

ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION

Layers of Language:
Greek Combining Forms

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~ Module 13, Session 11 ~ Handout Common Greek Combining Forms

<i>phon/phono</i> (sound)	<i>photo</i> (light)
<i>gram, graph</i> (written or drawn)	auto (self)
<i>tele</i> (distant)	<i>logy</i> (study; from <i>logos, logue</i> [speech or word])
<i>micro</i> (small or minute)	<i>meter, metr</i> (measure)
<i>therm, thermo</i> (heat or hot)	<i>bio</i> (life)
<i>scope</i> (to watch or see)	<i>hydr, hydra, hydro</i> (water)
<i>biblio</i> (book)	<i>cracy, crat</i> (rule)
<i>geo</i> (earth)	<i>metro</i> (mother city; measure)
<i>pol, polis, polis</i> (city, government)	<i>dem, demo</i> (people)
<i>derm</i> (skin)	<i>hypo</i> (under)
<i>chron, chrono</i> (time)	<i>cycl, cyclo</i> (wheel or circle; circular)
<i>hyper</i> (over, above, or excessive)	<i>chrom</i> (color)
<i>phys</i> (nature)	<i>techn</i> (skill, art, or craft)
<i>path</i> (feeling, suffering, or disease)	<i>psych</i> (mind or soul)
<i>lex</i> (word)	<i>gno, gnosi</i> (know)
<i>mega</i> (large or great)	<i>mech</i> (machine)
<i>meta</i> (beside, after, later, beyond)	<i>arch</i> (chief or ruler)
<i>kine, cine</i> (movement)	<i>phil, phila, phile, philo</i> (love or affinity for)
<i>the, theo</i> (god)	<i>soph</i> (wisdom or cleverness)
<i>mania</i> (madness, frenzy, obsession)	<i>phobia, phobic; phobe</i> (irrational fear or hatred; one who fears-hates)
<i>ast, astro</i> (star)	<i>andr, anthr</i> (man)
<i>archae, arche, archi</i> (primitive or ancient)	

Less Common Greek Combining Forms

<i>drome, dromos</i> (course or running)	<i>morph</i> (form, shape, or structure)
<i>dyn, dynamo</i> (power, strength, or force)	<i>neo</i> (new or recent)
<i>eco</i> (house or home)	<i>nym, onym</i> (name)
<i>ecto</i> (outside, external, or beyond)	<i>ortho</i> (straight, correct, or upright)
<i>helio</i> (sun)	<i>phyll</i> (leaf or leaves)

hema, hemo (blood)

hypn, hypno (sleep)

lith, litho (stone)

macro (large, long, or great)

log, logo, logue (speech or word; logy,

meaning study, comes from this

word family)

pneumon, pneuma (breath or lung)

proto (earliest, original, or first in time)

saur (lizard or serpent)

stereo (solid, firm, or hard)

zo, zoo (animal)

For word lists of the Greek combining forms see M K. Henry (2003). *Unlocking Literacy: Effective Decoding and Spelling Instruction*. Baltimore: Brookes Publishing.