



*Literacy and Intervention*

## SAMPLE LESSON

# VOCABULARY FROM CLASSICAL ROOTS

**Strategic Vocabulary Instruction through  
Greek and Latin Roots**

Grades 4–11

RTI



## Book C: Lesson 4

## LESSON 4

*De mortuis nil nisi bonum.*

[Say] nothing about the dead but good.—TRADITIONAL

### Key Words

entity	mortify	pedagogue
essence	naive	pedant
euthanasia	nascent	postmortem
innate	nonentity	puerile
moribund	orthopedics	renaissance

### PUER <L. “a male child”

1. **puerile** (pyoo’ər ɪl, pyoo’ɪl, pwēr’ɪl)  
*adj.* Childish; immature.

Forced to take my little sister to the party, I was humiliated by her **puerile** giggling.

Familiar Words  
encyclopedia  
pediatrics

### PAIS, PAIDOS <G. “child,” “boy”

2. **orthopedics** (ôr’ thə pē’ dīks) [*ortho* <G. “straight,” “correct”]  
*n.* Branch of medicine treating disorders of the skeletal system and tissues related to movement.

The specialist in **orthopedics** set my broken leg.

**orthopedic**, *adj.*; **orthopedist**, *n.*

3. **pedagogue** (pěd’ ə gōg’, pěd’ ə gōg’) [*gogue* <G. *agogos*, “leader”]  
*n.* A teacher.

The Oxford Cleric in Chaucer’s *Canterbury Tales* is a devoted **pedagogue** who would “gladly . . . learn and gladly teach.”

**pedagogic**, *adj.*; **pedagogical**, *adj.*; **pedagogy**, *n.*

4. **pedant** (pěd’ ənt)  
*n.* 1. A person who pays excessive attention to learning rules rather than to understanding.

A true scholar seeks to understand the causes of historical events, but a **pedant** only memorizes their dates.



2. A scholarly show-off.

Instead of saying "horse," the **pedant** Mr. Bounderby in Charles Dickens's *Hard Times* refers to a "granivorous quadruped."

**pedantic**, *adj.*; **pedantry**, *n.*

**Familiar Words**

absent  
essential  
future  
present  
presentation  
represent

**Challenge Words**

in absentia  
quintessential

**SUM, ESSE, FUI, FUTURUM** <L. "to be"

5. **entity** (ĕn' tə tē)

*n.* Something that has a real or independent existence.

Each twin wanted to be treated as an **entity**.

Antonym: **nonentity**

6. **nonentity** (nŏn ĕn' tə tē)

*n.* 1. A person or thing of no importance.

How did such a **nonentity** achieve so much power?

2. Something that does not exist or exists only in the imagination.

Although a monster in a nightmare is a **nonentity**, it can cause real fear.

Antonym: **entity**

7. **essence** (ĕs' əns)

*n.* 1. The basic element; the identifying characteristic.

During the 1920s Bessie Smith's singing represented the **essence** of the blues.

2. A substance in concentrated form obtained from a plant or drug.

Ground seeds of the cacao bean are the **essence** of cocoa.

3. A perfume.

The delicate **essence** of lavender scented the room.

(*Quintessence* means "an even purer, more concentrated form" or "a perfect embodiment of something.")

**Familiar Words**

immortal  
mortal  
mortgage  
mortician  
mortuary

**Challenge Words**

amortize  
rigor mortis

**MORIOR, MORI, MORTUUM** <L. "to die"

8. **moribund** (môr'ə bünd, mör'ə bünd)  
*adj.* About to die or end.

As automobiles became popular, the speed limits set for horse-drawn vehicles became **moribund**.

**moribundity**, *n.*

9. **mortify** (môr'tə fī) [-fy = *facere* <L. "to make"]  
*tr. v.* 1. To shame.

In *Pride and Prejudice*, Mrs. Bennet's crude efforts to marry off her five daughters **mortify** Elizabeth Bennet.

2. To discipline oneself by denial.

Some Hindus seek to **mortify** the flesh by prolonged fasting.

**mortification**, *n.*

10. **postmortem** (pōst môr'təm) [*post* <L. "after"]  
*n.* 1. An examination to determine the cause of death; an autopsy.

The **postmortem** eliminated the possibility of death by poison.

2. (informal) An analysis of something that is over.

Every Monday at lunch there is a **postmortem** of Sunday's baseball game.



**THANATOS** <G. "death"

11. **euthanasia** (yōō'thə nā'zhə, yōō'thə nā'shə) [*eu* <G. "well"]  
*n.* The act of painlessly killing a suffering person or animal; mercy killing.

Controversy continues over a patient's right to **euthanasia**.

**Familiar Words**

natal  
nation  
native  
nature  
noel  
prenatal

**NASCOR, NASCI, NATUM** <L. "to be born"

12. **innate** (ī nāt', ĩn'āt) [*in* <L. "in"]  
*adj.* Possessed at birth; inborn.

Voice lessons have improved his **innate** singing talent.

**innately**, *adv.*



**Challenge Words**  
cognate  
nee  
neonatal  
renascence

13. **naive** (nä ēv')  
*adj.* 1. Childlike; unsophisticated.  
She retained a **naive** belief that her toys came alive by night.  
2. Gullible.  
The **naive** tourists bought "ancient coins" from dishonest street vendors.  
**naivete**, *n.*
14. **nascent** (näs'ənt, nā'sənt)  
*adj.* Emerging; coming into existence.  
Good teachers encourage the **nascent** skills of young writers.
15. **renaissance** (rĕn'ə sāns', rĕn'ə zāns') [*re* <L. "back," "again"]  
*n.* 1. A rebirth; a renewal.  
The twentieth century has witnessed a **renaissance** of interest in indigenous American art.  
2. (capitalized) A revival of humanism in fourteenth-century to sixteenth-century Europe.  
During the **Renaissance** the humanities were greatly influenced by Greek and Roman models.

## EXERCISE 4A

Circle the letter of the best ANTONYM (the word or phrase most nearly opposite the word in bold-faced type).

- their **puerile** choice a. mature b. innocent c. girlish d. pearl-like e. avuncular
- our hopes were **moribund** a. nascent b. boundless c. foolish d. naive e. arrested
- a **naive** remark a. silly b. dishonest c. strange d. rude e. sophisticated
- intentionally chose a(n) **nonentity** a. important person b. pedant c. basic element d. careless person e. mature person
- a **renaissance** in bluegrass music a. pedagogue b. genesis c. decline d. patrimony e. progeny

Circle the letter of the best SYNONYM (the word or phrase most nearly the same as the word in bold-faced type).

- this **innate** quality a. hereditary b. secret c. destructive d. boring e. nascent
- mortifying** situations a. funny b. expensive c. fatal d. moribund e. painfully embarrassing
- recognized your **nascent** talent a. decent b. athletic c. familial

9. became increasingly **pedantic** a. interested in shoes b. evil  
c. humiliating d. witty e. foolishly attentive to detail
10. **pedagogic** success a. educational b. mathematical  
c. medical d. immature e. essential

## EXERCISE 4B

Circle the letter of the sentence in which the word in bold-faced type is used incorrectly.

1. a. **Pedants** have the right-of-way at intersections.  
b. Only a **pedant** would be so picky about footnotes in a personal letter.  
c. Despite his occasional **pedantry** he is a teacher beloved by his students.  
d. Her **pedantic** lecture on carbon dating destroyed my interest in archaeology.
2. a. **Orthopedic** shoes can help correct a child's club foot.  
b. An **orthopedist** at a ski resort has a large practice during the winter.  
c. Help! There's a green **orthopede** in my sleeping bag.  
d. Modern **orthopedics** can improve most curvatures of the spine.
3. a. Our plans to remodel the house have become **moribund** since the economic recession.  
b. Because of competition from the airlines, many railroads are now **moribund**.  
c. He wore a plaid **moribund** with his tuxedo.  
d. Hypochondriacs think they're **moribund** when they have only have a cold.
4. a. However good the intentions, **euthanasia** is extremely controversial.  
b. The lawyer's strong statement supporting **euthanasia** won the sympathy of the jury.  
c. Her **euthanasia** for sailing led to a year-long yachting trip.  
d. The debating team chose the topic "Resolved: **Euthanasia** should be permitted in cases of terminal disease."
5. a. Only someone **nascent** to the United States may run for president.  
b. Her teacher encouraged her **nascent** interest in Mayan culture.  
c. Political analysts observed a **nascent** radicalism among rural voters.  
d. Their **nascent** sense of independence was frustrated by the school's rigid rules.
6. a. His **innate** tact and consideration make him an excellent diplomat.  
b. Cats **innately** hate water.  
c. The ability to speak is **innate** in human beings.

- d. When she received the bill, she was so **innate** that she threatened to sue.
- 7. a. Our English teacher used odd **pedagogic** techniques like wearing funny hats and singing rules for punctuation to keep our attention.  
b. Jan was a child **pedagogue**, playing with the Vienna Philharmonic at age twelve.  
c. Education courses stress effective **pedagogy**.  
d. Lecturing is still common **pedagogical** practice at the university level.
- 8. a. This new perfume is called “**Essence** of Violets.”  
b. His frequent travel and fluency in many languages make him the **essence** of worldliness.  
c. Some people are born with limited **essences** of smell.  
d. Claude Brown’s autobiography captures the **essence** of Harlem in the 1940s and 1950s.
- 9. a. He had an **entity** for exotic foods.  
b. Hard work and concern for constituents turned the senator into an influential political **entity**.  
c. Although she began her career with a large firm, she later went into business for herself as a separate **entity**.  
d. Although certain phenomena have no physical **entity**, scientific instruments can prove their existence.

## EXERCISE 4C

Fill in each blank with the most appropriate word from Lesson 4. Use a word or any of its forms only once.

- 1. Refusing to let boos from the balcony \_\_\_\_\_ her, the composer made a dignified bow after the world premiere of her symphony.
- 2. The health department ordered a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ to determine whether the dead dog had rabies.
- 3. Anyone with such \_\_\_\_\_ behavior cannot be given a responsible job.
- 4. The \_\_\_\_\_ brace relieved the pain from his neck injury.
- 5. My city cousins were so \_\_\_\_\_ about backpacking that they brought along a hairdryer and a tapedeck.
- 6. He is \_\_\_\_\_ to insist that we say “I shall” instead of “I will.”

## Recommended Companion Material

EPS offers a wide range of products and programs that complement the vocabulary skills in *Vocabulary from Classical Roots*. We recommend the following series to enhance vocabulary development and strategies.



### **Analogies 1, 2, and 3**

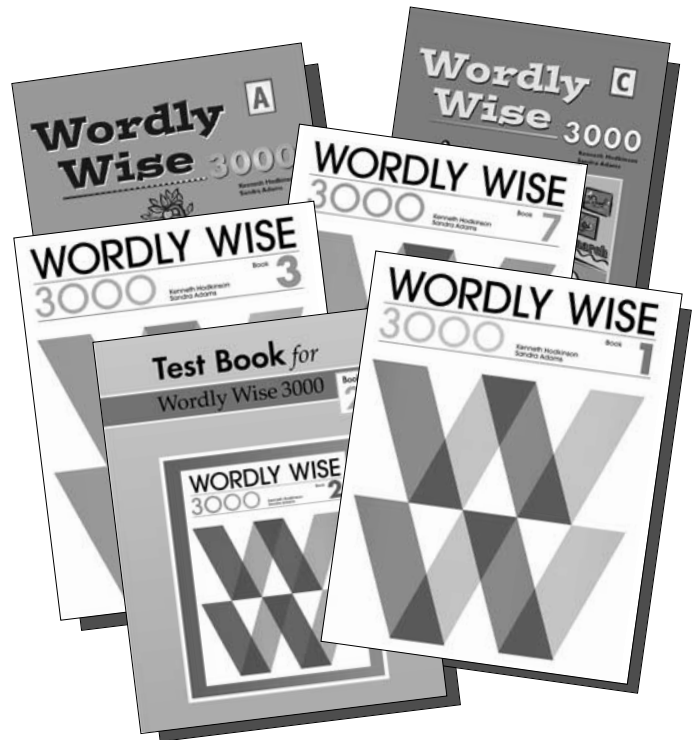
Recommended for grades 7–12

Studying analogies helps students to sharpen reasoning ability, develop critical thinking, understand relationships between words and ideas, learn new vocabulary, and prepare for the SATs and other standardized tests. Each of the three books in this useful series consists of three parts written in a clear, conversational style with few technical terms. Use *Analogies 1, 2, and 3* to increase your students' critical thinking and vocabulary skills.

### **Wordly Wise 3000**

Recommended for grades 2–12

*Wordly Wise 3000*, an EPS bestseller, develops vocabulary and comprehension skills for students in early elementary through high school. Each lesson features a word list, exercises that reinforce key vocabulary concepts, and a nonfiction narrative that uses all the words from the list to build reading comprehension skills by identifying and applying words in context. The series also includes blackline master test booklets in state standards-compliant formats.



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