Lessons 6

Magna est veritas et praevalet.
The truth is great and it will prevail. —ESDRAS

Base Words

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<th>copious</th>
<th>magnanimous</th>
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**COPIA <Latin> “plenty”**

1. **copious**
   
   The *copious* correspondence of Madame de Sevigne written to her daughter gives a vivid picture of her life in the court of Louis XIV.
   
   *Other Forms: copiously, adv.*

**MAKROS <Greek> “large”**

2. **macrocosm** [*macro + kosmos <Greek> “universe”]*
   
   n. 1. The universe.
       
       Theoretical physicists have attempted to determine the size of the *macrocosm*.
   
   2. Any great whole.
       
       Try to imagine your own family in relation to the *macrocosm* of the human family.
       
       *Other Forms: macrocosmic, adj.*
       
       *Antonym: microcosm*

**MAGNUS <Latin> “great”**

3. **magnanimous** [*magn + animus <Latin> “mind,” “spirit”]*
   
   adj. Noble and generous, especially in forgiving; not petty.
   
   On her deathbed she made the *magnanimous* gesture of forgiving all debts owed her.
   
   *Other Forms: magnanimity, n.; magnanimously, adv.*

4. **magnate**
   
   n. A wealthy, influential person, especially in business.
   
   Ezra Cornell, a lumber *magnate*, left his fortune to found Cornell University.

5. **magnitude**
   
   n. 1. Greatness of importance or size.
       
       Early explorers of the South American coast had no idea of the *magnitude* of the continent.
   
   2. The degree of brightness of a star.
       
       The constellation Orion contains two stars of the highest *magnitude*, Betelgeuse and Rigel.

**MEGAS <Greek> “great”**

6. **megalomania** [*megalo + mania <Greek> “madness”]*
   
   n. 1. A form of mental illness in which a person has exaggerated ideas of his or her own importance.
       
       His *megalomania* prevents him from recognizing his faults or appreciating the talents of others.
   
   2. An obsessive idea to do things on a grand scale.
       
       *Megalomania* drove the couple to build a swimming pool larger than their modest house.
       
       *Other Forms: megalomaniac, n.*

*Nota bene:* Both of the prefixes *demi* and *semi* indicate “half” or “partial.” *Demi* usually means “less than full size or status” as in *demitasse*, a small cup. *Semi* means “part,” as in *semiformal, semiofficial, or semiprecious*, or it can indicate “half” as in *semicircle or semianual*. 
7. polygamy [poly + gamos < Greek> “marriage”]
   n. The system of having more than one spouse at a time.
   Although polygamy was not generally practiced in ancient Greece, the rulers were allowed to be polygamous
to guarantee that they would have heirs.
   Other Forms: polygamous, adj.

8. polygon [poly + gonia < Greek> “angle”]
   n. A flat shape with many straight sides.
   Each of the five-pointed stars on the American flag is a polygon.
   Other Forms: polygonal, adj.

Challenge Words

| cornucopia | magnum opus | megalopolis | polyphonic |
| macrobiotic | megalith | polyglot | polytechnic |