Vocabulary / Root List #1

**PHOT / PHOS**

Greek PHOS, PHOTOS “light”

(1) PHOTOTROPIC (adj) Tending to grow or move towards light

G. photos + tropein, “to turn” = *to turn toward the light*

Because they are *phototropic*, daisies always grow towards the sun.

(2) PHOSPHORESCENT (adj) Giving off light without heat

G. phos + phorein, “to bear” = *light-bearing*

Always creative, T-Bone stuck *phosphorescent* stars on his ceiling so that it would resemble the nighttime sky.

(3) PHOTOGENIC (adj) Attractive in pictures or photographs

G. photos + genic, “suitable for” = *suitable for photographs*

LaTonda was so *photogenic* that total strangers often asked to take her picture.

**LUC**

Latin LUX, LUCIS “light”

(4) LUCID (adj) Easy to understand; clear

T-Bone’s explanation of quantum physics was so *lucid* that I understood everything.

*syn*: comprehensible *ant*: confusing

(5) ELUCIDATE (v) To make clear by explaining

L. e, “from,” + lucis = *to bring light from*

The attorney asked the witness to further *elucidate* the information he had.

*syn*: clarify *ant*: confuse

(6) TRANSLUCENT (adj) Allowing light to pass through

L. trans, “through,” + lucis = *light passing through*

Through a *translucent* blue cloth draped over the window, we could see the sun.

*syn*: semi-transparent

**SPEC / SPECT**

Latin SPECERE, SPECTUM “to look at”

(7) CIRCUMSPECT (adj) Careful; mindful of rules and consequences

L. circum, “around,” + spectrum = *looking around*

The marchers in the protest tried to be *circumspect* and not break any laws.

*syn*: prudent *ant*: reckless

(8) PROSEPCT (n) That which is expected

L. pro, “forward,” + spectrum = *looked forward to*

The *prospect* of a trip to the dentist with my bratty kid brother was hardly thrilling.

(9) SPECTER (n) A ghost or phantom

LaTonda seemed to see a *specter* in every corner of the dark, haunted house.

**VID / VIS**

Latin VIDERE, VISUM “to see, to look”

(10) INVIDIOUS (adj) Hateful or spiteful

L. in, “against,” + videre = *to look against*

One candidate made an *invidious* speech against his opponent.

*syn*: defamatory *ant*: pleasant

(11) PROVIDENTIAL (adj) Happening by good fortune

L. pro, “forward,” + videre = *to look forward*

Through a *providential* series of events, Sha NaNa found herself manager of the company.

*syn*: fortunate *ant*: unlucky

(12) IMPROVISE (v) To create without any forethought or preparation

L. in, “not,” + pro, “forward,” + visum = *not seen in advance*

When T-Bone lost the cards with his speech on them, he was forced to *improvise*.

*ant*: plan

How should I study my vocabulary?

* Make flashcards for the 12 words and 4 roots
* Make it your goal to know the meanings by Monday
* Take the practice quiz on Tuesday without using your list to see how much you know
* Review Tuesday night and before the quiz on Wednesday