
Unit One

VINC/VICT

Latin **VINCERE, VICTUM** “to conquer”

INVINCIBLE (in vin' sç bçl) *adj.* Unable to be conquered

L. in, “not,” + vincere = *not able to be conquered*

Although the Romans thought of themselves as *invincible*, they too were eventually conquered.

syn: invulnerable

ant: vulnerable

PROVINCIAL (prç vin' shçl) *adj.* Limited in knowledge of the world; narrow-minded

L. pro, “forward,” + vincere = *having to do with a conquered territory*

Rory's somewhat *provincial* outlook made it difficult for her to understand what people in other parts of the world were going through.

ant: sophisticated

EVINCE (i vins') *v.* To establish; to reflect the truth of

L. e, “out of,” + vincere = *to overcome [as with evidence]*

The incident at the mill *evinced* the old saying, “Don't count your chickens before they hatch.”

DUC/Duct

Latin **DOCERE, DUCTUM** “to lead”

CONDUCTIVE (kçn dççiv) *adj.* Supportive; encouraging; helping to bring about

L. com, “with,” + ducere = *leading along with*

These noisy conditions are not *conducive* to learning or teaching.

syn: helpful, favorable

INDUCE (in dççis') *v.* To lead towards some action

L. in, “towards,” + ducere = *lead into*

Is there any way I can *induce* you to come for coffee with me?

syn: persuade

ant: discourage

DEDUCE (di dççis') *v.* To draw a conclusion from fact; to infer

L. de, “down, away from,” + ducere = *lead down from*

The detectives *deduced* from the evidence that the bank had been robbed not long before.

syn: conclude

III The ancient Romans considered Rome and Italy the center of the civilized world. They thought of people living in the provinces (pro “outward,” + vincere = conquered territories outside Italy) as far from civilization and unsophisticated. The word provincial still carries the idea of narrow-mindedness and lack of sophistication.

TRACT

Latin **TRAHERE, TRACTUM** “to drag”

PROTRACTED (prɒl trak' tid) *adj.* Extended in time; prolonged

L. pro, “forward,” + tractum = *dragged forward*

There was a *protracted* struggle between the two armies.

syn: lingering

ant: brief



Though they usually broke early, PRO TRACK stars held a PROTRACTED practice today, running even after the sun went down.

INTRACTABLE (in trak' tɔ̃ bɔ̃l) *adj.* Stubborn; obstinate; hard to move forward

L. in, “not,” + tractum = *not able to be drawn forward*

Isaiah's *intractable* nature made bedtimes difficult for his mother.

syn: immovable

ant: malleable

RETRACT (ri trakt') *v.* To draw back; withdraw

L. re, “back,” + tractum = *to draw back*

When I found out I was wrong, I was forced to *retract* my statement.

syn: repeal

PETO

Latin **PETERE, PETITUM** “to seek aggressively, to assail, to rush”

PETULANT (pech' ɔ̃ lɔ̃nt) *adj.* Irritable or short-tempered

When I told my little brother to put away his toys, he fell into a *petulant* fit and threw the toys down the stairs.

IMPETUOUS (im pech' ɪlɪ ɔ̃s) *adj.* Acting passionately and without forethought

L. in, “in, towards” + petere = *rushing towards*

Because Barry was a rather *impetuous* boy, he often found himself getting into fights over little things.

syn: rash

ant: careful

IMPETUS (im' pi tɔ̃s) *n.* That which drives one; momentum

L. in, “into,” + petere = *rushing into*

The tragic accident at the crossroads was the *impetus* for a meeting on traffic safety.

syn: stimulus

iii How do you think the word *petulant* evolved from the root *petere*?

iii Both *impetus* and *impetuous* come from Latin *impetere*, meaning “attack.”

UNIT TWO

FRACT/fring/frang

Latin **FRANGERE**, **FRACTUM** “to break”

FRACTIOUS (frak' shçs) *adj.* Tending to argue or cause discord

Malcolm grew from a *fractious* and irritable child into a tolerant and peaceful adult.

syn: cross, peevish

ant: amiable

INFRACTION (in frak' shçn) *n.* Minor violation of a rule or law

L. in, intensifier + fractum = *to break*

For his *infraction* of the camp code, Kevin had to peel potatoes in the kitchen.

syn: transgression

INFRINGE (in frinj') *v.* To intrude on an area belonging to another; to trespass

L. in, intensifier + frangere = *to break*

Susan said her father was *infringing* upon her freedom when he took her car.

CIS/caedere

Latin **CISUM** “cut, kill”

EXCISE (ik' sçz) *v.* To cut out of; remove

L. ex, “out of,” + cisum = *cut out of*

Having *excised* several paragraphs from my essay, I returned to ask my teacher's advice.

syn: expunge

INCISIVE (in sç' siv) *adj.* Sharply cutting; direct and powerful

L. in, “into,” + cisum = *cutting into*

Natasha's fast-moving narratives and *incisive* style never failed to impress us.

syn: keen

ant: dull

CONCISE (kçn sçs') *adj.* Brief and straightforward

L. con, “with,” + cisum = *cutting with or away*

Because I had only one page to write my note on, my language had to be *concise*.

syn: terse

ant: rambling

III A surgical incision is a sharp, clean cut; incisive thinking cuts directly to the heart of an issue.

TOM

Greek **TEMNEIN** “to cut”

TOME (tɒm) *n.* A large and serious book

G. *temnein*, “to cut”

When I removed the scholarly *tome* from the shelf, I saw that it had not been read for years.

EPITOME (i pit' ç mɛ) *n.* The best or most typical example

G. *epi*, “upon,” + *temnein* = *cut upon*

I hardly think I am the *epitome* of good citizenship, since I'm not even a registered voter.

syn: embodiment

DICHOTOMY (dɪkə' kɒt' ç mɛ) *n.* Two opposite parts of one whole

G. *dicho*, “two,” + *temnein* = *cut in two*

The film critic discussed the fundamental *dichotomy* in the movie.

ANATOMY (ç nat' ç mɛ) *n.* The structure or parts, taken as a whole

G. *ana*, “up,” + *temnein* = *cutting up (any structure)*

Maurice's *anatomy* showed the results of years of suffering.

PUNCT

Latin **PUNGERE, PUNCTUM** “to sting, pierce”

COMPUNCTION (kɔm' pʌŋk' shɔn) *n.* Feeling of regret or remorse

L. *com*, intensifier + *punctum* = *stinging*

Even after a long time in jail, the woman showed no *compunction* for her crime.

syn: penitence

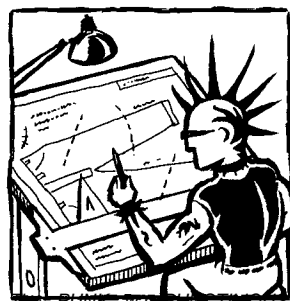
PUNCTILIOUS (pʌŋk' til' ɛ çs) *adj.* Paying strict

attention to detail; extremely careful

Max was a *punctilious* dresser; his hat was always perfectly straight, and his shoes were always shiny.

syn: meticulous

ant: careless



The PUNK was PUNCTILIOUS about where to rip his jeans.

PUNGENT (pʌŋ' çnt) *adj.* Stinging or biting, especially in taste or smell

The *pungent* aroma of garlic greeted us as we entered the restaurant.

III An epitome (literally “cut off from”) was originally the book in a series that summarized the other books (think of an index to a set of encyclopedias). It now means anything or anyone who perfectly summarizes some quality.

III Whereas a puncture pierces or stings the body, compunction stings the mind.

III Just as a punctuation mark nails down a sentence, someone who is punctilious has every detail nailed down.

UNIT Three

PEL/PULS

Latin **PELLERE, PULSUM** “to push, to drive”

III Modern psychology defines compulsive behavior as that which a person feels forced to act out and powerless to stop or control. On the other hand, if a person is impulsive, he or she acts immediately upon urges and desires, without any thought of the consequences.

COMPEL (kəm pel') *v.* To force or strongly persuade; coerce

L. com, “along with,” + pellere = *to drive along with*

The pressures of poverty *compel* many people to do things they would not do otherwise.

syn: sway

IMPULSE (im' puls) *n.* A sudden, involuntary urge to do something

L. in, “within,” + pulsum = *pushed from within*

When Nick saw the rows and rows of candy, he was seized by an *impulse* to spend all of his money.

syn: whim, spur

EXPEL (ik spel') *v.* To send out or away

L. ex, “out of,” + pellere = *to push out*

The council took a vote on whether to *expel* the treasurer for his accounting mistakes.

syn: eject

ant: admit

JAC/JECT

Latin **JACERE, JECTUM** “to throw, to cast”

CONJECTURE (kən jek' chər) *n.* A guess, often one based on inadequate or faulty evidence

L. com, “together” + jectum = *thrown together*

Because you do not know where I was on the night in question, your assertions about what I did are pure *conjecture*.

syn: theory

ant: fact

DEJECTED (di jek' tid) *adj.* Downcast or sad; depressed

L. de, “down,” + jectum = *cast down*

After Mac lost the race, he sat in the corner, abandoned and *dejected*.

syn: dispirited

ant: animated

ABJECT (ab' jekt) *adj.* Lowly, miserable and wretched

L. ab, “away,” + jectum = *thrown away*

Even in the wealthiest countries, some people are forced to live in *abject* poverty.

syn: degraded

ant: exalted

MIT/MIS

Latin **MITTERE, MISSUM** “send”

EMISSARY (em' ç ser £) *n.* An agent sent on a mission

L. ex, “out,” + *missum* = *one sent out*

During the peace talks, the young Italian diplomat was sent as an *emissary* to Beijing.

syn: go-between



We sent out a SCARY-looking EMISSARY to speak with the enemy.

DISMISSIVE (dis mis' iv) *adj.* Showing little regard; scornful

L. dis, “apart, away,” + *missum* = *sending away*

The professor responded to my confused question with a *dismissive* wave of his hand.

syn: contemptuous

REMISS (ri mis') *adj.* Failing to fulfill one's duty; negligent

L. re, “back,” + *missum* = *sent back*

Do you think I was *remiss* in not cleaning up after the party?

syn: delinquent

ant: prudent

MOT/mov

Latin **MOVERE, MOTUS** “to move”

MOTIVE (m' t' iv) *n.* Cause for action

L. motus = *moving (reason or idea)*

The detective had the difficult job of establishing a *motive* for the murder of a popular businessman.

syn: incentive

MOTIF (m' t' ef') *n.* A recurring theme, subject or idea

French *motif*, “dominant idea,” originally from Latin *motus*

The recurring father-son *motif* in this novel makes me wonder about the author's relationship with his own father.

EMOTE (£ m' t') *v.* To dramatically express emotions

L. e, “out of,” + motus = *to move out of (oneself)*

My sister tended to *emote* more than the other members of our shy, socially awkward family.

syn: dramatize

iii Remit means “to forgive” or “to release from punishment.” The adjective remiss means “too forgiving, too relaxed” – i.e., “slack.”

UNIT four

VIA

Latin **VIA** “road, way”

III The Romans built an elaborate system of aqueducts (literally, “water-leaders”) to supply their cities and towns with water. A viaduct, rather than carrying water, carries a road over a body of water or another road.

III The original meaning of obviate was to meet something that was in the way and get rid of it. Now obviate often simply means “go around” or “make unnecessary.”

VIADUCT (vɪəˈdʌkt) *n.* A bridge that carries a road or railroad over a valley
L. via + ductum, “leading” = *road leading*

The ancient *viaduct* washed out in the heavy rains.

IMPERVIOUS (ɪmˈpɪrʻvɪəs) *adj.* Unable to be affected
L. in, “not,” + per, “through,” + via = *no way through*
Andy seems *impervious* to criticism, but his feelings are very easily hurt.
syn: invulnerable

DEVIATE (dɛˈvɪɪt) *v.* To depart, especially from a path or plan
L. de, “off, away from,” + via = *off the path*
Once Rick decides on a plan for his business projects, he never *deviates* from it.
syn: stray *ant:* continue

OBVIATE (obˈvɪɪt) *v.* To make unnecessary; to avoid
L. ob, “in the way of,” + via = *to get in the way*
If you take safety precautions now, you can *obviate* some future medical expenses.
syn: prevent

FER

Latin **FERRE** “to carry, to bring”

DEFER (dɪfˈɪr) (1) *v.* To put aside until later
(2) *v.* To yield respectfully

L. de, “off, away,” + ferre = *to put off*

(1) If Mahmoud decides to travel to France, he will have to *defer* his examinations until April.

(2) The younger doctor will *defer* to his senior partner when the patient asks a question.

syn: postpone *ant:* hasten

DEFERENCE (dɛfˈɜrˌɛns) *n.* Act or practice of yielding to another’s authority
As new soldiers, we were warned to show *deference* to our commander in all matters.

syn: submission *ant:* rebellion

CONFER (kɔn fûr') (1) *v.* To discuss something with someone else; consult;
(2) *v.* To bestow

L. con, "together," + ferre = *to carry together*

- (1) The trivia show contestant *conferred* with the other members of her team before answering the question.
- (2) In a ceremony held earlier today, the government of France *conferred* several honors on the general.

INFERENCE (in' fɛr çns) *n.* A conclusion not directly provided by evidence, but able to be drawn from the facts at hand

L. in, "in," + ferre = *to bring in*

When I saw the horse tracks across the snow, I made the *inference* that someone had left the gate open, allowing the horses to escape.

PROFFER (prof' çr) *v.* To present or offer

L. pro, "forward," + ferre = *to bring forward*

When the reporter asked for more information, the policeman *proffered* a ten-page document.

ant: withhold

PROLIFERATE (prɔç lif' çr it) *v.* To increase greatly in number; multiply

L. proles, "offspring," + ferre = *to bring forth offspring*

Without natural predators, a species will *proliferate* until it overwhelms its environment.

syn: reproduce

PORT

Latin **PORTARE, PORTATUM** "to carry, to bring"

COMPORIMENT (kɔm pòrt' mɔnt) *n.* Manner in which one acts or behaves

L. com, "together," + portare = *bring together*

No fault could be found with my *comportment* during the awards ceremony.

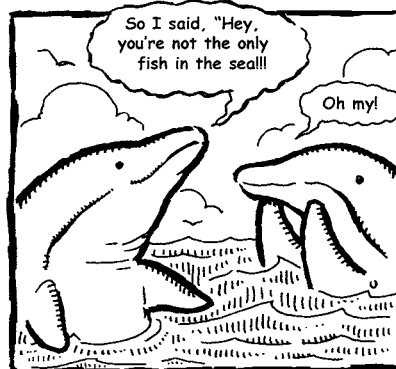
syn: demeanor

PURPORTED (pɔr pòr' tid) *adj.* Claimed as true, but probably false

L. pro, "forward," + portare = *brought forth*
Tim's *purported* illness kept him out of school on the day of the test.

syn: alleged

ant: definite



It was once **PURPORTED** that **PORPOISES** could talk.

III Ferre is an irregular Latin verb; one of its forms is actually *latum*. So any time you see "lat" in a word (*dilate, relate, etc.*), think of "ferre" and its meaning, "to carry."

III Purport means "to claim," as in the sentence "He purports to have spoken with the President." As a noun, it means "significance," as in the sentence "The purport of the message was not clear."

UNIT five

VID/vis

Latin **VIDERE, VISUM** “to see”

ENVISAGE (en viz' ij) *v.* To imagine; to conceive of

L. in, “in,” + visum = *to see into*

No matter how she tried, Lorraine could not *envisage* living anywhere but California.

syn: perceive

VISAGE (viz' ij) *n.* Face; facial expression

The twisted *visage* of the monster costume frightened the toddlers in the room.

syn: expression

PARI

Latin **PARERE, PARITUM** “be visible, appear”

APPARITION (ap çr ish' çn) *n.* An unreal figure; a ghost

L. ad, “to,” + parere = *appear to*

The first time Hamlet sees the *apparition* of his dead father, he can hardly believe his eyes.

syn: specter

SPEC

Latin **SPECERE, SPECTUM** “to look”

PERSPICACIOUS (pûr spi ki' shçs) *adj.* Wise; insightful; acutely intelligent

L. per, “through,” + specere = *seeing through*

Having praised Kate for her *perspicacious* decisions as treasurer, Nigel went on to warn her of the obstacles ahead.

syn: perceptive

ant: dim-witted; short-sighted

RETROSPECTIVE (re trç spek' tiv) *adj.* Looking backward over a period of time

L. retro, “backwards,” + spectum = *looking backward*

The museum will be showcasing a *retrospective* exhibit of the sculptor' s works.

ASPECT (as' pekt) *n.* A part that can be considered or viewed

L. ad, “toward,” + spectum = *seen toward*

Not every *aspect* of this situation is negative; though we have made mistakes, we can learn from them.

syn: facet

INTROSPECTIVE (in trɔː spekˈtɪv) *adj.* Contemplating one's own thoughts and feelings

L. intro, "within," + spectum = *looking within*

The *introspective* poet enjoyed taking long walks alone.

syn: meditative

ant: shallow

PHAN

Greek **PHANEIN** "to appear, to show"

PHENOMENON (fɛnəˈmɛnən) *n.* A fact or event which can be observed and/or documented

We observed the same *phenomenon* numerous times among the songbirds.

DIAPHANOUS (dɪəˈfæniəs) *adj.* Lightweight and transparent

G. dia, "through," + phanein = *to show through*

The *diaphanous* curtains were lightly lifted by any breeze, no matter how slight.

syn: opaque

EPIPHANY (ɪˈpɪfəni) *n.* A moment of great insight; revelation

G. epi, "near to," + phanein = *appearing near to*

The doctor's *epiphany* eventually led to a breakthrough vaccine.



TIFFANY had an EPIPHANY while studying.

SYCOPHANT (sɪˈkɒfənt) *n.* A person who flatters; a yes-man

G. sukos, "fig," + phanein = *fig-displayer*

The new president of the company was surrounded by *sycophants* who never disagreed with him.

III A Christian feast held January 6th commemorates the Epiphany. The events celebrated on this day all have to do with the revealing of Christ to the world.

III In ancient Athens, the law against exporting figs was not taken very seriously. Men who actually turned in fig-exporters were considered pawns of the government. From a general meaning of "pawn, subservient person," we get our meaning, "flatterer."

UNIT six

HER/HES

III You will sometimes hear glue called adhesive. Remember that, like adhesive, an adherent sticks to a particular philosophy or idea.

Latin **HAERERE, HAESUM** “to attach, be fixed”

ADHERENT (ad hĕr' çnt) *n.* A follower of a person or idea
L. ad, “to,” + haerere = *to stick to*

Pilar was an *adherent* of the Baptist faith until about five years ago, when she converted to Catholicism.

syn: disciple

ant: opponent

INCOHERENT (in kŏ hĕr' çnt) *adj.* Not able to be understood; nonsensical
L. in, “not,” + co, “together,” + haerere = *not sticking together*

The mayor's *incoherent* speech about financial responsibility confused the audience.

syn: confused

ant: clear

INHERENT (in her' çnt) *adj.* Existing as a natural part
L. in, “within,” + haerere = *fixed from within*

In human beings, the desire to build and create is *inherent*.

syn: innate, inborn

FUS

Latin **FUNDERE, FUSUM** “to pour out”

DIFFUSE (di fyŏŏs') (1) *adj.* not concentrated or focused; wordy
(di fyŏŏz') (2) *v.* to spread out or distribute

L. dis, “apart,” + fusum = *poured apart*

(1) You can tighten up a *diffuse* essay by removing off-topic sentences.

syn: scattered

ant: concentrated

(2) The chemist noticed that the colored oil had *diffused* through the water in the glass.

syn: disperse

ant: concentrate

EFFUSIVE (if yŏŏ' siv) *adj.* Overflowing with words or feelings; gushing
L. ex, “out of,” + fusum = *pouring forth*

The volunteers, young and *effusive*, all seemed to speak at once.

syn: enthusiastic

ant: restrained

PROFUSE (prɒf ʃyʊʃɪs) *adj.* Plentiful; abundant
 L. pro, “toward,” + fusum = *pouring out (in a heap)*
 The reviewers’ praise for the young actor was *profuse*.
syn: bounteous



The PROF USED PROFUSE words to explain the workings of the solar system.

Solu/sOLV

Latin **SOLVERE, SOLUTUM** “to loosen, to solve”

RESOLUTE (rez' ʃ ɪʃɪt) *adj.* Determined; steadfast
 L. re, “again,” + solutum = *solving again*
 The firemen faced the disaster with *resolute* courage.
syn: unshakeable

DISSOLUTE (dis' ʃ ɪʃɪt) *adj.* Devoted to sensual pleasure; lacking moral restraint
 L. dis, “apart,” + solutum = *loosened (so as to fall apart)*
 Neil’ s father disapproved of Neil’ s *dissolute*, party-centered lifestyle.
syn: dissipated; decadent

INSOLUBLE (in sol' yʃ bɔl) *adj.* (1) Impossible to solve or fix
 (2) Unable to be dissolved
 L. in, “not,” + solutum + ible, “able to be” = *not able to be solved*
 (1) The company’ s financial problems were difficult, but not *insoluble*.
syn: puzzling *ant:* uncomplicated
 (2) Because the fibers are *insoluble* in water, they take a long time to break down.
syn: tough

LEG

From Latin **LEGO, LECTUM** “to select, to choose, to gather”

DILIGENT (dil' i jɛnt) *adj.* Hard-working and careful
 L. dis, “apart,” + legere = *setting apart; carefully selecting*
 If you are *diligent* in your studies, you’ ll learn a lot and get good grades.
syn: assiduous *ant:* lazy

RECOLLECT (rek ʃ lekt') *v.* To remember; to recall
 L. re, “again,” + con, “together,” + lectum = *gathered back together*
 The witness could not *recollect* seeing anything unusual on the day of the crime.

SACRILEGE (sac' rɛ lij) *n.* An act against a holy person or place
 L. sacer, “holy,” + legere = *one who collects holy objects illegally*
 Many people considered the theft of the church funds not just a crime, but a *sacrilege*.
syn: profanity *ant:* reverence

iii The verb resolve means both “to fix” and “to strongly decide.” The adjective resolute means “strongly determined.”

UNIT Seven

FAC/fact/fic

Latin **FACERE, FACTUM** “to make, do”

III Both profit and proficient come from *pro*, “forward,” + *facere*.

PROFICIENT (prɔʃ fɪʃ' çnt) *adj.* Skilled at; highly knowledgeable of
L. *pro*, “forward,” + *facere* = *forward doing* (*going forth, achieving*)
Teresa is a *proficient* harpist, but she's also a wonderful piano player.
syn: able *ant*: unskilled

FACTOTUM (fak tɔ't çm) *n.* An assistant who does a variety of jobs
L. *facere* + *totum*, “all, everything” = *one who does everything*
In my role as office *factotum*, I served coffee, made copies, called clients, and balanced the company checkbook.

FACSIMILE (fak sim' ç lɛ) *n.* A copy or imitation
L. *facere* + *similis*, “alike” = *made alike*
The art dealer produced a *facsimile* of the painting that could hardly be distinguished from the original.
syn: reproduction *ant*: original

III The word *facile* has a negative connotation, but the word *facilitate* does not. *Facilitate* just means “to make simpler, to help along.” Someone who facilitates a discussion, for instance, helps the discussion move forward.

FACILE (fas' çl) *adj.* Too simplistic or easy
from L. *facilis*, “easy,” originally from *facere*
The book's *facile* explanation of complex scientific principles will leave readers feeling unsatisfied.
syn: shallow *ant*: complex

III The exposition is the section of a play which explains background information, or the part of a musical piece that introduces a main theme.

PON/pound

Latin **PONERE, POSITUM** “to put, to place, to arrange”

EXPOUND (ɪk spəʊnd') *v.* To explain or discuss in detail
L. *ex*, “out of,” + *positum* = *to arrange out of*
We listened to the police chief *expound* upon the new traffic regulations.
syn: clarify



The dieter **EXPOUNDED** upon his **EX-POUNDS**.

PROPONENT (prɔʃ pɹɔ' nçnt) *n.* One who argues in favor of; supporter
L. *pro*, “supporting,” + *ponere* = *to put forward with support*
Is the governor a *proponent* of stricter gun control?
syn: advocate *ant*: critic

STRUCT/strue

Latin **STRUERE, STRUCTUM** “to build”

INFRASTRUCTURE (in' fr̩ struk ch̩r) *n.* The basic framework of a building or a system

L. infra, “between,” + structum = *built between*

The council discussed improvements to the *infrastructure* of the county tax program.

CONSTRUE (k̩n str̩t̩t̩') *v.* To interpret or analyze something in a particular way

L. con, “together,” + struere = *to build together (evidence)*

Alton *construed* Cindy's thoughtful silence as a rejection of his proposal.

syn: understand

ant: mix up

CONSTRUCTIVE (k̩n struk' tiv) *adj.* Having a positive effect; helpful

L. con, “together,” + structum = *to build together (to build up)*

Matt tried to provide *constructive*, but honest, advice to his coworkers.

syn: useful

ant: harmful

Stit/stat

Latin **STARE, STATUS** “to stand”

DESTITUTE (des' ti t̩t̩t̩) *adj.* Having no money; poor

L. de, “down from,” + status = *down from a standing position*

When my friends found themselves *destitute* and facing a harsh winter, they turned to me for help.

syn: penniless

ant: prosperous

RESTITUTION (res t̩ t̩t̩' sh̩n) *n.* Payment for an injury; compensation

Latin re, “again,” + status = *standing again*

After Greg got food poisoning, he sued the restaurant for *restitution*.

syn: amends

STATURE (stach' ch̩r) *n.* Level of achievement or authority; standing

L. status = *standing*

If you want to improve your *stature* in the company, try working longer hours.

syn: rank

UNIT eight

PLAC

Latin **PLACERE, PLACITUM** “to please”

COMPLACENT (kəm pli' sɛnt) *adj.* Satisfied with a situation that should be changed or improved

L. com, intensifier, + placere = *too pleased*

Susanna saw that the children were becoming lazy and *complacent*, so she urged them to become involved in volunteer work.

syn: smug

PLACEBO (plɛ sɛ' bɔ) *n.* Something which has a positive mental effect, but no physical effect

L. literally, “I will please”

Good news on the political front is often a *placebo* for the stock market, even if it becomes bad news again the next day.

syn: quick fix

PLACID (plas' id) *adj.* Calm; undisturbed

Tara's *placid* expression never seemed to register the chaos around her.

syn: peaceful

ant: agitated

GRAT

Latin **GRATUS** “pleasing, earning thanks” or “thankful”

GRATUITOUS (grɛ tʃɪ' i tʃs) *adj.* Unnecessary or unwanted

L. gratus *done only to please (unasked for, unneeded)*

Movies today are often criticized for *gratuitous* violence.

syn: unessential

ant: important

INGRATIATE (in gri' shɛ it) *v.* To gain another's favor by flattery or false friendliness

L. in, “in, to” + gratus = *into favor*

Annie suspected that the student was trying to *ingratiate* himself with his teachers.

INGRATE (in' grit) *n.* One who is not properly thankful

L. in, “not,” + gratus = *not thankful*

When Amber threw down her birthday present in disappointment, she seemed a spoiled little *ingrate*.

III To test the effectiveness of a new medicine, a doctor may give one group of patients a placebo (sometimes called a “sugar pill”). It has no actual healing powers, but provides a control against which to test the group actually taking the medicine.

III A tip is sometimes called a gratuity; it is not required, but a person grateful for a service may leave one.

DOC/Doct

Latin **DOCERE, DOCTUM** “to teach”

DOCILE (dos' çl) *adj.* Easily taught; submissive to instruction

L. *docilis* = *able to be taught*

Ruffles, who had previously been the most *docile* of the cats, suddenly started hissing and biting.

syn: obedient

ant: defiant

INDOCTRINATE (in dok' tri nit) *v.* To teach a certain point of view to

L. *in*, “into,” + *docere* = *to teach into*

The cult leader attempted to *indoctrinate* his new followers in the ways of his teachings.

syn: instill

DOCTRINE (dok' trin) *n.* That which is taught; body of beliefs or ideas

L. *doctrina* = *a teaching*

Followers of this political *doctrine* believe that war is the solution to most political problems.

syn: creed

TEMPER

Latin **TEMPERARE, TEMPERATUM** “to temper, make less severe”

TEMPER (tem' pçr) *v.* To decrease the strength of

Serita *tempers* her spicy stew with a little milk or yogurt.

TEMPERANCE (tem' pçrens) *n.* Restraint or moderation, especially in regards to alcohol or food.

Jordan's *temperance* at the buffet table spared her the indigestion that I got.

syn: frugality

ant: indulgence



For many, the TEMPLE was a place of TEMPERANCE.

INTEMPERATE (in tem' pç rit) *adj.* Lacking moderation; severe or extreme

L. *in*, “not,” + *temperatum* = *not tempered*

In terms of climate, the Sahara desert and Antarctica are two of the most *intemperate* places in the world.

syn: rigorous

III Other synonyms for *docile* are meek, mild, and gentle. Other antonyms include stubborn, mean, and vicious.

III Be careful not to mix up the *temper* and *tempor* roots. If you see *tempor* (as in the word *temporal*), look for a meaning having to do with time.

UNIT nine

TORT/Torq

Latin **TORQUERE, TORTUS** “to twist”

III Torturous means “like or relating to torture,” while tortuous means “winding” or “twisting.”

TORTUOUS (tôr´ chṽṽ çs) *adj.* Not direct or straightforward

L. *tortus* = *twisting*

The *tortuous* road up the mountain was difficult and dangerous to navigate in the dark.

syn: circuitous

ant: straightforward

RETORT (ri tōrt´) *v.* To respond critically or sarcastically

L. *re*, “back,” + *tortus* = *to twist (words) back*

When I complained that Paula had given me bad directions, she *retorted* that I should have looked at a map.

syn: reply

EXTORT (ik stōrt´) *v.* To wrongly or illegally force someone to comply with a demand

L. *ex*, “out of,” + *tortus* = *twisted out of*

Because the corrupt official possessed potentially damaging information about his colleagues, he wanted to *extort* money from them.

syn: coerce

ant: coax

III Extortion usually involves some secret threat to a person’s property or reputation. Blackmail is an example of extortion.

VOLV/volu

Latin **VOLVERE, VOLUTUM** “to roll, to turn”

VOLUBLE (vol´ vç bçl) *adj.* Talkative; given to rapid, abundant speech

L. *volutum* = *rolling out (words)*

Our new recruit was an enthusiastic and *voluble* young man who would strike up a conversation with anyone.

syn: chatty

ant: quiet

CONVOLUTED (kän´ vç lṽṽ tid) *adj.* Having too many twists and turns; overly complicated

L. *con*, “together,” + *volutum* = *to roll together*

Sarah looked skeptical when she heard my *convoluted* excuse for being late.

syn: tangled

ant: clear

III Whereas evolution is slow and gradual change, revolution, meaning “a sudden turning over,” is sudden, often violent, change.

EVOLVE (ɛ volv´) *v.* To unfold; to develop or change gradually

L. *e*, “out of,” + *volvere* = *to turn out*

Our volunteer group started out small, but *evolved* into a large, statewide organization.

syn: progress

ant: regress

flex/FLECT

Latin **FLECTERE, FLECTUM** “to bend”

INFLEXIBLE (in flek' sç bçl) *adj.* Too unchangeable in character or purpose

L. in, “not,” + flectum = *not bending*

Some of Greg' s students thought of him as an *inflexible* tyrant because he never allowed them extra time for assignments.

syn: rigid, stiff

ant: flexible

DEFLECT (dɛ flekt') *v.* To cause to turn aside or away

L. de, “away,” + flectum = *turn (something) aside*

Joe skillfully *deflected* his opponent' s blows with an upraised arm.

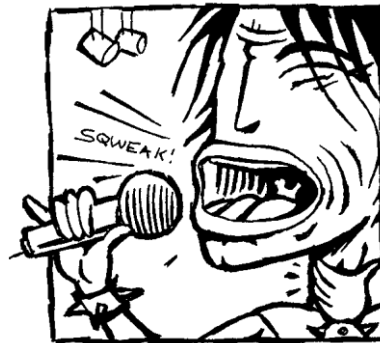
syn: redirect

ant: accept

INFLECTION (in flek' shçn) *n.* Change in pitch or tone of the voice

L. in, “in,” + flectere = *to bend (the voice)*

If you want to make your meaning clearer, try a different *inflection* on the first words of the poem.



A tonsil **INFLECTION** changed the singer's **INFLECTION**.

VERT/vers

Latin **VERTERE, VERSUM** “to turn”

ADVERSE (ad vûrs') *adj.* Not helpful; harmful

L. ad, “against,” + versum = *turned against*

We were pleased to have made it up the mountain under such *adverse* conditions.

syn: unfortunate, injurious

ant: conducive

REVERT (ri vûrt') *v.* To fall back into an old condition

Latin re, “back,” + vertere = *to turn (something) back*

Annie hopes never to *revert* to the bad habits she gave up.

syn: lapse

ant: improve

SUBVERT (sçb vûrt') *v.* To undermine; to corrupt

Latin sub, “beneath,” + vertere = *to turn from beneath*

The queen was afraid the rebellious subjects would *subvert* her authority.

syn: invalidate

ant: support

III Have you ever heard someone mention genuflecting before a holy figure or royal person? To genuflect is to “bend at the knee.”

UNIT ten

CRIMin

Latin **CRIMEN** “crime, charge of crime”

DECRIMINALIZE (dɛ krim' çn çl əz) *v.* To do away with legal penalties for
L. de, “away, off,” + crimen = (*to take*) a crime away

Eric is part of a group that is calling upon the government to *decriminalize* certain drugs.

INCRIMINATE (in krim' ç nit) *v.* To reveal guilt, or make (someone) appear
guilty

L. in, “onto,” + crimen = (*put*) crime onto

If the stolen necklace we found in your drawer doesn't *incriminate* you, I don't know what does.

syn: implicate

ant: acquit

RECRIMINATION (rɛ krim' ç ni shçn) *n.* An accusation made in reply; a counter-charge

L. re, “back,” + crimen = *charge (made) back*

The two friends got into a bitter fight and began hurling *recriminations* at one another.

syn: rebuke

CULP

Latin **CULPARE, CULPATUM** “to blame”

CULPABLE (kul' pç bçl) *adj.* Deserving blame

L. culpatum + able = *able to be blamed*

Marshall, who ran the Tilt-a-Whirl, considered himself *culpable* for the accident at the amusement park.

syn: liable

ant: blameless

CULPRIT (kul' prit) *n.* One responsible for a crime

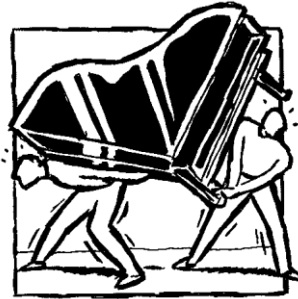
Police currently have no idea who the *culprit* behind the fire might be, but they have a long list of suspects.

syn: perpetrator

MEA CULPA (mi' ç kul' pç) *interjection* Statement uttered to show personal responsibility for a wrong

Directly from Latin *mea culpa*, “my fault”

“*Mea culpa!*” said Miguela, with some embarrassment, when she realized that she'd left the car windows down.

ONUS/onerLatin **ONUS** “burden”**ONUS** (o' nʌs) *n.* Burden or obligationThe *onus* of proving that this man was at the crime scene now rests on the detective.*syn:* duty**ONEROUS** (o' nʃr ʃs) *adj.* Unpleasant and burdensome
Dr. Lassiter faced the *onerous* task of telling the patient that his cancer had spread.*syn:* demanding*ant:* easy

Since nobody else would do it, the *ONUS* of moving the piano was *ON US*.

EXONERATE (ig zon' ʃ rit) *v.* To prove not guiltyL. ex, “out of,” + onus = *out of the burden (of proof)*We feel sure the evidence we have uncovered will *exonerate* Anna.*syn:* acquit*ant:* condemn, convict**PROB/prov**Latin **PROBARE, PROBATUM** “prove good, approve”**APPROBATION** (ap rʃ bi' shʃn) *n.* Praise or approvalL. ad, “towards,” + probare = *approval towards*Ellen won widespread *approbation* for her work in biomedical research.*syn:* commendation*ant:* condemnation**REPROBATE** (rep' rʃ bit) *n.* A dishonest or immoral person; a scoundrelL. re, “back, away from,” + probare = *one away from approval*The *reprobates* who set fire to the forest must be caught and punished.*syn:* delinquent**REPROVE** (ri prə' v) *v.* To scold or criticizeL. re, “back,” + probare = *approval back*My aunt Thelma gently *reproved* me for taking more than my share of dessert.*syn:* chide*ant:* praise

III *Onus is usually used in legal settings; the onus probandi, or "burden of proof," is that which a person must convince a judge or jury to believe.*

III *The Latin probare means "to test" and "to test something for goodness." We get both prove and approve from this verb.*

UNIT eleven

FID

Latin **FIDERE, FISUS** “to trust, believe”

DIFFIDENT (dif' i dɔnt) *adj.* Shy; not assertive

L. dis, “not,” + fidere = *not trusting*

The young student, fearing the wrath of her teacher, spoke in a tiny, *diffident* voice.

syn: bashful

ant: confident

FIDELITY (fɪd el' ɪ tɪ) *n.* Faithfulness; loyalty

L. fidelis, “faithfulness,” from fidere

The *fidelity* shown by the soldier was the subject of a book and a film.

ant: treachery

CONFIDE (kɔn fɔd' d) *v.* To trust (another) with information or a secret

L. con, “with,” + fidus = *to be trusting with*

Gerri *confided* to me that she was very nervous about performing for the first time.

ant: conceal

FALL

Latin **FALLERE, FALSUM** “to deceive”

FALLACY (fal' ɪ sɪ) *n.* A misleading or mistaken idea

L. fallax, “deceptive (idea),” from fallere

Even if I could convince myself that everyone feels the way I do, I would know in my heart that it was a *fallacy*.

syn: misconception

ant: truth

FALLACIOUS (fal' li' shɪs) *adj.* Misleading or deceptive

The council accused the businessman of unethical conduct and *fallacious* wording of contracts.

FALLIBLE (fal' ɪ bəl) *adj.* Capable of being mistaken; imperfect

fallere + ible, “able to be” = *able to be deceived*

My brother strongly believed in the cause, but he was as *fallible* as any human being, and temptation led him astray.

ant: infallible, flawless

III The official motto of the United States Marine Corps is “Semper Fidelis,” which means “always faithful.”

III We get the word “fail” from fallere.

CRED

Latin **CREDERE, CREDITUM** “to trust, believe”

CREDIBLE (krɛd' i bəl) *adj.* Able to be trusted in or believed

L. credere + ible, “able to be” = *able to be believed* Sam’s story about the avalanche was amazing, but *credible*.

syn: valid *ant:* doubtful

CREDESCENCE (krɛd' dɛns) *n.* Trust or belief

I did not give *credence* to the rumors about the sheriff.

syn: acceptance *ant:* mistrust

CREDULITY (krɛd' jʊl' i tɪ) *n.* Tendency to believe things too quickly or easily As Gabrielle grew older, she lost her innocent *credulity* and became more cynical about people’s intentions.

syn: gullibility *ant:* skepticism

INCREDULOUS (in krej' ç ləs) *adj.* Unable to believe something; amazed

L. in, “not,” + credere = *not believing*

When Pete heard what I said, he gave me an *incredulous* stare.

syn: skeptical *ant:* trusting

DUB

Latin **DUBIUS** “doubtful”

DUBITARE, DUBITATUM, “to doubt”

DUBIOUS (dʊb' iəs) *adj.* Uncertain; doubtful

Penny seemed rather *dubious* about the whole idea of skydiving.

syn: unconvinced *ant:* positive

INDUBITABLE (in dʊb' i bi tə bəl) *adj.* Certain beyond doubt or question

L. in, “not,” + dubius = *not*

able to be doubted The mechanic was a man of *indubitable* loyalty. *syn:*

absolute *ant:* unsure

REDOUBTABLE (rɛd' daut' ç bəl) *adj.* Worthy of fear or respect; mighty Middle French redouter, “dread,” (from Latin re, “again,” + dubius, “doubt”)

Even the most *redoubtable* of the warriors did not last very long in the blizzard. *SYN:* formidable.