Sample

Vocabulary from Latin and Greek Roots

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Reading
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VOCABULARY FROM
LATIN AND GREEK ROOTS:
A STUDY OF WORD FAMILIES

By: Elizabeth Osborne

Edited by Paul Moliken
Illustrated by Larry Knox

Prestwick House wishes to extend its gratitude to the many contributors whose assistance, comments, and expertise were essential in completing this book.
INTRODUCTION

Prestwick House developed *Vocabulary from Latin and Greek Roots* in response to numerous requests for a solid etymology-based vocabulary program. Because the aim of the program is to increase retention of new words as well as to expand students’ vocabulary, we chose to organize the units by meaning rather than alphabetically. A student who associates a root with an idea will be more likely to correctly assess the definition of that root’s English derivative.

Each unit contains four Latin and/or Greek roots; two to four English vocabulary words are provided for each root. Unit 14 of this book (p. 84), for example, includes four roots having to do with place, placing, or putting. When a student reaches the second root in this Unit, he or she will see the key letters that signal the presence of the root in an English word: POS. Beneath the key letters is the root from which the English is derived. Students will notice that there are sometimes two forms of the root, and sometimes one. The inclusion of two forms indicates a Latin verb from which English has taken two different forms. PONERE, for instance, gives us *component*, meaning “something put together with another thing to make a whole,” while POSITUM gives us *deposit*, meaning “to put down.”

When a root comes from a Latin adjective or noun, only one form will generally be included. Greek roots also appear in only one form.

Beneath the definition of the root, the student will find the word, its pronunciation, part of speech, and English definition. In cases in which an English word has multiple meanings, we have chosen to include only the meaning appropriate to the grade level for which the book is intended. The word *resignation* in this book, then, is a noun meaning “submission, surrender” rather than a formal withdrawal from a job or position; in Book III, *pedestrian* means “ordinary” rather than “a traveler on foot.” In some instances, students may find it useful to review meanings that do not appear and discuss how they are related to the meaning presented.

If the word has a prefix, or if it is especially difficult to reconcile with its root, the entry will contain an analysis of the parts of the word, followed by a literal definition. *Repulsion* in Book III, Unit Five, is explained as *re*, meaning “back,” + *pulsum*; the literal meaning is “a pushing back.”

Finally, each entry provides a sentence using the word and introduces pertinent synonyms and/or antonyms. For added visual reinforcement of this understanding, mnemonic cartoons appear in each Unit.

Six different kinds of exercise follow the Unit entries. They include three kinds of practice using words in context, one test of a student’s ability to infer information based on a word’s meaning, one reading comprehension exercise, and one activity in which a student must deduce the meaning of an unfamiliar word based on knowledge of the word’s root. By the end of the exercises in each Unit, students will have had thorough practice using the word in context and will be prepared to make the word part of their working vocabulary.

We hope that you find the *Vocabulary from Latin and Greek Roots* series effective in teaching new words and in fostering student interest in the history of our fascinating language.

Note: A guide to the pronunciation symbols and a list of Latin and Greek prefixes can be found at the beginning of this book.
PREFIXES

A (L.) away from  EN (G.) in, within
A(G.) not, no  EPI (G.) upon
AB (L.) away from  EX (L.) out of, away from *
AD (L.) toward  HYPER (G.) over
ALTER (L.) another  IN (L.) in, into, on, against, not
AMPHI (G.) around, both  INTRO (L.) inside
ANA (G.) up  OB (L.) against
ANTE (G.) before  OMNI (L.) every, all
ANTI (G.) against  PER (L.) through
CIRCUM (L.) around  PERI (G.) around
CO (L.) with, together  POST (L.) after
CON (L.) with, together  PRE(L.) before
CONTRA (L.) against  RE (L.) back, again *
DE (L.) down, down from  RETRO (L.) backwards
DIA (G.) through  SUB (L.) beneath
DIS (L.) apart, away from  SUPER, SUR (L.) above
DY (G.) bad  SYM (G.) with, together
E (L.) out of  SYN (G.) with, together
EC (G.) outside  TRANS (L.) across
EM (G.) in, within  TELE (G.) distant

* Note: Re, con, in, and ex sometimes serve as intensifiers. In such cases, these prefixes simply mean very.

PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

a = track  o = job
ä = mate  ö = wrote
â = father  ô = port
å = care  õõ = proof

e = pgt  u = pun
ê = bg  ū = you
ë = tgt  ū = purr
i = bit
î = bëte  ø = about, system, supper, circus
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UNIT ONE

AG, ACT
Latin AGERE, ACTUM “to drive, do”

COGENT (kō ’jānt) adj. Strong and to the point; convincing
L. co (from con), “together,” + actum = driving together
The defense attorney’s claim that Brown was out of town during the murder was the most cogent argument that she had presented to date.
syn: convincing  ant: incoherent

EXIGENT (ek´ si jānt) adj. Urgent; pressing
L. ex, “out of,” + agere = driving out of
The Congress held an impromptu all-night session to discuss the exigent threat of war.
syn: critical  ant: trivial

ASSAY (a sā´) v. To test, analyze
L. ex, “out of,” + agere = to drive out
The miner assayed the cave soil for diamonds and gold.

INTRANSIGENT (in tran´sā jānt) adj. Refusing to compromise
The principal was unable to come to a satisfying judgment in the teachers’ debate, as the feuding faculty members were intransigent.
syn: stubborn  ant: obedient

CIT
Latin CIEO, CITUM “to stir up, rouse”

INCITE (in sī´t´) v. To stir up; to provoke
L. in, “strongly,” + citum = to strongly stir up
Police were worried that the powerful and angry words of the speaker would incite the crowd to riot.
syn: urge  ant: soothe

RESUSCITATE (rē sus´ tāt´) v. To bring back to consciousness
L. re, “again,” + sub, “from beneath,” + citum = to rouse again from beneath
The firefighters resuscitated a baby who had been overcome by smoke.
syn: revive

The INTRANSIGENT TRANSIT bosses refused to make a compromise offer to the strikers.
EXERCISES - UNIT ONE

Exercise I. Complete the sentence in a way that shows you understand the meaning of the italicized vocabulary word.

1. The *turbid* waters of the river should have warned us that...
2. In response to the city’s *exigent* financial situation, the Mayor...
3. The knights will *assay* the castle in order to...
4. Pictures of the flag being burned *incited* the crowd to...
5. The witness’ *cogent* testimony prompted the jury to...
6. When asked to make a compromise, the most *intransigent* members of the political party...
7. Although paramedics tried for several minutes to *resuscitate* the woman, she...
8. Witnessing the car accident *perturbed* Dennis so much that...
9. The lawyer was *solicitous* towards the young family because...
10. The *celerity* with which the plant grew was amazing because...
11. Jana dealt with an especially *turbulent* period of her life by...
12. Rather than getting to her chores with *alacrity*, Helen...

Exercise II. Fill in the blank with the best word from the choices below. One word will not be used.

- solicitous  
- turbulent  
- celerity  
- perturb  
- cogent

1. Rather than allowing its characters to develop, the film moves with ____________ to the gory shootout at the end.
2. If you act a bit more ____________ towards your clients, they will understand that you really want to help them.
3. Marty’s ____________ account of his experiences during the war left the audience with a much clearer understanding of what had really happened.
4. Nothing will ____________ Kathleen more than seeing someone be unkind to a child.
3. Rather than offering a(n) __________ explanation of the basic principles of quantum physics, the author gives his readers only a few confusing, __________ paragraphs.
   A. turbid; solicitous
   B. solicitous; turbid
   C. exigent; cogent
   D. cogent; turbid

4. Even when a crisis became so __________ that all the other firemen came close to collapsing under the stress, nothing seemed to __________ Chief Hornby.
   A. exigent; resuscitate
   B. cogent; assay
   C. intransigent; assay
   D. exigent; perturb

5. The ______________ jeweler absolutely refused to refund his customers’ money, even after samples of his wares were ____________ and found to contain only worthless fool’s gold.
   A. perturbed; resuscitated
   B. turbulent; incited
   C. intransigent; assayed
   D. turbid; incited

Exercise IV. Complete the sentence by inferring information about the italicized word from its context.

1. If Naomi deals with her clients in an intransigent manner, they will probably…

2. When Professor Atwood gives her students a cogent explanation of a poem, the students will…

3. If Eileen is solicitous towards the patrons who come into her library, she will probably get a reputation as…

Exercise V. Fill in the blank with the word from the Unit that best completes the sentence, using the root we supply as a clue. Then, answer the questions that follow the paragraphs.

When a new work of science fiction—be it movie, video game, novel, or television show—is released, there are always naysayers who disparage it. While they may find fault with the technical aspects of the work, the most __________ (TURB) aspect to them is the presence of extraterrestrial life. Many scientists argue that if something else were out there, we would have noticed it by now, and they criticize the application of human physical characteristics and emotions to aliens, citing the billion-to-one odds that life even occurred on Earth. Whether or not these arguments are true is up for debate; no one, after all, can expertly testify as to the appearance and behaviors of an alien race. What the critics fail to realize, though, is that the search for extraterrestrial life goes beyond technology and statistics; it speaks to humanity’s innate need to seek out companionship.

Long before Galileo raised the first telescope to the night sky in 1609, humans asked themselves if they were alone in the universe. Early explorers setting out across deserts or oceans may have been looking for spices to trade and lands to conquer; inevitably, however, it was the new cultures they encountered that captured their spirits. Pioneers struggled to communicate and assimilate these “newly discovered” people into their own civilizations and to make their own communities larger and richer. Most important is that explorers never failed to bring back tales of their encounters with foreigners, to the amazement of audiences back home.

Now, without new earthbound territories to explore, the biggest mysteries lie in the stars. Only a select few are lucky enough to actually ascend into space, but that does
**FIG, FICTION**

Latin FINGERE, FICTUM “to shape”

**TRANSFIGURE** (trans fig´ yør) v. To change the form or appearance of L. trans, “change,” + fictum = *to change the shape of*

Building the Golden Gate Bridge *transfigured* the landscape of San Francisco.

*syn:* transform  
*ant:* preserve

**FICTIVE** (fik´ tiv) adj. Not real

“Snow White and the Seven Dwarves” takes place in a *fictive* kingdom that captures children’s imaginations.

*syn:* imaginary  
*ant:* factual

**FEIGN** (fáñ) v. To make up or invent; pretend

Monica was easily able to *feign* shock, even though she knew about the surprise party in advance.

*syn:* fake

**PAR, PER**

Latin PERIRE “to give birth, produce”

**PARTURIENT** (pär tûr´ ē ent) adj. About to bring forth or give birth; pregnant

The naturalist wrote that the volcano before him seemed *parturient* with all the fires of Earth.

**REPERTORY** (rep´ ěr tär´ e) n. The range of works an artist can produce or perform

L. re, “back,” + parere, “produce” = *produce back*

For such a young clarinetist, Rob has a surprisingly large *repertory*.

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Although LANE FEIGNED a PAIN, his mother still sent him to school.
**BOL, BLEM**

Greek BALLEIN “to throw, to cast”

**EMBLEMATIC** (em bəlˈmatık) adj. Standing for another thing
G. em, “in,” + ballein = to throw in
For immigrants to America, the Statue of Liberty was emblematic of the freedom and prosperity of the United States.
syn: symbolic ant: unlike

**DIABOLICAL** (dī ə bālˈ ə ləl) adj. Of or like a devil; very wicked or cruel
G. dia, “across,” + ballein = to throw across
After splattering the class with red paint, little Rayna flashed a diabolical smile at her teacher.
syn: fiendish ant: admirable

**HYPERBOLE** (hi pûrˈ bal ə ləl) n. An exaggeration for effect
G. hyper, “above,” + ballein, “throw” = to throw above
When Francine told us she would never speak to us as long as she lived, we assumed she was using hyperbole.

**OD**

Greek HODOS “road, way, coming”

**EPISODIC** (epˈ săd ik) adj. Happening in parts or segments
Millions of viewers across the country tuned into the episodic reality TV hit series during its first season on the air.

**METHODICAL** (mə thädˈ i kəl) adj. Orderly and regular
G. meta, “beyond,” + hodos = way beyond
To be an effective statistician, one must be a methodical worker who pays close attention to detail.

**SYNOD** (sinˈ əd) n. A council, especially of churches or church officials
G. syn, “together,” + hodos = coming together
Following the death of a Pope, the synod of bishops meets at St. Peter’s Basilica to elect a new one.

**II** The Greek word diabol- lein originally meant “to hurl words across” or “to slander, accuse.” When a Greek term was needed to translate the Hebrew Satan (literally, “accus- er”), diabol- lein was the natural choice. As the Christian world added negative ideas to Satan, diabolical also came to be associated with terrible things. This, is also where we get the word devil.
EXERCISES - UNIT THREE

Exercise I. Complete the sentence in a way that shows you understand the meaning of the italicized vocabulary word.

1. I thought that Fred was employing *hyperbole* when he told me about the fish, but…
2. A *synod* was called for the purpose of…
3. John's *surmise* about who stole the car was based on…
4. The marchers' protest of the brutal dictator was *emblematic* of…
5. The dentist notified Greg that he would not *remit* changes for the root canal if…
6. The *demise* of many local businesses was brought about by…
7. The scheme thought up by the children was so *diabolical* that…
8. Geraldine was so *vehement* in her defense of her friend that…
9. Monica's bouts of coughing had once been *episodic*, but they now…
10. When the police chief *inveighed* against the mayor, the mayor…
11. Terence's *methodical* arrangement of his baseball cards showed that he…

Exercise II. Fill in the blank with the best word from the choices below. One word will not be used.

*emblematic* *diabolical* *vehement* *demise* *hyperbole*

1. In a voice that grew more and more _____________, Danny insisted that he had not been present on the night of the crime.
2. Since callers to the emergency line often used ___________ to describe their injuries, the medical staff tended not to take them seriously.
3. Television may be bad for society, but has it really brought about the ___________ of our culture?
4. Nothing is more ___________ of the success of international trade than the thriving marketplace in the center of the city.
PEREGRINATION  (per ə gri nəˈshən)  n. The act of traveling about; a journey
L. per, “through,” + ager = through the fields
Johnny Appleseed’s peregrination through the early United States has been the
subject of many legends.
syn: journey

FRUI
Latin FRUI, FRUITUS “to enjoy, to harvest”

FRUITION  (frʊˈiʃən)  n. Fulfillment of an effort or desire
The dreams of many people came to fruition on the day the railroad was
completed.
syn: realization  ant: frustration

FRUITLESS  (frʊˈitls)  adj. Yielding no positive results
Ken’s many hours filling out job applications were fruitless, landing him no lucra-
tive employment offers.
syn: in vain  ant: successful

RUS
Latin RUS, RURIS “country”

RUSTIC  (rusˈtik)  adj. Having to do with the countryside; rural
L. rus, “countryside”
The rustic charm of the shepherd’s little cottage made us want to stay in the coun-
try forever.

COL
Greek KOLOS “herdsman”

BUCOLIC  (bʊˈkɒlɪk)  adj. Having to do with country life or farms
G. bous, “cow,” + kolos, “herder” = cow-herder
The family was forced to make the switch from the bucolic tranquility of their
farm to the hectic city life of New York.

ID
Greek EIDOS “form, shape, little work of verse”

IDYLLIC  (ɪˈdɪlɪk)  adj. Simple and pleasant
G. eidyllion, “little form”
Until the end of his life, Peter treasured the memory of his idyllic holiday in the
mountains.
Fill in the blank with the best word from the choices below. One word will not be used.

repast  peregrination  pastoral  aggregate  fruition

5. The play opens in a(n) ___________ setting, complete with sheep and hay bales.

6. To celebrate the athlete's success, the town held a grand ___________ and invited everyone to dine.

7. Since talks between the divorcing couple were clearly not coming to ___________, their lawyers decided to meet in court.

8. The poet's ___________ in the isolated northern desert led him to write a book of verses on travel.

Fill in the blank with the best word from the choices below. One word will not be used.

bucolic  gregarious  aggregate  idyllic

9. We enjoyed a(n) ___________ holiday in the countryside of Ireland.

10. Hazel enjoyed the ___________ loveliness of the fields of speckled cattle.

11. The ___________ results of the national census were roughly similar to the census results by state.

Exercise III. Choose the set of words that best completes the sentence.

1. The ___________ splendor of the farm that we visited convinced us to adopt a more ___________ lifestyle.
   A. agrarian; gregarious
   B. egregious; agrarian
   C. aggregate; gregarious
   D. pastoral; agrarian

2. A(n) ___________ error was made at the royal ___________; the king was allowed to dine on spoiled food.
   A. egregious; repast
   B. pastoral; agrarian
   C. idyllic; repast
   D. bucolic; peregrination

3. Being a naturally ___________ person, the mail carrier made many friends on his ___________ through the country and town.
   A. idyllic; peregrinations
   B. aggregate; agrarians
   C. gregarious; peregrination
   D. bucolic; fruitions
SERV
Latin SERVIRE, SERVITUM “to serve, to keep”

SUBSERVIENT (sub sûr´ v£ çnt) adj. Willing to obey
L. sub, “beneath,” + servire = to serve beneath
Although he was thought to be subservient to the company’s president, the executive secretary made some important decisions on his own.

SERVILLE (sûr´ v£l) adj. Like a slave; too humble
The servile bowing and scraping of a man who had once been a great warrior made us turn away in shame.

RESERVED (r£ zûrvd´) adj. Keeping one’s thoughts to oneself; withdrawn
L. re, “back,” + servitum = kept back
Melora was usually very talkative, but in the company of people she disliked, she became reserved.

SUP, SOV, SUR
Latin SUPER, “above”

SOVEREIGN (säv´ rçn) adj. Having the highest power or authority; ruling
When one empire declared itself sovereign over all the world’s ports, smaller nations joined together to oppose it.

SURFEIT (sûr´ fit) v. To fill to excess; gorge
L. sur, “above” + faire, “to make” = to make above (the needed amount)
Dieticians warn people not to surfeit themselves on bread at the beginning of a meal.

INSUPERABLE (in sõõ´ pçr ø bçl) adj. Not able to be overcome
L. in, “not,” + superare, “to overcome” = not able to be overcome
On the day that Dan scored the winning touchdown in the football championship, he felt he had insuperable strength and speed.
syn: invincible

A sovereign was a gold coin once used in Great Britain. How do you think the coin got this name?
4. ______________ the boy’s real name, which had long been forgotten, the sailors used an affectionate ______________.
   A. anathema; composite
   B. in lieu of; epithet
   C. in lieu of; locus
   D. utopian; epithet

Exercise IV. Complete the sentence by inferring information about the italicized word from its context.

1. If Rita brings up a few subjects that are topical to high-school teachers, she probably mentions things like…

2. If the new vehicle is a composite of a boat and a car, it probably has features including…

3. Teddy says that discrimination is anathema to him; he does NOT, therefore…

Exercise V. Fill in the blank with the word from the Unit that best completes the sentence, using the root we supply as a clue. Then, answer the questions that follow the paragraphs.

Amid all the fanfare about the rise of glitzy new casinos on U.S. Indian reservations, some troubling facts are overlooked. Under U.S. poverty standards, Native Americans are still the country’s poorest residents and suffer from the highest unemployment rates.

The number of tribal casinos skyrocketed after Congress recognized tribes’ rights to offer gambling on their reservations in 1988. Native American gambling revenues jumped from $100 million that year to $8.26 billion in 1998. The Foxwood High Stakes Bingo & Casino, operated by the Mashantucket Pequot tribe in Connecticut, is recognized as the most profitable casino in North and South America.

Though gaming has been touted as the cure for chronic social problems such as unemployment and inadequate health systems, researchers say it hasn’t lived up to its billing. Unemployment rates on reservations with casinos hovered at around 54 percent between 1991 and 1997, according to a study by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, a government agency that works with the tribes.

Many of the casino jobs went to people from outside the reservation, the study found. In California, for example, 95 percent of the state’s estimated 15,000 tribal casino workers are not Native Americans. At the Pine Ridge reservation in South Dakota, unemployment among the Oglala Sioux actually increased from 73 percent in 1991 to 74 percent in 1997, despite the opening of the tribe’s casino. Resignation has set in among many of the Sioux, who have stopped looking for work.

Significant portions of the Indian gaming revenues are (LOC) to outside companies hired by the tribes to oversee casino operations, the BIA found. Investigators have probed the companies’ ties to organized crime and the rise of corruption among tribal leaders amid the billions generated by legal gambling. In January 2001, for example, a judge sentenced Fred Dakota, former tribal chairman for Michigan’s Keweenaw Bay tribe, to two years in prison for taking kickbacks from a slot machine company.

The failure of gaming to raise Native American people out of poverty is particularly galling given the depth of the problem. The 1990 U.S. Census found that 31 percent of the country’s indigenous people live below the poverty line, meaning the average Native American earns less than $6,300 per year as an individual; a family of four earns less than $12,674. Only 13 percent of the rest of the entire U.S. population falls into this category.

Native Americans comprise 76 percent of welfare recipients in some counties in North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, and Alaska. Activists have denounced the government and tribal councils for fostering abominable living conditions on some reservations. On one Navajo Reservation in Arizona, 54 percent of residents don’t have indoor plumbing. Some elderly Sioux on the Pine Ridge Reservation have frozen to death in the harsh South Dakota winters because of inadequate housing. Residents were even found living in unheated, discarded school buses.

The answer to Native American poverty problems obviously isn’t gaming alone, says Tex Hall, chairman of