

Agenda
August 28, 2008

2. daily procedures:

- **word of the day**

Main Entry: **seer·suck·er**

Pronunciation: 'sɪr-"s&-k&r

Function: *noun*

Etymology: Hindi *sIrsaker*, from Persian *shIr-o-shakar*, literally, milk and sugar

Date: 1722

:a light fabric of linen, cotton, or rayon usually striped and slightly puckered

- **Latin/French expression of the day (submit your own by email)**
tempus fugit = “time flies”

Times Flies Like an Arrow, Fruit Flies Like a Banana...

Pocket protectors

www.pocketprotectors.info

- **pojmanym of the day**

pojmanyns.net

mercurial \mer-KYUR-ee-ul\ *adjective*

*1 : characterized by rapid and unpredictable changeableness of mood

2 : of, relating to, containing, or caused by mercury

<<http://www.merriam-webster.com/sound/m/mercur03.wav>>

Example sentence:

Paul's mercurial moods made him extremely difficult to work with because even the most innocuous event could provoke a fit of violent temper.

Did you know?

The Roman god Mercury ("Mercurius" in Latin) was the messenger and herald of the gods and also the god of merchants and thieves. (His counterpart in Greek mythology is Hermes.) He was noted for his eloquence, swiftness, and cunning, and the Romans named what appeared to them to be the fastest-moving planet in his honor. The Latin adjective derived from his name, "mercurialis," meaning "of or relating to Mercury," was borrowed into English in the 14th century as "mercurial." Although the adjective initially meant "born under the planet Mercury," it came to mean also "having qualities of eloquence, ingenuity, or thievishness attributed to the god Mercury or the influence of the planet Mercury," and then "unpredictably changeable."

Epistemology

Principle of Falsification

Sir Karl Popper:

Being unrestricted, scientific theories cannot be verified by any possible accumulation of observational evidence. The formation of hypothesis is a creative process of the imagination and is not a passive reaction to observed regularities. A scientific test consists in a persevering search for negative, falsifying instances. If a hypothesis survives continuing and serious attempts to falsify it, then it has "proved its mettle" and can be provisionally accepted, but it can

never be established conclusively. Later corroboration generates a series of hypothesis into a scientific theory.

Thus, the core element of a scientific hypothesis is that it must be capability of being proven false. For example, the hypothesis that "atoms move because they are pushed by small, invisible, immaterial demons" is pseudo-science since the existence of the demons cannot be proven false (i.e. cannot be tested at all).