

LESSON 13 – “Sports”

Tempus ludendi.

A time for playing.

Base Words

abject	concur	discourse	precursor
accelerate	conglomeration	incur	succor
celerity	conjecture	interjection	

CELER <Latin> “swift”

1. **accelerate** [*ac = ad* <Latin> “to” + **celer**]

- v. To cause faster movement; to go faster.

Heat caused the chemical reaction to **accelerate**.

Other Forms: **acceleration**, n.

2. **celerity**

- n. Swiftmess; quickness; speed.

Atalanta, outrunning all but one who challenged her in a footrace, is a mythological example of **celerity**.

CURRO, CURRERE, CUCURRI, CURSUM <Latin> “to run”

CURSOR, CURSORIS <Latin> “runner”

3. **concur** [*con = cum* <Latin> “with” + **cur**]

- v. 1. To agree; to cooperate.

Conflicts arise when parents do not **concur** on methods of child-rearing.

2. To coincide; to happen simultaneously.

In Shakespeare’s plays human violence often **concur**s with storms and earthquakes.

concurrency, n.; concurrent, adj.; concurrently, adv.

4. **discourse** [*dis* <Latin> “apart, in different directions” + **cur**s]

- n. 1. Conversation.

Before the advent of movies and television, lively **discourse** was a popular amusement.

2. A formal discussion of a subject in speech or writing.

Published in 1543, Copernicus’s **discourse** on the orbit of the sun provided the basis for modern astronomy.

- v. To talk; to discuss formally in speech or writing.

Sometimes considered the most learned American woman of the nineteenth century, Margaret Fuller could **discourse** with scholars on both sides of the Atlantic.

5. **incur** [*in* <Latin> “in” + **cur**]

- v. To meet with; to run into; to bring upon oneself.

The Greek hero Odysseus **incurred** the anger of the giant Polyphemus by poking out his single eye with a burning stick.

Other Forms: **incursion**, n.

6. **precursor** [*pre* <Latin> “before” + **cur**s]

- n. Forerunner.

The **precursor** of American baseball is the English game of rounders.

precursory, adj.

7. **succor** [*sue = sub* <Latin> “under” + **cur**]

- n. Help in time of distress.

The Red Cross, founded by Clara Barton in 1881, gives **succor** to victims of flood, fire, and famine.

- v. To render help to.

To **succor** her needy family, Jo March writes stories for magazines and even sells her hair in the novel *Little Women*.

GLOMUS <Latin>“ball”

8. **conglomeration** [*con = cum* <Latin>“with” + **glom**]

n. A collection of unrelated things.

At the flea market we sifted through a **conglomeration** of tools, lamps, jewelry, and clothing.

Other Forms: **conglomerate**, n. and adj.

JACIO, JACERE, JECI, JACTUM <Latin>“to throw”

9. **abject** [*ab* <Latin>“away from” + **ject**]

adj. 1. Humiliating and miserable.

Slaves on their way to the Americas endured **abject** conditions in crowded, disease-ridden ships.

2. Contemptible.

Those who kill baby seals to sell their skins are **abject** in the eyes of animal lovers.

10. **conjecture** [*con = cum* <Latin>“with” + **ject**]

n. An opinion formed from inconclusive evidence; a guess.

The number of galaxies in the universe is still a matter of **conjecture**.

v. To conclude from insufficient evidence.

People have **conjectured** for centuries about the fate of the lost civilization of Atlantis.

11. **interjection** [*inter* <Latin>“between” + **ject**]

n. A word or phrase sometimes inserted between other words, often expressing emotion; a word not linked grammatically to other words in a sentence.

“Oh!” and “Ouch!” are **interjections**.

Other Forms: **interject**, v.

Familiar Words

adjacent	cursive	excursion	recurrence
corridor	decelerate	inject	

Challenge Words

accelerando	dejected	recourse	trajectory
cursory	projectile	subjective	