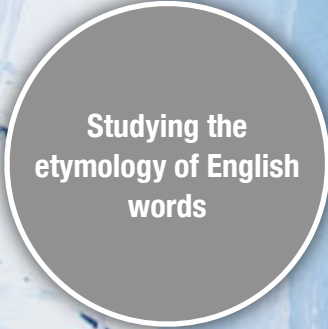


January 2009

# SPELLING

## New word studies

This month's words offer challenges in finding patterns within ordinary and obscure words.



Studying the etymology of English words



## WORD FOUNDATIONS IN LATIN AND GREEK

This month's words have their foundations in both Latin and Greek. Why study these etymologies?

### Why learn Latin?

- it strengthens basic English skills in vocabulary and reading comprehension
- it focuses on grammar which leads to improved English writing and communication
- it increases cultural awareness and makes cultural connections
- it encourages critical thinking and comparative analysis
- it introduces students to a rich source of mythology, literature and history AND Latin presents material REQUIRED in Language Arts and Social Studies Standards in Grades 6-8.

### Why learn Greek?

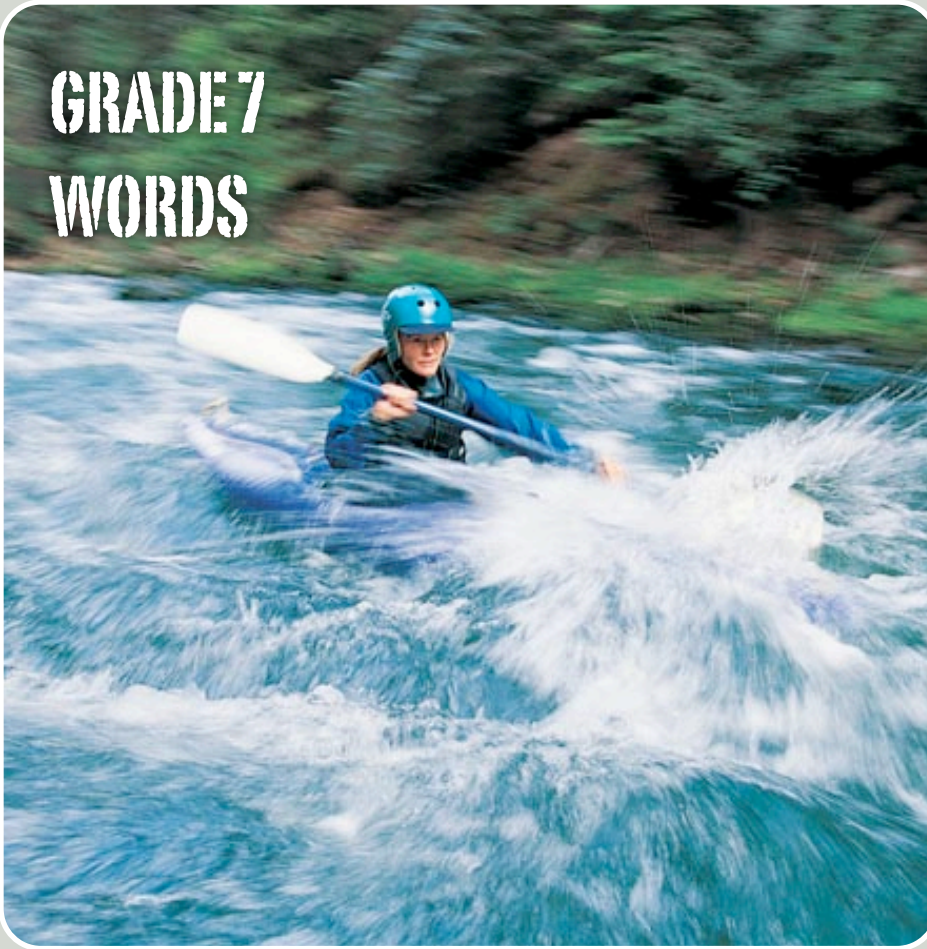
- it helps improve vocabulary building and grammar
- it improves comprehension in English Spelling and syntax in English.
- Ancient Greek is the foundation of many English words, from alpha 'adamant' to zeta 'zodiac'.
- **roughly 60% of all English words and 90% of technical and scientific terms are derived from ancient Greek and Latin.**
- if you are interested in a career in law or medicine, you will benefit enormously from the vocabulary building you will gain in the ancient Greek studies.



### A leap of faith

Learning something new requires a risk. Are you ready to try?

# GRADE 7 WORDS



## Good reference sites

[http://  
dictionary.reference.com/](http://dictionary.reference.com/)

<http://www.m-w.com/>

<http://www.onelook.com/>



## Learn to recognize prefixes such as “dis” and “in” when decoding new words

For this month’s words, please copy the words into your language notebook **and also** into your agenda. Writing the words will train your brain to recognize the patterns in the words. For the daily language work, you will also be asked to break each word into its component syllables **and** to write definitions and good sentences for each word.

Homework for Monday will almost always be to look for definitions and then to write the words in sentences.

Some of these words are similar to the grade 8 studies

Here is an example of a prefix that you should recognize and be able to use:

dis-, di-, dif- (Latin: apart, asunder; away, from; in different directions; utterly, completely)

The meaning of dis- varies with different words; dif-, assimilated form of dis- before f; di-, form of dis- before b, d, g, l, m, n, r, and v.

Separation [apart, asunder]; removal [away, from]; negation, deprivation, undoing, reversal [utterly, completely].

GRADE 7 WORDS	WEEK 1	WEEK 2	WEEK 3	WEEK 4
	circumnavigation intransigent intrepid foment fortuitous aphorism aplomb maudlin thermophile ectothermic	circumagitate specious soporific divulge somnambulist distraught dissuade dissonance thermogeography isolation	apparition precluded derogatory hamlet loquacious circuitous endothermic thermobiology peninsula destitution	inscrutable insidious interim commensurate flout doleful homogeneous writhe zenith despicable

# GRADE 8



## Week 1

- |             |             |
|-------------|-------------|
| aptitude    | obfuscate   |
| scrutinize  | mundane     |
| superficial | harbinger   |
| coalesce    | circumspect |
| robust      | approbation |



## Week 2

- |                |                |
|----------------|----------------|
| hydrogeology   | thermonuclear  |
| hydroelectric  | thermotoxin    |
| geopolitics    | geography      |
| ectothermic    | hypodermic     |
| homeotherm     | hyperacute     |
| geoponics      | hypersensitive |
| thermometer    |                |
| thermodynamics |                |
| geosynchronous |                |

Here are some Latin cognates:

- circum - around
- gyro - to turn
- salt, sali - to leap
- apt, ept -fit, fitted, suited
- scrut- search, investigation

This month's words contain root elements that come from the Latin language. By

understanding the root, you can decipher the whole word. Because this is repetitive, and the roots are common, there are connections to many other words.



Words with  
Greek and Latin  
Roots

Here are some links for you to find some of the more difficult words.

[http://wordinfo.info/words/index/info/search\\_box/index](http://wordinfo.info/words/index/info/search_box/index)

[http://wordinfo.info/words/index.php?v=info&a=view\\_unit&s=sinister&page=3&u=1883&spage=1](http://wordinfo.info/words/index.php?v=info&a=view_unit&s=sinister&page=3&u=1883&spage=1)

[http://wordinfo.info/words/index/info/view\\_unit/946/?letter=a&spage=1&s=gyro](http://wordinfo.info/words/index/info/view_unit/946/?letter=a&spage=1&s=gyro)

[http://wordinfo.info/words/index/info/view\\_unit/480/?letter=a&spage=1&s=circum"](http://wordinfo.info/words/index/info/view_unit/480/?letter=a&spage=1&s=circum)

Here are some Greek cognates:

therm - pertaining to heat

hypo - beneath

hyper - above

geo - of the earth

hydro - of the water

esthesia - sensitivity

topo - of the surface

This month's words contain root elements that come from the Greek language. By understanding the root, you can decipher the whole word. Because this is repetitive, and the roots are common, there are more words.

# GRADE 8



## Week 3

gyration

circuitous

circumboreal

salacious

assailant

circumference

dextrogyrate

salmon

circumlocution

circumagitation



## Week 4

gyrograph

assault

circumgyrate

assail

circumlunar

gyroscope

insult

somersault

circumambulate

sinistrogyration

Words with  
Greek and Latin  
Roots

A skier in a yellow and grey jacket is captured mid-air, performing a jump. The background is a bright blue sky with falling snow. The skier is holding poles and has their skis pointed downwards.

Here are 3 challenge words for this week. Using the root words, can you define these words?

topothermesthesiometer

hypothermesthesia

hyperthermoesthesia