

## LESSON 2

*Gallia est omnis divisa in partes tres.*

All Gaul is divided into three parts. – JULIUS CAESAR

### Base Words

bicentennial	decathlon	quartet	trisect
centenary	decimate	quatrain	triumvirate
centigrade	quadrant	trilogy	

### MONOS <Greek> “one”

#### 1. monologue [mon + *logos* <Greek> “word, speech”]

- n. A long speech made by one performer or by one person in a group.

Because my friend does all the talking, our conversation usually turns into a **monologue**.

*Other Forms:* **monologist**, n.

### TRI <Greek> “three” TRES <Latin> “three”

#### 1. trilogy [tri + *logos* <Greek> “word,” “speech”]

- n. A group of three literary or musical works that have a related theme.

*The Lord of the Rings*, Tolkien’s popular **trilogy**, contains these novels: *The Fellowship of the Ring*, *The Two Towers*, and *The Return of the King*.

#### 2. trisect [tri + *secare* <Latin> “to cut”] tr. v. To divide into three parts.

The two freeways trisected the once-united community into three separate neighborhoods.

*Other Forms:* **trisection**, n.; **trisector**, n.

#### 3. triumvirate [tri + *vir* <Latin> “man”]

- n. A group of three, especially in authority.

In ancient Rome the Second **Triumvirate** was composed of Mark Anthony, Augustus Caesar, and Lepidus.

### QUARTUS <Latin> “fourth” QUATUOR <Latin> “four”

#### 4. quadrant

- n. 1. (mathematics) A quarter of a circle or its circumference.

A **quadrant** contains 90 degrees of the 360 degrees of a circle.

2. An early machine for measuring altitudes.

Although primitive, the **quadrant** enabled explorers to take accurate measurements.

3. Any of the four parts of an area divided by perpendicular lines.

Rescuers divided the forest into **quadrants** and searched each thoroughly for survivors.

#### 5. quartet

- n. 1. A musical composition for four voices or instruments.

Most operas contain a **quartet** for two women (a soprano and an alto) and two men (a tenor and a bass).

2. A set of four, especially of four musicians.

During the complicated heart operation, a **quartet** of surgeons worked for ten hours.

#### 6. quatrain

- n. A stanza or group of four lines of poetry.

Most nursery rhymes, like “Little Bo Peep Has Lost Her Sheep,” are written in **quatrains**.

**NOTA BENE:** *Pente* and *quinque* are both roots that mean “five.” They appear in many words. *Pente*, for example, is the root in *pentagon*, “a five-sided figure,” and *pentathlon*, “an Olympic event testing five different skills.” *Quinque* is the root for words like *quintet*, “a group of five,” and *quintuplets*, “five babies born to one mother at the same time.”

You will recognize the roots *sex*, *septem*, *octo*, and *novem*, which mean “six,” “seven,” “eight,” and “nine” respectively, in many familiar words. For example, September, October, and November were the seventh, eighth, and ninth months of the Roman calendar.

Combined with the root *-ginta*, which means “ten times,” they form the words to indicate a person whose age is between 60 and 70, a *sexagenarian*; between 70 and 80, a *septuagenarian*; between 80 and 90, an *octogenarian*; and between 90 and 100, a *nonagenarian*. Combined with the root *plus*, which means “fold,” these roots make *sextuple*, *septuple*, *octuple*, and *nonuple*, indicating six, seven, eight, or nine times.

## DEKA <Greek> “ten” DECEM <Latin> “ten”

### 7. decimate

- v. 1. To destroy a large part of.

European diseases like measles **decimated** Native American populations because they had no immunity.

2. To kill one in every ten.

To punish a legion that had shown cowardice, the Roman army sometimes **decimated** soldiers of all ranks on the basis of a lottery.

Other Forms: **decimation**, n.

### 8. decathlon [deka + athlon <Greek> “contest”] n. An athletic contest in which each contestant takes part in ten events.

The winner of the Olympic decathlon can be considered an all-around athlete.

NOTA BENE: Several Olympic competitions combine several sports. In the biathlon athletes compete in *two* sports: cross-country skiing and rifle shooting. The *five* sports of the pentathlon are usually running, fencing, swimming, horseback riding, and pistol shooting. The *decathlon* includes ten track and field events.

## CENTUM- <Latin> “hundred”

### 9. bicentennial [bi <Latin> “two”; + cent + annus <Latin> “year”]

- n. A two-hundredth anniversary.

In 1989 the **bicentennial** of the first ten amendments to the U.S. Constitution, the Bill of Rights, was celebrated.

- adj. Happening every 200 years.

As part of **bicentennial** events honoring the French Revolution, the Louvre, the great Parisian museum, was enlarged in 1988.

Other Forms: **bicentennially**, adv.

### 10. centenary

- adj. Pertaining to a 100-year period.

Our town is preparing a time capsule of contemporary articles to be opened at its next **centenary** celebration.

- n. A centennial.

By its first **centenary** Boston’s population had tripled.

### 11. centigrade [cent + gradus <Latin> “step”]

- adj. Referring to a thermometer scale of 100 degrees where water freezes at 0° and boils at 100°.

Although most Americans continue to use the Fahrenheit scale where water freezes at 32° and boils at 212°, scientists use the **centigrade** scale because it makes calculations easier.

### Familiar Words

centipede	percent	quadruple	trio
decade	quadrangle	trimester	triplicate

### Challenge Words

centenarian	quarto	quatrefoil	trinity
Decalogue	quarry	trident	trptych
duodecimal			