

Word Study V

Latin Suffixes **-(i)tūdō** and **-(i)tās**

Some Latin adjectives may form nouns by adding the suffix **-(i)tūdō** or the suffix **-(i)tās** to their bases. The base of a Latin adjective may be found by dropping the ending from the genitive singular, e.g., the base of **magnus** (genitive, **magnī**) is **magn-**. Nouns formed in this way are in the 3rd declension, they are feminine, and they convey the meaning of the adjective in noun form:

Adjective			Base	Noun
<i>Nom.</i>	<i>Gen.</i>			
magnus	magnī	<i>big, great</i>	magn-	magnitūdō , magnitūdinis , f., <i>size, greatness</i>
obesus	obēsī	<i>fat</i>	obēs-	obēsītās , obēsītātis , f., <i>fatness</i>

In English words derived from these nouns, **-(i)tūdō** becomes **-(i)tude** and **-(i)tās** becomes **-(i)ty**. The meaning of the English derivative is usually the same as that of the Latin noun, e.g., *magnitude* (size), *obesity* (fatness).

EXERCISE 1

Give the Latin nouns that may be formed from the bases of the adjectives below. In numbers 1–4, use the suffix **-(i)tūdō**, and in numbers 5–10, use the suffix **-(i)tās**. Give the English word derived from each noun formed, and give the meaning of the English word:

1. **sōlus**, -a, -um
2. **multus**, -a, -um
3. **longus**, -a, -um
4. **sollicitus**, -a, -um
5. **ūnus**, -a, -um
6. **brevis**, -is, -e
7. **īnfirmus**, -a, -um
8. **timidus**, -a, -um
9. **vīcīnus**, -a, -um
10. **hūmānus**, -a, -um

Manus manum lavat. *One hand washes the other.* (Petronius, *Satyricon* 45)

Errāre est hūmānum. *To err is human.* (Seneca)

Nōn omnia possumus omnēs. *We cannot all do everything.* (Vergil, *Eclogues* VIII.63)

Latin Suffixes *-īlis*, *-ālis*, *-ārius*

The suffixes *-īlis*, *-ālis*, and *-ārius* may be added to the bases of many Latin nouns to form adjectives. The base of a Latin noun may be found by dropping the ending from the genitive singular, e.g., the base of **vōx** (genitive, **vōcis**) is **vōc-**. Adjectives formed in this way mean *pertaining to* the meaning of the noun from which they are formed:

	Noun		Base	Adjective
Nom.	Gen.			
vir	virī	<i>man</i>	vir-	virīlis , -is , -e , <i>pertaining to a man or men, manly</i>
vōx	vōcis	<i>voice</i>	vōc-	vōcālis , -is , -e , <i>pertaining to the voice, vocal</i>
statua	statuae	<i>statue</i>	statu-	statuārius , -a , -um , <i>pertaining to statues</i>

Some adjectives ending in *-ārius* are used as nouns, e.g., **statuārius**, **-ī**, m., *sculptor*. Can you think of similar words made from the nouns **raeda**, **-ae**, f., *coach*, and **tabella**, **-ae**, f., *tablet, document*?

English words derived from these adjectives make the following changes in the suffixes:

- īlis* becomes *-il* or *-ile*, e.g., **virīlis**, *virile*
- ālis* becomes *-al*, e.g., **vōcālis**, *vocal*
- ārius* becomes *-ary*, e.g., **statuārius**, *statuary*

The meaning of the English derivative is similar to or the same as that of the Latin adjective, e.g., **virīlis** in Latin and *virile* in English both mean “manly.” Sometimes the English word ending in *-ary* may be used as a noun, e.g., *statuary*, “a group or collection of statues,” “sculptor,” or “the art of sculpting.”

EXERCISE 2

For each English word below, give the following:

- a. the Latin adjective from which it is derived
- b. the Latin noun from which the adjective is formed
- c. the meaning of the English word

You may need to consult a Latin and an English dictionary for this exercise.

auxiliary	principal
civil	puerile
literary	servile
nominal	temporal

Combining Suffixes

Some English words end with a combination of suffixes derived from Latin. For example, the English word *principality* (domain of a prince) is derived from the Latin *prīnceps*, *prīncipis*, m., base *prīncip-* > English *princip-* plus the suffixes *-al* (from Latin *-ālis*) and *-ity* (from Latin *-itās*).

EXERCISE 3

For each word below, give the related English noun ending in the suffix *-ity*. Give the meaning of the English word thus formed and give the Latin word from which it is derived:

civil	immobile
dual	partial
facile	servile
hospital	virile

English Replaced by Latin Derivatives

In the following exercise, the italicized English words are not derived from Latin. Note that these words are usually simpler and more familiar than the Latin derivatives that replace them. Latin can help with the meanings of many of these more difficult English words.

EXERCISE 4

Replace the italicized words with words of equivalent meaning chosen from the pool on the next page. Use the Latin words in parentheses to determine the meanings of the English words in the pool:

1. Staying at an inn was much too *risky* for Aurelia.
2. While he was away, Cornelius left the children in the *guardianship* of Eucleides.
3. Although the driver *handled* the reins skillfully, he was unable to avoid disaster.
4. It was *easy to see* that Eucleides was a friend of the innkeeper.
5. The *runaway* slave was captured and returned to the farm.
6. The innkeeper offered his *friendly welcome* to the Corneli.
7. The heat made the slaves' work more *burdensome*.
8. The Via Appia is full of *traveling* merchants, who sell their wares from town to town.
9. Cornelia cast a *sorrowful* glance as she waved goodbye to Flavia.
10. This *country* inn was host to all the local farmers.

custody (**custōs**)
 itinerant (**iter**)
 apparent (**appārēre**)
 doleful (**dolēre**)
 manipulated (**manus**)

hospitality (**hospes**)
 fugitive (**fugere**)
 perilous (**perīculum**)
 onerous (**onus**)
 rustic (**rūsticus**)

Latin Words in English

Some Latin words are used in English in their Latin form. Many of these words have become so familiar in English that they are pluralized using English rules:

senator plural: *senators*
area plural: *areas*

Others retain their Latin plurals:

alumnus plural: *alumni*
alumna plural: *alumnae*
medium plural: *media*

Sometimes both an English and a Latin plural are used:

index plurals: *indexes, indices*
memorandum plurals: *memorandums, memoranda*

Occasionally the use of two plurals reflects more than one meaning of the word. For example, the word *indexes* usually refers to reference listings in a book, whereas *indices* are signs or indicators, e.g., “the indices of economic recovery.”

EXERCISE 5

Look up these nouns in both an English and a Latin dictionary. For each noun, report to the class on similarities or differences between the current meaning in English and the original meaning in Latin. Be sure to note carefully the English plurals and their pronunciation (one word does not have an English plural):

antenna	consensus	formula
appendix	crux	stadium
campus	focus	stimulus

