

Word Roots: Classics 30

Wednesday,
August 4, 2010:
Unit 1

New from Cover to Cover
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Today's Goals

- To make clear what will be on the quiz tomorrow
- To review material from Unit 1
- To learn a bit more about Greek writing
 - Breathings
 - Accents
 - Diphthongs
 - Nasalized gamma
 - Problem letters (theta, phi, chi)

Tomorrow's Quiz

- Be able to give me a brief account (three or four sentences) about the spread of Greek and Latin (times and places).
- Be able to very briefly explain English's origin as a Germanic language.
- Be able to give correct answers from the Unit 1 questions (pp. 1-32) and exercises (pp. 35-38).
- Be able to explain the words at the top of page 34.
- Be able to write out the Greek alphabet (including both forms of sigma).
- Know what morphemes the underlined biological terms at the end of this lecture come from.

Terms from Top of p. 34, part I

- allomorphs
- analyze
- Anglo-Saxon
- base
- borrowings
- content word
- derivative
- empty morpheme
- etymology
- full morpheme
- function word
- intensifying morpheme
- Middle English
- morpheme
- obsolete
- Old English
- prefix
- structure
- suffix
- word order

More on Greek Writing: Breathings

- Words that begin with vowels in Greek always have a breathing written over their beginning. A breathing is a little mark that looks like like an apostrophe.

**A smooth breathing bulges to the right (´)
and is ignored in pronunciation.**

ἐν = en (= "in")

ἐξ = ex (= "out")

**A rough breathing bulges to the left (´)
and indicates that the word begins
with an "h" sound.**

ὄς = hōs (= "as")

ἡ = hē (= "the")

More on Greek Writing: Accents

- Most Greek words have an accent mark over one of their syllables. There are three kinds:

— **acute (´)** [example: ποταμός "river"]

— **circumflex (˜ OR ˆ)** [example: γῆ OR γῆ̂ "earth"]

— **grave (`)** [example: "τὸν"]

- We won't worry about accents in this course. They are complicated, not clearly understood, and not important for our purposes. Just be aware of them.

More on Greek Writing: Diphthongs

- Diphthongs (from Greek *di-*, “double,” and *phthongos*, “sound”) are two vowels that blend into one sound. Here the common Greek diphthongs:

αι: pronounced like "eye"

αυ: pronounced like "ow" in "cow"

ει: pronounced like "ey" in "they"

ευ: pronounced like a blend of ε and υ

οι: pronounce like "oi" in "oil"

ου: pronounced like "oo" in "pool"

More on Greek Writing: Nasalized Gamma

- When gamma comes before another gamma or before a kappa, a chi, or a xi (these are all pronounced in the same place in the mouth as gamma), it is pronounced “ng” as in “sing.” We call it nasalized because it is pronounced through the nose. In English, we write this sound with an “n” (in this, we are copying the Romans, who changed these gammas into ‘n’ when they borrowed words from Greek).

Examples:

ἄγγελος = angelos ("angel")

Σφίγξ = Sphinx ("Sphinx")

ἔλεγχος = elenchos ("elenchus")

ἄγκυρα = ankyra ("anchor")

More on Greek Writing: theta, phi, and chi

- The Greeks had two “k” sounds, two “p” sounds, and two “t” sounds.
- [Native English-speakers have trouble hearing the difference since they use both forms of “k,” “p,” and “t” but think they are the same. For the Greeks they were as different as “p” and “b” or “s” and “z.”]
- In each of these pairs, one has a breath of air after it, the other doesn’t, and in each case, the Greeks used separate letters to distinguish them:

	p-sound	t-sound	k-sound
without breath:	π (pi)	τ (tau)	κ (kappa)
with breath:	φ (phi)	θ (theta)	χ (chi)

- When the Romans heard Greeks say phi, theta, and chi, they heard an “h” sound so they wrote the Greek sounds “ph,” “th” and “ch,” and we still transcribe them into English in that way today.
- Over the centuries, in Greek pronunciation, phi turned to an “f” sound, theta turned to a “th” sound, and chi turned to a sound like German “ch” or Spanish “j.”

Practice with Greek Writing:

Pronounce the Following Words

κῶλον

θέσις

χάος

αἶθήρ

Σωκράτης

Χριστός

κόμμα

τυραννόσαυρος

κροκόδειλος

Ζεὺς

Αἴγυπτος

Ὀλυμπος

ἀξίωμα

φιλοσοφία

συμφωνία

ἄρμονία

κρίσις

ἐγκυκλοπαιδεία

Bonus Biology Term I

- “evolution” from Latin
 - {e/ex} = “out” (sometimes “up”)
 - {volve/volut} = “roll”
 - {ion}, which makes nouns out of verbs.
- Compare
 - involve, convoluted, volute
 - invent, invention; subtract, subtraction; fuse, fusion

Bonus Biology Term II

- “taxon” from Greek
 - {tax/tact} = “arrange in order”
 - {on} = a suffix that indicates small or minimal divisions
- Compare
 - syntax, tactic, taxonomy (“nomy” = “management”)
 - neutron, photon

Bonus Biology Term III

- “phylum” from Greek
 - {phyl} = “race” or “tribe”
 - {on}
- Compare
 - monophyletic (“mono” = “one”)
 - polyphyletic (“poly” = “many”)
 - paraphyletic (“para” = “beside,” “alongside,” “beyond”)

Bonus Biology Term IV

- “clade” from Greek
 - {clad} = “branch”
- Compare
 - cladistics
 - cladogram ({gram} = “drawing,” “writing”)

