



VOCABULARY RESOURCE SERIES

UNIT 9

Root Words, Prefixes & Suffixes

Word-building techniques to infer meanings and expand vocabulary systematically.

From the book

MASTERING COMPETITIVE ENGLISH VOCABULARY

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ROOT WORDS PREFIXES & SUFFIXES

➤ Unlocking the Structure of Words

Vocabulary is not merely about memorizing thousands of words; it is about understanding how words are formed. Root Words, Prefixes and Suffixes are the building blocks of the English language. Mastering them enables learners to decode unfamiliar words, expand vocabulary rapidly and develop a deeper understanding of word meanings.

For example:

- **Bio** = Life → *Biology, Biography, Biodegradable*
- **Un-** = Not → *Unhappy, Uncertain, Unfair*
- **-able** = Capable of → *Readable, Comfortable, Predictable*

In competitive examinations, questions based on Root Words, Prefixes, and Suffixes test vocabulary, word formation, contextual understanding, and analytical ability. Knowledge of word origins not only helps in direct vocabulary questions but also strengthens Reading Comprehension, Cloze Tests and Sentence Improvement.

➤ Types of Questions Based on Word Formation

- **Root-Based Vocabulary:** Understanding the meaning of words through common Latin and Greek roots.
- **Prefix-Based Words:** Identifying how prefixes alter the meaning of a word.
- **Suffix-Based Words:** Recognizing changes in meaning and parts of speech through suffixes.
- **Word Analysis Questions:** Inferring the meaning of unfamiliar words from their structure.
- **Vocabulary Expansion Questions:** Forming related words using roots, prefixes, and suffixes.

➤ Why Learn Root Words, Prefixes & Suffixes?

- ✓ Decode the meanings of unfamiliar words.
- ✓ Learn hundreds of words from a single root.
- ✓ Improve vocabulary retention and recall.
- ✓ Strengthen reading comprehension and language skills.
- ✓ Enhance performance in competitive examinations.
- ✓ Develop confidence in understanding advanced vocabulary.

"Learn a word and you know its meaning; learn a root and you unlock hundreds of words."

I Root Words , Prefixes & Suffixes I

S.No.	Root Word	Meaning (Hindi)	Example Words
1	BIO	Life (जीवन)	Biology, Biography, Biodegradable, Antibiotic
2	CHRON	Time (समय)	Chronicle, Chronology, Chronic, Synchronize
3	PED	Foot / Child (पैर / बच्चा)	Pedestrian, Pedal, Pedicure, Pediatrics
4	GRAPH	Write / Draw (लिखना)	Autograph, Paragraph, Telegraph, Biography
5	LOGY	Study (अध्ययन)	Biology, Zoology, Psychology, Geology
6	SCOPE	See / Watch (देखना)	Microscope, Telescope, Horoscope, Periscope
7	PHON	Sound / Voice (ध्वनि)	Telephone, Microphone, Symphony, Phonetics
8	AQUA	Water (जल)	Aquarium, Aquatic, Aqueduct, Aqua
9	TERR	Earth / Land (भूमि)	Territory, Terrain, Terrestrial, Mediterranean
10	CRED	Believe / Trust (विश्वास)	Credible, Credit, Credentials, Incredible
11	AUD	Hear (सुनना)	Audience, Audible, Audio, Auditorium
12	DICT	Speak / Say (कहना)	Dictionary, Predict, Verdict, Dictator
13	PORT	Carry (लेजाना)	Transport, Portable, Import, Export
14	VIS / VID	See (देखना)	Visible, Vision, Video, Revise
15	MANU	Hand (हाथ)	Manual, Manufacture, Manuscript, Manipulate
16	LUC	Light (प्रकाश)	Lucid, Illuminate, Translucent, Lucifer
17	FAC / FACT	Make / Do (करना)	Factory, Manufacture, Benefactor, Artifact
18	JECT	Throw (फेंकना)	Reject, Inject, Project, Eject
19	SCRIB / SCRIPT	Write (लिखना)	Describe, Manuscript, Prescription, Scripture
20	AUTO	Self (स्वयं)	Autograph, Automobile, Autobiography, Automatic
21	THERM	Heat (ऊष्मा)	Thermometer, Thermal, Thermodynamics,
22	MICRO	Small (सूक्ष्म)	Microscope, Microbiology, Microchip, Microorganism
23	MACRO	Large (विशाल)	Macroeconomics, Macrostructure, Macrocism,
24	METER / METR	Measure (माप)	Thermometer, Speedometer, Geometry, Diameter
25	ASTRO	Star (तारा)	Astronomy, Astronaut, Astrophysics, Astrology
26	GEO	Earth (पृथ्वी)	Geography, Geology, Geometry, Geothermal
27	BENE	Good / Well (अच्छा)	Benefit, Benevolent, Beneficial, Benediction
28	MAL	Bad / Evil (बुरा)	Malfunction, Malicious, Malaria, Malnutrition
29	TELE	Distance / Far (दूर)	Telephone, Television, Telegraph, Telepathy
30	DEM	People (जनता)	Democracy, Demography, Epidemic, Demolition
31	PATH	Feeling / Disease (भावना / रोग)	Sympathy, Empathy, Pathology, Apathy
32	PHOB	Fear (भय)	Phobia, Hydrophobia, Claustrophobia, Xenophobia
33	PHIL	Love (प्रेम)	Philosophy, Bibliophile, Philanthropy, Anglophile
34	CORP	Body (शरीर)	Corporation, Corpse, Corporate, Corpuscle
35	MORT	Death (मृत्यु)	Mortal, Mortuary, Immortal, Mortgage
36	VIV / VIT	Life (जीवन)	Vital, Revive, Vitamin, Vivacious
37	SCI	Know (जानना)	Science, Conscience, Omniscient, Prescient
38	TEMP	Time (समय)	Temporary, Contemporary, Tempo, Temporal
39	GEN	Birth / Origin (जन्म)	Generate, Genesis, Genetics, Generic
40	LINGUA	Language / Tongue (भाषा)	Linguist, Bilingual, Lingual, Multilingual
41	DICT / DIC	Say / Speak (कहना)	Dictate, Predict, Verdict, Dictionary
42	VOC / VOK	Voice / Call (आवाज़)	Vocal, Vocabulary, Invoke, Advocate
43	LIBR	Book (पुस्तक)	Library, Librarian, Bibliography, Bibliophile
44	LITERA	Letter (अक्षर)	Literature, Literal, Illiterate, Literalism
45	MIS / MIT	Send (भेजना)	Mission, Transmit, Submit, Dismiss

I Root Words , Prefixes & Suffixes I

S.No.	Root Word	Meaning (Hindi)	Example Words
46	POS / PON	Place / Put (रखना)	Position, Postpone, Deposit, Opponent
47	MOV / MOT	Move (चलना)	Motion, Motor, Remove, Promote
48	CUR / COUR	Run (दौड़ना)	Current, Courier, Course, Encourage
49	CED / CEED / CESS	Go / Yield (जाना)	Proceed, Recede, Access, Concession
50	CLAIM / CLAM	Shout / Cry (चिल्लाना)	Exclaim, Proclaim, Declaration, Acclaim
51	CLUD / CLOS / CLAUS	Close (बंदकरना)	Include, Exclude, Closure, Clause
52	TRACT	Pull / Drag (खींचना)	Attract, Distract, Tractor, Contract
53	PEL / PULS	Push / Drive (धक्कादेना)	Repel, Compel, Impulse, Expel
54	TACT / TANG	Touch (स्पर्शकरना)	Contact, Tactile, Tangible, Intact
55	FER	Carry / Bear (ढोना)	Transfer, Refer, Fertile, Conifer
56	VEN / VENT	Come (आना)	Invent, Prevent, Convention, Adventure
57	SEQU / SECUT	Follow (अनुसरणकरना)	Sequence, Consecutive, Execute, Pursue
58	CAP / CEP / CEIVE	Take / Receive (लेना)	Capture, Accept, Perceive, Reception
59	FIN	End / Limit (अंत)	Finish, Final, Infinite, Define
60	JUR / JUS	Law / Right (कानून)	Justice, Jurisdiction, Jury, Judicial
61	MAR / MARI	Sea (समुद्र)	Marine, Maritime, Submarine, Mariner
62	NAV	Ship (जहाज)	Navigate, Naval, Navigation, Circumnavigate
63	ANN / ENN	Year (वर्ष)	Annual, Anniversary, Centennial, Perennial
64	LUN / LUNA	Moon (चंद्रमा)	Lunar, Lunatic, Eclipse, Semilunar
65	SOL	Sun (सूर्य)	Solar, Solstice, Parasol, Insolation
66	NOCT / NOC	Night (रात्रि)	Nocturnal, Equinox, Noctambular, Nocturne
67	DI / DIA	Day / Through (दिन / माध्यमसे)	Diary, Dialysis, Diameter, Dialogue
68	AER / AERO	Air (वायु)	Aeroplane, Aerobic, Aerospace, Aeronautics
69	HYDR / HYDRO	Water (जल)	Hydrogen, Hydroelectric, Hydraulics, Dehydrate
70	PYR / PYRO	Fire (अग्नि)	Pyrotechnics, Pyrometer, Pyromania, Pyre
71	CHROM / CHROMO	Colour (रंग)	Chromatic, Monochrome, Chromosome, Polychrome
72	CARD / CORD	Heart (हृदय)	Cardiology, Courage, Concord, Discord
73	DERM / DERMAT	Skin (त्वचा)	Dermatology, Epidermis, Hypodermic, Dermatitis
74	DENT	Tooth (दांत)	Dentist, Dental, Denture, Indent
75	OCUL / OPT	Eye / Vision (आंख)	Ocular, Optics, Optician, Optical
76	NAS / NOSTR	Nose (नाक)	Nasal, Nostril, Nasophobia, Nasality
77	ORNITH	Bird (पक्षी)	Ornithology, Ornithologist, Ornithopter, Avian
78	ZO / ZOO	Animal (पशु)	Zoology, Zoo, Protozoa, Zoological
79	HERB	Plant / Grass (वनस्पति)	Herbal, Herbivore, Herbicide, Herbarium
80	AGR / AGRI	Field / Farming (खेती)	Agriculture, Agrarian, Agronomy, Horticulture
81	ARCH / ARCHE	Rule / Chief (शासन / प्रमुख)	Monarch, Archbishop, Anarchy, Hierarchy
82	CRAT / CRACY	Rule / Government (शासन)	Democracy, Bureaucracy, Aristocracy, Autocracy
83	POLI / POLIT	City / State (राज्य)	Politics, Metropolitan, Policy, Politician
84	CIV / CIT	Citizen (नागरिक)	Civil, Citizen, Civilization, Civic
85	PATRI	Father / Native Land (पितृभूमि)	Patriot, Patriotic, Expatriate, Patriotism
86	REG / REX	King / Rule (राजा / शासन)	Regal, Regime, Regent, Rex
87	DOM	House / Control (घर / अधिकार)	Domestic, Domain, Dominant, Dominate
88	SERV	Serve (सेवाकरना)	Service, Servant, Preserve, Conservative
89	MINI	Small (छोटा)	Minimum, Minimize, Miniature, Minority
90	MAGN / MAX	Great / Large (महान / बड़ा)	Magnify, Maximum, Magnificent, Magnitude

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91	PRIM	First (प्रथम)	Primary, Primitive, Prime, Primeval
92	MULTI	Many (अनेक)	Multinational, Multiple, Multicolour, Multimedia
93	UNI	One (एक)	Uniform, Unilateral, Unicorn, Universe
94	BI	Two (दो)	Bicycle, Bilateral, Bilingual, Biannual
95	TRI	Three (तीन)	Triangle, Tricycle, Trident, Trilogy
96	QUAD / QUART	Four (चार)	Quadrilateral, Quartet, Quadrant, Quarterly
97	CENT	Hundred (सौ)	Century, Centimeter, Centennial, Percent
98	MILLI	Thousand (हज़ारवाँभाग)	Millimeter, Milligram, Millennium, Millilitre
99	OMNI	All (सभी)	Omnipotent, Omniscient, Omnivorous, Omnipresent
100	PAN	All / Every (संपूर्ण)	Panorama, Pandemic, Panacea, Pantheon
101	THEO	God (ईश्वर)	Theology, Atheist, Theocracy, Theism
102	PSYCH	Mind / Soul (मन)	Psychology, Psychic, Psychotherapy, Psychosis
103	SOPH	Wisdom (ज्ञान)	Philosopher, Sophisticated, Sophomore, Philosophy
104	ETHNO	Race / Nation (जाति / राष्ट्र)	Ethnic, Ethnology, Ethnocentric, Ethnography
105	COSMO	Universe / World (विश्व)	Cosmos, Cosmopolitan, Cosmology, Cosmic
106	LEX	Law / Word (कानून / शब्द)	Legal, Lexicon, Legislature, Lexicography
107	NOM / NYM	Name / Law (नाम)	Anonymous, Synonym, Nomination, Autonomous
108	MANIA	Madness / Obsession (उन्माद)	Pyromania, Megalomania, Maniac, Kleptomania
109	CRYP	Hidden / Secret (गुप्त)	Cryptic, Encrypt, Cryptography, Decrypt
110	HEM / HEMAT	Blood (रक्त)	Hemoglobin, Hemorrhage, Hematology, Anemia
111	NEUR	Nerve (तंत्रिका)	Neurology, Neuron, Neurosis, Neurotic
112	ONCO	Tumor / Cancer (कैंसर)	Oncology, Oncologist, Oncogenic, Oncotherapy
113	ORTHO	Straight / Correct (सीधा / सही)	Orthodontics, Orthodox, Orthography, Orthopedic
114	PSEUD	False (झूठा)	Pseudonym, Pseudo, Pseudoscience, Pseudointellectual
115	XENO	Foreign / Stranger (विदेशी)	Xenophobia, Xenon, Xenophile, Xenogenesis
116	ANTIQU	Ancient / Old (प्राचीन)	Antique, Antiquity, Antiquarian, Antiquated
117	BELL	War (युद्ध)	Belligerent, Antebellum, Rebel, Bellicose
118	CAND / CEND	Glow / Shine (चमकना)	Candle, Candid, Incandescent, Candor
119	CID / CIS	Cut / Kill (काटना / मारना)	Homicide, Decide, Incision, Scissors
120	CULP	Fault / Blame (दोष)	Culprit, Culpable, Mea Culpa, Exculpate
121	DOC / DOCT	Teach (सिखाना)	Doctor, Doctrine, Document, Indoctrinate
122	DUC / DUCT	Lead (नेतृत्वकरना)	Conduct, Introduce, Educate, Aqueduct
123	FID	Faith / Trust (विश्वास)	Fidelity, Confide, Perfidy, Bona fide
124	FLECT / FLEX	Bend (मोड़ना)	Flexible, Reflect, Deflect, Inflection
125	FRAG / FRACT	Break (तोड़ना)	Fragment, Fracture, Fragile, Fraction
126	GREG	Group / Flock (समूह)	Congregation, Gregarious, Aggregate, Segregate
127	LAPS	Slip / Fall (फिसलना)	Collapse, Relapse, Elapse, Lapse
128	LOQU / LOCUT	Speak (बोलना)	Elocution, Soliloquy, Colloquial, Loquacious
129	LUD / LUS	Play (खेलना)	Illusion, Prelude, Ludicrous, Interlude
130	MANI	Hand (हाथ)	Manipulate, Manifest, Manual, Emancipate
131	MEDI	Middle (मध्य)	Medieval, Mediate, Medium, Mediterranean

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S.No.	Root Word	Meaning (Hindi)	Example Words
132	MEM	Remember (याद)	Memory, Memorize, Memorial, Memoir
133	PAC / PEACE	Peace (शांति)	Pacify, Pacific, Appease, Peaceful
134	PATER / PATR	Father (पिता)	Patriarch, Patron, Paternal, Patriot
135	PLAC / PLEAS	Please (प्रसन्नकरना)	Pleasant, Placate, Pleasure, Complacent
136	PLIC / PLEX	Fold (मोड़ना)	Complex, Duplicate, Implicate, Explicit
137	PONDER	Weight / Think (विचारकरना)	Ponder, Preponderance, Ponderous, Expend
138	POTEN	Power (शक्ति)	Potential, Omnipotent, Potent, Impotent
139	QUIR / QUIS	Seek / Ask (खोजना / पूछना)	Inquire, Question, Acquire, Query
140	RUPT	Break (तोड़ना)	Rupture, Interrupt, Corrupt, Bankruptcy
141	SAL / SAV	Safe / Healthy (सुरक्षित)	Salvation, Salvage, Salute, Safe
142	SENS / SENT	Feel (महसूसकरना)	Sensitive, Consent, Sentiment, Sensation
143	SIM / SEM	Same (समान)	Similar, Resemble, Simultaneous, Assimilate
144	SOLV	Loosen / Solve (हलकरना)	Solve, Dissolve, Solvent, Insoluble
145	SON	Sound (ध्वनि)	Sonic, Resonance, Consonant, Sonar
146	SPIR	Breathe (साँसलेना)	Respiration, Inspire, Expire, Spirit
147	TORT	Twist (मोड़ना)	Torture, Distort, Contort, Torsion
148	VAL / VIG	Strength / Worth (शक्ति / मूल्य)	Valor, Vigour, Equivalent, Valid
149	VOC / VOKE	Call / Voice (आवाज़ देना)	Advocate, Revoke, Vocal, Invocation
150	VOLV / VOLUT	Roll / Turn (घूमना)	Revolve, Evolution, Volume, Volt