

GROWTH AND REFORM
Vocabulary Builder

Understand Word Origins

Looking up and understanding **word origins** can help you learn an unfamiliar word. Most modern English words developed from words in older languages, such as Latin, Greek, and Middle English. The meanings of these older words can help you understand and use new vocabulary. You can usually find a word's origin in its dictionary entry. Some words derive from several older words. The dictionary will usually provide the meaning for the oldest word from which a modern word descends. The example below provides the origin of the word *compel*, which has Middle English, Middle French, and Latin predecessors. The Latin term is the oldest word in the chain.

Example		
Word	Definition	Origin
compel	v. to force by means of superior strength or authority	<i>compellere</i> (Latin): to drive

Directions: Review the words listed below. Record the definition provided in your textbook for each word. Then find each word in the dictionary, and write its word origin in the table. Some word entries may tell you to look up another related word to find the word origin. When you have completed the table, write on a separate sheet of paper a sentence for each word.

Word	Textbook Definition	Origin
1. drastic		
2. discrimination		
3. successor		
4. inevitable		
5. virtually		
6. procure		
7. commence		
8. allege		