ENGLISH from the ROOTS UP

Help for Reading, Writing, Spelling, and S.A.T. Scores

Greek  Latin

Volume I

by Joëgil K. Lundquist
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photos

[Fŏ TOSS] light
photograph - (graph - write, draw) - picture drawn by light
telephoto - (tele-distant) - light from far away
photometer - (metron - measure) - a device which
measures light
phototropic - (tropos - turn) - turning toward light
photophilia - (philia - love) - love of light
photophobia - (phobos - fear) - fear or dislike of light
photosynthesis - (syn - together, thesis - putting) - a
process of putting things together by using light

Teaching Notes: Photograph - Discuss the process of photography and have a child
present a report to the class on how it works. With smaller children it would make a good
research job to be done aa homework with parents. Telephoto - Discuss the purpose of a
telephoto lens. If possible, show a sports video which illustrates the zoom effect.
Photometer - Ask if anyone can bring one from home to show the class. (Maybe a parent
will come and do a presentation for the class!) Phototropic - Grow some beans on the
window sill and watch the leaves turn to face the light. Photosynthesis - Put some of the
bean plants in a dark closet so the children can see what happens when they are deprived
of light.

Extra Words: Photokinesis (kinesis - movement) light making something move.
Science museum shops have photovoltaic devices that look like light bulbs, with little
windmill-like panels inside. The panels spin when exposed to light. Phosphorous - (phos
light; photos is another form of this word; + pherein - to bear or produce) - producing
light. The Romans took this Greek word, Phos, and made Phosphorus - their name for the
bright morning star, Venus.
graph

[GRAFF]  to write or draw
photograph - (photo - light) - picture drawn by light
phonograph - (phono - sound) - machine for writing (or recording) sound
telegraph - (tele - distant) - writing from far away
graph - pictured information
lithograph - (lithos - stone) - drawing made on a stone
graphite - black carbon used for drawing or writing
autograph - (autos - self) - to write one’s own name
phonogram - (phono - sound) - written symbol for a sound
hologram - (holos - complete) - a three-dimensional photograph of a whole object

Teaching Notes:  Phonograph - Discuss the early process of sound recording, before magnetic tape and cassettes, in which a needle cut a recording on a wax plate. Telegraph - Let someone present a research report on Thomas Edison’s early days as a telegrapher. Let someone do a report on Morse code and give a demonstration of it. Graph - Introduce various kinds of graphs in math class. Lithograph - Discuss the process of lithography and talk about Currier and Ives. Their lithographs are still used every year as Christmas cards. Make potato or linoleum block prints. Graphite - Have someone research how it is used today. Hologram - Show students a hologram (on a National Geographic cover or on your credit card). Autograph - Have the class write to famous people, requesting an autograph. Phonogram - The Greek word gramma, meaning “letter” or “something written down”, comes from graphein. Discuss the invention of the alphabet as an early system of written-down sound.

Extra Words:  Pictograph (pictura (L.) painting) - A writing form in which there is a picture for each word. You might find pictures of Egyptian hieroglyphics and Chinese characters to show the children.
**Tele**

[TAY leh]  far away, distant
- **television** - *(video, visum (L.) - see)* - seeing distant things
- **telephone** - *(phone - sound)* - sound from far away
- **telegraph** - *(graph - write)* - writing from a distance
- **telephoto** - *(photo - light)* - light from far away
- **telescope** - *(skopeo - look at)* - device for looking at distant objects
- **telepathy** - *(pathos - feeling)* - knowing how someone far away is feeling
- **telethon** - *(Marathon - a battlefield in ancient Greece)*
  - a telephone fund raiser which runs on non-stop, as Pheidippides ran after the battle of Marathon.

**Teaching Notes:** Telethon - The great battle between the Athenians and the Persians in 490 BC took place on the plain of Marathon. When the Greeks won, they sent a runner, Pheidippides, to Athens, 26 miles away, with the news. As the runner arrived, he delivered the message - and died. Modern 26-mile races are called “Marathons”, and so any long, grueling session or fund-raising campaign may be called a marathon - and if it happens on television, it’s a telethon.

**Extra Words:** Telekinesis - *(kinesis - movement)* the movement of an object which is far away from the power (spiritual or magical) which is moving it. Telex - A recently-coined technological word for a communication service using “tele-typewriters” connected by wire. We are very fond of such “high tech” sounding words. We tend to mine the ancient Greek vocabulary whenever we want to coin a “new” word.
sonus

[SOH noos]  sound
sound - vibrations perceived by our ears
sonic - relating to what we can hear
sonnet - a form of rhyming Italian poetry
sonovox - a machine that makes sound effect voices
sonar - device that hears sound under water
sonata - an instrumental (not vocal) musical composition with three or four movements
consonant - (con - with) - speech sounds made with lips, tongue or teeth

**Teaching Notes:** Sound - A discussion about how the human ear receives vibration and allows us to perceive sound would be an interesting class discussion. A diagram of the human ear would help make the meaning of this word clear. Sonnet - This Italian poetic form of 14 lines is very entertaining for students and was, at one time, as popular as "raps" are today. The Italian sonnet has eight lines (the "octave") with a rhyme scheme, abbaabba, followed by six lines (the "sestet") which rhyme cdecde. The English sonnet has three 4-line verses followed by a couplet. The rhyme scheme is abab cdcd efef gg. The students might have a great time composing some sonnets! Sonovox - This is a device which is held against the throat and makes sound effects like that of a talking train or a whispering wind. Sounds like FUN! Sonar - A student may enjoy presenting a report on sonar technology to the class. Sonata - How about playing a recording of Beethoven's Moonlight Sonata for the children? Consonant - The consonants in the alphabet don't really make sounds of their own. They go "with the sound" of the voice. The voice by itself is just the general sound of the air coming from the lungs and passing through the larynx. Consonant letters indicate changing positions of the lips, tongue and teeth which shape the sound of the voice into the words we speak.
[WI deh ō, WEE soon] see

- television - (tele [Gr.] - far away) - machine for seeing things that are far away
- videophone - (phone [Gr.] - sound) - TV screen for seeing the person you are talking to on the telephone
- Montevideo - (mons, montis - mountain) - "Mountain-view" - a city in Uruguay
- video - picture portion of television
- evidence - (e, ex - out) - out of what one can see
- advise - (ad - to, toward) - look and tell your view
- invisible - (in - not) - not to be seen

**Teaching Notes:** The two "principal parts" of a Latin verb which we ask children to learn in this book are the first (first person nominative singular of the Present Indicative - video - translated "I see") and the fourth (supine accusative - visum - translated "to see"). These two forms are usually different enough in their spelling that learning them will allow a student to recognize many more English derivatives than if only the first were learned. **Video** and **evidence** both come from the first principal part, **video**. **Vision** and **advise** both come from the fourth principal part, **visum**. We will give these two forms for all the Latin verbs and the children should learn them together: **video**, **visum** - see. They should be expected to give only the generic meaning "see", in English rather than the specific translation of the verb form, "I see", and "to see". We are not learning grammatical technicalities here but just the two most valuable roots for recognizing derivatives in English. Don't forget - "v" in Latin sounds like "w" in English.

**Extra Words:** Provide (pro - for, before) - To foresee; to look out for in advance. Visit - To go to see someone in person. (A phone call doesn't technically qualify as a "visit" - unless, perhaps, you are using a "videophone"!)
**verb** - the action word in a sentence
**proverb** -(pro - forward) - a wise or profound saying
**verbal** - of, or pertaining to, words
**verbiage** - use of too many words; chatter
**verbose** -(osus - full of) - wordy, full of words
**verbatim** - word-for-word copy or record
**verbalize** - to express in words
**verberium** - game in which a word is changed into others by rearranging its letters

**Teaching Notes:** Verb - We don’t often stop to realize that the verb is the chief word in a sentence. A verb, in its imperative form, can be the complete sentence, e.g., “Go!” The verb tells what is happening, and therefore is the reason for uttering sentences at all! “What’s going on?” is what we mean when we ask, “What’s the word?” **Proverb** - A wise or profound saying or maxim, held up before people for their guidance or improvement is a proverb. It is terse, pithy and easy to remember. The GOLDEN RULE, “Do unto others as you would have them do unto you” is a good example. Benjamin Franklin wrote a lot of proverbs in his book, Poor Richard’s Almanac. People loved them and tried to live by them. We would be wise to think about them even today. “Early to bed and early to rise, makes a man healthy, wealthy, and wise.” “God helps them that help themselves.” “Little strokes fell great oaks.” “He’s a fool that makes his doctor his heir.” “He that falls in love with himself will have no rivals.”

**Extra Words:** **Proverb** is a book of the Old Testament in the Bible which contains a great variety of wise sayings written before 250 B.C. Some of them are “Pride goeth before destruction.” “A soft answer turneth away wrath.” It’s a great project to collect these and print them out in calligraphy as gifts. Some children may enjoy composing some new proverbs which, if they are wise, may catch on!
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