Many a time,... from a bad beginning great friendships have sprung up.

- Terence
  185-159 B.C.
Caesar’s English
Vocabulary from Latin
Lesson Two

1. countenance: facial expression
2. profound: deep
3. manifest: obvious
4. prodigious: huge
5. languor: weakness

countenance
The English noun countenance refers to the contents of the face. A person’s countenance can be cheerful, stormy, or melancholy. You might see a smiling countenance or a morose (sad and gloomy) countenance. There could be a look of disappointment on the countenance. James M. Barrie wrote, in Peter Pan, that “This ill-luck had given a gentle melancholy to his countenance.” In Robert Louis Stevenson’s book Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde, there is a man of “rugged countenance that was never lighted by a smile” and a “grave countenance.” James Fennimore Cooper used countenance in his 1826 novel The Last of the Mohicans: “The countenance of Hawk-eye was haggard and careworn, and his air dejected.” In Tom Sawyer, Mark Twain wrote that “A boding uneasiness took possession of every countenance.”

Countenance is a very old English word. Coming from the Latin continentia, it was even used by Geoffrey Chaucer in his 1385 poem, The Canterbury Tales, to describe one who is enduring woe (sadness), but who does not let heaviness show on his countenance; Chaucer wrote, “As I may best, I wol my wo endure, ne make no contenance of hevinessse.” As you can see, English spelling has changed a lot in 600 years!
What do you think Charles Dickens meant by “the florid countenance of Mr. Stryver”?

**profound**
The adjective **profound**, from the Latin *profundus*, means deep, and in a related way, it can also mean complete or even absolute. An ocean can be profound, but so can an idea, as in profound philosophy. There can be profound differences between people. Richard Wright wrote about a profound silence. In James M. Barrie’s *Peter Pan*, Captain Hook was “profoundly dejected,” which meant that he was deeply sad. Sylvia Plath described “the profound void of an empty stomach,” and in *The Double Helix*, James Watson described “the heart of a profound insight into the nature of life itself.” In *Why We Can’t Wait*, Martin Luther King wrote, “What silenced me was a profound sense of awe.” In *Hamlet*, Shakespeare described Hamlet’s odd behavior this way: “He raised a sigh so piteous and profound as it did seem to shatter all his bulk and end his being.”

Could a countenance be profound?

What do you think Jonathan Swift meant in his 1726 book, *Gulliver’s Travels*, when he described “profound learning”? In what way can learning be profound?

**manifest**
The English adjective **manifest** comes from the Latin *manifestus* and means obvious. When something is manifest, it is completely apparent and open to view. The noun form of this word is **manifestation**, and there is even a verb form: something can **manifest** itself, meaning make itself obvious or clear. In George Orwell’s 1945 book *Animal Farm*, he wrote that the pigs were “manifestly cleverer than the other animals.” In his great American classic *Walden*, Henry David Thoreau wrote that “The squirrels manifest no concern whether the
woods will bear chestnuts this year or not.” And Martin Luther King wrote that “The yearning for freedom eventually manifests itself.”

Could confidence be manifest on your countenance?

What did Jack London mean when he wrote in *The Call of the Wild* that “To Buck’s surprise these dogs manifested no jealousy toward him”?

**prodigious**

The English adjective **prodigious**, from the Latin *prodigiosus*, means huge or marvelous. Things that are prodigious are amazing. Rachel Carson wrote in *Silent Spring* that in the wild, microscopic mites and other insects are present in “prodigious numbers.” *Silent Spring* was a science book that helped warn the world of the dangers of DDT and other toxic pesticides. In *The Yearling*, Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings wrote that “The effort needed to move the dead weight was prodigious.” In his play *The Crucible*, Arthur Miller wrote, “There is a prodigious stench in this place.” Robert Louis Stevenson wrote about prodigious numbers of seagulls and of a “prodigious valley, strewn with rocks and where ran a foaming river.”

Exactly what did Stevenson mean in *Treasure Island* when he wrote, “The Spaniards were so prodigiously afraid of him.”

**languor**

**Languor** is weakness, either of body or of mind. Languor comes from the Latin verb *languere*, to languish. If you are weak, weary, tired, or droopy, you are in a state of languor. The noun **languor** can transform and appear as the adjectives **languid** and **languorous** or as the verb **languish**. When we feel languor, our gestures and movements can be languid or languorous, such as the weak wave of the hand we make when we are tired. We can also speak in a tired, weak, languid
way. The Irish writer James Joyce once wrote that "A languorous weariness passed over him." If it gets very hot, we might feel languid; in The Secret Garden, Frances Hodgson Burnett wrote, "In India she had always felt hot and too languid to care much about anything." In Grahame's The Wind in the Willows, the lazy Toad replies languidly. We can even describe things in nature this way: Joseph Conrad refers to the "oily and languid sea" in his novel Heart of Darkness. One of the best sentences comes from H.G. Wells, who described a Martian invasion in his novel, The War of the Worlds. We never learn the name of the main character who narrates the book, but at one point he says, "My movements were languid, my plans of the vaguest."

Could it be manifest that you were profoundly languorous? Could you have a languid countenance?

Who's That Writer?
Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings, the author of The Yearling, was born in Washington, D.C., in 1896. She began writing when she was six years old, and earned a degree in English from the University of Wisconsin. Rawlings fell in love with Florida during a visit to her brother-in-law in 1926, and returned in 1928 to buy seventy-two acres at Cross Creek, near Gainesville. In 1939 The Yearling won the Pulitzer Prize. Rawlings died in 1953 at the age of fifty-seven.

What is This Writer Saying?
Discuss the meaning of the bold word in each of the following sentences:

From George Orwell's Animal Farm: "Napoleon appeared to change countenance."
From James M. Barrie’s *Peter Pan*: “His eyes were of the blue of the forget-me-not, and of a **profound** melancholy.”

From James Watson’s *The Double Helix*: “The combination of his **prodigious** mind and his infectious grin was unbeatable.”

From Rachel Carson’s *Silent Spring*: “Toxins may sleep long in the body, to become **manifest** months or years later in an obscure disorder almost impossible to trace to its origins.”

From Frederick Douglass’s *The Narrative of Frederick Douglass*: “My natural elasticity was crushed, my intellect **languished**, the disposition to read departed.”

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**Caesar’s Spanish**

Everywhere we turn, language reveals to us that modern English and modern Spanish are both descendants of ancient Latin:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Latin</th>
<th>Spanish</th>
<th>English</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>profundus</td>
<td>profundo</td>
<td>profound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>manifestus</td>
<td>manifesto</td>
<td>manifest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>prodigiosus</td>
<td>prodigioso</td>
<td>prodigious</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>languidus</td>
<td>lánguido</td>
<td>languid</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Caesar’s Synonyms

Here are words that are similar to the words in our list, but are they exactly the same in meaning? Or are they slightly different? For each word on our list, look up any synonym that you do not know, then pick one, and carefully explain the difference between it and our word.

**countenance:** visage, expression, physiognomy, look, aspect, presence, mien, air, lineament, appearance

**profound:** deep, far-reaching, absolute, thorough, penetrating, unqualified, enlightened, wise, sapient, sagacious, judicious

**manifest:** obvious, apparent, illustrate, evince, typify, embody, personify, distinct, conspicuous, evident, noticeable, observable, palpable, unmistakable, plain

**prodigious:** great, enormous, marvelous, extraordinary, large, powerful, vast

**languor:** dreaminess, laziness, listlessness, quiet, stillness, inertia, lassitude, inaction, idleness, dormancy, stupor, torpidity, sluggishness, stagnation, drowsiness, somnolence

Caesar’s Rewrites

Here are some sentences from famous books. In each case, rewrite the sentence into more ordinary words. Example from Marjorie Rawlings’s *The Yearling*: “A languor crept over him.” The rewrite: Little by little, he began to feel lazy.

From James Barrie’s *Peter Pan*: “This ill-luck had given a gentle melancholy to his countenance.”

From Jack London’s *Call of the Wild*: “To Buck’s surprise these dogs manifested no jealousy toward him.”
From Frances Hodgson Burnett's *The Secret Garden*: “In India she had always felt hot and too **languid** to care much about anything.”

From Mark Twain's *Tom Sawyer*: “The middle-aged man turned out to be a **prodigious** personage—no less than the county judge.”

From Ralph Ellison's *Invisible Man*: “I felt **profoundly** sad, as though winter had fallen during the hour.”

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**Real Latin**

**Vestis virum facit.**
Clothes make the man.

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**Caesar's Antonyms**

For each of the words in this lesson, think of a word that means the opposite. A word that means the opposite is known as an **antonym**.

1. countenance
2. profound
3. manifest
4. prodigious
5. languor

Are there any words in this list that have no antonyms? Are there any that it is very difficult to think of an antonym for? Why?
Caesar’s Analogies

Analogies are about relationships. Find a second pair of words that have the same relationship to each other as the first pair has. Remember that it sometimes helps to put the two words into a sentence that makes the relationship clear.

MANIFEST : OBSERVABLE ::
   a. acute : pain
   b. odious : lovable
   c. languor : weakness
   d. condescend : admire

WISDOM : PROFOUND ::
   a. acute : blunt
   b. prodigious : microscopic
   c. countenance : expression
   d. languor : weak

Review for Cumulative Quiz

| bi    | two  |
| sub   | under|
| de    | down |
| pre   | before|
| super | over |
| countenance | facial expression |
| profound | deep |
| manifest | obvious |
| prodigious | huge |
| languor | weakness |
countenance
facial expression

Found you
no displeasure
in him
by word
nor countenance?

- William Shakespeare
King Lear
Caesar's English
Ancient Latin Stems
Lesson Three

Latin Stem List

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>stem</th>
<th>meaning</th>
<th>examples</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>un</td>
<td>(not)</td>
<td>unequal, unable, undone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>inter</td>
<td>(between)</td>
<td>international, interstellar, interject</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>semi</td>
<td>(half)</td>
<td>semicircle, semiformal, semiannual</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dis</td>
<td>(away)</td>
<td>dismiss, distract, distort</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sym</td>
<td>(together)</td>
<td>symphony, sympathy, symmetry</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Latin Stem Talk

UN means not. An undone task is not completed, an unprepared person is not prepared, being unable to do something means not being able to do it, and unequal bowls of ice cream are not equal!

INTER means between. In the universe, interstellar space is the space between the stars. An international agreement is an agreement between nations. An interlude is a break between two parts of a performance; and to interject your opinion into a conversation is to insert yourself between two people who are trying to talk!

SEMI means half. A semicircle is a half circle, and a semiannual event happens every six months—half a year!

DIS means away. To dismiss a class is to send the students away, and to distract someone is to draw their attention away!

SYM means together. In a symphony orchestra, musicians play together, and when we have sympathy for people, we feel a feeling of togetherness with them!
Caesar’s Analogy

The first two words are related to each other in a special way. Is one before the other? Is one inside the other? Are they opposites? Find the pair below that has the same relationship as the first pair!

INTERSTELLAR : STARS ::
  a. semicircle : circle
  b. dismiss : convene
  c. air : marbles
  d. unequal : equal

Advanced Word: Symphonic

The word symphonic (simm-FONN-ik) contains the Latin stems sym (together) and phon (sound). Symphonic means harmonic, a condition in which sounds sound good—in harmony—together. Symphonic is an adjective; it can modify either a noun or a pronoun, so you could have symphonic music or even symphonic voices. Most big cities have a symphony orchestra, which plays symphonic music, which sounds symphonic to our ears.

Advanced Word: Interpose

The verb interpose is a good word. Interpose contains the Latin stems inter, between, and pos, put, and it means to put between, or to interject. People interpose their comments when they interrupt to say something, but we can also interpose an object between other things. For centuries, interpose has been used by great writers, including Milton, Swift, Austen, Cooper, Hawthorne, and Kipling. Jonathan Swift described the “interposition of a cloud” in Gulliver’s Travels. In The Last of the Mohicans, James Fennimore Cooper wrote that it was “as if a supernatural agency had interposed in the behalf of Uncas.” Emily Brontë, in her immortal novel Wuthering Heights, wrote
that “She held her hand interposed between the furnace heat and her eyes.” In *Kim*, Kipling wrote that “Father Victor saw Kim edging toward the door, and interposed a strong leg.” Frederick Douglass wrote in his autobiography that “Not one interposed a friendly word” and that “In this state I appeared before my master, humbly entreat-ing him to interpose his authority for my protection.” In *A Passage to India*, E.M. Forster observed that “The chauffeur interposed aggressively.” In 1895 Stephen Crane described a scene from the Civil War in his novel, *The Red Badge of Courage*: “A rolling gray cloud again interposed as the regiment doggedly replied.” And William Golding wrote, in his *Lord of the Flies*, that “the vivid phantoms of his day-dream still interposed between him and Piggy.”

Which of these examples of *interpose* do you like the best?
How many different meanings of *interpose* do you see?
How many of these novels that use *interpose* have you heard of before?

**Who’s That Writer?**

Emily Brontë, the author of the great romantic novel, *Wuthering Heights*, was born in Thornton, Yorkshire, England, on July 30, 1818. She had one brother and three sisters, including Charlotte, who wrote the great novel *Jane Eyre*. Emily’s mother died in 1824. Emily and her sister Charlotte wrote poems and novels when they were children, but when they published *Jane Eyre* and *Wuthering Heights* in 1847, their fame skyrocketed. Emily died in 1848, having caught a cold at her brother’s funeral.
Caesar’s Spanish

Everywhere we turn, language reveals to us that modern English and modern Spanish are both descendants of ancient Latin:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>stem</th>
<th>meaning</th>
<th>English / Spanish examples</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>un</td>
<td>(not)</td>
<td>unable / incapaz (un = in)</td>
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<tr>
<td>inter</td>
<td>(between)</td>
<td>international / internacional</td>
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<td>semi</td>
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<td>distract / distraer</td>
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<td>sym</td>
<td>(together)</td>
<td>sympathy / simpatía</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

A Roman Fact

The emperor Titus (pronounced TIE-tuss) was opposed to capital punishment. During his reign, he executed no one, and even had informers flogged. Once, two patricians (upper class Romans) were caught in a plot to overthrow Titus, and rather than have them executed, he sent them a warning. Then, he sent a messenger to one of the conspirator’s worried mothers, assuring her that he would not execute her son.
Caesar’s Word Search

In the box below, find the Latin-based English words. They might be vertical, horizontal, or at angles. Circle each word that you find.

| V | H | I | S | S | D | D | Z | K | Z | L | T | L | E |
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| B | M | N | M | I | U | I | M | T | N | Q | H | D | T |
| K | P | T | M | C | N | S | F | P | R | Y | D | O | E |
| U | A | E | E | I | A | Z | A | O | H | A | C | N | R |
| D | T | R | T | R | B | R | K | T | R | O | C | E | S |
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| S | J | J | M | L | U | N | E | Q | U | A | L | O | A |
| S | U | S | I | D | I | S | T | O | R | T | J | R |
| S | E | M | I | A | N | N | U | A | L | Z | J | A | K |

_[UNEQUAL]_  _[INTERNATIONAL]_  _[SEMICIRCLE]_  _[DISMISS]_
_[SYMPHONY]_  _[UNABLE]_  _[INTERSTELLAR]_  _[SEMIFORMAL]_
_[DISTRACT]_  _[SYMPATHY]_  _[UNDONE]_  _[INTERJECT]_
_[SEMIANNUAL]_  _[DISTORT]_  _[SYMMETRY]_

Real Latin

**Multa dubito.**
I have many doubts.
Julius Caesar, from his *Commentaries on the Gallic Wars*:

Caesar hurried preparations for an expedition to Britain, for he knew that in all the Gallic campaigns the Gauls had gotten reinforcements from the Britons. Even if there was not time for a campaign that season, he thought it would be an advantage just to visit the island, to see what its inhabitants were like, and to become acquainted with the land, the harbours, and the landing places. Of all this the Gauls knew nothing.

Review for Cumulative Quiz

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Definition</th>
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<td>huge</td>
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<tr>
<td>languor</td>
<td>weakness</td>
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When a building is about to fall down, all the mice desert it.

- Pliny the Elder
  23-79 A.D.
Caesar’s English
Vocabulary from Latin
Lesson Four

1. **serene**: calm
2. **acute**: sharp
3. **grotesque**: distorted
4. **condescend**: to patronize
5. **odious**: hateful

**serene**

The adjective **serene** means calm, clear, peaceful. **Serene** comes to English from the Latin *serenus*, which came to Latin from the ancient Greek *xeros*, which meant dry. When a sky is dry, it has no clouds, rain, or storms in it; it is clear and peaceful. Kenneth Grahame, in *The Wind in the Willows*, described “the moon, serene and detached in a cloudless sky.” A person’s face can be like a peaceful, cloudless sky, too, as when Thomas Hardy wrote of his character’s “serene Minerva-eyes” in *The Mayor of Casterbridge*. When we are deeply at peace in our hearts, this internal calm can be called **serene**; Henry David Thoreau, the American thinker who wrote *Walden* about his experiences in the woods, said that “My serenity is rippled but not ruffled.” Mary Shelley used **serene** in her novel, *Frankenstein*; she wrote that “A serene sky and verdant fields filled me with ecstasy.” Curiously, Shelley also described “serene joy,” although the two words seem to suggest very different things. In Jane Austen’s novel *Pride and Prejudice*, we read about “the serenity of your sister’s countenance.”

What would a serene countenance look like? How would it be like a serene sky, or a serene sea? Could you feel profoundly serene?
**acute**

The English adjective *acute*, meaning sharp, can be traced all the way back to the ancient Romans, where *acus* meant needle in Latin. In mathematics, an acute angle is one that is less than 90 degrees. When someone has a sharp mind, we call that acute, too; in Jonathan Swift’s story, *Gulliver’s Travels*, someone has a “most acute judgment.” There is another sharp mind in Harriet Beecher Stowe’s *Uncle Tom’s Cabin*, where we see “an expression of great acuteness and shrewdness in his face.” A sharp pain is acute; Jane Austen wrote that “her head ached acutely” in her novel *Pride and Prejudice*. In *The Yearling*, Marjorie Rawlings wrote that “The gnawing in his stomach was an acute pain.” Having a sense of justice is another kind of acute pain; in *Vanity Fair*, Thackeray asked, “who has a sense of wrong so acute, and so glowing a gratitude for kindness, as a generous boy?”

Do you think someone’s mind could be both profound and acute? Could it be acute and serene at the same time?

**grotesque**

The adjective *grotesque* comes to English from the Italian Renaissance, where workmen who were digging a foundation suddenly had the ground fall away from them, and a great hole opened up. When they peered into the opening, they could see that it was not a natural cavern, but was a ruin; they were staring down into ancient rooms! Soon, they realized that they had discovered the long-buried remains of Roman Emperor Nero’s great palace, that later emperors had destroyed. When the artist Raphael heard about the find, he raced across town and had himself lowered down into the hole on a rope. He carried a torch with him, and when he held out the torch, he could see strange, distorted artwork all over the walls: weird animals and twisted human faces, creepy, exaggerated shapes. For the Italians, this weird, distorted style became known by the underground *grotto*
where it was found; it was *grotto--esque*, and our word *grotesque* is the result. Interestingly, the word grotto traces back to the vulgar Latin word crypta, hidden. We use the adjective *grotesque* to describe things that are physically weird looking, such as in novelist John Gardner's *Grendel*, where he describes “grotesquely muscled shoulders.” In *The Jungle*, Upton Sinclair wrote that a character “wore green spectacles, that gave him a grotesque appearance.” H.G. Wells wrote, in *The War of the Worlds*, that “huge black shapes, grotesque and strange, moved busily to and fro.” In Thornton Wilder’s novel *The Bridge of San Luis Rey*, he wrote that the “almost grotesque and hungry face became beautiful.” And Joseph Conrad wrote that “they had faces like grotesque masks” in his novel *Heart of Darkness*.

We do not always, however, use *grotesque* to describe physical appearances. In *Tom Sawyer*, Mark Twain wrote that “He kept up this grotesque foolishness.” In *Uncle Tom’s Cabin*, Harriet Beecher Stowe described “one of those wild grotesque songs.” And in *Grendel*, John Gardner wrote, “I scream, facing him, grotesquely shaking hands.”

In what way is grotesquely shaking hands similar to grotesquely muscled shoulders? How are grotesque masks like grotesque foolishness? What are some other examples of grotesque things that you can think of?

**condescend**

*To condescend* usually means to act superior to someone else, to act as though you have to descend down to their inferior level, that is lower than your own. The person who condescends might act as though it is unpleasant to converse with you, or as though he or she is doing you a favor to speak, and as though he is pleased with himself for being so generous. In Harper Lee’s novel *To Kill A Mockingbird*, the younger sister Scout Finch says that her older brother “Jem condescended to take me to school the first day.” In *Peter Pan*, Barrie
writes that “he would answer condescendingly.” In Stephen Crane’s masterpiece, *The Red Badge of Courage*, about a young boy named Henry Fleming who goes to fight in the Civil War, Henry “reflected, with condescending pity: ‘Too bad! Too bad! The poor devil, it makes him feel tough!’” In Emily Brontë’s classic *Wuthering Heights*, “She was forced to condescend to our company.” In Mark Twain’s *Tom Sawyer*, “These two great commanders did not condescend to fight in person.”

Sometimes, **condescend** has a different meaning, which is not so offensive to our feelings. It can refer to a situation where someone in authority or high rank sincerely does something considerate for someone else, perhaps for someone who is poor or helpless, and who may appreciate the effort. In Charlotte Brontë’s *Jane Eyre*, Jane says, “I did not feel insensible to his condescension, and would not seem so.”

Interestingly, **condescend** is one of the oldest words in the English language. From the Latin *condescendere*, it was even used in 1385 by Geoffrey Chaucer in his great poem *The Canterbury Tales*, and in 1667 by Milton, who wrote in *Paradise Lost*, “Gentle to me and affable hath been / Thy condescension.”

What do you think Thackeray meant in *Vanity Fair* when he wrote that “even great English lords and ladies condescended to speak to persons whom they did not know”?

Could someone condescend serenely? What would that mean?

**odious**

The adjective **odious**, from the Latin *odiosus*, refers to something that is repulsive, repugnant, hateful. We are disgusted by odious things, that can be odious in appearance, in sentiment, or in many other ways. In Robert Louis Stevenson’s *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*, we read that “A flash of odious joy appeared upon the woman’s face.” Henry
James gave the word a twist in his novel *The American*, writing, "You have been odiously successful." In *The House of the Seven Gables*, Nathaniel Hawthorne wrote, "Why do you keep that odious picture on the wall?" In Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*, we read, "Pray do not talk to that odious man."

Could someone have an odious expression on his or her face? Is it odious to condescend? Could something be odious and grotesque at the same time? Could something be profoundly odious?

**Who's That Writer?**

Kenneth Grahame, the author of *The Wind in the Willows*, was born in Edinburgh, Scotland, in 1859, just before the American Civil War. Grahame was educated at St. Edward's School, Oxford, and began professional life at the Bank of England. He began writing fiction in his spare time, and originally wrote chapters of *The Wind in the Willows* as letters to his son, Alistair. When *The Wind in the Willows* was published, it earned Grahame an international reputation. He followed with two sequels, *Toad Triumphant* and *The Willows and Beyond*. Grahame died on July 6, 1932.

**What Is This Writer Saying?**

Discuss the meaning of the bold word in each of the following sentences:

From Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*: "I see it as a night scene by El Greco: a hundred houses, at once conventional and grotesque, crouching under a sullen, overhanging sky and a lusterless moon."

From Mark Twain's *Tom Sawyer*: "...heard the stony hearted liar reel off his serene statement."

34 COPYRIGHTED MATERIAL • COPYING PROHIBITED 34
From Frances Hodgson Burnett’s *The Secret Garden*: “The Rajah **condescended** to seat himself on a rug under a tree.”

From Mark Twain’s *Tom Sawyer*: “It made the going into captivity and fetters again so much more **odious**.”

From Jean Craighead George’s *Julie of the Wolves*: “He turned his head almost upside down to get a more **acute** focus on her.”

**Caesar’s Synonyms**

Here are words that are similar to the words in our list, but are they exactly the same in meaning? Or are they slightly different? For each word on our list, look up any synonym that you do not know, then pick one, and carefully explain the difference between it and our word.

**serene**: unclouded, bright, tranquil, placid, peaceful, quiet, still, unruffled, even, calm, asleep

**acute**: sharp, sensitive, perceptive, crucial, severe, intense, shrill, keen, penetrating, pointed, peaked, agonizing, fierce, knifelike, piercing

**grotesque**: distorted, ludicrous, macabre, incongruous, grisly, brutish, outlandish, monstrous, odious, nightmarish, ghastly, hideous, scary, bizarre, dreadful, shocking, fanciful

**condescend**: patronize, stoop, lower oneself, deign, descend, talk down to, sink to a level below one’s dignity

**odious**: hateful, abhorrent, repugnant, loathsome, detestable, disgusting, repulsive, appalling, deplorable, atrocious, abominable
Real Latin
From Julius Caesar:

Gallia est omnis divisa in partes tres.
All of Gaul is divided into three parts.

Caesar’s Analogies
Analogies are about relationships. Find a second pair of words that have the same relationship to each other as the first pair has. Remember that it sometimes helps to put the two words into a sentence that makes the relationship clear.

SERENE : AGITATED ::
   a. loud : quiet
   b. profound : deep
   c. odious : mask
   d. countenance : strange

Caesar’s Spanish
Everywhere we turn, language reveals to us that modern English and modern Spanish are both descendants of ancient Latin:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Latin</th>
<th>Spanish</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>acutus</td>
<td>agudo</td>
<td>acute</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>serenus</td>
<td>sereno</td>
<td>serene</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>condescendere</td>
<td>condescender</td>
<td>condescend</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>odiosus</td>
<td>odioso</td>
<td>odious</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A Wordy Story...

On a serene spring afternoon, under a prodigious blue sky, an odious elf crept through the growing grass, a condescending sneer of profound arrogance acutely manifest on his sneering countenance. With a grotesque chuckle that disturbed the languorous day, he suddenly stopped, and hopped away, vanishing into the deep shadows of the trees that bordered the field.
Caesar’s Rewrites

Here are some sentences from famous books. In each case, rewrite the sentence into more ordinary words. Example from Marjorie Rawlings’s *The Yearling*: “A languor crept over him.” The rewrite: Little by little, he began to feel lazy.

From Jane Austen’s *Pride and Prejudice*: “Her head ached acutely.”

From Mary Shelley’s *Frankenstein*: “He looks upon study as an odious fetter.”

From Emily Brontë’s *Wuthering Heights*: “She was forced to condescend to our company.”


From Harriet Beecher Stowe’s *Uncle Tom’s Cabin*: “He could cut cunning little baskets out of cherry stones, could make grotesque faces on hickory nuts.”

Caesar’s Favorite Word

Think carefully about each of the words in this lesson—serene, acute, grotesque, condescend, and odious—and predict which of this lesson’s words you will use most often. Explain why you made this word your choice, and give at least three examples of situations in which you could use that word.
Caesar’s Antonyms

For each of the words in this lesson, think of a word that means the opposite. A word that means the opposite is known as an antonym.

1. serene
2. acute
3. grotesque
4. condescend
5. odious

Are there any words in this list that have no antonyms? Are there any that it is very difficult to think of an antonym for? Why?

Review for Cumulative Quiz

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>bi</th>
<th>two</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>sub</td>
<td>under</td>
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<tr>
<td>de</td>
<td>down</td>
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<td>pre</td>
<td>before</td>
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<td>over</td>
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<td>un</td>
<td>not</td>
</tr>
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<td>inter</td>
<td>between</td>
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<td>semi</td>
<td>half</td>
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<td>dis</td>
<td>away</td>
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<td>sym</td>
<td>together</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>countenance</td>
<td>facial expression</td>
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<tr>
<td>profound</td>
<td>deep</td>
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<tr>
<td>manifest</td>
<td>obvious</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>prodigious</td>
<td>huge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>languor</td>
<td>weakness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>serene</td>
<td>calm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>acute</td>
<td>sharp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>grotesque</td>
<td>distorted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>condescend</td>
<td>to patronize</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>odious</td>
<td>hateful</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
grotesque
weird, distorted

Great shapes like big machines rose out of the dimness, and cast grotesque black shadows.

-H.G. Wells
The Time Machine
Caesar’s English
Ancient Latin Stems
Lesson Five

Latin Stem List

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>stem</th>
<th>meaning</th>
<th>modern examples</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>circum</td>
<td>(around)</td>
<td>circumnavigate, circumspect, circumvent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mal</td>
<td>(bad)</td>
<td>malevolent, malady, malicious</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>post</td>
<td>(after)</td>
<td>posthumous, postscript, posterity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>equi</td>
<td>(equal)</td>
<td>equilateral, equivocate, equilibrium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ante</td>
<td>(before)</td>
<td>antebellum, antecedent, anterior</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Latin Stem Talk

**CIRCUM** means around. A ship can *circumnavigate* the Earth by sailing around it, to be *circumspect* is to be cautious and looking around, and to *circumvent* the rules is to get around them!

**MAL** means bad. A *malevolent* person has bad will or evil intentions, a *malady* is when you feel bad, and a *malicious* act is intentionally bad!

**POST** means after. A *posthumous* award is one given after its recipient has died, a *postscript* is the PS we put at the bottom of a letter after we have written it, and our *posterity* are our descendents who come after us.

**EQUI** means equal. An *equilateral* triangle has three equal sides, to *equivocate* is to equally take both sides of an issue, and *equilibrium* is a system in balance.

**ANTE** means before. The *antebellum* period is before the war, the *antecedent* is the noun that comes before the pronoun, and the *anterior* is the front part of something!
Caesar’s Analogy

The first two words are related to each other in a special way. Is one before the other? Is one inside the other? Are they opposites? Find the pair below that has the same relationship as the first pair!

**CIRCUMNAVIGATE : SHIP ::**

a. postscript : letter  
b. antebellum : war  
c. orbit : satellite  
d. equivocate: speaker

**Advanced Word: Circumspect**

The word *circumspect* (SIR-come-spect) contains the Latin stems *circum* (around) and *spect* (look). It means cautious, careful, on the lookout. *Circumspect* is an adjective, and so it can modify a noun or pronoun. You can have a circumspect spy, a circumspect answer, or a circumspect glance. In order to modify a pronoun, we would have to say something like, “She is circumspect.” *Circumspect* is like a one-word poem (I call them *micropoems*) because it has a little visual image of the careful person looking (spect) around (circum)!

**Advanced Word: Malevolence**

The noun *malevolence* is creepy! *Malevolence* means being mean, having bad (mal) will (vol) toward someone. *Malevolence* is the opposite of *benevolence*, which means kindness, and it can transform into the adjective *malevolent*. *Malevolence* was used nearly 400 years ago by Shakespeare in his play *Macbeth* to describe “the malevolence of fortune.” It was also used by Sir Walter Scott in *Ivanhoe* to describe a “wrathful malevolence” and to describe “any avaricious
or malevolent noble.” (The word avaricious means greedy.) Charlotte Brontë referred to “malevolent scorn” in her novel Jane Eyre. Malevolence has also been used by Charles Dickens, by Joseph Conrad, and by William Golding, who used the adverb form in Lord of the Flies: “He looked malevolently at Jack.” One of the best sentences comes from Harper Lee, who wrote, in To Kill A Mockingbird, that “Inside the house lived a malevolent phantom.”

Which of these examples of malevolence do you like the best?

How many different meanings of malevolence do you see?

How many of these novels that use malevolence have you heard of before?

Who’s That Writer?

Sir Walter Scott was born in Edinburgh, Scotland, on August 15, 1771. He was trained as a lawyer and became a legal official, a profession that gave him time to write. Scott loved ballads and legends, and wrote a great deal of poetry in his early life, but in 1814 he began writing novels, and eventually wrote more than twenty novels. With the profits from his novels, he built a great mansion in Abbotsford and was named a baronet. Scott was the first great historical novelist, and he influenced later writers such as James Fennimore Cooper, Honoré de Balzac, Charles Dickens, and William Makepeace Thackeray. Scott’s 1819 classic Ivanhoe is one of the great adventures of knights in all of English literature. It is particularly notable for its descriptions of how the Norman French conquered Anglo Saxon England, and for its modern female characters. Together with the poet Robert Burns, Scott helped to create Scottish literature.
Caesar’s Spanish

A study of their stems shows that English and Spanish are related languages, using the same stems to make similar words.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>stem</th>
<th>meaning</th>
<th>English / Spanish examples</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>circum</td>
<td>(around)</td>
<td>circumspect / circunspecto</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mal</td>
<td>(bad)</td>
<td>malevolent / malévolo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>post</td>
<td>(after)</td>
<td>posthumous / póstumo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>equi</td>
<td>(equal)</td>
<td>equilateral / equilátero</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ante</td>
<td>(before)</td>
<td>antecedent / antecedente</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In these pairs of cognates, we continue to see the wonderful similarity between English words and Spanish words. In fact, each of these words features two stems in a row, and in every case the Spanish word uses the same two Latin stems that the English word uses:

- **circum** around, **spect** look
- **mal** bad, **vol** will
- **post** after, **hum** earth
- **equi** equal, **lat** side
- **ante** before, **cede** go

Clearly, English and Spanish are sibling languages.

Roman Fact

The Roman emperor Trajan provided one of the most important principles of American law. He said, “It is better that the guilty should remain unpunished than that the innocent should be condemned.” This helps to explain why our legal systems defines us as “innocent until proven guilty.” This principle is also sometimes called the “presumption of innocence.”
Caesar’s Word Search

In the box below, find the Latin-based English words. They might be vertical, horizontal, or at angles. Circle each word that you find.

| K E E Q U I L I B R I U M M |
| H D Q P O S T H U M O U S A |
| P C P O S T S C R I P T V L |
| O A I V N I I M A L A D Y I |
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| T B T P C K S E H M E J E I |
| E C I R C U M S P E C T V O |
| R G B T R R M Q T L X W Z U |
| I M C E Q U I V O C A T E S |
| T E Q U I L A T E R A L Y H |
| Y A N T E C E D E N T N K D |
| A N T E B E L L U M T V Q P |
| A C I R C U M S C R I B E O |
| O M A L E V O L E N T A F G |

Real Latin

Pudet me tui.
I am ashamed of us.
Review for Cumulative Quiz

bi   two
sub  under
de  down
pre  before
super  over
un  not
inter  between
semi  half
dis  away
sym  together
circum  around
mal  bad
post  after
equi  equal
ante  before
countenance  facial expression
profound  deep
manifest  obvious
prodigious  huge
languor  weakness
serene  calm
acute  sharp
grotesque  distorted
condescend  to patronize
odious  hateful
It is certain because it is impossible.

- Tertullian
160-240 A.D.
Caesar's English
Vocabulary from Latin
Lesson Six

1. **exquisite**: beautifully made
2. **clamor**: outcry
3. **sublime**: lofty
4. **tremulous**: quivering
5. **allude**: indirectly refer to

**exquisite**

The English adjective **exquisite** (and its adverb form **exquisitely**) comes to us from the Romans. In Latin, *exquisitus* was a form of *exquirere*, to search out. When we say that something is exquisite, meaning that it is delicately beautiful, or that it is exceptionally perfect, we are echoing the old Roman idea that an exquisite thing is something you don’t see every day; it is something rare that you might search a long time to find. In literature, we find **exquisite** used to modify a surprising range of nouns: there are exquisite echoes, exquisite daughters, and exquisite dishes. There are exquisite manners. In James M. Barrie's novel *Peter Pan*, we read, “It was a girl called Tinker Bell exquisitely gowned in a skeleton leaf.” In Joseph Conrad’s *Lord Jim* a butterfly spreads out dark bronze wings “with exquisite white veinings.” In Stephen Crane’s *The Red Badge of Courage* the young soldier relaxes because “An exquisite drowsiness had spread through him.” Most of the time, **exquisite** refers to things that are good, but sometimes it describes a bad thing that is extremely unusual, as when Jack London wrote in *The Call of the Wild* that “All the pain he had endured was as nothing compared with the exquisite agony of this.” In Robert Louis Stevenson’s *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*, we read with a chill that “my blood was changed into something exquisitely thin and icy.” What
do you think Rachel Carson meant by her use of exquisite in Silent Spring when she wrote, “These include three of the thrushes whose songs are among the most exquisite of bird voices...”?

clamor

The English noun clamor comes from the Latin clamor, and the Latin verb clamare, to cry out. Clamor is sometimes spelled clamura. A clamor is no mild call; it is a loud outcry, a vociferous uproar, and especially one that continues on, vehemently. People keep clamoring. Clamor is a strong word; it should not be wasted on any old holler. In English and American literature we find clamor used by William Golding, George Orwell, and Richard Wright. We find it used by modern writers like Eudora Welty, and by Geoffrey Chaucer in 1385: “He maketh that the grete tour resoundeth of his youling and clamour.” Notice the very old spellings of Chaucer’s words. In Macbeth, Shakespeare wrote that “the obscure bird clamoured the livelong night.” The obscure bird, apparently, was an owl. In Walter Scott’s 1820 novel Ivanhoe, we read about “the clamorous yells and barking of all the dogs in the hall.” In Tom Sawyer Mark Twain wrote about the “glad clamor of laughter.” One of the most creative uses of clamor comes from The Call of the Wild, where Jack London wrote that “He did not steal for joy of it, but because of the clamour of his stomach.”

sublime

If the English adjective sublime means noble or majestic (and it does, it does), then why does it contain the Latin stem sub that means under? Well, in Rome, honored objects were placed up on or under (sub) the mantel (limen), where they could be seen, and so sublime means not down, but up, up under the mantel: up sub the limen. As many words do, sublime has a number of possible meanings, but
they all connote a high, lofty state. **Sublime** may mean exalted, or inspiring, or grand. It may mean outstanding or supreme. Sometimes we use the word as a noun, and refer to the **sublime**. Martin Luther King wrote about “sublime courage.” Mark Twain wrote about the “sublimity of his language,” and Harriet Beecher Stowe wrote about “sublime heroism.” In **Gulliver's Travels**, Jonathan Swift wrote of things that could be “comprehended only by a few persons of sublime genius.” Stephen Crane described the courage of battle as a “temporary but sublime absence of selfishness.” One of the most charming **sublime** sentences comes from Barrie’s **Peter Pan**, where “Now we are rewarded for our sublime faith in a mother’s love.” What does Barrie mean by “sublime faith”?

**tremulous**

Our English adjective **tremulous** is a direct descendent of the Latin **tremulus** and the verb **tremere**, to tremble. We call tremulous those who are trembling, who are shaking with tremors, or who are overly timid. Tremulous quivering, especially of the hand or voice, might be a result of fear, nervousness, or weakness, and it might have either a physical or psychological origin.

**Tremulous** has been a popular word among English and American writers for at least three centuries and has been used by Walter Scott, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Lewis Carroll, and Robert Louis Stevenson. Sometimes **tremulous** can describe the quivering of a musical note, as when Ralph Ellison writes of “a tremulous, blue-toned chord.” Sometimes **tremulous** describes the trembling of a voice, as when William Golding writes that “Jack’s voice went up, tremulous yet determined...” Lewis Carroll also used **tremulous** to describe the human voice in **Alice's Adventures in Wonderland**; Carroll wrote, “His voice has a timid and tremulous sound.” Frances Hodgson Burnett used **tremulous** in her novel **The Secret Garden**, where there were
“two rabbits sitting up and sniffing with tremulous noses.” In *Peter Pan*, “John whispered tremulously.” In Robert Louis Stevenson’s *Kidnapped*, there was a “rather tremulous laughter.” In *Leaves of Grass*, America’s great poet Walt Whitman wrote that the “cattle stand and shake away flies with the tremulous shuddering of their hides.”

What does it mean in Thackeray’s novel *Vanity Fair* when we read, “he opened the letter rather tremulously”?

**Allude**

To allude to something is to make an indirect reference to it, to hint. The English verb *allude* (and its noun form *allusion*) comes to us from Latin, where we learn that the Latin verb *alludere* meant to play with! So *allude* is a word with spirit. Alluding to things, rather than directly stating them, gives us a playful option: we can call someone’s attention to something without directly mentioning it. Alluding is a game of hints and guesses. In George Eliot’s *Silas Marner* we read that “It was already four years since there had been any allusion to the subject between them.” In Mary Shelley’s novel *Frankenstein*, a character begs, “But until then, I conjure you, do not mention or allude to it.” In his famous novel, *A Passage to India*, E.M. Forster writes, “They attacked one another with obscure allusions and had a silly quarrel.” One of the very best sentences comes from Kenneth Grahame’s children’s classic, *The Wind in the Willows*, where we learn one of the most important differences between animals and people; Grahame writes that “It is quite against animal-etiquette to dwell on possible trouble ahead, or even to allude to it.” All of the little animals, we infer, are optimists.

**Who’s That Writer?**

The author of *Alice in Wonderland*, known to us as Lewis Carroll, was really Charles Lutwidge Dodgson. Born in 1832 in Daresbury,
Cheshire, Charles had seven sisters and three brothers. He was first educated at home, and at age seven he was already reading Bunyan’s *The Pilgrim’s Progress*, a very advanced book indeed. At twelve Dodgson went to private school at Richmond, and in 1845 he went to Rugby School, where his brilliance in mathematics was recognized. After college at Christ Church, Oxford, he accepted a position there as a lecturer in mathematics. In 1856 he published a poem, “Solitude,” under the *nom de plume* (pen name) Lewis Carroll. He made friends with the new Oxford dean, Henry Liddell, who had a daughter named Alice. On a picnic, Dodgson told Alice a story in which she was the main character, and she urged him to write it down. He did, offered it to MacMillan publishers under his pen name, and the rest is literary history. Dodgson taught at Christ Church until 1881, published papers in mathematics, and died of pneumonia in 1898.
What is This Writer Saying?
Discuss the meaning of the **bold** word in each of the following sentences:

From Bram Stoker’s *Dracula*: “There was no place for words in his **sublime** misery.”

From E.M. Forster’s *A Passage to India*: “Aziz was **exquisitely** dressed, from tie-pin to spats.”

From Richard Wright’s *Native Son*: “His feelings **clamored** for an answer his mind could not give.”

From James Joyce’s *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*: “A **tremulous** chill blew round his heart.”

From Thackeray’s *Vanity Fair*: “The humble calling of her female parent Miss Sharp never **alluded** to.”

**Caesar’s Synonyms**
Here are words that are similar to the words in our list, but are they exactly the same in meaning? Or are they slightly different? For each word on our list, look up any synonym that you do not know, then pick one, and carefully explain the difference between it and our word.

**exquisite**: dainty, elaborate, graceful, fine, delicate, refined, glamorous, beautiful, intricate

**clamor**: babel, hubbub, din, uproar, bellow, clatter, glare, pandemonium, yell, racket, bawl, caterwaul, cacophony

**sublime**: ideal, heavenly, utopian, perfect, idyllic, Arcadian, empyrean, paradisiac, Elysian, Edenic, lofty
tremulous: quivery, trembling, shivering, aquiver, shaky, wobbly, anxious, edgy, frightened, timid, nervous, fearful
allude: mention, comment, touch on, refer to, point out, note, bring up, observe, animadvert, advert, remark

Caesar’s Spanish
Everywhere we turn, language reveals to us that modern English and modern Spanish are both descendants of ancient Latin:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Latin</th>
<th>Spanish</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>exquisitus</td>
<td>exquisito</td>
<td>exquisite</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>clamor</td>
<td>clamor</td>
<td>clamor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sublimis</td>
<td>sublime</td>
<td>sublime</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tremulus</td>
<td>trémulo</td>
<td>tremulous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>alludere</td>
<td>aludir</td>
<td>allude</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Real Latin
From Cicero:

Assiduus usus uni rei deditus et ingenium et artem saepe vincit.
Constant practice devoted to one subject often overcomes both intelligence and skill.

Caesar’s Rewrites
Here are some sentences from famous books. In each case, rewrite the sentence into more ordinary words. Example from Marjorie Rawlings’s The Yearling: “A languor crept over him.” The rewrite: Little by little, he began to feel lazy.
From Herman Melville’s *Moby Dick*: “For the most part, in this tropic whaling life, a **sublime** uneventfulness invests you; you hear no news; read no gazettes.”

From Jack London’s *Call of the Wild*: “Every part, brain and body, nerve tissue and fibre, was keyed to the most **exquisite** pitch.”

From Kenneth Grahame’s *The Wind in the Willows*: “It is quite against animal etiquette to dwell on possible trouble ahead, or even to **allude** to it.”

From Robert Louis Stevenson’s *Treasure Island*: “But it was rather **tremulous** laughter.”

From Richard Wright’s *Native Son*: “His feelings **clamored** for an answer his mind could not give.”

**Caesar’s Antonyms**

For each of Caesar’s English words in this lesson, think of a word that means the opposite. A word that means the opposite is known as an **antonym**.

1. **exquisite**
2. **clamor**
3. **sublime**
4. **tremulous**
5. **allude**

Are there any words in this list that have no antonyms? Are there any that it is very difficult to think of an antonym for? Why?
Caesar's Analogies

Analogies are about relationships. Find a second pair of words that have the same relationship to each other as the first pair has. Remember that it sometimes helps to put the two words into a sentence that makes the relationship clear.

**SUBLIME : PEDESTRIAN ::**

a. amiable : peevish  
b. clamor : hubbub  
c. perplex : mystery  
d. clamor : riot

**TREMULOUS : FEAR ::**

a. clamorous : anger  
b. incredulous : gullible  
c. sublime : noble  
d. amiable : person
Review for Cumulative Quiz

bi  two
sub  under
de  down
pre  before
super  over
un  not
inter  between
semi  half
dis  away
sym  together
circum  around
mal  bad
post  after
equi  equal
ante  before
countenance  facial expression
profound  deep
manifest  obvious
prodigious  huge
languor  weakness
serene  calm
acute  sharp
grotesque  distorted
condescend  to patronize
odious  hateful
exquisite  beautifully made
clamor  outcry
sublime  lofty
tremulous  quivering
allude  indirectly refer to
exquisite

beautifully made

It was a girl
called Tinkerbell
exquisitely gowned
in a skeleton leaf.

-James M. Barrie

Peter Pan