

Teaching a Foreign Language*

-by Janet Billson, former OCHEC Area 1 representative

In our home, we dabble in French and Latin. Why? Because I was born and raised in Quebec, so French comes easy to me. In addition, we study Latin because of a deep love of the English language. So many of our English words have Latin roots, and understanding the meanings of the Latin roots gives a clearer comprehension of our own words.

If you are interested in an online self-study group that will help you to study Latin, check out this page: <http://www.ravendays.org/latin/aspergonem.html>. The moderator, Meredith Dixon, is extremely helpful and willing to assist anyone from beginners to experts in Latin. Here is a quote from her splash page: *"Aspergonem! has been created for the convenience of participants in the three Latin self-study groups which I moderate at latin@lists.colorado.edu. If you'd like to join any of these groups, or any of the many other Latin self-study groups at latin@lists, we're always delighted to have new participants. Occasional contributions are welcome, so you needn't worry about whether you'll be able to take part every week. To subscribe to latin@lists.colorado.edu, send e-mail to: listserv@lists.colorado.edu with the command: subscribe latin YourFirstName YourLastName (Don't forget to substitute your own name for YourFirstName YourLastName.) For further information, or to let me know that you're interested in joining one of these groups, feel free to e-mail me, Meredith Dixon, at: dixonm@pobox.com. Please put the name of the group you're interested in, or its code tag, somewhere in the subject of your message."*

There is a new course starting on April 24, studying Wheelock's Latin. There are two groups; a Purple one which covers one chapter every two weeks, and a Gold one which covers a chapter per month. Email Meredith if you are interested.

As far as teaching languages to young children goes, I have a couple of tips. One of the things my children love to do is make their own dictionaries. They draw a picture of something in the middle of the page, and then label it with the Latin, the French and the English word. We do the same procedure with objects around the house. If one consistently labels the pages and the objects with the same colour (red for Latin, blue for French, black for English, green for Greek, etc.) it will be easier for the children to remember from which language each word comes.

One very important thing in learning a different language is plenty of drill. Make charts for conjugations and declensions. Make verb charts for irregular verbs. Drill them together, out loud. This will help your children memorize important facts, which will be important as they progress in their language studies.

Have fun in your language studies.

**Editor's note: Please use discretion when looking at any websites. Some are NOT what they seem.*

This article originally appeared in the OCHEC Spring 2001 newsletter.

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