.

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## Day 2: Explicit Instruction & Word Building

**Goal:** Provide clarity and accuracy.

- **Teacher Actions:**
  - Explicitly teach:
    - Root meaning
    - Language of origin
    - Pronunciation
  - Have students use reference materials to confirm definitions.
  - Compare to Day 1 predictions.
  - Generate a comprehensive list of known words with that root.
  - Analyze how the root contributes to each word's meaning.
- **Why It Matters:**
  - Builds morphological awareness.
  - Strengthens decoding of multisyllabic words.
  - Connects structure to meaning.
- **Instructional Tip:**
  - Model breaking down one academic word from current content.



## Days 3–4: Explore & Engage

**Goal:** Reinforce through repetition and application.

- **Engagement Options:**

- Word maps (prefix + root + suffix)
- Root-based word sorts
- Drawing visual representations
- Root “word hunts” in current texts
- Matching games or root bingo
- Build new words using affixes

- **Why It Matters:**

- Repeated exposure strengthens retention.
- Application promotes transfer across subjects.
- Engaging practice increases motivation

- **Instructional Tip:**

- Spiral review previously taught roots weekly.

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## Day 5: Evaluate & Reinforce

**Goal:** Assess understanding and promote transfer.

- **Quick Assessment Options:**

- Write 2–3 sentences using words with the root.
- Define the root and apply it to an unfamiliar word.
- Identify the meaning of a new word using root knowledge.

- **Ongoing Practice:**

- Root mastery develops over time. Plan cumulative review.

- **Why It Matters:**

- Moves from recognition to application.
- Supports long-term retention.



## WORD OF THE WEEK: Greek & Latin Roots Study Template

Root of the Week: \_\_\_\_\_

Language of Origin (circle one):

GREEK       LATIN

### Day 1 – Predict & Connect

**1. My Prediction:** What do I think this root means?

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**2. What I Already Know:** Have I seen this root before? What do I know about it?

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**3. Words I Think Contain This Root**

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_



## Day 2 – Learn & Confirm

### 4. Official Definition of the Root

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### 5. Compare My Prediction: Was I correct? What was similar or different?

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### 6. Word Building

Word	Break It Apart	What Does It Mean?



## Days 3–4 – Explore & Engage

**7. Draw It:** Create a visual that represents the meaning of the root. (Use space below)

**8. Root Web:** Add as many words as you can that contain this root.

Center Word: \_\_\_\_\_

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## Day 5 – Apply & Reflect

**9. Use It in Context:** Write 2–3 sentences using words that contain this root.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

**10. New Word Challenge:** Use your root knowledge to figure out the meaning of this word: \_\_\_\_\_ . What do I think it means? Why?

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**Remember:** Understanding word parts helps you unlock thousands of academic words.