

LESSONS 1 AND 2

Motion

Directions

1. Determine how the Latin or Greek root is related in meaning to each defined—KEY—word that follows it.
2. Learn the pronunciation and definition(s) of each KEY word, and notice how the words are used in sentences.
3. Practice using the varied forms of KEY words.
4. Build your knowledge with all the information given: Latin mottoes, Familiar Words, Challenge Words, and Nota Bene references.
5. Complete the exercises.

LESSON 1

Nolo contendere.

I do not wish to contend.*

Key Words		
contend	elation	perennial
defer	infer	permeate
dilatory	intent	persevere
	percussion	

*A legal term used when a defendant does not admit guilt but offers no defense.

Familiar Words

impervious
perceive
percent
perfect
perfume
permission
perpetual
perplex
persist
perspire

Challenge Words

imperturbable
perambulate
perigee
perpetuity
perspicacious
perturb
pervade
repercussion

PER <L. "through"

1. **percussion** (pər kŭsh'ən) [*cuss* = *quaterē* <L. "to strike"]
n. 1. The sharp striking of one thing against another.

The familiar **percussion** of wood on leather let us know that baseball practice had begun.

2. Instruments that make a sound when struck.

Percussion in an orchestra includes drum, cymbals, tympani, xylophone, and piano.

adj. Describing the striking of a substance or a musical instrument.

Small children use kitchen pots and pans as **percussion** instruments.

percussionist, *n.*; **percussive**, *adj.*



2. **perennial** (pə rĕn'ē əl) [*annus* <L. "year"]
adj. 1. Lasting for an indefinitely long time.

Mother Goose rhymes have remained **perennial** favorites with children.

2. Continuing regularly.

A **perennial** remark of parents is "Things were different when I was your age."

3. Living longer than two years, said especially of plants.

Perennial shrubs like roses and lilacs satisfy gardeners not only because they smell good, but also because they grow for many years.

perennially, *adv.*



3. **permeate** (pŭr'mē āt') [*meare* <L. "to go," "to pass"]
tr. v. To penetrate through spaces; to spread throughout.

Pollution from automobiles and smokestacks **permeates** the air in many cities, causing health problems for people and contributing to the deterioration of the environment.

permeable, *adj.*; **permeation**, *n.*

Antonym: **impermeable**.



4. **persevere** (pŭr sə vĭr') [*serverus* <L. "severe," "serious"]
intr. v. To hold fast to a task or purpose despite handicaps or obstacles.

Elizabeth Blackwell, the first woman doctor in the United States, **persevered** despite ridicule and exclusion from the medical profession.

perseverance, *n.*

Familiar Words

confer
differ
dilate
fertile
legislator
offer
prefer
refer
relate
suffer
transfer
translate

Challenge Words

collate
oblate
prelate
proffer
superlative
vociferous

FERO, FERRE, TULI, LATUM <L. "to bring," "to bear," "to carry"

5. **defer** (dī fûr') [*de* <L. "away:"]

tr. v. To postpone; to delay.

Schools and colleges sometimes **defer** admission, accepting students later in the year.

intr. v. To yield respectfully to the opinion or will of another.

When the rabbits in *Watership Down* plan their escape, they **defer** to Hazel, the wisest rabbit of the warren.

deference, *n.*; **deferential**, *adj.*; **deferentially**, *adv.*

6. **dilatory** (dīl'ə tōr'ē) [*dis* <L. "apart"]

adj. Tending to delay or to postpone.

In one of Aesop's fables, the **dilatory** hare loses the race to the persevering tortoise.

dilatorily, *adj.*; **dilatoriness**, *n.*

7. **elation** (ī lā'shən) [*e = ex* <L. "from," "out of"]

n. Excited feelings of pride, triumph, or happiness.

Many Americans felt **elation** when two *Apollo* astronauts took their first steps on the moon in 1969.

elated, *adj.*

8. **infer** (īn fûr') [*in* <L. "in"]

tr. v. 1. To use available evidence to form a conclusion.

The jury **inferred** from the testimony that the defendant was guilty.

2. To guess.

You can't **infer** that people have talent just because they are celebrities.

inference, *n.*; **inferential**, *adj.*; **inferentially**, *adv.*

NOTA BENE: Don't confuse *infer* with *imply*, which means "to hint," "to suggest," or "to mean." A person shows or says (*implies*) what another interprets (*infers*). For example: My teacher's comment *implies* that I have written a good paper; I *infer* that she thinks I have written a good paper.



Familiar Words

attend
detention
intense
pretend
tendency
tense
tension

Challenge Words

detente
entente
portend
tendentious

TENDO, TENDERE, TETENDI, TENSUM <L. "to stretch"

9. **contend** (kən tĕnd') [*con* = *cum* <L. "with"]
intr. v. 1. To engage in a quarrel, a struggle, or rivalry.

Cyclists on the Tour de France **contend** not only with each other, but also with dehydration and fatigue.



2. To assert; to put forward in argument.

The doctor **contended** that all children should be vaccinated against polio.

contender, *n.*; **contention**, *n.*; **contentious**, *adj.*; **contentiously**, *adv.*

10. **intent** (ĭn tĕnt') [*in* <L. "in"]
n. Purpose.

The **intent** of Christopher Columbus was to find a new sea route to Asia from Europe; instead, he found a new continent.

adj. Concentrating on or dedicated to an idea or action.

Girls who were **intent** upon joining Little League teams won the right to do so in a 1974 court decree.

**EXERCISE 1A**

Circle the letter of the best **SYNONYM** (the word or phrase most nearly the same as the word in bold-faced type).

- annual **contention** for the trophy a. longing b. rivalry c. hope
d. vanguard e. perseverance
- to **permeate** the soil a. cover b. exist in c. eliminate
d. contaminate e. penetrate
- perseverance** in competitive sports a. dabbling b. winning
c. persistence d. disinterest e. pretentiousness

Circle the letter of the best **ANTONYM** (the word or phrase most nearly opposite the word in bold-faced type).

- perennial** problems a. short-lived b. annual c. usual
d. long-lasting e. unsolvable
- a **dilatory** response to an invitation a. thoughtful b. prompt
c. half-hearted d. quarrelsome e. delayed
- a moment of **elation** a. excitement b. exhaustion c. humor
d. joy e. sadness

7. **deferring** a hard decision a. making b. postponing c. hastening
d. challenging e. rejecting
8. to **infer** the outcome a. believe b. learn c. deny d. imply
e. guess at

EXERCISE 1B

Circle the letter of the sentence in which the word in bold-faced type is used incorrectly.

1. a. In the poem "Harlem," Langston Hughes asks, "What happens to a dream **deferred**?" addressing the denial of opportunity experienced by many African Americans.
b. Because Arachne, famous for her skill at the loom, refuses to **defer** to Minerva in a weaving contest, the goddess transforms her into a spider.
c. The students apologized for the **deference** that made them tardy.
d. A basic courtesy is **deference** of youth to age when entering a room or passing through a doorway.
2. a. Bamboo poles clapped on the floor provide the **percussion** accompaniment for the Filipino dance, "Singkil."
b. Who can resist the rhythmic **percussion** of tap dancers?
c. The complicated steps and rhythmic **percussion** of castanets require a flamenco dancer's full concentration.
d. When workers go out on strike, they commit a **percussive** act.
3. a. China for centuries **contended** with Mongolian invaders from the north.
b. A happy man, he lived in a state of perfect **contention**.
c. *The Contender* is a novel about an African-American youth who wants to make a name for himself as a boxer.
d. The U.S. Surgeon General has **contended** that people should safeguard their health by avoiding tobacco, alcohol, and harmful drugs.
4. a. Some scientists believe that massive amounts of dust **permeated** Earth's atmosphere after a collision with an asteroid, causing the extinction of the dinosaurs.
b. The smell **permeating** our house could only be skunk.
c. When the crowd heard that their candidate had won, feelings of elation **permeated** the hall.
d. The toughness of leather makes it difficult to **permeate** with an ordinary needle.
5. a. Do you agree that the familiar phrase, "for all **intents** and purposes," is repetitious?
b. On our camping trip we were prepared for a snug, **intent** night's sleep, but a prowling bear kept us awake.

- c. Although the **intent** of the Chinese students' demonstration in 1989 was for free speech and control of corruption, the nation's leaders feared a movement to overthrow the government.
- d. Sarah Winnemucca was **intently** involved in pleading with the U.S. government for fair treatment of her people, the Paiutes.
- 6. a. When Izzy's best friends are **dilatory** in making a hospital visit after her injury, she realizes that they may not be her best friends after all.
- b. Sir Walter Scott once noted that unanswered letters are like snakes hissing at his **dilatoriness**.
- c. If their supervisor requires punctuality, **dilatory** employees are in danger of losing their jobs.
- d. We were driving in the **dilatory** lane because we were short of gas.
- 7. a. On August 14, 1945, **elated** throngs gathered to celebrate the official end of World War II.
- b. For Hank Aaron a day of **elation** came in 1974 when he hit his 715th home run, breaking the lifetime record held by Babe Ruth.
- c. The envelope contained a small, neat **elation** with her name on it.
- d. Teacher Anne Sullivan's **elation** was great when Helen Keller, without sight or hearing, learned her first word—*water*.
- 8. a. The **perseverance** and hard work of Spanish-speaking Mexican immigrants were responsible for the prosperous economy of the Southwest in the nineteenth century.
- b. Rather than **persevere** dilatory staff members to meet deadlines, the editor coaxed them with prizes and treats.
- c. **Persevering** in her struggle for women's rights, attorney Belva Lockwood helped to get laws passed that gave women equal rights to property and child guardianship.
- d. Although the mythological character Sisyphus **perseveres** in pushing a huge boulder up a steep hill, his punishment is having it always roll back down.

EXERCISE 1C

Fill in each blank with the most appropriate word from Lesson 1. Use a word or any of its forms only once.

1. From the smell of burned muffins issuing from the kitchen, we _____ that the cook will not be in a good mood.
2. The government penalizes citizens who are _____ in paying their taxes.
3. Nellie Bly had cause for _____ after setting a new record: traveling around the world in fewer than the 80 days Phileas Fogg needed in Jules Verne's novel.

4. The _____ of the woodpecker drumming on a tree trunk signifies a search for insects or proclaims the bird's territory and readiness to mate.
5. "La Bamba," a song with numerous verses, has become a(n) _____ favorite, continuing to reflect life in Mexican fishing villages.
6. The crew of the spaceship *Discovery* in the movie *2001: A Space Odyssey* is _____ on finding proof that creatures from outer space influenced earth forms millions of years ago.

LESSON 2

Sub rosa.
Under the rose, or secretly.*

Key Words		
adversity	introvert	retort
avert	perverse	subservient
contort	prose	subvert
distort		tortuous

Familiar Words
subdue
subject
sublime
submit
substance
substitute
subtraction
suburb
succeed

SUB <L. "under"

1. **subvert** (səb vûrt') [*vertere* <L. "to turn"]
tr. v. To upset; to overthrow; to ruin.

In 1917 revolutionists **subverted** the regime of the Russian czars.

subversion, n.; subversive, adj.; subverted, adj.

2. **subservient** (səb sər'vī ənt)
[*servare* <L. "to serve"]
adj. Excessively willing to yield; submissive.

History shows that although men have often expected women to be **subservient**, many women have resisted domination.

subservience, n.; subserviently, adv.



Challenge Words
subconscious
subjective
sublimate
subside
subterfuge
succumb

*The rose is a classical symbol of secrecy.