

ASSIGNMENT

I. Learn the following bases and their meanings. Study each base so that you can recognize it when it occurs in a long, compound word.

<i>Latin Base</i>	<i>Meanings</i>	<i>English Derivatives</i>
ALIEN-	of another	alien, alienation
ART-	art, skill	art, artifact
FIN-	end, limit	final, definite
FIRM-	firm, strong	firmament, confirm
FORT-	strong	fort, forte, comfort
GRAND-	great	grand, grandeur
GRAV-, [GRIEV-]	heavy	grave, grievance
(Grief is an orthographic variation of the form GRIEV-.)		
LINE-, [LIGN-]	line	line, align
NIHIL-	nothing	annihilate, nihilism
NUL(L)-	nothing	null, annul
PART-	part	part, depart
VERB-	word, verb	verb, adverb, verbatim, proverb
VEST-	garment	vest, vestment

II. Some bases listed above appear as English words by themselves or with the addition of a final *e*; however, without using a dictionary, list as many other words formed from each of them as you can. For example, from the base GRAND- have come *grandee*, *grandiose*, *grandam*, *grandioso*, *grandiloquent*, *grandeur*, the combining form *grand-*, which appears in words such as *grandfather*, and the foreign proper names *Grand-Terre*, *Rio Grande*, *Grande Soufriere* as well as several borrowed foreign expressions such as *Grand Prix*, *grand tour*, and *Grand signior*. You must check your words in a dictionary to make sure that they actually contain the particular Latin base. For instance, *investigate* has nothing to do with VEST-, "garment," but is formed from another base VESTIG-, "trace." It will be found that the meanings given for the bases do not always exactly fit the definitions of the words containing them, for over the years various changes of meaning have occurred, some of which will be studied in later lessons. Nevertheless, in most cases, a connection between the meaning of the base and the modern definition can be seen.

III. List the base and its meaning in each of the following italicized words and define the word as it is used in the sentence or phrase.

Example: departure—PART- part: an act or instance of departing or leaving.

1. For an *infinitesimal* fraction of a second his fingers closed again on the small object.—Joseph Conrad
2. Even ill-health, though it *annihilated* several years of my life, has saved me from the distractions of society and amusement.—Charles Darwin
3. The fact that he sought the burgeoning countryside in ignorance of what he was doing, while I expose myself to the *aggravation* of hay, does not alter the case.—E.B. White
4. It was in the cards that he would never attain the Presidency; his reaction to flower dust *nullified* his qualities of leadership.—E.B. White
5. . . . they are endowed by their Creator with certain *unalienable* Rights.—Thomas Jefferson
6. His fluency betrayed him into *verbiage*, and his descriptions are more diffuse than vigorous.—John Addington Symonds

7. The *investiture* of Prince Charles as the Prince of Wales took place at Caernarvon Castle in northwest Wales.
8. He that is well practiced in his art may write *verbatim* as fast as a man can . . . speak.—John Wilson, *The Art of Stenography*
9. Preaching, not teaching, was his *forte*.—William Allen White
10. An ambitious man might make his own *aggrandizement*, by the aid of a foreign power, the price of his treachery to his constituents.— *The Federalist*
11. The governments and society of Europe, for a year at least, regarded the Washington Government as dead, and its ministers as *nullities*.—Henry Adams
12. In his writings, Proust became famous for his extraordinary *particularization* of daily events.
13. Indeed, Titian's twelve-sheet print *The Submersion of Pharaoh's Army in the Red Sea*, in its tonal vigor and *grandeur* of notation, is to woodcut what the Sistine Chapel is to fresco.
—*Time*
14. . . .travelled for hours in those long thoroughfares that seemed to stretch away into *infinitude*.—W.H. Hudson
15. In the speech he gave a clear *affirmation* of his former pledge.
16. While he thus disgusted his subjects by his haughty deportment, he *alienated* their affections by the imposition of grievous taxes.—William Hickling Prescott
17. But he looked again, and the face and person seemed gradually to grow less strange, to change . . .into *lineaments* that were familiar.—Dickens
18. Religion by force, especially of the state, is a moral *travesty* and a contradiction in terms for modern man.—*Harper's Magazine*
19. Poor fellow, his brain slipped a cog and went out of *alignment* and he was taken off to the funny farm.—Bill Mark
20. How can one be objective about anything? I find it impossible to exhibit *impartiality* even to the smallest degree.—Allan Magee