

Junior English  
Latin/Greek Roots: List #4

Vocabulary Words:

1. Root: **pecc** – (LATIN peccare, peccatum) – to sin, to be flawed

a. **peccadillo** – n – a small sin or fault

*Leonard grew so irritated by his roommate's peccadilloes that he threatened to move out.*

b. **impeccable** – adj – having no flaws

*Oliver's impeccable comic timing made him the center of every party.*

c. **peccant** – adj – violating a moral law; sinful

*The seamstress was exiled from the colony for her supposedly peccant activity.*

2. Root: **pej, pair** – (LATIN pejor) – worse

a. **pejorative** – adj – negative and critical; insulting

*Mosheh was clearly disturbed by the pejorative comments used in the review of his latest album.*

b. **impair** – v – to cause to diminish, as in strength, value, or quality

*A new report claims that many prescription drugs will severely impair one's ability to operate a vehicle .*

3. Root: **mal**– (LATIN malus) – bad

a. **malign** – v – to speak of maliciously; insult

*The pamphlet tried to help the incumbent win the re-election race for city council by maligning the two opposing candidates.*

b. **malinger** – v – to pretend to be sick in order to avoid something

*Shannon malingered all day Friday because she hadn't studied for her math test.*

c. **malaise**– n – a sense of unease; depression

*One year after the crash of the stock market, the economy remains stuck in a deep malaise.*

4. Root: **neg** – (LATIN negare, negatum) – to deny – (Latin neglegere) – to neglect

a. **negligent** – adj – not properly attentive

*Because the captain had been negligent in his maintenance of the ship, the hull developed a leak.*

b. **negligible** – adj – unimportant; insignificant

*Although the automobile accident was terrifying, actual damage to the car was negligible.*

c. **negate** – v – to cancel the effect of; nullify

*Donna feared that her years of gymnastics training would be negated by an accident during the competition.*

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Practice

Exercise I. Complete the sentence in a way that shows you understand the meaning of the *italicized* vocabulary word.

1. My mother accused my brother and me of *malingering* when we . . .
2. Daniel's ability to take the test was *impaired* by. . .

Exercise II. Choose the set of words that best completes the sentence.

1. Charlie was shocked to find his \_\_\_\_\_ academic record \_\_\_\_\_ by a hostile professor.
  - A. negligent; negated
  - B. peccant; malingered
  - C. impeccable; maligned
  - D. negligible; impaired
2. The \_\_\_\_\_ under which Ivan had been suffering for weeks made it difficult for him to pay attention; as a result, he was \_\_\_\_\_ in several areas of his job.
  - A. peccadillo; negligible
  - B. peccant; pejorative
  - C. malaise; peccadillo
  - D. malaise; negligent
3. Was Steve's ability to walk really \_\_\_\_\_, or was he simply \_\_\_\_\_ to get out of any heavy lifting?
  - A. negated; maligning
  - B. peccant; impairing
  - C. negligent; malingering
  - D. impaired; malingering

Exercise III. Complete the sentence by inferring information about the *italicized* word from its context.

1. When Iggy begins listing some of Meredith's *peccadilloes*, Meredith will probably feel . . .
2. If Horatio is *negligent* in his gardening duties, the flowers may. . .
3. If Tamara wants to get out from under her *malaise*, she should try to . . .

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ACT Review

Assignment: Fill in the blank with the word from the Unit that best completes the sentence, using the root we supply as a clue. Then, answer the questions that follow the paragraphs.

As spring approaches each year, millions of avid backyard gardeners stream into local hardware stores and nurseries, while others pore over catalogues and scour the \_\_\_\_\_ (PECC) garden. These people take time from their busy schedules to share in a primal, soothing activity; creating beauty and sustenance by joining forces with nature.

Establishing a worthy garden is not a simple task; it requires dedicated planning and constant attention. Choosing the appropriate seeds and plants demands knowledge of climate, soil, sunlight, drainage conditions, etc. Oftentimes, gardeners must also devise blueprints detailing specific positioning of plants in the garden, as certain plants need or deplete certain minerals. Gardeners must also turn the soil, mixing it with a nutrient-rich growing medium to replenish necessary resources. Once physically structured, the garden is ready for planting.

Many gardeners pay careful attention to the preparation of their seeds. They begin the growing period indoors, usually six to eight weeks before spring. This produces sturdy plants ready for transplanting outdoors; however, transferring the seedlings is a delicate process. Relocating plants too hastily may \_\_\_\_\_ (PAIR) their ability to grow and thrive in a new environment. To avoid this dilemma, many gardeners place seedlings outside in the daylight and shelter them overnight for one to two weeks prior to transplanting. Seeds planted directly in the garden require slightly less care because this process does not entail an adjustment period. Whether the garden consists of plants grown inside or outside, it still needs daily attention once established.

A (n) \_\_\_\_\_ (NEG) gardener who fails to water or weed the garden will find the plants wilting and starving for nutrients. Most garden plants do not tolerate drought conditions; but weeds can thrive in such situations, stealing whatever nourishment they require from the other vegetation. Devoted gardeners would never cause such harm to their masterpieces. They diligently clear weeds, provide fertilizer, and deliver moisture as their precious plants command; as a result, they produce lush, healthy, fruitful gardens,

Gardening is a time-consuming, demanding, yet rewarding diversion. Producing sturdy, flourishing, and productive plants provides immense satisfaction and a grand sense of accomplishment. Few other activities in today's busy world share such rewards.

1. According to the passage, a successful gardener is
  - A. persistent and stubborn.
  - B. dedicated and knowledgeable.
  - C. patient and nimble.
  - D. meticulous and diplomatic.
  
2. Why must a gardener clear weeds from the garden, according to the article?
  - A. The weeds block sunlight from the seedlings.
  - B. The weeds tangle around the garden plants and stunt their growth.
  - C. The weeds deplete the soil of important nutrients.
  - D. The weeds infect the garden plants with mold.
  
3. According to the author, plants that use up minerals
  - A. specifically position the soil in the garden.
  - B. must have a particular location in the garden.
  - C. must be mixed with a richer soil.
  - D. require constant attention.