

How To Enhance Memory

Cf. Frances Yates, *The Art of Memory*

Singing Out Your Binomials

sans peur et sans reproche

A Short & Simple Rule (in Theory)

"There aren't any Romans around to correct us, so pronounce botanical names as though they were words in your own language, as best you can, one syllable at a time:

Parthenocissus quinquefolia = parth-en-o-KISS-us kwin-kwee-FO-lee-ah."

Tom Clothier's Garden Talks

[<http://users.anet.com/~manytimes/page35.htm>]

Practical Difficulties with Clothier's Short Rule

	Reformed academic	Traditional English	The Rub
<i>ā</i> as in	<i>fāther</i>	<i>fāte</i>	<i>spectā'bilis</i>
<i>ǎ</i> as in	<i>ǎpart</i>	<i>făt</i>	<i>călămen'thă</i>
<i>ae</i> as <i>ai</i>	in <i>aisle</i>	as <i>ea</i> in <i>meat</i>	<i>Linnae'us</i>
<i>au</i> as	<i>ou</i> in <i>house</i>	as <i>aw</i> in <i>bawl</i>	<i>Aurō'ra</i>
<i>c</i> always as in <i>cat</i> , so too with <i>a, o, u</i>			<i>Dicen'tra</i>
	but with <i>e, i, y</i> as in <i>center</i>		<i>Dicen'tra</i>
<i>ē</i> as in	<i>thēy</i>	<i>mē</i>	<i>-(o)i'dēs</i>
<i>e</i> as in	<i>pēt</i>	<i>pēt</i>	<i>edu'lis</i>
<i>ei</i> as in	<i>rein</i>	as in <i>height</i>	<i>Veit'chiī</i>
<i>g</i> always as in <i>gap, go</i> , so too with <i>a, o, u</i>			
	but with <i>e, i, y</i> as in <i>gem, giro</i>		<i>ageratoi'des</i>
<i>ī</i> as in	<i>machīne</i>	<i>īce</i>	<i>Veit'chiī, pīnus</i>
<i>ĭ</i> as in	<i>ĭt</i>	<i>ĭt</i>	<i>iridiflo'rus</i>
<i>j</i> (consonant) as	<i>y</i> yellow	<i>j</i> as in <i>jam</i>	<i>juniperi'folius</i>
<i>oe</i> as	<i>oi</i> in <i>toil</i>	as <i>ee</i> in <i>bee</i>	
<i>ph</i>	as <i>p</i> or <i>p+h</i>	as in <i>cŷpher</i>	<i>philoden'dron</i>
<i>t</i>	as in <i>table, native</i> but <i>ti</i> within a word as in <i>nation</i>		<i>petiola'ris</i>
<i>ui</i> as <i>oui</i> (French), <i>we</i>		<i>ruin</i>	
<i>v</i> (consonant u) as <i>w</i>		as in <i>van</i>	<i>sylves'tris</i>
<i>ȳ</i> as <i>u</i> in French <i>pur</i> as in <i>cŷpher</i>			
<i>ÿ</i> as in French <i>du</i> as in <i>cŷnical</i>			<i>sylves'tris</i>

[from William Stearn, *Dictionary of Plant Names* (1992.14-15)]

Where Accents Rise & Fall

Accent the next-to-last syllable (sc. penult) when long: *Di/CEN/tra*.

But if the penult is short, then accent the third from last (sc antepenult):
spec/TĀ/bilis.

When in doubt, accent the penult, check Stearn, keep ears peeled.

Binomials Engendered: *Genus* (noun) + *species* (adjectival)

In Gender's **Occult Empire, Nouns rule, adjectivals agree**

Like loves, not always looks like, like.

[Ac'cented syl'lable marked by ' throughout.

Note that in Latin usage, the syllable divides after a vowel before a single consonant or between double consonants.

Some double consonants represent single Greek letters, e.g., *th* =θ, *ph*=φ, *ps*=ψ.]

NOUNS GENDERED: "No completely reliable easy rules" (Stearn, p. 17)

Feminine	Masculine	Neither	Meaning	Derivative
<i>Casta'nea</i>			chestnut	
<i>Fuchs'ia</i>			In honor of Fuchs	
<i>Larse'nia</i>			In honor of Larsen	
[old Latin tree names feminine]				
<i>Fā'gus</i>			beech	
<i>Lau'rus</i> [Lt]	<i>Daph'ne</i> [Gr]		laurel, bay	
<i>Pī'nus</i>			pine	pine
	[masculine]			
	<i>Helian'thus</i> [Gr]		"sun flower"	
	<i>Lupī'nus</i> [Lt]		"wolfish"	lupine
	<i>Platycō'dōn</i> [Gr]		"broad bell"	[Balloon flower]
	<i>Penstē'mōn</i> [Gr]		"five stamens" [but <i>penta</i>]	
		<i>Ceratostig'ma</i> [Gr]		"horned stigma"
		<i>Duasper'ma</i> [Gr]	"two seeder"	
<i>Solida'go</i> [Lt]			goldenrod [solid + <i>ag</i> "make whole"]	
<i>Nympho'dēs</i> [Gr]		"water-lily like"	nymphomaniac	
<i>Sa'lix</i> [Lt]			willow	sally
<i>Clē'matis</i> [Gr]		"little vine shoot"	clematis	
<i>Or'chis</i>			testicle	orchid
<i>Cheilan'thes</i>			"lipped flower"	
		<i>Rhododen'dron</i> [Gr]	"rose tree"	Rhododendron
		<i>Li'lium</i>	lily	lily
		<i>Tril'lium</i>	trillium	trillium
		<i>Podophyl'lum</i>	may apple	["foot" + "leaf"]

ADJECTIVAL FORMS:

Feminine	Masculine	Neither	Meaning	Derivative
	[Three different endings]			
<i>al'ba</i>	<i>al'bus</i>	<i>al'bum</i>	white	album
<i>ni'gra</i>	<i>ni'ger</i>	<i>ni'grum</i>	black	negroid
<i>flōrī'fera</i>	<i>flō'rīfer</i>	<i>flōrī'ferum</i>	flower-bearing	floriferous
<i>nūcī'fera</i>	<i>nū'cīfer</i>	<i>nūcī'ferum</i>	nut-bearing	nuciferous
Two different endings: feminine & masculine same, neuter different]				
<i>-a'bilis</i>	<i>-a'bilis</i>	<i>-a'bile</i>	-able	able
<i>canaden'sis</i>	<i>canaden'sis</i>	<i>canaden'se</i>	Canadian	
<i>acau'lis</i>	<i>acau'lis</i>	<i>acau'le</i>	stemless	
<i>acau'los</i>	<i>acau'los</i>	<i>acau'lon</i>	stemless	
[One ending for all three]				
<i>bī'color</i>	<i>bī'color</i>	<i>bī'color</i>	two-colored	bicolored
<i>bryōi'des</i>	<i>bryōi'des</i>	<i>bryōi'des</i>	moss-like	*bryoid
<i>macrobot'rys</i>	<i>macrobot'rys</i>	<i>macrobot'rys</i>	large-clustered	macro-/botryose
<i>prae'cox</i>	<i>prae'cox</i>	<i>prae'cox</i>	early	precocious
<i>sim'plex</i>	<i>sim'plex</i>	<i>sim'plex</i>	one-fold	simple
<i>rep'tans</i>	<i>rep'tans</i>	<i>rep'tans</i>	creeping	reptile
<i>re'pens</i>	<i>re'pens</i>	<i>re'pens</i>	creeping	reptile
<i>pubes'cens</i>	<i>pubes'cens</i>	<i>pubes'cens</i>	downy	pubescent
<i>scan'dens</i>	<i>scan'dens</i>	<i>scan'dens</i>	climbing	ascendant

[Many words from diverse languages do not put on Latin dress.]

Some Exemplary Pairs

<i>Tradescan'tia virginiana</i>	"Of Tradescant" c17 plant hunter, cf. Healey, et al.
<i>Fā'gus sylva'tica</i>	"Beech of woodland" European beech
<i>Pī'nus rigida</i>	"stiff, upright pine" Pitch pine
<i>Helian'thus annuus</i>	Common (sc. yearly, annual) Sunflower
<i>Lupī'nus peren'nis</i>	Wild Lupine (sc. perennial)
<i>Penstē'mōn grandiflō'rus</i>	"Large flowered Beardtongue"
<i>Orchis spectā'bilis</i>	"Showy Orchid"
<i>Li'lium canadense</i>	Canada lily
<i>Li'lium gra'yī</i>	Honoring Asa Gray.
<i>Li'lium philadel'phicum</i>	
<i>Li'lium tigrī'num</i>	
<i>Hēmerocal'lis ful'va</i>	"Day beauty" + "tawny"
<i>Nelum'bo nūcī'fera</i>	Lotus (from Sinhalese) "nut-bearing"
<i>Cypē'rus papū'rus</i>	Papyrus

Just in Case

Proper Names of persons or places honored appear either as Latinized nouns in Genus names (e.g. Abelia, Dahlia, Darwinia, Lobelia, Lonicera, Larsenia: the botanists, explorers, patrons of botany, patrons, personages, a whole history, Stearn, Healey, Wells, *inter alios aliasque multos*.) or in species designators as Latinized adjectives (e.g., *philadelphicum*, *canaden'se*) or often assimilated to the Latin genitive (sc. possessive. "of") case, usually with a linking short ĭ:

feminine singular, final -ae : *Wilmot'tiae*; plural, **Wilmottiā'rum*.

masculine singular: final long ī, e.g. *Veit'chiī*, *Gra'yī*, *Larsen'iī*; plural (even where male & female mixed), *Baileyō'rum*. ("of L. H. Bailey & his daughter").

[sketch of notes prompting further research]

Why Greek & Latin?

Mediterranean Roots of Western Culture

Paradise in the East: *Hyacinthos*, *Dionysus*, *Adonis*, *Osiris* & Other Traces of Pre-Greeks

Magic & Medicine in Homer

Odysseus visits garden of Alcinoos (*Odyssey* 8) gets *moly* from Hermes (*Odyssey* 10) to overpower sorceress Circe.

Beauty's Mythic Roots

Narcissos [Narcissus]

popular etymology, drug that stupefies, calms (narke)

myth: beauty that stupefies, transfixes Daphne (but why also laurel)

Classification & Observation

Aristotle, Theophrastos, Theocritus

The Latin (Roman) Debt to Greece

Cato, Varro, Virgil, Pliny (23-79 C.E.), *The Natural History*

Nature [fertile/fierce], seconded by art (craft, technique): utility for man the prime criterion:

[xii] Trees: plane, ebony, pepper, nard, cardamom, myrrh, cinnamon, cypress, balsam,

[xiii] unguents & sea plants: palm, papyrus, citrus (xiii), vines & vineyards (xiv),

[xiv] wines & vines

[xv] trees bearing fruit & cultivated: olive, pine nut, prune, pear, cherry; 29 kinds of figs.

[xvi] wild trees: