Growing Your Vocabulary:
Learning from Latin and Greek Roots
Contents

Introduction...........................................................................................................................................................................5

Chapter 1  **Flower Power**  Roots: *flor, foli/foil, dendr*
Instruction...................................................................................................................................................................................7
Exercises.....................................................................................................................................................................................11

Chapter 2  **All in the Family**  Roots: *mater/matr, pater/patr, frater*
Instruction....................................................................................................................................................................................19
Exercises.....................................................................................................................................................................................23

Chapter 3  **Here and There**  Roots: *urb, poli, loc*
Instruction....................................................................................................................................................................................29
Exercises.....................................................................................................................................................................................34

Chapter 4  **Good Living**  Roots: *anim, spir, san*
Instruction....................................................................................................................................................................................43
Exercises.....................................................................................................................................................................................47

Chapter 5  **Cardinal Numbers**  Roots: *uni, duo, tri*
Instruction....................................................................................................................................................................................53
Exercises.....................................................................................................................................................................................57

**Cumulative Review: Chapters 1–5** ...........................................................................................................................................64

Chapter 6  **Nature’s Demands**  Roots: *vor/vour, dorm*
Instruction....................................................................................................................................................................................69
Exercises.....................................................................................................................................................................................73

Chapter 7  **You Have to Start Somewhere**  Roots: *orig, init, arch*
Instruction....................................................................................................................................................................................79
Exercises.....................................................................................................................................................................................83

Chapter 8  **Power Trip**  Roots: *dyn, domin/dom, reg, vict/vinc*
Instruction....................................................................................................................................................................................91
Exercises.....................................................................................................................................................................................95

Chapter 9  **In All Directions**  Roots: *long, lat*
Instruction...................................................................................................................................................................................103
Exercises..................................................................................................................................................................................107

Chapter 10  **Teaching and Learning**  Roots: *doc, mon*
Instruction................................................................................................................................................................................115
Exercises................................................................................................................................................................................119

**Cumulative Review: Chapters 6–10** .......................................................................................................................................124

*Growing Your Vocabulary: Learning from Latin and Greek Roots*
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Roots</th>
<th>Instruction</th>
<th>Exercises</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Let’s Get Moving!</td>
<td>drom, cur/curs</td>
<td>129</td>
<td>133</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>The Same Difference</td>
<td>mim, siml</td>
<td>141</td>
<td>145</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Back to Nature</td>
<td>aer, lith, agri</td>
<td>153</td>
<td>158</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>All Together Now</td>
<td>cosm, integr</td>
<td>165</td>
<td>170</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>The End Is in Sight</td>
<td>fin, term</td>
<td>177</td>
<td>182</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Things Change</td>
<td>mut, migr, morph, form</td>
<td>195</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Twist and Turn</td>
<td>tort, volv/volut, vers/vert</td>
<td>207</td>
<td>211</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>What’s Your Angle?</td>
<td>angl, rect, gon</td>
<td>219</td>
<td>224</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>All or Nothing</td>
<td>sum, cumul, vac, neg</td>
<td>231</td>
<td>236</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Hearts and Minds</td>
<td>cred, dox, am/ami, fid</td>
<td>245</td>
<td>250</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Cumulative Review: Chapters 11–15**

**Cumulative Review: Chapters 16–20**

**Words to Learn**

**Roots and Affixes**
**Introduction**

**To Students**

*Homework, homesick, homemade, hometown, nursing home, motor home.* What do all of these words have in common? *Home,* of course! Because you already know that a home is a place where a person lives, you can give some meaning to all of the words. Fluent readers have learned to break words into parts and then put the parts back together. By understanding parts of words, you can figure out the meanings of whole words.

Learning Latin and Greek roots will help you figure out the meaning of many words in the English language. For example, the root *duo* means “two.” You probably already know that a *duet* is two people performing. But did you know that *duplicate* means “to make a copy” or “to double”? The root *loc* means “place.” Do you think the words *location* and *relocate* might have something to do with a “place”?

As you begin to recognize Latin and Greek roots in unfamiliar words, you can ask yourself if the root’s meaning makes sense in the context.

The goal of using this book is to have fun with words while you increase vocabulary and word recognition.

**Getting Started**

The 20 chapters in this book are based on themes. For example, Chapter 2 is all about families. Chapter 18 is all about angles and lines.

In each chapter, you will learn up to five roots and twelve vocabulary words. The first few pages are instruction. This text provides meanings and origins of the roots, as well as the definitions of the vocabulary words. It also includes information about each of the words.

The last few pages of each chapter are exercises to practice what you’ve learned. There are matching activities, games, and creative writing prompts—something for everyone. To keep all these roots and vocabulary words fresh in your mind, be sure to complete the review exercise after every five chapters.

*Good luck growing your vocabulary!*
Growing Your Vocabulary: Learning from Latin and Greek Roots

Florid
Portfolio
Rhododendron
Florist
Dendrite
Foil
Flourish
Foliage
Foli/foil
Dendr
Chapter 1: Flower Power

Flowers and plants are all around us, so it’s no wonder that some words we use today originally came from words that named plants and plant parts. In this chapter, you’ll learn some of these words.

**Roots to Learn:**
- flor
- dendr
- foli/foil

**Words to Learn:**
- flourish
- florist
- florid
- foliage
- foil
- portfolio
- rhododendron
- dendrite

**Suffix:**
- -ist

The Latin word **FLOS, FLORIS** means “flower.” The root **FLOR** comes from the word **FLOS, FLORIS, FLOR** is the root of many other words.

To **FLOURISH** means “to blossom, thrive, or grow very well.”

The word **FLOURISH** can be used to describe flowers and plants, but it is also used to describe other things that grow and thrive. For example, schools, businesses, communities, and even ideas can all flourish.

A **FLORIST** is someone who sells flowers and other plants.

Many people give flowers as gifts on birthdays or holidays. They visit a **FLORIST’S** shop to get the perfect bouquet. Now, however, like most things, florists sell their goods online. Would you rather see a flower in person, or order one without being able to even smell it in person?

“**When schools flourish, all flourishes.**” —**MARTIN LUTHER**

**Suffix Alarm!**
The suffix **-ist** means “one who makes or studies.”

Examples:
- novel + -ist = novelist—one who writes novels
- biology + -ist = biologist—one who studies biology

Growing Your Vocabulary: Learning from Latin and Greek Roots
Chapter 1:  
Flower Power

The Greek word **DENDRON** means “tree” or “branch.” From this word, we get the root **DENDR**.

A **RHODODENDRON** is a kind of shrub that is known for its green leaves and clusters of flowers.

Every state has a state flower. The **RHODODENDRON** is the state flower of West Virginia. The hard wood of the rhododendron plant can be used to make decorative objects and handles for tools. Both of these items were essential to people when West Virginia became a state. Most people don’t know it, but the leaves of the rhododendron are poisonous to cattle and deer.

There are over 100 species of **rhododendron**.

A **DENDRITE** has a shape like branches on a tree.

There are two main types of **DENDRITES**: 1) mineral deposits shaped like trees, and 2) branches of a brain cell that reach out like the branches of a tree.

Did You Know?
On cold mornings, frost sometimes makes crystals on windowpanes. Because these crystals look like little trees, they are called dendrites. The dendrites in your brain also resemble tiny trees. They branch out to carry electric signals from one brain cell to another.

**Growing Your Vocabulary:** Learning from Latin and Greek Roots
Exercises

I. Match It!
DIRECTIONS: Write the letter of the word from the right column that matches the definition in the left column. The first one has been done for you.

1. a person who sells flowers and other plants  ___ B. portfolio
2. a shrub with evergreen leaves and clusters of flowers ___ A. flourish
3. a case for carrying sheets of paper ___ D. foliage
4. a figure with branches ___ F. foil
5. the leaves of a plant ___ E. florist
6. a thin sheet of flexible metal ___ G. dendrite
7. to blossom, thrive, or grow very well ___ H. rhododendron
8. red or flowery ___ C. florid

II. Select It!
DIRECTIONS: Using the root, write a word to complete each sentence. The first one has been done for you.

1. The scientist looked through the microscope at the branch-shaped ______dendrite_____. (Root = DENDR)
2. I made a collage of fall __________________ using red, orange, and yellow leaves that I found in the park. (Root = FOLI)
3. The __________________ walked out to the greenhouse to cut some fresh roses for her window display. (Root = FLOR)
4. I'll never forget the time my little brother wrapped sheets of _________________ around himself and said that he was a robot. (Root = FOIL)
5. Dad was happy to find that the __________________ he planted grew well in our yard. (Root = DENDR)
6. After all that work in the garden, I sure hope those flowers _________________. (Root = FLOR)
7. A ________________ can help you organize and carry all those papers. (Root = FOLI)
8. Juan ate and ate all the chocolate he could find and ended up with a large, bumpy _________________ rash all over his body. (Root = FLOR)
**Growing Your Vocabulary:** Learning from Latin and Greek Roots

---

**Chapter 1: Exercises**

**V. Complete It!**

DIRECTIONS: Complete the sentence in a way that shows you understand what the vocabulary word in *italics* means.

1. Sarah decided to ask the *florist*…

2. Khalil needed a *portfolio* to…

3. Hailey could tell the plant was a *rhododendron* because…

4. Jim noticed that the *foliage* had begun to…

---

**VI. Put It In Context!**

DIRECTIONS: For each vocabulary word, write a detailed sentence that explains the meaning of the word through the context of the sentence. You may change the part of speech to fit your sentence.

1. *florid*: ........................................................................................................................................

2. *dendrite*: ......................................................................................................................................

3. *foil*: ...........................................................................................................................................

4. *flourish*: ........................................................................................................................................

5. *florist*: ........................................................................................................................................

6. *rhododendron*: ............................................................................................................................

7. *foliage*: ........................................................................................................................................

8. *portfolio*: ....................................................................................................................................

---

**Word Bank**

- flourish
- florid
- foil
- rhododendron
- florist
- foliage
- portfolio
- dendrite
IX. Solve It!

DIRECTIONS: Five words from the word bank are hidden in the word find puzzle below. Find the words and then use the words to answer the riddles.

Word Bank
flourish florist florid foliage foil portfolio rhododendron dendrite

Riddles:
1. I'm a showy plant that grows pink and red blooms in spring. ________________
2. You might use me to wrap up your leftover pizza. ________________
3. Only healthy, well-cared-for plants do this. ________________
4. Whenever you think, you use these kinds of cells. ________________
5. Artists show me off. ________________

In Exercise VII, you learned that the prefix multi– means “many,” and the suffix –al means “having the characteristics of.” Which root from this chapter could you add this prefix and suffix to in order to create a word that means “characteristic of many flowers”? Write the word on the lines below. Then, fill in the meaning of each word part below the word. Find this new word in the word find.

_____________________         _____________________         _____________________

_____________________         _____________________         _____________________

_____________________         _____________________         _____________________

_____________________         _____________________         _____________________

_____________________         _____________________         _____________________
All in the Family

There are many different kinds of families and family-type relationships. In this chapter, you’ll learn some words we get from roots that have to do with family.

**Roots to Learn:**
- mater/matr
- pater/patr
- frater

**Suffix:**
- –ism

The Latin word *MATER, MATRIS* means “mother.” From this word, we get the roots *MATER* and *MATR*.

**MATERNAL** relates to mothers or motherhood. It also means “kind and protective, like a mother.”

The females of some species of animals behave **MATERNALLY**, while others do not. Can you name three animals that act maternally? Can you name an animal that doesn’t look after its young?

The word *MATRIMONY* means “marriage.” Notice that the word contains the root *matr*. Because marriage and parenthood are closely related, the word *MATRIMONY* translates as “state of motherhood.”

A **MATRIARCH** is a respected female who is the head of a family, clan, or tribe.

The word *linear* means “like or related to a line.” A related word, *lineal*, is often used to describe family relationships. If you combine *matr* and *lineal*, you get *matrilineal*, which describes a family line that is traced through one’s mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and so forth. Elephants are led by the oldest female member of the herd; she is the **MATRIARCH**.
DIRECTIONS: Read each question. Then, circle the letter next to the best answer.

1. The prefix dis– in the word dislocate means
   A. above.
   B. through.
   C. not.
   D. after.
   E. under.

2. The best synonym for the word duplicate is
   A. find.
   B. grow.
   C. watch.
   D. eat.
   E. copy.

3. Where would you be most likely to find a dendrite?
   A. a brain
   B. a dinner table
   C. an idea
   D. a song
   E. a color

4. Animosity is a strong feeling of
   A. happiness.
   B. dislike.
   C. boredom.
   D. excitement.
   E. sorrow.

5. What does the word patron mean?
   A. mother
   B. briefcase
   C. place
   D. supporter
   E. group of three

6. If something is just outside a city, it is
   A. sanitary.
   B. fraternal.
   C. suburban.
   D. double.
   E. local.
**Words to Learn**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter 1</th>
<th>flourish</th>
<th>florid</th>
<th>foil</th>
<th>rhododendron</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>florist</td>
<td>foliage</td>
<td>portfolio</td>
<td>dendrite</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Chapter 2       | maternal     | matriarch    | patriarch   | patron       |
|                 | matrimony    | paternity    | patriotism  | fraternity   |
|                 |              |              |             | fraternal    |

| Chapter 3       | urban        | police       | political   | location     |
|                 | suburban     | policy       | metropolis  | relocate     |
|                 |              |              |             | locale       |
|                 |              |              |             | dislocate    |

| Chapter 4       | animate      | animal       | inspire     | perspire     |
|                 | animosity    | respiration  | spirit      | conspire     |
|                 |              |              |             | sanitary     |
|                 |              |              |             | sanitation   |

| Chapter 5       | unite        | unison       | duet        | double       |
|                 | union        | university   | duplicate   | dual         |
|                 |              |              |             | duplicity    |
|                 |              |              |             | trilogy      |

| Chapter 6       | devour       | carnivore    | omnivore    | dormitory    |
|                 | voracious    | herbivore    | arachnivore | dormant      |

| Chapter 7       | original     | origin       | initial     | initiative   |
|                 | originate    | aborigine    | initiate    | archaic      |
|                 |              |              |             | archive      |
|                 |              |              |             | archaeology  |

| Chapter 8       | dynamic      | dynamite     | predominant | regal        |
|                 | dynasty      | dominate     | condominium | regular      |
|                 |              |              |             | irregular    |
|                 |              |              |             | invincible   |
|                 |              |              |             | victory      |

| Chapter 9       | longitude    | oblong       | longevity   | lateral      |
|                 | elongate     | prolong      | latitude    | unilateral   |

| Chapter 10      | documentary  | doctrine     | admonish    | premonition  |
|                 | doctor       | docile       | monitor     | demonstrate  |
### Chapter 11
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>palindrome</th>
<th>dromedary</th>
<th>concurrent</th>
<th>cursive</th>
<th>occur</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

### Chapter 12
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>mimic</th>
<th>mime</th>
<th>pantomime</th>
<th>similar</th>
<th>assimilate</th>
<th>simulate</th>
<th>simile</th>
<th>facsimile</th>
<th>symbol</th>
<th>sympathize</th>
<th>symphony</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

### Chapter 13
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>aerobics</th>
<th>aeronautics</th>
<th>aerate</th>
<th>aerodynamics</th>
<th>lithograph</th>
<th>monolith</th>
<th>Paleolithic</th>
<th>Neolithic</th>
<th>agriculture</th>
<th>agrarian</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

### Chapter 14
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>cosmonaut</th>
<th>cosmostar</th>
<th>microcosm</th>
<th>integer</th>
<th>integrate</th>
<th>integrity</th>
<th>panorama</th>
<th>pandemonium</th>
<th>pantheon</th>
<th>pandemic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

### Chapter 15
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>infinity</th>
<th>define</th>
<th>finite</th>
<th>confine</th>
<th>indefinite</th>
<th>refine</th>
<th>term</th>
<th>exterminate</th>
<th>terminal</th>
<th>predetermine</th>
<th>determination</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

### Chapter 16
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>mutate</th>
<th>mutant</th>
<th>commute</th>
<th>migrate</th>
<th>immigrate</th>
<th>emigrate</th>
<th>morphology</th>
<th>amorphous</th>
<th>metamorphic</th>
<th>uniform</th>
<th>transform</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

### Chapter 17
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>torture</th>
<th>contort</th>
<th>retort</th>
<th>distort</th>
<th>extort</th>
<th>evolve</th>
<th>involve</th>
<th>revolution</th>
<th>convert</th>
<th>reverse</th>
<th>introvert</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

### Chapter 18
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>angle</th>
<th>triangle</th>
<th>quadrangle</th>
<th>angular</th>
<th>erect</th>
<th>correct</th>
<th>rectify</th>
<th>direction</th>
<th>pentagon</th>
<th>diagonal</th>
<th>trigonometry</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

### Chapter 19
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>summary</th>
<th>summit</th>
<th>cumulative</th>
<th>accumulate</th>
<th>vacant</th>
<th>vacation</th>
<th>vacuum</th>
<th>evacuate</th>
<th>negative</th>
<th>renegade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

### Chapter 20
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>credence</th>
<th>credit</th>
<th>credentials</th>
<th>paradox</th>
<th>orthodox</th>
<th>amiable</th>
<th>amateur</th>
<th>confidence</th>
<th>bona fide</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

---

Growing Your Vocabulary: Learning from Latin and Greek Roots
Roots and Affixes

Chapter 1
flor
foli/foil
dendr
–ist

Chapter 2
mater/matr
pater/patr
frater
–ism

Chapter 3
urb
poli
loc
sub–
dis–
–tion

Chapter 4
anim
spir
san
in–
–ary

Chapter 5
uni
duo
tri
–ity

Chapter 6
vor/vour
dorm
–ious

Chapter 7
orig
init
arch
–ology

Chapter 8
dyn
domin/dom
reg
vict/vinc
pre–
–ible

Chapter 9
long
lat
pro–
uni–

Chapter 10
doc
mon

Chapter 11
drom
cur/curs
con–

Chapter 12
mim
siml
sym–

Chapter 13
aer
lith
agri
–ic

Chapter 14
cosm
integr
pan–

Chapter 15
fin
term
re–

Chapter 16
mut
migr
morph
form
im–
trans–

Chapter 17
tort
volv/volut
vers/vert
intro–

Chapter 18
angl
rect
gon
tri–
dia–

Chapter 19
sum
cumul
vac
neg
–ate

Chapter 20
cred
dox
am/ami
fid
–able