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Growing Your Vocabulary: Learning from Latin and Greek Roots
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

- Progeny
- Congenital
- Gene
- Generic
- Generate
- Genre
**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.

**PREGNANCY** are the offspring of living organisms.

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

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

**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

---

White cats are more likely to have **congenital** deafness.
Chapter 1: Exercises

Exercises

Word Bank

gene
congenital

progeny
generate

generic
genre

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 ____
   A. progeny
2. type; class; category ____
   B. congenital
3. the offspring of living organisms ____
   C. generic
4. biological material passed from parent to child that determines which traits a child will inherit ____
   D. gene
5. to create ____
   E. genre
6. occurring at birth ____
   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)
Chapter 1: Exercises

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:

________________________________________________________________________________

Growing Your Vocabulary: Learning from Latin and Greek Roots
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.

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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.

**Chapter 2: A Matter of Life and Death**

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**.

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

**Prefixes:**
- re–
- im–

**Suffixes:**
- –ious
- –ify

**Roots to Learn:**
- viv
- mort/mor

**Words to Learn:**
- survive
- revive
- vivid
- vivacious
- mortal
- immortal
- mortify
- morbid

**PREFIX ALARM!**
The prefix re– means “back” or “again.”

**Example:**
re– + play = replay—to play again

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

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# Roots and Affixes

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