Humans have throughout their long history combined words they knew to form new ones. Since Latin was the language of a politically powerful nation for well over a thousand years, and as a major language of religion, education and communication is well-launched on its second thousand years, it has had an amazing influence on many languages having ties to the three continents where the Romans or their successors held sway. By some estimates about 70% of English words are ultimately derived from Latin. Knowing the meanings of Latin words and syllables and the ways in which they are used can be of immense help to people hoping to understand English better.

These word studies have been arranged in groups generally progressing from obvious to more difficult. The literal English meaning of the Latin word should first be written down. In some cases, such as “clarify”, the literal meaning provides a dictionary definition—“to make clear.” In some cases, such as “onerous”, the literal meaning—“full of burden”—needs explaining. To all of the units students should be encouraged to add other derivatives which they have found and confirmed in the dictionary.

**Influential Latin Irregular Adjectives**

Fill in the blank beneath each adjective form with an English word derived from the Latin. Consult a dictionary if necessary. Define each English word; then check in the dictionary.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Positive</th>
<th>Comparative</th>
<th>Superlative</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>bonus-good</td>
<td>melior-better</td>
<td>optimus-best</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Pont du Gard*
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2. malus-bad</th>
<th>peior-worse</th>
<th>pessimus-worst</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3. magnus-great</td>
<td>maior, maius-greater</td>
<td>maximus-greatest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. parvus-small</td>
<td>minor, minus-smaller</td>
<td>minimus-smallest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. multus-many</td>
<td>——, plus-more</td>
<td>plurimus-most</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. exerus-outside, out</td>
<td>exterior-outer</td>
<td>extremus-outermost</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. inferus-low</td>
<td>inferior-lower</td>
<td>infimus-lowest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. posterus-late</td>
<td>posterior-later</td>
<td>postremus-latest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. superus-high, distinguished</td>
<td>superior-higher</td>
<td>supremus-highest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>interior-inner</td>
<td>intimus-innermost</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td>ulterior-further</td>
<td>ultimus-furthest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.</td>
<td>prior-earlier</td>
<td>primus-earliest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.</td>
<td>propior-nearer</td>
<td>proximus-nearest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. novus-new</td>
<td></td>
<td>novissimus-newest</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Latin Plurals in English

Many Latin nouns are used in English today in their original form. Often we simply add an “s” in the English manner to make these plural, but formal or exact writing requires that we at least know their correct plurals.

Make the following nouns plural, then define each. Remember:

“ex” or “ix” becomes “ices”
“us” becomes “i”;
“um” becomes “a”
“is” becomes “es”
“a” becomes “ae”

1. radius _________________________________________________________________________________
2. index _________________________________________________________________________________
3. bacillus ________________________________________________________________________________
4. datum _________________________________________________________________________________
5. pontifex ________________________________________________________________________________
6. cervix _________________________________________________________________________________
7. antenna ________________________________________________________________________________
8. vertex _________________________________________________________________________________
9. axis ___________________________________________________________________________________
10. alumnus ______________________________________________________________________________
11. appendix ______________________________________________________________________________
12. hippopotamus __________________________________________________________________________
13. medium ________________________________________________________________________________
14. matrix ________________________________________________________________________________
15. bacterium ______________________________________________________________________________
16. alga ___________________________________________________________________________________
17. codex _________________________________________________________________________________
18. nebula _________________________________________________________________________________
19. umbra _________________________________________________________________________________
20. aura _________________________________________________________________________________
Latin Words to English Verbs

Using the Latin words given and their definitions, add “fy” (from the Latin verb “facio’—to do or make) to create English verbs. Define each verb.

Example: amplus, a, um—strong, large
amplify—to make stronger or larger

1. certus, a, um—sure, fixed

2. clarus, a, um—clear, loud

3. diversus, a, um—turned different ways, opposite

4. falsus, a, um—mistaken, false

5. fortis, e—brave, strong, manly

6. liquidus, a, um—fluid

7. mollis, e—soft, gentle

8. nullus, a, um—none

9. pacifer, a, um—peaceful

10. sanctus, a, um—holy

11. fructus, a, um—fruitful

12. magnus, a, um—great

13. deus—a god

14. glorius, a, um—full of glory

15. petra—a stone

16. solidus, a, um—firm

17. purus, a, um—clean

18. terreo—frighten

19. indemno—secure from injury
Latin Verbs Whose Conjugation Influences English Spelling

Many seemingly arbitrary English spellings originate in Latin conjugation forms. When the suffix “bilis” (“ble” in English) is added to a verb to create an adjective meaning “able to” or “able to be”, the vowel before this suffix is determined in most cases by the conjugation of the Latin verb.

Examples:
- curo, curare—cure
curabilis, curable—able to be cured
- audio, audire—hearaudibilis, audible—able to be heard

A. Form and define English adjectives from this suffix and the following Latin verbs:

1. aro, arare—plough

2. administro, administrare—govern

3. commendo, commendare—entrust, commend

4. consulto, consultare—discuss, consult

5. declaro, declarare—reveal, declare

6. explico, explicare—unfold, explain

7. laudo, laudare—praise

8. muto, mutare—change

9. navigo, navigare—sail

10. noto, notare—mark, note

11. penetro, penetrare—enter, penetrate

12. porto, portare—carry

B. Form English adjectives from these verbs (All use the vowel “i.”)

13. credo, credere—believe

14. deleo, delere—destroy

15. edo, edere—eat

16. lego, legere—read

17. reduco, reducere—to lead back, make smaller

18. resisto, resistere—stand against, resist
19. converto, convertere—to turn or change

20. vinco, vincere—to conquer

C. From numbers 13 through 18 form an opposite adjective using the prefix “in.” (“In” may assimilate into the first letter of the base verb).

13. credo, credere—believe

14. deleo, delere—destroy

15. edo, edere—to eat

16. lego, legere—read

17. reduco, reducere—to lead back, make smaller

18. resisto, resistere—stand against, resist

**Latin Present Participles in English**

The genitive singular of a Latin present participle often becomes an English adjective. After that it sometimes becomes a noun. The original conjugation form of the participle determines English spelling.

For each infinitive make the genitive form of the present participle and drop the “is.” Define the English word you have made, checking the dictionary if necessary.

*Example*

accidere—accidens, accidentis—accident—(act of) striking or falling upon, that which strikes or falls upon

1. errare

2. migrare

3. servare

4. ex(s)pectare

5. secare

6. studere

7. adjacere (iacere)

8. docere

9. apparere

10. crescere
Building Adjectives Through Endings

A. “Pertaining to”
As the suffix “bilis” can create a word meaning “able to” or “able to be”, so the endings “alis”, “ilis”, “anus”, “icus”, and others create adjectives meaning “pertaining to.” From the meaning of the Latin word from which they are formed, define each of the following and give its English derivative.

1. formalis
2. facilis
### Urbanus
- Definition:
- English Derivative:

### Poenalis
- Definition:
- English Derivative:

### Puerilis
- Definition:
- English Derivative:

### Rusticus
- Definition:
- English Derivative:

### Montanus
- Definition:
- English Derivative:

### Civicus
- Definition:
- English Derivative:

### Fidelis
- Definition:
- English Derivative:

### Mortalis
- Definition:
- English Derivative:

### "Osus" Words
The ending "osus", which usually becomes "ous" in English, means "full of". Define the following Latin adjectives and give their English derivatives.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Latin Adjective</th>
<th>Definition</th>
<th>English Derivative</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ponderosus</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Verbosus</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malodorosus</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dolorosus</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vitiosus</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Timorosus</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taediosus</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ligitiosus</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispidosus</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deliciosus</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Building Nouns Through Endings
A. "act" or "quality"
The suffixes "tas" (ty), "tia" (ce, cy) and "tudo" (tude) create many nouns meaning "act or quality of." Break each of these nouns in to its Latin parts, give its definition, and then give its English derivative.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Latin Noun</th>
<th>Definition</th>
<th>English Derivative</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Libertas</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pulchritudo</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3. constantia

4. veritas

5. gravitas

6. gratitudo

7. malitia

8. fortitudo

9. levitas

10. turpitudo

B. “one who”
The ending “tor” or “sor” from the fourth principal part of a verb means “one who.” Define the following Latin nouns. Give their English derivatives if different from the Latin.

1. conductor

2. cursor

3. amator

4. malefactor

5. imperator

C. “act” or “result of act”
The ending “io”(ion) or “tio” (tion) means “the act” or “the result of an act.” Define these.

1. oratio

2. animatio

3. castigatio

4. eruptio

5. regio
Compounding Verbs

A. Compound each of the ten verbs with four of the prefixes to create new Latin verbs.
B. Write the four principal parts of each new verb and give English derivatives.
(Notice that English verbs are often made from the present stem of a Latin verb and nouns from the fourth principal part.)

Prefixes:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prefix</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ab</td>
<td>away</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ad</td>
<td>to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>con</td>
<td>with, together</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>contra</td>
<td>against</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>de</td>
<td>down</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dis</td>
<td>away</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ex</td>
<td>out</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>in</td>
<td>in, not</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>inter</td>
<td>between</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>prae</td>
<td>before</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>per</td>
<td>through</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pro</td>
<td>for</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>re</td>
<td>back, again</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>trans</td>
<td>across</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Base Verbs:

1. duco, ducere, duxi, ductum—lead
2. cedo, cedere, cessi, cessum—move
3. mitto, mittere, misi, missum—send
4. pono, ponere, posui, positum—place, put
5. fero, ferre, tuli, latum—bear, carry
6. eo, ire, ii, iturum—go
7. porto, portare, portavi, portatum—carry
8. venio, venire, veni, ventum—come
9. scribo, scribere, scripsi, scriptum—write
10. verto, vertere, verti, versum—turn
Compounding Verbs Which Have Phonetic Changes

Placing a prefix before certain very important Latin verbs changes their spelling. Read these rules carefully and then do the exercises.

1. “Ad” and “e, ex” may assimilate to the initial consonant of the root verb.
Example: “ad capio” becomes “accipio.”

2. A short “a” or “e” becomes “i” before any consonant except r. This usually happens in the first two principal parts of the new verb. See example above.

3. Long vowels resist weakening. Many third principal parts have long vowels, so they do not change. “ad capio”—“accipio, accipere, accepi.”

4. Before two consonants a short “a” becomes “e” and a short “e” is unchanged. This happens most frequently in the fourth principal part. “ad capio”—accipio, accipere, accepi, acceptum.”

A. Compounding

Form compounds of the following prefixes and verbs. (Remember that in “iacio” the consonant and vowel “i” combine in the first two principal parts of the compound verb.)

Give the four principal parts and the definition for each of your compounds.

- capio + in, con, ex, re, inter
- facio + in, con, ex, re, sub, inter
- iacio + in, de, re, pro, e
- teneo + con, de, re, ad

B. Applying to English

Give two English derivatives for each of your new verbs.

- __________________________  __________________________
- __________________________  __________________________
- __________________________  __________________________
- __________________________  __________________________
- __________________________  __________________________
- __________________________  __________________________
- __________________________  __________________________
- __________________________  __________________________
Important Free Spirit Verbs

The two very important First Conjugation irregular verbs, “do” and “sto”, have many compounds and many English derivatives. Becoming aware of these will help students in Latin as well as in English. The compounds of “do”, even such obvious ones as “reddo”, confuse us by moving to the third declension. Their conjugation vowel of course becomes a short “e” and the vowel of their last two principal parts is generally short “i”. Thus such a verb as “perdo” would be easier to learn if we could recognize its relationship to “do”, with which we were burdened early in Latin I. (We can overlook the scholarly arguments about whether “do, dare” really exists as a true verb and whether there was in the dawn of time a phantom verb “do, dere” from which the compounds are derived: we shall simply use the similarity to help us remember the forms.)

“Sto” is easier to deal with, but it is readily confused with “sisto”, so let us carefully consider all three of these “free spirit” major verbs.

A. Making “do” verbs

Make four principal parts for these “relatives” of “do, dare, dedi, datum.” Give English derivatives for three of them.

Example: condo, condere, condidi, conditum— to “give” or put together

1. perdo
2. indo
3. condo
4. reddo
5. edo

B. Making “sto” verbs

Make principal parts for these compounds of “sto, stare, steti, statum”—stand. Remember that the short “e” in the third principal part becomes “i” from the rules of the last lesson. Derivatives generally come from the present participle. Make a derivative from three of the verbs.

Example: resto, restare, restiti, restatum—to stand back

1. consto
2. insto
3. persto
4. circumsto (check forms)
5. praesto
C. Making “sisto” verbs

Make principal parts for these compounds of “sisto, sistere, stiti or steti, statum”-to stand, cause to stand, to establish. Many of these have no fourth principal part. Give derivatives for each verb.

Example: consisto, consistere, constiti, constitum-to stand together

1. insisto

2. resisto

3. desisto

4. subsisto

5. persisto