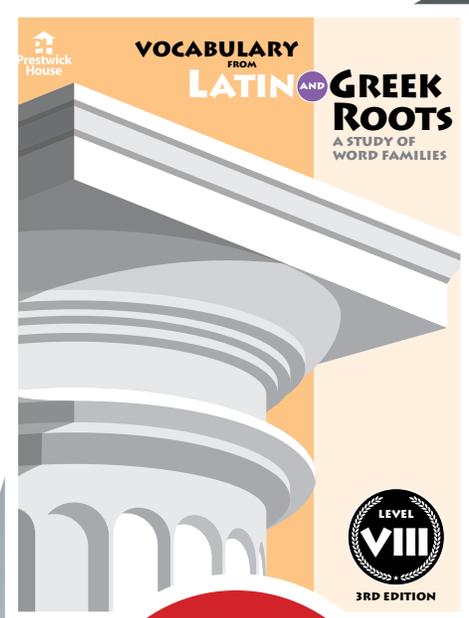




# Vocabulary from Latin and Greek Roots

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**3RD EDITION**

**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.



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ISBN: 978-1-58049-201-0

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*3rd Edition 2017*



# 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 at least three Latin and/or Greek roots; one or more English vocabulary words are provided for each root. Unit Thirteen of this book, for example, includes four roots having to do with seeing and looking. When a student reads through the Unit, he or she will see the key letters that signal the presence of each root in an English word. The letters in the fourth root of Unit Thirteen form the stems VIS, VID. Beneath the key letters is the root word from which the English is derived: VIDERE, VISUM. 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. VIDERE, for instance, gives us *evident*, meaning "clearly visible; obvious," while VISUM gives us *revise*, meaning "to make corrections; to edit or redo." 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 *refuse* in this book, then, is a noun meaning "something discarded; trash" rather than a verb meaning "to deny, to reject"; in Level IX, *pedestrian* means "lacking excitement; ordinary and dull," 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 Level IX, 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, when appropriate, 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.

**Note:** We have changed the form of some vocabulary words to make the sentences and exercises more interesting, eliminate awkward phrasing, and avoid excessive repetition. For example, a noun (*marvel*) may be changed to an adjective (*marvelous*) or a verb (*marveled*).

## WORD LIST FOR LEVEL VIII

### UNIT 1

agile  
agitate  
allege  
enact  
energetic  
ergonomic  
invigorate  
prodigal  
reactionary  
surgical  
vigorous

### UNIT 2

composure  
exponential  
hypothesis  
imposition  
inconstant  
instantaneous  
parenthetical  
reinstate  
repository  
synthesize

### UNIT 3

anticipate  
cohabitation  
conceive  
condone  
deceptive  
donor  
editorial  
exceptional  
exhibit  
intercept  
nontraditional  
participant

### UNIT 4

castigate  
chastened  
chastise  
deify  
deity  
monotheism  
pantheon  
polytheistic  
sanctify  
sanctions  
sanctuary  
sanctum

### UNIT 5

astronomical  
celestial  
exhume  
humility  
inter  
nebulous  
nimbus  
stellar  
subterranean  
terrestrial

### UNIT 6

accelerated  
demote  
discourse  
excursion  
fugitive  
immovable  
mobile  
refuge  
subterfuge  
volatile

### UNIT 7

avail  
consolidate  
corroborate  
durable  
duration  
enduring  
forte  
fortitude  
robust  
solidarity  
valiant  
valor

### UNIT 8

enumerate  
idiom  
idiosyncrasy  
innumerable  
insular  
insulate  
nonplussed  
plurality  
single  
singular  
surplus

### UNIT 9

amnesty  
connoisseur  
demented  
diagnosis  
mentality  
mnemonic  
notorious  
prognosis  
ration  
rational  
reconnaissance

### UNIT 10

autonomous  
impunity  
jurisdiction  
jurisprudence  
litigant  
litigation  
nemesis  
perjure  
punitive  
subpoena  
syndicate

### UNIT 11

annals  
annual  
annuity  
chronic  
chronology  
contemporaneous  
contemporary  
frequent  
infrequent  
inveterate  
tempo  
veteran

### UNIT 12

abhor  
deter  
formidable  
horrific  
intimidate  
intrepid  
irreverent  
revere  
terrorize  
timorous  
trepidation

UNIT 13

advisable  
conspicuous  
despicable  
evident  
inoculate  
intuitive  
ocular  
respective  
revise  
suspect  
tutelage  
vista

UNIT 14

admission  
detract  
differentiate  
exaggerated  
extol  
extract  
ingest  
omission  
reference  
submissive  
suggestible

UNIT 15

cloister  
confines  
disclose  
finite  
indeterminate  
interminable  
preliminary  
refine  
seclude  
subliminal  
terminal

UNIT 16

administer  
anarchy  
arbiter  
arbitrary  
arbitrate  
archaic  
magisterial  
magistrate  
matriarch  
minister

UNIT 17

aspersion  
disperse  
emergent  
founder  
fundamental  
fusion  
immerse  
intersperse  
refuse  
sparse  
submerge

UNIT 18

assiduous  
desist  
dissident  
insidious  
persistent  
preside  
residual  
sedentary  
subsidiary  
subsist  
supersede

UNIT 19

abundant  
antediluvian  
arid  
cataclysmic  
deluge  
derivative  
dilute  
redundant  
rivulet  
torrent  
torrid  
unrivaled

UNIT 20

appreciative  
censor  
censure  
commensurate  
deign  
depreciate  
dimension  
disdain  
immense  
indignant

## UNIT ONE

### III The English word

surgery comes from a Greek word meaning “to work by hand.” We now associate surgery with advanced machines, as well as skilled human hands and think of something surgical as being done with machine-like precision.

### III Almost anything can be

invigorating: a boat ride, ice cream, reading, exercising, even something as simple as listening to nature.

### ERG, URG

Greek ERGON, “work”

**SURGICAL** (sūr' jə kəl) *adj.* very precise; clear and accurate

G. *kheir*, “hand” + *ergon* = *hand-work*

The rifle battalion, made up of the best marksmen in the world, targeted its enemy with *surgical* exactness.

**ENERGETIC** (en ər jət' ik) *adj.* active and lively

G. *en*, “in” + *ergon* = *into work*

Whenever the weather was too hot, Ethan was not interested in *energetic* activity and preferred to stay home in air-conditioned comfort.

syn: *active*

ant: *sluggish, tired*

**ERGONOMIC** (ər gō nām' ik) *adj.* intended to decrease discomfort and maximize work

G. *ergon* + *nomik*, “the science or study of” = *the study of work*

The *ergonomic* layout of the cockpit helped the pilots focus on flying and reduced their work-related injuries.



The GNOME rearranged his den to make it more ERGONOMIC.

### VIG

Latin VIGERE, “to be lively; to be energetic”

**VIGOROUS** (vig' ər əs) *adj.* done with power, force, or energy

Reggie's *vigorous* exercise routine always made him flushed and sweaty.

syn: *robust, spirited*

ant: *weak*

**INVIGORATE** (in vig' ər āt) *v.* to fill with strength and energy

L. *in*, “into” + *vigere* = *to put energy into*

The brisk morning breeze *invigorated* the crowds of people walking to work.

**IG, AG, ACT, EG**

Latin *AGERE*, *ACTUM*, “to do; to drive; to act”

**PRODIGAL** (pró dā gəl) *adj.* wasteful of money or resources  
 L. *pro*, “forth” + *agere* = to drive forth; to drive away (money)  
 Gerald’s *prodigal* tendencies eventually left him penniless and on the streets.  
*syn: spendthrift* *ant: thrifty*

**AGITATE** (aj’ ə tāt) *v.* 1. to publicly demand; to petition for  
 2. to move vigorously or violently; to upset  
 1. Though the American colonists *agitated* for more power and independence, King George III was deaf to their demands.  
 2. Loud noises *agitate* Angela so much that she cannot endure them.

**ENACT** (en akt’) *v.* to make legal or official  
 L. *en*, “in” + *actum* = driven into (law)  
 As part of the agreement, the United States agreed to *enact* legislation to prevent further environmental damage from greenhouse gases.  
*syn: decree* *ant: repeal*

**REACTIONARY** (rē ak’ shən ə r ē) *adj.* strongly opposed to change; conservative  
 L. *re*, “back” + *actum* = driving back  
 The bank preferred to stick to *reactionary* strategies rather than adapt to new conditions.

**AGILE** (aj’ ə l) *adj.* able to move quickly and lightly  
 A less *agile* swimmer would never have been able to make the quick turns that Sarita did.  
*syn: nimble* *ant: stiff*

**ALLEGE** (ə lej’) *v.* to put forth as true; to claim  
 L. *ad*, “toward” + *litis*, “lawsuit” + *agere* = to drive toward a lawsuit  
 The reporter *alleges* that at four o’clock this afternoon, a local politician took part in an armed robbery.  
*syn: assert* *ant: rebut, deny*

**III** One famous story in the New Testament deals with the prodigal son, a spoiled young man who leaves his father and wastes his inheritance, then returns home and seeks forgiveness. Because of this story, some people have come to believe that prodigal means “wandering from home.” Don’t make this mistake; remember that the son was prodigal because he threw away all of his money.

**EXERCISES - UNIT ONE**

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

1. When the speaker *alleged* that Police Chief Murphy was involved in the scandal...
2. We tried not to *agitate* our teacher today because...
3. Mrs. Prekash's fifth-grade class was less *energetic* in...
4. The *surgical* precision with which the author writes is a sign that he...
5. Manny finds that an afternoon nap *invigorates* him, allowing him to...
6. It is likely that the mayor, in response to the recent wave of burglaries, will *enact*...
7. Polly felt that Dean's views on education were *reactionary* because...
8. Tom, not as *agile* as he once had been,...
9. Devin warned his daughter that unless she stopped being so *prodigal*, she would...
10. Car manufacturers want to design a more *ergonomic* minivan in order to...
11. My father polished the coffee table with such a *vigorous* motion that...

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

energetic      invigorate      allege      ergonomic      agitate

1. When he discovered that certain students in his class always received higher grades, Marlon \_\_\_\_\_ that his teacher was showing favoritism.
2. On nights when the talk show host was not \_\_\_\_\_, the viewers responded with little enthusiasm.
3. Rather than \_\_\_\_\_ my dinner guests, the tea I gave them seemed to sap their remaining strength.
4. When the architect described the "Home of the Future," he emphasized \_\_\_\_\_ details like the sink that made washing dishes easier and faster.

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

reactionary      agitate      enact      vigorous

5. When Cynthia \_\_\_\_\_ for a bigger room, her parents warned her that she was stretching their patience.
6. When the new president entered office, she repealed many of the regulations \_\_\_\_\_ by the old one.
7. Even a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ shaking was not enough to wake Allen in the morning.

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

agile      reactionary      ergonomic      surgical      prodigal

8. Tammy's \_\_\_\_\_ statements often made the other members of the debate team frustrated.
9. The bomber pilot knew that unless his aim was \_\_\_\_\_ accurate, his whole mission would be ruined.
10. Because it is naturally \_\_\_\_\_, the cheetah is able to bend and twist its body in mid-stride.
11. We could tell that Brandon was back to his old \_\_\_\_\_ ways when he spent two hundred dollars on wine at dinner.

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

1. Even though the new classroom was supposed to be far more \_\_\_\_\_ than the old one, teachers still found it impossible to \_\_\_\_\_ students and inspire them to work.  
A. agile; allege  
B. ergonomic; invigorate  
C. prodigal; enact  
D. reactionary; enact
  2. Albert's \_\_\_\_\_, skilled fingers, nimble from years of piano practice, could also handle a video game controller with \_\_\_\_\_ precision.  
A. vigorous; prodigal  
B. agile; surgical  
C. energetic; reactionary  
D. surgical; prodigal
  3. Lisa's \_\_\_\_\_ efforts to have tougher child-safety laws passed inspired others to \_\_\_\_\_ for the same reforms.  
A. vigorous; agitate  
B. ergonomic; allege  
C. vigorous; enact  
D. energetic; invigorate
-

4. “Although my opponent \_\_\_\_\_ that I wish to turn the US government upside down,” said the candidate, “you must remember that he is \_\_\_\_\_ and condemns change in any form.”
- enacts; prodigal
  - invigorates; ergonomic
  - agitates; vigorous
  - alleges; reactionary
5. The children’s mother promised to \_\_\_\_\_ new rules about spending if their \_\_\_\_\_ ways did not change.
- enact; prodigal
  - invigorate; reactionary
  - allege; ergonomic
  - enact; vigorous

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

- Kyle’s constant practice made him so *agile* that the other wrestlers couldn’t...
- The city council *enacted* a tax on cigarettes, but it didn’t...
- Even though the money is missing, if you *allege* that I stole it, you...

**Exercise V. Fill in each 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.**

Experts concur that regular exercise is an essential part of a healthy lifestyle, especially for adults who are middle-aged or older. Exercise not only \_\_\_\_\_ (VIG) the mind and body, it reduces symptoms of anxiety or depression, and it strengthens bones and muscles. Regular physical exertion may also prevent the development of high blood pressure, colon cancer, or diabetes. Despite the obvious importance of physical fitness, however, a recent United States Surgeon General’s Office survey indicates that 25% of American adults incorporate little or no exercise into their lives. Another 60% of adults, while occasionally engaging in physical activity, do not exercise on a regular basis. This indicates that only 15% of American adults exercise at levels that truly benefit their health. Communities all over the country are being encouraged to aid their residents in beginning exercise routines. However, before \_\_\_\_\_ (ACT) a new fitness regimen, older adults should take some precautionary measures to avoid injuries and health complications.

Sufferers of chronic health problems such as diabetes, heart disease, or asthma, should always consult a physician before beginning a workout program and follow the advice specific to their conditions. For instance, before and after

exercising, diabetics should closely monitor their blood sugar levels to avoid bringing on insulin shock or seizures. Heart disease patients should check their heart rates frequently while working out and should never exercise to the point of chest pain. Asthmatics should always carry an inhaler while exercising since physical exertion may induce an asthma attack. Additionally, if outdoor allergies are a problem, a protective mask should be worn, or outdoor activity should be avoided altogether. It is important for members of these at-risk populations to note that exercise need not be strenuous to be beneficial.

Any man over the age of 40 or woman over the age of 50, even without a diagnosed chronic health problem, should also consult a physician before engaging in a \_\_\_\_\_ (VIG) exercise program. However, people in this age group may begin a more moderate program of physical exertion without such concern. Anyone beginning a new type of workout should be careful to avoid strain and overexertion. It is important to wear properly cushioned shoes and be trained on any new piece of equipment one may be using to avoid injury. Keeping these precautions in mind will improve the health of adults who are motivated to incorporate physical fitness into their lives.

1. Which of the following would be the best title for this passage?
  - A. Health Advice for Diabetics
  - B. Precautions for New Exercisers
  - C. The Surgeon General's Survey on Exercise
  - D. The Benefits of Non-Strenuous Exercise
  
2. What is the meaning of the term "outdoor allergy" in the passage?
  - A. a dislike of going outside
  - B. a problem with substances found inside
  - C. a dislike of running
  - D. a sensitivity to substances found outside
  
3. Which statement best summarizes the author's attitude toward exercise?
  - A. Proper exercise is important to maintain a healthy life.
  - B. A good exercise routine has the potential to cure colon cancer.
  - C. Too much exercise is usually as bad as too little exercise.
  - D. People with health problems must not engage in strenuous exercise.
  
4. What could help someone with indoor allergies?
  - A. a mask
  - B. supervision by a doctor
  - C. moderate exercising
  - D. The article does not say.

**Exercise VI.** Drawing on your knowledge of roots and words in context, read the following selection and define the italicized words. If you cannot figure out the meaning of the words on your own, look them up in a dictionary. Note that *graph* means "writer" or "writing" and *pro* means "before."

To see if Dale was strong enough to work on construction that involved heavy lifting, the doctor decided to test him using an *ergograph*. He asked if Dale had ever undergone such a test. Dale had not. The physician said, "This is necessary for determining your fitness for the manual labor you'll be doing. If you are *proactive*, you can help prevent injuries before they occur."

## UNIT TWO

### POS, PON

Latin PONERE, POSITUM, “to place; to put”

**COMPOSURE** (kəm pō´zhər) *n.* control over expression and action

L. *com*, “together” + *positum* = *to put together; staying together*

Scott managed to sing three of the songs without laughing, but he lost his *composure* when he saw the goofy face his friend in the front row made.

*syn:* poise

*ant:* agitation, worry

**EXPONENTIAL** (eks pō nen´shəl) *adj.* steadily increasing

L. *ex*, “out of” + *ponere* = *to place out of*

The *exponential* growth of the deer population in the area made us wonder if most natural predators of deer had been eliminated.

*ant:* lessening

**IMPOSITION** (im pə zi´shən) *n.* an unwelcome demand; a burden

L. *in*, “on, onto” + *positum* = *putting onto*

Because they liked the subject matter they were studying, most of the students did not consider Saturday classes an *imposition*.

*syn:* bother

**REPOSITORY** (rə poz´ə tōr ē) *n.* a place designated for storage

L. *re*, “back” + *positum* = *a place where things are put back*

The building that was once the train station is now a *repository* for county records.

### STAN, STAT

Latin STARE, STATUS, “to stand; to stand something up”

**INSTANTANEOUS** (in stən tăn´ē əs) *adj.* happening immediately

L. *in*, “on” + *stare* = *standing on*

Current Internet connections are so fast that your knowledge of new information can be almost *instantaneous*.

**REINSTATE** (rē in stāt´) *v.* to bring back into existence or authority

L. *re*, “back” + *in*, “in” + *status* = *to stand (someone) back in*

Fern’s supporters marched down the main street of the city urging the local government to *reinstate* her as mayor.

*syn:* restore

III The verb *expound* (ex, “out of” + *ponere*) means “to explain” or “to express more fully.” A mathematical exponent expresses the power to which something is raised. For example, if we were asked to calculate three to the fourth power, the exponent would be four. We say something is growing or multiplying exponentially when it continues to get bigger over time.