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.”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>dict</th>
<th>aud</th>
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<tr>
<td>dictate</td>
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<td>vision</td>
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<td>predict</td>
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<td>contradict</td>
<td>audiovisual*</td>
<td>revisit</td>
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<td>dictionary</td>
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<td>vista</td>
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<td>diction</td>
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<td>dictator</td>
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*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
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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.

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

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Latin Roots Analysis
Blue Sort 19

Additional Words Containing Element

Etymology

dic–

Illustration

Meaning of Greek/Latin Element
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Additional Words Containing Prefix

Etymology

Illustration

Meaning of Greek/Latin Element

aud-
Latin Roots Analysis
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Additional Words Containing Element | Etymology

vis-

Illustration | Meaning of Greek/Latin Element