

NSHS English Department | Vocabulary Stems Curriculum

Lists for 9 th Grade	Lists for 10 th Grade	Lists for 11 th Grade
1-6 (60 stems)	7-12 (90 stems)	13-18 (120 stems)

List 13

Stem	Definition	Sample Words
andro	man	androgynous, android (droid), androgens
apo	away or up	apotheosis, apogee, apoplexy, apology, apostate
bas	low	bass, base, basic, basal, debase, abase
capit	head	decapitate, capital, recapitulate, capitulation, capitol
cor	heart	core, concord, discord, cordial, courageous, excoriate
crypt	hidden	cryptic, cryptologist, crypt, encrypt
epi	on	epicenter, epidemic, epidermis, epigraph, epitaph
fic	make	fortification, fiction, prolific, horrific, soporific, terrific, artifice, artificial, superficial, edifice, edification
fract	break	fracture, infraction, fraction, refraction, refractory, fractious
fug	flee	centrifuge, fugitive, subterfuge, refugee, fugue
gyn	woman	androgynous, gynecologist, misogynist
mort	death	mortal, mortician, mortified, immortality, mortuary, moribund
muta	change	mutant, mutation, mutable, mutability, transmutation, immutable
nat	born	prenatal, native, natural, nativity, nation, nascent, natal, perinatal
ped	foot or child	pediatrician, pedestrian, pedagogue, centipede, expedition, pedestal
phile	love	philosopher, audiophile, bibliophile, philanthropy
psych	soul	psychology, psychic, psychopathic, psychosis
sacro	holy	sacrosanct, sacred, sacrifice, sacrament, sacrilege, consecrate
theo	god	theology, atheism, monotheism, polytheism
vert	turn	convert, revert, inverted, divert, vertex, controvert, extrovert, introvert

List 14

Stem	Definition	Sample Words
bon	good	bonanza, bonus, bona fide
chrom	color	chrome, chromatic, chromosome, polychromatic, monochrome
diplo	double	diplomacy, diplomatic, diplomat, diploid
dys	bad	dysentery, dyslexia, dystrophy, dysfunction
eco	house	ecology, economy, ecosystem, economist, ecologist
fil	thread	filament, filigree, defile
form	shape	formation, formative, formula, uniform, reform
idio	peculiar	idiot, idiosyncrasy, idiom
jus	law	justice, justify, unjust, judiciary
labor	work	labor, laborious, collaborate, laboratory, elaborate, labored
log	word, reason	logic, neologism, philologist, illogical, monologue
mel	song	melody, melodrama, melodious, mellifluous
mem	remember	memory, memorandum, commemorate, memorial, memo, memoir
mob	move	mobility, mobile, immobile, mobilize, demobilize
nounce	tell	denounce, pronounce, announce, renounce, enunciate
oligo	few or small	oligarchy, oligarch
parl	speak	parliament, parley, parlor, parlance
potent	power	potential, potentate, omnipotent
reg	rule	regal, regiment, regulate, regent, interregnum, regicide, regime
surg	rise	resurgence, insurgence, surge, surgent

List 15

Stem	Definition	Sample Words
erg	work	energy, ergonomics, synergy
frat	brother	fraternity, fraternal, fratricide, fraternize
holo	whole	holocaust, hologram, holograph, holistic
kin	motion	kinetic, hyperkinetic, telekinesis, cinema
macro	large	macrobiotic, macrocosm
opia	sight	myopia, synopsis, biopsy
para	beside, near	parable, paradigm, paradox, paraphrase
patho	disease	pathogenic, psychopath, sociopath, pathological, idiopathic
phore	carry	euphoria, metaphor, dysphoria, anaphora
pod	foot	podiatrist, pseudopod
schizo	divide	schizophrenia, schism, schizoid
sect	cut	dissect, intersection, vivisection, bisect, section, sectarian, sector
sequ	follow	consecutive, sequence, sequel, obsequious, consequence, subsequent
som	body	somatic, chromosome, psychosomatic
soror	sister	sorority, sororicide
sta	stop	stasis, station, stationary, status quo, apostasy, static
struct	build	construct, destruction, substructure, instruction, structure, infrastructure
taxis	arrangement	syntax, taxidermy, taxonomy
ultima	last	ultimate, ultimatum, penultimate
vac	empty	vacant, vacuum, vacation, evacuate, vacuous, vacuole, vacuity

List 16

Stem	Definition	Sample Words
Anglo	English	Anglophile, Anglophobe, Anglican, Anglo-Saxon

cata	down	catapult, catastrophe, catacombs, catalepsy, cataclysm, cataract
caust	burn	caustic, holocaust, cauterize, caustically
coron	crown	corona, coronation, coronary, coroner
dicho	in two parts	dichotomy, dichotomize, dichotomist, dichotomous
err	wander	err, error, erratic, knight-errant, erroneous, erratum
flect	bend	reflect, inflection, genuflect, deflect, reflection
flu	flow	confluence, fluid, influence, fluent, superfluous, effluent, fluvial
here	stick	coherence, adhesive, adhere, inherent, incoherent
lingu	tongue	bilingual, linguist, lingua franca, linguini, language
mot	move	motor, motivation, demote, emotion, motion, promote, motility, commotion
mund	world	mundane, mundanity, mundo, <i>Telemundo</i>
nav	ship	navy, naval, navigate, circumnavigate, unnavigable
pos	put	position, deposit, superimpose, transpose, depose, imposition
sine	without	sinecure, sine qua non
somn	sleep	insomnia, somniferous, somnolent, somnambulate, somniloquy
terr	land	extraterrestrial, subterranean, terra firma, Mediterranean, terrain
tox	poison	toxin, nontoxic, detoxification, toxicity
troph	nourishment	atrophy, dystrophy
und	wave	inundate, undulate, undulatory, undulation

List 17

Stem	Definition	Sample Words
atmo	vapor	atmosphere, atmospheric, atman
cosmo	world or universe	cosmos, cosmopolitan, cosmonaut, cosmology, microcosm
counte r	against	counteract, counterproductive, counterpoint, counterinsurgence
cyclo	circle	cyclone, cyclotron, bicycle, encyclopedia, recycle, cyclical
fore	front	forehead, forefront, foreboding, forecast, forethought, foresail
gno	know	ignorant, agnostic, prognosis, gnostic, gnosticism, diagnosis, ignominious
lepsy	attack	narcolepsy, epilepsy, catalepsy
let	little	booklet, piglet, aglet, hamlet, coverlet, omelet
liter	letter	literature, illiterate, preliterate, literati
mens	measure	commensurate, immense, incommensurable, dimension
monge r	seller	fishmonger, warmonger, costermonger, phrasemonger
par	equal	disparity, parity, par, compare, incomparable, disparate
peri	near or around	perimeter, perihelion, perigee, periphery, periodical
phan	appearance	phantom, epiphany, diaphanous, sycophant, cellophane, theophany
phen	appearance	phenomenon, phenotype, phosphenes, fancy, fantasy
quasi	somewhat	quasar, quasi-military, Quasimodo, quasi-judicial
via	road	via, viaduct, trivia, via avion, obviate, obvious, via media
vol	will	volunteer, malevolent, benevolent, volition, involuntary
vore	eating	omnivore, herbivore, carnivore, voracious, devour
xeno	stranger	xenophobia, xenophobe, xenon

List 18 (*The Great Gatsby* Stems List)

Stem	Definition	Sample Words
ante	before	antecedent , antedate, antebellum, anterior, ante meridiem, antechamber

cred	believe	incredulous , credit, incredible, credible, credulous, discredited, credibility, credo
ef	out	effeminate , effusive, effulgent, efflux, efficacy, effluvium, effluent
eu	good	euphemism , Eucharist, euphony, eulogy, Europe, eugenics
fin	end	infinitesimal , final, define, infinite, finial, infinitive, fin de siècle
fort	strong	fortuitous , fortitude, fort, fortify, fortification, comfort
fus	pour	refuse , transfusion, infusion, fusillade, fusion, infuse, confusion
grat	pleasing	ingratiating , gratifying, gratitude, ingrate, grateful, gratuitous
luc / lum	light	luminosity , lucid, translucent, lucidity, Lucifer, elucidate, illuminate, luminous, luminary
magn	great	magnanimous , Magna Carta, magnate, magnificent, magnify, magnetic
medi	middle	medium , median, mediate, mediocre, Mediterranean, in medias res
morph	shape	amorphous , metamorphosis, polymorphous, anamorphic
omni	all	omnibus , omnipotent, omnivorous, omniscient, omnipresent
punct	point	punctilious , punctuate, puncture, punctual, acupuncture
sen	old	senile , senior, senator, seniority
super	over	supercilious , supervise, superb, superior, superfluous, supernatural
sur	over	surmise , surplus, surpass, surcharge, surface, surfeit, surmount, surname
tact	touch	tactless , tactile, contact, tactics, tactician, tactful, intact, tact
trib	pay	retribution , tribute, tributary, contribution, attribute, diatribe, distribute
vita	life	vitality , vitamin, vital, revitalize, viable

NSHS English Department | Vocabulary Stems | Prefixes and Suffixes

Prefixes

Stem	Definition	Sample Words
poly-	many	polytechnic, polygamy, polychrome
re-	again	return, review, retouch, reiterate, retail, revive, regenerate, regurgitate

ultra-	beyond	ultramarine, ultraconservative, ultraviolet
uni-	one	unicycle, universe, united, union, uniform, unison, unique, unicorn

Suffixes

Stem	Definition	Sample Words
-a	plural	data, phenomena, bacteria, phyla, effluvia, trivia
-ar	relating to	pulsar, stellar, lunar, solar, secular, columnar, linear, circular
-be	life	microbe, aerobe, anaerobe
ard	always	drunkard, coward, braggart, laggard, dullard, sluggard
ate	cause	domesticate, implicate, create, procreate, insinuate, placate, dominate
cle	small	molecule, corpuscle, follicle, minuscule, ventricle, particle, vesicle
cracy	government	autocracy, democracy, aristocracy, plutocracy, meritocracy
ess	female	lioness, empress, princess, baroness, seamstress, governess
fy	make	fortify, rectify, horrify, solidify, reify, transmogrify, sanctify, pacify
i	plural	bacilli, fungi, nuclei, alumni, magi, octopi, Gemini, homunculi, literati
ician	specialist	technician, musician, beautician, physician, statistician, clinician
ics	art	politics, economics, aesthetics, graphics, ethics, calisthenics
ine	nature of	porcine, crystalline, saturnine, canine, ursine, vulpine, bovine
ish	like	squeamish, greenish, smallish, outlandish, snobbish, ghoulish, mannish
ism	doctrine	Marxism, capitalism, Imagism, Cubism, nihilism, pluralism, tribalism
ist	one who	artist, somnambulist, anthropologist, solipsist, centrist, atheist, sophist
itis	inflammation	appendicitis, tonsillitis, bursitis, arthritis, gastroenteritis, colitis
ize	make	victimize, harmonize, temporize, mobilize, fossilize, polarize, bowdlerize
lent	full of	corpulent, virulent, turbulent, excellent, succulent, insolent, indolent
less	without	fruitless, hopeless, motherless, bootless, pointless, hapless, feckless
logy	science	biology, anthropology, geology, entomology, philology, mythology
lys	break down	hemolysis, electrolysis, electrolyte, analysis, dialysis, lysis
mania	madness	kleptomania, egomania, pyromania, dipsomania, megalomania
mony	condition	matrimony, acrimony, harmony, ceremony, simony, parsimony
ness	quality	softness, politeness, kindness, darkness, vagueness
nomy	law	astronomy, economy, Deuteronomy, taxonomy, heteronomy, nomothetic
oid	appearance	android, anthropoid, asteroid, adenoid, xyloid, haploid
osis	condition	neurosis, psychosis, ichthyosis, erythroblastosis, thrombosis, meiosis
ous	full of	luminous, glorious, loquacious, vivacious, garrulous, anomalous, zealous
sis	condition	arteriosclerosis, osmosis, mitosis, meiosis, catharsis, symbiosis
tion	act or state	completion, reaction, devastation, production, creation, transition
tude	state of	pulchritude, multitude, solitude, turpitude, rectitude, aptitude, similitude