



Root Words



**Ko
Taku
Reo**

Deaf Education New Zealand

Root words come from other languages and are used to make words in English.
Below is a list of the more common root words.



Root Word



Meaning



Example

aero	air	aerobatics, aeroplane
alter	other	alternate, alternative
alto	high	altimeter, altitude
anthropo	human	anthropoid, anthropology
aqua	water	aquaplane, aquatic
audio	hear	audible, audiologist
auto	self	autobiography, autograph
biblio	book	bibliography, bibliophile
bio	life	biography, biology
bis	twice	bisect, bisector
cardio	heart	cardiogram, cardiology
cento	hundred	centenary, century
chrono	time	chronograph, chronology
cide	killer	homicide, suicide
circum	around	circumference
civis	citizen	citizen, civil, civilian
counter	against	counteract, countermove
crypto	hidden	cryptic, cryptogram
cycl	cycle	cyclic, cyclograph
deca	ten	decade, decimal
demo	people	democracy, demography
denti	tooth	dental, dentist, denture
derma	skin	dermatitis, dermatologist
duo	two	duet, duplex
ethno	race, tribe	ethnic, ethnology
finis	end	final, finish
geo	earth	geocentric, geography
graph	write	autobiography, calligraphy
gyro	circle	gyrocompass, gyroscope
hetero	other	heteronomy, heteropolar
homo	same	homograph, homophone
manu	hand	manual, manufacture
mille	thousand	milligram, millimetre
mini	small	miniature, miniskirt
mono	one, alone	monologue, monorail
multi	many	multicoloured, multistorey
nocti	night	nocturnal
octa	eight	octagon, octave
ortho	straight, right	orthodontist, orthopaedics
paed	child	paediatric
ped	foot	pedal, pedestrian
penta	five	pentagon, pentathlon
phobia	fear	claustrophobia, xenophobia
phono	voice, sound	phonology, telephone
photo	light	photograph, photosynthesis
physio	physical	physiotherapy
poly	many	polygon, polyhedron
porta	carry	export, porter, transport
proto	first	protohippus, prototype
pseudo	false	pseudograph, pseudonym
psyche	mind	psychiatry, psychologist
quadri	four	quadrilateral, quadruplet
quinque	five	quinelateral, quintuplet
septum	seven	septuple, septuplet
specta	look	spectacles, spectator
tele	afar, end	telephone, television
terra	earth	terrafirma, terrain
tetra	four	tetrahedron, tetramerous
tri	three	triangle, tricycle
uni	one	union, unit
video	visible	visible, vision