Growing Your Vocabulary™
Learning from Latin and Greek Roots

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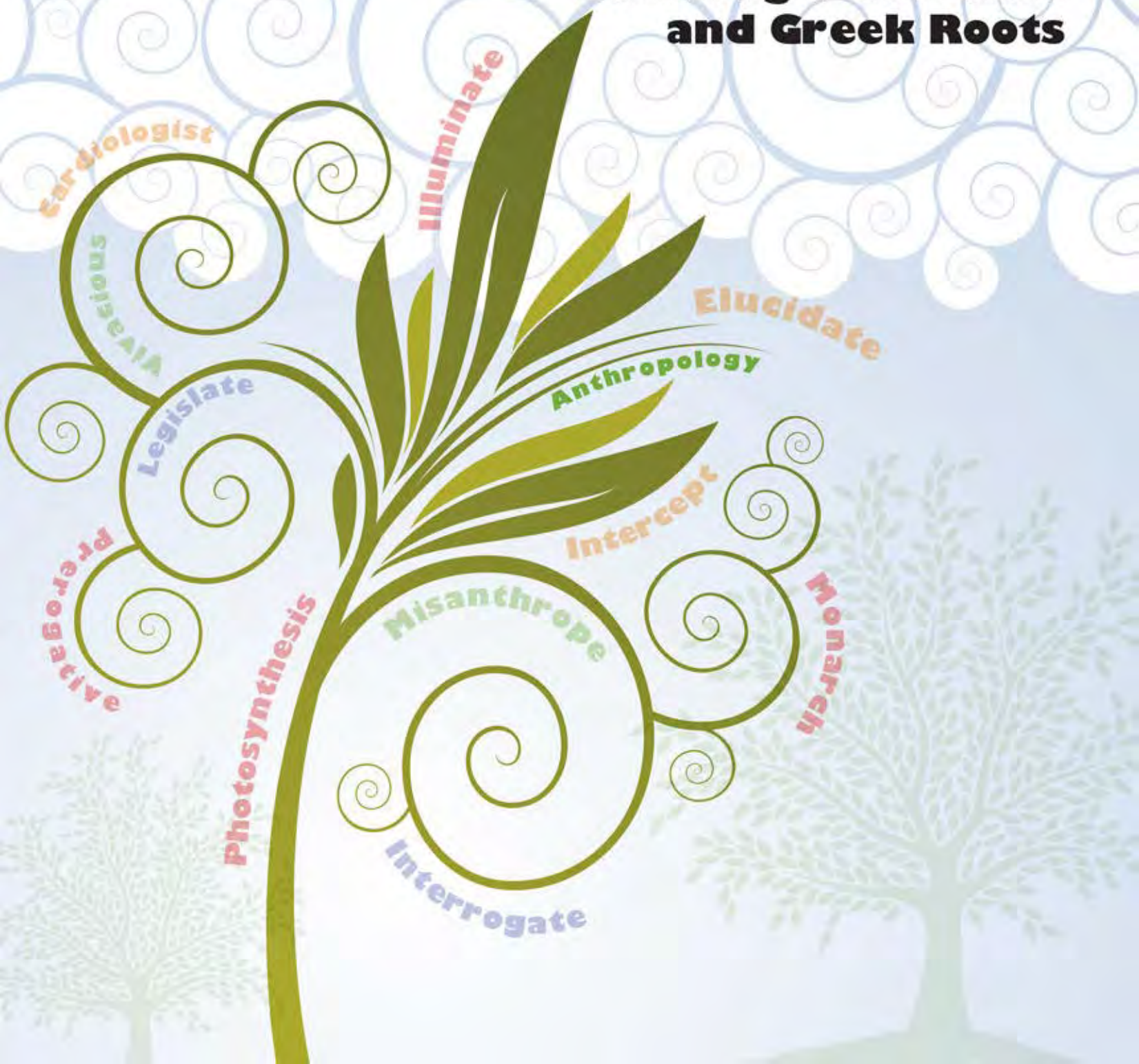
Growing your Vocabulary:

Learning from Latin and Greek Roots



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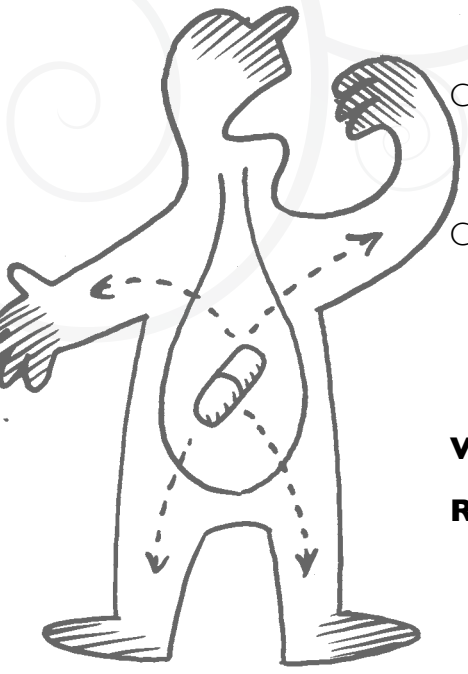


Introduction

To Students

Honor, *honorable*, *honor roll*, *honorary*. What do all these words have in common? *Honor*, of course! Because you already know that honor has to do with respect or special recognition, 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 meanings of many words in the English language. For example, the root *viv* means "to live." You probably already know that *survive* means "to stay alive." But, did you know that *vivid* means "lifelike"? The root *dict* means "to say, speak." Do you think the words *predict* and *dictate* might have something to do with speaking?

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.

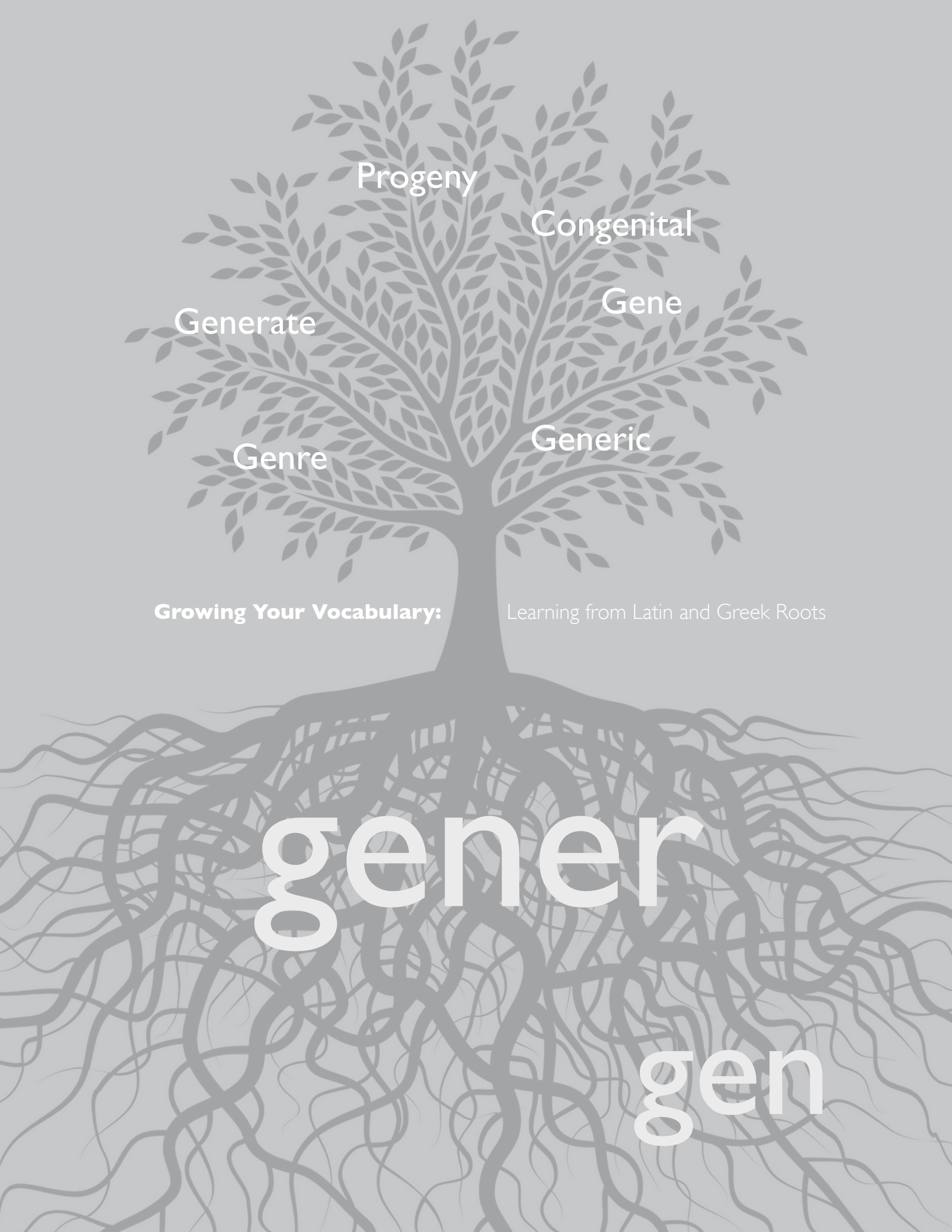
Getting Started

The 20 chapters in this book are based on themes. For example, Chapter 4 is all about light, while Chapter 10 is all about human beings.

In each chapter, you will learn two to four roots and up to ten vocabulary words. The first two to four 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. And 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

gener

gen

It's in the Genes

CONGENITAL means "occurring at birth" and is often used to describe medical conditions. You may have heard the term "congenital birth defect" or "congenital heart disease."

Many congenital problems, which used to cause serious health issues later in life, can now be treated before a baby is born.

*White cats are more likely to have **congenital** deafness.*

SUFFIX ALARM!

The suffix *–al* means "having the quality or physical makeup of something."

Examples: accident + *–al* = accidental—happening by chance

alphabetic + *–al* = alphabetical—arranged in the order of the alphabet

*The **progeny** of the champion racehorse went on to win many awards.*

PROGENY are the offspring of living organisms.

One of the basic needs of all living things, both plants and animals, is to reproduce.

PREFIX ALARM!

The prefix *pro–* has several meanings. One definition is "forward" or "before."

Example:

pro– + *active* = proactive—ready to take action before an event occurs

Exercises

Word Bank

gene	progeny	genre
congenital	generate	generic

I. Define It! (Part 1)

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. of no particular kind or type **C**
2. type; class; category ___
3. the offspring of living organisms ___
4. biological material passed from parent to child that determines which traits a child will inherit ___
5. to create ___
6. occurring at birth ___

A. progeny
B. congenital
C. generic
D. gene
E. genre
F. generate

II. Finish It!

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

1. It is likely that the winner of the American Kennel Dog Show will be the _____**progeny**_____ of a former champion. (Root = GEN)
2. When writing an essay, a student should be able to _____ more than one or two paragraphs. (Root = GENER)
3. To save money at the grocery store, my mother likes to buy the _____ brands of cereal rather than Frosted Fruit because they are usually less expensive. (Root = GENER)
4. Susie has brown eyes because she received a dominant _____ for them from both of her parents. (Root = GEN)
5. In literature class, students study many different _____ of writing, such as poetry, nonfiction, drama, novels, and short stories. (Root = GENER)
6. The prize cow had a calf with five legs, which is a serious _____ birth defect. (Root = GEN)

Word Bank

gene	progeny	genre
congenital	generate	generic

V. Decode It!

DIRECTIONS: Use what you have learned about the roots *gen* and *gener* and the prefixes and suffixes in this chapter to answer the following questions:

1. The Latin prefix *re–* means "again." Review the definition of the root *gener*. What do you think *regenerate* means?

   _____

2. The prefix *de–* means "down" or "opposite of." What do you think *degenerate* means?

   _____

3. When a person is born, he or she has certain physical characteristics that others can see. These characteristics are called phenotypes. Phenotypes and *genotypes* are related. What do you think a *genotype* is?

   _____

4. The Latin verb *gignere*, *genitus* means "to give birth" or "create." The first book of the Bible is called *Genesis*. Why do you think this name is used for the first book?

   _____

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 sentences.

1. generic:

   _____

2. genre:

   _____

3. generate:

   _____

4. progeny:

   _____

5. congenital:

   _____

6. gene:

   _____

Word Bank

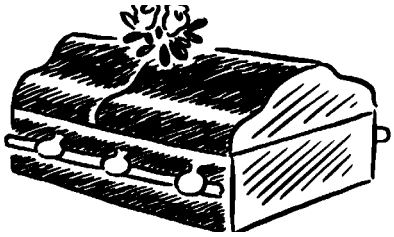
gene	progeny	genre
congenital	generate	generic

VIII. Write About It!

DIRECTIONS: In this chapter, you have learned words about birth, creation, and type. Think about the characteristics that make you who you are. Do you think that the kind of person you are is determined mostly by your genes or by your experiences? Do you think that your most important qualities are set at birth, or do you think that the choices you make really say more about you? Explain your answers.

Chapter 2:

A Matter of Life and Death



Mahatma Gandhi, an inspiring leader who dedicated his life to serving people and taught the importance of honesty and nonviolence, once said, "Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever." In this chapter, you'll learn words that are related to living and dying—the very concepts that Gandhi spoke about.

Roots to Learn:	Words to Learn:		Prefixes:	Suffixes:
viv	survive	mortal	re–	–ious
mort/mor	revive	immortal	im–	–ify
	vivid	mortify		
	vivacious	morbid		

The Latin word **VIVERE** means "to live." The root **VIV** comes from the word **VIVERE**. From this root, we get the following words:

SURVIVE means "to live through."

Many people **SURVIVE** a dangerous situation like a hurricane, tornado, or an accident simply by remaining calm and waiting for help to arrive. The worst thing you can do is panic.

REVIVE means "to bring back to life."

Modern medicine has become so advanced that many people who, in the past, would have died from a disease or an operation have been **REVIVED**.

*The hiker **survived** the avalanche by digging a small breathing hole in the snow.*

Doctors use various modern techniques, such as electrically shocking the heart or performing CPR, to revive people whose hearts have stopped.

PREFIX ALARM!

The prefix *re–* means "back" or "again."

Example:

re– + *play* = replay—to play again

Review It!

13. If you are studying *dermatology*, you must be
    A. learning about the heart.
    B. learning about the skin.
    C. taking care of babies.
    D. seeing how plants use light.
    E. finding out why some people live longer.

14. What does the word *vivacious* mean?
    A. full of light
    B. able to die
    C. present at birth
    D. full of energy
    E. using light for food

15. Which is the best synonym for *motivate*?
    A. remove
    B. sadden
    C. encourage
    D. create
    E. anger

16. Read the sentence below:

    Carl had many *motives* for helping his neighbor clean her garage.

    The word *motives* means
    A. reasons.
    B. categories.
    C. thrown objects.
    D. children.
    E. dreams.

17. The suffix *–ous* in the word *luminous* means
    A. creating.
    B. one who.
    C. resembling.
    D. full of.
    E. the study of.

18. Which of these Latin roots means "birth," kind," or "type"?
    A. viv
    B. gen
    C. nat
    D. luc
    E. mort

Words to Learn

Chapter 1

gene	progeny	genre
congenital	generate	generic

Chapter 2

survive	vivid	mortal	mortify
revive	vivacious	immortal ·	morbid

Chapter 3

cardiologist	epidermis	anemia	prenatal
cardiovascular	dermatology	hemorrhage	neonatal

Chapter 4

luminous	illuminate	elucidate	photosynthesis
luminary	lucid	photon	

Chapter 5

projectile	interject	mobile	remove	motive
eject	dejected	immobile ·	remote	motivate

Chapter 6

grave	aggravate	pendant	pending
gravitate	pendulum	appendix	pensive

Chapter 7

levity	alleviate	lever	altitude
elevate	levitate	relieve	exalt

Chapter 8

capture	captivate	except	anticipate	participate
captive	accept	intercept	recipient	

Chapter 9

inter	tenant	tenure	trite
subterranean	tenement	continent	attrition

Chapter 10

homo sapiens	anthropology	philanthropy
homicide	misanthrope	android

Chapter 11

artisan	artifice	ornate	apt	adept
artificial	adorn	adapt	aptitude	inept

Chapter 12

dictate	diction	contradict	monologue
indict	edict	dialogue	prologue

Chapter 13

arrogant	interrogate	acquire	inquisitive
prerogative	query	inquisition	quest

Chapter 14

monarch	potent	potential	omnipotent
anarchy	impotent	potentate	

Chapter 15

legislate	justice	jurisdiction	jurisprudence
legitimate	justify	perjure	

Chapter 16

verify	verdict	infidel	confidant
veracity	fidelity	confide	

Chapter 17

sequence	consequence	ratio	rational
sequel	subsequent	ration	rationale

Chapter 18

psyche	psychology	amnesia	memorandum
psychic	amnesty	commemorate	memorial

Chapter 19

savvy	recognize	cognitive	cognizant	option
savor	incognito	connoisseur	opt	adopt

Chapter 20

bellicose	rebel	pact	placebo
belligerent	pacify	placid	placate

Roots and Affixes

Chapter 1
gen
gener
pro–
–al
–ic/ics
–ate

Chapter 2
viv
mort/mor
re–
im–
–ious
–ify

Chapter 3
card
derm
hem/em
nat
cardio–
epi–
a–
pre–
neo–
–ar
–logy
–ist

Chapter 4
lumin
luc
phot
–er

Chapter 5
ject
mob
mot/mov
e–
inter–
de–

Chapter 6
grav
pend/pens
–ant
–ive

Chapter 7
lev
alt
–y

Chapter 8
capt
cept
cip

Chapter 9
ter
ten/tin
trit
sub–
con–

Chapter 10
hom
anthropo
andro
mis–
–cide

Chapter 11
art
orn
apt/ept
–ial

Chapter 12
dict
log
mono–
dia–

Chapter 13
roga
quer/quisit

Chapter 14
arch
pot
omni–

Chapter 15
leg
jus/jur
–ice

Chapter 16
ver
fid

Chapter 17
sequ
rat

Chapter 18
psych
mnem
memor

Chapter 19
sav
cogn
opt

Chapter 20
bell
pac
plac