

jacio  
jactum

[YAH key ō, YAHK toom] throw

eject - (e, ex - out) - throw out

interject - (inter - between) - throw between

object - (ob - against) - throw against

objection - arguments "thrown against" a situation

project - (pro - forward) - throw forward

projectile - a thing thrown forward (arrow, bullet, rock)

reject - (re - back, again) - throw back

### Teaching Notes:

There are several interesting things to discuss when teaching this root word, jacio, jactum. Remember that in Latin, "j" is pronounced as though it were a "y". Actually, the ancient Romans didn't use "j" at all. They spelled this word, "iacio, iactum". When you remember to pronounce "i" with a long "ee" sound, and say this word out loud, you can see where the "y" sound came from. Julius Caesar's name was spelled "Iulius Caesar". Medieval scribes who made those beautifully illuminated handwritten manuscripts started adding a decorative "tail" to the letter "i" when it came at the beginning of a word. Also, a word (such as the Latin word, huius) which had three vowels in a row was confusing to read. (Try writing it in cursive!) They dotted the "i", of course, but drawing it down into a "tail" made it much easier to read.

You notice that all the derivatives above have a -ject spelling. The Romans tended to shift the vowel to a short sound when they added a prefix to the word. So iacio became conicio, coniectum. The medieval scribes wrote it conjectum and we have our word conjecture which means literally, "throw together". When we are trying to figure out something, we throw together the clues we have and come up with a conjecture, a supposition, a guess. The root idea "throw" is so easy for children to understand, they can readily understand the derivatives we have from JACIO, JACTUM when we explain how these "throw" words are used metaphorically for various mental actions such as "rejecting" and "objecting".

pono  
positum

**[POH nō, POH si toom] lay, put, place**

pose - position or attitude

post - fixed or established place; military post

postage - payment for messages sent from post to post

position - established place

deposit - (de - down, away from) - lay away; put aside

repose - (re - again, back) - lie back, pause, rest

depose - (de - down, away from) - put down from a throne or high office

impose - (in - in, on, upon) - to put upon

component - (con - together) - put together

### Teaching Notes:

Post first meant a stake driven into the ground. It then meant something firmly fixed in place. It came to mean a military station where soldiers had established a position. Then, it was also a station along a road where travelers could rest and feed their horses. Then, it was a place where riders, carrying messages in stages along the road could stop and change horses, or hand the messages (letters) over to a fresh rider. (The Pony Express was an example.) We began calling this the “postal service”. Those who wanted to send messages paid for the service by buying “postage stamps”. Repose - Prof. William C. Grummel of the University of Washington tells us that etymologists are confused about -pose words such as repose, depose, propose, etc. There was a Late Latin word, pausare, pausatum which means “stop, rest”, which the Romans took from the Greek word, pauein - to stop (from which we get “pause”). This came into French as “poser” and from French into English as -pose. Some dictionaries trace repose to pono, positum, and others to pausatum. The general idea is that repose means to lay oneself back and take a rest. Let’s let it rest there . . . .

### Extra Words:

Postpone (post - after) - to put after or delay. This is a good word to bring up since post as a preposition or prefix means “after” or “behind” and -pone is from pono - put. You have to be careful which post you mean.

# CUM

## [KOOM] with, together

- cooperate - (operor, operatum - work) - work with  
 cognate - (nascor, gnatus - be born) - born together,  
 having same ancestors or family  
 collaborate - (laboro, laboratum - work) - work with  
 collect - (lego, lectum- gather) - gather together  
 combat - (battuo - beat, fight) - fight with  
 commemorate - (memoro, memoratum - remember) -  
 remember something together  
 community - (munio, munitum - build, fortify) - group  
 which builds together  
 content - (teneo, tentum - hold) - held together  
 confection - (facio, factum - do, make) - made together

### Teaching Notes:

Cum is a Latin word with a bit of interesting history. An older form was com, sometimes spelled quom. It was used both as a conjunction and as a preposition. When it became a prefix, it tended to keep the old form, com. Like certain other prepositions such as ad and in, com will assimilate (ad - to, toward, + similis - like, similar). It makes itself similar to the beginning consonant of the word to which it is prefixed. "Assimilate" is a good example and so is "illegal" (in - not + lex, legis - law). Co- in cooperate is a shortened form of com. In collect and collaborate, com willingly changes to col-. In commemorate and community, it keeps its own form. It's important to remember WHY the "m" is doubled in words like these. BOTH are needed! In content and confection, com becomes con- because "n" is easier to pronounce when followed by "t" or "f".

### Extra Words:

Committee (mitto, missum - send) - A group sent together to do or accomplish something. No need to puzzle over whether to double "m" or "t" in committee when you know why they are there.

figo  
fixum

**[FI gō, FIK soom] fix, fasten, attach**

fix - fasten or make firm; set in place

fixture - a thing fastened in place

crucifix - (crux, crucis - cross) - picture, medal or statue of Christ fastened on the cross

áffix (noun) - (ad - to) - thing fastened to something; syllable added to a word at either end

affíx (verb) - act of fastening or attaching

prefix - (prae - before) - letter or syllable added to the beginning of a word

suffix - (sub - under) - letter or syllable added to the end of a word

### Teaching Notes:

Affix can be both a noun and a verb depending on which syllable is accented. With the accent on the first, it is a noun and refers to the thing that is fastened in place. It usually means a letter or syllable attached to the stem of a word which modifies the meaning somehow, e.g., deface, happily.

Prefixes are abstract and modify the root meaning of a word, e.g., unhappy, regain, transport, undervalue, forewarn, postpone, construct.

Suffixes are added at the end of a word and tell us what part of speech the word is, e.g., vacate (verb) - vacation (noun); happy (adjective) - happiness (noun). Suffixes tell us the time or "tense" of the word: want, wants, wanting (present tense); wanted (past tense).

After learning the roots of our English words (one hundred of which we have in this book), it is important to learn and understand the prefixes and suffixes so that the shades of meaning of the English derivatives are clear and easy to understand. The prefixes and suffixes are used over and over with different root words and greatly expand the vocabulary of anyone who learns them thoroughly. Some affixes are Greek or Latin and some are Anglo-Saxon.

### Extra Words:

To transfix (trans - across, through) implies piercing through as with a sword; holding in place as though impaled with a pointed weapon and thus immobilized.

# jungo junctum

[YOON gō, YOONK toom] join, unite, connect

join - connect, fasten together

joint - place where two parts are connected

conjugal - relating to the joining of man and woman in marriage

conjugation - a set of verb endings joined with the stem\*

conjunction - word joining two parts of a sentence

disjointed - (dis - separate) - separated at the joints

junction - point of connection; railway crossing

subjugate - (sub - under) - to connect under the yoke of power

## Teaching Notes:

Join - One of the most common derivatives from jungo has come into English through French. The French word joindre - to join or connect, accounts for our word, join. When Julius Caesar conquered Gaul (the territory of modern France) in the 50s B.C., the people there spoke Gaulish. The Gauls gradually learned Latin from the Roman soldiers. The rough soldiers didn't speak the cultivated language of the great Roman orator, Cicero, nor even of their literate general, Caesar. They spoke the vulgar or popular Latin which the Gauls learned by hearing and speaking, rather than by sitting in classes and memorizing declensions, conjugations and accurate spellings. Perhaps when a Roman soldier thanked a Gaul for his bonitatem (kindness), the Gaul related the incident to his wife and remembered "bonta". In a French dictionary today, you find "bonté", meaning "kindness". Thus evolved the French language from Latin. The World Book will give you a fascinating history of the evolution of each of the Romance languages: French, Spanish, Portuguese, Italian and Romanian.

\* Conjugating a verb means joining together different endings to the basic stem of the verb, much like changing bits on a drill! This conjugation of the verb amo, amatum - love, shows how verb endings tell who is loving:

amo - I love

amas - you (singular) love

amat - he, she, it loves

amamus - we love

amatis - you (plural) love

amant - they love

The underlined endings joined to the stem, ama-, take the place of the pronouns, I, you, he, she, it, etc., which we use in English. The Romans said in one word what we say in two!