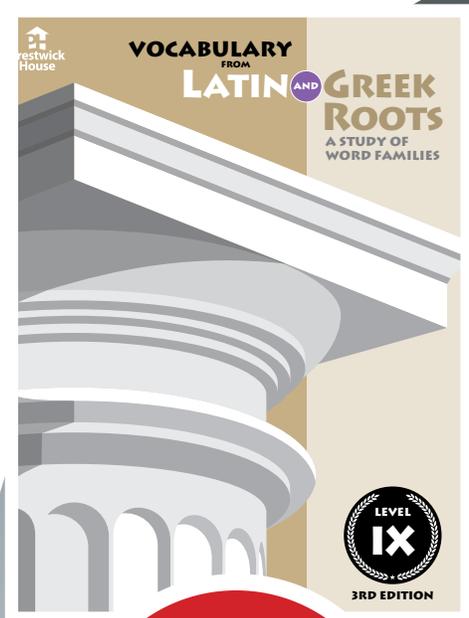




# Vocabulary from Latin and Greek Roots Sample



Click here  
to learn more  
about this  
title!



Click here  
to find more  
Vocabulary  
resources!



## Prestwick House

More from Prestwick House

### Literature

Literary Touchstone Classics  
Literature Teaching Units

### Grammar and Writing

College and Career Readiness: Writing  
Grammar for Writing

### Vocabulary

Vocabulary Power Plus  
Vocabulary from Latin and Greek Roots

### Reading

Reading Informational Texts  
Reading Literature



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.



**Prestwick House**

P.O. Box 658 • Clayton, DE 19938

1.800.932.4593 • [www.prestwickhouse.com](http://www.prestwickhouse.com)

ISBN: 978-1-58049-202-7

Copyright ©2003 by Prestwick House, Inc. All rights reserved.

No portion may be reproduced without permission in writing from the publisher.

*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 Five of this book, for example, includes four roots having to do with driving, pushing, and sending forward. 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 third root of Unit Five form the stems PULS, PEL. Beneath the key letters is the root word from which the English is derived: PELLERE, PULSUM. 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. PELLERE, for instance, gives us the word *propeller*, meaning "a device with rotating blades move a boat or plane forward," while PULSUM gives us words like *pulse*, meaning "an even, steady beat" and *impulse*, meaning "a motivation or incentive." 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 *prospect* in this book, then, is a noun meaning "that which is expected," rather than the more familiar verb meaning "to explore looking for minerals, etc."; also in this book, *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 Unit Five of this book, is explained as *re*, meaning "back," + *pulsum*; the literal meaning is "a pushing back."

Finally, each entry provides a sentence using the word and, when appropriate, 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.

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 IX

### UNIT 1

circumspect  
elucidate  
improvise  
invidious  
lucid  
phosphorescent  
photogenic  
phototropic  
prospect  
providential  
specter  
translucent

### UNIT 4

adept  
aptitude  
disposition  
effigy  
figment  
formative  
impose  
inept  
misinformation  
posit  
prefigure  
reform

### UNIT 7

amiable  
amicable  
antagonist  
antagonize  
antebellum  
bellicose  
belligerence  
bibliophile  
enamored  
philanthropy  
philosophical  
protagonist

### UNIT 10

accord  
animosity  
benefactor  
benevolent  
benign  
cordial  
discord  
dismal  
equanimity  
magnanimous  
malevolent  
malicious

### UNIT 2

affable  
dictum  
edict  
enunciate  
indict  
ineffable  
infantile  
invoke  
pronouncement  
provocative  
renounce  
revoke

### UNIT 5

agenda  
delegate  
dilate  
dispel  
exacting  
legacy  
proactive  
propel  
relative  
repulsion  
superlative

### UNIT 8

corporeal  
corpulent  
divest  
expedient  
impediment  
incorporate  
pedagogue  
pedant  
pedestrian  
travesty  
vested  
vestment

### UNIT 11

abjure  
aristocracy  
bureaucrat  
conjure  
domineering  
indomitable  
legislative  
legitimize  
perjury  
predominant  
privileged  
theocracy

### UNIT 3

abstain  
confound  
deplete  
implement  
infuse  
inhibit  
prohibit  
replete  
retinue  
suffuse  
sustain  
tenacious

### UNIT 6

analogous  
assonance  
audit  
auditory  
dialogue  
disenchanted  
dissonance  
inaudible  
incantation  
prologue  
recant  
resonant

### UNIT 9

equilibrium  
equitable  
homogenized  
homonym  
iniquity  
monogamy  
monolithic  
monologue  
monopolize  
unanimous  
uniform  
unison

### UNIT 12

cadence  
casualty  
decadent  
herbivorous  
omnivorous  
perceptible  
precept  
rapacious  
rapt  
surreptitious  
susceptible  
voracious

UNIT 13

affluent  
alleviate  
cede  
collapse  
concession  
elapse  
leaven  
levity  
mellifluous  
recede  
relapse  
superfluous

UNIT 14

amble  
ambulatory  
consecutive  
courier  
digress  
execution  
gradualism  
inconsequential  
incur  
preamble  
recurrent  
regress

UNIT 15

enjoin  
impart  
impartial  
incision  
inclusive  
inconclusive  
indecisive  
injunction  
partisan  
precise  
preclude  
rejoinder

UNIT 16

alias  
alienate  
alteration  
altercation  
alternate  
dissemble  
inalienable  
metabolism  
metamorphosis  
metaphorical  
semblance  
simulate

UNIT 17

antibiotic  
biodegradable  
immortalize  
morbid  
moribund  
mortify  
noxious  
pernicious  
revival  
symbiotic  
vivacious  
vivid

UNIT 18

anonymous  
antonym  
cognitive  
cognizant  
denomination  
incognito  
nomenclature  
nominal  
sophisticate  
sophistry  
sophomoric  
synonymous

UNIT 19

affiliate  
expatriate  
filial  
genealogy  
maternal  
matriculate  
matron  
paternal  
patricide  
patronize  
progenitor  
progeny

UNIT 20

diminish  
magnate  
magnitude  
maxim  
megalomaniac  
megalopolis  
microcosm  
microscopic  
minuscule  
minute

## UNIT ONE

### PHOT, PHOS

Greek PHOS, PHOTOS, “light”

**PHOTOTROPIC** (fō tə trōˈ pɪk) *adj.* tending to grow or move toward light  
G. *photos* + *tropein*, “to turn” = *to turn toward the light*  
Because they are *phototropic*, daisies always grow toward the sun.

**PHOSPHORESCENT** (fos fə resˈ ənt) *adj.* giving off light without heat  
G. *phos* + *phorein*, “to bear” = *light-bearing*  
Harvey stuck *phosphorescent* stars on his ceiling so that it would resemble the nighttime sky.

**PHOTOGENIC** (fō tə jenˈ ɪk) *adj.* attractive in pictures or photographs  
G. *photos* + *genic*, “suitable for” = *suitable for photographs*  
Lucy was so *photogenic* that total strangers often asked to take her picture.

### LUC

Latin LUX, LUCIS, “light”

**LUCID** (lōōˈ sɪd) *adj.* easy to understand; clear  
Sophie’s explanation of quantum physics was so *lucid* that I understood everything.  
*syn: comprehensible*                      *ant: confusing*

**ELUCIDATE** (ē lōōˈ sɪ dāt) *v.* to make clear by explaining  
L. *e*, “from” + *lucis* = *to bring light from*  
The attorney asked the witness to further *elucidate* the information he had.  
*syn: clarify*                                      *ant: confuse*

**TRANSLUCENT** (trâns lōōˈ sənt) *adj.* allowing light to pass through  
L. *trans*, “through” + *lucis* = *light passing through*  
Through a *translucent* blue cloth draped over the window, we could see the sun.  
*syn: semi-transparent*

III At night in tropical seas, various small organisms seem to glow if they break the surface of the water. This is known as phosphorescence. In the deep part of the ocean, where there is no visible light, however, many creatures, fish, invertebrates, and crabs emit a glow from different parts of their bodies to attract food or for mating. This process is known as “bioluminescence.” Since both processes involve giving off light, what might be the difference?

III The official motto of Yale University is “Lux et Veritas”—“Light and Truth.”

**SPEC, SPECT**

Latin SPECERE, SPECTUM, “to look at”

**CIRCUMSPECT** (sûr' kəm spekt) *adj.* careful; mindful of rules and consequences

L. *circum*, “around” + *spectum* = *looking around*

The marchers in the protest rally tried to be *circumspect* and not break any laws.

*syn:* prudent *ant:* reckless

**PROSPECT** (pros' pekt) *n.* that which is expected

L. *pro*, “forward” + *spectum* = *looked forward to*

The *prospect* of a trip to the dentist with my bratty kid brother was hardly thrilling.

**SPECTER** (spek' tər) *n.* a ghost or phantom  
Hattie seemed to see a *specter* in every corner of the dark house.



HECTOR the SPECTER was host of the ghost party.

**III** The word *specter*, in addition to describing the kind of ghost that haunts a place, can describe anything that haunts or preoccupies someone. For example, the *specter* of war might haunt an uneasy world.

**VID, VIS**

Latin VIDERE, VISUM, “to see, to look”

**INVIDIOUS** (in vid' ē əs) *adj.* hateful or spiteful

L. *in*, “against” + *videre* = *to look against*

One candidate made an *invidious* speech against his opponent.

*syn:* defamatory *ant:* pleasant

**PROVIDENTIAL** (prâ və den' shəl) *adj.* happening by good fortune

L. *pro*, “forward” + *videre* = *to look forward*

Through a *providential* series of events, Nigel found himself manager of the company.

*syn:* fortunate *ant:* unlucky

**IMPROVISE** (im' prə vīz) *v.* to create without any forethought or preparation

L. *in*, “not” + *pro*, “forward” + *visum* = *not seen in advance*

When Carl lost the cards with his speech on them, he was forced to *improvise*.

*ant:* plan

**III** Providence is literally the ability to see in advance, so the word is sometimes used as a synonym for “God.” Prudence is a related word that means “carefulness.”

**EXERCISES - UNIT ONE**

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

1. When Roger thought he saw a *specter* lurking in the corner, he reacted by...
2. I found Charlie a rather *invidious* character because he was always...
3. The actor had to *improvise* his lines because he...
4. I like to say jokingly that my cat is *phototropic* because she always...
5. Nina tried to *elucidate* the meaning of the poem by...
6. Buck savored the *prospect* of the nature walk because...
7. Because he was not considered very *photogenic*, Sven...
8. The headdress was woven of a beautiful *translucent* silk that...
9. Unless something extraordinarily *providential* happens before the swim meet, we...
10. Tom thinks the reason Gerald's explanations are so *lucid* is...
11. Carl was usually *circumspect* when choosing stocks and bonds because...
12. One of the *phosphorescent* gemstones can be identified by...

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

providential      circumspect      photogenic      translucent      improvise

1. The delicate, \_\_\_\_\_ ribbons in the girl's hair seemed to glow.
2. When my first strategy didn't work, I had to \_\_\_\_\_ a new one.
3. Even the most \_\_\_\_\_ people don't look attractive in overdeveloped pictures.
4. The one \_\_\_\_\_ occurrence in Ralph's life was his discovery of the ancient tomb in his back yard.

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

providential      invidious      phototropic      specter      phosphorescent

5. Scientists were amazed to discover that the plant was not \_\_\_\_\_ at all and could grow in total darkness.
6. Dawn can be quite \_\_\_\_\_ at times; she has started several nasty rumors.
7. The \_\_\_\_\_ wandered the halls of the aged mansion in search of a resident to frighten.
8. The \_\_\_\_\_ fish emitted a faint glow even at the bottom of the dark sea.

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

lucid      prospect      invidious      elucidate      circumspect

9. If you are more \_\_\_\_\_ about your finances, you won't be out of money at the end of the month.
10. Nick can discuss and analyze history in a clear and \_\_\_\_\_ manner.
11. While trying to \_\_\_\_\_ the book's theme, I made some interesting discoveries.
12. The \_\_\_\_\_ of spending the winter on a tropical island was thrilling to Rebecca.

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

1. After George \_\_\_\_\_ his plan, the \_\_\_\_\_ of climbing the mountain became more understandable to me.  
A. elucidated; specter  
B. elucidated; prospect  
C. improvised; prospect  
D. improvised; specter
2. Daria was upset that she could not provide a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ explanation of her discussion with the \_\_\_\_\_ in her nightmare.  
A. providential; prospect  
B. phototropic; specter  
C. lucid; specter  
D. invidious; prospect
3. The \_\_\_\_\_ discovery of a new \_\_\_\_\_ organism helped researchers, who were doing work on light and biology, make a long-desired breakthrough.  
A. photogenic; circumspect  
B. invidious; photogenic  
C. providential; phototropic  
D. translucent; lucid

4. Although the actor thought he did an excellent job \_\_\_\_\_ his lines, he received several \_\_\_\_\_ reviews the next day.
- elucidating; lucid
  - improvising; providential
  - elucidating; translucent
  - improvising; invidious
5. Even my modest, \_\_\_\_\_ grandmother became as excited as a child when she saw the \_\_\_\_\_ white silk with which we would make the dress.
- photogenic; providential
  - lucid; phosphorescent
  - circumspect; translucent
  - invidious; phototropic

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

- If your neighbor becomes *invidious*, you may conclude that...
- When a substitute teacher *improvises* a schedule, we can assume...
- When buying a new car, it's best to be *circumspect* because...

**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.**

For nearly two centuries, a man's appearance had no effect on his candidacy for president of the United States. George Washington, the father of our country, had wooden teeth and rarely smiled. Because of a severe visual disability, James Buchanan tended to lean his head to the side. Abraham Lincoln, although known for his height, did not have the sort of \_\_\_\_\_ (PHOT) face that would attract interest on television. William Howard Taft was a Supreme Court justice, as well as president, but he also weighed over 325 pounds. Franklin Delano Roosevelt could not walk, but his confinement to a wheelchair remained unknown to the public because he communicated with the nation primarily through radio addresses.

All of this changed with the 1960 presidential election, a tight contest between Vice President Richard Nixon and Senator John F. Kennedy of Massachusetts. The tradition of debate between candidates is a rich one in American history, but never before had one of these debates appeared on television. According to reports of the time, Senator Kennedy appeared much more at ease than his rival did. Kennedy used cosmetics to emphasize his suntan, and his

confidence and bright smile clearly impressed the television audience. His ability to \_\_\_\_\_ (VIS) in the middle of this heated debate made him seem collected and relaxed. Vice President Nixon, on the other hand, did not fare well with his makeup. His pale complexion was not suited to television lights, his need for a shave showed through the makeup, and, as the debate went on, he began to sweat. His forced smile and nervous movements also made him appear defensive and confused.

After the debate, two separate polls were taken, one of radio audiences and the other of television viewers. Both asked the same question: Which candidate do you think won the debate? The results were striking. The radio audience thought that Vice President Nixon had won the debate, while the television viewers thought that Senator Kennedy had won. This difference \_\_\_\_\_ (LUC) an important point about human nature: What we see, more than any other sense, greatly influences our opinions of other people. Clearly, a visual impression of a leader also affects the choice we make at the polls.

1. 1. Which of the following is a synonym of confinement as it is used in the first paragraph?
  - A. preference
  - B. restriction
  - C. insanity
  - D. disability
  
2. Which of the following best summarizes the main idea of this essay?
  - A. Tall presidents tend to seem more presidential than short ones do.
  - B. Physical appearance does not accurately indicate presidential performance.
  - C. The visual sense seems to dominate the others in creating ideas about a public figure.
  - D. The television age has made people more superficial in their judgments.
  
3. Why did the television audience think that Kennedy had won the debate?
  - A. Kennedy had a more confident voice than Nixon did on the radio.
  - B. Nixon seemed to dislike speaking on the radio more than on television.
  - C. Nixon appeared less confident on television than Kennedy did.
  - D. Both Kennedy and Nixon showed excellent debating skills.

**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.**

When she sat on the photographer's stool, the entire class was silenced. Lucinda was the most photogenic girl in her school; the camera seemed to adore her. In every portrait, her *visage* was as bright and clear as that of an angel. Everyone who saw the pictures said that her face glowed with enthusiasm and *speculated* as to why this might be the case.

## UNIT TWO

### NUNC, NOUNC

Latin NUNTIARE, NUNTIATUM, “to announce”

III Some Christians believe that the angel Gabriel visited Mary to tell her she would be the mother of Christ. This event is known as the Annunciation (ad, “toward,” + nuntiatum).

**ENUNCIATE** (ē nun´ sē āt) v. to pronounce or speak clearly

L. *e*, “out of” + *nuntiatum* = to announce out of

The spelling bee contestant was asked to *enunciate* so that the judges could understand what she was saying.

ant: mumble

**RENOUNCE** (ri nowns´) v. to reject by declaration

L. *re*, “back” + *nuntiatum* = to go back on an announcement

In order to become a member of the fraternity, Jeff had to *renounce* his membership in other organizations.

syn: disavow

ant: reaffirm

**PRONOUNCEMENT** (prə nowns´ mənt) n. a declaration of opinion; a judgment

L. *pro*, “forth” + *nuntiatum* = to announce forth

Fred’s *pronouncement* that the party was a disaster drew agreement from the whole group.

syn: declaration

### VOC, VOK

Latin VOCARE, VOCATUS, “to call”

III Classical literature often started with an invocation to a Muse (a goddess of poetry or some other art).

**INVOKE** (in vōk´) v. to call on for support

L. *in*, “on” + *vocare* = to call on

Amy *invoked* the First Amendment when Bill tried to silence her.

syn: appeal

**PROVOCATIVE** (prə vōk´ ə tiv) adj. causing disturbance or excitement

L. *pro*, “forth” + *vocare* = to call forth (emotions)

The film’s *provocative* ending had people talking for months.

**REVOKE** (ri vōk´) v. to make invalid; to deactivate

L. *re*, “back” + *vocare* = to call back

If you don’t pay your traffic tickets, the state may *revoke* your driver’s license.

syn: recall, cancel

ant: activate



The angry cigarette shouted, “REVOKE the NO SMOKING law!”