

dens dentis

[DĀNS, DEN tis] tooth

dent - tooth-like notch in gears, locks, etc.; a small depression

dentist - tooth doctor

dentate - having a toothed edge (leaves)

dental - pertaining to teeth

dentifrice - (frico, fricatum - rub) - toothpaste

dentition - development of teeth; teething

denture - set of teeth (false)

dentiform - (forma - shape) - shaped like a tooth

indent - set a line of print in from the margin

dandelion - (French - dent de lion) - plant called "tooth of the lion" with dentate leaves

Teaching Notes:

We refer to many things as having "teeth": keys, combs, saws, etc. As usual, we describe things around us in terms of ourselves, our bodies. We make metaphors (meta - beyond + pherein - to carry); that is, we make the names of personal or familiar objects carry a meaning beyond the original meaning.

Among the words in the box most children will associate only dentist with "tooth", but the other words may be new to them. They may not realize how that common flower / weed, dandelion (of which so many millions of "bouquets" have been picked and brought to mothers and teachers) got its name. If the season is right, ask the children to bring some dandelions to school so you can examine together the dentate (saw-toothed) leaves and the golden yellow "mane" of the floral lion's head.

Open some books, examine the left margin of the printed lines and find the indentations where someone "took a bite". Could it have been the "book worm"? It might be a good moment to discuss why we indent to begin new paragraphs.

Extra Words:

A dentiphone (phone - sound) is a device to help the deaf to hear. It is held against the teeth and transmits sound vibrations to the inner ear. It doesn't work for everyone, but it has helped some to gain meaning from sounds they can't hear any other way.

Corpus corporis

[KOHR poos, KOHR poh ris] body

corporeal - pertaining to the body

corps - military division organized as a body

incorporate - to make into a body

corporation - legally formed group - a body

corpse - dead body

corpulence - a lot of body - fatness

corpus - main body of a fund of wealth - estate

corpuscle - (diminutive of corpus) - small part of the body

Teaching Notes:

Derivatives from this Latin word, corpus and the Anglo-Saxon word, bodig, have been used metaphorically to describe almost anything that works as a functioning organization. In anatomy it refers to the human trunk as distinguished from the head, arms and hands, legs and feet. When we refer to a “governing body” like Congress or to “the corpus of literature” on a subject, we generally mean “the whole works.”

Extra Words:

Habeas Corpus - This is the actual Latin, not a derivative. It means “(It is required) that you have the body” and is a well-known legal term which means you can’t be held or imprisoned unless you are brought into court bodily so that the justification for the restraint can be determined. Otherwise, you can’t be held against your will. Corporal punishment affects the body in some way. Whipping, etc.

unus

[OO noos] one

unit - one part of a series or of a whole

union - act of making one out of many

E pluribus unum - motto of U.S.A. "one out of many" states

united - together as one

universe - (verto, versum - turn) - star galaxy which turns as one entity (like a cosmic pinwheel)

university - (verto, versum - turn) - many colleges joined together to function as one body

unicorn - (cornu - horn) - mythical horse with one horn on its head

unison - (sonus - sound) - voices singing or musical instruments playing together the same notes at the same time

Teaching Notes:

Before beginning on the Latin words for numbers, it is a good idea to introduce or review Roman numerals. Since these written numbers (I, II, III, IV, V) are partly pictographic (one finger, two fingers, etc.), it is a good idea to discuss pictographs and the difference between them and purely abstract or arbitrary symbols like the Arabic numerals (except for 1, of course!). Pictographs are stylized pictures which remind you of an object or action. Letters are symbols which stand for sounds and have no relation to the object, action, or idea which the set of sounds, or word, conveys.

Extra Words:

Unique - A French word from unus meaning one of a kind, unequaled. Uniform (forma - form) - Having the same form, unchanging. Military dress is uniform and so is controlled indoor temperature. Unicycle (kyklos - (G.) ring or circle) - A vehicle with only one wheel. A *bicycle* has two wheels and a *tricycle* has three wheels. Unilateral (latus - side) - one-sided. (If you make a decision for the whole family, it is a unilateral decision.)

duo

[DOO ō] two

duet - music played or sung by two people

duplicate - (plico, plicatum - fold) - make a second copy

dual - two (as in dual purpose)

dubious - “of two minds” - doubtful

duel - fight between two people

duplex - (plico, plicatum - fold) - two homes in one building

duplicity - two - “facedness”; a “double cross”

Teaching Notes:

Make a special note of the difference in meaning between duel and dual. The -al ending simply makes an adjective from duo. Duel comes from a Latin word duellum, which was an old form of bellum, which means war. It originally meant a dividing in two or a falling out - a fight or combat fought with deadly weapons. Duplex - The word plico meaning “fold” is used here like the Anglo-Saxon suffix -fold, which goes with a numeral and implies multiplication in a geometric ratio, the doubling, tripling, etc. of anything. A duplex is a twofold house or a “double house”. A fourplex should have four separate housing units in one building. Why not call it a “fourfold”? Probably because another meaning for fold is “a pen for sheep”. Builders and real estate people probably don't want to suggest that associated meaning!

Extra Words:

There are so many that your more avid students had better plunder the unabridged dictionary!

tres

[TRĀS] three

- trio - three acting or performing together
 tricycle - (cycle - wheel) - a three-wheeled vehicle
 tripod - (podos [Gr.] - foot) - a three-legged stand for a camera or other instrument
 triangle - (angulus - corner angle) - a figure with three straight sides and three corner angles
 triennial - (annus - year) - every three years
 triceratops-(keras-horn; tops-face [Gr.])-three-horned face
 trilobite - (lobus - a rounded division) - a prehistoric animal having three rounded divisions of the body
 tribe - early Rome was divided into three family social groups, or clans, called tribes

Teaching Notes:

Webster's Unabridged Dictionary, Second Edition, as well as *The Oxford English Dictionary*, tells us that the prefix tri, meaning three, comes both from Latin and from Greek. The Latin tres is spelled treis in Greek. Tri can combine with either Greek or Latin root words.

Triceratops - Here is a prehistoric creature from the mesozoic period. Understanding its name can help crack open other polysyllabic scientific labels we've put on ancient animals like the dinosaurs. We discover that the labels have very simple meanings (deinos - terrible; saurus - lizard) (see page 99) - terrible lizard! *That is fun!*

Trilobite - Most museums of natural history have fossils or models of trilobites. It's an opportunity to introduce some of the earliest creatures and the Geologic time chart, which has many scientific terms of Greek and Latin derivation: paleozoic (paleo - old; zoon - animal) (see page 89) - the old animal period; mesozoic (meso - middle) - the middle animal period; cenozoic (kainos - recent) - the recent animal period. These meanings are so endearingly simple that most children can readily remember the scientific names for the periods and enjoy bandying them about.

Considering the word triennial, meaning "every three years", it's useful to know that the similar word triannual means "three times a year".