

# LESSON 10

## Base Words

accrue	crescendo	facile	mollify
beneficence	efficacious	facsimile	pretext
context	excrecence	faction	

### RESCO, CRESCERE, CREVI, CRETUM <Latin> “to grow,” “to increase”

1. **accrue** [*ac = ad* <Latin> “to, toward” + **cret**]

- v. To come as a natural increase or advantage.  
Satisfaction **accrues** when people earn their living doing what they truly enjoy.  
*Other Forms: accrual*, n.

2. **crescendo**

- n. A gradual increase in sound, often referring to music.  
As the parade approached, the drum beat rose in a deafening **crescendo**.

NOTA BENE: Crescendo can also be used as an adjective (“a crescendo effect”) and an adverb (“the band played crescendo”).

3. **excrecence** [*ex* <Latin> “from, out of” + **crec**]

- n. Abnormal growth or outgrowth.  
Pictographs of mythological creatures often show **excrecences**: extra faces, arms, or legs.

NOTA BENE: The familiar and challenge words with the suffix *-escent* or *-escence* derive from *crescere*, “to grow.” They express the idea of growing: *adolescence*, *crescent*, *convalescent*, *fluorescence*, etc.

### FACIO, FACERE, FECI, FACTUM <Latin> “to make”

4. **beneficence** [*bene* <Latin> “well,” “good” + **fic**]

- n. Doing good or causing good to be done; kindly action.  
The Peace Corps organizes many forms of American **beneficence** in countries throughout the world.

5. **efficacious** [*ef = ex* <Latin> “from, out of”]

- adj. Effective as a means or remedy.  
“Example is always more **efficacious** than precept.” – Samuel Johnson  
*Other Forms: efficaciously*, adv.

6. **facile**

- adj. Acting, working, or proceeding with ease; fluent. (Sometimes, superficial, when something is too easily done.)  
Finalists in the national spelling bee are exceptionally **facile** spellers.  
*Other Forms: facilely*, adv.; **facilitate**, v.; **facility**, n.

7. **facsimile** [*simile* <Latin> “alike”]

- n. An exact copy of a book, painting, document, etc.  
Many libraries have a **facsimile** of the first printed edition of Shakespeare’s plays.

NOTA BENE: *Facsimile* can also be used as an adjective, as in *facsimile* edition.

8. **faction**

- n. 1. A group or clique within a larger group, party, or government.  
In *Lord of the Flies* the society formed by the marooned schoolboys breaks into two **factions**, the hunters and the firebuilders.
- 2. Conflict within an organization or nation.  
Because of heated **faction** on the location of missiles, Congress delayed a vote.  
*Other Forms: factional*, n.; **factious**, adj.

9. **mollify** [*mollis* <Latin> “soft” + **fy = ficare** or *facere* <Latin> “to make”]

- v. To calm; to make gentler or softer in feeling.  
According to the fable, the goddess Juno cannot **mollify** the peacock, who frets because it lacks a pleasing voice to match its great beauty.

NOTA BENE: When you see the suffix *-ly* in a verb form, it probably comes from *facere* or *ficare*, both meaning “to make.” The suffix appears in *amplify*, *deify*, *edify*, *justify*, *modify*, *notify*, and other words listed in this section. As you can see, the Latin verb *facere* takes many forms in English words: *beatific*, *benefit*, *efficient*, *facility*, *defect*, *feature*, *forfeit*, and *feasible*.

### TEXO, TEXERE, TEXUI, TEXTUM <Latin> “to weave”

10. **context** [*con* = *cum* <Latin> “with” + **text**]

- n. 1. The parts before or after a word or statement that influence its meaning.  
The **context** of “the bow of a ship” tells you that bow does not mean “a bending of the body” or “a weapon used with arrows.”
2. The circumstances surrounding an event or situation.  
In the **context** of World War II, the opening measures of Beethoven’s Fifth Symphony became a message of hope to Nazi-occupied countries.

11. **pretext** [*pre* <Latin> “before” + **text**]

- n. A false reason put forward to conceal the true one.  
Using the **pretext** of a sore throat, I managed to stay home to see the whole World Series.

NOTA BENE: Closely linked to *texere* are the Latin verb *tego*, *tegere*, *texi*, *tectum*, “to cover,” and the Greek noun *tekna*, “art,” “craft.” Words that derive from *tegere* include *architect*, *architecture*, *detect*, *polytechnic*, *protect*, *technicolor*, *technocracy*, and *toga*.

#### Familiar Words

adolescence	confection	feat	modify
amplify	defect	forfeit	
concrete	efficient	magnificence	

#### Challenge Words

beatific	factotum	malefactor	rectify
convalescent	feckless	malfeasance	refectory
deficit	fluorescence	petrify	senescence
feasible	luminescence	proficient	suffice