



## How Can Teachers Use the Sourcebooks to Develop Knowledge of Latin and Greek Roots?

Helping students increase their knowledge of Latin and Greek roots will lead to the development of stronger vocabulary skills. When students learn the meaning of these word parts or roots, their understanding of word meaning increases exponentially. Research has shown that students who possess strong vocabulary understanding experience increased reading comprehension.

A root word is a meaningful word part most often derived from the Greek or Latin language. In fact, over half the words we speak or write have Latin or Greek word parts! When prefixes and/or suffixes are added to these word parts, the meaning or part of speech changes. Students who have the opportunity to explore and better understand the meanings of common root words are able to use this new vocabulary knowledge to help them spell words correctly. Also, understanding a particular root word's meaning can help students figure out the meaning of an unknown word. Having a strong knowledge of root words is especially useful when spelling multisyllabic words. For example, *spec/spect* is the Latin root for *see*. If students know this they will be able to figure out that *spectator*, *spectacles*, *inspector*, *introspection* and *circumspect* all have some connection with the word *see*. In addition, if students know the meanings of common prefixes and suffixes, they are better equipped to make sense of any multisyllabic word they encounter.

The Sourcebook is a great resource for developing a student's understanding of Latin and Greek roots. It encourages students to become familiar with the meaning of Latin and Greek roots as it teaches the rules that govern the addition of common prefixes and suffixes to the roots. Students are first introduced to the meaning of Latin and Greek roots in the Level 4 Sourcebook. In unit 10 students are taught the Latin root *voc*. Later in unit 23, they are introduced to the Latin root *port*. Seeds for Sowing Skills activities accompany each new root that is introduced.

For additional practice working with Latin and Greek roots teachers may want to consider having students use *Sitton's Vocabulary Mini-Course Series for Upper Grade Wordsmiths*, *SOME WORDS Have Latin Word Parts* and *SOME WORDS Have Greek Word Parts*. These 32 page, consumable workbooks contain multiple activities that teach and reinforce the most commonly used Latin and Greek roots. There is also an extension activity provided on each page to support additional learning. Multiple tie-ins to related skills are highlighted to help students make more discoveries about our language and how it works.