**Latin Roots Part 2**

**Cred - belief; trust**

Chances are your parents have credit cards. Why is it called a **credit** card? Very simply, the bank (creditor) that issued your parents that card believes or trusts that the money borrowed will be paid back eventually.

• In court cases, a credible witness is one whom the jury can believe.

• If you say, “That’s incredible!” what you are literally saying is that what you just witnessed was so amazing that you can hardly believe that it is true.

Here are some more cred- words:

* **credence (n.)**—believability; trustworthiness
* **credo (n.)**—a belief or motto
* **credulous (adj.)**—eager to believe; gullible
* **creed (n.)**—a system of beliefs, especially religious
* **incredulous (adj.)**—unwilling to believe

**dict - speak; say**

Dict- pertains to speaking or saying. So, a dictionary is a list of words you would say in a language.

• To dictate or make dictation is to speak or tell.

• A dictator tells others what to do, especially in a forceful way.

• To contradict is to say the opposite of what another might say. (Contra- means “against.”)

• A prediction is speaking about events before they happen. (Pre- means “before.”)

Sometimes the t in dict - is not present. For instance, indicate means “to show the way,” particularly by speaking.

* **diction (n.)—**word choice
* **dictum (n.)—**a command
* **indict (v.) (pronounced in DITE)—**to formally accuse; to say that someone is guilty
* **malediction (n.) –** saying something bad.
* **benediction (n.) –** saying something good or pleasant.

**nom - name**

If you have ever studied Spanish or French, you may recognize

Nom - Nombre in Spanish means “name,” and nom has that same meaning in French.

• To nominate someone means to “name” or recommend that person for a particular position.

• A misnomer is a false name, as in, “This Canadian bacon is made in Nebraska.”

**Nom - can also masquerade as nym-**

• A pseudonym is a false name that an author uses, as in, “Samuel Clemen’s pseudonym was Mark Twain.”

Here are some other nom- words:

* **anonymous (adj.)—**having an unknown or withheld name (ameans “without.”)
* **autonomy (n.)—**independence (literally, to “name” the “self” [auto-])
* **denominate (v.)—**to give a name to; to designate
* **eponymous (adj.)—**deriving from a similar name (e.g., Adele’s first CD was titled Adele.)
* **ignominy (n.)—**shame or humiliation (literally, being given a bad name)
* **nomenclature (n.)—**a system of assigning names to things
* **nominal (adj.)—**a small or insignificant amount (“in name only”)

**nov - new**

Have you ever played video games? (Some of you have played more than a nominal number of them.) What’s a novice? You might know that a novice-level player is just a beginner, someone who is “new” to the game. So, if someone says “That’s a novel idea!” or “This is an innovative product,” it does not simply mean that the idea or product is interesting or exciting; it means that the thing is new.

Let’s look at some more nov- words:

* **nouveau riche (n.; French)—**one who has suddenly become rich
* **nova (n.)—**a new star
* **novelty (n.)—**something new and different
* **renovate (v.)—**to make something new again; to repair

**dign - worthy; deserving**

The most common dign- word is dignity. To maintain your dignity is to uphold a feeling of your own worthiness.

A dignified person has a strong sense of self, while an indignity is an action that is offensive to one’s sense of self-worth. What if you are feeling indignant? It means something offends you and you are angry; it has offended your dignity. The noun form of this word is indignation.

In some words, dign- can masquerade as -dain.

* **deign (v.)—**to do something that one considers beneath one’s dignity
* **dignify (v.)—**to raise up the status of; to make worthy
* **disdain (n.)—**a feeling of strong dislike or disapproval;

**(v.)**— to scorn or consider something beneath oneself (dis- + -dain)

**ver - truth**

When a jury in a court case is seeking a verdict, it is seeking the “truth” about the guilt or innocence of the accused. As you learned earlier, -dict means “words,” so a verdict is literally “true words.” To verify is to determine the truth about an issue.

Occasionally, roots can be quirky. To **prevaricate** is to tell a lie, even though the word looks like it would mean to tell the truth (ver-) beforehand (pre-).

* **aver (v.)—**to confirm the truth of
* **veracity (n.)—**truthfulness
* **verisimilitude (n.)—**appearing to be true (literally, “similar to the truth”)
* **verity (n.)—**truth

**loc -, loq - word; speech**

You might have noticed that this root looks a lot like log-.

**You can think of loc- and loq- as log-’s close cousins. They relate to words and speech, too:**

• An eloquent speaker is well-spoken (sounds like “elegant”).

• Actors study elocution to speak well.

• An interlocutor is simply one who takes part in a conversation. (The root inter- often pertains to exchanges between people and things.)

**Culp - blame**

Who’s the culprit? If your teacher asks that question, he is looking for someone to blame. Words with the root culp- often revolve around guilt or blame.

• If you are culpable, you are guilty.

• If you are exculpated, you are literally taken “out” of the “blame,” or found to be not guilty.

**“Mea culpa!”** is a commonly used expression when someone is admitting guilt for a particular action.

**Ami - love; friendship**

If you have studied French or Spanish, you probably remember some ami- words such as amor (love) or amiable (friendly).

Here are some English words that look suspiciously similar, and they all mean “loving” or “friendly.”

* **amenable (adj.)**
* **amiable (adj.)**

* **amicable (adj.)**
* **amity (n.)**

* **amorous (adj.)**

**luc -, lum - light**

At some point in science class, you probably learned that a translucent material allows only a certain amount of light to pass through it. Maybe you have heard of people lighting off Chinese luminaries (floating lights) on holidays. Did you know that to illustrate or illuminate an idea or image literally means to shine “light” on it?

Here are some other luc- and lum- words:

* **elucidate (v.)—**to make clear (to shine “light” upon)
* **lack luster (adj.)—**lacking pizazz or inspiration (“lacking light”)
* **lucid (adj.)—**clear or sane
* **luminescent (adj.)—**filled with light
* **luminous (adj.)—**radiant, as with light

**tract - pull**

Think about a tractor. What does it do? Perhaps a lot of things, but one thing it does well is pull. Most tract- words do not refer to literally pulling an object, but rather more abstract forms of pulling.

Here are some examples:

• A tractable person is easily persuaded or mentally “pulled,” while an intractable person is stubborn.

• To attract something is to “pull” it toward you, while something that detracts from the situation tends to “pull away” from it.

**Pug -, pugn - fight, attack**

Picture a pug dog in your mind. Not the cute, cuddly kind, but a nasty pug: His teeth are bared, he’s straining at the leash, and you are desperately in need of the Dog Whisperer. There. Now you will remember pug-, the nastiest of our roots.

Here are some common pug words:

* **impugn (v.)—**to attack or accuse
* **pugilist (n.)—**a fighter or boxer
* **pugnacious (adj.)—**eager to fight
* **repugnant (adj.)—**distasteful (literally, the thing is “attacking” you)

**temp - time**

We all know the word temporary. A temporary situation is one that lasts for only a short time. Many difficult words with temp- relate to the concept of time.

* **contemporaneous (adj.)**—synonym of contemporary
* **contemporary (adj., n.)**—belonging to the same time period (con + temp = “with time”)
* **extemporaneous (adj.)**—performed with little preparation (ex + temp = “outside of time”)
* **tempo (n.)—**rate or pace of activity
* **temporal (adj.)**—limited by time; temporary
* **temporize (v.)**—to postpone a decision or waste time

The most important ones are listed below.

• analogy: a comparison between things that have similar features

Eg: The programmer drew an analogy between the human brain and the computer.

• simile: a direct comparison of two things using the words like or as

Eg: My love is like a red, red rose.

• metaphor: a literally false statement meant to be taken as a comparison between two things

Eg: Juliet is the sun.

• personification: a figure of speech in which human qualities are attributed to an animal, object, or idea

Eg: The yellow fog rubs its back on the windowpanes.

• hyperbole: deliberate exaggeration

Eg: There are a million gifting items in Crawford market to chose from

• verbal irony: the use of words to express the opposite of their literal meaning

Eg: So you locked your keys in your car and then set off the alarm pulling on the door handle? Brilliant!

• dramatic irony: when events turn out the opposite of the way those involved expect

Eg: A man sells his watch to buy a comb for his wife, only to find that she has sold her hair to a wigmaker in order to buy him a watch chain.

• allusion: casual reference; an incidental mention of something

Eg: The president made no allusion to the war in his speech.

• rhetoric: the skilled use of language effectively, persuasively or excessively

Eg: The preacher’s rhetoric convinced my grandmother to donate all her savings to his church.

• characterize: to describe something by stating its main qualities

Eg: In his essay, he characterized the 1960s as a period of radical change.

• dramatize: to express or represent vividly, emotionally, or strikingly, as in a drama

Eg: My friend always dramatizes everything that happens to her as if it were the worst thing ever.

**Now try your hand at the practice exercises on the next page.**

1. Because Stan had been preoccupied during his dynamite juggling demonstration, the jury felt that he was not \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for the destruction of the property.

A) amorphous

B) nondescript

C) indiscreet

D) culpable

2. Sally was full of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ because Mr. Reeves, our English teacher, filled the margins of her term paper with harsh remarks about her spelling, grammar, and writing style.

A) omnipotence

B) volition

C) beneficence

D) malaise

3. Da-Shawn and Harry were fired from the stage crew because their constant \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ during the play drowned out the actors and ruined the performance.

A) vociferations

B) analogies

C) neologisms

D) synchronizations

4. The baby kittens were so \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ that the nursery school children were able to pick them up, carry them around by the scruffs of their necks, and dress them up in doll clothes.

A) antipathetic

B) chronic

C) placid

D) misanthropic

5. The applicant’s credentials were \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, but I didn’t like the colour of his necktie so I didn’t hire him.

A) credible

B) anachronistic

C) analogous

D) anthropomorphic

6. Walter’s skin took on a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ cast after his exposure to the pool of radioactive wastes.

A) sophomoric

B) pathological

C) luminous

D) philanthropic

7. The police spent seven months working on the crime case but were never able to determine the identity of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

A) nominee

B) pseudonym

C) eponym

D) malefactor

8. The portions at the restaurant were so \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ that immediately after dessert we drove to another restaurant and ordered a second full meal.

A) novel

B) nominal

C) dignified

D) verisimilar

**Odd Man Out**

Each row below consists of four words, three of which are related in meaning. Choose the word that does not fit.

1. benevolent, beneficent, benign, beneficiary

2. maleficent, malicious, malcontent, malevolent

3. ambiguity, clarity, vagueness, equivocality

4. apathy, sympathy, empathy, kindness

5. insubordinate, wilful, vociferous, intransigent

6. amoral, apolitical, amorous, atheistic

7. pathology, antipathy, misanthropy, misogyny

8. anthropocentric, analogous, anthropomorphic, anthropological

9. philanthropic, degenerate, magnanimous, generous

10. sophisticated, sophistic, sophomoric, foolish

**Word Relationships**

Decide whether each pair of words is roughly similar (S) in meaning, roughly opposite (O) in meaning, or unrelated (U) to each other.

1. analogous dissimilar

2. monologue dialogue

3. malaise catalog

4. eulogy praise

5. neologism logic

6. prologue conclusion

7. chronological anachronism

8. chronic unusual

9. synchronized chronicled

10. credo creed