

# Roots, Prefixes, Suffixes and Foreign Words

## Four chapter

Every word in the English language has a history. In this section, you will find that words can be understood in a better manner if you can break them down to their roots and relate them to their core meanings. Therefore, when you come across words using the same roots/prefixes or suffixes, you can relate them, thus understanding the words and the text in a more structured manner.

Besides, knowing the origins of important words often gives us clues to interpret the meaning of an entire family of words derived from them.

For example, in Latin, the word for "other" is "alter", and a number of important words in English are built on its Latin root.

We will begin with a list of root words and their meanings and go on to the words derived from these roots:

Many a time, knowing root words helps us in guessing the probable meaning of a word. This chapter lists out root words in detail to help you hone this skill further.

### GREEK ROOTS

#### I. Root = 'chron'.

The Greek root "Chron" means or denotes "time". Some of the words derived from this root are:-

| Word                   | Meaning                                                                 |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. <b>Chronology</b>   | arrangement of events in order of occurrence ( <i>'may be timely'</i> ) |
| 2. <b>Chronicle</b>    | historical record                                                       |
| 3. <b>Chronograph</b>  | a stop watch, that records time with great accuracy                     |
| 4. <b>Chronic</b>      | lasting a long time (of illness)                                        |
| 5. <b>Chronometer</b>  | time piece                                                              |
| 6. <b>Asynchronous</b> | occurrence of two or more processes at different times                  |

#### II. Root = 'macro, mega'.

Greek root "macro/mega", which means "large" or "big". Some of the words derived from this root are:

| Word                  | Meaning                                           |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| 1. <b>Macroscopic</b> | Visible to the naked eye                          |
| 2. <b>Megalith</b>    | huge stone                                        |
| 3. <b>Mega star</b>   | very great                                        |
| 4. <b>Mega hertz</b>  | one million hertz                                 |
| 5. <b>Mega phone</b>  | instrument needed to amplify voice                |
| 6. <b>Megalopolis</b> | universe, very large city containing many cities. |

### III. Root = 'micro'.

Greek root "micro" means "small".

| Word          | Meaning                                     |
|---------------|---------------------------------------------|
| 1. Microbe    | tiny organism                               |
| 2. Microcosm  | miniature representation of something       |
| 3. Microfilm  | miniature record of documents or a film     |
| 4. Microlight | very small, light aircraft with large wings |

### IV. Root = 'morph'.

The Greek root "morph" means "form".

| Word             | Meaning                                              |
|------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Morphology    | form and structure of an organism; study of the form |
| 2. Metamorphosis | change of form                                       |
| 3. Morphogenesis | development of species of an organism                |

### V. Root = 'poly'.

Greek root "poly" means "many".

| Word          | Meaning                                                             |
|---------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Polyglot   | competent in many languages                                         |
| 2. Polygon    | a geometrical plane figure with three or more straight lines        |
| 3. Polynomial | used to describe a mathematical expression with more than two terms |
| ⇒ 4. Polymath | knowledgeable in a variety of subjects.                             |

### VI. Root = 'pan'.

Greek root "pan" means "all".

| Word         | Meaning                       |
|--------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Panhuman  | for all humanity              |
| 2. Pantheism | belief that God is everything |
| 3. Panorama  | an all round view             |
| 4. Pantropic | found throughout the tropics. |

### VII. Root = 'meter'.

Greek root "meter" means "measure".

| Word           | Meaning                                                |
|----------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Ammeter     | device used to measure current                         |
| 2. Voltmeter   | device used to measure voltage                         |
| 3. Altimeter   | device that measures altitude                          |
| 4. Pedometer   | instrument used to measure distance covered by walking |
| 5. Meteorology | scientific study of earth's atmosphere                 |

### VIII. Root = 'Neo'.

Greek root "neo" means "new".

| Word         | Meaning                                |
|--------------|----------------------------------------|
| 1. Neophyte  | beginner, recent convert               |
| 2. Neologism | new word or meaning, newly coined word |
| 3. Neonate   | a new born child.                      |

### IX. Root = 'andr/gyn'.

Greek root "andr" means "man".

Greek root "gyn" means "woman".

| Word         | Meaning                   |
|--------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Androgen  | male hormone              |
| 2. Gynecoid  | characteristic of a woman |
| 3. Polyandry | having multiple husbands  |

### X. Root = 'pyr'.

Greek root "pyr" means "fire".

| Word            | Meaning                        |
|-----------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Pyre         | pile of burning material       |
| 2. Pyrogenic    | producing heat                 |
| 3. Pyromaniac   | person who sets fire to things |
| 4. Pyrotechnics | relating to fireworks.         |

### XI. Root = 'astro'.

Greek root "astro" means "star".

| Word          | Meaning                                    |
|---------------|--------------------------------------------|
| 1. Astronomy  | science of stars                           |
| 2. Astrologer | person who practices and studies Astrology |
| 3. Astronaut  | space traveler                             |

**XII. Root = 'ped'.**

Greek root "ped" means "child".

| Word                   | Meaning                                              |
|------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. <u>Pediatrician</u> | Doctor who treats children                           |
| 2. <u>Pedodontics</u>  | concerned with dental care and treatment of children |
| 3. <u>Pedology</u>     | study of physical and mental development of children |

**XIII. Root = 'soma'.**

Greek root "soma" means "body".

| Word                    | Meaning                                    |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| 1. <u>Somato type</u>   | body type                                  |
| 2. <u>Somatic</u>       | of body                                    |
| 3. <u>Psychosomatic</u> | physical illness which is mentally induced |
| 4. <u>Somatology</u>    | study of physiology and anatomy of body    |

**XIV. Root = 'ideo'.**

Greek root "ideo" means "idea".

| Word                 | Meaning                                   |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| 1. <u>Ideology</u>   | system of social beliefs                  |
| 2. <u>Ideologue</u>  | an ideologist                             |
| 3. <u>Ideography</u> | use of graphical symbols to convey ideas. |

**XV. Root = 'gam'.**

Greek root "gam" means "marriage".

| Word               | Meaning                           |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. <u>Monogamy</u> | married to one person             |
| 2. <u>Bigamy</u>   | married to two people             |
| 3. <u>Polygamy</u> | married to many                   |
| 4. <u>Gamete</u>   | a specialised male or female cell |

**XVI. Root = 'theo'.**

Greek root "theo" means "God".

| Word                | Meaning                  |
|---------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. <u>Theology</u>  | study of God or religion |
| 2. <u>Theocracy</u> | government by Gods       |
| 3. <u>Theomacy</u>  | battle among Gods        |

**XVII. Root = 'onym'.**

Greek root "onym" means "name".

| Word                | Meaning                          |
|---------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. <u>Pseudonym</u> | pen name                         |
| 2. <u>Antonym</u>   | word opposite in meaning         |
| 3. <u>Synonym</u>   | word similar in meaning          |
| 4. <u>Toponym</u>   | word derived from name of place  |
| 5. <u>Homonym</u>   | word with same spelling or sound |

**XVIII. Root = 'path'.**

Greek root "path" means "feeling".

| Word               | Meaning                                      |
|--------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| 1. <u>Sympathy</u> | compassion for someone else's pain           |
| 2. <u>Empathy</u>  | feel someone else's pain and sympathise      |
| 3. <u>Apathy</u>   | indifference, lack of interest or enthusiasm |

**XIX. Root = 'bibli'.**

Greek root "bibli" means "book".

| Word                   | Meaning                                              |
|------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. <u>Bibliopole</u>   | book seller                                          |
| 2. <u>Bibliophile</u>  | lover of books or collector of books                 |
| 3. <u>Bibliography</u> | a list of books and articles consulted, book sources |
| 4. <u>Bibliomania</u>  | extreme fondness or obsession for books              |

**XX. Root = 'soph'.**

Greek root "soph" means "wisdom".

| Word                    | Meaning                   |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. <u>Philosophy</u>    | love of wisdom            |
| 2. <u>Sophist</u>       | ancient Greek philosopher |
| 3. <u>Sophisticated</u> | urbane, classy, complex   |

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## XXI. Root = 'Misein'.

The root "misein" is a Greek root which means "to hate".

| Word                    | Meaning                |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. <b>Misanthropist</b> | one who hates mankind  |
| 2. <b>Misogynist</b>    | one who hates women    |
| 3. <b>Misogamist</b>    | one who hates marriage |

## XXII. Root = 'Anthropos'.

The root "anthropos" is a Greek word meaning "mankind".

| Word                     | Meaning                            |
|--------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. <b>Anthropology</b>   | study of development of human race |
| 2. <b>Philanthropist</b> | one who loves mankind              |

## XXIII. Root = 'Phil'.

The Greek root "phil" means "to love".

| Word                   | Meaning                                  |
|------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| 1. <b>Philology</b>    | love of language /words                  |
| 2. <b>Philosophy</b>   | love of wisdom                           |
| 3. <b>Philanthropy</b> | love of mankind                          |
| 4. <b>Philadelphia</b> | city of brotherly love                   |
| 5. <b>Philharmonic</b> | love of music/harmony                    |
| 6. <b>Bibliophile</b>  | lover of books                           |
| 7. <b>Anglophile</b>   | admirer of British culture, people, etc. |
| 8. <b>Philatelist</b>  | one who collects or studies stamps       |

## XXIV. Root = 'logy'.

The Greek root "logy" means "study of".

| Word                   | Meaning                                          |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| 1. <b>Anthropology</b> | study of human race                              |
| 2. <b>Biology</b>      | study of living things                           |
| 3. <b>Astrology</b>    | study of the sun, moon and other planets         |
| 4. <b>Archaeology</b>  | study of the buildings, graves, etc. of the past |
| 5. <b>Climatology</b>  | study of general weather conditions              |
| 6. <b>Psychology</b>   | study of human mind and behaviour                |

7. **Graphology** study of handwriting
8. **Gerontology** study of problems of the elderly

## XXV. Root = 'Psyche'.

The Greek root "psyche" means "mind, spirit, soul".

| Word                     | Meaning                                                                             |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. <b>Psychosis</b>      | a mental disorder                                                                   |
| 2. <b>Psychiatrist</b>   | a mind-healer                                                                       |
| 3. <b>Psychotic</b>      | one who loses touch with reality                                                    |
| 4. <b>Psychedelic</b>    | that which causes effect on mind                                                    |
| 5. <b>Psychic</b>        | having special mental (knowing) ability                                             |
| 6. <b>Psycho kinesis</b> | change the physical state or position of a physical object by the power of the mind |

## XXVI. Root = 'archy'/'cracy'.

The Greek root "archy/cracy" means "rule by".

Some of the words derived from this root, depicting different types of rules by people, are as follows:

| Word                  | Meaning                                            |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| 1. <b>Monarchy</b>    | rule by one king /queen                            |
| 2. <b>Autocracy</b>   | government by a single person/ single group        |
| 3. <b>Democracy</b>   | where power is held by elected representatives     |
| 4. <b>Aristocracy</b> | rule by people of high social class, e.g., royalty |
| 5. <b>Theocracy</b>   | rule of gods                                       |
| 6. <b>Plutocracy</b>  | rule by the rich                                   |
| 7. <b>Anarchy</b>     | state of nature where there is no government       |
| 8. <b>Diarchy</b>     | dual rule                                          |
| 9. <b>Oligarchy</b>   | rule by few powerful people                        |
| 10. <b>Patriarchy</b> | oldest male of a family is the head                |

## LATIN ROOTS

### I. Root = 'cede', 'ceed' and 'cess'.

All the three Latin roots mean "go" or "movement".

| Word                 | Meaning                   |
|----------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. <b>Precede</b>    | come before               |
| 2. <b>Proceeding</b> | course of action          |
| 3. <b>Process</b>    | method of doing something |
| 4. <b>Succeed</b>    | go ahead, be successful   |
| 5. <b>Proceed</b>    | go before                 |



6. Exceed
7. Recede
8. Recession

go ahead of  
go back  
depression in economic activity

## II. Root = 'scribe'.

Latin root "scribe" means "to write".

| Word         | Meaning                                                  |
|--------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Prescribe | order the use of, esp. used in the context of medication |
| 2. Inscribe  | to write or engrave words on a surface                   |
| 3. Scribble  | write illegibly                                          |
| 4. Describe  | write in detail                                          |
| 5. Proscribe | to prohibit or ban something                             |

## III. Root = 'brev'.

Latin root "brev" means "short".

| Word            | Meaning              |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| 1. Abbreviation | short end form       |
| 2. Brevity      | briefness            |
| 3. Breviary     | summary, abridgement |

## IV. Root = 'centr'.

Latin root "centr" means "center".

| Word            | Meaning                            |
|-----------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. Centrist     | one with moderate views            |
| 2. Centrifugal  | away from center                   |
| 3. Centripetal  | towards center                     |
| 4. Egocentric   | selfish                            |
| 5. Eccentric    | unconventional in a whimsical way. |
| 6. Heliocentric | with the sun at the centre         |

## V. Root = 'later'.

Latin root "later" means "side".

| Word              | Meaning                                                         |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Bilateral      | two-sided                                                       |
| 2. Unilateral     | one-sided                                                       |
| 3. Multilateral   | many-sided                                                      |
| 4. Lateralisation | the localisation of a control centre for a particular function. |
| 5. Lateral        | at the side                                                     |

## VI. Root = 'magni'.

Latin root "magni" means "Large".

| Word            | Meaning                                   |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------------|
| 1. Magnify      | make larger                               |
| 2. Magnitude    | greatness of size                         |
| 3. Magniloquent | employing impressive words while speaking |
| 4. Magnificent  | impressive, splendid                      |
| 5. Magnanimous  | very generous, large hearted              |

## VII. Root = 'nihil'.

Latin root "nihil" means "nothing".

| Word          | Meaning                                  |
|---------------|------------------------------------------|
| 1. Annihilate | kill, reduce to nothing                  |
| 2. Nihilism   | rejection or opposition to all authority |

## VIII. Root = 'omni'.

Latin root "omni" means "all".

| Word           | Meaning                                                 |
|----------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Omniscient  | all knowing                                             |
| 2. Omnipotent  | all powerful                                            |
| 3. Omnipresent | present everywhere                                      |
| 4. Omnibus     | a single book containing separate works as a collection |
| 5. Omnificent  | with unlimited power to create                          |

## IX. Root = 'rect'.

Latin root "rect" means "straight".

| Word           | Meaning                  |
|----------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Rectify     | straighten or to correct |
| 2. Rectitude   | righteousness            |
| 3. Rectilinear | straight line            |

## X. Root = 'cide'.

The Latin root "cide" means "to kill" or "cut".

| Word          | Meaning                                     |
|---------------|---------------------------------------------|
| 1. Ceticide   | killing of whales                           |
| 2. Mariticide | killing of husband                          |
| 3. Parricide  | killing of parent (either father or mother) |

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|                  |                     |
|------------------|---------------------|
| 4. Filicide      | killing of children |
| 5. Fratricide    | killing of brother  |
| 6. Patricide     | killing of father   |
| 7. Fungicide     | killing of fungi    |
| 8. Insecticide   | killing of insects  |
| 9. Uxoricide     | killing of wife     |
| 10. Tyrannicide  | killing of tyrants  |
| -11. Suicide     | killing of oneself  |
| -12. Sororicide  | killing of sister   |
| 13. Genocide     | killing of races    |
| -14. Homicide    | killing of people   |
| -15. Infanticide | killing of babies   |
| -16. Lapidicide  | killing of pets     |

### XI. Root = 'mort', 'nec'.

Latin root, which means "death".

| Word             | Meaning                    |
|------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Mortal        | subject of death           |
| 2. Mortuary      | place for dead bodies      |
| 3. Necrology     | list of the dead, obituary |
| 4. Necromancy    | prediction using spirits   |
| 5. Necropolis    | city of dead, cemetery     |
| 6. Necropsy      | autopsy                    |
| 7. Mortification | deep shame and humiliation |

### XII. Root = 'dorm', 'somm'.

Latin roots which mean "to sleep".

| Word            | Meaning            |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| 1. Dormant      | asleep             |
| 2. Insomnia     | inability to sleep |
| 3. Somnambulist | walks in his sleep |
| 4. Somnambulism | sleep walking      |
| 5. Somnolent    | feeling sleepy     |

### XIII. Root = 'aqu'.

Latin root "aqu" means "water".

| Word           | Meaning                            |
|----------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. Aquatic     | of the water                       |
| 2. Aquarium    | container for fish                 |
| 3. Aquaculture | farming of fish and aquatic plants |

### XIV. Root = 'mar'.

Latin root "mar" means "sea".

| Word        | Meaning                                   |
|-------------|-------------------------------------------|
| 1. Marine   | of sea                                    |
| 2. Marina   | small harbor                              |
| 3. Maritime | of the sea                                |
| 4. Mariner  | one who sails or navigates vessels at sea |

### XV. Root = 'doc'.

Latin root "doc" means "to teach".

| Word            | Meaning                    |
|-----------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Indoctrinate | instruct one in basics     |
| 2. Doctrine     | rule or principle          |
| 3. Doctor       | medically qualified        |
| 4. Doctrinaire  | determined to use a theory |

### XVI. Root = 'luc'.

Latin root "luc" means "light".

| Word         | Meaning            |
|--------------|--------------------|
| 1. Elucidate | make clear         |
| 2. Lucid     | clear/ transparent |
| 3. Pellucid  | transparent        |

### XVII. Root = 'flect/flex'.

Latin root "flect/flex" means "to bend".

| Word           | Meaning                         |
|----------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Inflect     | turn                            |
| 2. Influx      | inward flow                     |
| 3. Flexible    | adaptable                       |
| 4. Flexography | printing using a flexible plate |
| 5. Genuflect   | bend in a gesture of respect    |

### XVIII. Root = 'fract'/'frag'.

Latin root means "break".

| Word          | Meaning                           |
|---------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Fracture   | break                             |
| 2. Fragile    | easily broken                     |
| 3. Fragment   | break into small pieces           |
| 4. Infraction | failure to obey a law or contract |

### XIX. Root = 'tract/tang'.

Latin root means "touch".

| Word          | Meaning                   |
|---------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Intact     | untouched                 |
| 2. Tangible   | real/ can be touched      |
| 3. Intangible | cannot be seen or touched |
| 4. Tactile    | of touch                  |

### XX. Root = 'Loqu/locut'.

Latin root meaning "to speak".

| Word              | Meaning              |
|-------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Circumlocution | evasive speech       |
| 2. Soliloquy      | speaking alone       |
| 3. Eloquence      | persuasive speech    |
| 4. Interlocution  | conversation         |
| 5. Somniloquy     | speak in sleep       |
| 6. Elocution      | public speaking      |
| 7. Grandiloquence | speech               |
| 8. Colloquiality  | informal speaking    |
| 9. Allocution     | formal speaking      |
| 10. Magniloquence | bombastic speech     |
| 11. Colloquium    | scholarly conference |

### XXI. Root = 'bene, bone'.

Latin root meaning "good".

| Word           | Meaning                            |
|----------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. Beneficial  | good for                           |
| 2. Bonus       | premium                            |
| 3. Benefit     | advantage                          |
| 4. Benevolent  | kind                               |
| 5. Benefactor  | somebody who helps or aids a cause |
| 6. Benediction | blessing, expression of approval   |
| 7. Benign      | harmless                           |

### XXII. Root = 'mal'.

Latin root means "bad".

| Word            | Meaning                        |
|-----------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Malevolent   | harmful, wanting to cause harm |
| 2. Malnutrition | lack of healthy food in a diet |
| 3. Malignant    | evil, full of evil             |
| 4. Malady       | illness, disease               |

### 5. Malingering

to pretend illness especially to avoid work

### 6. Malediction

curse, to utter a curse

### XXIII. Root = 'cred'.

Latin root means "believe".

| Word           | Meaning                                             |
|----------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Credible    | believable                                          |
| 2. Incredulous | skeptical                                           |
| 3. Incredible  | astonishing, hard to believe                        |
| 4. Credential  | proof to ability or trust worthiness, a certificate |
| 5. Credulous   | ready to believe                                    |

### XXIV. Root = 'sens', 'sent'.

Latin root means "feeling".

| Word          | Meaning                               |
|---------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Sensible   | reasonable                            |
| 2. Sentiment  | emotion                               |
| 3. Sensory    | relating to sensation or sense organs |
| 4. Sensitive  | acutely perceptive                    |
| 5. Sentient   | conscious, capable of feeling         |
| 6. Sensibilia | things that can be felt or sensed     |
| 7. Sensitise  | make sensitive                        |

### XXV. Root = 'bel'.

Latin root means "war".

| Word           | Meaning         |
|----------------|-----------------|
| 1. Belligerent | warring         |
| 2. Bellicose   | warlike         |
| 3. Antebellum  | preceding a war |

### XXVI. Root = 'cogn', 'sci'.

Latin roots meaning "know able to understand".

| Word              | Meaning                     |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Recognize      | understand                  |
| 2. Science        | factual knowledge           |
| 3. Unconscionable | morally unacceptable        |
| 4. Conscious      | able to understand          |
| 5. Unconscious    | experiencing loss of senses |



### XXVII. Root = 'vor'.

Latin root "vor" means "eat".

| Word           | Meaning             |
|----------------|---------------------|
| 1. Carnivore   | flesh eater         |
| 2. Herbivore   | plant eater         |
| 3. Frugivore   | fruit eater         |
| 4. Omnivore    | who eats everything |
| 5. Nectarivore | nectar eater        |
| 6. Insectivore | insect eater        |
| 7. Graminivore | grass eater         |
| 8. Granivore   | grain eater         |

### XXVIII. Quasi.

The combining form "Quasi" of Latin origin, is used to combine words. It means 'resembling' 'or very similar to but not the real thing'. Some words of this form are—

| Word                  | Meaning                                                      |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Quasi-judicial     | semi-judicial powers resembling to those of judges or courts |
| 2. Quasi-dictatorship | a dictatorship hiding under another form                     |
| 3. Quasi-scientific   | supposedly scientific but not backed by fact                 |
| 4. Quasi-periodic     | something that is almost predictable                         |

### XXIX. Root = 'Alter'.

The root "alter" in Latin means "other".

| Word           | Meaning                               |
|----------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Altruism    | the philosophy practiced by altruists |
| 2. Alternate   | skip one and take the other           |
| 3. Alternative | the other choice                      |
| 4. Alteration  | change                                |
| 5. Altercation | a verbal dispute                      |
| 6. Alter ego   | other self                            |
| 7. Altruistic  | interested in the welfare of others   |

### XXX. Root = 'Ego'.

The root word "ego" is a Latin root, which means "I".

| Word          | Meaning                                                          |
|---------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Egolst     | excessively high opinion of oneself                              |
| 2. Egocentric | one who is excessively focused upon his own needs, desires, etc. |
| 3. Egomania   | morbidly, excessively wrapped up in oneself.                     |

### XXXI. Root = 'Verto'.

The root "verto" is a Latin verb which means "to turn".

| Word         | Meaning                                  |
|--------------|------------------------------------------|
| 1. Introvert | to turn your thoughts inwards            |
| 2. Extrovert | to turn your thoughts outward            |
| 3. Ambivert  | to turn your thoughts in both directions |

### MANIAS AND PHOBIAS

The Greek root "Phobia" means "fear" and the Greek root "mania" means a "compulsion" or "preoccupation for". Some of the manias and phobias as follows—

| Word<br>(mania)      | Meaning<br>(Preoccupation with) |
|----------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Philopatridomania | extreme home sickness           |
| 2. Mythomania        | lies                            |
| 3. Oinomania         | wine                            |
| 4. Gamo mania        | marriage                        |
| 5. Klepto mania      | stealing                        |
| 6. Megalomania       | self-greatness                  |
| 7. Gynecomania       | woman                           |
| 8. Zoo mania         | animals                         |
| 9. Xenomania         | foreigners                      |
| 10. Phagomania       | eating                          |
| 11. Pyromania        | fire                            |
| 12. Pluto mania      | wealth                          |

| Word<br>(Phobia) | Meaning<br>(Fear of) |
|------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Thermophobia  | heat                 |
| 2. Pedophobia    | children             |
| 3. Acrophobia    | heights              |

|                       |                             |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| 4. Chronophobia       | time                        |
| 5. Nyctophobia        | night                       |
| 6. Theophobia         | God                         |
| 7. Arachibutryphobia  | peanut butter               |
| 8. Demophobia         | people                      |
| 9. Entomophobia       | insects                     |
| 10. Egrophobia        | work                        |
| 11. Gerontophobia     | old people                  |
| 12. Necrophobia       | corpses                     |
| 13. Hematophobia      | blood                       |
| 14. Arachnophobia     | spiders                     |
| 15. Triskaidekaphobia | fear of the number thirteen |

We now move on to Prefixes and Suffixes.

## PREFIXES

Prefixes are fixed before a word or a root to convey a modified version of the word or the root.

Some important Greek and Latin prefixes with a set of illustrative words are as follows:—

### (1) Prefix = 'ante'.

Latin prefix which means "before".

| Word             | Meaning                                 |
|------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| 1. Antecedent    | preceding                               |
| 2. Antediluvian  | before the flood; ancient               |
| 3. Antenatal     | of care before birth (during pregnancy) |
| 4. Anterior      | to the front; before                    |
| 5. Ante-meridian | before noon                             |

### (2) Prefix = 'dia'.

Greek prefix which means "across".

| Word         | Meaning                                                                                       |
|--------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Diagonal  | connecting line                                                                               |
| 2. Diaspora  | the breaking up and scattering of a people; people settled far from their ancestral homelands |
| 3. Dialectic | art of arguing                                                                                |
| 4. Dialect   | local variety of language                                                                     |
| 5. Diameter  | straight line from side to side of figure                                                     |

### (3) Prefix = 'ultra'.

Latin prefix "ultra" means "beyond".

| Word            | Meaning                                      |
|-----------------|----------------------------------------------|
| 1. Ultramarine  | very deep in blue                            |
| 2. Ultra modern | very modern                                  |
| 3. Ultra violet | beyond violet; at the violet end of spectrum |
| 4. Ultra sonic  | sound waves beyond the range of human ear    |

### (4) Prefix = 'trans'.

Latin prefix which means "over, across".

| Word          | Meaning                        |
|---------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Transcend  | go beyond                      |
| 2. Transverse | eyeing across; at right angles |
| 3. Transgress | break (law)                    |
| 4. Transient  | fleeting, not permanent        |

### (5) Prefix = 'super'.

Latin prefix which means "over, beyond".

| Word             | Meaning                          |
|------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Superior      | of greater rank                  |
| 2. Supercilious  | displaying arrogant pride        |
| 3. Supernumerary | in excess of normal number       |
| 4. Supersede     | take the place of; set aside     |
| 5. Supervise     | oversee; direct; inspect         |
| 6. Superlative   | in/of highest degree or quantity |

### (6) Prefix = 'Epi'.

Greek prefix, which means "over, on, of".

| Word         | Meaning                                          |
|--------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Epiderm   | outer skin layer                                 |
| 2. Epiphany  | festival of the announcement of Christ's coming. |
| 3. Epigraph  | inscription                                      |
| 4. Epicentre | focus of earthquake                              |

### (7) Prefix = 'Hypo'.

Greek prefix, which means "under, below".

| Word          | Meaning        |
|---------------|----------------|
| 1. Hypocrisy  | false virtue   |
| 2. Hypodermic | below the skin |

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3. **Hypothesis** *suggested explanation of something*
4. **Hypogastric** *of or related to lower median region of the abdomen*
5. **Hypochondria** *morbid depression without reason about one's own health, extreme depression of mind or spirits often centered on imaginary physical ailments*

### (8) Prefix = 'Hyper'.

Greek prefix, which means "over/above/excessive/abnormally high".

| Word                       | Meaning                                                                |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. <b>Hyperactivity</b>    | <i>too much activity</i>                                               |
| 2. <b>Hyperesthesia</b>    | <i>excessive sensory feeling</i>                                       |
| 3. <b>Hyperbole</b>        | <i>person prone to exaggerated speaking</i>                            |
| 4. <b>Hyperkinesia</b>     | <i>excessive amount of spasms</i>                                      |
| 5. <b>Hyperventilation</b> | <i>excessive breathing</i>                                             |
| 6. <b>Hyperbaric</b>       | <i>greater than normal pressure</i>                                    |
| 7. <b>Hyperacid</b>        | <i>the condition of containing more than the normal amount of acid</i> |

### (9) Prefix = 'ab'.

Latin prefix, which means "from/away".

| Word                  | Meaning                          |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. <b>Absent</b>      | <i>not present</i>               |
| 2. <b>Abstemious</b>  | <i>sparing in food and drink</i> |
| 3. <b>Abstraction</b> | <i>preoccupation</i>             |
| 4. <b>Abnegate</b>    | <i>give up, renounce</i>         |
| 5. <b>Abolish</b>     | <i>do away with</i>              |
| 6. <b>Abrade</b>      | <i>scrape away</i>               |

### (10) Prefix = 'ad'.

Latin prefix, which means "to towards".

| Word                   | Meaning                                                          |
|------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. <b>Adhere</b>       | <i>stick to</i>                                                  |
| 2. <b>Adumbration</b>  | <i>to suggest or disclose partially, give a vague indication</i> |
| 3. <b>Ad hoc</b>       | <i>for a particular purpose only</i>                             |
| 4. <b>Ad infinitum</b> | <i>endlessly</i>                                                 |
| 5. <b>Ad interim</b>   | <i>for the mean time</i>                                         |
| 6. <b>Adjunct</b>      | <i>added, joined</i>                                             |

7. **Adjudge**

*decide, declare*

8. **Adlib**

*improvise and speak spontaneously*

9. **Adjourn**

*postpone temporarily to the point*

10. **Ad rem**

*according to the value*

11. **Ad valorem**

*turn the mind or attention towards*

12. **Advert**

*make impasse by adding*

13. **Adulterate**

*give outline of, indicate*

14. **Adumbrate**

### (11) Prefix = 'Ambi'.

Latin prefix, which means "both sides".

| Word                   | Meaning                                                 |
|------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. <b>Ambient</b>      | <i>on all sides</i>                                     |
| 2. <b>Ambiguity</b>    | <i>obscure</i>                                          |
| 3. <b>Ambivalent</b>   | <i>simultaneous existence of two different opinions</i> |
| 4. <b>Ambidextrous</b> | <i>able to use both sides</i>                           |

### (12) Prefix = 'Peri'.

Greek prefix, which means "around, about".

| Word                  | Meaning                                                  |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. <b>Peripatetic</b> | <i>walking around</i>                                    |
| 2. <b>Periphery</b>   | <i>circumference</i>                                     |
| 3. <b>Perimeter</b>   | <i>outer boundary</i>                                    |
| 4. <b>Perihelion</b>  | <i>point in orbit of planet or comet nearest to sun.</i> |

### (13) Prefix = 're'/'retro'.

Latin prefix, which means "back".

| Word                 | Meaning                           |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. <b>Return</b>     | <i>go back</i>                    |
| 2. <b>Retrospect</b> | <i>look back</i>                  |
| 3. <b>Retroflex</b>  | <i>curved backwards</i>           |
| 4. <b>Retrograde</b> | <i>going backwards, reverting</i> |
| 5. <b>Retard</b>     | <i>make slow</i>                  |
| 6. <b>Retort</b>     | <i>retaliate, reply</i>           |

### (14) Prefix = 'circum'.

Latin prefix, which means a "path" or "orbit".

| Word                  | Meaning                                |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------------|
| 1. <b>Circumpolar</b> | <i>circles around the polar region</i> |
| 2. <b>Circumsolar</b> | <i>circles around the Sun.</i>         |



3. **Circumspect** *circles around the fences*
4. **Circumlocation** *round about or evasive speech*

### (15) Prefix = 'a'/'an'.

Greek prefix, which means "without".

| Word                  | Meaning                          |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. <b>Anemia</b>      | <i>blood deficiency</i>          |
| 2. <b>Amoral</b>      | <i>not moral</i>                 |
| 3. <b>Anaesthetic</b> | <i>causing loss of sensation</i> |
| 4. <b>Achromatic</b>  | <i>without colour</i>            |
| 5. <b>Anachronism</b> | <i>mistake of time</i>           |

### (16) Prefix = 'anti'.

Greek prefix, which means "against".

| Word                  | Meaning                                                            |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. <b>Antidote</b>    | <i>remedy</i>                                                      |
| 2. <b>Antipathy</b>   | <i>dislike, aversion</i>                                           |
| 3. <b>Antipyretic</b> | <i>effective against fever</i>                                     |
| 4. <b>Antiseptic</b>  | <i>preventing infection</i>                                        |
| 5. <b>Antigen</b>     | <i>substance stimulating production of antibodies in the world</i> |

### (17) Prefix = 'counter', 'contra'.

Latin prefix, which means "against".

| Word                    | Meaning                        |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. <b>Counterfeiter</b> | <i>forgery</i>                 |
| 2. <b>Contrary</b>      | <i>opposite</i>                |
| 3. <b>Constrain</b>     | <i>force, compel</i>           |
| 4. <b>Contraband</b>    | <i>illegal, smuggled goods</i> |

### (18) Prefix = 'dys'.

Greek prefix, which means "bad".

| Word                    | Meaning                         |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. <b>Dysfunctional</b> | <i>badly functioning</i>        |
| 2. <b>Dyspepsia</b>     | <i>indigestion</i>              |
| 3. <b>Dyslexia</b>      | <i>impaired ability to read</i> |

### (19) Prefix = 'eu'.

Greek prefix, which means "good, well".

| Word              | Meaning               |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. <b>Euphony</b> | <i>sweet sounding</i> |

2. **Eulogy** *speech or writing in praise of*
3. **Euphoria** *sense of well being or elation*

### (20) Prefix = 'inter'.

Latin prefix, which means "between".

| Word                   | Meaning               |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. <b>Interloper</b>   | <i>intruder</i>       |
| 2. <b>Interlude</b>    | <i>interval</i>       |
| 3. <b>Intermediate</b> | <i>coming between</i> |

### (21) Prefix = 'meta'.

Greek prefix, means "besides/ with".

| Word                   | Meaning              |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. <b>Metamorphose</b> | <i>transform</i>     |
| 2. <b>Metathesis</b>   | <i>transposition</i> |
| 3. <b>Metaphorical</b> | <i>figurative</i>    |

### (22) Prefix = 'Sym/syn'.

Greek prefix, which means "together".

| Word                  | Meaning                                   |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| 1. <b>Synergy</b>     | <i>unified action</i>                     |
| 2. <b>Symmetrical</b> | <i>balanced</i>                           |
| 3. <b>Synchronise</b> | <i>happen at the same time</i>            |
| 4. <b>Symbiotic</b>   | <i>living together for mutual benefit</i> |
| 5. <b>Symphony</b>    | <i>harmony of sounds</i>                  |

### (23) Prefix = 'be'.

Germanic prefix, which means "around/on".

| Word                | Meaning                         |
|---------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. <b>Beside</b>    | <i>by side of</i>               |
| 2. <b>Bespatter</b> | <i>to splash with</i>           |
| 3. <b>Besiege</b>   | <i>to surround on all sides</i> |

### (24) Prefix = 'for'.

Germanic prefix, which means "apart/away".

| Word              | Meaning                    |
|-------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. <b>Forbid</b>  | <i>prohibit</i>            |
| 2. <b>Forbear</b> | <i>cease, refrain</i>      |
| 3. <b>Forlorn</b> | <i>forsaken, desperate</i> |

**(25) Prefix = 'mis'.**

Germanic prefix, means "bad/wrong".

| Word        | Meaning               |
|-------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Mistake  | error                 |
| 2. Misnomer | wrong name            |
| 3. Mishap   | minor accident        |
| 4. Misfit   | not a suitable person |

**(26) Prefix = 'fore'.**

Germanic prefix, which means "before"

| Word         | Meaning                        |
|--------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Foresee   | indication in advance, predict |
| 2. Forestall | prevent                        |

**SUFFIXES**

Suffixes are added to the end of a word or a root and can sometimes lead to a difference in the meaning of the original word or root. Some of the common suffixes of Greek, Latin and German origin are discussed below:

**A. Latin Suffixes**

**(1) Suffix = 'age'.**

Latin suffix, which means "place/collection".

| Word         | Meaning                          |
|--------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Personage | minister's house                 |
| 2. Steerage  | cheapest accommodation on a ship |
| 3. Peerage   | bodies or group of peers         |

**(2) Suffix = 'arium'/'ary'.**

Latin Suffix, which means "place".

| Word          | Meaning                      |
|---------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Aquarium   | place for keeping live fish  |
| 2. Library    | place for storing books      |
| 3. Sanatorium | hospital for chronically ill |
| 4. Seminary   | college for priests          |
| 5. Apiary     | place where bees are kept    |

**Some Important Words Derived from Common Suffixes:-**

**(1) Suffix = 'ist'.**

It is a Greek Suffix, which denotes people who perform certain actions, are experts in certain fields or are adherents to specific beliefs.

| Word              | Specialist in   |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Verbalist      | words           |
| 2. Purist         | traditions      |
| 3. Geneticist     | heredity        |
| 4. Arborist       | Tree care       |
| 5. Agronomist     | crop production |
| 6. Entomologist   | insects         |
| 7. Numismatist    | coins           |
| 8. Philatelist    | stamps          |
| 9. Toxicologist   | poison          |
| 10. Semanticist   | word meanings   |
| 11. Meteorologist | weather         |

**(2) Suffix = 'Sis'.**

It is a Greek Suffix, which means a "state of"/"process".

| Word          | Meaning                                 |
|---------------|-----------------------------------------|
| 1. Synthesis  | formation of whole from different parts |
| 2. Osmosis    | diffusion of fluids through a membrane  |
| 3. Prognosis  | forecasted recovery from illness        |
| 4. Necrosis   | death of live tissue                    |
| 5. Dialysis   | separation of substances in a solution  |
| 6. Hypnosis   | physically induced sleeplike condition  |
| 7. Metastasis | spread of disease in the body           |

**(3) Suffix = 'ancy'.**

Latin Suffix, which means "state, action or process", and is frequently used in words which describe ways to foretell the future.

| Word             | Meaning                                     |
|------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| 1. Bibliomancy   | forecasting future through biblical books   |
| 2. Anthropomancy | forecasting through studying human entrails |

3. **Cubomancy** forecasting through use of dice
4. **Osteomancy** forecasting through observing bones.
5. **Cheirumancy** forecasting by reading the palms.
6. **Graphomancy** forecasting through observing handwriting

#### (4) Suffix = 'oid'.

Greek Suffix, which means "like/ shape of".

| Word                 | Meaning    |
|----------------------|------------|
| 1. <b>Hypsiloid</b>  | letter 'v' |
| 2. <b>Xiphoid</b>    | sword      |
| 3. <b>Scaphoid</b>   | boat       |
| 4. <b>Sigmoid</b>    | letter 'c' |
| 5. <b>Schizoid</b>   | split      |
| 6. <b>Cuboid</b>     | cube       |
| 7. <b>Actinoid</b>   | star       |
| 8. <b>Belonoid</b>   | needle     |
| 9. <b>Pemphigoid</b> | bubble     |
| 10. <b>Ovoid</b>     | egg        |
| 11. <b>Helicoid</b>  | screw      |
| 12. <b>Beloid</b>    | arrow      |

#### (5) Suffix = 'ent'.

Latin Suffix, which means "being/manifesting/possessing".

| Word                   | Meaning               |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. <b>Truculent</b>    | aggression            |
| 2. <b>Imminent</b>     | pending danger        |
| 3. <b>Flocculent</b>   | woolliness            |
| 4. <b>Innocent</b>     | purity                |
| 5. <b>Indigent</b>     | need/poverty          |
| 6. <b>Intransigent</b> | stubbornness          |
| 7. <b>Diligent</b>     | earnestness           |
| 8. <b>Effulgent</b>    | radiance              |
| 9. <b>Plangent</b>     | expressive sound      |
| 10. <b>Nocent</b>      | harm                  |
| 11. <b>Continent</b>   | restraint             |
| 12. <b>Ambivalent</b>  | uncertainty           |
| 13. <b>Prudent</b>     | Wisdom/ judiciousness |

#### B. Germanic Suffixes

Some important Germanic suffixes illustrated with examples, are as follows:—

#### (1) Suffix = 'dom'.

Germanic Suffix, which means "state/quality".

| Word                  | Meaning                  |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. <b>Freedom</b>     | liberty                  |
| 2. <b>Kingdom</b>     | state ruled by king      |
| 3. <b>Officialdom</b> | state ruled by officials |
| 4. <b>Dukedom</b>     | state ruled by duke      |

#### (2) Suffix = 'ard'.

Germanic Suffix, which means "one who/characteristic of".

| Word              | Meaning          |
|-------------------|------------------|
| 1. <b>Dullard</b> | stupid person    |
| 2. <b>Pollard</b> | horn less animal |

#### (3) Suffix = 'hood'.

Germanic Suffix, which means "state/quality".

| Word                  | Meaning                |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 1. <b>Brotherhood</b> | alliance               |
| 2. <b>Widowhood</b>   | state of being a widow |

#### (4) Suffix = 'ling'.

Germanic Suffix, which means "having the characteristic of/minor".

| Word                 | Meaning         |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| 1. <b>Yearling</b>   | year old animal |
| 2. <b>Fingerling</b> | baby fish       |

#### (5) Suffix = 'ness'.

Germanic Suffix, which means "condition/state".

| Word                   | Meaning                   |
|------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. <b>Goodness</b>     | decency                   |
| 2. <b>Populousness</b> | state of large population |
| 3. <b>Business</b>     | occupation                |
| 4. <b>Wickedness</b>   | being bad                 |

#### (6) Suffix = 'ship'.

Germanic Suffix, which means "state /rank/skill".

| Word                    | Meaning                  |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. <b>Penmanship</b>    | art of writing           |
| 2. <b>Craftsmanship</b> | art of making crafts     |
| 3. <b>Township</b>      | unit of local government |
| 4. <b>Musicianship</b>  | skill of a musician      |



**(7) Suffix = 'ful'.**

Germanic Suffix, which means "full of/providing".

| Word                | Meaning                   |
|---------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. <b>Healthful</b> | <i>promoting health</i>   |
| 2. <b>Plentiful</b> | <i>having plenty</i>      |
| 3. <b>Earful</b>    | <i>lot of information</i> |

**(8) Suffix = 'fold'.**

Germanic Suffix, which means "increased by".

| Word               | Meaning                  |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. <b>Tenfold</b>  | <i>multiplied by ten</i> |
| 2. <b>Manifold</b> | <i>many times</i>        |

**(9) Suffix = 'ish'.**

Germanic Suffix, which means "somewhat like".

| Word               | Meaning                  |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. <b>Childish</b> | <i>child like</i>        |
| 2. <b>Churlish</b> | <i>ill-bred, rustic</i>  |
| 3. <b>Impish</b>   | <i>imp-like, naughty</i> |

**(10) Suffix = 'wise'.**

Germanic Suffix, which means "in the manner of/with regard to".

| Word                  | Meaning                        |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. <b>Dollarwise</b>  | <i>with respect to dollars</i> |
| 2. <b>Weatherwise</b> | <i>with regard to weather</i>  |
| 3. <b>Moneywise</b>   | <i>with regard to money</i>    |
| 4. <b>Healthwise</b>  | <i>with respect to health</i>  |

Let us now move on to words with foreign origins.

**ENGLISH WORDS OF FOREIGN ORIGIN**

In addition to the study of word components and roots, the diversity and complexity of English can be seen by the thousands of borrowed and intended words used today. Some of the important words borrowed from different languages are listed in this chapter.

**German Words**

Some important English words, which have been taken from German, are as follows:

| Word                   | Meaning                                                                    |
|------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. <b>Pumpernickel</b> | <i>a dark, dense, sour bread.</i>                                          |
| 2. <b>Kindergarten</b> | <i>a school or class for young children.</i>                               |
| 3. <b>Hoodlum</b>      | <i>a petty criminal</i>                                                    |
| 4. <b>Delicatessen</b> | <i>prepared food sold in a shop serving</i>                                |
| 5. <b>Loafers</b>      | <i>casual leather slip-on shoe; imported or unusual foods; such a shop</i> |
| 6. <b>Glitch</b>       | <i>minor hitch, lazy person</i>                                            |
| 7. <b>Glisten</b>      | <i>to shine</i>                                                            |

**Dutch Words**

Some important English words, which have been taken from Dutch are as follows:

| Word                  | Meaning                                            |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| 1. <b>Landscape</b>   | <i>scenery</i>                                     |
| 2. <b>Holster</b>     | <i>leather case for firearm</i>                    |
| 3. <b>Sleigh</b>      | <i>sledge</i>                                      |
| 4. <b>Caboose</b>     | <i>rail guard's van</i>                            |
| 5. <b>Coleslaw</b>    | <i>salad made with mayonnaise dressing.</i>        |
| 6. <b>Boss</b>        | <i>senior or person in charge of</i>               |
| 7. <b>Cookie</b>      | <i>biscuit</i>                                     |
| 8. <b>Freight</b>     | <i>commercial transport esp. rail ways or ship</i> |
| 9. <b>Snoop</b>       | <i>meddle, spy on</i>                              |
| 10. <b>Skipper</b>    | <i>captain of ship or team</i>                     |
| 11. <b>Bumpkin</b>    | <i>rustic</i>                                      |
| 12. <b>Bed spread</b> | <i>bed cover, decorative covering on bed</i>       |

**Japanese Words**

Some important English words, which have been taken from Japanese are as follows:

| Word              | Meaning                                            |
|-------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| 1. <b>Tsunami</b> | <i>large destructive ocean wave</i>                |
| 2. <b>Hibachi</b> | <i>a portable barbeque</i>                         |
| 3. <b>Tycoon</b>  | <i>powerful and wealthy businessman</i>            |
| 4. <b>Bonsai</b>  | <i>art of growing miniature trees</i>              |
| 5. <b>Bonzai</b>  | <i>a patriotic battle cry or shout</i>             |
| 6. <b>Origami</b> | <i>Japanese art of paper folding</i>               |
| 7. <b>Samurai</b> | <i>former Japanese warrior class</i>               |
| 8. <b>Karate</b>  | <i>traditional Japanese form of unarmed combat</i> |

9. **Shogun** any hereditary military commands in feudal Japan
10. **Kimono** traditional Japanese garment

### African Languages

Some important English words, which have been taken from African languages are as follows:

| Word                 | Meaning                             |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. <b>Banana</b>     | tropical plant and its fruit        |
| 2. <b>Daishiki</b>   | clothes                             |
| 3. <b>Chimpanzee</b> | an ape                              |
| 4. <b>Samba</b>      | a Brazilian dance of African origin |
| 5. <b>Yam</b>        | a root vegetable                    |
| 6. <b>Okra</b>       | lady finger plant, a vegetable      |
| 7. <b>Tse-tse</b>    | two-winged biting fly               |

### Spanish Words

Some important English words, which have been taken from Spanish are as follows:

| Word                    | Meaning                                                                           |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. <b>Bolero</b>        | Spanish dance                                                                     |
| 2. <b>Fiesta</b>        | religious festival or celebration                                                 |
| 3. <b>Primero</b>       | card game played in 16 <sup>th</sup> and 17 <sup>th</sup> century                 |
| 4. <b>Tango</b>         | Latin-American or Spanish dance                                                   |
| 5. <b>Ombre</b>         | card game popular in 18 <sup>th</sup> century                                     |
| 6. <b>Domino</b>        | board game                                                                        |
| 7. <b>Quadrille</b>     | card game for four players, a French dance                                        |
| 8. <b>Spade</b>         | digging tool                                                                      |
| 9. <b>Monte</b>         | betting game played with cards                                                    |
| 10. <b>Castanets</b>    | wooden or plastic device that makes a clicking sound when pressed by palm of hand |
| 11. <b>Embargo</b>      | restricting commerce                                                              |
| 12. <b>Pronto</b>       | fast                                                                              |
| 13. <b>Galleon</b>      | large sailing vessel                                                              |
| 14. <b>Grenade</b>      | small bomb                                                                        |
| 15. <b>Guerrilla</b>    | independent soldiers                                                              |
| 16. <b>Flotilla</b>     | group of ships                                                                    |
| 17. <b>Garrote</b>      | strangulation                                                                     |
| 18. <b>Junta</b>        | ruling group                                                                      |
| 19. <b>Intransigent</b> | inflexible                                                                        |
| 20. <b>Machete</b>      | large, heavy knife                                                                |
| 21. <b>Parade</b>       | large public procession                                                           |
| 22. <b>Anchor</b>       | small savoury fish                                                                |
| 23. <b>Sherry</b>       | fortified wine                                                                    |
| 24. <b>Tortilla</b>     | thin Mexican pan cake or chips                                                    |

|                         |                                              |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| 25. <b>Marinade</b>     | seasoned, flavoured liquid used to soak meat |
| 26. <b>Sarsaparilla</b> | drink made from root of plant                |
| 27. <b>Bravado</b>      | bluster                                      |
| 28. <b>Barbecue</b>     | an open grill or fire place                  |
| 29. <b>Sassafras</b>    | aromatic tree whose bark has medicinal value |
| 30. <b>Adobe</b>        | sun dried brick                              |
| 31. <b>Canyon</b>       | deep valley with steep sides                 |
| 32. <b>Arroyo</b>       | gulch                                        |
| 33. <b>Toreador</b>     | bull fighter                                 |
| 34. <b>Senorita</b>     | Miss.                                        |
| 35. <b>Senora</b>       | Mrs.                                         |
| 36. <b>Senor</b>        | Mr.                                          |
| 37. <b>Matador</b>      | Bull fighter                                 |
| 38. <b>Renegade</b>     | deserter                                     |
| 39. <b>Don</b>          | lord or gentleman                            |
| 40. <b>Dona</b>         | title of respect for a married woman         |
| 41. <b>Desperado</b>    | bold, reckless criminal                      |
| 42. <b>Albino</b>       | person deficient in pigmentation             |
| 43. <b>Patio</b>        | courtyard                                    |
| 44. <b>Pueblo</b>       | adobe house                                  |
| 45. <b>Hacienda</b>     | landed estate                                |
| 46. <b>Sierra</b>       | chain of hills or mountains                  |
| 47. <b>Vega</b>         | grassy plain                                 |
| 48. <b>Plaza</b>        | open space or square; complex of shops       |
| 49. <b>Esplanade</b>    | level space                                  |
| 50. <b>El Dorado</b>    | fictitious country rich in gold              |
| 51. <b>Rodeo</b>        | showing of cowboy skills                     |
| 52. <b>Lariat</b>       | long, noosed rope for catching horses        |
| 53. <b>Bronco</b>       | untamed horse                                |
| 54. <b>Lasso</b>        | long, noosed rope, lariat                    |
| 55. <b>Gaacho</b>       | cowboy of South American Pampas.             |

### Celtic Words

Some important English words, which have been taken from Celtic are as follows:

| Word               | Meaning                                  |
|--------------------|------------------------------------------|
| 1. <b>Banshee</b>  | Irish fairy with a wail portending death |
| 2. <b>Plaid</b>    | long cloak or shawl                      |
| 3. <b>Shamrock</b> | lover leaf, esp. an Irish emblem         |
| 4. <b>Vassal</b>   | dependant                                |
| 5. <b>Gravel</b>   | small stones; coarse sand                |
| 6. <b>Truant</b>   | one absent without a leave               |
| 7. <b>Galore</b>   | in plenty                                |

|               |                                         |
|---------------|-----------------------------------------|
| 8. Colleen    | young Irish girl                        |
| 9. Blarney    | flattering talk                         |
| 10. Bog       | soft, wet ground                        |
| 11. Brogue    | stout shoe; Irish accent                |
| 12. Lawn      | stretch of grass in garden; fine linen  |
| 13. Crag      | steep, rugged rock                      |
| 14. Quay      | dock                                    |
| 15. Loch      | lake                                    |
| 16. Gull      | aquatic bird                            |
| 17. Javelin   | light spear                             |
| 18. Tory      | member of conservative party in England |
| 19. Clan      | group of families                       |
| 20. Glengarry | a small brimless hat                    |

### Arabic Words

Some important English words, which have been taken from Arabic are as follows:

| Word        | Meaning                                          |
|-------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Camphor  | strong smelling ketone                           |
| 2. Alchemy  | magic, art of converting metal into gold         |
| 3. Garble   | mix-up                                           |
| 4. Henna    | dye                                              |
| 5. Tarragon | spice                                            |
| 6. Saffron  | orange/ yellow spice                             |
| 7. Lute     | stringed instrument                              |
| 8. Bedouin  | member of nomadic Arab race                      |
| 9. Fakir    | member of Islamic religious order, ascetic       |
| 10. Sequin  | small ornamental stars to be stitched on clothes |
| 11. Sherbet | flavoured drink                                  |
| 12. Sultan  | ruler of Muslim kingdom                          |
| 13. Zenith  | highest point                                    |
| 14. Nadir   | lowest point                                     |
| 15. Muezzin | crier, who summons Muslims to prayer             |
| 16. Minaret | tall, slender tower of Mosque                    |
| 17. Almanac | yearly calendar                                  |
| 18. Amber   | yellowish, translucent fossil resin              |
| 19. Alcove  | recess                                           |
| 20. Algebra | method of calculating                            |
| 21. Carafe  | decanter                                         |
| 22. Harem   | women's dwelling, one man's wives                |
| 23. Carat   | small weight used to measure gold, etc.          |
| 24. Cipher  | secret writing                                   |

|             |                                             |
|-------------|---------------------------------------------|
| 25. Clivet  | strong, musky perfume                       |
| 26. Emlr    | an independent Islamic ruler                |
| 27. Cotton  | thread or cloth made from this plant's seed |
| 28. Elixir  | medicine or remedy, used by alchemists      |
| 29. Monsoon | heavy rainfall season, rainy season         |
| 30. Ream    | large bundles of paper                      |

### Indian Words

Some important English words, which have been taken from India are as follows:

| Word        | Meaning                                         |
|-------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Yoga     | Hindu system of physical and mental exercise    |
| 2. Tantra   | religious writing                               |
| 3. Tonga    | horse-drawn carriage                            |
| 4. Wallah   | somebody in-charge of a certain thing           |
| 5. Dhoti    | Indian male unstitched garment wrapped on waist |
| 6. Avatar   | incarnation                                     |
| 7. Gunny    | jute bag, sack                                  |
| 8. Nawab    | Indian nobleman in Mughal Empire                |
| 9. Sahib    | respectful form of address for men              |
| 10. Pundit  | Expert, authority, priest                       |
| 11. Guru    | teacher, wise leader                            |
| 12. Sandal  | type of wood                                    |
| 13. Chutney | sweet and sour sauce                            |
| 14. Pachisi | board game                                      |
| 15. Nirvana | heaven, freedom                                 |
| 16. Myna    | bird                                            |
| 17. Karma   | fate                                            |
| 18. Dharma  | code of conduct of Hindus                       |
| 19. Ginger  | spice                                           |
| 20. Stupa   | dome-shaped structure where ashes are kept      |

### French Words

Some important English words, which have been taken from French are as follows:

| Word         | Meaning                  |
|--------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Bouillon  | Thin soup                |
| 2. Praline   | nut candy                |
| 3. Potage    | thick soup               |
| 4. Absinthe  | green, flavoured liqueur |
| 5. Cuisine   | style of cooking         |
| 6. Casserole | covered baking dish      |



|                    |                                         |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| 7. Nougat          | type of candy                           |
| 8. Croquette       | patty of cooked meat or fish            |
| 9. Flambe          | pour alcoholic drink on food and ignite |
| 10. Liqueur        | flavoured alcoholic liquid              |
| 11. Tureen         | serving dish for soup                   |
| 12. Gourmet        | connoisseur of wine, food, etc.         |
| 13. Gourmand       | glutton                                 |
| 14. Blancmange     | jelly-like dessert made with milk       |
| 15. Serviette      | table-napkin                            |
| 16. Burlesque      | ludicrous parody                        |
| 17. Marquee        | Sign used in a theater                  |
| 18. Roulette       | game of chance                          |
| 19. Pirouette      | to whirl on one foot                    |
| 20. Silhouette     | outline of object against light         |
| 21. Nuance         | delicate shade of differences           |
| 22. Precis         | abstract, summary                       |
| 23. Vignette       | design on a book page                   |
| 24. Critique       | critical essay                          |
| 25. Coterie        | social clique, exclusive group          |
| 26. Connoisseur    | critical expert of matters of art       |
| 27. Belles-letters | aesthetic writings                      |
| 28. Memories       | reward of events, autobiography         |
| 29. Bon mot        | clever saying                           |
| 30. Repartee       | witty talk                              |
| 31. rapport        | harmony                                 |
| 32. Idee fixe      | obsession                               |
| 33. Bourgeois      | middle class                            |
| 34. Charlatan      | faker, quack                            |
| 35. Faux pas       | social blunder                          |
| 36. Genteel        | element refined                         |
| 37. Largesse       | generosity                              |
| 38. Gauche         | socially inept                          |
| 39. Nonchalance    | indifferent                             |
| 40. Raconteur      | expert storyteller                      |
| 41. Avant-garde    | in advance                              |
| 42. Milieu         | environment                             |
| 43. Tete-a-tete    | private conversation                    |
| 44. Vis-à-vis      | regarding, in relation to               |
| 45. Outre          | bizarre                                 |
| 46. Passe          | out of date                             |
| 47. Liaison        | connection                              |
| 48. Rendezvous     | meeting place, appointment              |
| 49. Joie-de vivre  | enjoyment of life                       |
| 50. Eclat          | success                                 |
| 51. Savoir         | fair                                    |
| 52. Boulevard      | broad avenue in a city                  |
| 53. Salon          | a shop of fashion, drawing room         |
| 54. Chateau        | castle                                  |
| 55. Façade         | front of a building                     |
| 56. Chaise         | light, open carriage                    |

|                     |                                               |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| 57. Bureau          | office desk                                   |
| 58. Concierge       | doorman                                       |
| 59. Melee           | a mixed fight or crowd                        |
| 60. Terrain         | area of ground                                |
| 61. Saboteur        | damage closer (esp. secretly)                 |
| 62. Aide-de-camp    | military officer personaly assisting superior |
| 63. Chausseur       | driver                                        |
| 64. Espionage       | use of spice                                  |
| 65. Ricochet        | rebound (of bullet)                           |
| 66. Envoy           | official representative                       |
| 67. Bivouac         | temporary camp of soldiers                    |
| 68. Esprit de corps | feelings of pride in belonging to a group     |
| 69. Despot          | a tyrant or absolute ruler                    |
| 70. Commandant      | officer in command                            |

## Italian Words

Some important English words, which have been taken from Italian are as follows:

| Word           | Meaning                                       |
|----------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| 1. Prima donna | principle female singer in an opera           |
| 2. Soprano     | highest singing voice                         |
| 3. Crescendo   | gradual increase in volume or force           |
| 4. Bravo       | well done                                     |
| 5. Quartet     | group of four musicians                       |
| 6. Maestro     | famous conductor                              |
| 7. Mandolin    | stringed musical instrument                   |
| 8. Finale      | the last piece                                |
| 9. Duet        | a composition for two singers                 |
| 10. Forte      | to play loudly                                |
| 11. Libretts   | text of long musical piece                    |
| 12. Allegro    | at a quick and lively tempo; quickly          |
| 13. Presto     | to be played very fast                        |
| 14. Falsetto   | high pitched singing method                   |
| 15. Virtuoso   | exceptional performer                         |
| 16. Diva       | women opera singer, famous lady               |
| 17. Dilettante | dabbler in art or knowledge                   |
| 18. Bravura    | great skill                                   |
| 19. Tempo      | music's speed                                 |
| 20. Opera      | musical drama                                 |
| 21. Piccolo    | a very small flute-like musical instrument    |
| 22. Coda       | final section of musical piece                |
| 23. Concerto   | musical composition for soloist and orchestra |

|                 |                                                         |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| 24. Madrigal    | a song with parts                                       |
| 25. Balcony     | a gallery                                               |
| 26. Villa       | country, estate                                         |
| 27. Arcade      | arched passageway, shops                                |
| 28. Catacomb    | tomb                                                    |
| 29. mezzanine   | lowest balcony                                          |
| 30. Portico     | porch                                                   |
| 31. Plozza      | plaza                                                   |
| 32. Grotto      | cave                                                    |
| 33. Corridor    | hallway                                                 |
| 34. Pedestal    | a base or support                                       |
| 35. Alfresco    | in the open air                                         |
| 36. Lotto       | game of chance                                          |
| 37. Tarot       | fortune telling cards                                   |
| 38. Valise      | small piece of luggage                                  |
| 39. Garb        | dress                                                   |
| 40. Gondola     | venetian canal boat                                     |
| 41. Lagoon      | area which is sand banked, saltwater lake               |
| 42. Gala        | festive occasion, show                                  |
| 43. Casino      | place for gambling                                      |
| 44. Cascade     | waterfall, anything like a waterfall                    |
| 45. Gazette     | official newspaper for announcements                    |
| 46. Incognito   | assumed identity                                        |
| 47. Parasol     | sunshade, umbrella                                      |
| 48. Regatta     | meeting for yacht or boat races                         |
| 49. Battalion   | an army group                                           |
| 50. Fracas      | uproar                                                  |
| 51. Citadel     | fortress                                                |
| 52. Bandit      | robber                                                  |
| 53. Salvo       | a round of artillery                                    |
| 54. Vendetta    | a private feud                                          |
| 55. Stiletto    | a small dagger with a thin blade, a heel of female shoe |
| 56. Cartel      | alliance of political parties or business houses        |
| 57. Tirade      | long angry speech                                       |
| 58. Partisan    | prejudiced, adherent of a party, biased                 |
| 59. Cavalcade   | procession of riders, fleet of cars                     |
| 60. Panache     | dashing style                                           |
| 61. Manifesto   | declaration of policy by a political party              |
| 62. Squadron    | an army, navy or air force unit                         |
| 63. Ducat       | a gold coin                                             |
| 64. Mercantile  | trade                                                   |
| 65. Parmesan    | cheese                                                  |
| 66. Contra band | smuggled goods                                          |
| 67. Porcelain   | fine china, earthenware                                 |

|              |                                              |
|--------------|----------------------------------------------|
| 68. Frigate  | old warship, corresponding to modern cruiser |
| 69. Skiff    | small flat-bottomed boat                     |
| 70. Milliner | maker or dealer in women's hat               |
| 71. Settee   | comfortable seat for two people              |
| 72. Bankrupt | financially insolvent                        |

## Yiddish Words

Some important English words, which have been taken from Yiddish are as follows:

| Word            | Meaning                                                |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Schnapps     | brandy, alcoholic drink                                |
| 2. Challah      | soft egg bread                                         |
| 3. Bagel        | chewy roll with a hole in the middle                   |
| 4. Matzoth      | unleavened bread                                       |
| 5. Nosh         | food, eat                                              |
| 6. Kosher       | permitted, clean, good (as of food)                    |
| 7. Yenta        | gossip                                                 |
| 8. Boychik      | little boy                                             |
| 9. Shmo         | butt of a joke                                         |
| 10. Nudnick     | bore                                                   |
| 11. noodge      | nag                                                    |
| 12. Shiksa      | non-jewish woman                                       |
| 13. Maven       | expert                                                 |
| 14. Klutz       | clumsy person                                          |
| 15. Chai        | life                                                   |
| 16. Broche      | blessing                                               |
| 17. Mazeltov    | congratulations                                        |
| 18. Gesundneit  | Good health                                            |
| 19. Chutzpah    | boldness, self confidence                              |
| 20. Bummer      | annoying thing                                         |
| 21. Kvetch      | to grumble or complain                                 |
| 22. Kibitzer    | one who interferes                                     |
| 23. Golem       | creature of clay brought to life by magic as in legend |
| 24. Naches      | proud pleasure                                         |
| 25. Mitzva      | a good deed                                            |
| 26. Kine-abhora | Magical phrase to ward off evil                        |
| 27. Fen         | expression of disgust                                  |
| 28. Boo-boo     | mistake                                                |
| 29. plotz       | explode                                                |
| 30. Gehenna     | hell                                                   |
| 31. Mish-mosh   | confusion                                              |
| 32. Bupkes      | nothing                                                |
| 33. Mishegoss   | nonsense                                               |
| 34. Phooey!     | expression of disgust, contempt                        |