

# LESSON 6

*Magna est veritas et praevalet.*

The truth is great and it will prevail. – ESDRAS

## Base Words

copious	magnanimous	magnitude	polygamy
macrocosm	magnate	megalomania	polygon

### 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 *semiannual*.

## POLY <Greek> “many”

### 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

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cornucopia

*magnum opus*

megalopolis

polyphonic

macrobiotic

megalith

polyglot

polytechnic

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magniloquent