

LESSON 14

Audaces fortuna juvat.
Fortune favors the bold.

Base Words

assail	desultory	prevalent	valor
avail	evolve	resilient	voluble
convalesce	exult	salient	

SALIO, SALIRE, SALUI, SALTUM <L. "to jump," "to leap"

- 1. assail** [*as* = *ad* <L. "to" + **sal**]
 - v. 1. To attack violently; to assault.
Mistaking distant windmills for unfriendly giants, the legendary Don Quixote **assails** one of them with his lance.
 2. To attack with words; to ridicule or criticize harshly.
Movie reviewers may keep audiences away if they **assail** a film too harshly.
Other Forms: **assailant**, n.
- 2. desultory** [*de* <L. "down from" + **sal**]
 - adj. 1. Jumping from one thing to another; rambling.
After hearing five **desultory** oral book reports, the class rejoiced when the bell rang.
 2. Haphazard or random.
After a **desultory** search for the lost ball, the golfers gave up.
- 3. exult** [*e* = *ex* <L. "from," "out of" + **sal**]
 - v. To rejoice greatly; to be triumphant.
Althea Gibson **exulted** when she won the Wimbledon crown in 1957.
Other Forms: **exultant**, adj.; **exultantly**, adv.; **exultation**, n.
- 4. resilient** [*re* <L. "back" + **sal**]
 - adj. 1. Capable of returning to the original shape after being bent or stretched.
Rubber is a **resilient** material.
 2. Buoyant; recovering quickly from illness, change, or misfortune.
The **resilient** Lance Armstrong has won the Tour de France four times since surviving cancer in 1996.
Other Forms: **resilience**, n.
- 5. salient**
 - adj. 1. Conspicuous; striking.
The **salient** landmark in St. Louis is the Gateway Arch.
 2. Projecting up or out.
The roofs of Chinese pagodas curve up, ending with **salient** figures such as dragons.
Other Forms: **saliently**, adv.

VALEO, VALERE, VALUI, VALITUM <L. "to be strong"

- 6. convalesce** [*con* = *cum* <L. "with" + **vale**]
 - v. To recover health after illness.
Until this century a tuberculosis patient would expect to **convalesce** slowly in a sanitarium for a year.
Other Forms: **convalescence**, n.
- 7. avail** [*a* <Middle English intensifier + **vale**]
 - v. To use to one's own advantage (to avail oneself of).
The salient characteristic of the young heroes of Horatio Alger's stories is the ability to **avail** themselves of every chance to prosper.

NOTA BENE: As a noun, *avail* also means "benefit" or "advantage," usually in a phrase such as "to no avail."

8. **prevalent** [*pre* <L. "before," "forth" + **vale**]

adj. Widely occurring or in general use.

Destruction of rain forests continues to be **prevalent**, causing harmful changes in weather around the globe.

Other Forms: **prevail**, v.; **prevalence**, n.

9. **valor**

n. Heroic courage; bravery.

A British nurse executed by firing squad during World War I, Edith Cavell proved her **valor** by protecting Allied soldiers from discovery.

Other Forms: **valorous**, adj.

VOLVO, VOLVERE, VOLVI, VOLUTUM <L. "to revolve"

10. **evolve** [*e= ex* <L. "from," "out of" + **volv**]

v. 1. To develop gradually.

The book as we know it **evolved** from handwriting on papyrus to printing with movable type, a process invented by Johann Gutenberg.

2. To change from a simpler to a more complex form of animal or plant life.

Biologists propose that all living things have **evolved** to their present forms through successive generations.

Other Forms: **evolution**, n.; **evolutionary**, adj.

11. **voluble**

adj. Speaking in a steady, easy flow of words; talkative; glib.

Parents often become **voluble** when explaining how things were when they were young.

Other Forms: **volubility**, n.; **volubly**, adv.

Familiar Words

equivalent

somersault

valid

vault

prevail

valiant

Challenge Words

convoluted

salacious

sally

sauté

devolve