

UNIT SIXTEEN

GRAVITY AND HEAVY

GRAV

Latin GRAVIS, "heavy"

GRAVE (grāv) *adj.* Very serious

The city was running out of water quickly, and the situation would soon become grave.

syn: grim

ant: lighthearted

GRAVITY (grav' ə tē) *n.* Seriousness

Brett's little brother didn't understand the gravity of their father's losing his job.

ant: insignificance

III You have probably heard gravity used to mean "the force that holds people and things on the Earth." How do you think this definition is related to gravity, meaning "seriousness"?



The GRAVITY of the announcement resulted in PULLED DOWN the mood in the room.

LEV, LEVER

Latin LEVIS, "light"

LEVARE, LEVATUM, "to lift up"

LEVITATE (lev' ə tāt) *v.* To cause to hover or float above the ground

For a moment, the ball appeared to levitate above the basket.

ALLEViate (ə lē' vē at) *v.* To make better or less serious

L. ad, "towards," + levis = lighten the burden towards

The doctor told Jackie she could alleviate her back pain by improving her posture.

syn: lighten

ant: worsen

ELEVATE (el' ə vāt) *v.* To lift up

L. e, "out of," + levare = to lift out of

The emergency room staff decided to elevate Darren's leg to slow the flow of blood.

LEVERAGE (lev' er ə) *n.* Something which gives help or advantage

Three strong men couldn't move the car, so they used a fallen tree limb for leverage.

syn: effectiveness

ant: disadvantage

I hit the lever to lift up the car.

BRUTUS CAN ONLY HEAVY THINGS

BRUT

Latin BRUTUS, "heavy"

BRUTALITY (brōō tal' ə tē) *n.* Cruel violence

The dictator showed his brutality when he had three disloyal generals executed in public.

syn: savagery

ant: kindness

BRUTE (brōōt) *adj.* Not showing reason; animal-like; raw

Using the brute power in their trunks and tusks, elephants can easily tear up entire trees.

ant: humane

PRESS = PRESS

PRESS

Latin PRIMERE, PRESSUM, "press"

OPPRESS (ə pres) *v.* To keep down by force

L. ob, "against," + pressum = press against

Throughout history, weak societies have been oppressed by stronger ones.

syn: persecute

ant: liberate

IMPRESS (im pres) *v.* 1. To have a strong effect on

L. in, "in," + pressum = press into

1. Gloria's knowledge of sports trivia impressed the host of the show.

2. My mother impressed upon me the importance of being honest.

syn: affect; influence

Roots start again

III You can impress the mark of your shoe into the mud; you can also impress an idea upon someone's mind. Either way, you leave some trace of your presence behind.