

## Sort 19 Latin Roots: Speaking, Hearing, and Seeing (*dict, aud, vis*)

This sort is the first of many that will explore Latin word roots. The meanings of these Latin roots are straightforward, as are the meanings of most of the words in which they combine with other affixes and roots. These Latin roots occur frequently in printed materials from the intermediate grades onward. The root *dict* is also spelled *dic*, but most words that have that spelling are more opaque; the most frequent spelling upper elementary and middle school students will encounter is *dict*.

**Generalization:** *dict* means “to say or speak”; *aud*, “to hear”; and *vis*, “to see.”

<i>dict</i>	<i>aud</i>	<i>vis</i>
dictate	audible	vision
predict	audience	visible
prediction	audiotape	invisible
unpredictable	auditory	visitor
contradict	audiovisual*	revisit
dictionary	auditorium	vista
diction		supervisor
dictator		

\*This word should be sorted into more than one category.

**Explore Meaning:** Wait until after sorting to talk about the meanings of words students might not know like *diction* or *auditory*. Have a dictionary and your chart of prefixes and affixes handy to aid in the discussion of meaning.

### Sorting and Discussion:

1. Begin by displaying the words in the sort without the headers and ask, **What do you notice about these words?** Take multiple observations, but be sure to talk about how the words share some common parts, such as *dict*, *aud*, or *vis*. Explain, **In this sort, we’re going to learn about Latin roots. A Latin root is the part of a word that contains the core meaning of the word. We can find it by taking off any prefix or suffix. If what is left is not a word, we have found the root!** Write the word *invisible*, and say, **When I cross out the prefix *in-* and the suffix *-ible* what is left? (*vis*) Is *vis* a word? (no) You’re right—it cannot stand by itself as a word, but it is the word root of *invisible*.**

2. Display the root headers *dict*, *aud*, and *vis* and sort the key words: *dictate*, *audible*, and *vision* under them. Remind students, **When we take off the suffixes in these words, we can find the root.** Sort the rest of the words with student help, omitting prefixes and suffixes to find the root if necessary.
3. After sorting, talk about the words under *dict* and ask them, **Please explain the meaning of *dictate* and use it in a sentence. When we *dictate* something, we “say” it. What does the prefix *pre-* mean? (It means *before*.) So, what does *predict* mean? (We “say” something before it happens.) So it sounds like the root, *dict*, has something to do with saying or speaking.** Then move to words that are less obvious. **Now that we know what the root *dict* means, let’s look at some other words. What can we say about *unpredictable*? (It is something we could not speak about before.) If the prefix *contra-* means “against,” what does *contradict* mean? (to speak against) Be ready to consult a dictionary to look up *diction* after determining that it has something to do with speaking. What does a *dictionary* have to do with “speaking”? (It shows us how to say/pronounce a word, and digital dictionaries actually *do* pronounce the word for us.)**
4. Continue this with the words under *audible* and *vision*, starting with words whose meanings students are likely to already know. Then move to words they might not know, and help them establish a meaning by thinking about the root and the affixes. For example, in the word *supervisor*: *supervise* means to “see over” or “look over from above,” and the *-or* suffix indicates “one who does this.”
5. Ask, **What’s the big idea of this sort?** (Learning the meanings of word roots and understanding how they combine to create words will be helpful in figuring out and learning new vocabulary.) **What meaning does each root have?** Suggest that students make a note of the meaning on the headers (to say or speak, to listen, or to see). **Can you think of any more words that have these roots?**

### Extend:

Assign weekly routines, and ask students to underline the roots in a writing sort. A blind sort should be easy, but it will help students practice listening for, as well as looking for, the roots. Word hunts will prove challenging because these words may not turn up in

SORT 19 Latin Roots (*dict, aud, vis*)

<b><i>dict</i></b>	<b><i>aud</i></b>	<b><i>vis</i></b>
<b>dictate</b>	<b>audible</b>	<b>vision</b>
visible	contradict	diction
vista	auditorium	invisible
revisit	unpredictable	prediction
dictionary	supervisor	dictator
predict	audiovisual	auditory
audiotape	audience	laudable
visitor		

# Greek and Latin Elements

Many English words are derived from Greek and Latin.

## What is Etymology?

etymology—the study of the origin of words (where they came from) and how their meanings have evolved (changed) throughout history

Use [www.etymonline.com](http://www.etymonline.com), an Online Etymology Dictionary, to discover additional words related to the Greek and Latin elements being studied. This will also provide a solid definition for the element when you simply type in the word part.

## Other Web Resources:

[www.wordhippo.com](http://www.wordhippo.com)

[www.onelook.com](http://www.onelook.com)

## What is PIE?

You may see "from PIE root" when researching Greek and Latin elements. PIE stands for Proto-Indo-European. Linguists believe that all modern Indo-European languages descended from a single language called Proto-Indo-European. It was a spoken language by people who lived from 4500–2500 B.C. and left no written texts.

You can learn more at [Wikipedia's Proto-Indo-European Root](#) page.

# Greek and Latin Elements Analysis

## Additional Words Containing Element

wordhippo.com:  
"Find Words"—type in your  
word element to see a list  
of words that contain the  
word part.

## Etymology

etymonline.com:  
In the search box, type in  
your word element; find it in  
the list and read about the  
etymology of the Greek or  
Latin element.

## Where to Look

Create an illustration using  
as many of the words for  
this word element as you  
can or to express the  
element's meaning.

## Illustration

etymonline.com:  
In the search box, type in  
your word element; find it in  
the list to identify the  
meaning of the word element.

## Meaning of Greek/Latin Element

# Latin Roots Analysis

## Blue Sort 19

Additional Words  
Containing Element

Etymology

dic-

Illustration

Meaning of  
Greek/Latin Element

Latin Roots Analysis  
Blue Sort 19

Additional Words  
Containing Prefix

Etymology

aud-

Illustration

Meaning of  
Greek/Latin Element

# Latin Roots Analysis

## Blue Sort 19

Additional Words  
Containing Element

Etymology

vis-

Illustration

Meaning of  
Greek/Latin Element

# Sort 19 Word Search

Name \_\_\_\_\_

E U J H Q V K E Z A K A S C M M U D U O  
E T R J I P C C U D U Q X Z F M M F U Y  
R A A S K N I D F D D I C T I O N A R Y  
N S T T E J I L I D K V O I G G Q K L X  
I A P I C T D O D E S G V B K R G U I N  
Z H D G O I V Q C P J O A J Y L V Q F S  
E U O R R I D R Q U T I D K B H T E U A  
A L I Z S Z Q U J K E J T I F D N P U E  
B U B U V W U B X M R R N M I O E D B L  
M D A A C O N T R A D I C T I R I E S B  
V L I B T I F D D T P L Q T V O Y L R A  
I R U C X C I N C L E N C I T Z R B E D  
S V Z K T C I I V L A I S A U M O I V U  
I N M V T A D D B Y D O P E N L T D I A  
T Z T I K E T I E E R E W L O O I U S L  
O U O G R S S O R R G M G B I R D A I S  
R N G P N I N P R M P I O I S T U X T A  
T H X F V Z T Q W J N N P S I G A R P U  
X M E N F F Y Y V C P G U I V H Y P T L  
V B I F T Z R Q B K O P P V Z O R G M N

audible	dictator	supervisor
audience	diction	unpredictable
audiotape	dictionary	visible
audiovisual	invisible	vision
auditorium	laudable	visitor
auditory	predict	vista
contradict	prediction	
dictate	revisit	

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