UNIT SIXTEEN

You may have heard the word minister *used as a noun to describe a religious official or religious duty. While this kind of* minister *certainly tends to or manages his or her flock, the verb form of the word can also be used in a non-religious sense. A nurse, for instance, might* minister *to a patient.*

MINISTER

Latin MINISTER, "official, minister"
MINISTRARE, MINISTRATUM, "to tend, minister, manage"

ADMINISTER (ad min´ i stər) *v.* To give to; to apply
L. ad, "to," + ministrare = *to tend to*
Only rarely is a lifeguard called on to *administer* emergency treatments, but yesterday Oliver had to use mouth-to-mouth resuscitation twice.

MINISTER (min´ i stər) *v.* To take care of; tend to
Being ill herself, Talia found it very difficult to *minister* to her wheelchair-bound husband.
syn: manage *ant*: injure

The nurse was too SINISTER to MINISTER to the patient.

ARBITER, ARBITRA

Latin ARBITER, "judge"

ARBITER (är´ bi tər) *n.* One who decides or determines
Even though Kelley was the *arbiter* of fashion at school, at home, all she wore was jeans and a T-shirt.
syn: judge

ARBITRATE (är´ bi trāt) *v.* To judge between two sides; to referee
Janice offered to *arbitrate* the argument between two of her friends.
syn: mediate, decide, settle

ARBITRARY (är´ bi trer ē) *adj.* Chosen according to whim or personal preference; not backed up by reason
I never choose what I'm going to wear to work for any particular reason; the decision is completely *arbitrary*.

MAGISTR

Latin MAGISTER, "master, teacher"

MAGISTERIAL (maj ə stēr´ ē əl) *adj.* Commanding and dignified
The mother cat led her kittens along with a *magisterial* air.
syn: regal *ant*: unimpressive

MAGISTRATE (maj´ ə strāt) *n.* A minor civil official
To avoid being handcuffed at work, Mr. Becket turned himself in to the supervising *magistrate* in the area.

ARCH

Greek ARKHE, "ruler"
ARKHEIN, "to be first, begin"

ARCHAIC (är kā´ ik) *adj.* Dating back to a much earlier time; ancient
Many words that we use now as slang will be *archaic* in a hundred years.
syn: obsolete *ant*: new

ANARCHY (an´ är kē) *n.* Lack of order or control
L. an, "not," + arkhe = *having no ruler*
When the king was overthrown, total *anarchy* raged throughout the country.
syn: chaos *ant*: peace, calm

MATRIARCH (mā´ trē ärk) *n.* Female head of a family
L. mater + arkhe = *mother ruler*
In elephant society, females rule the herd; the oldest *matriarch* in the group makes all decisions for the rest of the animals.
ant: patriarch

The verb arkhein *means "to be first in time" but also "first in place or position." This is why the root gives us words having to do with power (i.e., being first in position), like* anarchy *and* matriarch, *as well as words having to do with age (or being first in time), like* archaic.

Writers, especially poets, sometimes use archaisms*—words, phrases, or speech patterns from an earlier time—to make their words sound older and more serious.*