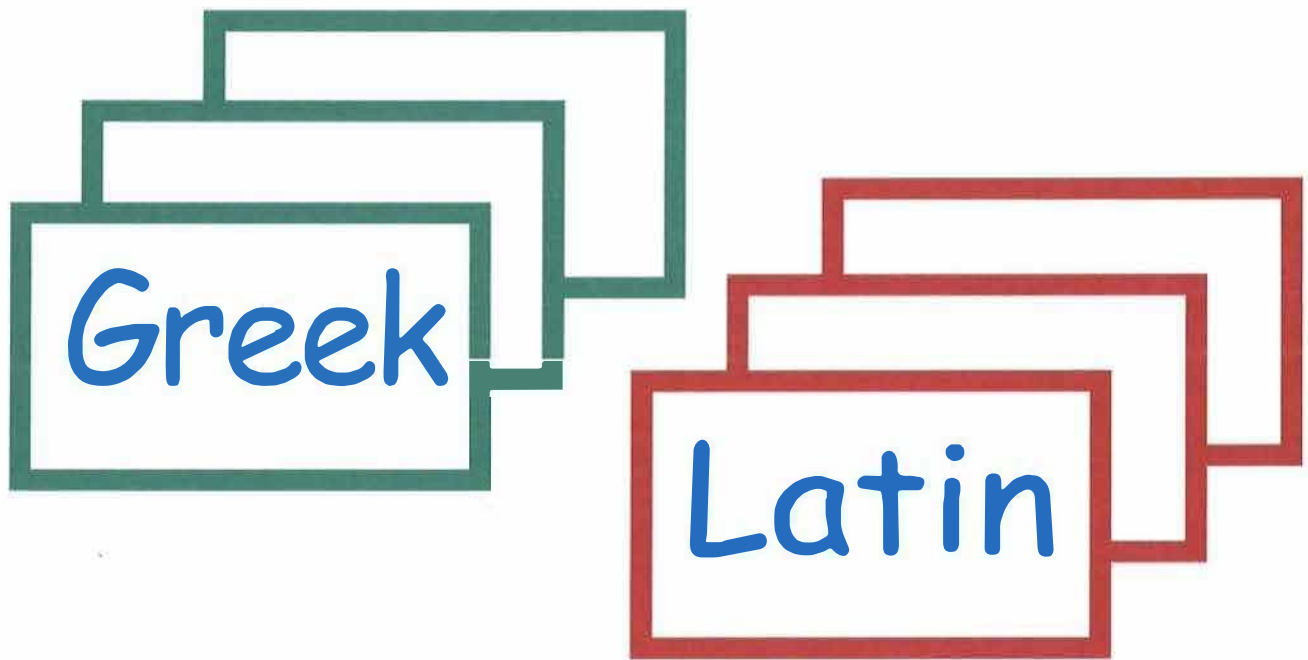


# ENGLISH

from the

# ROOTS UP

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



**Volume II**

by Joégil K. Lundquist and Jeanne L. Lundquist

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## LATIN ROOT WORDS

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**AMBI** – L. – both (13)  
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**BELLUM** – L. – war, fight (97)  
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**VOX, VOCIS** – L. – voice (87)

## GREEK ROOT WORDS

**AGON** – G. – contest, struggle (44)  
**AKROS** – G. – topmost, high point, (74)  
**AMPHI** – G. – both (12)  
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**DOKEIN** – G. – think, have an opinion (100)  
**DROMOS** – G. – race course, running (45)  
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**ERGON** – G. – work (95)  
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**HETEROS** – G. – other, different (54)  
**HIPPOS** – G. – horse (6)  
**HOLOS** – G. – whole, entire, complete (36)  
**HOMOS** – G. – same (53)  
**HYPHER** – G. – above, overly, beyond (80)  
**HYPO** – G. – under, below (81)  
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**KATA** – G. – down, against, completely (75)  
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**MONOS** – G. – alone, solitary (92)  
**NAUS** – G. – ship, boat (51)  
**ORNIS** – G. – bird (8)  
**ORTHOS** – G. – straight, correct (99)  
**PAIS, PAIDOS** – G. – child (30)  
**PERI** – G. – around (21)  
**RHINOS** – G. – nose, snout (37)  
**SCHOLE** – G. – leisure, free time (31)  
**THEOS** – G. – god (22)

# leon

## [LAY on] lion

lion – the largest member of the cat family *Felidae*

lioness – a female lion

leonine – lion-like

dandelion (dens L. - tooth) – weedy plant with deeply toothed leaves and golden-yellow tufted flower

chameleon (chamai G. - on the ground) – a lizard with a large head able to change color for protection

leopard (pardos G. - black leopard) – tawny panther with black spots

Leo – the constellation of the Lion; zodiac sign; a boy's name

lionize – to treat as an object of great interest or importance

lion's share – the biggest and best portion of anything

### TEACHING NOTES:

From earliest times, the **LION** has been known as the “king of beasts.” Known for their strength, courage, and fearsome hunting ability, **LIONS** inspired men from all eras in history to call themselves “**LIONS**.” *The Bible* mentions “the **LION** of the tribe of Judah” (Rev. 5:5). In the time of the Crusades, the English king was called “Richard the **LION-Hearted**.” Thirteen Popes have been named **LEO**, and **LEON**, **LEONARD**, and **LEONARDO** are popular boy's names even today. In the animal kingdom, **LIONS** seem quite civilized, living in family communities called prides, perhaps because the members, cared for and protected, are “proud” of each other! The adult male **LION** is the only cat with a mane, which makes him look larger and more formidable both to his enemies and to his prey. His job is to protect the pride and its territory from intruders. The female **LIONESS** does the hunting for food so all in the pride may eat. She brings home antelope and other large animals to share with the cubs and other **LIONESSES**. Of course the largest male gets “the **LION'S SHARE**.”

**DANDELIONS** (*dent de lion* - French - “tooth of the lion”) have pointed leaves which may have resembled a lion's fangs to some early naturalist, but even more, the brilliant, tufted, yellow flower seems to suggest a lion's mane. The green part of the plant is edible but it is rarely prized because it has a habit of invading grassy lawns where it is not wanted.

The **CHAMELEON** is a small lizard with a large head known for its ability to change color. The head is defined from the rest of the body by a crest of bone called a casque which resembles a lion's mane. Perhaps the ancients thought they saw a tiny tawny lion on the brown ground!

# equus

## [EH kwoos] horse

*Equidae* – scientific term for the horse family

equestrian – a person skilled in horse riding; pertaining to horseback riding

equine – of, pertaining to, or resembling a horse

equestrienne – feminine form; a horsewoman; female equestrian

### TEACHING NOTES:

The use of Latin terms in scientific classification began long ago so that biologists and other scientists could talk to each other no matter their native language. In scientific classification, **EQUIDAE**, the horse family, includes horses, donkeys, mules, zebras, and some extinct “ungulates” (animals having hooves). The horse we know and love belongs to the Kingdom *Animalia*, Phylum *Chordata* (having backbones), Class *Mammalia* (nursing the young), Order *Herbivora Ungulata* (eating grass or other plants and having hooves), Family **EQUIDAE**, Genus **EQUUS**, Species **EQUUS Caballus**.

The history of the horse family, or **EQUIDAE**, is interesting. The horse is native to all continents except Australia. Fossils have shown that in the Ice Age horses roamed all over North and South America, but then, unaccountably, they disappeared. They were later reintroduced by man to the Western Hemisphere and to Australia where they have thrived ever since.

Our word “horse” is from the Anglo Saxon *hors*. However, most of our words relating to horses are derivatives from the Latin **EQUUS** or the Greek **HIPPOS**. The Romans called the domesticated horse **EQUUS CABALLUS** or simply **CABALLUS** (as they shortened **Feles Catus** to simply “*catus*” or “*cat*”), which then became the source for derivatives in Spanish (*caballo* - horse, *caballero* - horseman); in French (*cheval* - horse, *cavalier* or *chevalier* - horseman); and Italian (*cavallo* - horse).

Some have erroneously assumed that **EQUERRY** (meaning the stables belonging to a princely household; the body of officers in charge of the stables) is a derivative from **EQUUS**. It is not. It is from the middle Latin word *scuria* meaning stable.

# caballus

## [cah BAHL loos] horse

**cavalry** – a division of an army in which the soldiers ride horses

**cheval** – (*French*) horse

**chivalry** – a code of courteous conduct which was followed by knights (horsemen) of the Middle Ages

**caballo** – (*Spanish*) horse

**cavallo** – (*Italian*) horse

**chevalet** – (*French* - little horse) the bridge on a stringed musical instrument, as a violin; any wooden frame for holding or supporting something; equiv. to *cheval* - horse

**cavalcade** – procession of riders on horseback, or in carriages

**Chevalier, (Maurice)** – French actor and singer

**TEACHING NOTES:** The derivatives of this Latin word, **CABALLO**, are a beautiful example of spelling pronunciation (spelling a word the way it is spoken, rather than pronouncing it the way it is spelled). They show the changes in spelling that can occur according to the way people of different countries pronounce words. The Greeks pronounced their *b* (beta) as though it were the letter *v*, and they still do. The Spanish, who originally spoke a dialect of Latin, retained the “b” spelling in **CABALLO**, but their pronunciation of the letter is very soft and sounds more like a *v* to us than the bombastic *b* sounds we use in English. The French and Italians simply changed the letter *b* to a *v* in their derivative words.

The concept of **CHIVALRY** came from Latin through Old French into English; hence the French spelling and pronunciation of “ch” at the beginning of the word and, of course, in **Maurice Chevalier’s** name (the horseman, the knight), a wonderful name for an actor who always played such **CHIVALROUS** characters.

The French word **CHEVALET** is a diminutive of their word **CHEVAL**. It described as a “little horse” the bridge on a violin, cello, or bass viol. **CHEVALET** also is used to describe the wooden trestles supporting a bridge and even a sawhorse used in a carpenter’s shop.

A **CAVALCADE** was originally a parade of riders on horseback or horse drawn carriages, but it can be any long procession of vehicles or people or even ships. It is sometimes used to refer to the progression of historical events through decades or centuries.

GREEK

ἵππος

# hippos

## [HIP poss] horse

hippopotamus (potamos G. - river) – river horse

hippodrome (dromos G. - race course) – horse race track

hippocampus (kampos G. - sea monster) – sea horse

hippology (logos G. - word, study, Vol. I, p. 15) – study of horses

hippophile (philia G. - love, Vol. I, p. 6) – one who loves horses

Eohippus (eo G. - dawn) – dawn horse, a small extinct horse

hippiatric (iatros G. - healer) – pertaining to treating the diseases of horses

Hippotigris (tigris G. - tiger) – a subgenus of the *Equidae* family, including zebras

### TEACHING NOTES:

A **HIPPOPOTAMUS** is a four-toed herbivorous mammal, able to remain underwater for extended periods, which lives in African rivers and estuaries (where a river meets the sea). A **HIPPODROME** for the Greeks was a large open stadium where chariot races were held. **HIPPOCAMPUS** refers to the curious, little, tube-nosed creatures we know as sea horses. In Greek mythology, Neptune, the God of the Sea, drove a chariot pulled by a fantastic creature also called **HIPPOCAMPUS**, with the body of a horse and the tail of a dolphin.

Philippos was a man's name in ancient Greece (a combined form of *philos* and *hippos*), so the name *Philip* means a man who loves horses. **EOHIPPIUS**, the earliest known species of the *Equidae* family, was a little, four-toed fellow who lived in the Eocene Era 65 million years ago. The U. S. Postal Service gave us a stamp with his picture on it a few years ago.

Scientists must have had fun coming up with the genus name of **HIPPOTIGRIS** (a horse with the markings of a tiger) for zebras. It might be a challenge to put the word **HIPPOTIGRIS** on the chalkboard and see if students can guess what kind of animal it is before giving them the definition. This can bring home the point that knowledge of Greek and Latin still plays a vital role in the sciences today and can help students figure out the meaning of words they don't already know.

# porcus

## [POR koos] pig, hog, swine

pork – meat from a pig

porcine – pig-like, fat, lazy

porcupine (*spina* L. - thorn) – spiny or prickly pig-shaped rodent

porpoise (*porcus piscis* L. - pig fish) – a blunt, snouted, aquatic mammal, similar to a dolphin

pork barrel – barrel in which salt pork is stored

porker – a young pig raised for food

“pork” – money for local projects from the public “trough”

porcelain – a fine, white earthenware noted for its translucence and transparent glaze; china

### TEACHING NOTES:

Considering what they have contributed to the well-being of mankind for the past 8,000 years or so, pigs, hogs, boars (swine in general) get precious little respect! It is always an insult to call anyone a “pig.” It would be interesting to have a class discussion to consider the reasons why and to think about how pigs are portrayed in literature. Even the film *Babe* presents an endearing pig who longs to be a dog! The cat tells Babe that pigs are given homes and fed only so they can finally be eaten! Since ancient times, pigs were raised for food and other uses. Every part of a pig is useful. An encyclopedia or the Internet will tell you of all the products we depend upon which come from pigs. Any fans of American football in class? Did you know that footballs were originally made out of a pig’s hide? Former football players may refer to the years they played football as their “*pigskin*” days. Referring to a football as a *pigskin* usually indicates a feeling of affection and nostalgia for the game.

Before the days of refrigeration, **PORK** meat was preserved by packing it in salt and storing this valuable food in barrels for a family’s year-round sustenance. By metaphor, the state or national treasuries came to be referred to as “**PORK BARRELS.**” Even today, legislators and congressmen who want the treasury to pay for projects in their own districts help each other by voting for each other’s local projects out of the public treasury, calling the projects “**PORK.**”

What do **PORCELAIN** and pigs have in common? The word **PORCELAIN** came from the Latin *porcellus* (the diminutive of **PORCUS** - meaning “*little pig*”) via Old French “*porcelaine*” and Italian “*porcellana*” which was a cowrie shell, so named because the shape of the shell resembled a pig’s back. When European merchants brought back samples of Chinese **PORCELAIN**, the fine white surface of the earthenware resembled the inner white surface of the shell and the china became known as **PORCELAIN.**

# ornis ornithos

## [OR nis] bird

ornithology (logos G. - word, study, Vol. I, p. 15) – study of the nature and habits of birds

ornithivorous (vorare L. - devour, swallow up) – bird-eating

ornithopterous (pteron G. - wing) – having wings like a bird

ornithotrophe (trophos G. - feeder) – place to feed and observe birds

ornithocephalic (kephale G. - head) – having a head shaped like a bird's

ornithopter (pteron G. - wing) – machine designed to fly by flapping wings

ornithophile (philia G. - love, Vol. I, p. 6) – lover of birds

ornithomancy (mantis G. - diviner, prophet) – telling fortunes by observing birds

### TEACHING NOTES:

This Greek word **ORNIS** gives us a whole collection of words which are great fun to learn and practice before the next visit to the aviary (bird house) at the zoo! *The Oxford English Dictionary* provides many more of them than we can introduce here, but we encourage you to explore more of them in the biggest dictionary you can find. Help children to become amateur **ORNITHOLOGISTS** by giving them a list of birds in your local area, showing them pictures so they can identify them, and giving them a journal to record their sightings. It could lead to a lifetime of pleasureable bird watching with fellow enthusiasts all over the world.

**ORNITH** combines with some of our old friends from Volume I (**logos** and **philia**) and partners with new ones (**kephalos**) to yield words like **ORNITHOCEPHALIC** (or-nith-o-CEPH-a-lic) – “bird-head.” The Greek word is spelled with a kappa which is a hard “k” sound. The English derivative changes the k to c. In English, remember, c followed by e, i, or y is pronounced like “s.” Try saying **ORNITHOCEPHALIC** several times until you are sure you own it! We can hear the poet Emily Dickinson saying, “Now there’s a word to lift your hat to!” **ORNITHOMANCY** - Many ancient people thought they could foretell the future by watching birds.

**ORNITHOMANCY** was an ancient practice of trying to foretell the future by watching birds. While birds probably don’t have any supernatural information, we can learn much from observing their behaviors and migration patterns. See the Audubon Society on the Internet at [www.audubon.org](http://www.audubon.org).