

“It’s All Greek to Me”—Language Legacy

How many Greek words can you create from common Greek roots? You may find that combinations of three, even four roots are possible. You may find it necessary to add or drop a letter from the Greek word in order to have the correct English spelling. You should, of course, know the meaning of the English terms that you create.

e.g. bio + ology = biology = the study of life forms

| Greek Roots | English Meaning |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| <i>acro</i> | high |
| <i>aero</i> | air |
| <i>anthrop(o)</i> | human |
| <i>auto</i> | self |
| <i>bio</i> | life |
| <i>-cracy</i> | rule |
| <i>demo(s)</i> | people |
| <i>geo</i> | earth |
| <i>-gamo(y)</i> | marriage |
| <i>-graph</i> | writing |
| <i>hydro</i> | water |
| <i>litho(o)</i> | stone |
| <i>micro</i> | small |
| <i>mono</i> | one |
| <i>neo</i> | new |
| <i>-ology</i> | study of, body of |
| <i>paleo</i> | old |
| <i>photo</i> | light |
| <i>poly</i> | many |
| <i>psycho</i> | mind |
| <i>scope</i> | sight |
| <i>tele</i> | far |
| <i>theo</i> | god |
| <i>thermo</i> | heat |

How many legitimate English words can you create in 20 minutes?

“The Greeks had a word for it.”