

Word Roots: Classics 30

Thursday,
August 12, 2010:
Unit 4



The Dog's Tail
(κυνὸς οὐρά)

Today's Goals

- Give preliminary information on the project due at the end of the course.
- Learn about the following grammar topics:
 - More prepositions
 - Proper nouns
 - Pronouns
 - Clauses
 - Subjects and Predicates
- Practice transliterating Greek

Course Project

- Choose three words from any field that interests you.
- Copy the etymology from the *Oxford English Dictionary* for each and then write out a normal English language interpretation of the etymology.

Bonus Biology Term

- phenotype
 - {phen/pheno/phenomen} = “appearance”
 - {typ/type} = “form” (originally, the impression made by a seal or a stamp for making coins)
 - The phenotype of an organism is its apparent (observable) form.
- Compare and Contrast
 - genotype
 - phenomenon (plural: phenomena)
 - phenomonology

More Prepositions

- We've learned:
 - “of,” “with,” “by,” “for,” “from,” “to,” “in,”
“on,” “into,” “onto,” “at.”

More Prepositions

- Here are some more (there are around 100 in use in modern English):

about
against
before
beside
near
over

above
among
behind
between
off
toward

across
around
beneath
down
out
within

- Note that most have to do with space or time relations.
- Note that prepositional phrases act as adjectives or adverbs.

Identify Prepositional Phrases in the following:

Mr. McGregor was quite sure that Peter was somewhere in the toolshed, perhaps hidden underneath a flower-pot. He began to turn them over carefully, looking under each. Presently Peter sneezed-- "Kertyschoo!" Mr. McGregor was after him in no time, and tried to put his foot upon Peter, who jumped out of a window, upsetting three plants. The window was too small for Mr. McGregor, and he was tired of running after Peter. He went back to his work. Peter sat down to rest; he was out of breath and trembling with fright, and he had not the least idea which way to go. Also he was very damp with sitting in that can.

Common Nouns and Proper Nouns

- Common nouns are nouns that are applied to large categories of things that may exist in large numbers.
- Proper nouns indicate specific things that are unique examples of common nouns.
- In English, proper nouns normally are capitalized.
- The criteria you learned for nouns will often not work well with proper nouns.

Common Noun	Proper Noun
coffee shop	Starbucks
waiter	Simon
jeans	Levi's
sandwich	Big Mac
chair	Roll-O-Rocker
arena	Amway Arena
country	Australia
fire fighter	Captain Richard Orsini

Pronouns

- Pronouns are function words that stand in the place of nouns.
- Here are some (but not all) varieties:
 1. Personal: I, me, you, he, him, she, her, it, we, us, they, them (these words often have an antecedent [a “going before” word: ante = “before”; cedent=“going”]—a noun to which they refer)
 - John eats vegetables. He is healthy.
 2. Indefinite: Words that refer to no definite person or thing: someone, no one, none, anyone (there are many more)
 3. Possessive: mine, yours, his, hers, its, ours, theirs
 4. Many noun markers are also pronouns:
 - Demonstratives: this, that
 - Quantitative words: some, many, few, one, two, three...

Clauses

- A clause is a group of coherent words with a subject and a predicate.
 - A subject announces what is being talked about.
 - A predicate (< prae [before] + dicare [proclaim] announce) announces what is to be said about the subject.
- Some clauses are complete sentences, some are not.
- At the heart of every subject is a noun or pronoun
- At the heart of every predicate is a verb.

Clauses: Examples

(subjects in red; predicates in blue)

- I eat cake.
- The orange cat likes to catch mice.
- The book on the table will fall on the ground.
- The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dogs.
- Mine is the one with the yellow lettering.
- The cat chasing the mouse has already caught many mice.

Grammar Practice:

Identify subjects and predicates

- Identify proper nouns, common nouns, pronouns, subjects and predicates in the following passage.

Nevertheless, the most acceptable etymology of the word assassin is the simple one: it comes from Hassan (Hasan ibn al-Sabbah) and his followers. This etymology had been accepted for centuries. The excitement around the hashish version of the etymology was invented in 1809, in Paris, by the French orientalist Sylvestre de Sacy. On the seventh of July of that year, he presented a lecture at the Academy of Inscriptions and Fine Arts. In it, he examined Marco Polo's story about drugs and this sect of murderers. He connected this with the word. Curiously his theory had great success and apparently still has.

– Jacques Boudet, , Les mots de l'histoire}, Ed. Larousse-Bordas, Paris, 1998

Transliteration of Greek

α → a	ο → o	' → (nothing)
β → b	π → p	´ → h
γ → g	ρ → r	ῥ → rh
δ → d	σ (ς) → s	ῥῥ → rrh
ε → e	τ → t	αι → ae*
ζ → z	υ → y	ει → i
η → e	φ → ph	ευ → eu
θ → th	χ → ch	οι → oe*
ι → i	ψ → ps	ου → u
κ → c	ω → o	α → a
λ → l	γγ → ng	η → e
μ → m	γκ → nk	ω → o
ν → n	γχ → nch	
ξ → x	γξ → nx	

Exceptions:

Usually, final -ος → -us

Usually, final -ον → -um

***In English, earlier “ae” and “oe” have both usually turned to “e” in modern English, so, nowadays, instead of “oe” and “ae,” you’ll usually see “e.”**

Examples: “encyclopaedia” is now usually spelled “encyclopedia”; “oecconomy” is now always spelled “economy.”