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Racines grecques / Greek roots

De nombreux mots anglais ont une racine grecque. Ils appartiennent principalement au vocabulaire scientifique. Certaines racines peuvent avoir la même signification (*mega* et *macro*=large).

■ Les unités de mesure

Les racines les plus courantes sont arch / prot (*archbishop, archangel, archaeology, prototype*) • chron (*chronicle, chronological, chronometer*) • horo (*horology=the art of designing and constructing clocks, horoscope*) • meter (*altimeter*) • micro (*microbe, microcosm, microphone, microscope*) • morph (*metamorphosis, morphology*) • neo (*neophyte*) • poly (*polygamy, polygon, polyphony, polyglot, polytechnic, polytheism*), pan (*panacea*) • ped (*pedestrian, pediatrics, pedicure, pediment, pedometer*) • tele (*telephone, teleprinter, teleprompter, telescope, television*).

■ La nature et l'environnement

geo (=earth) • hydro, hydra (=water) • lith (=stone) • pyr (=fire) • thermo (=heat) • zoo (=animal) • photo (=light) • polis, polit (=citizen, city, state) • techn (=art, skill) • topo (=place)

■ Le corps humain, les sentiments

anthro (=human) • bio (=life) • gen (=race) • opt (=eye) • soma (=body) • phil (=love) • phon (=sound, voice) • pneu (=breath) • psych (=mind, soul, spirit)

■ Les idées et convictions

archy, cracy (=rule by) • biblio (=book) • dox (=belief) • gam (=marriage) • gno (=knowledge) • graph (=writing) • log (=idea, word, speech, reason, study) • logy (=study of) • onym (=name), psycho (=mind) • soph (=wisdom) • theo (=god)

1. Faites correspondre les racines avec leur signification.

- | | | | |
|----------------|----------|------------|------------|
| 1. acr | 8. micro | a. old | h. large |
| 2. arch / prot | 9. morph | b. small | i. far off |
| 3. chron | 10. neo | c. foot | j. measure |
| 4. ger/paleo | 11. pan | d. topmost | k. first |
| 5. horo | 12. ped | e. time | l. all |
| 6. macro/media | 13. poly | f. many | m. form |
| 7. meter | 14. tele | g. new | n. hour |

2. À partir des définitions, trouvez les mots comportant une racine grecque. Les premières lettres sont données.

1. the scientific study of the origin, the behavior, and the physical, social, and cultural development of humans. ANT.....
2. government by the people. DEM.....
3. any plant that turns toward the sun. HELIO.....
4. of or from many parts of the world. COSMO.....
5. producing heat. PYR.....
6. the branch of zoology that studies fishes. ICHTHY.....
7. pertaining to the body. SOMA.....
8. study of plants. PHYTO.....
9. practice of having more than one husband. POLY.....
10. society as an organized state. POLI.....

3. Remettez les lettres dans l'ordre et faites correspondre les mots à leur définition.

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| 1. YOCOYPLLSH | study of the mind |
| 2. LYOOHTGE | study of God |
| 3. OOIEYGDL | body of knowledge |
| 4. YYMAGLOP | custom of having more than one wife |
| 5. OUOYAMNT | self-rule |
| 6. HYSROTPI | wisdom |
| 7. DPMSYENDO | pen name |

2

Racines latines / Latin roots

De nombreux mots anglais (environ 30 % du lexique contre 5 % pour les mots grecs) ont une racine latine. Ils sont en général formels. Par exemple, la racine latine *-cide* signifie *kill* or *cut*. On la retrouve dans les mots *insecticide*, *genocide*, *homicide*, *suicide*, *ceticide* (=killing whales), etc.

■ Verbes indiquant le mouvement

act (=do, drive) • agree, actum (=set in motion) • ambul (=walk) • cess, ced (=withdraw) • ced (=yield) • curs, curr, corr (=run) • duct, duc (=lead) • fac, fic, fect, fact (=make, do) • init (=enter, begin) • lev (=raise, lift) • hab (=have, hold, dwell) • flu (=flow) • migr (=move, travel) • mit, mis (=send) • mov, mob, mot (=move) • port (=carry) • pose, pone (=place, put) • press (=push) • priv (=separate) • mut (=change, exchange) • prob (=prove, test) • rupt (=break, burst) • ven (=come) • sequ (=follow)

■ Verbes indiquant le jugement

cred (=believe, trust) • crit, cris (=judge, discern) • cert (=trust, sure) • cog (=know) • aud (=hear) • dict (=say, speak, assert) • comput (=calculate) • men, min, mon (=think, remind, advise, warn) • leg, lig (=law, choose, perceive, understand) • sci (=know) • test (=witness, affirm)

■ Qualités et attributs

acity (=quality of) • age (=quality of, act of) • acy, cy (=state, quality) • acerb, acri (=bitter, sharp) • acu, acr, ac (=needle) • adip (=fat) • ampli (=large) • alt (=high) • alter (=different, other) • equ (=fair) • frig (=cool) • liber (=free) • pot (=powerful)

■ Relations humaines

ali (=other, another) • amat, amor (=love, fondness) • amic (=friend) • ego (=I) • gen (=race, family, kind) • host (=enemy, stranger) • nox (=harm) • hosp (=guest, host)

■ Corps humain, sentiments, sens

corp (=body) • anima (=life, soul) • capit, cipit (=head) • dent (=tooth) • ped, pes (=foot) • sent (=feel) • voc (=voice) • grat (=thankful, pleasure, joy) • juven (=young) • locu, loqu (=word, speak) • man (=hand) • lingu, langa (=tongue) • memor (=mindful) • ment (=mind) • mort (=death) • vir (=manliness) • tac, tic (=silent) • sol, soli (=lonely, alone) • spec, spect, spic (=look at)

■ Directions

ad (=to, toward, addition to) • ambi, amb (=both, about, around) • circ (=around) • vers, vert (=turn) • loc (=place)

■ Éléments

aero / aeol (=air, wind, rapid) • aqua (=water) • luc, lum (=light) • mar (=sea)

■ Société et activités humaines

hom (=man, human) • arm (=army, weapon) • art (=craft, skill) • bell (=war) • civi (=citizen) • famil (=family) • labor, lab (=work) • fum (=smoke, scent) • jur, jus, jud (=law, right) • culp (=fault, blame) • somn (=sleep) • sacr, secr, sacer (=sacred)

■ Mesure

aevum / etern (=space of time, ever) • med, medi (=middle) • meter (=measure) • part, pars (=portion part) • plur, plus (=more) • prim (=first) • temp (=time) • ord, ordin (=order)

1. Faites correspondre les racines avec leur sens.

- | | | | |
|------------|-----------|--------------|--------------|
| 1. laud | 7. term | a. limit | g. life |
| 2. sat | 8. tract | b. like | h. pledge |
| 3. scribe | 9. vac | c. see, look | i. truth |
| 4. simil | 10. ver | d. please | j. write |
| 5. son | 11. vis/d | e. empty | k. sound |
| 6. spons/d | 12. vit | f. praise | l. pull draw |

2. Trouvez les mots à partir de la racine fournie et des définitions.

<p>1. VAC</p> <p>1. devoid of thought</p> <p>2. period of rest</p> <p>3. give up living in</p>	<p>4. SPECT</p> <p>1. treat with consideration</p> <p>2. examine carefully</p> <p>3. search for</p>
<p>2. CRED</p> <p>1. that can be believed</p> <p>2. source of pride</p> <p>3. ready to believe</p>	<p>5. PROB</p> <p>1. establish the validity</p> <p>2. investigation</p> <p>3. integrity</p>
<p>3. DUC</p> <p>1. direct an orchestra</p> <p>2. train pupils</p> <p>3. manufacture</p>	<p>6. POSE</p> <p>1. remove from position</p> <p>2. place a duty on</p> <p>3. get rid of</p>

3. Trouvez un exemple de mot anglais à partir des racines.

<i>Latin</i>	<i>meaning</i>	<i>English</i>
1. avis	bird	.....
2. bellum	war	.....
3. domus	house	.....
4. genus	birth	.....
5. judex	judge	.....
6. magnus	big	.....
7. pater	father	.....
8. rus	farm	.....
9. veritas	truth	.....
10. onus	load	.....

4. Faites correspondre les mots avec leur définition.

- | | |
|------------------|------------------------|
| 1. abdication | a. decree |
| 2. repulsion | b. guess |
| 3. edict | c. renounce the throne |
| 4. misconduct | d. aversion |
| 5. conjecture | e. questionable |
| 6. objectionable | f. wrongdoing |

3

Préfixes / Prefixation

Les mots anglais peuvent être divisés en trois parties : la racine, le préfixe (placé en début de mot) et le suffixe (placé en fin de mot). Il existe plusieurs préfixes et types de préfixes en anglais.

■ Préfixes péjoratifs

MAL- (*bad, badly*) : maltreat, malodorous, malfunction, malnutrition

MIS- (*wrongly*) : miscalculate, misfire, misinform, misleading, misconduct

PSEUDO- (*false, imitation*) : pseudo-scientific

■ Préfixes de degré ou taille

ARCH- (*supreme*) : archduke, archbishop, souvent péj. (*arch enemy*)

CO- (*on an equal footing, jointly*) : co-education, cooperation, co-pilot, cohabit

HYPER- (*extreme*) : hyperactive

MINI- (*little*) ÷ **MAXI-** (*large*)

OUT- (*surpassing*) : outnumber, outclass, outgrow, outdistance, outlive

OVER- (*excessive*) : overestimate, overreact, overconfident

SUPER- (*more than, special*) : supermarket, supernatural, superman

ULTRA- (*beyond*) : ultra conservative, ultraviolet, ultrasound

UNDER- (*too little*) : underestimate, underprivileged

■ Préfixes marquant l'orientation et l'attitude

ANTI- (*against*) : anti-social, anti-clockwise, anti-missile, antibiotic

CONTRA- (*opposite*) : contrafactual

COUNTER- (*against, in opposition to*) : counter-espionage, counteract

PRO- (*for, on the side of, on behalf of*) : pro-life, pro-communist

■ Préfixes locatifs

FORE- (*front*) : forearm, foreground, forename

INTER- (*between*) : international, interplay, interwine

SUB- (*under*) : sublet, subway

SUPER- (*above*) : superior, superficial, superintendent

TRANS- (*across*) : transplant, transport

■ Préfixes marquant le temps et l'ordre

EX- (*former*) : ex-husband

FORE- (*before*) : forewarn, foretell, foretaste

POST- (*after*) : post-war, postpone

PRE- (*before, in advance*) : pre-war, pre-school, pre-heat, pre-cook

RE- (*again, back*) : rebuild, reclaim, recycle, renew

■ Préfixes marquant un nombre (origine latine ou grecque)

BI-, DI- (*two*) : bicycle, bilateral, bifocal, bilingual, diode, dichotomy

TRI-, POLY-, MULTI- (*many*) : polyglot, polygon, polygamy, polytechnic

SEMI-, DEMI- (*half*) : semi-circle, demi-god

UNI-, MONO (*one*)

On trouve aussi **AUTO-** (*self*) (autograph, autobiography), **EXTRA** (*exceptional*), **NEO** (*new*),

PAN- (*all*), **TELE-** (*distant*), **VICE-** (*deputy*).

≡ Notez :

≡ **A-** se combine pour former des adjectifs (*asleep, awash, ajar, amiss, abroad, aloud*)

≡ **BE-** transforme des pp en adj. (*beloved, befogged*) ou verbes (*bewitch, bedevil*)

≡ **EN-** permet de transformer des noms ou des adjectifs en verbes (*endanger, enlarge, empower, embitter*)

1. Complétez les mots à l'aide du préfixe qui convient.

	<i>mal</i>	<i>mis</i>	<i>co</i>	<i>sub</i>	<i>fore</i>	<i>bi</i>	<i>di</i>	<i>tri</i>	<i>re</i>	
1.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	oxide
2.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	habit
3.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	let
4.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	arm
5.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	educate
6.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	odorous
7.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	conduct
8.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	lingual
9.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	pod
10.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	inform
11.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	build

2. Trouvez les mots correspondant aux définitions. Le préfixe est fourni.

1. POLY : a school in which instruction in several technical subjects is given
2. RE : make useful again
3. EX : having once, or previously, been president
4. FORE : knowledge of an event before it occurs
5. MIS : deceiving
6. MAL : state resulting from insufficient or poorly balanced diet
7. HYPER : unusually or abnormally active
8. FORE : the part of a scene that is near the viewer
9. POLY : able to speak or write several languages
10. EN : catch, as in a net
11. BI : published twice a month
12. CIRCUM : go around, bypass
13. DIS : leave out of consideration, ignore
14. UN : obvious
15. COM : intricate

3. Complétez les mots à l'aide du préfixe qui convient.

1. A-detached house is joined to another house on one side but separate on the other. • 2. The recent outbreak of violence in the suburbs had beenshadowed by isolated incidents earlier this year.
- 3.planting organs from living donors raises ethical issues. • 4. In order to save precious resources, manufacturers have to build cars whose parts arecyclable. • 5. In sub-suharan Africa, malaria is still ademic disease. • 6. The weather conditions at Wimbledon forced the authorities topone the tennis match till tomorrow. • 7. All the networks-empted their regular schedules to broadcast news of the terror attack. • 8. Many restaurantsapprove of cell phone use. • 9. A chameleon changes color toform to its surroundings. • 10. Mount Kilimanjaro consists of threeactive volcanic cones—Kibo, Mawensi and Shira. • 11. If you get to bed early the night before a test, you are less likely tosleep and miss the whole exam, especially if it is an early exam. • 12. After completing her doctoral work at CMU, she chose to dodoctoral studies at Stanford. She is now working for a biotech company in Boston.

4

Préfixes négatifs / Negative prefixation

De nombreux préfixes servent à donner aux mots (adjectifs, noms, verbes) un sens contraire ou négatif. C'est le cas de *un-*, *dis-*, *in-*, *im-*, *ir-*, *il-*, *a-*, *an-*. Il n'existe pas de règles strictes pour former l'antonyme des adjectifs. Le mieux est d'apprendre l'adjectif et son contraire en même temps.

■ **A-**, **AN-** (devant voyelle) signifie « *lacking of* » et permet de former l'antonyme d'adjectifs : *amoral*, *asexual*, *atheist*, *atrophied*. On retrouve le préfixe *a-* dans des noms : *anarchy*.

■ **ANTI** (= *against*) : *antisocial*, *anti-war*, *antibiotic*

■ **DE-** inverse l'action : *decentralize*, *defrost*, *desegregate*, *de-escalate* ou avec un sens privatif : *deforestation*, *decapitation*, *defraud*.

■ **DIS-** signifie « l'inverse de ». L'antonyme de *loyal* est *disloyal*, celui de *content* est *discontent*. On le trouve aussi avec des noms comme *disorder*, *disuse*, *disunity*.

DIS- peut former l'antonyme de verbes : *disappear*, *disagree*, *disapprove*, *disbelieve*, *disconnect*, *dislike*, *disobey*, *disqualify*. Il peut avoir un sens privatif (*dispossess*, *disown*).

■ Cas de **IN-** :

• **IN-** devient **IM-** devant une racine commençant par « *m* » ou « *p* » : *impatient*, *immature*, *improbable*, *impartial*, *impervious*

• **IN-** devient **IR-** devant un mot commençant par « *r* » : *irreplaceable*, *irreversible*

• **IN-** devient **IL-** devant un mot commençant par « *l* » : *illegal*, *illicit*, *illiterate*, *illegible*

• **IN-** n'a pas toujours un sens négatif. Il peut aussi signifier *inside* (*internal*).

≡ Notez que **IN-** et ses variantes **IL-**, **IM-**, **IR-** se combine avec des adjectifs d'origine latine ou française. Il est moins courant que **-UN**.

■ **MIS-** (= *badly*, *wrongly*) : *misunderstand*, *mistranslate*, *misinform*, *mismanage*, *misfire*, *misdemeanor*

■ **NON-** exprime davantage un contraste binaire que l'antonyme : *non-scientific* se distingue ainsi de *unscientific*. Comparez aussi *non-American* et *unAmerican*, *flammable* et *non-flammable*. Une *non-person* est *a person that does not count as a person*, *a person of no consequence*. Idem pour *non-event*.

■ **UN-** se combine facilement avec des adjectifs ou des participes passés : l'antonyme de *comfortable* est *uncomfortable*. Voir aussi *unfair*, *unforgettable*, *unassuming*, *unexpected*, *unscathed*, *uninsured*, *uncommon*, *uninhabited*

UN- peut aussi former l'antonyme de verbes : *undo*, *undress*, *unfold*, *unload*, *unpack*, *untie*, *unveil*, *unlock*, *unwrap*, *unzip*

1. Donnez l'antonyme ou le négatif des mots.

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| 1. qualified..... | 6. fraud..... |
| 2. inform..... | 7. pro-choice..... |
| 3. underestimate..... | 8. privileged..... |
| 4. pre-war..... | 9. possess..... |
| 5. obey..... | 10. fair..... |

2. Donnez l'antonyme des adjectifs.

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| 1. honest..... | 5. relevant..... |
| 2. discreet..... | 6. tolerant..... |
| 3. sensitive..... | 7. responsible..... |
| 4. efficient..... | 8. loyal..... |

3. Trouvez les mots correspondant à la définition. Le préfixe est fourni.

1. AN..... : not containing water
2. DIS..... : repudiate, refuse to acknowledge
3. A..... : not concerned with morals
4. IL..... : difficult or impossible to read
5. IM..... : contrary to morality
6. IN..... : that cannot be taken away (rights, for example)
7. UN..... : not knowing
8. DIS..... : who has lost courage or confidence
9. A..... : who denies the existence of God
10. DE..... : the removal of trees

4. Complétez les phrases. Les préfixes sont donnés.

1. Back in the 1960s, plans to de..... schools met with fierce opposition from the whites in the South of the United States. • 2. The death of the auto..... ruler led to lawlessness and total an..... in the country. • 3. The lack of job opportunities in the suburbs has led to widespread dis..... among the youth. • 4. It is totally un..... to expect that a continent as huge as Africa will climb out of poverty in the next decade. • 5. Around the Christmas tree, children were busy un..... their presents. • 6. Following the 1930s Dust Bowl, dis..... Okie farmers had their farms seized and had to pull up stakes and move to California. • 7. When you get a build-up of ice in your freezer, you know it's time to de..... it. • 8. In 1968, President Johnson called a halt in the bombings in order to de..... the conflict in Vietnam. • 9. The soldiers who had dis..... orders and refused to follow the rules were court-martialed. • 10. Although he was raised a Catholic, he was an a..... for most of his adult life, stating that it was impossible to know whether God existed. • 11. The fire to the city was extensive. No building escaped un..... . • 12. The Election Commission decided to dis..... the candidacy of 3 people who had not met the electoral law requirements.