

megas

[ME gahs] great, large, big

megaphone - (phone - sound) - device for making a sound larger (louder)

megalith - (lithos - rock) - huge rock (such as those in Stonehenge)

megalomania - (mania - craze) - crazy person with delusions of grandeur or greatness

megalophonous - (phone - sound) - having a big or loud sound or voice

mega - in the metric system, a million times

megameter - a million meters

megatons - a million tons

Teaching Notes:

You have seen that some Latin nouns in this book have given you two forms of the word so you can recognize derivatives from both forms (see pp. 29, 31, 32 etc). The ancient Indo-Europeans had a word (megh - great) which was handed down to all the languages which descended from it. Megas, megale, mega is the Greek adjective which came from it. Megalou is the genitive (possessive) case ending and gives you the letters "lo" in words like megalomania. The two combining forms of this word in English, mega- and megalo- both have the same meaning - "great". You have examples of both of them up there in the box. You'll find many more in your large dictionary.

Mega is used in English almost as a slang expression when people speak of large amounts of anything. Mega really means "million times" in the metric system of numbers, but a child might speak of a \$100 bicycle as one which "costs megabucks"! Literally, though, you have to be a millionaire to have "megabucks"!

Extra Words:

Megalopolis (polis - city) is a word we use to mean a huge sprawling city like New York or Los Angeles, which may end only where the next city begins. Megalops (ops - eye) is the name of a certain stage in the development of a crab when its legs are still small, but its eyes are very large. Megalo is part of many scientific terms.

magnus

[MAHG noos] big, large, great

magnify - (facio, factum - make, do) - make larger

magnifier - that which makes greater

magnitude - (-tudo - ness) - greatness

magnate - person of great rank or influence

magnificent - great in deed or character; lavish

magnanimous - (animus - mind, spirit) - great in mind;
above what is low, mean or ungenerous; noble in soul

Teaching Notes:

Magnify - the ending -fy comes from the Latin word facio through the French ending -fier which means “make” or “do”. Sometimes it isn’t quite as easy to recognize Latin roots when they have stopped over in France (Gaul) for a while first. (See p. 25 for a discussion of how Latin became French.) The second word, magnifier is not a French word (as you might conclude from its ending at this point) but simply magnify with the “y” changed to “i” before adding an ending (-er) that begins with a vowel. The ending on the word magnitude, like the Anglo-Saxon ending, -ness, simply makes a noun out of an adjective and means “state or condition of being great”.

Someone always brings up the word “magnet”, so (preferably with a magnet in hand) you will want to explain that it is NOT from magnus. Rather, the original magnets were known as “Magnesian stones”. Legend has it that a shepherd boy, from Magnesia in Asia Minor, noticed that certain black stones stuck to the iron tip of his staff. They were attracted to iron. Much later, in the 13th century, people discovered that an oblong piece of this stone would point to the north if it were hung on a string. They called it “loadstone” or “lodestone”. “Lode” is Anglo-Saxon for “way” and people would find the way on a journey if they had one of these magnetic “lodestones”. Soon lodestones were made into compasses so sailors no longer had to find the way at sea only by the stars. This was a very GREAT thing, to be sure, but “magnet” still doesn’t come from magnus!

pater
patris

[PAH tair, PAH tris] father

patriarch - (archos [Gr.] - chief) - chief father of a family or of a society

patriotism - love for the fatherland

patrician - nobly born person; descendant of the founding fathers of Rome

patrimony - (-monia - condition) - condition or estate inherited from one's fathers

patron - one who acts like a father toward another

patronymic - (onyma [Gr.] - name) - a father's name adapted and given to his children

Teaching Notes:

In many ancient societies (and some modern ones too), the oldest grandfather in an extended family is thought of as the patriarch. The founding fathers of a society are thought of as the patriarchs of the whole society. (The ch in archos is pronounced like "k"). The patricians of Rome were the upper class and descendants of the founders. They had rights and privileges and usually wealth which the "plebeians" or lower classes did not have. In the early days of Rome, you had to be a patrician to hold the high offices of senator or consul. Later, however, things loosened up and the plebeians gained more power.

A patrimony is usually money or land which is handed down from a father to his children. In the story of the prodigal son in the Bible, the son asks his father for "that portion of goods that falleth to me". That was his patrimony or inheritance. As the story goes, the son wastes the money, repents, and returns home a sadder and wiser man, ready to start over and do better.

A patron is usually one who gives financial support as a father would. Those who contribute to charities and cultural organizations today are known as patrons.

Patronymics are found in most societies in the world. In Ireland, Brian's son was John O'Brian; in Scotland, Donald's son was John MacDonald; in Sweden, Peter's son was John Peterson; in Norway, Olaf's son was John Olafssen (and his daughter was Kari Olafsdatter); in Russia, Ivan's son was John Ivanovich. Are there any patronymics in the class?

mater matris

[MAH tair, MAH tris] mother

matriarch - (archos - chief) - a woman who rules the family

maternal - motherly

maternal grandparents - parents of one's mother

matrix - the ground from which some thing or idea springs

matriculate - have one's name entered on the list of students of a school or college

alma mater - (alma - nourishing; kind) - the "dear old school" from which one graduates

matrimony - (-monia - condition) - state from which motherhood develops

Teaching Notes:

There have been societies in the world in which the women rule the families and the societies. These are matriarchies. It is not the general rule in today's world.

If maternal grandparents are the parents of one's mother, paternal grandparents are the parents of one's father.

The first definition given for matrix is "a womb". It is used, however, to mean the pattern or mold which gives form to things made from it such as coins, or printing type.

Matriculating at a college implies the whole process of getting accepted, arriving and being registered for classes at what will become one's alma mater.

Scholars for hundreds of years have spoken of their colleges in after years as alma mater - kind and nourishing mother. Like a mother, the college had taught them what they needed to learn, nourished them with ideas and knowledge which helped them grow intellectually and spiritually, and maintained an interest in their welfare. That is just what all schools are supposed to do! When they do, students usually have affectionate feelings for their school days at the old alma mater.

Historically, getting married meant that a woman would soon have children, so marriage is called matrimony, the state or condition of motherhood.

frater fratris

[FRAH tair, FRAH tris] brother

fraternal - brotherly

fraternity - brotherly association of men

fraternize - associate together on friendly or brotherly terms

friar - a member of a men's religious order

frère - French word for brother

Teaching Notes:

The ancient Indo-European word bhrater, meaning "brother" or "clansman" was the grandparent of this Latin word frater, the Greek word, phrater and the Germanic word brothor.

At the time of the great Greek leader, Solon (c. 639-559 B.C.), Athens had 12 phratrīai or clans, each of which had 30 genes or old patrician houses, headed by a patriarch. The ancient idea of brotherhood involved belonging to an extended family under one of these patriarchs. It means "kinsman" rather than "sibling" as we use it today.

In Roman times, men enrolled in religious groups as fratres or brothers, even though they had no blood relationship.

In medieval times, orders of monks were called fraternitas or brotherhoods. The great medieval universities such as Oxford, Cambridge, and Heidelberg had colleges where scholars lived while studying to earn their university degrees. American colleges inherited some medieval traditions (e.g., caps and gowns) and started the idea of associations of university men called fraternities to provide a place to live and study. They usually had Greek letter names. The oldest is Phi Beta Kappa, founded in 1776.

In the 1500s, working men's Fraternal Societies sprang up, primarily to provide disability and death benefits to members. Some of these evolved into insurance companies and others into organizations such as Masons, Knights of Columbus, B'nai B'rith, Elks, Odd Fellows, et cetera.

The French children's song, "Frère Jacques" is one the children will enjoy learning and singing as a three-part round.