SAMPLE LESSON

VOCABULARY FROM CLASSICAL ROOTS

Strategic Vocabulary Instruction through Greek and Latin Roots
Grades 4–11

Book A: Lesson 2
LESSON 2

Gallia est omnis divisa in partes tres.
All Gaul is divided into three parts.—JULIUS CAESAR

Key Words

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>bicentennial</th>
<th>decimate</th>
<th>quatrains</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>centenary</td>
<td>quadrant</td>
<td>trilogy</td>
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<tr>
<td>centigrade</td>
<td>quartet</td>
<td>trisect</td>
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<tr>
<td>decathlon</td>
<td>triumvirate</td>
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Familiar Words

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TRI &lt;G. “three”</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>tricycle</td>
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<td>trillion</td>
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<td>trimester</td>
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<td>trio</td>
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<td>triple</td>
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<td>triplicate</td>
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TRI <G. “three”

TRES <L. “three”

1. **trilogy** (tr’il-je) [logos <G. “word,” “speech”]
   n. A group of three literary or musical works that have a related theme.

   The Lord of the Rings, Tolkien’s popular trilogy, contains these novels: The Fellowship of the Ring, The Two Towers, and The Return of the King.

2. **trisect** (trí-sěkt, trí sěkt’) [secare <L. “to cut”]
   tr. v. To divide into three parts.

   The two freeways trisected the once-united community into three separate neighborhoods.

   trisection, n.; trisector, n.

3. **triumvirate** (trí um’vər īt) [triumviri <L. “board of three” <L. vir, “man”]
   n. A group of three, especially in authority.

   In ancient Rome the Second Triumvirate was composed of Mark Anthony, Augustus Caesar, and Lepidus.

Challenge Words

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>QUARTUS &lt;L. “fourth”</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>tricentennial</td>
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<td>trident</td>
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<tr>
<td>triennial</td>
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<td>trinity</td>
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<td>tripartite</td>
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<tr>
<td>triplex</td>
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<tr>
<td>triptych</td>
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</table>

QUARTUS <L. “fourth”

QUATUOR <L. “four”

4. **quadrant** (kwō’d-rant)
   n. 1. (mathematics) A quarter of a circle or of its circumference.

   A quadrant contains 90 degrees of the 360 degrees of a circle.
2. An early machine for measuring altitudes.

Although primitive, the **quadrant** enabled explorers to take accurate measurements.

3. Any of the four parts of an area divided by perpendicular lines.

Rescuers divided the forest into **quadrants** and searched each thoroughly for survivors.

5. **quartet** (kwôr tĕt′)

*n.* 1. A musical composition for four voices or instruments.

Most operas contain a **quartet** for two women (a soprano and an alto) and two men (a tenor and a bass).

2. A set of four, especially of four musicians.

During the complicated heart operation, a **quartet** of surgeons worked for ten hours.

6. **quatrain** (kwốtrān′, kwốtrān′)

*n.* A stanza or group of four lines of poetry.

Most nursery rhymes, like “Little Bo Peep Has Lost Her Sheep,” are written in **quatrains**.

**Nota Bene:** *Pente* and *quinque* are both roots that mean “five.” They appear in many words. *Pente*, for example, is the root in *pentagon*, “a five-sided figure,” and *pentathlon*, “an Olympic event testing five different skills.” *Quinque* is the root for words like *quintet*, “a group of five,” and *quintuplets*, “five babies born to one mother at the same time.”

You will recognize the roots *sex*, *septem*, *octo*, and *novem*, which mean “six,” “seven,” “eight,” and “nine” respectively, in many familiar words. For example, *September*, *October*, and *November* were the seventh, eighth, and ninth months of the Roman calendar.

Combined with the root -ginta, which means “ten times,” they form the words to indicate a person whose age is between 60 and 70, a **sexagenarian**; between 70 and 80, a **septuagenarian**; between 80 and 90, an **octogenarian**; and between 90 and 100, a **nonagenarian**.

Combined with the root *plus*, which means “fold,” these roots make **sextuple**, **septuple**, **octuple**, and **nonuple**, indicating six, seven, eight, or nine times.
DECEM <L. "ten"

7. decimate (dĕs’ə măt)
   tr. v. 1. To destroy a large part of.
   European diseases like measles decimated Native American populations because they had no immunity.

   2. To kill one in every ten.

   To punish a legion that had shown cowardice, the Roman army sometimes decimated soldiers of all ranks on the basis of a lottery.

   decimation, n.

8. decathlon (dĭ kăth’lən, dĭ kăth’lôn) [athlon <G. "contest"]
   n. An athletic contest in which each contestant takes part in ten events.

   The winner of the Olympic decathlon can be considered an all-around athlete.

   NOTA BENE: Several Olympic competitions combine several sports. In the biathlon athletes compete in two sports: cross-country skiing and rifle shooting. The five sports of the pentathlon are usually running, fencing, swimming, horseback riding, and pistol shooting. The decathlon includes ten track and field events.

CENTUM <L. "hundred"

9. bicentennial (bĭ’sĕn tĕn’ē əl) [bi <L. "two"; annus <L. "year"]
   n. A two-hundredth anniversary.

   In 1989 the bicentennial of the first ten amendments to the U.S. Constitution, the Bill of Rights, was celebrated.

   adj. Happening every 200 years.

   As part of bicentennial events honoring the French Revolution, the Louvre, the great Parisian museum, was enlarged in 1988.

   bicentennially, adv.

10. centenary (sĕn tĕn’ə rĕ, sĕn’tĕr’ ĕ)
    adj. Pertaining to a 100-year period.

    Our town is preparing a time capsule of contemporary articles to be opened at its next centenary celebration.

    n. A centennial.

    By its first centenary Boston’s population had tripled.
11. centigrade (sĕn’tĭ grăd´) [gradus <L. “step”] adj. Referring to a thermometer scale of 100 degrees where water freezes at 0° and boils at 100°.

Although most Americans continue to use the Fahrenheit scale where water freezes at 32° and boils at 212°, scientists use the centigrade scale because it makes calculations easier.

EXERCISE 2A
Circle the letter of the best SYNONYM (the word or phrase most nearly the same as the word in bold-faced type).

1. reached 0° centigrade a. freezing b. boiling c. 100° Fahrenheit d. 212° Fahrenheit e. the melting point
2. to decimate the population a. slaughter b. increase c. infect d. educate e. unite
3. a lyric quatrains a. courtyard b. party of four c. dance for four d. four-line verse e. four-week period
4. occur bicentennially a. every two years b. every 200 years c. twice in 100 years d. twice in 200 years e. every 2000 years
5. a(n) centenary celebration a. surprise b. annual c. bicentennial d. one-sided e. hundredth anniversary
6. controlled by a triumvirate a. noble person b. triplet c. dictator d. group of three people e. trilogy
7. applaud the quartet a. dancers b. orchestra c. pair of cellists d. chorus e. four performers

EXERCISE 2B
Fill in each blank with a word from Lesson 2. Use a word only once.

1. 3 closely related musical works = _______________
2. 3 political leaders = _______________
3. 4 people playing musical instruments = _______________
4. 4 lines of poetry = _______________
5. 10 track and field events = _______________
6. scale of 100 degrees = _______________
7. 200 years = _______________
EXERCISE 2C
Fill in each blank with the most appropriate word from Lesson 2. Use a word or any of its forms only once.

1. Ursula LeGuin’s *The Earthsea* ______________ contains three separate novels involving the same characters in different stages of their lives.

2. One of the most grueling events of the Olympics, the ____________ requires skill in ten different sports.

3. “I never saw a purple cow, I never hope to see one. But I can tell you, anyhow, I’d rather see than be one.” — Gelett Burgess
This nonsense verse is an example of a ____________________.

4. The monarch’s three children ________________ed the realm among themselves.

5. Antarctic explorers carried a ________________ in order to determine the altitude of newly discovered peaks.

6. Decisions at our school are generally made by the ________________ of principal, vice-principal, and dean of students.

7. I wonder how the first moon landing will be regarded at its ________________ in 2169.

8. A barbershop ________________ usually sings popular songs in harmony for four voices.

9. Until whales were protected by international treaties, excessive hunting nearly ________________d them.