

ENGLISH

from the

ROOTS UP

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



NOW
PRONUNCIATION
GUIDE ON
ROOT PAGES

Volume I

by Joégil K. Lundquist

A Publication of LITERACY UNLIMITED
Medina, Washington

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Preface	I
Acknowledgments	III
Dedication	IV
English From The Roots Up	V
How to Begin	IX
Numerical Index	XV
Alphabetical Index	XVI
Pronouncing Latin Words	XVII
The Greek Alphabet	XVIII
Greek and Latin Root Words	1-100
Appendix I – Roman Numerals	XIX
Appendix II – Auction Bidding	XX
Sample Letter to Parents	XXII
Selected Bibliography	XXIII

photos

[Fō 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 as 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.

video visum

[WI deh ō, WEE soom] 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"!)

verbum

[WAIR boom] word

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:

Proverbs 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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