

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
pertinacious
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') [*severus* <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

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

5. **defer** (dī fūr') [*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.

All of America felt **elation** when two *Apollo* astronauts took their first steps on the moon in 1969.

elated, *adj.*

8. **infer** (īn fūr') [*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.

Challenge Words

collate
oblate
prelate
proffer
superlative
vociferous



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 tēnd') [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** (in tēnt') [in <L. "in"]
n. Purpose.

The **intent** of Christopher Columbus was to find a sea route to Asia; 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).

1. annual **contention** for the trophy ~~a. vanguard~~ ~~c. hope~~ ~~d. vanguard~~ ~~e. perseverance~~ ~~a. vanguard~~ **(b.) rivalry**
2. to **permeate** the soil a. cover b. exist in c. eliminate
d. contaminate ~~a. penetrate~~
3. **perseverance** in competitive sports a. dabbling b. winning
~~a. 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).

4. **perennial** problems ~~a. short-lived~~ b. annual c. usual
d. long-lasting e. unsolvable
5. a **dilatory** response to an invitation a. thoughtful ~~b. prompt~~
c. half-hearted d. quarrelsome e. delayed
6. 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 rejecting
8. to **infer** the outcome 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. 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.
- When workers go out on strike, they commit a **percussive** act.
3. a. China for centuries **contended** with Mongolian invaders from the north.
- 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. **Permeation** of the soil with radioactive materials after the nuclear explosion at Chernobyl is endangering the normal growth of plants and animals in the Soviet Union.
- 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.
- The toughness of leather makes it difficult to **permeate** with an ordinary needle.
5. a. Do you agree that the familiar phrase, "to all **intents** and purposes," is repetitious?
- 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 to be an attorney, Belva Lockwood became the first woman to plead a case before the U.S. Supreme Court.
- 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 percussion 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) essential favorite, continuing to reflect life in Mexican fishing villages.
6. The crew of spaceship *Discovery* in *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
avert
contort
distort

introvert
perverse
prose

retort
subservient
subvert
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

Familiar Words

torch
torment
nasturtium

Challenge Words

extort
torque
tort
truss

TORQUEO, TORQUERE, TORSI, TORTUM <L. "to twist," "to bend," "to turn around"

3. **contort** (kən tōrt') [*con* = *cum* <L. "with"]
tr. v. To twist or bend out of shape.

The acrobats **contorted** their bodies until they resembled pretzels.

contorted, *adj.*; **contortion**, *n.*



4. **distort** (dīs tōrt') [*dis* <L. "apart"]
tr. v. 1. To change something to make it false.

By combining photographs of two people who have never met, a devious propagandist could **distort** their relationship and mislead the public.

2. To twist (something) out of its natural shape.

Both heat and dampness can **distort** phonograph recordings and computer disks.

5. **retort** (rī tōrt') [*re* <L. "back," "again"]
tr. and intr. v. To reply quickly and sharply, often as if in reply to an accusation.



When the ventriloquist told her dummy, "You're not very bright today," the figure **retorted**, "Look who's talking."

n. A quick, witty, sometimes biting reply.

In the television series *M*A*S*H*, "Hawkeye" Pierce is known for **retorts** that show his frustrations with life in a temporary army hospital during the war in Korea.

6. **tortuous** (tōr'chōō əs)
adj. 1. Having many twists and turns.

Three animals make a **tortuous** return to their owners in the story *The Incredible Journey*.

2. Deceitfully roundabout; tricky.

Tom Sawyer's **tortuous** plan to free the already freed slave Jim becomes a hardship, or at least a nuisance, to everyone except Tom.

tortuously, *adv.*; **tortuousness**, *n.*

NOTA BENE: The word *torturous* comes from the same Latin word as *tortuous* but, as the adjective form of *torture*, is much stronger in meaning: "causing torture" or "causing mental suffering."

Familiar Words

advertisement
anniversary
controversy
convert
divert
invert
revert
universe
versatile
verse
version
vice versa

Challenge Words

extroversion
vertebra
vertigo
vortex

VERSO, VERSARE, VERSAVI, VERSATUM <L. "to turn,"
"to turn around"

7. **adversity** (ăd vûr'sə tē) [*ad* <L. "to," "toward"]
n. Hardship; misfortune.

Despite the **adversity** of a shipwreck, the Swiss Family Robinson adapts to living simply, turning their island into a small paradise.

adverse, *adj.*; **adversely**, *adv.*

8. **avert** (ə vûrt') [*a* = *ab* <L. "away from"]
tr. v. To turn away (one's eyes).

During an eclipse of the sun, viewers must **avert** their eyes to avoid severe burning of the retina.

2. To prevent.

Although the hydraulic system of the plane was gone, the pilot **averted** total disaster in landing.

averted, *adj.*

9. **introvert** (in'trə vûrt) [*intro* <L. "within," "inward"]
n. A person whose thoughts and interests are directed inward.

Introverts often keep extensive journals, in which they record their thoughts about life.

introversion, *n.*; **introverted**, *adj.*

10. **perverse** (pər vûrs') [*per* <L. "through"]
adj. Stubbornly doing something other than what is reasonable or required.

The children took **perverse** pleasure in hiding from their sitter.

perversely, *adv.*; **perverseness**, *n.*; **perversity**, *n.*

11. **prose** (prōz)
[*prosa* <L. "straightforward" from *proversum* <L. "turned forward"]
n. Ordinary speech or writing without rhyme or meter (that is, without verse).

Prose is what we all speak and write unless we are composing poetry.

adj. Referring to speech or writing other than verse.

Laura Ingalls Wilder's **prose** style makes life on the American frontier quickly accessible to her readers.

prosaic, *adj.*



EXERCISE 2A

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

1. hopeful even in **adversity** a. good fortune b. fame c. change
d. hard times e. discomfort
2. **subversion** of an enterprise a. concealment b. support
c. celebration d. annihilation e. aberration
3. **distortion** of the facts a. alteration b. description
c. recantation d. clarification e. salience
4. **introverted** attitudes a. outgoing b. self-confident
c. capricious d. selfish e. inward-looking

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

5. to **avert** disaster a. consider b. anticipate c. encounter
d. prevent e. enjoy
6. **perverse** responses a. lively b. wicked c. reasonable
d. tortuous e. prose
7. **contorted** metal sculpture a. rounded b. twisted c. piled
d. straightened e. ugly
8. to adopt a **subservient** manner a. helpful b. submissive
c. reverent d. suspicious e. bullying

EXERCISE 2B

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

1. a. Adventure games on computers sometimes require players to follow **tortuous** routes to solve the puzzle and find the treasure.
b. Forcing **tortuous** misunderstanding, Little Buttercup at last reveals the identity of her marriageable son in *H.M.S. Pinafore*.
c. Agatha Christie's mystery stories promise **tortuous** plots before the detective nabs the wrongdoer.
d. The prisoners suffered severe **tortuousness** from their cruel captors.
2. a. We discussed the **prose** and cons of turbo engines.
b. Edgar Allan Poe wrote both poetry and **prose**.
c. Trying to smarten himself up to become a gentleman, a character in a French play is amazed when his tutor tells him he has been speaking **prose** all his life.
d. In *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, a scolding voice speaking in rhyme sometimes interrupts the **prose**.

3.
 - a. The poem contained many stanzas because the poet expected to be paid on a **perverse** basis.
 - b. The **perverseness** of the princess who complains about the pea under her twenty-four mattresses shows a delicate sensitivity that wins her a princely bridegroom.
 - c. Nature sometimes appears **perverse**, sending flash floods to drown thousands in Bangladesh while the land dries up in the famine-stricken Sahara.
 - d. Although Templeton the rat is often **perverse** when Charlotte the spider asks a favor, he manages to save the day on several occasions in the story *Charlotte's Web*.
4.
 - a. Historian Elizabeth Longford writes that "as playthings or household slaves, women were **distorted** the world over."
 - b. Makeup and padding **distorted** the figure of Charles Laughton for his role in the film *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*.
 - c. Clowns tumbling from the diving board entertained the audience with their **distortions**.
 - d. Under the leadership of Joseph Stalin and his successors, Russian history presented as truth many **distortions** and omissions of world events.
5.
 - a. The team crossing Antarctica by sled placed trust in the lead dog to **avert** dangerous crevasses.
 - b. Writers often **avert** to their own experience in both prose and poetry.
 - c. In some cultures politeness requires **averting** the eyes rather than looking directly at someone.
 - d. By breaking German codes during World War II, British forces could **avert** some damage by preparing for air attack.
6.
 - a. We often think of a good **retort** too late to use it.
 - b. In *Pride and Prejudice* Elizabeth Bennet **retorts** to the haughty Lady Catherine, who delivers a **retort** in return: "I send no compliments to your mother."
 - c. "Really?" and "You know?" are **retorts** we often hear in conversation.
 - d. When Mrs. Hardcastle in the play *She Stoops to Conquer* scolds her son for playing a trick on her, he **retorts**, "Ecod, mother, all the parish says you spoiled me, and so you may take the fruits on it."
7.
 - a. Despite the gardener's perseverance in planting parsley, a hungry vole **subverted** all of her efforts.
 - b. Socrates was put to death for supposedly **subverting** the minds of Athenian youth by teaching them to reason.
 - c. In 1917 the French government tried and executed Mata Hari for **subversion**: conveying military secrets to the Germans.
 - d. The speaker declared that racism still exists; it has only been **subverted** from our attention.

8. a. In the Middle Ages serfs were bound in **subservience** to their lord.
- b. At the Constitutional Convention in 1787 the idea of being **subservient** to a national rather than a state government frightened some of the framers of the Constitution.
- c. On a plantation the **subservients** who worked in the fields had a more difficult life than those skilled in a craft.
- d. Although seeming **subservient** to the new regime, the people quietly resisted.

EXERCISE 2C

Fill in each blank with the most appropriate word from Lesson 2. Use a word or any of its forms only once.

1. Balancing a budget is a(n) _____ task for individuals as well as for governments.
2. When several people pass along information one by one, they inevitably _____ it.
3. Although admirers were eager to lionize the Brontë sisters, they were _____s, preferring their own company to that of the outside world.
4. Thomas Carlyle says that "_____ is hard upon a man" but that prosperity is even harder to endure.
5. A clever _____ may win admiration for wit but discourage gentler feelings.
6. Readers of Beverly Cleary's _____ have met Henry Huggins, an amusing character who appears in a succession of her novels.
7. As they leap, turn somersaults, and otherwise _____ their bodies, Olympic gymnasts prove their suppleness.
8. Although the nursery rhyme begins, "Mary, Mary, quite contrary," the references to her garden and "maids all in a row" do not explain why she is _____.