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 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*).
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>UNIT 1</th>
<th>UNIT 4</th>
<th>UNIT 7</th>
<th>UNIT 10</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>agile</td>
<td>castigate</td>
<td>avail</td>
<td>autonomous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>agitate</td>
<td>chastened</td>
<td>consolidate</td>
<td>impunity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>allege</td>
<td>chastise</td>
<td>corroborate</td>
<td>jurisdiction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>enact</td>
<td>deify</td>
<td>durable</td>
<td>litigant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>energetic</td>
<td>deity</td>
<td>duration</td>
<td>litigation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ergonomic</td>
<td>monotheism</td>
<td>enduring</td>
<td>nemesis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>invigorate</td>
<td>pantheon</td>
<td>forte</td>
<td>perjury</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>prodigal</td>
<td>polytheistic</td>
<td>fortitude</td>
<td>punitive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>reactionary</td>
<td>sanctify</td>
<td>robust</td>
<td>sub poena</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>surgical</td>
<td>sanctions</td>
<td>solidarity</td>
<td>syndicate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vigorous</td>
<td>sanctuary</td>
<td>valiant</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>sanctum</td>
<td>valor</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNIT 2</td>
<td>UNIT 5</td>
<td>UNIT 8</td>
<td>UNIT 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>composure</td>
<td>astronomical</td>
<td>enumerate</td>
<td>annals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>exponential</td>
<td>celestial</td>
<td>idiom</td>
<td>annual</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hypothesis</td>
<td>exhume</td>
<td>idiosyncrasy</td>
<td>annuity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>imposition</td>
<td>humility</td>
<td>innumerable</td>
<td>chronic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>inconstant</td>
<td>inter</td>
<td>insular</td>
<td>chronology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>instantaneous</td>
<td>nebulous</td>
<td>insulate</td>
<td>contemporaneous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>parenthetical</td>
<td>nimbus</td>
<td>nonplussed</td>
<td>contemporary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>reinstate</td>
<td>stellar</td>
<td>plurality</td>
<td>frequent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>repository</td>
<td>subterranean</td>
<td>single</td>
<td>infrequent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>synthesize</td>
<td>terrestrial</td>
<td>singular</td>
<td>inveterate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>surplus</td>
<td>veteran</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNIT 3</td>
<td>UNIT 6</td>
<td>UNIT 9</td>
<td>UNIT 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>anticipate</td>
<td>accelerated</td>
<td>amnesty</td>
<td>abhor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cohabitation</td>
<td>demote</td>
<td>connoisseur</td>
<td>deter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>conceive</td>
<td>discourse</td>
<td>demented</td>
<td>formidable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>condone</td>
<td>excursion</td>
<td>diagnosis</td>
<td>horrific</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>deceptive</td>
<td>fugitive</td>
<td>mentality</td>
<td>intimidate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>donor</td>
<td>immovable</td>
<td>mnemonic</td>
<td>intrepid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>editorial</td>
<td>mobile</td>
<td>notorious</td>
<td>irreverent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>exceptional</td>
<td>refuge</td>
<td>prognosis</td>
<td>revere</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>exhibit</td>
<td>subterfuge</td>
<td>ration</td>
<td>terrorize</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>intercept</td>
<td>volatile</td>
<td>rational</td>
<td>timorous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nontraditional</td>
<td></td>
<td>reconnaissance</td>
<td>trepidation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>participant</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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
- perjury
- punitive
- sub poena
- syndicate

**UNIT 11**
- annals
- annual
- annuity
- chronic
- chronology
- contemporaneous
- contemporary
- frequent
- infrequent
- inveterate
- in veterate
- tempo
- veteran

**UNIT 12**
- abhor
- deter
- formidable
- horrific
- intimidate
- intrepid
- irreverent
- revere
- terrorize
- timorous
- trepidation
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>UNIT 13</th>
<th>UNIT 15</th>
<th>UNIT 17</th>
<th>UNIT 19</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>advisable</td>
<td>cloister</td>
<td>aspersioll</td>
<td>abundant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>conspicuous</td>
<td>confines</td>
<td>disperse</td>
<td>antediluvian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>despicable</td>
<td>disclose</td>
<td>emergent</td>
<td>arid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>evident</td>
<td>finite</td>
<td>founder</td>
<td>cataclysmic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>inoculate</td>
<td>indeterminate</td>
<td>fundamental</td>
<td>deluge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>intuitive</td>
<td>interminable</td>
<td>fusion</td>
<td>derivative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ocular</td>
<td>preliminary</td>
<td>immerse</td>
<td>dilute</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>respective</td>
<td>refine</td>
<td>intersperse</td>
<td>redundant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>revise</td>
<td>seclude</td>
<td>refuse</td>
<td>rivulet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>suspect</td>
<td>subliminal</td>
<td>sparse</td>
<td>torrent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tutelage</td>
<td>terminal</td>
<td>submerge</td>
<td>torrid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vista</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>unrivaled</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>UNIT 14</th>
<th>UNIT 16</th>
<th>UNIT 18</th>
<th>UNIT 20</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>admission</td>
<td>administer</td>
<td>assiduous</td>
<td>appreciative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>detract</td>
<td>anarchy</td>
<td>desist</td>
<td>censor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>differentiate</td>
<td>arbitrer</td>
<td>dissident</td>
<td>censure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>exaggerated</td>
<td>arbitrary</td>
<td>insidious</td>
<td>commensurate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>extol</td>
<td>arbitrate</td>
<td>persistent</td>
<td>deign</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>extract</td>
<td>archaic</td>
<td>prede</td>
<td>depreciate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ingest</td>
<td>magisterial</td>
<td>reside</td>
<td>dimension</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>omission</td>
<td>magistrate</td>
<td>sultry</td>
<td>disdain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>reference</td>
<td>matriarch</td>
<td>subsidiary</td>
<td>immense</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>submissive</td>
<td>minister</td>
<td>subsist</td>
<td>indignant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>suggestible</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**UNIT ONE**

**ERG, URG**

Greek ERGON, “work”

**SURGICAL** (sûr’jô kîl) 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’rjet’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** (êr’gô nâm’ik) adj. intended to decrease discomfort and maximize work
G. ergon + nomic, “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.

**VIG**

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

**VIGOROUS** (vig’ôr ăs) 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’ôr åt) 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.

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.

Almost anything can be invigorating: a boat ride, ice cream, reading, exercising, even something as simple as listening to nature.
IG, AG, ACT, EG
Latin AGERE, ACTUM, “to do; to drive; to act”

PRODIGAL (pro´ də gal) 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´ os 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

RECTIONARY (rē ak´ shən ar ə) 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´ ol) 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
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.”
   A. enacts; prodigal
   B. invigorates; ergonomic
   C. agitates; vigorous
   D. alleges; reactionary

5. The children’s mother promised to _____ new rules about spending if their _____ ways did not change.
   A. enact; prodigal
   B. invigorate; reactionary
   C. allege; ergonomic
   D. enact; vigorous

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

1. Kyle’s constant practice made him so __________ that the other wrestlers couldn’t…

2. The city council __________ a tax on cigarettes, but it didn’t…

3. Even though the money is missing, if you __________ 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.”
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 nən’ 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 pō 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 (re’ poz’ ə tör’ é) 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 stān tān’ ěs) 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