

phone

[Fō NAY] sound

phonograph - (graph - write, draw) - writing with sound

telephone - (tele - far away) - sound from far away

phonogram - (gramma - letter) - written sound

euphony - (eu - well, good) - good or pleasant sound

symphony - (sym - together) - sounds that go together

megaphone - (mega - big) - device to make sounds BIG

microphone - (mikros - small) - device to transmit or record small sounds

Teaching Notes:

Phonograph - The original sound recording machines had needles which “wrote” (scratched or cut) sounds on a wax surface, so **phonograph** was a good word to describe the process. **Phonogram** - The Greek word, **gramma**, meaning “letter” was made from **graph** - write or draw. A phonogram is the written symbol for a spoken sound. It might be a single letter of the alphabet, or a combination of letters, such as “oo”, “ou”, “ai”, “ay”, etc. **Euphony** - We probably use the adjective, “euphonious” more often when we speak of a person’s voice which is pleasant to listen to. A **symphony** orchestra makes sounds together and they may be euphonious and sound well, or they may be cacophonous (from the Greek word **kakos** meaning “bad”) and sound awful!

Extra Words:

Someone always brings up the word **phony** in this discussion and we have searched for a connection but haven’t found one. Even *The Oxford English Dictionary* says it is of “uncertain American origin”. We can speculate that the meaning of **phony** (false or fake) implies something which “sounds good and isn’t” but we would be just speculating.

SONUS

[SOH noos] sound

sound - vibrations perceived by our ears

sonic - relating to what we can hear

sonnet - a form of rhyming Italian poetry

sonovox - a machine that makes sound effect voices

sonar - device that hears sound under water

sonata - an instrumental (not vocal) musical composition with three or four movements

consonant - (con - with) - speech sounds made with lips, tongue or teeth

Teaching Notes:

Sound - A discussion about how the human ear receives vibration and allows us to perceive sound would be an interesting class discussion. A diagram of the human ear would help make the meaning of this word clear. Sonnet - This Italian poetic form of 14 lines is very entertaining for students and was, at one time, as popular as “raps” are today. The Italian sonnet has eight lines (the “octave”) with a rhyme scheme, abbaabba, followed by six lines (the “sestet”) which rhyme cdecde. The English sonnet has three 4-line verses followed by a couplet. The rhyme scheme is abab cdcd efef gg. The students might have a great time composing some sonnets! Sonovox - This is a device which is held against the throat and makes sound effects like that of a talking train or a whispering wind. Sounds like FUN! Sonar - A student may enjoy presenting a report on sonar technology to the class. Sonata - How about playing a recording of Beethoven’s Moonlight Sonata for the children? Consonant - The consonants in the alphabet don’t really make sounds of their own. They go “with the sound” of the voice. The voice by itself is just the general sound of the air coming from the lungs and passing through the larynx. Consonant letters indicate changing positions of the lips, tongue and teeth which shape the sound of the voice into the words we speak.

skopeo

[SKŌ pe ō] see, look, consider, examine

scope - all that the eye can see

microscope - (mikros - small) - device to look at small objects

telescope - (tele - distant) - device for seeing distant objects

periscope - (peri - around) - device for seeing around obstacles

kaleidoscope - (kalos - beautiful; eidōs - form) - device for seeing changing beautiful forms or arrangements of small fragments of glass, etc.

episcopal - (epi - on, over) - overseen by bishops or "overseers"

bishop - a church overseer

Teaching Notes:

The Greek alphabet had no letter "c". They had "kappa" which made the same hard "c" or "k" sound we have in our alphabet. The Romans did not use "k" very much. It was usually replaced by "c". Greek words which came into English through Latin usually have long since traded in the kappa for a "c", as in scope. The word kaleidoscope gives examples of both practices. This instrument was invented in 1817 by Sir David Brewster, who gave it its name. He took kalos directly from the Greek language. Scope, however, began in Greek as skopeo, but the Romans had gotten their hands on it years before and changed the kappa to "c". A scope originally meant a mark for shooting at, but it has widened its meaning considerably to include the whole reach or range of one's idea. We hope studying Latin and Greek root words will enlarge the scope of all our students! Oliver Wendell Holmes said, "A mind once stretched by a new idea never regains its original dimension." Bishop comes from the Greek through the Anglo-Saxon "biscop", the A-S way of saying episkopos (overseer). We all do our best!

video visum

[WI deh ō, WEE soom] see

television - (tele [Gr.] - far away) - machine for seeing things that are far away

videophone - (phone [Gr.] - sound) - TV screen for seeing the person you are talking to on the telephone

Montevideo - (mons, montis - mountain) - "Mountain-view" - a city in Uruguay

video - picture portion of television

evidence - (e, ex - out) - out of what one can see

advise - (ad - to, toward) - look and tell your view

invisible - (in - not) - not to be seen

Teaching Notes:

The two "principal parts" of a Latin verb which we ask children to learn in this book are the first (first person nominative singular of the Present Indicative - video - translated "I see") and the fourth (supine accusative - visum - translated "to see"). These two forms are usually different enough in their spelling that learning them will allow a student to recognize many more English derivatives than if only the first were learned. Video and evidence both come from the first principal part, video. Vision and advise both come from the fourth principal part, visum. We will give these two forms for all the Latin verbs and the children should learn them together: video, visum - see. They should be expected to give only the generic meaning "see", in English rather than the specific translation of the verb form, "I see", and "to see". We are not learning grammatical technicalities here but just the two most valuable roots for recognizing derivatives in English. Don't forget - "v" in Latin sounds like "w" in English.

Extra Words:

Provide (pro - for, before) - To foresee; to look out for in advance.

Visit - To go to see someone in person. (A phone call doesn't technically qualify as a "visit" - unless, perhaps, you are using a "videophone"!)

logos

[LOH goss] word, study

logic - reasoning to gain knowledge and wisdom

geology - (geo - earth) - study of the earth

astrology - (astron - star) - knowledge from the stars

biology - (bios - life) - study of physical life

zoology - (zoon - animal) - study of animals

technology - (techne - art, skill) - study of how to improve
an art or a skill

anthropology - (anthropos - man) - study of mankind

psychology - (psyche - soul, life) - study of the soul or
mental life of man

legend - a story to be read

Teaching Notes:

This root word, logos, meaning word or study, more than any other, shows the importance of a good vocabulary in the process of acquiring knowledge. To the Greeks, study meant talking or discoursing on a subject and, sometimes, writing down the conclusions of one's study. This meant understanding the meaning of the words. It still does. The fact that the names of most of the academic disciplines today, particularly the sciences, end in "-ology" ought to tell us that an understanding of the root words will take us a long way in our comprehension of the classic literature of each of the sciences, as well as the publications about new discoveries which are coming out every day. This intense search for knowledge and truth is what education is all about.

Extra Words:

Etymology - Etymological dictionaries (etymon - true source) tell us that logos comes from legein - to speak. This whole book is all about etymology and about how students can be prepared to join the great dialogue (dia - across, through) of human knowledge; the great TALKING across time, or distance, or the table, which represents the great pleasure and fascination of LOGOS - study.