**Vocabulary From Classical Roots**

**Book E**

**Lesson 5**

**BASIS (G) “pedestal,” “foot,” “base” BASSUS (L) “low”**

1. **bas-relief**: (n) Sculpture whose ornament or figures are somewhat raised above the background.
2. **debase**: (v) To lower in quality, value, or dignity; to degrade.

**CLIVUS (L) “slope’**

3. **declivity**: (n) A downward slope; the slope of a hill.

4. **proclivity:** (n) A natural inclination or tendency.

**LEVIS (L) “light (in weight)”**

5**. leaven**: (n) **1.** A substance like yeast or a small amount of fermented dough that causes dough to expand or rise **2**.A lightening or enlivening influence **3**. (v) To provide a lightening influence.

6**. legerdemain**: (n) **1.** Sleight of hand; magic trick. **2**. Any trickery or deception.

7. **leverage**: (n) **1.** The action of a lever that raises or lifts. **2**. Power to influence; a position of strength.

8**. levitate**: (v) To rise or float, or cause to rise, seemingly despite gravity.

9. **levity**: (n) Lightness in speech or behavior, especially unbecoming jocularity; frivolity.

**PENDO, PENDERE, PEPENDI, PENSUM (L) “to cause to hang down,” “to weigh”**

**PONDERO, PONDERARE, PODERAVI, PONDERATUM (L) “to weigh”**

10. **penchant**: (n) A strong inclination or liking.

11. **ponderous**: (adj) **1**. Extremely heavy; massive. **2.** Unwieldy or awkward. **3**. Dull or tedious.

12. **imponderable**: (adj) Unable to be assessed or measured precisely.

13. **preponderant**: (adj.) Superior in number, force, power, or importance.

**SCALA (L) “steps,” “stairs,” “ladder,” “scale”**

**SCANDO, SCANDERE, SCANDI, SCANSUM (L) “to climb”**

14. **echelon**: (n) **1.** A step-like formation of troops, ships, or aircraft. **2**. A level of command or authority.

15. **transcendent**: (adj.) Going beyond the limits of ordinary experience.