

## UNIT NINE

### MENT

Latin MENS, MENTIS, "mind"

**DEMENTED** (də mən' təd) *adj.* Out of one's mind; insane

L. de, "out of," + mentis = *out of one's mind*

The filmmaker insisted that his movies made sense, but to many people, what he did seemed completely *demented*.

syn: crazy

ant: sane

**MENTALITY** (men tal' ə tē) *n.* State of mind

Al's vicious *mentality* led him to launch attacks on many of his former friends.

### MNE

Greek MIMNESKEIN, "to remember"

MNEMOS, "remembering"

**AMNESTY** (am' nes tē) *n.* Pardon for offenses

G. a, "not," + mimneskein = *not remembering*

During the general *amnesty*, Ted was released from the government prison.

syn: absolution

**MNEMONIC** (nē mon' ək) *adj.* Aiding in memory

Many educational professionals encourage students to use *mnemonic* devices when studying for tests.

### GNO

Greek GIGNOSKEIN, "to know"

**DIAGNOSIS** (dī əg nō' səs) *n.* Statement naming the cause of a condition

G. dia, "apart," + gignoskein = *to know apart*

After doctors had performed numerous tests on the patient, they decided upon a *diagnosis*.

syn: identification

**PROGNOSIS** (prog nō' səs) *n.* Expectation of the way something will turn out; prediction

G. pro, "before" + gignoskein = *to know before*

Because Marie was in excellent physical condition, her *prognosis* for beating the disease was very good.

syn: prediction

III In order to diagnose a problem, you must be able to set apart (dia) what needs to be analyzed. Unless you can logically group and order these parts, you will not be able to understand the trouble.

VOCABULARY FROM LATIN AND GREEK ROOTS

# **NOT, NOISS, NAISS**

Latin **NOSCERE**, **NOTUM**, "to know"

**NOTORIOUS** (nō tōr' ē əs) *adj.* Famous in a negative way  
Betsy was *notorious* for planning huge parties and then canceling them at the last minute.  
*syn:* infamous

**CONNOISSEUR** (kon ə sōōr') *n.* One who is knowledgeable about a subject  
Chef Rodrigo was a *connoisseur* of shellfish, having traveled the world to taste them all.

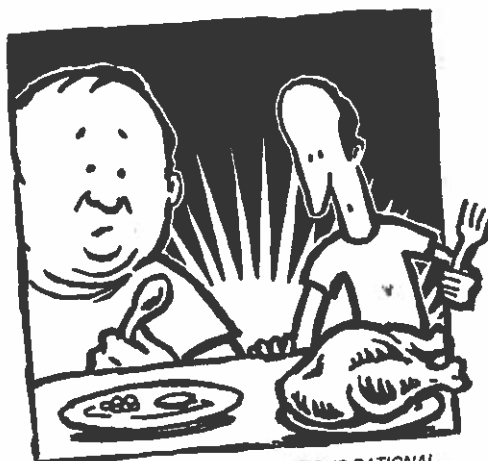
**RECONNAISSANCE** (rē kon' ə səns) *n.* Exploration to gain knowledge or information  
The lieutenant accompanied his men on a *reconnaissance* maneuver, during which they spotted several enemy tents.

# **RATIO**

Latin **RATIO**, **RATIONIS**, "reason"

**RATION** (rā' shən) *v.* To divide and distribute evenly  
In order to prolong her experience of the excellent novel, Sylvia *rationed* the number of pages she read each day.  
*syn:* divide

**RATIONAL** (rā' shən əl) *adj.* Sound in mind; logical  
Although Samantha tried to be *rational* about losing her dog, she felt that she would go crazy with worry.  
*syn:* sensible



It's important to make the **RATIONS** **RATIONAL**.

III Both *connoisseur* and *reconnaissance* come to English from French. One French word meaning "to know" is *conoistre*, from *cognoscere* (*co*, "very," + *gnos-* *cere* = "to know very well"). From it, we get *connoisseur*. The French for "recognize" is *reconoistre*, from *recognoscere* ("to know well again"), and from this word, we get *reconnaissance*.