

Word Detective: Cracking the Code

The Building Blocks



A **Root** is the base part of a word that holds the main meaning. Many English words come from **ancient Greek** and **Latin**. If you know the root, you can unlock the meaning of dozens of new words!



Root: SPEC

Meaning: To look or see

When you see **spec** in a word, ask yourself: "Does this have to do with looking?"

Root: PORT

Meaning: To carry

When you see **port** in a word, think about moving or carrying something from one place to another.

Breaking Down Words

Use your knowledge of **SPEC** (look) and **PORT** (carry) to match these words to their correct definitions.

Word Bank: Inspection, Portable, Transport, Spectator, Import, Export

Definition	Word
1. The act of looking at something closely or officially.	
2. Able to be easily carried or moved.	
3. To carry people or goods from one place to another.	
4. A person who watches or looks at a show, game, or event.	
5. To carry goods <i>into</i> a country to be sold.	
6. To carry goods <i>out</i> of a country to be sold.	

Ellis Island Context

We are reading *Shutting Out the Sky*, a book about immigrants coming to America. Fill in the blanks below to see how these root words help tell their story.



Word bank: transport, inspection, portable, spectacles, spectators

The journey to America was long. The ship was our only mode of _____ across the ocean. When we finally arrived at Ellis Island, I was nervous.

We had to wait in long lines for a medical _____. The doctors looked closely at everyone to make sure they were healthy. I held tight to my small bag; it was the only _____ item I owned. Nearby, a man wiped his _____, or glasses, to see the Statue of Liberty better. We were no longer just _____, watching from afar—we were finally here.



Detective Quiz

<p>1. If a 'porter' works at a hotel, what is their job likely to be?</p>	<p>a) To look at the guests as they arrive. b) To carry bags and luggage for guests. c) To cook food for the guests. d) To build the hotel furniture.</p>
<p>2. The word 'retrospective' combines 'retro' (back) and 'spec' (look). What does it mean?</p>	<p>a) Looking back at past events. b) Carrying something backwards. c) Looking forward to the future. d) Writing a history book.</p>
<p>3. Which word describes something that is 'looked at' because it is impressive or amazing?</p>	<p>a) Reporter b) Support c) Spectacle d) Passport</p>