ROOTS are word parts that carry the basic meaning of the word.

They are not used alone. Instead, they are combined with other word parts. For example, the root **cycl** means "circle". English has created many words using this root, such as: bi**cycl**e, motor**cycl**e. Another example is the root **graph**, which relates to writing. From this root English has created many words, such as: auto**graph**, **graph**ology, **graph**ics.

Here are a few common roots used in English.

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| ROOT | USUAL MEANING | EXAMPLE |
| **anthrop** | man, mankind | **anthrop**ology |
| **aster, astr** | star | **astr**ology |
| **bene** | good, well | **bene**fits, benevolent |
| **biblio** | book | **biblio**graphy, Bible |
| **bio** | life | auto**bio**graphy, **bio**logy |
| **cent**  | hundred | **cent**ury, **cent**s, **cent**ipede |
| **chron** | time | **chron**ology, **chron**ic |
| **cred** | believe | **cred**ible, in**cred**ible, **cred**o |
| **dict** | say, tell, speak | **dict**ator, **dict**ionary, contra**dict** |
| **gen** | kinds | **gen**der, **gen**eology, **gen**e, **gen**eration |
| **magn** | large | **magn**ify, **magn**ate |
| **man, manu** | hand | **man**ipulate, **manu**script, **manu**al |
| **mort** | death | **mort**al, **mort**ality, post**mort**em |
| **pater** | father | **patr**iotism, **pater**nity, **patr**on, **patr**onize |