

heterolysis	mesencephalon	hygrodeik	orthoclase
cryogenic	stereobate	Xerox	scleroderma

Lesson 9

Greek words that end in ξ

To find the stem of Greek nouns whose nominatives end in ξ, drop the /s/ sound, which makes the end of the stem revert to γ, κ, or χ:

- The Greek letter ξ Ξ
 - Called "Xi"
 - Pronounced /ksee/
 - Transliterated by x.
- Unlike other Greek letters, ξ Ξ does not correspond to one single sound phoneme. ξ Ξ is actually two phonemes put together.
 - The first phoneme is the sound /k/
 - But as we will see, behind that /k/ may lie a gamma, a kappa, or a chi.
 - The second phoneme is always the sound /s/, Greek ζ (sigma)
- There are many nouns in Greek that end in ξ Ξ. Many of them are English words too. Consider the following three in particular:
 - **coccyx** (a technical term for your buttbone)
 - **anthrax** (Greek for "coal" or "zit": English for a disease that has zit-like eruptions as a symptom)
 - **onyx** (Greek for "toenail," "fingernail" or "claw": English for a kind of stone_)
 - Those three are English words, but they also occur compounded with other elements:
 - **coccygodynia** (pain in the butt)
 - **anthracite** (a kind of coal)
 - **onychophagia** (pathological nail-biting)
 - Note that those three roots lost their ζ (sigma) and so have no s. Once the sigma drops out, however, one of three Greek letters is left:
 - γ (gamma) transliterated g
 - κ (kappa) transliterated k or c
 - χ (chi) transliterated ch
- The upshot of all that is that : Greek nouns whose nominatives end in ξ drop the ζ, which makes the end of the stem revert to γ, κ, or χ, as the endings of the stems in the following table illustrates.

acou-	hear	hyper-acu-sis, acou-stic
calyp-	cover	Apo-calyp-se, eu-calyp-tus

The G remains			
coccyx	coccyg-	cuckoo	coccyg-e-al, coccyg-odyn-ia, coccyx
larynx	laryng-	larynx	laryng-itis, laryng-o-scope, larynx
mastix	mastig-	whip	mastig-o-phor-ous, mastig-ure
meninx	mening-	membrane	mening-itis, mening-o-cele
phalanx	phalang-	log	phalang-es, phalang-ist, phalanx
pharynx	pharyng-	pharynx	pharyng-e-al, pharyng-o-gnath-ous
phlox	phlog-	flame	anti-phlog-ist-ine, phlog-o-gen-ous
pteryx	pteryg-	wing	pteryg-oid, pteryg-o-branchi-ate
salpinx	salping-	tube	salping-ec-tom-y, salping-itis
Styx	Styg-	Styx (river of the underworld)	Styg-i-an, Styg-i-ochroic
syrinx	syring-	pipe	syring-e, syring-o-myel-ia

The C remains			
alopex	alopec-	fox	alopec-ia, alopec-ur-ia
anthrax	anthrac-	hot coal	anthrac-osis, anthrac-ite, anthrax
bombyx	bombyc-	silkworm	bombyc-id, bombyc-ine
calyx	calyc-	cup	chalice, calyc-oid, calyx
climax	climac-	ladder	climac-tic, climac-teric, climax
corax	corac-	crow	corac-oid, corac-o-morph
helix	helic-	spiral	helic-o-pter, helic-on
myrmex	myrmec-	ant	myrmec-o-phile, myrmec-o-phag-ous
phylax	phylac-	guard	pro-phylac-tic, phylac-ter-y, phylact-o-carp
sarx	sarc-	flesh	sarc-o-sep-sis, sarc-oma
thorax	thorac-	chest	mes-o-thorac-ic, thorac-ostrac-an

The CH remains			
onyx	onych-	claw, nail (toe- or finger-)	onych-o-phor-ous, onych-o-phag-ist
t(h)rix	trich-	hair	trich-in-ize-d, trich-o-path-y

ten-, ton-	stretch	tone, peri-ton-e-um
theore-	look down at	theor-y, theore-m
troch-	run	troch-an-ter, troch-ee
typ-	stamp	typ-e, a-typ-ic-al

Reconstructing the Xi!

- ξ Ξ (xi), which is transliterated *x*, is just the Greek way to write a combination of a guttural *g*, *k*, or *ch* and an *s* sound.
 - Thus when Greek verb stems ending in such gutturals have *-sis* added to them, a ξ Ξ (xi) in Greek and an *x* in English is written instead of *-gs-*, *-ks-*, or *-chs-*.
 - Examples include:
 - *-rrhexis* (instead of *-rrhegsis*): "bu(r)sting"
 - *-lexis* (instead of *-legsis*):
1. Many of the Greek roots listed above are English words on their own, such as *coccyx*. Which ones are and which ones are not?
 2. Analyze the following words:

coccygeal	helicon	mastigophorous
sardonyx	koilonychia	pharyngeal
fangist	salpingitis	prophylactic
myrmecophagous	hypophalangism	syringomyelia

climactic	chalice	phlogistic
stygian	syringe	Stygian
alopecoid	sarcosepsis	laryngoscope
pterygoid	anthracosis	coracoid
trichinosis	bombycine	trichiasis

3. Construct English words whose etymological elements mean the following:

whip-tail	
ant-lover	
whip-ass	
guard fruit	
a chest-cutting	
terrible-nailed	
finger walker	
wing bearer	
excessive fingeredness	
foxiness	
fire-eyed mineral	
middle chest	
a nut-busting	
spiral wing	
flesh eater	
ear-nose-throat specialist	
hair fungus disease	

4. Analyze the following words ending in *-xis*, *-xy*: note that some have adjectives associated with them that end in *-ctic* (the *xi* drops the sigma and becomes a *c* before *-tic*).

anaphylaxis	parataxis	hypotaxis
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anaptyxis	onychauxis	cathexis
chemotaxis	onychorrhaxis	parapraxis
apomixy	apoplexy	chiropraxis
cecopexy	chemopexy	orthopraxy
zootaxy	geotaxis	epistaxis

5. What is *phlogiston*? When was it part of scientific theory? How is its demise connected with the discovery of *oxygen* (sharp-generator)?
6. Why is a cheetah an *acinonyx*?
7. Why is the manatee in the genus *trichechidae*? (hint: look up *trichechodont* too)
8. Why do some Jewish people wear *phylacteries* and what are they?
9. What does "bombastic" speech have to do with silkworms?
10. What do you think *endoectothrix* means?
11. Consider the following pairs: explain the variation in the second stem.
 - sporothrix : sporotrichous
 - leiothrix : leiotrichous
 - ulothrix : ulotrichous

Lesson 10

Verbs, Part deux

acou-	hear	hyper-acu-sis, acou-stic
calyp-	cover	Apo-calyp-se, eu-calyp-tus
cathar-	clean	cathar-sis, cathar-tic
cau-	burn	cau-ter-ize, in-k
cha(s), chaen-	gape	chas-m, cha-os, a-chaen-odon, chaen-actines
cla-	break	orth-o-cla-se, icon-o-cla-st
cop-	cut	syn-cope, com-ma
cosme-	arrange	cosme-tic-s, cosm-o-log-y
cra-	mix	cra-ter. cra-sis, idio-syn-cra-sy
cryph-, crypt-	hide	grotto, apo-cryph-a