

UNIT 8

Derivatives

? Days

Lesson 1 - Derivative Requirements - 2 Days

Lesson 2 - Derivative Projects - ? Days (will vary based on class size)

Vocab	Terms
Familia	Derivative
Luna	Stem
Servus	Root
Porta	Base
Liber	
Solus/a	
Albus/a	

Unit 8 - Derivatives

Lesson 1 - Derivative Requirements

Day 1

Activity

You have used the term derivative already, or you may simply have talked about English words that come from Latin vocabulary words. This is the formal introduction and definition of the term.

This unit can be revisited at any time, especially when new parts of speech are introduced.

Activity

Write a simple Latin word on the board, one that the students have not had.

e.g. aqua

Give them ten minutes in pairs to write down as many English words as they can think of that have that Latin word in it.

Discuss

- Share the results.
- What do all of these words have in common?
 - the word aqua
 - something to do with water
- What must the Latin word mean?
- All of these words are called derivatives.

Activity

- Write the word aqua on the board. Box in the ending -a. What is left of the word after the ending is taken off is called the stem, the root, or the base of the word. (You may decide to choose one term.) Sometimes the stem of a word is the whole word itself.
- Do the same thing to other vocabulary words to find their stems.

Discuss

- You can use the stem of a word to create a new word.
- This new word will have something to do with the meaning of the original word.
- The new word is called a derivative of the original word.
- The derivative can be in any other language or in the same language.
- Many words in the Romance languages are derivatives of Latin words. Many English words are derivatives of either Latin or German words.
- By looking at how many derivatives of one language are in another language, we can tell how much of an influence one culture had on another.
- Recall the ways that one culture might influence another, i.e. conquering, trading
- To be a derivative a word must satisfy two requirements:

Must have the stem of the original word somewhere in it

Must have something to do with the meaning of the original word

e.g. aquarium is a container of water for fish and plants

Homework
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Day 2 - Finding Derivatives

Activity

- Give each student a Latin word.
- Have each student locate the stem of his Latin word by taking the ending off. Help them with -er words. The ending will not come off, but the -e- may be dropped. Tell them that sometimes the stem gets altered slightly in derivatives.
- Put English and foreign language dictionaries around the room on the floor or use etymology links on the Prima Lingua website.
- Have each student make a list of as many derivatives of this Latin word as possible. This will probably take more than one day.
- You might want to make a requirement to have derivatives in English, French, Spanish, and Italian. By looking in dictionaries they will find derivatives that have the stem at the beginning of the word. They may be able to think of some that have the stem in the middle or at the end of the word.
- In their notebooks they should
 - list the derivative
 - underline the stem of the original Latin word in it
 - write a definition (their own, if possible) of the derivative to prove that it has something to do with the meaning of the original Latin word.
 e.g. *library* = a place where books are kept
- Explain that some students may have a particularly rich word that will have many derivatives, and others may find only two or three.
- Some good words to use: mater, pater, amicus, liber (libr- = book), liber (liber = free), discipulus, magister, schola, familia, luna, magnus, bonus, malus, longus, solus, albus, terra, servus. verbs: porto (to carry), rego (to rule), duco (to lead), fero (to bear, bring), mitto (to send).
- Add new words to vocabulary list.

Vocabulary

familia

luna

servus

porta

liber

solus/a

albus/a

Terms

derivative

stem

root

base

Unit 8 - Derivatives

Lesson 2 - Derivative Projects

Activity

The students illustrate their derivatives. They could make a mobile or a poster or better yet, let their imaginations run wild. The illustration should have something to do with the meaning of the word and must have the derivatives in some way emanating from the original word. The old standard is the original word on the trunk of a tree and the derivatives as the branches. Have them create new ideas along this theme.

Derivatives, definitions, underlined stems, and the original word should all be included.

Give them the opportunity to work on this in class and at home. Stress that this is one of their major projects for the year.

Spend a few days sharing completed projects with the class and going over a few of the derivatives they found. e.g. each student's favorite find or most surprising derivative Students should fill in pages 50-51 with a derivative from each classmate's project.

This could be done as the projects are presented or in a "viewing session" before or after presentations.

Ideas of good projects that my students have created:

- familia: a dinner table scene with the word familia written on the main platter in the middle. Table settings made with buttons for dishes, dried pasta on the plates, complete with little chairs which each held a derivative. Chairs were color-coded for the language of the derivative, and definitions were written on seat cushions.
- magnus: little toy people figures each holding a magnifying glass made out of toothpicks and cellophane. The magnifying glasses are looking at the type-written words. The derivatives are written in large letters as they are being magnified and the definitions are written in smaller letters.
- luna: mobile of stars hanging from a moon. stars are color-coded by language and have derivatives on the front and definitions on the back
- mitto: a sack of mail. envelopes are color-coded by language on the stamps, derivatives are written where the address would be, inside the envelopes are the definitions of the derivatives
- servus: student dressed as a waiter with a name tag reading "servus," carrying a tray with different items, each of which has a derivative and definition.

Homework

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Play Leap Frog