Greek & Latin Roots

1) Photos (Greek): light
   a. Photograph [graph: write or draw] – picture drawn by light
   b. Telephoto [tele: distant] – light from far away
   c. Photometer [metron: measure] – a device which measures light
   d. Phototropic [tropos: turn] – turning toward light
   e. Photophilia [philia: love] – love of light
   f. Photophobia [phobos: fear] – fear or dislike of light
   g. Photosynthesis [syn: together, thesis: putting] – a process of putting things together by using light

2) Graph (Gram) (Greek): to write or draw
   b. Phonograph [phono: sound] – machine for writing [i.e. recording] sound
   c. Phonogram [phono: sound] – written symbol for a sound
   d. Telegraph [tele: distant] writing from far away
   e. Lithograph [lithos: stone] – drawing made on stone
   f. Graphite – black carbon used for drawing or writing
   g. Autograph [autos: self] – to write one’s own name
   h. Hologram [holos: complete] – a three-dimensional photograph of a whole object

3) Tele (Greek): far away, distant
   b. Telephone [phone: sound] – sound from far away
   c. Telegraph [graph: write] – writing from a distance
   d. Telephoto [photo: light] – light from far away
   e. Telescope [skopeo: look at] – device for looking at distant objects
   f. Telepathy [pathos: feeling] – knowing how someone far away is feeling
   g. Telethon [Marathon: a battlefield in ancient Greece] – a telephone fund raiser which runs non-stop, as Pheidippides ran after the battle of Marathon

4) Metron (Greek): measure
   a. Meter – unit of measure – 39.47 inches long
   b. Geometry [geo: earth] – measurement of the earth
   c. Optometry [opsis: sight] – measure eyesight
   d. Symmetry [sym: same, equal] – measure the same
   e. Barometer [baros: weight, pressure] – device to measure air pressure
   g. Diameter [dia: through, across] – measuring across
   h. Centimeter [centum: hundred] – one hundredth of a meter
   i. Anemometer [anemos: wind] – measures wind speed

5) Tropos (Greek): turning
   a. Tropics – the area of the earth from the equator north to the Tropic of Cancer and south of the Tropic of Capricorn
   b. Tropical – the climate of the earth in the tropics
   c. Phototropic [photo: light] – turning toward the light, as leaves and flowers do
   d. Heliotrope [helios: sun] – a flower named for its tendency to turn toward the sun
   e. Tropophilous [philia: love] – plants or trees which like a change or turning of seasons – hot and cold, wet and dry
   f. Thermotropism [thermos: heat] – turning toward heat, as cats do

6) Philia (Greek): love, friendship
   a. Philosopher [Sophia: wisdom] – one who loves wisdom
   c. Philanthropist [anthropos: man] – one who cares about his fellow man
   d. Phillumenist [lumen: light] – one who collects match covers
   e. Philogyrist [gyne: women] – one who loves women
   f. Philitre – love potion
   g. Anglophile [Angli: English] – one who loves England
h. Francophile [Francus: France] – one who loves France

7) Phobos (Greek): fear
   a. Phobia – irrational fear
   b. Agoraphobia [agora: field] – fear of open space
   c. Claustrophobia [claustrum – Latin: lock or bolt] – fear of closed spaces
   d. Hydrophobia [hydro: water] – disease which makes it difficult to swallow, thought to be fear of water
   e. Phobophobia – fear of fear itself
   f. Zoophobia [zoon: animal] – fear of animals
   g. Toxikophobia [toxikos: poison] – fear of poison
   h. Phobos – a moon of the planet Mars

8) Syn (Greek): with, together
   a. Sympathy [pathos: feeling] – to feel with someone else
   b. Symphony [phone: sound] – sounds that go together
   d. Synthetic – material made by putting chemicals together
   e. Photosynthesis [photo: light] – process by which light puts plant nutrients together to make green chlorophyll
   f. Synonym [onoma: name] – two words with the same meaning
   g. Synagogue [ago: bring] – place to bring people together
   h. Synchronize [chronos: time] – to do things at the same time. “Synchronize your watches!”

9) Thesis (Greek): put, place, position
   a. Thesis: a position taken in an argument supported by a set of reasons
   b. Theme: an essay or composition on a certain subject with a statement and supporting reasons
   c. Parenthesis [para: beside] – statement beside (or inside) a main sentence
   d. Synthetic [syn: together] – elements put together to make a material like a natural one (synthetic rubber)
   e. Synthesizer [syn: together] – instrument which puts sounds together like real musical instruments

10) Kinesis (Greek): movement
    a. Kinetic: relating to the movement of bodies
    b. Kinesiology [logos: word or study] – study of human movement
    c. Kinescope [skopeo: look at] – a machine that shows pictures of movement (old term for television)
    d. Cinema: motion pictures (Greeks had no “c” – they used “k”)
    e. Cinematographer: motion picture photographer

11) Phone (Greek): sound
    a. Phonograph [graph: write or draw] – writing with sound
    b. Telephone [tele: far away] – sound from far away
    d. Euphony [eu: well, good] – good or pleasant sound
    e. Symphony [syn: together] – sounds that go together
    f. Megaphone [mega: big] – device to make sounds BIG
    g. Microphone [mikros: small] – device to transmit or record small sounds

12) Sonus (Latin): sound
    a. Sound – vibrations perceived by our ears
    b. Sonic – relating to what we can hear
    c. Sonnet – a form of rhyming Italian poetry
    d. Sonovox – a machine that makes sound effect voices
    e. Sonar – device that hears sound under water
    f. Sonata – an instrumental musical composition with three or four movements
    g. Consonant [con: with] – speech sounds made with lips, tongue, or teeth

13) Skopeo (Greek): look at, inspect, consider, examine
    a. Scope – all that the eye can see
    b. Microscope [mikros: small] – device to look at small objects
    c. Telescope [tele: distant] – device for seeing distant objects
    d. Periscope [peri: around] – device for seeing around obstacles
e. Kaleidoscope [kalos: beautiful, eidos: form] – device for seeing changing beautiful forms or arrangements of small fragments of glass, etc.
f. Episcopal [epi: on, over] – overseen by bishops or “overseers”
g. Bishop – a church overseer

14) Video / Visum (Latin): see
   b. Videophone [phone – G: sound] – TV screen for seeing the person you are talking to on the telephone
   d. *Video – picture portion of television
   e. Evidence [e, ex: out] – out of what one can see
   f. Advise [ad: to, toward] – look and tell your view
   g. Invisible [in: not] – not to be seen

15) Logos (Greek): word, study
   a. Logic – reasoning to gain knowledge or wisdom
   b. Geology [geo: earth] – study of the earth
   c. Astrology [astron: star] – knowledge from the stars
   d. Biology [bios: life] – study of physical life
   e. Zoology [zoo: animal] – study of animals
   f. Technology [techne: art, skill] – study of how to improve an art or a skill
   g. Anthropology [anthropos: man] – study of mankind
   h. Psychology [psyche: soul, life] – study of the soul or mental life of a man
   i. Legend – a story to be read

16) Verbum (Latin): word
   a. Verb – the action word in a sentence
   b. Proverb [pro: forward] – a wise or profound saying
   c. Verbal – of, or pertaining to, words
   d. Verbiage – use of too many words; chatter
   e. Verbose [-osus: full of] – wordy, full of words
   f. Verbatim – word-for-word copy or record
   g. Verbalize – to express in words
   h. Verberium – game in which a word is changed into others by rearranging its letters

17) Nomen / Nominis (Latin): name
   a. Nominate – suggest someone’s name for office
   b. Nomination – act of naming a candidate for office
   c. Nominal – in name only; not real or actual
   d. Nomenclature [calo, calatum: call] – system of names used to classify knowledge; what we call things
   e. Nom de plume [French] – pen name of an author
   f. Denomination [de: down from] – names of classes or categories, e.g. religions, money
   g. Denominator – part of a fraction below the line

18) Pro (Latin): for, before, forward, in place of
   a. Profess [fateor, fassus sum: admit, reveal] – to admit that one is an expert
   b. Professional – one who claims to be an expert
   c. Problem [ballein – G: throw] – anything thrown forward to be worked on, or solved
   d. Proboscis [boskein – G: feed or graze] – trunk or snout for grazing
   e. Prologue [logos – G: word or study] – words before beginning of a play or book
   f. Proclaim [clamo, clamatum: shout] – announce, cry out, publish
   g. Proceed [cedo, cessurus: move, yield] – move forward
   h. Pronoun [nomen: name] – word that stands for a noun

19) Prae (Latin): before, in front of
   a. Predict [dico, dictum: say] – say beforehand, foretell
   b. Preamble [ambulo, ambulatum: walk] – that which goes before
   c. Precaution [caveo, cautum: be on guard] – being on guard beforehand
   d. Precursor [curro, cursum: run] – one who runs ahead
   e. Prefer [fero, latum: bear, carry] – carry to a forward position or rank
g. Prejudice [judicium: judgment] – make judgment beforehand

20) Ad (Latin): to, toward, near, next to
   a. Adequate [aequus: level, even, flat] – even with or equal to
   b. Adhere [haereo, haesum: stick to, stay] – stick to
   c. Adjective [jacio, jactum: throw] – word “thrown at” a noun to modify it
   d. Admire [miror, miratum: be amazed, wonder] – look at with wonder or amazement
   e. Admonish [moneo, monitum: warn] – give warning to
   f. Admit [mitto, missum: send] – send to; allow entrance to a place or to the mind
   g. Advertise [verto, versum: turn] – turn people to what you are offering
   h. Adverb [verbum: word] – word next to a verb to modify it

21) Jacio / Jactum (Latin): throw
   a. Eject [e, ex: out] – throw out
   b. Interject [inter: between] – throw between
   c. Object [ob: against] – throw against
   d. Objection – arguments against a situation
   e. Project [pro: forward] – throw forward
   f. Projectile – a thing throw forward (e.g. arrow, bullet, rock)
   g. Reject [re: back, again] – throw back

22) Pono / Positum (Latin): lay, put, place
   a. Pose – position or attitude
   b. Post – fixed or established place; military post
   c. Postage – payment for messages sent from post to post
   d. Position – established place
   e. Deposit [de: down, away from] – lay away; put aside
   f. Repose [re: again, back] – lie back, pause, rest
   g. Depose [de: away from] – put down from a throne or high office
   h. Impose [in: in, on, upon] – to put upon
   i. Component [con: together] – put together

23) Cum (Latin): with, together
   a. Cooperate [operor, operatum: work] – work with
   b. Cognate [nascor, gnatus: be born] – born together, having the same ancestors
   c. Collaborate [laboro, laboratum: work] – work with
   d. Collect [lego, lectum: gather] – gather together
   e. Combat [battuo: beat, fight] – fight with
   f. Commemorate [memoro, memoratum: remember] – remember something together
   g. Community [munio, munitum: build, fortify] – group which builds together
   h. Content [teneo, tentum: hold] – held together
   i. Confection [facio, factum: do, make] – made together

24) Figo / Fixum (Latin): fix, fasten, attach
   a. Fix – fasten or make firm; set in place
   b. Fixture – a thing fastened in place
   c. Crucifix [crux, crucis: cross] – picture, medal, or statue of Christ fastened to the cross
   d. Affix (noun) [ad: to] – thing fastened to something; syllable added to a word at either end
   e. Affix (verb) – act of fastening or attaching
   f. Prefix [prae: before] – letter or syllable added to the beginning of the word
   g. Suffix [sub: under] – letter or syllable added to the end of the word

25) Jungo / Junctum (Latin): join, unite, connect
   a. Join – connect; fasten together
   b. Joint – place where two parts are connected
   c. Conjugal – relating to the joining of people in marriage
   d. Conjugation – a set of verb endings joined with the stem
   e. Conjunction – word joining two parts of a sentence
   f. Disjointed [dis: separate] – separated at the joints
   g. Junction – point of connection; railway crossing
   h. Subjugate [sub: under] – to connect under the yoke of power
26) Digitus (Latin): finger, toe, inch
   a. Digit – finger; numerals from 0 to 9; unit of measure the width of a finger (3/4 of an inch)
   b. Digital computer – computer which uses numerals to mean whole numbers and decimal fractions
   c. Digitalis – the “foxglove” plant from which heart medicine is made
   d. Prestidigitation [praesto: at hand, prompt] – a fast-fingered or sleight-of-hand performance of magic or of card tricks

27) Caput / Capitis (Latin): head
   a. Capital – top of a column; head, chief, or foundation money
   b. Capitalism – system where the “head money” makes money
   c. Captain – head of a group of soldiers
   d. Capitulate – put headings on chapters or divisions in a piece of writing
   e. Recapitulate [re: again] – to list again the “headings” in a piece of writing
   f. Cabbage – vegetable “head”

28) Manus (Latin): hand
   b. Manifest [festus: hit] – to hit by hand; easily perceived
   d. Manuscript [scribo, scriptum: write] – writing, written by hand
   e. Manumit [mitto, missum: send] – to send forth or release from one’s hand or grasp; to release from slavery

29) Pes / Pedis (Latin): foot
   a. Pedestal – foot of a column
   b. Pedestrian – walker, on foot
   c. Pedal – foot lever
   d. Peddle / Peddler – house-to-house salesman
   e. Pedicab – bicycle taxi
   f. Pedicure [curo, curatum: care] – care for the feet
   g. Pedigree [“pied de grue”: crane’s foot] – genealogy charts
   h. Pedometer – measures distance walked
   i. Pawn (ala chess) – foot soldiers

30) Brachium (Latin): arm
   a. Brace – two of a kind (one for each arm)
   b. Embrace [em: into] – to take into one’s arms
   c. Bracelet – ornament for the arm or wrist
   d. Brachiate – to swing by the arms on bars or tree branches
   e. Brachiopod [podos – G: foot] – two-shelled creature with two “arms” inside with which to bring food
   f. Bracero – Spanish word for day laborer (with two strong arms)

31) Dens / Dentis (Latin): tooth
   a. Dent – tooth-like notch in gears, locks, etc.; a small depression
   b. Dentist – tooth doctor
   c. Dentate – having a toothed edge (leaves)
   d. Dental – pertaining to teeth
   e. Dentifrice [frico, fricatum: rub] – toothpaste
   f. Dentition – development of teeth; teething
   g. Denture – set of teeth (false)
   h. Dentiform [forma: shape] – shaped like a tooth
   i. Indent – set a line of print in from the margin (bite)
   j. Dandelion [“dent a lion”]: plant called “tooth of the lion” with dentate leaves

32) Corpus / Corporis (Latin): body
   a. Corporeal – pertaining to the body
   b. Corps – military division, organized as a body
   c. Incorporate – to make into a body
   d. Corporation – legally formed group, a body
   e. Corpse – dead body
   f. Corpulence – an excess of body, fat
g. Corpus – main body of a fund of wealth, estate
h. Corpuscle [diminutive of corpus] – small part of the body

33) Unus (Latin): one
a. Unit – one part of a series or of a whole
b. Union – act of making one out of many
c. E pluribus unum – motto of the U.S.A. “One out of many” states
d. United – together as one
e. Universe [vero, versum: turn] – star galaxy which turns as one entity, like a cosmic pinwheel
f. University [vero, versum: turn] – many colleges joined together to function as one body
g. Unicorn [cornu: horn] – mythical horse with one horn on its head
h. Unison [sonus: sound] – voices singing or musical instruments playing together the same notes at the same time (as one)

34) Duo (Latin): two
a. Duet – music played or sung by two people
b. Duplicate [plico, plicatum: fold] – make a second copy
c. Dual – two (as in dual purpose)
d. Dubious – doubtful, “of two minds”
e. Duel – fight between two people
f. Duplex [plico, plicatum: fold] – two homes in one building
g. Duplicity – two-facedness or to “double cross”

35) Tres (Latin): three
a. Trio – three acting or performing together
c. Tripod [podos – G: foot] – a three-legged stand for a camera or other equipment
d. Triangle [angulus: corner angle] – a figure with three straight sides and three corner angles
e. Triennial [annus: year] – every three years
f. Triceratops [keras: horn; tops – G: face] – three-horned face
g. Trilobite [lobus: a rounded division] – a prehistoric animal having three rounded divisions of the body (looks like three worms stuck together side-by-side)
h. Tribe – early Rome was divided into three family social groups, or clans, called tribes

36) Quattuor (Latin): four
a. Quadruped [pes, pedis: foot] – four-footed animal
c. Quadrilateral [latus: side] – having four sides
d. Quadragenarian [quadraginta: forty] – person in his/her 40’s
e. Quaternity – group of four people
f. Quatrain – a stanza or verse of poetry four lines long
g. Quadrille – square dance for four couples
h. Quadri – prefix meaning four

37) Quinque (Latin): five
a. Quinquennial [annus: year] – five-year period or celebration
b. Quinquagenarian [quinquageni: fifty each] – person who is 50-59 years old
c. Quinquenary [syllaba: several letters taken together to make one sound] – a word of five syllables (e.g. quin-que-syl-la-bic)

38) Sex (Latin): six
a. Sexennial [annus: year] – six-year period or celebration
b. Sexagenarian [sexageni: sixty each] – person who is 60-69 years old
c. Sexdigital [digitus: finger, toe] – having six fingers or toes
d. Sexcentenary [centum: hundred] – a 600-year period or celebration

39) Septem (Latin): seven
a. September – seventh month in the Roman calendar
b. Septennial [annus: year] – seven-year period or celebration
c. Septangle [angulus: corner angle] – a flat plane figure with seven sides and seven angles
d. Septuagenarian [septuageni: seventy each] – person who is 70-79 years old

40) Octo (Latin): eight
41) **Novem (Latin): nine**
a. November – ninth month in the *Roman* calendar  
b. Novennial [annus: year] – nine-year period or celebration  
c. Novennia [annus: year] – nine-year period or celebration  
e. Novendial [dies: day] – lasting nine days

42) **Decem (Latin): ten**
a. December – tenth month in the *Roman* calendar  
b. Decennial [annus: year] – tenth anniversary or celebration  
c. Decemdentate [dens, dentis: tooth] – having ten teeth  
d. Decemfoliate [folium: leaf] – having ten leaves  
e. Decempedal [pes, pedis: foot] – having ten feet  
f. Decemplicate [plico, plicatum: fold] – tenfold or ten copies

43) **Centum (Latin): hundred**
a. Cent – one hundredth of a dollar  
b. Century – a set of one hundred  
c. Centurion – Roman military officer over 100 men  
d. Centimeter [metron: measure] – one hundredth of a meter  
e. Centennial [annus: year] – hundred-year anniversary or celebration  
f. Percent [per: through] – number of parts in every hundred  
g. Centipede [pes, pedis: foot] – thousand-footed “bug”  
h. Centigrade [gradus: step, degree] – temperature scale with one hundred degrees between freezing and boiling

44) **Mille (Latin): thousand**
a. Mile – a thousand paces  
b. Mill – one thousandth of a dollar  
c. Millimeter [metron: measure] – one thousandth of a meter  
d. Millennium [annus: year] – thousand-year period or anniversary  

45) **Pyro (Greek): fire**
b. Pyrotechnician [techne: work, skill] – one who is skilled with fireworks  
c. Pyre – huge bonfire for burning bodies at ancient funerals  
d. Pyromaniac [mania: craze] – a crazy person who plays with fire  
e. Empyrean [em: in] – the heavens  
f. Pyrometer [metron: measure] – instrument to measure very hot temperatures

46) **Ignis (Latin): fire**
a. Igneous [ous: full of] – pertaining to fire  
b. Ignite – to set on fire  
c. Ignition – act of “firing up” or starting an engine; setting anything aflame

47) **Vulcanus (Latin): Vulcan – Roman God of Fire**
a. Volcano – a crack in the earth pouring out hot magma and gases  
b. Volcanic – like or pertaining to volcanoes  
c. Vulcanize – to treat raw rubber with heat and sulphur to make it harder and more durable  
d. Vulcanite – hard rubber, treated with heat and sulphur  
e. Vulcanology [logos: word, study] – the study of volcanoes

48) **Hydros (Greek): water**
b. Hydrophobia [phobos: fear] – fear of water  
c. Dehydrate [de: down or away from] – take water away
d. Hydrogen [genos: origin] – a gas which, when burned, produces water  
e. Hydrophone [phone: sound] – instrument to “hear” under water  
f. Hydrology [logos: word, study] – study of water  
g. Hydroelectric [electron: amber] – electricity produced by moving water  

49) **Aqua (Latin): water**  
a. Aquarium – a pond or tank of water where fish or water plants can live  
b. Aqueduct [duco, ductum: lead] – a structure for bringing water to where it is needed  
c. Aquaculture [cultura: till, cultivate] – growing food in water (fish, oysters, seaweed)  
d. Aquamarine – blue-green color of water  
e. Aquaplane [planus: flat surface] – surf board  
f. Aquarius – a constellation called “Water Carrier”  
g. Aqueous Humor [humor: moisture] – fluid in the eye between the lens and the cornea  
h. Aquifer [fero, latum: carry] – a layer under the earth where water flows  

50) **Bonus (Latin): good**  
a. Bonus – something extra good  
b. Bon Bon [French]: beautifully decorated candy; a good “goody”  
c. Bonny [Scottish]: good looking  
d. Boon: a good deed; a favor  
e. Bounteous [-ous: full of] – plentiful good  
f. Bounty: plenty or reward  
g. Bonanza [Spanish: fair weather, prosperity] – rich find in a gold mine  
h. Debonaire [French: of good disposition] – kindly, jaunty