

UNIT FIVE

HUM

Latin HUMUS, "ground, earth"

■ The English words *humble* and *humility* both come from *humus*. To be *humble*, or to show *humility*, you must be close to the ground rather than proudly raising yourself above others.

HUMILITY (hū mil' ə tē) *n.* Lack of pride; modesty

Although the leader had influenced the lives of thousands of people, he always spoke with the utmost *humility*.

EXHUME (ək zōm') *v.* To remove from the ground; dig up

L. *ex*, "out of," + *humus* = *out of the ground*

In order to prove his theory about the murder, the District Attorney ordered that the body be *exhumed*.

ant: bury



The detective ZOOMED to EXHUME the body.

STELL

Latin STELLA, "star"

STELLAR (stəl' ər) *adj.* Excellent; outstanding

For her *stellar* performance in her first year at the company, Emily was honored with a special luncheon.

ant: subpar

ASTR

Greek ASTRON, "star"

■ Astronomy is literally the "study of stars," a field of learning which covers outer space and objects in outer space. Something astronomical can relate to this study or can be as huge as the stars are high.

ASTRONOMICAL (as trə nom' ə kəl) *adj.* Enormous; immense

The *astronomical* cost of gasoline forced many citizens to start taking the bus.

syn: huge

ant: tiny

NEB, NIMB

Latin NEBULA, "cloud"
NIMBUS, "cloud"

NEBULOUS (neb' yōō lās) *adj.* Not definite; vague

When the student gave a *nebulous* answer to the question, his teacher asked him for more information.

syn: uncertain

ant: clear; understandable

NIMBUS (nim' bās) *n.* A cloud

The *nimbus* of fog around the crest of the mountain lingered until a wind came up and blew it away.

■ A nebula is a cloud of gas and dust in outer space; its shape constantly changes.

CELES

Latin CAELUM, "sky"

CELESTIAL (se les' shəl) *adj.* Having to do with the sky or heavens

As a child, Inez was always on the lookout for angels and other *celestial* beings.

TERR

Latin TERRA, "earth, ground"

TERRESTRIAL (te res' trē əl) *adj.* Earthly; of or from land

Studies of the mysterious creature have failed to determine whether it is mainly *terrestrial* or not.

ant: extraterrestrial

INTER (in ter') *v.* To put into the ground; to bury

L. in, "in," + terra = *in the ground*

The solemn ceremony ended when the body had been *interred*, and the priest had given the blessing.

SUBTERRANEAN (sub ter ā' nē ən) *adj.* Beneath the ground

L. sub, "beneath," + terra = *under the earth*

Because the money was hidden deep in a *subterranean* cavern, it was not discovered for many years.

ant: aboveground