

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Words with Less Common Derivatives

Words in English often have origins from other languages. These word origins are called *derivatives*. One strategy for learning new words is to check for an obvious origin, such as a Greek or Latin root. Sometimes the derivative is not immediately visible or does not come up that often in English.

It is not always easy to analyze a word's derivation. Sometimes a derivative is obvious. When it is not, a dictionary can help.

### Example: confidence

What is the root of *confidence*? Suppose you begin with *con-*. If you know that *con-* means "against," and try to define the word from there, you will find that this method will not give you the complete story of the word. Look up *confidence* in the dictionary. Read through the entire derivative information in the entry.

The useful root of this word is *fid-*, which is Greek for "trust." This derivation can help you define the word. *Confidence* refers to having trust in someone or something.

**Find a derivative on your own.** Examine the word **oppose**. Based on your knowledge of derivatives, can you see a root that would help you? If you see one, write it here. \_\_\_\_\_

If you think you can guess what the word means, write the definition below.

\_\_\_\_\_.

Now look up the word **oppose** in the dictionary. Read the whole derivation. What is the root? Write the root, the origin, and meaning here.

\_\_\_\_\_.

**Challenge:** Below are three words that contain derivatives that may not be common or readily visible. With a partner, try to figure out the derivative and the meaning. Then look up the words to check your guesses.

ostentatious \_\_\_\_\_

alien \_\_\_\_\_

canine \_\_\_\_\_