Vocabulary / Root List #5

**LEGA**

Latin LEGARE, LEGATUM “to appoint, to send on a mission, to charge with”

(1) LEGACY (n) body of ideas, achievements, and morals

The crooked judge, retiring today, leaves behind a *legacy* of dishonesty and corruption.

*syn*: heritage

(2) DELEGATE (v) to divide up, especially responsibilities

L. de, “down,” + legare = *to hand down an appointment*

Our parents *delegated* the nastiest tasks, like cleaning the bathroom, to the younger children.

*syn*: designate

**ACT / AG**

Latin AGERE, ACTUM “to do, act”

(3) AGENDA (n) plan of action; purpose

L. literally = *those things which must be done*

Although some critics have wondered whether the author had a political *agenda* in her last novel, she insists that there was no secret purpose.

(4) PROACTIVE (adj) seeking to solve a problem before it occurs

L. pro, “before,” + actum = *to act before*

T-bone, who was *proactive* about getting a job, was hired right after he left college.

(5) EXACTING (adj) demanding perfection; strict

L. ex, “out of,” + “agree = *to drive out of*

The *exacting* conductor sometimes kept the orchestra for hours to practice a single passage.

*syn*: picky *ant*: lenient

**PULS / PEL**

Latin PELLERE, PULSUM “to push, to drive”

(6) REPULSION (n) desire to avoid; disgust

L. re, “back,” + pulsum = *to push back*

After months of eating primarily peanut butter, JoElla Louise began to feel *repulsion* for it.

*syn*: horror *ant*: attraction

(7) DISPEL (v) to scatter about, break up

L. dis, “apart,” + pellere = *to push apart*

Policemen were sent in to *dispel* the crowd of onlookers that had gathered near the accident.

*syn*: banish *ant*: gather

(8) PROPEL (v) to cause to move towards; push

L. pro, “forward,” + pellere = *to push forward*

A strong wind *propelled* the toy boat across the surface of the lake.

*syn*: push

**LAT**

Latin LATUM “brought, carried”

(9) RELATIVE (adj) dependent upon

L. re, “back,” + latum = *brought back*

The number of people at the beach on any day is *relative* to the weather and the season.

(10) SUPERLATIVE (adj) excellent; above all others

L. super, “above,” + latum = *carried above*

For *superlative* performance at work, Mr. Heyser was awarded a big promotion.

(11) DILATE (v) to widen

L. dis, “apart,” + latum = *carried apart*

The surgeon *dilated* the opening of Coltrane’s windpipe so he could breathe better.