

LESSON 16

In pacem leones, in proelio cervi.

Be lions in peace; be deer in battle

Base Words

feline	piscine	serpentine	ursine
leonine	porcine	simian	zoology
lionize			

FELIS <L. "cat"

1. **feline** (fē'lin)

n. A member of the family of cats, lions, tigers, and jaguars.

One of the most beautiful **felines** is the Siberian tiger.

adj. Belonging to the cat family; having characteristics of a cat, such as gracefulness and independence.

Characters in the Broadway musical *Cats* display a wide range of **feline** qualities.

LEO, LEONIS <I. "lion"

LEON <G. "lion"

2. **leonine**

adj. Pertaining to a lion; having characteristics of a lion, such as fierceness and majesty.

The shaggy-haired speaker roared at the interruption with **leonine** ferocity.

3. **lionize**

v. To regard or treat a person as a celebrity.

Audiences **lionized** English author Anthony Trollope when he came to America to read from his novels.

Other Forms: **lionization**, n.

PISCIS <L. "fish"

4. **piscine**

adj. Typical of fish.

Piscine eyes look only to the sides, not straight ahead.

NOTA BENE: Of the twelve signs of the zodiac, seven are animals. Those not mentioned in these lessons are *Aries*, "ram"; *Scorpio*, "scorpion"; *Cancer*, "crab"; and *Taurus*, "bull." (*Capricorn* means "goat's horn.")

PORCUS <L. "swine," "pig," "hog"

5. **porcine**

adj. Pertaining to or resembling a pig.

Miss Piggy the Muppet is proud of her **porcine** features.

SERPENS, SERPENTIS <L. "serpent," "snake"

6. **serpentine**

adj. 1. Resembling a serpent in form or movement: sinuous; winding.

The Colorado River takes a **serpentine** course from Colorado to Mexico.

2. Having qualities of a serpent: subtle, sly, sometimes even evil.

Convinced by the con artists' **serpentine** persuasion, the gullible couple signed over their life savings.

SIMIA <L. "monkey," "ape"

7. **simian**

adj. Pertaining to or resembling an ape or monkey.

Biologists have discovered that human beings possess **simian** social instincts such as sharing of food.

n. An ape or monkey.

The most teachable **simian**, a chimpanzee, can learn human sign language.

URSA <L. "bear"

8. **ursine**

adj. Pertaining to or characteristic of a bear.

The **ursine** habit of hibernation allows the animal to sleep throughout the winter in a cave or hollow log.

ZOION (plural IOA) <G. "living being," "animal"

9. **zoology** [zoo + *logy* = *logos* <G. "word," "speech"]

n. The science dealing with animals. (Also used as an adjective.)

Students of **zoology** learn about animal groups and the varying structures of animal forms.

Other Forms: zoologic, adj.; **zoological**, adj.; **zoologically**, adv.; **zoologist**, n.

NOTA BENE: The equivalent Latin form for "living being," "animal" is *animal, animalis*.

Familiar Words

Pisces

Porcupine

zodiac

Challenge Words

Piscatorial

protozoan