

COMMON BASES, GENERAL MEANINGS, AND EXAMPLES

Base	Feeling of	Examples
acr	height, summit	acrobat, acropolis, acrophobia
aer	air, atmosphere	aerial, aeronautic, aerodynamic
aesth/esth	feeling, sensation	anesthesia, aesthetic
agri	field	agriculture
ambi	both	ambidextrous, ambiguous, ambivalent
anim	breath, soul	animal, animation, equanimity
aqu	water	aquamarine, aquarium, aquifer
arch	ruler	monarch, anarchy, archetype
art	art, skill	artifice, artisan, artifact
aster/astr	star	astrology, asteroid, astronaut
bibl	book	bible, bibliography
bio	life	biology, symbiosis, probiotic
brev(e)	brief, short	abbreviate, brevity
cid(e)/cis(e)	cut, kill	decide, decisive, homicide, precise
cand/cend	glow	candle, incandescent, incense
ceiv(e)/cept/capt/cap	take	receive, reception, capture, caption
caus(e)/cus(e)	cause, motive	because, causal, excuse
ced(e)/cess	move, yield	concede, procession, recede, succeed
cent	hundred	centennial, century
centr	center	central, egocentric, eccentric
cern	sift	concern, discern
chrom(e)	color	chromatic, chromosome
chron(e)	time	synchronous, chronicle, chronology
cit(e)	call, start	excite, incite, citation
civ	citizen	civic, civil, civilian
col/cult	cultivate, till	colonial, cultivate, culture
cosm	universe	microcosm, cosmic
cred	belief, trust	credit, incredulous, incredible
cur(e)/sur(e)	care for	accurate, manicure, insure, reassure
cycl(e)	circle	bicycle, recycle, cyclical
dec	ten	decimal, decagon, decimeter
dem	people	demographic, democracy, endemic

dens(e)	thick	condense, condensation
dent	tooth	dental, dentist, dentures
dict	say, speak	diction, predict, verdict
duc(e)/duct	lead	produce, conduct, reduction
dur(e)	hard	durable, endurance
ego	self	egoism, egocentric, egomaniac
electr	amber	electric, electricity, electron
equ	even, equal	equality, equity, equilibrium
fac(e)/fact/fect/fic(e)	do, make	surface, factory, perfection, significant
fend/fens(e)	strike	defend, offend, offense, defense
fer(e)	bear, carry	transfer, interfere, confer
fid(e)	faith, trust	confide, confidence, fidelity
fig/fict	form, shape	fiction, figure
fin(e)	end	confine, define, finance, infinity
fix	attach	prefix, suffix, fixation
flect/flex	bend	reflect, flexible, inflection
flict	strike	conflict, inflict
flu	flow	confluence, fluency, fluid
form	shape	reform, formation, perform, uniform
fus(e)	pour	confuse, fusion, effusive
ge/geo	earth	geology, geography, geometry
gen(e)	birth, beget	generation, gender, hydrogen
gest	bear, carry	ingest, digest, suggest
grad(e)/gress	walk, step	graduate, progress, regress
graph	draw, write	autograph, grapheme, paragraph
grav(e)	heavy	gravity, aggravation, gravitate
greg(e)	flock, herd	congregation, aggregate, gregarious
hab/hib	have	inhibit, habitat, exhibit
hal(e)	breathe	inhale, exhale
her(e)/hes	stick, cling	adhere, adhesion, coherent
heter	different, other	heteronym, heterosexual
hom	same	homogeneous, homophone, homosexual
hum(e)	ground	exhume, humble, humility
hydr	water	hydration, dehydrated, hydrogen

ign	fire	ignite, igneous
ject	throw	eject, reject, projectile, objective
joc	jest	jocular
join/junct	join	conjoined, junction, conjunction
laps(e)	slide, slip	relapse, collapse
lid(e)/lis(e)	hurt, strike	collide, collision, lesion
lect/leg(e)	choose, gather	election, select, college
leni	gentle	lenient, lenity, leniency
liber/liver	free	liberate, liberty, deliver
liter	letter	literature, literacy, alliteration
loc	place	location, dislocate, allocate
log	word, reason, speech	logic, biology, dialogue
lud(e)/lus	play	collude, elusive, ludicrous
mand/mend	order, commit	command, commend, mandatory
ment	mind	mental, dementia, comment
merg(e)/mers	dip, plunge	immersion, submerge, emergency
meter/met	measure	diameter, metric, parameter
migr	wander	migration, immigrate, migratory
mir(e)	wonder, amazement	miracle, admire, admirable
miss/mit	send	transmit, transmission, permissible
mod(e)	measure, change	moderate, modular, accommodate
mon	alone, only, one	monarchy, monotone, monopoly
morph	form, shape	metamorphosis, morpheme
mort	death	mortal, immortal, mortician
mot(e)/mob(e)/mov(e)	move	emotion, mobile, moving
nect/nex	join, tie	annex, connect, disconnect
neur	nerve, brain	neuron, neurology, neurotic
nomin	name	nominate, denomination, nominee
norm	square, right	abnormal, normality, enormous
nov	new	innovation, renovate, novel
numer	number, amount	numeral, numerous, numerical
onym	name	synonym, homonym, eponym
opt	choose	adopt, option, optional
on(e)	one	onion, alone, only

ordin	order	coordinate, ordinary, insubordinate
organ	instrument, tool	organize, microorganism, organic
orth	straight, right	orthography, orthopedic, orthodontist
pact	fix, fasten, agreement	compact, impact
ped	child	pedantic, pediatrician
pand/pans(e)	spread	expand, expansion
path	feeling, disease	empathy, sympathy, pathologist
pati/pass	suffer, feel	compassion, passive, patient
pel/puls(e)	drive, push	propel, propulsion, expelled
pun(e)	punish	punitive, impunity, punishment
pend/pens	hang, weigh, pay	pendulum, pendant, expensive, stipend
phob(e)	fear	acrophobia, homophobe, claustrophobic
phon(e)	sound	microphone, telephone, phonology
phot	light	photograph, photon, photosynthesis
plic/ply	fold, bend	implicit, reply, application
port	carry	export, support, transport
preci	value, worth	appreciate, depreciate, precious
priv(e)	separate, apart	private, privilege, deprive
psych	mind	psychology, psychiatry, psychic
publ	of the people	public, publish, republic
quadr	four	quadricep, quadrilateral, quadruple
quest/quis/quir(e)	search, seek	question, inquisition, inquiry
rect	straight	correct, erect, direct, rectangle
rot(e)	wheel	rotate, rotational, rotund
rupt	break, burst	rupture, disrupt, interrupt
san(e)	healthy	insanity, sanitary, sanity
scop(e)	look at, examine	microscope, telescope, periscope
sci	know	science, conscience, prescient
sect	section	insect, sectional
sens(e)/sent	feel	consent, consensus, resent
sequ	follow	sequel, sequence, consequence
serv(e)	save, protect	conserve, reserve, servant
sign	mark	signal, signature, designer
simil/simul	likeness, imitating	similar, assimilate, simultaneous

sist	cause to stand	persist, resist, consist
soci	group	associate, social, antisocial
spec/spect	look	inspect, specimen, specific, respect
spir(e)	breathe	inspire, perspiring, respiratory
stru(e)/struct	make up, build	structure, construction, misconstrue
stud(e)	dedicate, study	studious, student
techn	art, skill	technician, technology, pyrotechnic
tect	cover	protect, detection, detective
tain/ten/tent/tin(e)	hold, keep	contain, retention, abstinence, tenant
tend/tens(e)	stretch, strain	extend, intend, intense, tension
terr	earth	terrain, territory, terrarium
text	weave	context, pretext, textile
therm	heat, warm	thermometer, geothermal, thermonuclear
tract	drag, tug, haul	contract, distraction, extract, attract
trib(e)	pay	contribute, attribute, tribute
trud(e)/trus	thrust	intrude, intrusive, protrude
turb	stir up	disturb, turbine, turbulence
un(e)	one	unique, union, unity
urb	city	urban, suburban
vac	empty	vacant, vacuum, vacation
val(e)	strength, worth	evaluate, valiant, valentine
vari	different	various, variable, variety
ven(e)/vent	come	convene, adventure, intervention
verb	word	verbal, verbose, verbatim
vers(e)/vert	turn, turned	adverse, convert, versatile, universe, vertical
vid/vis(e)	see	vision, video, visible, advise, visitation
vinc(e)/vict	conquer	convict, convince, province, victory
voc(e)/vok(e)	call, voice	invoke, vocal, advocate, vociferous
vot(e)	vow	devote, devotion
xen	foreign	xenophobia, xenology
xyl	wood	xylophone
zo	animal, living being	mesozoic, zoology, zootropic