

Teaching notes on 1.02 Greek roots in English

Slide 1

The learning objective: To recognise Ancient Greek roots in English words, expanding on the last session where we considered the influence of Latin on the English language.

Slide 2

A starter activity to recap last session's activity of associating English words with their Latin roots. This recap extends the students by adding in more derivatives from the same English word families.



The English words are all jumbled in a word cloud and the students' task is to sort them according to their Latin root. The correct answers will be sorted on the screen on mouse-click.

Slide 3

Words rooted in the Classical Greek language came into English via two linguistic pathways. Firstly, Latin itself contains Greek words, partly because the area around Rome was settled by Greek immigrants but also because Greece became part of the Roman Empire in the 1st Century BCE. Romans valued Greeks for their knowledge, and native Greeks were found all around the Roman Empire as teachers, cooks and in other technical roles. Secondly, a boom in scientific discovery and innovation from the 17th Century C.E. onwards resulted in an increase in loanwords from Ancient Greece as Greek, along with Latin, was a *lingua franca* amongst the scientists of Europe.

Slide 4

Greek loanwords often feature as prefixes, and knowledge of these can help students decode novel words.



On mouse-click, three English words with a common Greek root will appear. The students can deduce the meaning of the root by what they know about the English words. For example, a megaphone makes your voice louder or bigger, a megastar is a big celebrity and a megabyte is a large unit of digital data. Therefore, the students can deduce that 'mega' means 'big' or 'large'. Following the same process of deduction, they should be able to work out that 'micro' means 'small' and 'tri' means 'three'.



The students now have the opportunity to work on a word-matching exercise similar to the Latin one in the previous session. Pupils will need coloured crayons and can work individually or in pairs. The animated answer sheet can be used on the whiteboard for class marking. As an added extension, pupils can think of more derivative words from the Greek words on the worksheet.

Slide 5

The plenary which takes the form of a set of questions:

Question 1 The Latin word 'magus', meaning 'wizard', is a root for which English words? [magic, magician, magical, mage, Magi]

Question 2 Why was the Ancient Greek language used in English from the 17th Century onwards? [Greek loanwords helped coin terms for new scientific discoveries and inventions]

Question 3 The root 'tri' comes from Ancient Greek but what does it mean? [three]