

# LESSON 5 – “More or Less”

*Satis eloquentiae, sapientiae parum.*

Enough eloquence, too little wisdom.

## Base Words

attenuate	implement	minuscule	satiare
comply	microbe	minutiae	tenuous
expletive	microcosm	replete	

## MIKROS <Greek> “small”

### 1. **microbe**

- n. An organism invisible to the naked eye, especially one that causes disease.  
Malaria is caused by a **microbe** that can be transmitted by the bite of certain mosquitoes.

### 2. **microcosm** (ml'kra k6z'am) [kosmos <Greek> “universe”]

- n. A miniature world; something that resembles something else on a very small scale.  
A school community is a **microcosm** of the whole society in which it exists.  
microcosmic, adj.

## MINUO, MINUERE, MINUI, MINUTUM <Latin> “to lessen” MINUS <Latin> “less”

### 3. **minuscule**

- adj. Extremely small.  
The dollhouse was furnished in every detail, including **minuscule** silver-ware and napkin rings.

### 4. **minutiae** [singular = *minutia*]

- n. Small or trivial details.  
A seemingly insignificant **minutiae** – like fragments of bone or pottery chips – can yield important information at an archeological site.

## TENUO, TENUARE, TENUAVI, TENUATUM <Latin> “to make thin” TENUIS <Latin> “thin”

### 5. **attenuate** [*at=ad*<Latin> “to,” “toward” + **tenu**]

- v. 1. To make slender or small.  
Famine had **attenuated** the population of the village to a few dozen people.  
2. To weaken; to reduce in force or value.  
The forest of tall trees **attenuated** the force of the gale before it hit the town.

### 6. **tenuous**

- adj. 1. Thin in form.  
The spider spun a web of **tenuous** threads.  
2. Flimsy; having little substance or validity.  
Most students have only a **tenuous** grasp of economics. tenuously, adv.

## SALIS <Latin> “enough”

### 7. **satiare**

- v. To satisfy an appetite fully; to gratify to excess.  
During our stay in Italy we **satiated** ourselves on art, opera, and pasta.  
*Other Forms:* **satiation**, n.; **satiety**, n.

## IMPLEO, IMPLERE, IMPLEVI, IMPLETUM <Latin> “to fill” PLENUS <Latin> “full”

### 8. **comply** [*com = cum* <Latin> intensifier + **ply**]

- v. To do as one is asked or ordered.

Many historians believe the civil rights movement began in earnest when Rosa Parks refused to **comply** with the law requiring black people to sit in the back of the bus.

*Other Forms:* **compliance**, n.; **compliant**, adj.; **compliance**, n.

9. **implement** [*im = in* <Latin> + **plet**]

n. A tool or utensil

Inventor Cyrus McCormick's **implement** for harvesting grain, the "McCormick reaper," revolutionized nineteenth-century agriculture.

v. To carry out; to put into effect.

Using old newspapers and yearbooks, we were able to **implement** our project to trace the history of our school.

10. **replete** [*re* <Latin> "again" + **plet**]

adj. 1. Well-stocked or abundantly supplied.

I like a novel **replete** with suspense and danger.

2. Completely filled; utterly satisfied.

**Replete** with Thanksgiving dinner, we agreed to postpone doing the dishes.

11. **expletive** [*ex* <Latin> "out" + **plet**]

n. An exclamation or oath, often obscene.

Although we couldn't speak their language, we could tell they were uttering angry **expletives** at us.

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**Familiar Words**

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accomplish	diminish	microwave	replenish
asset	microfiche	minor	

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**Challenge Words**

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extenuate	minuet	plenipotentiary
mince	plenary	

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