Eighth Day

QUICK VOCABULARY BUILDER

OUR English speech is a reservoir of the classical languages. It has taken over to itself and has absorbed for its own use more than one quarter of the entire Greek language and more than fifty per cent of the entire Latin language. It is obvious, then, that a knowledge of Greek and Latin stems is invaluable in any program of vocabulary building.

In the exercises ahead we will take English words apart and will show how you can easily identify and define hundreds of words that you may never have seen before.

I. The Greek stem *gamos*, which literally means "marriage," usually appears as an ending in English in the form *gamy*. This has given rise to a large word family.

(1) *Monogamy* (mon-og'-a-mee): The Americans practice monogamy and are a monogamous (mon-og'-a-muss) race. This, of course, means a system of marriage where a husband has only one wife. The term comes from two Greek words: *monos*, "one" and *gamos*, "marriage."

(2) *Bigamy* (big'-a-mee): A "bigamist," as you remember, is a man with two wives. Here we have a combination of two languages: *bi* means "two" in Latin, and combined with *gamos* we therefore have "two marriages."

(3) *Polygamy* (po-lig'-a-mee): This means several wives to one husband, as formerly practiced by the Mormons in Utah. Such married people were *polygamists* (po-lig'-a-mists). *Poly* in Greek means "many."

(4) *Misogamy* (miss-og'-a-mee): This term means hatred of marriage and a person who holds this view is known as a *misogamist* (miss-og'-a-mist). *Misos,* when translated from the Greek, means "hatred."

II. Now notice how the above Greek and Latin stems will branch out and lead to still more new words.

(1) *Monotheism* (mon'-o-thee-izm, *th* as in *think*): This is the philosophy of the *monotheist* who believes in one god: Greek *monos* combined with *theos* signifying "god."

(2) *Bicuspid* (bye-cuss'-pid): A tooth with two prongs on the lower end of it. You have already learned the translation of *bi; cuspid* is from the Latin *cuspis* meaning "point."

(3) *Polyglot* (pol'-ee-glot): *Glotta* is Greek for "tongue" or "language." So the polyglot is one who speaks many tongues or many languages.

(4) *Misanthropy* (miss-an'-thro-pee): *Anthropos* in Greek means "man." We have, then, the hatred of man or of mankind. A *misanthrope* (miss'-an-thrope), therefore, is anyone who has a morbid aversion to, or distrust of, his fellow men.

III. Still more discoveries can be made with the roots that you have learned.

(1) *Theology* (thee-ol'-o-jee, *th* as in *think*) is the knowledge of God and religion. To *theos* we add the Greek ending *-logia* which means "knowledge." The usual way that *-logia* appears in English words is in the form of "logy."

(2) *Philanthropy* (fil-an'-thro-pee) is the direct opposite of misanthropy. Philanthropy means the love of mankind; the root *anthropos* which you already know is combined with the Greek word *philos* meaning "love of." A philanthropist, then, who gives money to the poor, is literally a "lover of his fellow men."

IV. Now, if we are to combine the two new stems in the above section, we have:

(1) *Anthropology* (an-thro-pol'-o-jee), which you can now interpret as the "knowledge of man" or the history of the human race, and

(2) *Philology* (fil-ol'-o-jee), which should mean "love of knowledge," which is what it did mean in Greek. Later it came to mean more especially the love of words and the study of language, and is usually used today in that sense.

You now have an ownership in nine important Greek or Latin stems, which, in their usual English forms, are:

mono	—one	theo	—god
bi	—two	anthropo	—man
poly	—many	philo	—love of
miso	—hatred of	logy	—knowledge, study of
gamy	—marriage		

V. Can you qualify as a good word detective? Keep in mind the nine stems we have just discussed and try to arrive at the meanings of the following words. Guess intelligently, and only refer back to the roots if you have to. Write your meaning in the blank.

1. Many Englishmen wear MONocles (mon'-o-kulz)

   . . . .

2. He delivered an interesting MONOlogue (mon'-o-log)

   . . . .

3. He has a MONOpoly of the trade (mon-op'-o-lee)

   . . . .

4. He lives in a MONastery (mon'-ass-tair-ee)

   . . . .

5. He is riding a BIcycle (bye'-sickle)   . . . .

6. Man is a BIped (bye'-ped)   . . . .

7. France and England made a BIlateral (bye-lat'-er-al) agreement

   . . . .

8. A rectangle is a POLYgon (pol'-ee-gon)

   . . . .

9. A MISOgynist (miss-oj'-i-nist) shuns the company of women

   . . . .

10. Romans practiced POLYtheism (pol'-ee-thee'-izm, *th* as in *think*)

    . . . .

11. The apoTHEOsis (ap-o-thee'-o-sis, *th* as in *think*) of Hitler by the German people

    . . . .

12. The President's wonderful stamp collection is the envy of PHILatelists (fil-at'-el-ists)   . . . .

13. The ANTHROPOid (an'-thro-poyd) apes are similar in appearance to humans

    . . . .

14. BioLOGY (bye-ol'-o-jee) is a fascinating science

    . . . .

15. England is a MONarchy (mon'-ark-ee)   . . . .

VI. It will be good practice for you, if you will, to check over and pronounce *out loud* the words you have learned:

1-Gamy—marriage

monogamy
bigamy
polygamy
misogamy

2-Mono—one

monotheism
monogamy
monocle
monologue
monopoly
monastery
monarchy

3-Bi—two

bigamy
bicuspid
bicycle
biped
bilateral

4-POLY—many

polygamy
polyglot
polygon
polytheism

5-MISO—hatred of

misogamy
misogynist
misanthropy

6-THEO—god

theology
monotheism
apotheosis

7-ANTHROPO
—man

misanthropy
anthropoid
anthropology
philanthropy

8-PHILO—
love of

philology
philatelist
philanthropy

9-LOGY—knowledge,
study of

biology
theology
philology
anthropolgy

We believe that the scientific method used in this chapter of breaking up words into their component parts and then tracing them to their roots, will show you a quick and simple way to learn many new words.

The object of this book, you see, is not merely to help you enlarge your vocabulary, but to offer you various practical hints that will make it easier for you to go on with this work long after you have finished the last page.