

quattuor

[QUAHT twohr] four

quadruped - (pes, pedis - foot) - four-footed animal

quadricycle - (kyclos (G.) - wheel) - four-wheeled vehicle

quadrilateral - (latus - side) - having four sides

quadragenarian - (quadraginta - forty) - person in his 40s

quaternity - group of four people

quatrain - a stanza or verse of poetry four lines long

quadrille - square dance for four couples

quadri - prefix meaning four

Teaching Notes:

These number prefixes lend themselves to the invention of new words, and this is a good one to keep in mind when children try making up their own. New words should stick to partners from the same language (Latin/Latin; Greek/Greek), although there are a number of hybrid exceptions: tele (Greek) vision (Latin). Children have always enjoyed learning to count in foreign languages, and Latin is particularly valuable to them since all the number words have many derivations. They might make one card with a list of the words to make them easy to memorize.

unus

duo

tres

quattuor

quinque

sex

septem

octo

novem

decem

(The card should,
of course, have a
RED border!)

quinque

[QUIN queh] five

quinquennial - (annus - year) - five-year period or celebration

quinquagenarian - (quinquageni - fifty each) - person who is 50 to 59 years old

quinquesyllable - (syllaba - several letters taken together to make one sound) - a word of five syllables (e.g., quin-que-syl-la-bic)

Teaching Notes:

Quinque - a combining form meaning “having five or consisting of five.” Quinquennial - We can recognize the “-nn” of annus - year, in this word (and in all the other “ennial” words. The “a” of annus has been dropped and the “e” at the end of quinque does the vowel work in its place. Quinquagenarian - Latin numbers start adding -ginta at twenty (viginti) to show multiples of ten. ALSO - Latin has something we don’t have in English: “distributive forms”, which mean “so-many each”. So the Latin quinquageni means “fifty each” and quinquagenarians have fifty years each! There are dozens of words in the unabridged dictionary beginning with quinque-. The dictionary doesn’t even bother to define them all. Once you know the root word combining with quinque, you’ve got the meaning of the compound derivative, as you can see in the extra words below.

Extra Words:

Quinquelateral - (latus - side) - five-sided. Quinquedentate - (dens, dentis - tooth) - having five teeth. Quinquefoliate - (folium - leaf) - having five leaves. Quinquipedal - (pes, pedis - foot) - having five feet.

Go ahead! Make up some of your own words using quinque!

sex

[SEKS] six

sexennial - (annus- year) - six-year period or celebration

sexagenarian - (sexageni - 60 each) - a person who is 60 to 69 years old

sexdigital - (digitus - finger, toe) - having six fingers or toes

sexcentenary - (centum - hundred) - a 600-year period or celebration

Teaching Notes:

This -ennial (year) ending is becoming predictable by now - and that is just what we are working for! When children begin to be able to GUESS the meaning of a new word from recognizing the root parts, we have arrived at new country in vocabulary development. That is why we are using all these cardinal numbers consecutively - so children will notice the similarities in the derivatives even before we point them out, as each new number root word is introduced. Sexagenarian - See notes on Quinquagenarian. Sexcentenary - Someone might want to find out in the library what happened 600 years ago this year (the late 1300s, which is called the late 14th century) that might be worth celebrating!

Extra Words:

This Latin word sex (meaning six) always sets people to wondering (and sometimes asking) where the English word sex (not meaning six) came from. The answer is that there are two Latin words, sexus and secus (both meaning sex) which the *Oxford Concise Etymological Dictionary* speculates came from seco, secare (to cut or divide). And so mankind is divided into two kinds - male and female.

septem

[SEP tem] seven

September - seventh month in the Roman calendar

septennial - (annus - year) - seven-year period or celebration

septangle - (angulus - corner) - a plane (flat) figure with seven sides and seven angles

Septuagenarian - (septuageni - seventy each) - person who is 70 to 79 years old

Teaching Notes:

September - How did the seventh month in the Roman calendar get to be the ninth month in our calendar? Legend has it that Romulus, the first King of Rome, used a ten-month moon cycle calendar. Six months had 30 days and four had 31. This added up to 304 days with a couple of nameless moon cycles left over in mid-winter. Each new year started in spring with the growing season.

March, the first month, was named after Mars, god of war. He was very important to the Romans since he was said to be the father of Romulus and Remus. April, the second month (aprilis - to open) could have meant opening leaf and flower buds and opening doors to warmer weather. May, was named for Maia, goddess of spring and growth, and June for Juno, goddess of marriage. Romulus then began counting: Quinctilis, the fifth month, Sextilis, the sixth, and September, the seventh.

Rome's second King, Numa Pompilius took those 60 blank mid-winter days and made two new months out of them - January, for the two-faced god Janus, who could look back to the old year and forward to the new one; and February (februum - purification) the month of purifying rites, to start the new year on the farm with a clean slate where the gods were concerned. Romulus being the founder of Rome, Numa thought it wise not to change the names Romulus had thought up. So when January and February became the beginning months of the year, September, the seventh month, became the ninth and so it has stayed to this day! (See notes on page 42.)

octo

[OK tō] eight

October - eighth month in the old Roman calendar

octopus - (pous, podos [Gr.] - foot) - eight-footed ocean creature

octogenarian - (octogeni - 80 each) - person between 80 and 89 years old

octagon - (gonia [Gr.] - angle) - figure with eight sides and eight corners or angles

octennial - (annus - year) - eight-year period or celebration

Teaching Notes:

October - This month, along with September, November and December, is a holdover from that ancient Roman calendar which named only ten months and which began in the spring with March. Octopus - This word is really a Greek derivative. The Greek word for "eight" is okto which is like the Latin except that it uses the Greek letter "kappa" rather than the Roman "c". We won't have the Greek number words in this book and this word, octopus, is sure to come up when you talk about octo, so we thought we had better explain. The Greek pous, podos is very similar to the Latin pes, pedis, too, and shows how indebted the Romans were to the Greeks for some of their vocabulary. Octogenarian - This word comes from that unique Latin form - the "distributive". Octogeni means "80 each". Of all the years being distributed to human beings, the octogenarians each have 80.

Extra Words:

You can use octo- as a combining form with dozens of partner roots. For example: octolateral (latus - side) - having eight sides; octogamy (gamos [Gr.] - marriage) - marriage to eight spouses; octodentate (dens, dentis - tooth) - having eight teeth. Look in the unabridged dictionary for a treasury of these interesting words.