

The word assault is derived through the ME *assaut* and OF *assaut* from the Latin *ad* (to, against) and *saliō* (to leap) and thus describes a violent attack.

A desultory conversation leaps from one topic to another in no connected fashion.

The word sally is derived from *saliō* through the French *saullir* which means “to rush out” as in “The troops sallied forth against the enemy.”

The word sauté comes through the French *sauter* (to leap, jump, hop [as vegetables do in a pan when they are being tossed]).

- *scindō* – rescind, rescission

To rescind a law means to cut it back or annul it.

- *vestiō* (*vestis*) – divest, invest, investiture, investment, investor, travesty, vest, vestment, vestry, vesture.

A vestry is the room in a church where a priest dresses for mass.

The word travesty comes through the French *travester* (from the Latin *trāns* = over) and *vestiō* = dress) which means to disguise by dress so as to be ridiculous.

The word invest originally meant to put on the robes of an office. The meaning to use money to make a profit seems to have originated in the seventeenth century in connection with the East Indies trade and is probably borrowed from the Italian word *investire* via the idea of giving a new form to capital.

PAGE 194

ANSWERS TO COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. Erasmus has had a very difficult journey, much in the same way as Ulysses did.
2. An ice storm.
3. The trees, covered with ice, are either bent to the ground under the weight, or their branches are torn down, or the trees have fallen down themselves.
4. Erasmus and the horse, carried by the wind, were practically sailing down the hill, while Erasmus directed the course with his staff.
5. Erasmus was very nervous.



TEACHER BY THE WAY

Desiderius Erasmus

Desiderius Erasmus was born in Rotterdam of parents who might today be described as “middle class.” His parents died of the plague in 1483, and his guardians placed him in a monastery, where he thoroughly learned Latin and scripture. In his twenties he was ordained a priest and obtained papal dispensation to live outside the monastery so he could be a Latin secretary for the Bishop of Cambray. Then with the bishop’s consent and a stipend, Erasmus went to the University of Paris to study for a degree in theology. Here he met some English noblemen and was invited by them to visit England. While in England he made a lasting friendship with the great English humanist Thomas More and he taught at the University of Cambridge. His English connections and most especially his friendship with the theologian John Colet helped Erasmus to determine that one of his main projects would be to learn ancient Greek and use his knowledge of this language to improve the accuracy of the New Testament and the works