

LESSON 15 – “Animals”

Base Words

apiary	canine	capricious	equitation
aviary	caper	equestrian	
bovine	caprice	equine	

APIS <L. "bee"

1. apiary

- n. A place where hives or colonies of bees are kept for their honey.
Since bees depend on sunlight to set their flight bearings, an **apiary** should be located with its entrance facing east.

AVIS <L. "bird"

2. aviary

- n. A house, enclosure, or large cage for birds.
Vibrantly colored parrots strutted inside the **aviary**.

BOS, BOVIS <L. "COW," "OX"

3. bovine

- adj. Having the quality of a cow or ox: sluggish, dull.
Despite the comedian's antics, the audience sat in **bovine** silence.

CANIS <L. "dog"

4. canine

- n. Member of the family of dogs,
Like dogs, wolves and foxes are **canines**.
adj. Pertaining to the family of dogs, and especially the qualities associated with them.
Two **canine** movie stars are the faithful Rin Tin Tin and Lassie.
NOTA BENE: Canine is also used to refer to the eyetooth, between the incisor and the bicuspid. The word is used as both noun and adjective. Example: The child wears braces to realign protruding canines, or to realign canine teeth.

CAPER (m.), CAPRA (f.) <L. "goat"

5. caper

- n. 1. A playful hop, leap, or skip.
The colorful streamers of the maypole and the agile **capers** of the dancers contributed to the festive ambience of an English May Day.
2. A prank or wild escapade.
Mr. Toad's motor-car-stealing **caper** begins with easy acceleration and ends with wheels churning up mud in a horse pond.
v. To leap, frolic, or frisk about.
The children **capered** excitedly when their kites began to soar.

6. caprice

- n. A sudden impulse, whim, or unmotivated change of mind.
Hating changes, cartoon character Charlie Brown dreads the **caprices** of his friend Lucy.

NOTA BENE: In music, a caprice is a lively instrumental work with a free form.

7. **capricious**

adj. Subject to whim; impulsive; unpredictable or fickle.

Popularity is **capricious**: yesterday's "insiders" are often on the outside today.

Other Forms: **capriciously**, adv.; **capriciousness**, n.

EQUUS <L. "horse"

8. **equine**

adj. Pertaining to a horse; belonging to the family of horses and zebras.

Rosa Bonheur, nineteenth-century painter of animals, used **equine** subjects in her huge painting, "Horse Fair."

9. **equitation**

n. The art of riding horses.

In the Middle Ages a knight was expected to become a master of **equitation**.

10. **equestrian**

adj. Pertaining to a rider of horses, or skill in riding.

An accomplished **equestrian** competitor, Robyn Smith was the first woman jockey to win a race involving major stakes.

n. One who rides or performs on horseback.

The Spaniards easily conquered the Americas not only because they were expert **equestrians**, but also because the native peoples had never before seen horses.

Familiar Words

aviation

aviator

Challenge Words

avian
