

25 Greek and Latin Power Words

These 25 Power Words have prefixes, bases, and suffixes which comprise over 60,000 words. That's more than 10% of our entire 600,000-word English lexicon.

Power Words	Morpheme Meanings	Word Counts
1. un-sub-scrib(e)	not-under-write	3876-1114-93
2. mis-in-form	not-in-form	1240-0*-478
3. re-spect-ful	again-see-full	4000-192-332
4. de-sign-er	apart from-sign or mark-one who	3772-221-4000
5. astro-nom-y	star-name-characterized by	109-512-4000
6. under-min(e)	below-little	542-2060
7. dict(a)-phon(e)	say-sound	155-268
8. struct-ure-less	build-action, process, or function-without	182-307-649
9. fore-ord-ain	front-say-keep or hold	322-537-147
10. in-aud-ible	not-hear-able	4000*-191-219
11. super-ven(e)	above-come	677-291
12. anti-gen	against-produce	787-1295
13. en-vis-ion	in-see-process or result of	1436-507-3028
14. non-sens(e)	not-sense or feel	1744-221
15. trans-pos(e)	across-put	521-1021
16. inter-cept	between-take	1073-274
17. over-stat(e)	above-stand	1681-371
18. im-port	in-carry	800**-407
19. bio-scope	life-look	441-108
20. geo-graph-ic	earth-write-having the characteristics of	312-816-3647
21. ped(o)-meter	foot-measure	120-302
22. med(i)-al	middle-relating to	667-3544
23. pre-ced(e)	before-go	2398-404
24. dis-tract	away from-draw	1691-180
25. con-vert	with-turn	1947-315

* All word counts credited to #10 *in*, meaning *not*.

** Approximately half of the total words because *im* also means *not*.

Notes

- Ending letters are often added to or deleted from Greek and Latin word parts to aid English pronunciation and spelling. Such letters are indicated with parentheses.
- Morphemes (meaning-based word parts) do not always follow syllable rules.

Research Studies and Resources

- Wei, Z. (2011). *Word roots in English – Learning English words through form and meaning similarity*. PhD Thesis, Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand.
- Honig, Diamond, and Gutlohn (2000). *Teaching Reading Sourcebook: For Kindergarten Through Eighth Grade* © 2000 by CORE.
- Stahl, S.A. and Shiel, T.G. (1992). *Reading and Writing Quarterly: Overcoming Learning Disabilities*, 8, 223-241; "Commonly Occurring Greek and Latin Roots."
- White, Sowell, and Yanagihara (1989) Ranked by Carroll et al (1971). *The Reading Teacher*, 42, p. 306; "Most Common Prefixes and Suffixes in Academic Texts."
- More Words and Free Dictionary (Word Counts)