

Teaching notes on 2.04 Making mythical monsters

Slide 1

Learning objective: to understand the meaning or Greek roots in English compound words and use them to make our own monsters

Mouse-click on this slide will also make lucundus say 'salvete!' ('sal-way-tay') to the class. This means 'hello!' The pupils can reply by saying 'salve!' ('sal-way'). 'Salve' is the greeting used to one person and 'salvete' is a greeting to more than one.

Slide 2



We go straight into this week's warm-up – a game of 'Name That Beast!' A series of five beasts will appear over the course of the next few slides but can the pupils name them and what can they tell you about them? Are they real or mythological? Where do they get their names from? On mouse-click on each of the slides, the name of the beast will be revealed. As you'll notice, all of the names are compound words (with compound parts from Ancient Greek). The goal of today's lesson will be to manipulate the compounds to make our own, novel beast.

On this slide, we see the Minotaur, the mythical half-man, half-bull that was kept in a labyrinth by King Minos of Crete. Every year, the people of Athens had to send seven of their young men and seven young women as a human sacrifice (and snack) to the Minotaur. Fortunately, the hero Theseus put an end to this by navigating his way through the labyrinth and killing the Minotaur.

Slide 3

Next is a real beast – a hippopotamus, which is Ancient Greek for 'river horse'. In Ancient Greek times, hippos were native to Egypt and so were known to the Greeks.

Slide 4

Another mythological figure, the Cyclops ('round-eye'). The Cyclopes (plural of Cyclops) are a mythical race of one-eyed giants. The most famous Cyclops is Polyphemus, whom the hero Odysseus blinds so he can escape from the giant's cave. Pupils can possibly think of some English words that come from the 'cycl' part of the name, like cycle, cyclical, cyclone.

Slide 5

The next beast is the real and beautiful seahorse, which is also known as a hippocampus ('ocean horse'). The word 'hippocampus' is also used to describe an area of the brain (which is seahorse-shaped) that is important for functions of memory and emotion. Perhaps the pupils can recall where they've seen 'hippo' before [hippopotamus].

Slide 6

With this mythical beast we can see yet another kind of horse, so there's a good chance that 'hippos' will appear in its name somewhere. If you have any dinosaur fans in the class, you can ask them what names they can think of for a dinosaur that has wings. Hopefully, if they come up with something like 'pterodactyl', 'pterodon' or 'archaeopteryx', you'll be able to point out that 'pter' signifies that a creature has wings – just like this horse. So if we run 'pter' and 'hippos' together, we get 'pterippos', the generic name for a winged horse of which Pegasus is a famous example.

Slide 7



Now the students will have the chance to use compounds to create their own mythical monster. On this slide (and on their worksheets) they will see ten English words made from Greek compounds, giving them a total of 20 compound parts to play around with. They will use these in conjunction with...

Slide 8



...the worksheet to create and illustrate their new monster. Mouse-click on this slide shows an example of the 'dino-pod'. NB on the worksheet, pupils can either cut the compound parts out and stick them on their sheet, or they can simply copy them into the boxes.

Slide 9

The plenary which takes the form of a set of questions:

Question 1 Which mythical creature's name means 'Round Eye'? [Cyclops]

Question 2 If you see 'pter' in the name of a dinosaur, what do you think it will have? [wings]

Question 3 Can you think of any more words in English that have 'oct' in them and have a connection with the number eight? [octagon, octave, October – originally the eighth month in the Roman calendar]

On mouse-click, lucundus then says, 'valete!' ('wa-lay-tay'), which means 'goodbye!' The pupils can reply 'vale!' Just like with 'hello', the greeting changes depending on how whether the speaker is addressing one or many people.