PREPARE

CONCEPT Latin roots are groups of letters that carry meaning. With few exceptions, they must be combined with prefixes and/or suffixes to create words. The ability to identify roots and their meanings helps students understand the structure and meaning of words, allows students to develop word identification strategies for multi-syllabic words, and enhances academic vocabulary development.

VOCABULARY affix (prefix or suffix), prefix, root, suffix

MATERIALS Lesson reproducibles, card rings, index cards, word lists (included)

INSTRUCT

Display or distribute a Latin Root Tree, such as the one included with this lesson. Explain that each word on the tree contains a Latin root (shown on the trunk). Read each word. Then, ask students to identify what they notice about the structure of these words. (Prompt students as necessary: Do the roots stand alone? What other word parts do you see?) As students point out word parts, underline roots and circle affixes to show how Latin-based words may be deconstructed.

Teachers, please note: In words like *traction* that contain *-tion*, the root is *tract*, the *i* is a connective, and the suffix is technically *-on*. For accurate pronunciation, *tion* is taught as a unit to make the pronunciation of words like *traction* more transparent.

Next, explain that all Latin roots carry meaning. Have students identify words on the tree for which they already know the definitions. Guide them to the meaning of the target root by comparing the meanings of the known words (e.g., To *distract* means "to pull someone's attention away," and a *tractor* is "a machine that pulls equipment." Could *tract* mean "pull"?). Once students have an understanding of the meaning of the root, challenge them to deduce the meanings of less familiar words. Supply the meanings of relevant prefixes and/or suffixes as necessary. Finally, have students synthesize their knowledge of Latin roots to provide an overall definition of the concept.

State the definition: **Latin roots are groups of letters that carry meaning. They are usually combined with prefixes and/or suffixes to create words.**

Introduce additional roots in a similar way.

Once the set of twelve roots has been introduced (likely over more than one class period), refer students to the Anchor Chart. Distribute copies for students to keep, or have students record the information in a notebook.

PRACTICE

- Using the Word Lists included in this lesson as a reference, display or distribute a list of words that contain roots. Have students record each word in the Whole Word column of the Roots Table included with this lesson. They should underline the root and then write each word part in the relevant column. Discuss word meaning as necessary.
- Provide a set of Root Cards and a set of Affix Cards, such as those included with this lesson. Have students create real words by combining affixes with the roots. Students should record each word and discuss how the meaning of the root relates to the meaning of the word.
- Choose two or four words to represent each learned root. Write each word on a separate index card. Then, have students play a matching game in which they need to match words with the same root (e.g., *audience/audible*). Have students create written or spoken sentences that include each word pair (e.g., *The actor's voice must be audible so the audience can hear his lines*).

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ADAPT

SUPPORT

- Have students create individual decks of cards with a Latin root on one side of each card and its meaning(s) on the other. Students may add pictures to provide additional support. Consolidate the cards on a ring so that students can use them for warm-up or review.
- Say a word that contains a Latin root (e.g., *propeller*). Have students repeat the word and then say only the root. Encourage students to provide the meaning of the root as well.
- Have student focus on one root at a time. Give students single sentences (e.g., *The child rejected her dinner*) that contain a word with the target root (*rejected*). Students should underline the target root (*ject*) and then illustrate the sentence. Encourage students to explain orally or in writing how the meaning of the root contributes to the overall meaning of the sentence.

EXTEND

- Have students play a guessing game in which one student acts out or draws a picture that represents a root for others to guess. Then, have students generate example words that contain the root.
- Write 12 to16 individual words that contain Latin roots on slips of paper. Put the slips of paper in a bowl. Have one student pull out two words, say the words, and write the words on the board. Then, pairs of students should work together to write one sentence that contains both words. Share students' ideas and repeat the exercise until all the words have been used.
- Dictate words that contain Latin roots. Students should spell each word and underline the target root. Above the root, they should write its meaning. Limit the words to those for which students have learned the relevant affixes.

CONNECT

- At the beginning of the year, have each student set up an ongoing notebook with pages lettered from A to Z. Add to this notebook when students review different concepts, such as Latin roots. As individual students come across words that contain roots, have the entire class add the word to the appropriate page and then fill in relevant information about the word (word parts, overall meaning, sample sentence). Consider setting weekly or monthly goals for how many words the class should add to their notebooks.

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WORD LISTS

To Be Used with Concept 11 and Up

Latin Root (Meaning)	Sample Words
audi (hear)	audible, audience, audio, audition, auditory, auditorium, inaudible
dict (say)	addictive, benediction, contradict, contradiction, contradictory, dictate, dictator, dictionary, indicator, predict, predictable, prediction, predictor
duct/duce (lead)	abduct, aqueduct, conduct, conductor, counterproductive, deduct, induce, induct, inductee, produce, production, reduce, reduction
ject (throw)	conjecture, dejected, eject, inject, interjection, object, objection, project, projectile, projection, projector, reject, subject, trajectory
pel (force or drive)	compel, compelling, dispel, expel, propel, propeller, repel, repellant
port (carry)	comport, deport, export, import, important, portable, report, reporter, support, transport, transportation
scrib/script (write)	describe, description, descriptive, inscribe, inscription, manuscript, nondescript, prescribe, prescription, scribble, scribe, scripture, subscriber, transcribe, transcript
spect (look or watch)	aspect, inspect, inspection, inspector, introspective, perspective, prospect, respect, respectful, retrospect, spectacle, spectacular, spectator, spectrum
struct (build)	construct, construction, constructive, destruction, destructive, instruct, instruction, instructor, instructive, obstruct, obstruction, reconstruct, structural, structure, unstructured
tract (pull)	abstract, attract, attractive, contract, contraction, detract, distract, distractible, distraction, extract, extraction, protracted, protractor, retract, subtraction, tractable, tractor
vis (see)	envision, improvise, invisible, revise, revision, supervise, television, visible, vision, visionary, visit, visitation, visitor, visual

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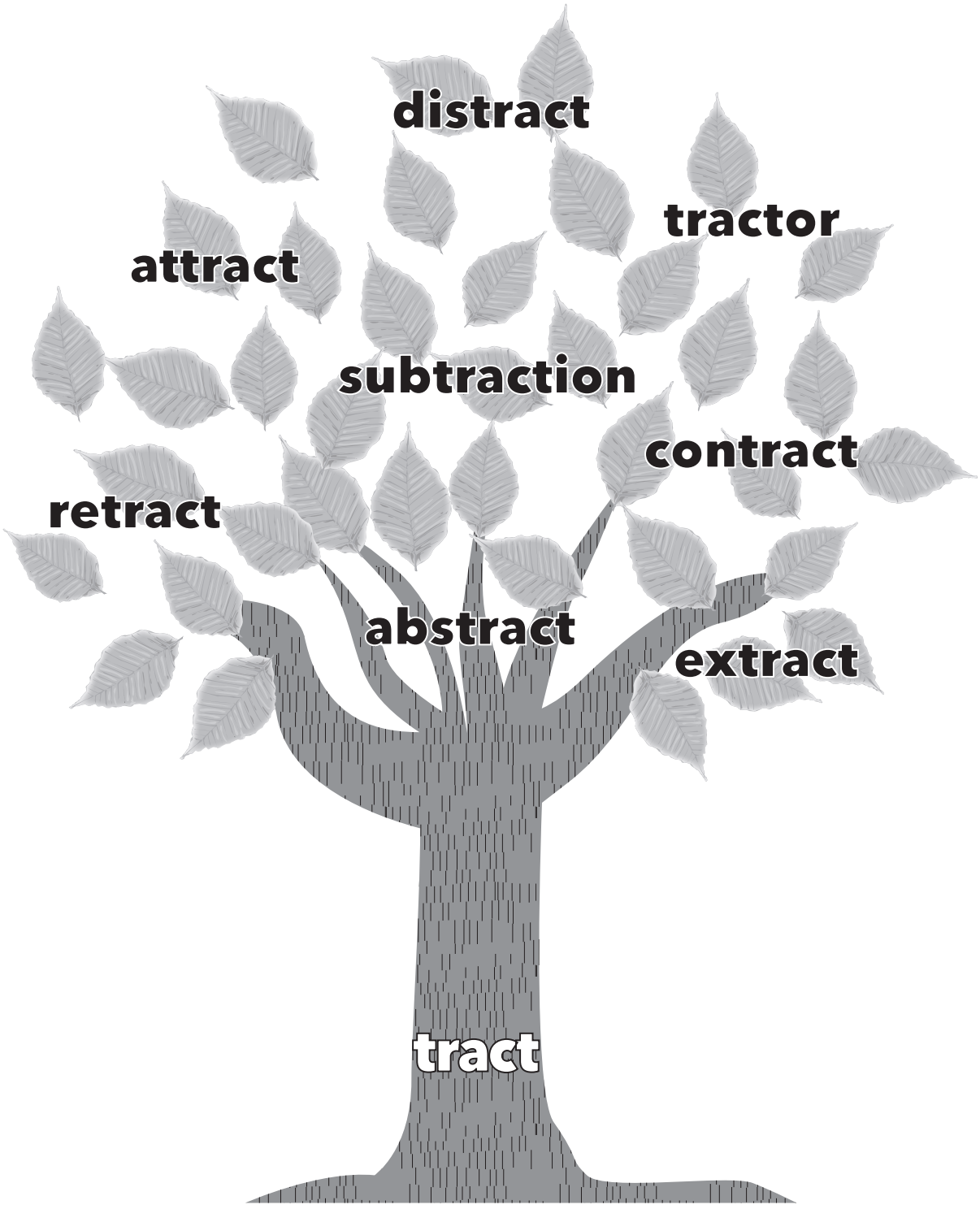
LATIN ROOT TREE

Sample Latin Root Tree for *tract*



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ANCHOR CHART

Latin Roots

- group of letters that carries meaning
- combined with prefixes and/or suffixes to create words

ROOT*	MEANING	SAMPLE WORD
audi	hear	audition
dict	say	predict
duct/duce	lead	conductor
ject	throw	reject
pel	force or drive	expel
port	carry	import
rupt	break	interruption
scrib/script	write	describe
spect	look or watch	inspector
struct	build	obstruct
tract	pull	distract
struct	build	obstruct

*These represent only a selection of roots.

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ROOTS TABLE

Whole Word	Prefix(es)	Root	Suffix(es)
deconstructed	de–, con–	struct	–ed

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ROOT CARDS

audi	dict
duct	duce
ject	pel
port	rupt
scrib(e)	script
spect	struct
tract	vis

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AFFIX CARDS

con-	com-
de-	dis-
in-	ob-
pre-	pro-
-ed	-ive
-s	-(t)ion

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