Digging out the roots

Many English words come from the same root, e.g. annual, anniversary, and annuity come from the root ann- which is from the Latin word annus meaning ‘year’.

GETTING STARTED

Use your Oxford dictionary to link together the following words and find the root they have in common. The first one is done for you.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Root</th>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Root</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>bio</td>
<td>autobiography</td>
<td>monochrome</td>
<td>antibiotic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>chronicle</td>
<td>euphony</td>
<td>benefactor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>chromatic</td>
<td>polygamy</td>
<td>hypodermic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>dermatology</td>
<td>inspect</td>
<td>phonograph</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>dictate</td>
<td>biology</td>
<td>transcription</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>manufacture</td>
<td>scripture</td>
<td>synchronise</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>bigamy</td>
<td>predict</td>
<td>polychrome</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>telephone</td>
<td>factory</td>
<td>monogamy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>manuscript</td>
<td>chronology</td>
<td>spectacles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>prospect</td>
<td>epidermis</td>
<td>evocative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>invocation</td>
<td>vocal</td>
<td>dictation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

MOVING ON

Match up the roots below with their correct meaning.

- life
- colour
- speak
- marriage
- write
- call
- time
- skin
- make/do
- look
- sound/voice
- script
- chrom
- derm
- fac
- voc
- spec
- bio
- dict
- chron
- gam
- phon

How many did you get right?

10 = novice 20 = expert 30 = maestro

You can use your Oxford English Dictionary for Schools and your Oxford Student’s Dictionary for these activities.