

Most common roots in the *Aeneid*

The easiest of these roots to figure out in compound forms¹ are the verbs of going (i.e. their meanings are the most literal in English). Knowing what a word ‘means’ (but not necessarily the best English equivalent) can be very useful as you read the *Aeneid*. At times, you may even feel like you have a better understanding of the word or relevant passage than the dictionary definition would have given you.

ag eg ig act	lead/ drive	ago, agito,	(action)
caed cad cid	fall/die	cado, caedes, caedo, casus	(cadence)
cap cep cip	take	capio, recipio, excipio, captivus	(capture)
ced cess	go/ yield	recedo, decedo, accedo etc etc.	(recede)
ci cit	set in motion	cio, citus, citius, incitatus excitatus	(incite)
curr curs	run	curro, cursus. occurro	(course)
cut cus	beat/hit	excussus, percutio	(concussion)
do ded dat	give	addo, condo, recondo	(add)
eo i it	go	abeo, adeo, redeo, exeo, pereo etc.	(exit)
fac fic fec	make/do	facio factum, reficio, interficio	(fact)
fig fix*	fix/ fasten	figo, infigo fixus	(fixed)
fer tul lat**	carry/ bear	praefero aufero, infero	(refer)
for far fat***	speak	fatus, fata adfor	(infant)
fug	flee	fuga, fugio, refugio	(fugitive)
fur	rage	furor, furio, furens	(fury)
gred gress	go/walk	gredior, egredior, etc etc	(digress)
iac iec ic****	throw	disicio, iacto, iacio, iactatus	(interject)
leg lig lect	choose	lego, diligo, lectus	(elect)
merg mers	sink	summergo, mergo, summersus	(submerge)
mol	heap/ work	moles, molior	(moil)
or ort	rise	coortus, orior, exorior	(orient)
pell pul puls	beat strike	repello, expello, compello impello	(expell)
plec plex plic	fold	supplex, implico	(explicate)
pon posput	put	repono, praepono	(deposit)
rap rip rep	snatch	eripio, deripio, rapio, raptus, etc.	(rapture)
reg	rule(r) guide	regina rex, regnum regia, rego, regno	(regal)
ru rut	rush	ruo, eruo, ruina	(ruin)
saev sev	fierce	saevus, saevio	(savage)
tend tent	stretch/ aim	tendo ostendo	(intend)
terr	fright	terreo, terror, perterritus	(terror)
toll	raise	extollo, tollo (but sublatus in p.p.)	(extol)
trah trax tract	drag	traho, tractus	(traction)
veh vex, vec	convey	conveho, vectus	(convection)
ven vent	come	pervenio, convenio, devenio etc	(convene)
voc	call	convoco, vox, voco	(vocal)
vol volut	roll	evolvo, volutans	(evolution)
vert vers	turn	evertio, aversus, verso	(adverse)

* But **not** *figo* (*fictus*), which means ‘shape’ or ‘contrive.’

** But **not** *ferio*, *ferire* (c.f. 1.103), which means ‘to strike.’

*** But **not** *fore* (or *forem* –s –t) which is the future infinitive of *sum*, *esse*.

**** But **not** *iaceo*, which means ‘lie.’

¹ Knowing the meanings of the prepositions, which are used as prefixes, will be very helpful. Just remember that *per-* (as a prefix) *can* mean ‘through’, but usually is an intensifier.