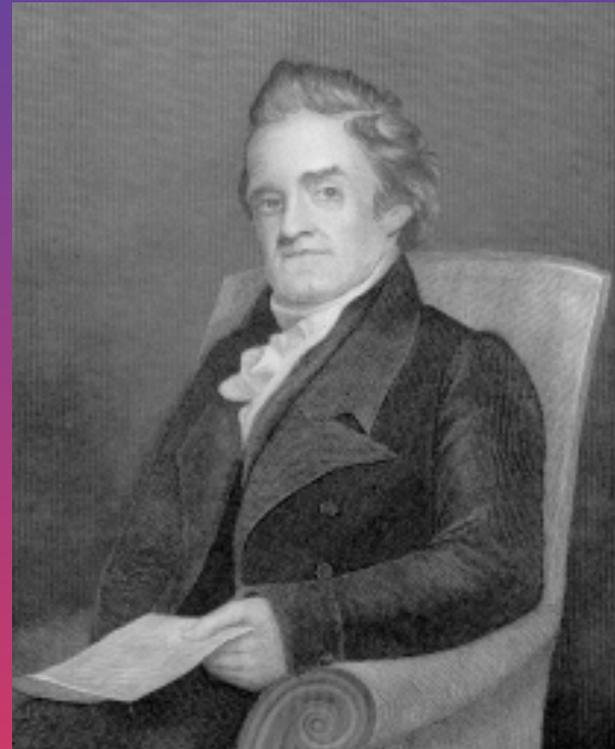


Word Roots: Classics 30

Tuesday,
August 10, 2010:
Unit 2 & 3



Noah Webster

Today's Goals

- To learn about available English-language dictionaries
- To go over material from Unit 2
- To learn a bit more about “Parts of Speech”
 - A note on some problem areas in English adjectives
 - Prepositions
- To go over material from Unit 3
- To practice reading Greek a bit.
- To learn a few more Bonus Biology Terms

About Dictionaries, Part I

- There are many dictionaries of English.
 - “American” versus “international” dictionaries
 - “Webster’s” is a confusing term
 - Noah Webster produced the first United States (“American”) dictionary.
 - Several modern American dictionaries call themselves “Webster’s” because in some sense they descend from Noah Webster’s dictionary.
 - What matters is the publisher

About Dictionaries, Part II: Important Publishers

- **Oxford University Press**
 - Produces *Oxford English Dictionary (OED)*, the definitive English Dictionary
- **Random House**
- ***American Heritage Dictionary*** (published by Houghton Mifflin)
- **Merriam-Webster** (produces the dictionary generally called “Webster’s)
- All these exists in several shorter forms since it is impractical to carry a complete dictionary around (the full dictionary is often called “unabridged”: other versions may be called “collegiate,” “shorter,” “concise,” “pocket” and so on).

About Dictionaries, Part III: Online Resources

- dictionary.com
- lib.ucdavis.edu
 - Merriam-Webster's *Webster's Third New International Dictionary*
 - Merriam-Webster's *Webster's Collegiate Dictionary*
 - *Oxford English Dictionary* (the ultimate dictionary!)
 - To access
 - If off campus, you must use VPN (click button to left of display) and enter your login and password
 - Go to "Databases"
- With online dictionaries, your spelling must be correct, unlike book-style dictionaries.

Word List from Unit 2, Part I

- Class of Word (= “Part of Speech”)
- Modify
- Modifier
- Phrase
- Criterion
 - Morphological Criterion
 - Syntactical Criterion
 - Slot

Word List from Unit 2, Part 2

- Noun
 - Number
 - Plural Number
 - Singular Number
 - Noun Marker
 - Noun Modifier
 - Head
- Adjective

Word List from Unit 2, Part 3

- Verb
 - Object
 - Transitive Verb
 - Intransitive Verb
 - Tense
 - Past Tense
 - Present Tense
- Adverb

Perfect

(from today's homework)

per-fect (*adj., n.* pûr'fikt; *v.* pər fekt'), *adj.* 1. conforming absolutely to the description or definition of an ideal type: *a perfect sphere; a perfect gentleman.* 2. excellent or complete beyond practical or theoretical improvement: *There is no perfect legal code. The proportions of this temple are almost perfect.* 3. exactly fitting the need in a certain situation or for a certain purpose: *a perfect actor to play Mr. Micawber; a perfect saw for cutting out keyholes.* 4. entirely without any flaws, defects, or shortcomings: *a perfect apple; the perfect crime.* 5. accurate, exact, or correct in every detail: *a perfect copy.* 6. thorough; complete; utter: *perfect strangers.* 7. pure or unmixed: *perfect yellow.* 8. unqualified; absolute: *He has perfect control over his followers.* 9. expert; accomplished; proficient. 10. unmitigated; out-and-out; of an extreme degree: *He made a perfect fool of himself.* 11. *Bot.* **a.** having all parts or members present. **b.** monoclinous. 12. *Gram.* **a.** noting an action or state brought to a close prior to some temporal point of reference, in contrast to imperfect or incomplete action. **b.** designating a tense or other verb formation or construction with such meaning. 13. *Music.* **a.** applied to the consonances of unison, octave, and fifth, as distinguished from those of the third and sixth, which are called imperfect. **b.** applied to the intervals, harmonic or melodic, of an octave, fifth, and fourth in their normal form, as opposed to augmented and diminished. 14. *Math.* (of a set) equal to its set of accumulation points. 15. *Obs.* assured or certain. —*n.* *Gram.* 16. the perfect tense. 17. a verb form or construction in the perfect tense. Cf. **future perfect, pluperfect, present perfect.** —*v.t.* 18. to bring to completion; finish. 19. to bring to perfection; make flawless or faultless. 20. to bring nearer to perfection; improve. 21. to make fully skilled. 22. *Print.* to print the reverse of (a printed sheet). [1250–1300; < L *perfectus*, ptp. of *perficere* to finish, bring to completion (*per-* *PER-* + *-fec-*, comb. form of *facere* to do¹ + *-tus* ptp. suffix); r. ME *parfit* < OF < L as above] —**per-fect'ed-ly**, *adv.* —**per-fect'er**, *n.* —**per'fect-ness**, *n.*

(continued in next column)

—**Syn.** 1, 2. See **complete.** 4. unblemished; faultless. —**Usage.** A few usage guides still object to the use of comparison words such as *more*, *most*, *nearly*, *almost*, and *rather* with **PERFECT** on the grounds that **PERFECT** describes an absolute, yes-or-no condition that cannot logically be said to exist in varying degrees. The English language has never agreed to this limitation. Since its earliest use in the 13th century, **PERFECT** has, like almost all adjectives, been compared, first in the now obsolete forms **PERFECTER** and **PERFECTEST**, and more recently with *more*, *most*, and similar comparison words: *the most perfect arrangement of color and line imaginable.* **PERFECT** is compared in most of its general senses in all varieties of speech and writing. After all, one of the objectives of the writers of the U.S. Constitution was "to form a more perfect union." See also **complete**, **unique**.

per (pûr; *unstressed* pər), *prep.* 1. for each; for every: *Membership costs ten dollars per year. This cloth is two dollars per yard.* 2. by means of; by; through: *I am sending the recipe per messenger.* 3. according to; in accordance with: *I delivered the box per your instructions.* —*adv.* 4. *Informal.* each; for each one: *The charge for window-washing was five dollars per.* [1580–90; < L: through, by, for, for each. See **FOR**]

—**Usage.** **PER** for a or an or for each occurs chiefly in technical or statistical contexts: *miles per gallon; work-hours per week; feet per second; gallons of beer per person per year.* It is also common in sports commentary: *He averaged 16 points per quarter.* **PER** is sometimes criticized in business writing in the sense "according to" and is rare in literary writing.

per-, 1. a prefix meaning "through," "thoroughly," "utterly," "very": *pervert; pervade; perfect.* 2. *Chem.* a prefix used in the names of inorganic acids and their salts that possess the maximum amount of the element specified in the base word: *percarbonic* (H₂C₂O₅), *permanganic* (HMnO₄), *persulfuric* (H₂S₂O₈), *acids; potassium permanganate* (KMnO₄); *potassium persulfate* (K₂S₂O₈). [*<* L, comb. form of *per* **PER**, and used as an intensive]

Per., 1. Persia. 2. Persian.

per., 1. percentile. 2. period. 3. person.

More on Parts of Speech

(a problem area)

- In English it is very useful to talk about “noun markers” (or “determiners”)
 - “a,” “the,” “his,” “this,” and so on (there are many).
 - “a” and “the” are called “articles.”
- This is not a category in the classical “parts of speech”; if we must identify their part of speech with the classical list, we call these adjectives. (The classical parts of speech don’t fit English perfectly since they were made to describe Greek and Latin.)
- Most modern grammarians treat them as their own category, however.

More on Parts of Speech (Prepositions)

- Prepositions are usually small words like “of,” “with,” “by,” “for,” “from,” “to,” “in,” “on,” “into,” “onto,” “at.”
- They have nouns or noun phrases (or pronouns) after them, and all together, they make up prepositional phrases. The noun after them is called the “object of a preposition.”
- What are the prepositions and the objects of prepositions in the following prepositional phrases?

of potatoes

onto a higher shelf

with the bad potatoes

for my favorite aunt

from a stupid boy

by hand

to Chicago

at the last meeting

A Little Word of Caution on Prepositions

- Some words can act as both prepositions and adverbs.
- Compare:

He walked up the stairs. He walked up.

I ate before work. I ate before.

He helped me through the woods. He helped me through.

I passed by the store. I passed by.

Preposition Practice

- Identify prepositions and objects of prepositions in the following text:

Ossetia (Ossetic: Ирæстон (Iryston); Russian: Осетия, (Osetiya); Georgian: æбæтæтæ (Oset'i)) is an ethnolinguistic region located on both sides of the Greater Caucasus Mountains, largely inhabited by the Ossetians, an Iranian people who speak the Ossetic language (an Eastern Iranian language in the Indo-European group of languages). The Ossetic-speaking area is divided by the main Caucasus ridge. The northern portion constitutes the Republic of North Ossetia-Alania within the Russian Federation, while the southern portion is part of Georgia but is largely controlled by the secessionist Republic of South Ossetia, which is backed by Russia but internationally unrecognized.

Unit 3: Prefixes

- {con}, {com}
 - together (with)
 - Examples: convene, contend
- {ex}, {e}
 - out of
 - Examples: exit, eject

Unit 3: Bases

- {tend}, {tens}, {tent} = “stretch”
- {prehend}, {prehens} = “grasp,” “hold”
- {duc}, {duct} = “lead”
- {scribe}, {script} = “write”
- {trop} = “turn”

Unit 3: Suffixes

- {ion}
 - Makes nouns from verbs
 - Examples: project > projection
- {ive}
 - Makes adjectives from verbs
 - Examples: extensive, possessive

Unit 3:

Synonyms and Antonyms

Synonyms are words with the same meaning.

Antonyms are words with opposite meanings.

A Little Greek Practice

(the beginning of Homer's *Iliad*)

μῆνιν ἄειδε θεὰ Πηληϊάδεω Ἀχιλῆος
οὐλομένην, ἣ μυρὶ Ἀχαιοῖς ἄλγε' ἔθηκε,
πολλὰς δ' ἰφθίμους ψυχὰς Ἄϊδι προΐαψεν
ἡρώων, αὐτοὺς δὲ ἐλώρια τεῦχε κύνεσσιν
οἴωνοῖσί τε πᾶσι, Διὸς δ' ἐτελείετο βουλή,
ἔξ οὔ δὴ τὰ πρῶτα διαστήτην ἐρίσαντε
Ἄτρεΐδης τε ἄναξ ἀνδρῶν καὶ δῖος Ἀχιλλεύς.

Bonus Biology Terms I

- autotroph
 - {auto} = “self”
 - {troph} = nourishing
- An autotroph is a “self-nourishing” living thing that creates its own organic compounds from simple inorganic substances.
- Contrast:
 - heterotroph
 - {hetero} = “other”
 - a heterotroph must get organic compounds by consuming other living things.

Bonus Biology Terms II

- chemotroph
 - {chemo} = “chemical” (literally, “juice”; chemistry was originally interested in “juices” of plants).
 - {troph} = nourishing
- A chemotroph is an autotroph that creates its own organic compounds from chemicals.
- Contrast
 - phototroph
 - {photo} = “light”
 - A phototroph uses light to create its own organic compounds.

Bonus Biology Terms III

- lithotroph
 - {litho} = “stone”
 - {troph} = nourishing
- A lithotroph is an autotroph that creates its own organic compounds from inorganic materials [stones].
- Compare:
 - chemolithoautotroph
 - (The elements {chemo}, {litho}, [auto] are freely combined to make new terms)