SAMPLE LESSON

VOCABULARY FROM CLASSICAL ROOTS

Strategic Vocabulary Instruction through Greek and Latin Roots

Grades 4–11

Book 6: Lesson 13
Belonging

The roots *poli* as in *politics*, *gen* as in *generation*, and *nat* as in *nation* are all related to “belonging,” belonging to a political group, a family, and a country. In each of the following key words, underline the root.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key Words</th>
<th>cosmo-politician</th>
<th>gene</th>
<th>generation</th>
<th>generosity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>international</td>
<td>metropolitan</td>
<td></td>
<td>nationality</td>
<td>naturalize</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>policy</td>
<td>politician</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Using ROOT CLUES

The roots *poli* (city/government), *gen* (family/race), and *nat* (birthplace/nation) give you clues about meaning. When you spot one of these roots in a word, you have a key to the word’s meaning. Use the underlined clues to help you match the following columns.

1. _____ international  A. nation of birth
2. _____ nationality     B. years between parent and child
3. _____ generation      C. in or near a city
4. _____ metropolitan    D. between nations

The root clues did not give you complete definitions, as the following dictionary listings will, but they helped you with each word by giving you part of the meaning. In addition, the prefix clue *inter*, meaning “between,” helped with the word *international*. 
POLI (from the Greek words polis meaning “city” and polites meaning “citizen”)

1. cosmopolitan (kɒz mə pɑː lə tən)
   adj. 1. Representative of many countries.
   London is a cosmopolitan city with a population that includes people from all over the world.
   
   2. At home anywhere, not bound by local or national limitations.
   Lucien’s cosmopolitan attitudes enabled him to fit in well wherever he traveled.

2. metropolitan (me ˌtre pɑː lə tən)
   adj. Having to do with a city and its surrounding communities.
   Superhighways run through many metropolitan areas, connecting cities with their suburbs.

3. policy (pæ ˈle sē)
   n. A plan for action, a governing principle.
   Being a new student, Dwayne was not aware that the school policy required a written excuse for every absence.

4. politician (pæ lə tiˈshən)
   n. A person who is running for, or serving in, political office.
   The politician went from door to door, introducing herself and asking for votes.

GEN (from the Greek words genos meaning “race” and genea meaning “family” and the Latin word genus meaning “birth”)

5. gene (ˈjenˈ)
   n. A unit of the cells of living things that determines which traits are inherited.
   Hair color, eye color, and height are qualities determined by our genes.

6. generation (jeˈne rə ˈshən)
   n. 1. The average time from the birth of parents to the birth of their child.
   Many hairstyles that were popular a generation ago are not popular today.
2. The act of producing. Modern windmills are becoming more widely used for the generation of electricity.


7. *generosity* (je nə rəˈsē tē) n. The act of giving to others, willingness to contribute.

After a powerful tsunami hit several Asian countries, people all over the world showed great generosity by giving money and materials for rebuilding.

*generous*, adj.

**NOTA BENE**

Four groups of words have sprung from the root *gen*: (1) family words, (2) words related to kindness, (3) scientific words, and (4) words that apply to a whole group. Some family words are *generation, genealogy,* and *progeny.* Some kindness words are *gentle,* *generous,* and *congenial.* Some scientific words are *gene,* *genetic,* and *genus.* Some words that apply to a whole group are *general,* *generic,* and *generality.* Gen, as you can see, is a very generative root.

**NAT** (from the Latin word *natus* meaning “born”)

8. *international* (in tər nashˈənəl) adj. Between, among, or relating to two or more countries

Each summer my family hosts an international student for a few weeks.

*internationally*, adv.

9. *nationality* (na ˈʃəˌnăˈlĭtē) n. The condition of belonging to a particular nation.

Since Claude was born in Paris, his nationality is French.

*national*, adj.
10. **naturalize** *(na' chæ řæ liz)*  
  v. To become a citizen of one country after being born in another country.  
  After studying the citizenship questions and passing the interview, Fabio was naturalized at a ceremony this morning.

**naturalization**, n.

**NOTA BENE**

The root *nat*, like the other roots in this lesson, has branched in a variety of directions. Words like *national, nationality, and international* spring from the “nation” branch. However, words like *native, natural, innate, natal,* and *prenatal* spring from the “birth” branch.

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**EXERCISE A: SYNONYMS**

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

1. ______ great **generosity**  
   a. stinginess b. keeping  
   c. giving d. leftovers

2. ______ **metropolitan** police  
   a. national b. state  
   c. city d. school

3. ______ fire safety **policy**  
   a. report b. training  
   c. change d. plan

4. ______ an important **gene**  
   a. cell part b. piece of clothing  
   c. girl’s name d. relative

5. ______ former **politician**  
   a. manager b. person elected to government  
   c. scientist d. pilot
EXERCISE B: MEANING IN CONTEXT

Use these words to fill in the blanks in the following paragraph.

naturalized  politician  international  generations  nationalities

In a campaign speech, the (1) __________________ described her heritage.
She held up a photo that showed three (2) __________________ of her family—her grandfather, her mother, and herself. “My family comes from different (3) __________________ ,” she told her audience. “My granddad was born in Mexico, and my mom in China. Now both of them are (4) __________________ citizens of the United States. My interest in (5) __________________ policies is natural because of my family background.”

EXERCISE C: EXTEND YOUR VOCABULARY

The “people” suffixes: -ician, -er, and -or

On the key word politician you see the -ician suffix. This suffix means “a person who works in.” So a politician is a person who works in politics.

On the line, write down the area in which each of these people works.

1. musician __________________
2. beautician __________________
3. magician __________________
4. statistician __________________
5. optician __________________

The suffix -ician is not the only “people” suffix. Both -er and -or are also added to many words to name people who work in a particular field. A teacher teaches. An editor edits.

Use these words that end in -er and -or to answer the following questions.

biographer  spectator  governor  conductor  subscriber

6. Who writes the life story of another person? __________________
7. Who waves the baton and leads the orchestra? __________________
8. Who sits in the stadium, watching the game? __________________
9. Who pays to receive a daily newspaper? __________________
10. Who won the election to be head of the state? __________________