

facio factum

[FAH key ō, FAK toom] do, make

factory - (-orium - place for) - place for making things

manufacture - (manus - hand) - make by hand

efface - (ex - out, away) - do away with

deface - (de - down) - to “do down”, mar, destroy

perfect - (per - through) - done all the way through

magnify - (magna - large) - to make large

satisfy - (satis - enough) - to make enough

Teaching Notes:

Manufacture means literally “to make by hand”. However, with modern technology, it has come to mean anything man makes with the help of tools. A tree is part of nature, but as soon as man chops it down, it is in the first stage of manufacture! When he strips the bark, saws it into boards and builds a house, he has manufactured his shelter rather than simply standing under the tree and hoping the leaves will ward off the rain!

Some Latin words have contributed SO MANY English words that learning them as soon as possible is a tremendous advantage. Facio is one of these. The *Latin/English Derivative Dictionary* lists 258 English words based on facio. (It was compiled by Rudolph Schaeffer for his doctoral dissertation and published by the American Classical League, Miami University, Oxford, Ohio 45056. Write to them. They will send you a fascinating free catalogue!) There are rich dividends for your effort to learn facio. To begin with, the suffix -fy (from Fr. -fier - make, form into) at the end of many root words adds the meaning “making”. Edify combines aedis - building with facio - make, and conveys the meaning “to make a building” or “do something constructive”. Haul out the big unabridged dictionary with the children and explore the Latin root words which have been combined with facio to make dozens of English words. For starters: amplify, beautify, certify, deify, dignify, diversify, terrify, verify. HAVE FUN!

scribo scriptum

[SKREE bo, SKRIP toom] write

scriptures - sacred writings (Bible, Torah)

inscription - (in - in) - writing in a book or in stone

describe - (de - down) - write down

proscription - (pro - for) - written list of names put up for all to see

prescription - (pre - before) - something written ahead (doctor's direction to a pharmacist)

scribe - one who knows how to write

transcribe - (trans - across) - transfer speech into writing

manuscript - (manus - hand) - written by hand

script - writing (e.g.*, the words of a play)

Teaching Notes:

This word scribo makes us think of the Greek word, graph, which means both write and draw. Scribo means "write". The Romans did use describo to mean "portray" or "give a picture of" but they meant what we mean - to tell about something in visual terms so you can see it in your mind's eye. Our English word, describe, means to give a verbal picture of something rather than to draw or paint it. Isn't that what we teach as good writing? "SHOW - DON'T TELL!" Proscription - This word has a meaning which is alien to us in our society. It means the posting of lists of names of people who are outlawed, exiled, or condemned to death. In a milder form, you might call the pictures in post offices of people the police are looking for, or notices in the newspaper about people whose property is being forfeited for not paying their taxes, proscription lists, but they really aren't. Transcribe - One thing about the television is that you see, but have no record of what important people have said. (A newspaper article can be read again and sent to a friend.) So now, many TV programs (like *Nova*) offer to send you a typewritten transcript of what you saw, so you can read it over again. For serious ideas, there's no substitute for READING! *(e.g. means exempli gratia - for the sake of example).

plico plicatum

[PLI kō, PLI kah toom] fold

duplicate - (duo - two) - twofold
 triplicate - (tres - three) - threefold
 multiplication - (multum - many) - increase in number
 manifold
 explicit - (ex - out) - folded out, unfolded, smooth
 implicate - (in - in, into) - fold into
 complication - (con - together) - a "folded" situation
 accomplice - (ad - to, toward, con - together) - one who
 is folded together with another in crime
 replica - (re - again, back) - a bending or folding again; a
 reproduction or copy
 supplication - (sub - under) - humble request or prayer
 made on bended, folded, knees

Teaching Notes:

The Indo-European word plek, meant "bend, fold, braid, twist and weave", actions which the ancient people must have performed many times a day. The physical action of folding is used metaphorically in many of our abstract English derivatives such as implicate. If you are implicated in a crime, you are "folded" into it or involved in it. Something that is complicated is all folded together and rather hard to figure out. If something is explicit, it is folded out or unfolded and, therefore, perfectly clear and easy to understand. They are all easier to understand and remember if the basic root idea, fold, is clear. (See page 34, duo, for a bit more about plico, plicare, plicatum.)

Explicit, which we used to mean something which is so plain and clear that nothing is left to the imagination, has an interesting history. Back in the ancient days books were long strips of papyrus attached to rods at each end and then rolled up. As you were reading a book, you slowly unrolled the long scroll from one rod and rolled it up on the other rod, leaving the part you were reading open between your two hands. When you got to the end, you would usually find the Latin words, "Explicatus est" - "It is rolled out, or unrolled", in the way we find "finis" or "The End" on the last page of our books today.

dico dictum

[DEE kō, DIK toom] speak, say

dictate - speak, command

diction - art or manner of speaking

dictation - speaking so another may write down the words

dictator - one whose word has absolute authority

predict - (pre - before) - to say beforehand what will happen

benediction - (bene - well) - well-spoken words; a blessing

contradict - (contra - against) - speak against

verdict - (verus - true, real) - a true saying

Teaching Notes:

There are so many good derivatives from dico, dictum, that it is hard to leave any of them out. Addict (ad - to) which, today, is used almost exclusively to refer to one who takes "addictive" drugs, started out to mean a legal action under Roman Law. It meant "give over or surrender to under decree of a court". People used to sign their letters, "Your honor's most addicted servant . . . etc.". Then it came to mean attaching oneself to a master, a leader or a cause. The meaning has degenerated at present to mean one who is addicted to drugs or chemical dependency.

We mustn't forget dictionary - a book which lists the words of a spoken language and their meanings. Dictionaries have been one of the greatest tools devised to help people understand each other since the invention of language itself. The earliest dictionaries were compiled to help speakers of one language to learn another. For example: English/Latin and French/Latin. In the 17th century, a dictionary of English words, explained in English, was written, but it included only "hard words". Then from 1747 to 1755, Dr. Samuel Johnson labored over his great *Dictionary of the English Language* which established his reputation and enabled writers and their readers to come to terms with each other. You can see his house in London near Fleet Street. Today, the greatest dictionary is surely the recently published twenty-volume edition of the *Oxford English Dictionary*. No library should be without it!

biblos

[BIB loss] book

Bible - The Book of the Christian religion

bibliography - (graph - write) - list of books on a particular subject

biblioclast - (klastos - broken) - one who destroys books

biblioklept - (klepto - steal) - one who steals books

bibliolatry - (latreia - worship) - worship of books

bibliology - (logos - word, study) - study of books

bibliomania - (mania - madness) - craziness about books

bibliophile - (philia - love) - lover of books

bibliophobia - (phobos - fear) - fear or dislike of books

bibliothetic - (thetos - placed) - pertaining to the placement or arrangement of books

Teaching Notes:

Biblos was the word used by the Greeks for the papyrus scrolls or books which they imported from the Phoenician city of Byblos on the coast of the Mediterranean. (You can find Byblos, now called "Jubail", on a map of Lebanon today.) The Egyptians had invented the smooth, white ancestor of paper when they needed something besides stone or wood on which to write their hieroglyphics. Papyrus plants (which were, incidentally, the "bulrushes" in which Pharaoh's daughter found Moses!) grew up to ten feet tall. When the stems were split and the pulp scraped out, the inner bark came off in long flat strips which were laid out criss-cross on a flat surface. After pressing and drying, it was smoothed and polished with ivory. This made a pleasing, flexible, durable writing surface. Pieces of papyrus were glued together to make strips many feet long. Rods were glued to each end and the strips were rolled up. Scribes wrote records, histories and sacred texts on them. Clay jars were made in which to store them safely.

The sea traders of Byblos bought huge quantities of raw papyrus plants from the Egyptians and made them into papyrus "paper" right there in Byblos. Then, they sold these products in coastal cities all around the Mediterranean where they were known as "biblos". Many scrolls survive to this day. The *National Geographic* magazine for December 1958 has a story with pictures of the Dead Sea Scrolls and the men who safely hid them. The French word, bibliothèque means "library", or a place to arrange and classify books. (See bibliothetic above.)