

THEATRE AND LANGUAGE

By Julia Hinson

Hello! The goal of this course is to integrate basic performance skills with language using Greek and Latin Prefixes and Word Roots. By allowing students to embody the language they will be able to retain the meanings and recognize roots and prefixes in other words and overall enhance their language.

The activities in this lesson should be suitable for all ages, the only things you may want to change depending on the age of your students are the difficulty of the word roots and words. Below is a list of alternate word roots you can use.

THEATRE TECHNIQUE and VOCABULARY

To integrate the theatre concepts in this lesson you will need to pay extra attention to how your students move and speak. With each exercise you should be looking for planted feet, a fully engaged body, and a loud and articulate voice. Make students repeat their tableaux and gestures until they are achieving all of those skills together confidently.

Most of the exercises rely on improvisation (ilmprov). Students shouldn't be "thinking" of any movements they are creating, but instead jumping in and "playing". Often if I see a student "thinking" too much, I will say "Don't think, just do!"

WARM UP

I encourage you to always take the time to prepare the class to play and perform. The warm up brings a seriousness to the work. We are not here to just goof around, acting is a serious practice and it is important to prepare! In our warm up we will engage the body, the voice and then bring the whole class into focus with focus exercise. Try to keep talking to a minimum as you do the warm up.

TONGUE TWISTERS

There are, of course countless tongue twisters. Below are some others you may want to try. You could even take some of the words you learn as part of the lesson and create new ones!

"Red Leather Yellow Leather"

"Good Blood Bad Blood"

"Unique New York, Unique New York. You Know You Need Unique New York"

"Irish Wristwatch"

"Eleven Benevolent Elephants"

"One Black Bug Bled Blue Black Blood, While the Other Black Bug Bled Blue."

"One Slick Snake Slid Up the Stake, While the Other Slick Snake Slid Down."

"Phil forgot to photograph the flamingo." (Photograph being one of the words from the lesson.)

ALTERNATIVE FOCUS EXERCISE

COUNT TO 20- In this exercise the whole class closes their eyes and they have to, one at a time, say a number counting to 20. If more than one student talks at a time they have to start again. This one works especially well in an online space.

HISTORY

Here are some reference videos if you would like to learn more about the history of Greek and Latin in the English Language. *These are teacher resources only.* Some might be suitable to show your students, but some may have more adult or advanced content. Be sure to watch them yourself first!

History of English in Ten Minutes

<https://youtu.be/H3r9bOkYW9s>

History of the English Language

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0b5dyb1msk0>

Latin and Greet Roots and Affixes

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fiaPqgwJFo4&t=2s>

How did Latin Become a Dead Language

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6ZJ0fzr1ajg&t=106s>

English: Is it a Germanic Language or Romance Language

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zx7LevV9EB8&t=55s>

Extra Word Roots

Common Greek & Latin Roots, Stems, and Affixes

Root	Meaning	Example	Root	Meaning	Example
anti	against	antiperspirant	mono	one	monogram
aqua	water	aquarium	non	not	nonfiction
aud/audi	hear	audible	ped	foot	pedestrian
bene	good	benefit	pend	hang	pendulum
bi	two	bicycle	penta	five	pentagon
biblio	book	bibliography	phobia	fear	arachnophobia
bio	life	biology	phon	sound	microphone
cent	one hundred	centimeter	photo	light	photograph
centri	center	concentric	poly	many	polygon
chron	time	chronological	port	carry	transport
circum	around	circumference	post	after	posttest
dorm	sleep	dormitory	pre	before	pretest
extra	beyond	extraordinary	punct	point	punctuate
geo	earth	geography	re	again	review
homo	same	homonym	scribe	write	scribble
hydr/hydro	water	hydroelectric	semi	half	semicircle
inter	between	interview	spec	look	inspect
magn	great	magnificent	sub	under	submarine
mal	bad	malnourished	tele	far	telescope
mega	large	megastore	therm	heat	thermometer
micro	small	microscopic	tri	three	tricycle
mis	bad	mistake	un	not	unpleasant

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