

UNIT ONE

Ⓜ The English word surgery comes from a Greek word meaning "to work by hand." We now associate surgery with advanced machines as well as skilled human hands and think of something surgical as being done with machine-like precision.

ERG, URG

Greek ERGON, "work"

SURGICAL (sŭr' jə kəl) *adj.* Very precise; clear and accurate

G. kheir, "hand," + ergon = *hand-work*

The rifle battalion, made up of the best marksmen in the world, targeted its enemy with *surgical* exactness.

ENERGETIC (en ər jet' ik) *adj.* Active and lively

G. en, "in" + ergon = *into work*

Whenever the weather was too hot, Ethan was not interested in *energetic* activity and preferred to stay home in air-conditioned comfort.

syn: active

ant: lazy

ERGONOMIC (ər gō nŭm' ik) *adj.* Intended to decrease discomfort and maximize work

G. ergon + nomic, "science or study of" = *study of work*

The *ergonomic* layout of the cockpit helped the pilots focus on flying and reduced their work-related injuries.



The GNOME rearranged his den to make it more ERGONOMIC.

VIG

Latin VIGERE, "be lively, be energetic"

VIGOROUS (vig' ər əs) *adj.* Done with power, force or energy

Reggie's *vigorous* exercise routine always made him flushed and sweaty.

syn: robust, spirited

ant: lethargic, lazy

INVIGORATE (in vig' ər āt) *v.* To fill with strength and energy

L. in, "into," + vigere = *to put energy into*

The brisk morning breeze *invigorated* the crowds of people walking to work.

IG, AG, ACT, EGLatin *AGERE, ACTUM* "do, drive, act"**PRODIGAL** (pró dā gəl) *adj.* Wasting money or resourcesL. pro, "forth," + agere = *drive forth, drive away (money)*Gerald's *prodigal* tendencies eventually left him penniless and on the streets.

syn: wasteful

ant: thrifty

AGITATE (aj' ə tāt) *v.* 1. To publicly demand; petition for

2. To move vigorously or violently; to upset

1. Though the American colonists *agitated* for more power and independence, King George III was deaf to their demands.2. Loud noises *agitate* Angela so much that she cannot endure them.**ENACT** (en akt') *v.* To make legal or officialL. en, "in" + actum = *driven into (law)*As part of the agreement, the United States agreed to *enact* legislation to prevent further environmental damage from greenhouse gases.

syn: decree

ant: repeal

REACTIONARY (rē ak' shən ə r ē) *adj.* Strongly opposed to change; conservativeL. re, "back," + actum = *driving back*The bank preferred to stick to *reactionary* strategies rather than adapt to new conditions.**AGILE** (aj' ə l) *adj.* Able to move quickly and lightlyA less *agile* swimmer would never have been able to make the quick turns that Sarita did.

syn: nimble

ant: stiff

ALLEGE (ə lej') *v.* To put forth as true; claimL. ad, "toward," + litis, "lawsuit," + agere = *to drive towards a lawsuit*The reporter *alleges* that at four o'clock this afternoon, a local politician took part in an armed robbery.

syn: assert

ant: rebut; deny

■ One famous story in the New Testament deals with the prodigal son, a spoiled young man who leaves his father and wastes his inheritance, then returns home and seeks forgiveness.

Because of this story, some people have come to believe that prodigal means "wandering from home." Don't make this mistake; remember that the son was prodigal because he threw away all of his money.