

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Frequently

aardwolf

n
/ 'ärd.wulf /
Afrikaans
a striped hyenalike mammal of southern and eastern Africa that feeds chiefly on carrion and insects.
Termites are the favorite food of the aardwolf.

abacus

n
/ 'abəkəs /
Gk > L
a calculating instrument for performing arithmetical processes by sliding counters by hand on rods or in grooves.
The grocer used an abacus instead of a modern cash register.

abalienation

abalone

n
/ .abə'lōnē /
Sp
a gastropod mollusk that clings to rocks tenaciously with a broad muscular foot.
At the beach, Marta made a necklace from the shell of an abalone.

abandonment

abattoir

n
/ 'abə.twär /
F
slaughterhouse.
At the end of the day the battlefield at Hastings looked like an abattoir.

abbot

abbreviate

abbreviation

abdicate

v
/ 'abdəkāt /
L
relinquish formally, renounce.
The crown prince will abdicate his throne so that his brother may rule.

abdomen

n
/ 'abdəmən /
L > F
region of an insect's body.
The three main body parts of an insect are the head, the thorax, and the abdomen.

abdominal

abecedarium

abecedarius

n
/ .ābē(,)sē'da(r)ēəs /
L
a poem in which the lines or stanzas begin with the letters of the alphabet in regular order.
Geoffrey Chaucer wrote a famous abecedarius.

aberrant

aberration

n
/ .abə'rāshən /
L
deviation from the natural state or from a normal type.
Jane's outburst at the meeting was a shocking behavior aberration, for her manner is usually so reserved.

abeyance

n
/ ə'bāən(t)s /
L > F + Ecf
[has homonym: obedience]
cessation or suspension (as of a customary practice).
Use of the swimming pool was put in abeyance until a new lifeguard could be hired.

abhor

abhorrence

abidance

n
/ ə'bīd'ən(t)s /
E
compliance.
Abidance with the golden rule helps one have a happy life.

ability

abiogenist

abjuration

ablution

n
/ ə'blūshən /
L
the washing of one's body or part of it as a religious rite.
A common example of ablution in Judaism is washing the hands before a meal that includes bread.

abolition

abominable

adj
/ ə'bām(ə)nəbəl /
L > F > E
worthy of or causing loathing or hatred.
Charlie's abominable pretense of being attracted to Jane was the result of a dare by his friends.

aborigine

n
/ .abə'rijə(,)nē /
L
[Note: Could be confused with aborigin.] one of the native people especially as contrasted with an invading or colonizing people.
Cathy Freeman, an Australian aborigine, carried the flame into the Olympic stadium.

abracadabra

n
/ .abrəkə'dabrə /
L
confused or unintelligible language : nonsense.
Despite the abracadabra in the poem "Jabberwocky," its message is rather clear.

abrasion

n
/ ə'brāzhən /
L
wearing, grinding, or rubbing away by friction.
Moving glaciers caused abrasion on Earth's surface.

abrasive

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abrogated

abruptly

adv
/ ə'brʌp(t)l̩ /

L
in a manner that produces the effect of a sudden ending.

George's mom stopped abruptly at the door of his room when she saw his pet python on the floor.

abscess

abscissa

n
/ ab'sisə /

L
the horizontal coordinate of a point in a plane Cartesian coordinate system obtained by measuring parallel to the x-axis.

Bill was asked to mark the point on the graph at which the abscissa is 4 and the ordinate is 7.

abscond

abscondence

abseil

n
/ 'æp.zɪl /

G
descent in mountaineering by means of a rope looped over a projection above.

In her wilderness survival class, Elisa learned how to perform an abseil without losing control.

absence

abstemious

adj
/ abz'tēmēəs /

L
sparing in eating and drinking.
Evelyn is abstemious by nature and never orders dessert.

abstention

n
/ əbz'tenchən /

L
withholding of a vote.
Helga resented her senator's abstention on the crime bill.

abstinence

abstractive

abstruse

adj
/ əbz'trüs /

L
[has obsolete variant with similar pronunciation: obtruse] difficult to comprehend or understand.

Mr. Thompson's abstruse calculations covered the blackboard.

absurdity

abundance

abysmal

adj
/ ə'bɪzməl /
Gk > L > E

having the characteristics of an abyss : bottomless.
Ahmet jumped his motorcycle over the abysmal gorge.

abysmally

acacia

n
/ ə'kæʃə /
Gk > L

any plant of the genus of woody plants of warm regions having pinnate leaves and white or yellow flower clusters.
Giraffes have specialized teeth that help them comb leaves from the spiny branches of the acacia.

academia

n
/ .akə'dēmyə /
Gk > L

life and interests associated with a school especially of higher learning.
Robert prefers academia to the business world.

academic

adj
/ .akə'demɪk /
Gk > L > F
relating to a school, especially an institution of higher education.

Claudia postponed her academic pursuits after learning of her father's serious illness.

acarology

accede

accelerate

v
/ ik'selə.rāt /

L
add to the speed of or quicken the motion of.
To qualify for the finals, the jogger had to accelerate his pace.

accelerator

accentuator

acceptance

accessible

adj
/ ik'sesəbəl /
L
capable of being reached or easily approached.
Wilbur made sure his restaurant was accessible to those in wheelchairs.

accession

n
/ ik'seshən /
L > F
the act of attaining or coming to high office or a position of honor or power.
The best seller chronicled the accession of the new prince.

accessorial

accidental

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accipiter

n
/ ak'sipədə(r) /

L
any hawk of the genus *Accipiter* (as the Cooper's hawk, sharp-shinned hawk, goshawk).

Calvin spotted an accipiter darting among the trees.

acclimatization

n
/ ə'klīmədə'zāshən /
L > F + Ecff

the process of adapting to a new temperature, altitude, environment, or situation.

The wild fern's acclimatization to Mrs. Bennett's rock garden amazed her.

acclivity

n
/ ə'klivədə /

L
an ascending slope (as of a hill).
The biker hoped that a downhill stretch would soon follow what seemed to be an endless acclivity.

acolade

n
/ 'akələd /
L > F

a bestowal of praise.
Martin received one accolade after another at the awards banquet.

accommodable

accommodate

v
/ ə'kämədət /

L
provide with lodgings.
Leah begged the hotel clerk to accommodate her for just one more night.

accomplice

n
/ ə'kämpləs /

L > F > E
one that participates with another in a crime either as principal or accessory.
The juvenile was convicted as an accomplice in the robbery.

accordionist

accreditation

acrescent

adj
/ ə'kresənt /

L
growing continuously; specifically : growing larger after flowering.
After its flower had fallen away, the plant's accrescent calyx became noticeably larger.

accrual

accrue

accrued

v
/ ə'krüd /
L > F > E

came by way of increase or addition.
Helen argued that many advantages have accrued to society from the freedom of the press.

accumulate

v
/ ə'kyümyələt /
L

heap up in a mass : pile up.
The weather forecaster said that as much as two feet of snow might accumulate overnight.

accurate

adj
/ 'akyərət /

L
correct, exact, precise.
The detective prided himself on making accurate reports of crime scenes.

accusatory

acerbity

n
/ ə'sərbədə /

L
acidity of temper or tone : astringency or sharpness of manner.
Rosemary remarked with acerbity that her son's chores hadn't been done in days.

acescent

adj
/ ə'sesənt /
L

turning sour or tending to turn sour.
Natalie spit out the acescent milk.

acetate

acetylene

n
/ ə'sedələn /
L + Gk + Gk

a colorless gaseous hydrocarbon that is explosive when compressed but safe if diluted with nitrogen or acetone.
The welder ran out of acetylene while cutting through the ship's hull.

achondrite

n
/ ā'kän.drīt /

Gk
a stony meteorite devoid of the granular structures known as chondrules.
The claim that the achondrite originated from the moon was based on compositional matches of lunar rocks obtained by the Apollo missions.

achromatism

acicular

adj
/ ə'sikyələr /
L + Ecf

like a needle in shape : slender and pointed.
Under the microscope, the crystals appear as single acicular structures.

acknowledge

acknowledging

acme

n
/ 'akmē /

Gk
the highest point or stage (as of growth or development).
Many of her fans think Barbra Streisand is at the acme of the music profession.

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acolyte

n
/ 'akə.līt /
Gk > L > F > E
one who attends or assists :
follower.
*Not one acolyte remained after the
cult leader's fall from grace.*

acorn

acoustician

acoustics

n pl
/ ə'küstiks /
Gk
the aggregate of qualities (as
absence of echo or reverberation)
of an enclosure (as an auditorium)
or other area that affects
production, control, transmission,
reception, and perception of sound.
*As a result of the renovation, the
acoustics of the concert hall have
improved dramatically.*

acquaintance

n
/ ə'kwāntʰn(t)s /
F > E
familiarity, experience.
*Ruth developed an acquaintance
with Tibetan musical tradition.*

acquiesce

acquiescence

acquittal

n
/ ə'kwidʰl /
L + L > F
[Note: The definition provided is
not the one most commonly
associated with this word.] release
or discharge from debt or other
liability.
*Mr. Churchill was deeply involved
in the game and was too much
indebted to it for his acquittal.*

acre

n
/ 'ākə(r) /
E
any of various units of land area.
*Miriam had to cross a 10-acre field
to get to her favorite swimming
hole.*

acrid

adj
/ 'akrəd /
L
unpleasantly sharp or strong to the
taste or to the smell.
*The acrid sulfur fumes made
Gustavo's eyes water.*

acrimonious

adj
/ .akrə'mōnēəs /
L > F
caustic, biting, or rancorous,
especially in feeling, language, or
manner : bitter.
*It was obvious that Marjorie's
comments were acrimonious and
complaining.*

acrobat

n
/ 'akrəbat /
Gk > F
one who performs gymnastic feats
or exercises.
*Paul is developing the skills of a
first-rate acrobat.*

acronym

n
/ 'akrənim /
Gk + Gk
a word formed from the initial
letter or letters of each of the
successive parts or major parts of a
compound term.
*The word radar is an acronym of
radio detection and ranging.*

acropolis

acrostic

n
/ ə'kröstik /
Gk
a composition usually in verse in
which one or more sets of letters
when taken in order form a word, a
connected group of words, or the
regular sequence of the letters of
the alphabet.
*Mrs. Taylor was not at all pleased
with the acrostic her students made
using her name.*

acrylic

actinic

adj
/ ak'tinik /
Gk > L + Ecf
having photochemical properties or
effects.
*The stars emit actinic rays as well
as light and heat.*

actuary

n
/ 'akchə.werē /
L
one trained in mathematics and
statistics whose business it is to
calculate insurance and annuity
premiums, reserves, and dividends.
*An actuary uses such factors as age
and health status to determine a
person's life insurance premiums.*

acuate

adj
/ 'akyə.wāt /
L
having a sharp point : shaped like a
needle : sharpened.
*Cobb's beagle was distinctive
because of its acuate tail.*

aculeate

adj
/ ə'kyülēāt /
L
marked by incisiveness : stinging,
pointed.
*No actor was spared in the
reviewer's aculeate criticisms.*

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acumen

n
/ ə'kyümən /
L

acuteness of mind : keenness of perception, discernment, or discrimination : shrewdness especially in practical matters.
Della's business acumen helped her amass a fortune of over \$50 million.

acuminate

adj
/ ə'kyümənət /
L

tapering to a slender point : pointed.
Steve found one of his parakeet's acuminate tail feathers on the floor.

acupuncture

adactylous

adage

adagio

n
/ ə'dä(,)jō /
(L + L > OProv) > It
[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word.] a series of sustained and perfectly controlled dance movements displaying balance and grace.
The wicked fairy performed a perfect adagio just before Sleeping Beauty appeared.

adamantine

adj
/ .adə'man.tin /
Gk > L > E
rigidly firm : unyielding.
Debra's adamantine chain of logic bedazzled her philosophy professor.

addlepated

adenoidal

adj
/ .ad'n'oid'l /
Gk

typical or suggestive of one affected with abnormally enlarged glands in the back of the throat.
The critics panned the tenor, whose voice was terribly adenoidal and breathy.

adequate

adequation

adhere

adherence

adherent

n
/ .ad'hirənt /
L

a believer in or advocate of a particular thing, idea, or religion.
Julia has been an adherent of Buddhism since 1985.

adhesional

adiaphorism

adipose

adjacency

adjacent

adj
/ ə'jās'nt /
L
living nearby or sitting or standing relatively near or close together.
Citizens of Centerville and its adjacent communities banded together to form a volunteer fire department.

adjourn

adjudicate

adjunct

n
/ 'a.jəŋ(k)t /
L

something joined or added to another thing but not essentially a part of it.
Exercise is an adjunct to a long and healthy life.

adjuvant

admeasure

adminicle

n
/ ad'minəkəl /
L

support, auxiliary.
Shelly enjoyed serving as an adminicle of the local Girl Scout troop.

admiral

n
/ 'adm(ə)rəl /
Ar > L

a naval officer of high rank.
Petty Officer Pritchard saluted the admiral and continued to her post.

admire

admonitory

adolescence

Adonis

n
/ ə'dänəs /
Gk name
an exceptionally handsome young man.
Nearly all the eighth-grade girls think that Leonardo is an Adonis.

adsmith

adumbrate

v
/ 'adəm.brāt /
L

give a sketchy representation of : outline broadly, omitting details.
There was time to only adumbrate the escape plan.

advantageous

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adverb

adversary

adverse

advisory

n
/ əd'vīz(ə)rē /
L > F

a report giving information (as one issued by a weather bureau on the progress of a hurricane).
The weather advisory warned small craft that winds would be in excess of 34 knots today.

advocaat

advocate

n
/ 'advəkāt /
L

one that argues for, defends, maintains, or recommends a cause or proposal.
Isabella was sure nobody ought to be, or could be, a greater advocate for matrimony than she.

aerial

aerodynamic

adj
/ .a(ə)rō(,)dī'namik /
Gk

of or relating to the science that treats of the motion of air and other gaseous fluids.
The aerodynamic design of race cars helps them achieve great speeds.

aeronautics

aerosol

n
/ 'a(ə)rəsəl /
Gk + L

a suspension of ultramicroscopic solid or liquid particles in air or gas.
Volcanic eruptions propel hydrogen sulfide into the stratosphere, where it reacts with oxygen to form an aerosol that can persist for more than a year.

Aeschylean

adj
/ eskə'lēən /
Gk name
of, relating to, or suggestive of the Greek tragic poet Aeschylus.
The Aeschylean chorus plays an important role in the plot of the tragedy.

affability

n
/ .afə'bīlədē /
L
sociability.
Miss Smith was delighted with the affability with which Miss Woodhouse had treated her all the evening.

affable

affectionate

adj
/ ə'feksh(ə)nət /
L
having warm regard : loving, fond.
Tipper is the most affectionate collie Susan had ever owned.

affianced

v
/ ə'fīən(t)st /
L > F > E
solemnly promised (oneself or another) in marriage : betrothed.
The ruler of Austria affianced his daughter to the king of France.

affidavit

n
/ .afə'dāvət /
L
a sworn statement in writing made especially under oath or before an authorized officer.
The police asked Heather to prepare an affidavit regarding what she saw when she surprised a burglar in her house.

affiliate

v
/ ə'filē.āt /
L
attach as a member or branch : bring or receive into close connection.
The university assists in trying to affiliate local high schools.

affiliation

n
/ ə'filē'āshən /
L
the state or relation of being attached as a member or branch.
Professor Bruner retired after a 30-year affiliation with Harvard University.

affinity

n
/ ə'finədē /
L
sympathy especially as marked by community of interest.
Marie felt an affinity with the new chess prodigy, remembering how she had followed Bobby Fischer's early career many years before.

affirmative

afflatus

n
/ ə'flādəs /
L
a divine imparting of knowledge or power : inspiration.
Most art students are familiar with Michelangelo's painting on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel depicting the afflatus from God to Adam.

affluence

aforementioned

afterwale

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agape

n
/ ä'gä.pä /
Gk

spontaneous self-giving love expressed freely without calculation of cost or gain to the giver or merit on the part of the receiver.
The question "What's in it for me?" is unheard of in agape.

agate

adj
/ 'agät /
Gk > L > F

of or resembling a fine-grained chalcedony frequently mixed with opal and having various colors arranged in stripes or bands; especially : of the color of agate.
Rachel's brown agate eyes are extremely unusual and beautiful.

agelicism

agenda

agglomerate

n
/ ə'glämərət /
L

[Note: Could be confused with agglomerant.] a confused or jumbled mass, heap, or collection.
Helen's favorite jeans are somewhere in the agglomerate of clothing on her bedroom floor.

agglomeration

agglutinate

aggrandizement

n
/ ə'grandəzmənt /
L > F

the act, action, or result of making great or greater (as in power, honor, or wealth).
Because she was a commoner, Ruth was accused of marrying the prince for her own personal aggrandizement.

aggravate

v
/ 'agrə.vāt /
L

make worse, more serious, or more severe.
Shane worried that a game of one-on-one would aggravate his ankle injury.

aggregate

n
/ 'agrəgät /
L

a body of units or parts somewhat loosely associated with one another.
The protesters straggled toward the muddy park in a dispirited aggregate as the organizers set up tents and microphones.

aghost

agiotage

agitated

adj
/ 'ajə.tādəd /
L

troubled in mind : disturbed, excited.
The crowd became agitated when the candidate failed to appear.

agnostic

n
/ ag'nästik /
Gk

one who maintains a continuing doubt about the existence or knowability of a god or any ultimates.
Raymond and Olive have been happily married for ten years, even though she is an agnostic and he never misses Sunday morning mass.

agoraphobia

agrarian

agreeable

adj
/ ə'grēəbəl /
L > F

pleasing to the mind or senses : to one's liking : pleasant.
The famous ballplayer proved to be the most likable and agreeable man that Billy had ever met.

agriology

agronomy

n
/ ə'gränəmē /
L + Gk

the branch of agriculture that deals with field crop production and soil management.
Vince earned a degree in agronomy at the state university's school of agriculture.

aikido

ailanthus

n
/ ä'lan(t)thəs /
Amboinese

a tree of a small genus of East Indian and Chinese trees with greenish flowers.
The ailanthus is fast growing and its shallow, wide-spreading root system effectively anchors the soil.

aileron

n
/ 'älərən /
L > F

a movable portion of an airplane wing or a movable airfoil external to the wing for imparting a rolling motion and thus providing lateral control.
An aileron is usually situated at the trailing edge of an airplane's wing near the wing tip.

airborne

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airedale

n
/ 'a(a)(ə)r.dāl /
E geog name
a large terrier with a wiry black and tan coat.
Shantha's airedale is registered with the American Kennel Club.

akimbo

adj
/ ə'kim(,)bō /
E
having the hands on the hips with the elbows projecting outward.
With her arms akimbo, Marion waited for Tim to explain himself.

akropodion

n
/ .akrə'pōdēən /
Gk
the most prominent point on the back of the heel.
After the hike, Eli had a nasty blister on his left akropodion.

aktograph

alabaster

adj
/ 'alə.bastə(r) /
Gk > L > F > E
of or resembling alabaster; specifically : having a nearly white color and a light-diffusing surface.
Patsy's alabaster skin gives her a spectral appearance.

alacrity

n
/ ə'lakrədē /
L
cheerful readiness : eagerness.
Dr. Cameron's students always enter his class with alacrity and depart with reluctance.

alar

alary

adj
/ 'alərē /
L
wing-shaped or fan-shaped.
There was an alary membrane on each side of the seed.

albatross

n
/ 'albə.trōs /
Ar? > Pg or Sp
any of a number of large web-footed seabirds that are capable of long-continued flight.
The wingspan of an albatross can exceed ten feet.

albedo

n
/ al'bē(,)dō /
L
reflective power.
Arno researched the effects of soil albedo on vegetation.

albedometer

n
/ .albəd'āmədə(r) /
L + Gk
a device for measuring the reflection of light (as by snow).
David used an albedometer to measure the reflection of light by the clouds.

albeit

conj
/ ɔl'bēət /
E
although.
Sonia had a simple, albeit expensive, wedding.

albino

alchemy

n
/ 'alkəmē /
Gk > Ar > L > F
the medieval chemical science and speculative philosophy whose aims were the transmutation of base metals into gold.
The wizard's apprentice was determined to learn enough alchemy to turn lead into gold.

alcohol

alcoholature

alcoholism

alcove

n
/ 'alkōv /
Ar > Sp > F
a recessed part (as a breakfast nook) of a room.
Silvio found an alcove in the library that was a perfect place for taking a nap.

aleatoric

adj
/ .ālēə'tōrik /
L
characterized by chance or random elements.
By digitizing thunder and traffic noises, Georgia was able to compose aleatoric music.

aleatory

alegar

n
/ 'aligə(r) /
E + L > F
sour ale or vinegar made of ale.
While studying in England as an exchange student, Judith developed a taste for fried potatoes with salt and alegar.

alfalfa

n
/ al'falfə /
Ar > Sp
an important European leguminous forage plant.
The farmer alternated his crops, growing alfalfa one season and corn the next.

alfresco

adj
/ al'fre(,)skō /
It
open-air.
Everyone looks forward to the alfresco party that the Smiths hold every Derby Day.

algorithm

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alibi

n
/ 'aləbī /
L

the plea of having been elsewhere at the time an act was committed.
To support his alibi, Jake showed his lawyer a video made during his Hawaii trip.

alien

adj
/ 'ālēən /
L

different in nature or character : far removed.
Nguyen's response to his mother's question had results entirely alien from what he intended.

alienation

aliferous

alimentary

adj
/ .alə'mentərə /
L

[Note: Could be confused with elementary.] of, concerned with, or relating to nourishment or to the function of nutrition.
Pasta is sometimes called an "alimentary paste."

aliquot

alkali

allargando

adv
/ .ä.lär'gän(.)dō /
L

in a manner becoming gradually broader with the same or greater volume.
David's piano teacher indicated that the piece was to be played allargando.

allayment

allege

v
/ ə'lej /
L

assert, affirm, state without proof or before proving.
Residents of the area allege that the lake water has curative properties.

allegiance

n
/ ə'lējən(t)s /
F > E

the duty of fidelity owed by a subject or citizen to his sovereign or government.
The new citizens pledged allegiance to their adopted country.

allegory

n
/ 'alə.gōrē /
Gk

a story in which people, things, and happenings have a hidden or symbolic meaning.
Gail disliked the moralistic tone of the allegory.

allegro

n
/ ə'le(.)grō /
It > L

ballet steps performed in a lively, fast tempo.
After the allegro, Madame Delacroix instructed the dancers to cool down slowly.

allemande

v
/ 'alə.mand /
Gmc > L > F

perform a step with arms interlaced.
The caller told the square dancers to allemande left and swing their partners.

allergy

n
/ 'alə(r)jē /
Gk > G

exaggerated or pathological reaction (as by sneezing, itching, or skin rashes) to substances, situations, or physical states that are without comparable effect on the average individual.
Because of her allergy, Mrs. Griffin discouraged her students from bringing in any furry pets for show-and-tell.

alliance

n
/ ə'liən(t)s /
L > F > E

union or connection especially between families, states, parties, or individuals.
The alliance between the two nations has been strong for nearly 50 years.

alligator

n
/ 'alə.gādə(r) /
L > Sp

a reptile having a head not tapering to the snout and being in general much more sluggish than the typical crocodiles.
Jason's favorite sight at the fair was a woman wrestling an alligator.

allision

alliteration

n
/ ə.lidə'rāshən /
L + Ecf

the repetition usually initially of a sound that is usually a consonant in two or more neighboring words or syllables (as in "daring deed").
Poor writers rely on alliteration when lacking ideas.

allocate

v
/ 'alə.kāt /
L

set apart and earmark or designate.
Leon hoped the committee would allocate funds for the new playground.

allocation

n
/ ələ'kāshən /
L

the act of apportioning.
The allocation of powers in the United States Constitution is clearly defined.

alluded

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alluviation

n
/ əˈlʊvᵻˈeɪʃən /
L

the process that results in deposits of clay, silt, sand, or gravel at places in rivers or estuaries where stream velocity is decreased.
The effects of alluviation can be seen along the banks of a large river.

almond

n
/ ˈä(1)mənd /
Gk > L > F > E

the fruit of a small tree; especially : the nutlike stone or kernel of this tree.
The almond is a nut that is easy to crack.

almoner

n
/ ˈälmənə(r) /
L > F > E

one who distributes charitable gifts, often for another.
In his role as the king's almoner, Jared tossed a few pennies to the audience.

alnico

n
/ ˈälnəˌkō /
L + G > Sw + G

a powerful permanent-magnet alloy containing iron, nickel, aluminum, and one or more of the elements cobalt, copper, and titanium.
Mr. Arkin's factory makes industrial magnets from alnico.

aloof

adj
/ əˈlʊf /
E + D? > F > E

removed or distant either physically or spiritually and usually by choice and with indifference to the feelings, opinions, or interests of others.
Greg's aloof personality discouraged his gregarious colleagues.

alopecia

n
/ əˈləˈpiːsh(ē)ə /
Gk

loss of hair, wool, or feathers : baldness.
Prescription drugs such as minoxidil have had limited success in treating alopecia.

alpaca

n
/ əlˈpækə /
Aymara > Sp
an animal like a llama with fine long woolly hair and domesticated in Peru and adjacent countries.
The petting zoo featured four goats, an alpaca, a pony, and three lambs.

alpenglow

n
/ ˈälpəŋˌglō /
G + E
a reddish glow or sometimes the entire series of light phenomena seen near sunset or sunrise on the summits of mountains.
Jocelyn and Ruth enjoyed the rich alpenglow from the balcony of their cabin.

alphabet

altazimuth
n
/ əlˈtəzəˌmʊθ /
L + Ar > L

an instrument consisting of a telescope mounted so that it can swing horizontally and vertically.
Josh saw an antique altazimuth in the maritime museum.

altercation

n
/ ˌɔltə(r)ˈkæʃən /
L
dispute carried on with feeling (as anger).
Police broke up a minor altercation between two street vendors.

altiplano

n
/ ˌältəˈplä(ˌ)nō /
L > Sp
a high plateau or plain : tableland.
A cold northerly wind over the altiplano heralded the arrival of winter.

altitude

n
/ ˈältəˌtʊd /
L > E
position at a height.
When the plane suddenly lost altitude, the pilot told the passengers to fasten their seat belts.

altogether

adv
/ ˌɔltəˈgeθə(r) /
E
wholly, completely, thoroughly.
The suffragettes argued that it was altogether fit and proper that women have the right to vote.

altruism

altruistically

alveolate

adj
/ əlˈvɛələt /
L + Ecf
pitted like a honeycomb.
The porous sandstone had an alveolate surface.

amadelphous

amalgam

n
/ əˈmælgəm /
Ar? > L > F
an alloy of mercury with another metal.
Because mercury will form an amalgam with most other metals, it can be used to extract them from ore.

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amanuensis

n
/ ə.manyə'wen(t)səs /

L
one who is employed to write from dictation or to copy what another has written.

During the six weeks that Chrissie's arm was in a cast, she completed her homework with her mother as her amanuensis.

amaryllis

n
/ .amə'riləs /

L name
any of several African bulbous herbs grown for their large showy flowers.

Deborah's amaryllis bloomed just in time for the December holidays.

amateur

amber

n
/ 'ambə(r) /
Ar > L > F

a very hard yellowish to brownish translucent fossil resin that takes a fine polish.

Sarah was delighted when her mother gave her some earrings made of amber.

ambidextrous

ambiguity

n
/ .ambə'gyüədē /

L
the condition of admitting of two or more meanings, of being understood in more than one way, or of referring to two or more things at the same time.

The ambiguity of Mr. Mitchell's essay questions encouraged creative interpretations.

ambivalent

adj
/ am'bivələnt /

L
characterized by, suggestive of, motivated by, or exhibiting contradictory emotional or psychological attitude.
Because Tad has a grueling job lined up, he is ambivalent about the upcoming summer vacation.

amblyopia

n
/ .amblē'öpēə /

Gk
dimness of sight without apparent change in the eye structures associated especially with the toxic effects of certain drugs or chemicals or with dietary deficiencies.

The doctor told Henry to quit smoking if he wanted his amblyopia to improve.

ambrosia

n
/ am'brōzh(ē)ə /
Gk > F

a dessert of a fruit or of mixed fruits topped with shredded coconut.

Cyrus's favorite dessert is his grandmother's ambrosia.

ambulation

ambuscade

ambush

ameliorate

v
/ ə'mēlyə.rāt /

L
make better : improve.
Activists lobbied to ameliorate prison conditions.

amelioration

n
/ ə.mēlyə'rāshən /

L
the act of making better or the state of being made better : improvement.

The committee submitted its recommendations for the amelioration of the undesirable conditions at the overcrowded school.

amenable

adj
/ ə'mēnəbəl /
L > F

readily brought to yield or submit : responsive, tractable.

Horst is amenable to any ideas for the prom's theme.

amendment

n
/ ə'men(d)mənt /
L + Ecf

the process of changing or modifying in any way for the better (as a motion, bill, act, or constitution).

A well-drafted constitution will provide for its own amendment.

amertoy

n
/ 'amə(r),tôi /

E geog name + E
a small terrierlike dog having a short sleek satiny coat and weighing between six and ten pounds.

Ricky was forever chasing Trixie, the family amertoy, out of the flower beds.

amethyst

amiable

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amicable

adj
/ 'aməkəbəl /
L

characterized by or as if by friendship and goodwill.
Carla and Jeanine have had an amicable relationship since they settled their initial dispute.

amice

n
/ 'aməs /
L

[has near homonyms: amas, amiss]
a liturgical vestment consisting of an oblong piece of cloth usually of white linen, worn about the neck and shoulders and partly under the alb.
Father Patrick put on a fresh white amice before serving mass.

amiss

amity

n
/ 'amədē /
L

friendship and goodwill, especially as characterized by mutual acceptance and tolerance of potentially antagonistic standpoints or aims.
The natural amity between Avital and her sister has helped them maintain strong ties through many family disagreements.

ammeter

n
/ 'a(m).medə(r) /
F + Gk

[has near homonym: amateur] an instrument for measuring electric current.
Perry and Ayrton's ammeter helped measure the efficiency of the battery.

ammonia

amnesia

n
/ am'nēzhə /
Gk

loss of memory : forgetfulness.
Alice suffered from amnesia as the result of a head injury.

amole

n
/ ə'mōlē /
Nahuatl > Sp
any of a number of plants utilized as a source of soap.
The discovery of an amole created much excitement among the castaways.

amortization

amphibian

n
/ am'fībēən /
Gk

[has homonym: amphibion] an animal or plant accustomed or adapted to life both on land and in the water.
The frog is perhaps the best-known amphibian.

amphibious

amphora

n
/ 'amfərə /
Gk > L
a Greek unit of capacity equal to 10.3 gallons or 39 liters.
The group ordered 1 amphora of punch for the Antiquity Party.

ampicillin

n
/ ,ampə'silən /
ISV
a penicillin that is effective against gram-negative and gram-positive bacteria and is used to treat various infections of the urinary, respiratory, and intestinal tracts.
Pneumonia has been successfully treated with ampicillin.

amulet

n
/ 'amyələt /
L

an inscribed charm believed to protect or aid the wearer.
The archaeologist discovered an amulet in the tomb of an ancient Egyptian ruler.

amuse

v
/ ə'myüz /
L > F
entertain or occupy in a pleasant manner.
The children seemed to tumble about and amuse themselves like good-natured collie puppies.

amygdaline

adj
/ ə'migdəlīn /
Gk
of or relating to a tonsil.
Because of a persistent amygdaline infection, Lana checked into the hospital to have her tonsils removed.

anabasis

n
/ ə'nabəsəs /
Gk
a going or marching up; especially : a military advance.
Hannibal is famous for his remarkable anabasis across the Alps into Italy.

anabibazon

n
/ ,anə'bībəzən /
Gk
the ascending node of the Moon's orbit with the ecliptic.
Lars waited for the Moon to reach its anabibazon so he could confirm his findings.

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anabolic

adj

/ .anə'bälík /

Gk + Gk

relating to, characterized by, or promoting constructive metabolism.

The weightlifter was disqualified after it was discovered he had used anabolic steroids.

anachronism

anachronous

anaconda

n

/ .anə'kändə /

Singhalese

a large arboreal snake of the boa family of tropical South America.

The anaconda has been known to forage in trees for birds.

anaglyph

n

/ 'anə.ɡlɪf /

Gk

a stereoscopic still or moving picture producing a three-dimensional effect when viewed through colored filters.

Troy begged his parents to take him to the newest anaglyph at the IMAX theater.

anagnorisis

n

/ .anə.ɡ'nɔːrəsəs /

Gk

an incident or solution of plot in tragedy in which the main character recognizes his or her own or some other character's true identity or discovers the true nature of his or her own situation.

The moment of anagnorisis occurs when the boy finds out he is actually the king's son.

anagogic

adj

/ .anə'gäjɪk /

Gk > L

having a spiritual meaning or a sense referring to the heavenly life.

Terrance recited anagogic poems by a Greek mystic.

analects

analemma

n

/ .anə'lemə /

Gk

a graduated scale shaped like a figure 8 and showing the Sun's declination for each day of the year usually constituting part of a sundial and often shown on globes. *Katrina consulted the sundial's analemma to calculate the correct time.*

analgesic

analogy

n

/ ə'nælə.ʒi /

Gk

a figure of speech involving an extended or elaborate comparison between two things or situations. *Hugo used an analogy to illustrate his point, but no one understood the analogy either.*

analysand

n

/ ə'næləs.ənd /

Gk + L > Ecf

one that is analyzed; specifically : one who is undergoing psychoanalysis.

The psychotherapist encouraged the analysand to unburden herself of her anxieties.

anonym

n

/ 'anə.nɪm /

Gk

[has homonym: *anonym*] a fictitious name consisting of the real name written backwards.

Pat often uses the anonym Tap when writing secret messages to her friends.

anaphora

n

/ ə'naf(ə)rə /

Gk

repetition of a word or words at the beginning of two or more successive clauses or verses.

"The voice of the Lord" occurred three times in anaphora in the psalm Julie read.

anarchy

n

/ 'anə(r)kē /

Gk > L

a state of lawlessness or political disorder due to the absence of governmental authority.

After the revelation of election fraud, some observers feared that the tiny republic would succumb to anarchy.

anastomosis

n

/ ə.nə.stə'mɔːsəs /

Gk

a joining of the parts of a branched system.

Hal pointed out the anastomosis in the veined mulberry leaf.

anastrophe

n

/ ə'nəstrə(ɪ)fē /

Gk

inversion of the usual syntactical order of words for rhetorical effect.

In the poem "Jabberwocky," the line "So rested he by the TumTum tree" is an example of anastrophe.

anathema

n

/ ə'nəθəmə /

Gk

one that is cursed by ecclesiastical authority.

The Sixth Ecumenical Council pronounced Pope Honorius anathema in A.D. 681.

anautia

n

/ ə'nɔːdiə /

Gk

loss of voice : inability to articulate.

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A blow to the throat can cause temporary anaudia.

anautozenous

ancestor

anchovy

n
/ 'an.chōvē /
Gk > L? > It > Sp
any of a number of small herringlike fishes; especially : a common Mediterranean form esteemed for its rich and peculiar flavor.
Joshua informed his mother that one anchovy had rendered the entire pizza inedible.

ancillary

adj
/ 'ans.ə.lerē /
L
serving to aid or assist : auxiliary : supplementary.
Electronic media usually include radio, film, and television, as well as the ancillary industries of audio and video recording.

anecdote

n
/ 'anik.dōt /
F&Gk
a usually short narrative of an interesting, amusing, or curious incident.
The speaker's presentation ended with a touching anecdote.

anemochore

n
/ ə'neməkō(ə)r /
Gk > F + Gk
a plant that has seeds or spores adapted to distribution by wind.
The dandelion is a familiar anemochore.

anemometer

n
/ .anə'mämədə(r) /
Gk > F + Gk > Ecf
an instrument for measuring and indicating the force or speed of the wind.
The anemometer spun furiously as the hurricane approached.

anemone

n
/ ə'nemənē /
Heb name > Gk
a plant or flower of a widely distributed genus of plants with showy flowers that lack petals but have showy sepals.
Xantha picked an anemone from the flower bed.

aneroid

adj
/ 'anə.rōid /
Gk > F
containing no liquid or functioning without the use of liquid.
Tasha carefully monitored the aneroid manometer throughout the course of the experiment.

anglaise

adj
/ äŋ'glāz /
Gmc > F
boiled and served without sauce.
Carrots anglaise are not very tasty.

anguish

anhydride

anise

n
/ 'anəs /
Gk
an herb cultivated for its aromatic seeds.
The flavor of anise is similar to that of licorice.

anisette

ankh

n
/ 'aŋk /
Egypt
a cross having a loop instead of an upper vertical arm used especially in ancient Egypt.
Roger's first discovery as an Egyptian archeologist was a gold ankh.

anklet

anneal

annihilate

v
/ ə'nī.əlāt /
L
destroy a considerable part of.
Armyworms can annihilate a beautiful lawn in just a few days.

anniversary

n
/ .anə'vərs(ə)rē /
L
the annual recurrence of a date marking an event or occurrence of notable importance.
Next Thursday will be the 23rd anniversary of our family grocery store's first day of operation.

annotation

annoyance

n
/ ə'nōiən(t)s /
F > E
a source of vexation or irritation : bothersome disturbance.
Vera enjoyed raking leaves on the warm autumn day, but the loud music from the neighbor's yard was an annoyance.

annual

annuity

n
/ ə'n(y)üədē /
L
an amount payable yearly or at other regular intervals (as quarterly) for a certain or uncertain period.
Carl's grandparents set up a trust fund that will provide him with an annuity for the next 20 years.

annul

v
/ ə'nəl /
L > F > E
cause to cease to exist : reduce to nothing.
The legislator's motion to annul the out-of-date law met with the approval of his colleagues.

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anodyne

adj
/ 'anə.dīn /
Gk

serving to assuage pain : soothing.
Before aspirin was developed, certain spirits and herbs were valued for their anodyne properties.

anomalous

anomaly

n
/ ə'näməlē /
Gk > L

the angular distance of a planet from its perihelion as seen from the Sun.
The anomaly in a planet's orbit is caused by the gravitational influence of other planets.

anon

adv
/ ə'nän /
E

in a little while : soon, presently.
Anon he arrived at his destination.

anonymous

adj
/ ə'nänəməs /
Gk > L

of unknown or unnamed source or origin (as authorship, donorship, workmanship).
An anonymous 18th-century painting recently sold for two million dollars.

anorthopia

n
/ .a(ɪ)nór'thōpēə /
Gk

distorted vision in which straight lines appear bent.
When Liz put on Jan's glasses, she was overcome with anorthopia.

anosmic

adj
/ ə'näzmik /
Gk > L

of or characterized by loss or impairment of the sense of smell.
Anesthesia can leave a patient temporarily anosmic.

anschluss

n
/ 'än.shlūs /
G

union; especially : political or economic union of one government or territory with another.
Hitler's annexation of Austria to Germany in the 1930s is what is generally meant by "the anschluss."

anserous

Antarctic

adj
/ ant'ärktik /
Gk

relating to the South Pole or the region near it.
Samuel's stamp collection included a complete collection of the stamps of the French Antarctic Territory.

antecedent

n
/ .antə'sēd'nt /
L

a substantive word, phrase, or clause referred to by a pronoun, typically by a following pronoun.
In the sentence "I saw John and spoke to him," John is the antecedent of him.

antecessor

n
/ 'antəsesə(r) /
L > E

one that goes before.
Phoebe's antecessor in the presidency served six terms.

antediluvian

antelope

n
/ 'ant'elōp /
Gk > L > F > E

any of various ruminant mammals of Africa and southwest Asia that differ from the true oxen especially in lighter racier build and horns directed upward and backward.
The bounding antelope managed to outdistance the pursuing lion.

antenna

anterior

adj
/ an'tirēə(r) /
L

relating to or situated near or toward the head or front.
The portion of the flower which faces the subtending bract is the anterior.

anteroom

anthography

n
/ an'thāgrəfē /
Gk + Gk + EcF
the description of flowers.
A botanist, Wilbur excelled in anthography.

anthology

n
/ an'thāləjē /
Gk
a usually representative collection of selected literary pieces or passages.
John hopes to find "The Raven" in his mom's anthology of American literature.

anthroponymy

anticyclone

n
/ 'an(ɪ)tē.sɪ.klōn /
Gk + Gk
a system of winds that rotates about a center of high atmospheric pressure.
The warm, dry winds blowing into southern California are from an anticyclone over the deserts of Nevada.

antifoulant

n
/ .an(ɪ)tɪ'fəʊlənt /
L + E
a substance (as paint for use on the bottom of a boat) designed to prevent, reduce, or eliminate an accumulation of deposits.
Antifoulant was applied to the ship's bottom in dry dock.

antilogy

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antimacassar

n
/ antēmə'kasə(r) /
Gk + Celebes island geog name
a cover to protect the back or arms
of furniture from Macassar oil or
other hair preparations.
*Fran found the missing
antimacassar under one of the sofa
cushions.*

antimony

n
/ 'antə.mōnē /
Ar? > L > E
a metalloid element that is
commonly metallic silvery white,
crystalline, and brittle and is used
especially as a constituent of alloys.
*Pewter is an alloy of antimony and
tin.*

antipasto

n
/ ,antē'pastō /
L > It
any of various savory foods usually
served as appetizers : hors
d'oeuvre.
*Herbert ordered antipasto for the
table.*

antipodal

adj
/ an'tipəd'ɪ /
Gk
situated at the opposite sides of the
earth.
*Regina imagined that she could
reach an antipodal town
somewhere in China if she
continued digging in her garden.*

antiquarian

adj
/ ,antə'kwɛrēən /
L
dealing in old and rare books or in
secondhand books.
*Pamela went to an antiquarian
bookseller to have her first edition
of Oliver Twist appraised.*

antique

antiquity

antiseptic

antithesis

n
/ an'tithəsəs /
Gk
the rhetorical opposing or
contrasting of ideas by means of
grammatically parallel
arrangements of words, clauses, or
sentences.
*A Tale of Two Cities opens with the
famous antithesis: "It was the best
of times, it was the worst of times."*

antonomasia

n
/ (,)antänə'māzh(ē)ə /
Gk
the making of a common noun or
verb from a proper name.
*The formation of the verb
pasteurize from the name Pasteur
is an example of antonomasia.*

antonym

anxiety

apartheid

n
/ ə'pär.tāt /
D > Afrikaans
a policy of segregation and political
and economic discrimination
against certain population groups.
*The end of apartheid in South
Africa was one of the great world
events of the decade.*

apastron

n
/ a'pastrən /
Gk
the point in the orbit of one star of
a binary where it is farthest from
the other.
*In binary star systems the motion in
the orbits is not uniform but is least
rapid near apastron.*

apathetic

apathy

n
/ 'apəthē /
Gk
absence or lack of interest or
concern : listlessness, indifference.
*The active interest women are
taking in today's issues strongly
contrasts with the apathy many
women had a century ago.*

aperitif

aperture

n
/ 'apə(r).chù(ə)r /
L
an opening that restricts a beam of
radiation or a stream of particles;
specifically : the opening in a
photographic lens that admits the
light passing through.
*A photographer typically has to
adjust the shutter speed and set the
aperture.*

apex

n
/ 'āpeks /
L
[Note: The definition provided is
not the one most commonly
associated with this word.] the
point of the heavens toward which
a celestial body is moving at a
given time.
*Helga tracked the planet's
movement towards the apex.*

aphasia

n
/ ə'fāzh(ē)ə /
Gk
[has near homonym: aphagia] the
loss or impairment of the power to
use words as symbols of ideas that
results from a brain lesion.
*As a speech therapist, Tonya takes
a particular interest in patients
struggling with aphasia.*

aphelion

n
/ a'fēlyən /
Gk
the point of a planet's or comet's
orbit most distant from the Sun.
*Earth generally reaches aphelion
around July 4.*

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aphid

n
/ 'äfəð /
Gk > L

any of numerous small sluggish insects that suck the juices from plants, causing damage to the plants.

An aphid can cause wilting, distorted growth, or gall formation in plants.

aphorism

n
/ 'afə.rizəm /
Gk > L > F

a terse and often ingenious formulation of a truth or sentiment usually in a single sentence.

Clark lives his life by the aphorism "Clothes make the man."

apiarian

apiary

apiculus

aplomb

n
/ ə'pləm /
L > F

complete confidence or assurance in oneself : poise.

A seasoned public relations officer, Karen handles difficult situations with aplomb.

apocalypse

apocope

n
/ ə'pækə.pē /
Gk

the loss of one or more sounds or letters from the end of a word.

The song title "Singin' in the Rain" exemplifies apocope.

apocryphal

adj
/ ə'pəkrəfəl /
Gk

of doubtful authenticity : fictitious, spurious, untrustworthy.

The historian thought the story about the cemetery apocryphal.

apogee

n
/ 'apə(,)jē /
Gk

the point in the orbit of a satellite of Earth (as the Moon or an artificial body) at the greatest distance from the center of Earth.

The transmission delay was longest when the spacecraft reached apogee.

apolaustic

adj
/ apə'löstik /
Gk

devoted to enjoyment.

The students spent the vacation in apolaustic pursuits.

apologue

n
/ 'apə.lɔg /
Gk

an allegorical narrative (as a beast fable) usually intended to convey a moral.

Most schoolchildren are familiar with the apologue of the tortoise and the hare.

apology

n
/ ə'päləjē /
Gk > L > F

an admission to another of a wrong or discourtesy done him or her accompanied by an expression of regret.

The teacher received an apology from the tardy student.

apoplexy

n
/ 'apə.pleksē /
Gk

a sudden loss of consciousness followed by paralysis caused by hemorrhage within the brain—called also "stroke."

When Ray regained consciousness, his doctor told him he was recovering from severe apoplexy.

aporia

n
/ ə'pōrēə /
Gk

a passage in speech or writing incorporating or presenting a difficulty or doubt.

The Bible verse "Then the steward said within himself, 'What shall I do?'" is an aporia.

aposiopesis

n
/ ,apə.sīə'pēsəs /
Gk

the leaving of a thought explicitly incomplete in writing or speaking often by a sudden breaking off and shifting of grammatical construction.

Gail answered with an aposiopesis when she replied, "His problem is—how shall I say?"

apostle

n
/ ə'päsəl /
Gk > L > E

one who is sent forth : messenger.

Many voters regard Ralph Nader as the apostle of protected environments.

apostrophe

apothecary

n
/ ə'pəthəkərē /
Gk > L > E

one who prepares and sells drugs or compounds for medicinal purposes : pharmacist.

The visits of Mr. Perry, the apothecary, were one of the few comforts of Mr. Woodhouse's life.

appalling

adj
/ ə'pɔliŋ /
L > F > E

inspiring dismay : shocking.

There was something about the night that was mysterious and appalling.

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Appaloosa

n
/ ˌapəˈlʊsə /
American Indian
one of a breed of rugged saddle horses distinguished by a mottled skin and a patch of white hair over the rump and loins that is blotched or dotted with darker color.
Sherry begged her father to buy her an Appaloosa for her birthday, but to no avail.

apparatchik

n
/ ˌäpəˈrächik /
Russ
a Communist secret agent.
Oren and Elaine went to see an old movie in which an apparatchik tries to blow up the Empire State Building.

apparatus

n
/ ˌapəˈradəs /
L
any compound instrument or appliance designed for a specific mechanical or chemical action or operation.
The trainer went into much detail about which apparatus is better for a cardiovascular workout.

apparel

apparition

n
/ ˌapəˈrɪʃən /
L > E
ghost, phantom, specter.
The apparition of a figure on horseback, without a head, haunts this enchanted region.

appealed

appease

appellation

appellative

appendages

n pl
/ əˈpendɪjəz /
L
things accompanying or appended to another thing and usually subordinate or not essential to it.
The Abbey-Mill Farm, with all its appendages of prosperity and beauty, was a favorable spot for a walk.

appendant

appendicitis

n
/ əˈpendəˈsɪdɪs /
L + Ecf
an inflammation of the appendix characterized usually by abdominal pain, nausea, and vomiting.
The doctor diagnosed Sharon's illness as appendicitis.

appetite

n
/ ˈapəˌtɪt /
L > F > E
the immediate desire to eat when food is present.
George went back to his meal with a good appetite.

apprentice

n
/ əˈprentɪs /
L > F > E
one who learns a trade, art, or craft by practical experience under skilled workers.
Jake hopes to become an apprentice in the stained-glass studio.

approbation

n
/ ˌäprəˈbāʃən /
L
an act of approving formally or authoritatively : sanction.
The mayor's actions have the approbation of none of the other members of the city council.

appropriate

adj
/ əˈprɒprɪət /
L
specially suitable : fit, proper.
Calvin had orange hair and the appropriate freckles to go with it.

appurtenance

appurtenant

adj
/ əˈpɜrt(ə)nənt /
F
annexed or belonging legally to some more important thing.
The property insurance covers any additions to the building and to private structures appurtenant to the building.

apricot

apropos

adj
/ ˌäprəˈpō /
F
pertinent, relevant.
Rachel wondered if Herman had understood her question, for his answer was not very apropos.

apsidal

adj
/ ˈäpsədɪl /
Gk > L
of or relating to the point of a celestial body's orbit at which it is farthest from the center of attraction.
Laura researched apsidal ocean tidal levels.

aquatic

adj
/ əˈkwädɪk /
L
living wholly or chiefly in or on water.
Porpoises and seals are aquatic mammals.

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aqueduct

n
/ 'akwədəkt /
L

an artificial channel for conveying water.

The ancient Romans used the aqueduct to provide water to the city's residents.

aquiline

adj
/ 'akwə.līn /
L

curving or hooked like an eagle's beak.

The senator was easily recognizable by his aquiline nose.

arabesque

n
/ .arə'besk /
Ar > It > F

a posture (as in ballet dancing) in ballet in which the body is bent forward from the hip on one leg with one arm extended forward and the other arm and leg backward in a line parallel to the floor.

The painting depicts a ballerina in a flawless arabesque.

arability

n
/ .arə'bīlədē /
L + Ecf

the state of being fit for tillage and crop production.

Before Caleb bought Jed's property, he had the land checked for arability.

arachnid

arbiter

arboreal

adj
/ är'bōrēəl /
L

inhabiting or frequenting trees.

The arboreal fauna of Madagascar are endangered by logging.

arboret

n
/ ärbərə't /
L + Ecf

a small tree or shrub.

Gwen trekked purposefully through the forest, dodging an occasional arboret but generally heading in a straight line.

arbuscle

n
/ är'bəsəl /
L

a dwarf tree or treelike shrub.

The gardener recommended that Micah purchase an arbuscle to plant next to the house.

arcanum

n
/ är'kānəm /
L

a secret or mysterious knowledge or information known only to the initiate.

Ralph developed a secret handshake as an arcanum for his club.

archaic

archangel

n
/ ärkänjəl /
Gk + Gk

a being in the heavenly hierarchy ranking above an angel.

Joan of Arc had visions of the archangel Michael and saints Catherine and Margaret telling her to raise an army.

archeology

archery

n
/ 'ärch(ə)rē /
F > E

the art, practice, or skill of shooting with bow and arrow.

Joe chose archery as one of his physical education electives.

archipelago

n
/ ärkə'peləgō /
Gk > It

a group or cluster of islands.

The country of Indonesia is an enormous archipelago.

architecture

n
/ 'ärkə'tekchər /
Gk > L

the art or science of building; specifically : the art or practice of designing and building structures in accordance with principles determined by aesthetic and practical or material considerations.

The building that housed the department of architecture was, to many students, the most hideous-looking edifice on campus.

archivalia

n pl
/ ärkə'vālēə /
Gk > L

material preserved in or suitable for preservation in rooms for the exhibition of a collection.

Included in the library's archivalia is a copy of the first edition of The Adventures of Tom Sawyer.

arcing

v
/ 'ärkiŋ /
L

following or describing a curving course.

Waterfalls arcing outward into white plumes plummet down and flow into Cayuga Lake.

arctic

ardency

ardent

adj
/ 'ärdənt /
L

extremely loyal : devoted, faithful.
Bickford was an ardent supporter of environmental causes.

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arduous

adj
/ 'ɑːrjʊəwəs /
L

hard to accomplish or achieve :
difficult.

*Alan was not prepared for the
arduous demands of his
construction job.*

arenaceous

adj
/ ,ɑːrə'nāshəs /
L

growing in sandy places.

*Arenaceous plants develop
blossoms after the first spring rain.*

arenicolous

adj
/ ,ɑːrə'nikələs /
L + L

inhabiting or burrowing in sand :
growing in sand soil.

*Numerous arenicolous organisms
can be found at the beach.*

areology

n
/ ,ɑːrē'äləjē /
Gk

the scientific study of the planet
Mars.

*Todd's interest in areology was
spurred by the discovery of
possible life forms on Mars.*

aretalogy

n
/ ,ɑːrə'taləjē /
Gk

a narrative of the miraculous deeds
of a god or hero.

*Owen was fascinated by the
aretalogy of Hercules' labors.*

argillaceous

adj
/ ,ɑːrjə'lāshəs /
L

of, relating to, or containing clay or
clay minerals.

*The geologist determined that a
large part of the mountain
consisted of argillaceous limestone.*

argosy

n
/ 'ɑːrgəsē /
It

a fleet of ships or of anything
likened to ships.

*The lone schooner had gotten
separated from the argosy in the
inclement weather.*

argot

n
/ 'ɑːrgət /
F

the special vocabulary and idiom
(as slang) of a particular social
group or class.

*Nowadays the argot of many
teenagers includes the word cool.*

argumentative

adj
/ ,ɑːrgyə'mentədɪv /
L

given to or fond of disagreement :
contentious.

*Jill is so argumentative that no one
likes to sit beside her on the bus.*

aristoi

n pl
/ 'ɑːrɪ'stɔɪ /
Gk

citizens of high rank making up a
governing body.

*When the aristoi ignore the needs
of the common people, they are
sowing the seeds of rebellion.*

arithmocracy

n
/ ,ɑː(ɹ)ɪrɪθ'mɑːkrəsē /
Gk + Gk

rule of the majority.

*The United States is an
arithmocracy as well as a republic.*

armadillo

n
/ ,ɑːrmə'di(ɹ)lɔ /
L > Sp

any of several burrowing chiefly
nocturnal mammals having body
and head encased in an armor of
small bony plates.

*Using its long, sticky tongue to
extract ants from their nests, the
armadillo may eat up to 40,000
ants at a sitting.*

Armageddon

n
/ ,ɑːrmə'gedʌn /
Gk > L

final and conclusive conflict
between the forces of good and
evil.

*In the Bible, the book of Revelation
mentions Armageddon.*

armaments

armature

n
/ 'ɑːrmə.tʃü(ə)r /
L

[has near homonym: armiger]
armor.

*As part of the preparation for the
contest at the medieval fair, the
jousts were given their choice of
armature.*

armistice

n
/ 'ɑːrmɪstɪs /
L > F

temporary suspension of hostilities
as agreed upon by those engaged in
the hostilities.

*Fortunately, the armistice that
ended World War I turned out to be
permanent.*

arpeggio

n
/ ɑːr'pejē.ō /
Gmc > It

production of the tones of a chord
in succession and not
simultaneously.

*The opening measure of Ryan's
piano recital piece featured a
difficult arpeggio.*

arraignment

n
/ ə'rɑːnmənt /
F > E

an act of finding fault with :
denunciation.

*It seems that every few years there
is a wholesale arraignment of
existing educational standards.*

arrasene

arrive

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arrogance

n
/ 'arəgən(t)s /
L

a genuine or assumed feeling of superiority that shows itself in an overbearing manner.

After Sam won the contest, he displayed an annoying arrogance.

arrogant

adj
/ 'arəgənt /
L

exhibiting a level of superiority that is inconsistent with one's position.

Jack's arrogant attitude annoyed his more qualified colleagues.

arsenal

n
/ 'ärs(ə)nəl /
Ar > It

a storehouse or source of supply for arms, ammunition, or other military equipment.

In early 1941 Franklin Roosevelt believed that America's most immediate role was to act as an arsenal for democratic nations.

arsenic

n
/ 'ärs(ə)nik /
Gk > L&F > E

a metalloid element that is used in small amounts in alloys and in the form of its compounds chiefly as poisons (as insecticides), in pharmaceutical preparations, and in glass.

Ingestion of arsenic was listed as the official cause of Tim's mysterious death.

artesian

adj
/ ä'r'tēzhən /
F

involving, relating to, or supplied by the upward movement of water under hydrostatic pressure in rocks or unconsolidated material beneath Earth's surface.

The water bubbling up in the pasture was coming from an artesian spring.

arthritis

n
/ ä'r'thrīd'äs /
Gk

inflammation of one or more joints due to infectious, metabolic, or constitutional causes.

Theo's arthritis kept him from playing tennis.

arthroscopy

artichoke
n
/ 'ärdə'chōk /
Ar > It

the flower head of a tall herb that resembles a thistle and is cooked as a vegetable.

Norm demonstrated the proper way to eat an artichoke.

article

articulacy

artifice
n
/ 'ärdəf'äs /
L

a wily or artful stratagem.
Emma saw the artifice of Jane's reserved response, and she returned to her first surmises.

artificial

artillerist

artillery
n
/ ä'r'til(ə)rē /
F > E

the missiles discharged by the weapons of war.

The May Day parade in Red Square was widely known for its display of artillery.

arviculture

ascend

ascension

n
/ ə'senʃən /
L

the act or process of going upward from a lower level or degree.

The article describes Tiger Woods's rapid ascension to the top rank of golfers.

ascertained

v
/ ,asə(r)'tānd /
L > F > E

made sure of : discovered.

In the moonlight, the form of the heretofore unknown might now be ascertained.

asceticism

ascribable

adj
/ ə'skrībəbəl /
L

capable of being attributed to a supposed cause, source, or author.

Dad explained that the two books were ascribable to the same author under different pen names.

asinine

askew
adv

/ ə'skyü /
E + F > E

out of line : to one side.

Jared's house was leaning because one of the joists had gone askew.

asparagus

n
/ ə'sparəgəs /
Gk > L

a plant widely cultivated for its tender edible young shoots.

Jack didn't touch the asparagus his mother served him.

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aspartame

n
/ 'aspə(r).tām /
L > ISV

a noncarbohydrate crystalline compound that is formed from the amino acids phenylalanine and aspartic acid and is used as a low-calorie sweetener.
Since Bertha began her diet, she prefers foods that are sweetened with aspartame.

aspersion

n
/ ə'spərzən /
L

a calumnious or defamatory expression or reflection.
Questions about Tom's handling of the club's petty cash cast an aspersion on his honesty.

asphalt

asphodel

n
/ 'asfədəl /
Gk

any of various Old World usually perennial herbs that bear their flowers in long erect racemes.
Bernice thought that an asphodel would complete the bouquet nicely.

asphyxiant

asphyxiate

asphyxiated

v
/ a'sfiksē.ādəd /
Gk

killed or made unconscious by obstruction of normal breathing.
When the volcano erupted, many of the town's inhabitants were asphyxiated by the dust and ashes.

aspirin

n
/ 'asp(ə)rən /
ISV

a white crystalline compound of salicylic acid used especially in tablet form as a pain-killer.
Tests have shown that small, daily doses of aspirin can reduce the risk of stroke.

assailant

assassin

assassinate

v
/ ə'sas'n.āt /
L > F

murder (usually a prominent person).
The newspapers carried gripping accounts of an attempt to assassinate the prime minister.

assemblage

assess

v
/ ə'ses /
L

determine the rate or amount of.
Joyce's job with the insurance company was to assess damages.

asseveration

n
/ ə.sevə'rāshən /
L

positive or emphatic affirmation or assertion : solemn declaration.
The jury did not believe the defendant's asseveration of innocence.

assiduously

adv
/ ə'sijəwəslē /
L + Ecf

in a diligent, attentive, or solicitous manner.
Lucinda questioned her brother assiduously before his interview.

assimilate

v
/ ə'simə.lāt /
L

receive into the mind and consider and thoroughly comprehend.
Sandy needs time to sort things out and assimilate them properly.

assimilation

assonance

n
/ 'as'nən(t)s /
L + Fcf

relatively close juxtaposition of similar sounds especially of vowels.
"Zip your lips" was the teacher's favorite example of assonance.

assuage

v
/ ə'swāj /
L > F > E

reduce to a state of peace, calm, or quiet : mollify, pacify.
No one could assuage Bertina after she dropped her ice-cream cone.

assuagement

Assyrian

adj
/ ə'sirēən /
geog name
of, relating to, or characteristic of Assyria, an ancient empire of western Asia.

The doorways of the Assyrian palace of Nineveh were flanked by large winged bulls.

asthmatic

adj
/ əz'mad:ik /
Gk > L

caused by or affected with labored breathing.
Because of Pam's asthmatic condition, her mother had to dust and vacuum the house every day.

astigmatism

n
/ ə'stigmətizəm /
Gk + Ecf

a defect of an optical system (as of the eye) that prevents light from focusing accurately and results in a blurred image.
Amy's new eyeglasses correct her astigmatism.

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astringe

v
/ ə'strinj /
L
cause (tissue) to draw together :
constrict.
*Larry uses witch hazel to astringe
his facial pores.*

astrogator

astronomy

n
/ ə'stränəmē /
Gk
the science that treats of the
celestial bodies.
*Astronomy is a popular topic for
science writers.*

astuteness

n
/ ə'st(y)ütñəs /
L + Ecf
the quality or state of having or
displaying shrewd discernment and
sagacity.
*The candidate showed political
astuteness in attacking his
opponent's weak arguments.*

asylum

asymmetry

atelier

n
/ .ad'lyā /
L > F
an artist's studio or workroom.
*Ken hoped to find some affordable
loft space downtown for his atelier.*

athletic

atmosphere

n
/ 'atmə'sfi(ə)r /
Gk
the air of a given place especially
as affected by a particular
characteristic (as heat, moisture,
wholesomeness, or
unwholesomeness).
*Christy could barely tolerate the
close atmosphere of her one-room
schoolhouse.*

atmospheric

adj
/ .atmə'sfirik /
Gk + Gk > L > F
of or relating to the whole mass of
air surrounding Earth.
*Only two elements are known to be
liquid under atmospheric
conditions: mercury and bromine.*

atomic

atrabilious

atrichia

n
/ ā'trikēə /
Gk
congenital or acquired baldness.
*Some dogs are afflicted with
atrichia from birth.*

atrium

atrocious

adj
/ ə'trōshəs /
L
markedly inferior in quality.
*Mrs. Diamond vowed to do
something about her grandson's
atrocious table manners.*

atrophy

v
/ 'atrəfē /
Gk > L
undergo a wasting away or
progressive decline.
*Jay knows that his muscles will
atrophy while he recuperates from
surgery.*

attenuate

adj
/ ə'tenyə.wət /
L
tapering gradually often into a long
slender point.
*The locust tree has narrow
attenuate leaves.*

attitude

n
/ 'adətüt /
L > It
[Note: The definition provided is
not the one most commonly
associated with this word.] any
posture held momentarily in
dancing.
*The premier danseur held his final
attitude briefly, then leapt offstage
to thunderous applause.*

attitudinal

attrition

n
/ ə'trishən /
L
a usually gradual loss of personnel
from causes normal or peculiar to a
given situation (as death,
retirement, and resignation in a
labor force) often without filling
the vacancies.
*The CEO promised that all of the
cuts would come from attrition; no
employees would be laid off.*

aubade

auctioneer

n
/ .ökshə'ni(ə)r /
L + Ecf
one who conducts the sale of goods
at public auction usually as an
agent on commission.
*The auctioneer at the antique sale
had a booming voice.*

audacious

adj
/ ó'dāshəs /
L
recklessly venturesome :
presumptuously bold.
*Tom's audacious disregard for
physical limitations will catch up
with him sooner or later.*

audacity

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audience

n
/ 'ɒdɪəns(t)s /
L

[has homonym: audients] those attending a stage or film production or viewing a televised program.
The audience erupted with thunderous applause at the act's conclusion.

audition

n
/ ɔ'dɪʃən /
L or F

a trial performance to appraise an entertainer's merits.
After hearing Alice's stunning audition, the director offered her the role without hesitation.

auger

augment

augur

v
/ 'ɒgə(r) /
L

[has homonym and near homonym: auger and agar] give indirect evidence of : portend.
The club members' enthusiasm and dedication augur success for the club's projects.

augury

auk

n
/ 'ɒk /
ON > Norw or Icelandic
any of several black and white short-necked diving seabirds that nest in colder parts of the Northern Hemisphere.
In one of her books, Laura Ingalls Wilder writes of a strange midwinter encounter with a stray bird resembling an auk.

aureate

adj
/ 'ɔːrɪət /
L

marked by a rhetorical style that is affected, grandiloquent, and heavily ornamental.
Many students today have little appreciation of the aureate language of English Renaissance poetry.

aureity

n
/ ɔːrɪədɪ /
L + Ecf

the distinctive properties of gold.
Pyrite's apparent aureity has fooled many a prospector.

aurelian

n
/ ɔːrɪljən /
L + Ecf

a collector and breeder of moths and butterflies.
Sarah admired the beautiful butterflies pictured in the book by Mr. Jacobson, a well-known aurelian.

auricle

n
/ 'ɔːrɪkəl /
L

[has homonym: oracle] a chamber of the heart that receives blood from the veins and forces it into the ventricle or ventricles.
The heart of a fish has one auricle and one ventricle.

auricular

adj
/ ɔːrɪkjələ(r) /
L

of, relating to, or using the ear or the sense of hearing.
George's understanding of unfamiliar words is auricular; that is, he must hear out loud the words he reads before he can comprehend them.

auriferous

adj
/ ɔːrɪfərəs /
L + Ecf

gold-bearing—used of gravels and rocks.
The auriferous quartz veins sparkled in the sunlight.

aurora

n
/ əˈrɔːrə /
L

the redness of the sky just before the Sun rises.
As the aurora began to brighten the sky, the airline passengers eagerly looked out their windows to see the rising Sun.

auscultation

n
/ ɔːskəl'tæʃən /
L

the act of listening to sounds arising within organs (as the lungs or heart) as an aid to diagnosis and treatment.
Warming her stethoscope with her hands before performing auscultation has become second nature to Dr. Harris.

auslander

auspices

n pl
/ 'ɒspəsɪz /
L

patronage and kindly guidance : protection.
The medical team entered the country under the auspices of the International Red Cross.

austere

adj
/ ɔːsti(ə)r /
GK > L > F > E

stern and unyielding in appearance and manner.
The substitute teacher was austere and humorless.

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authentic

adj
/ ɒsthentɪk /
Gk > L > F > E
worthy of acceptance or belief by reason of conforming to fact or reality.
The restoration society aims to provide an authentic reproduction of the colonial village.

author

authoritative

adj
/ ə'thɪərə'ti:di:v /
L
exercising or assuming power to influence the outward behavior of others.
Dr. Martin issued the instructions in an authoritative manner.

autobahn

n
/ 'a:udə'bän /
Gk > G + G
a road in Germany with double traffic lanes in each direction separated by a parkway.
Klaus pulled his Mercedes over to the side of the autobahn to read the map.

autodidact

autonomous

autonomy

n
/ ɔ'tänəmə /
Gk
the quality or state of being independent, free, and self-directing.
After years of fighting the colonial government, the island was finally granted autonomy.

autopsy

n
/ ɔ'täpsə /
Gk
examination of the body after death, usually with dissection.
An autopsy showed that arsenic was the cause of death.

autumn

autumnal

adj
/ (ɔ)'tʌmnl /
L
characterized by qualities associated with or suggested by the season between summer and winter.
Jessica's new paintings have a serene, autumnal warmth.

auxiliary

adj
/ ɔg'zɪljərē /
L
offering or providing help, assistance, or support especially by interaction.
Roland volunteers as an auxiliary guide for the local Youth Mountaineers Club.

available

avalanche

n
/ 'avə'lɑnʃ /
F
a large mass of snow, ice, earth, rock, or other material in swift motion down a mountainside.
The tiny Swiss village was destroyed by an avalanche.

avalement

avarice

n
/ 'avərəs /
L > F > E
excessive desire for wealth or gain.
Pride, avarice, and gluttony are among the seven deadly sins.

avaricious

averred

aviator

avionics

avocado

n
/ ,avə'kæ(ɪ)dō /
Nahuatl > Sp
the pulpy green or purple somewhat pear-shaped edible fruit of various tropical American trees.
Tanisha's first taste of sushi was a roll containing avocado, crab, and cucumber.

avocet

n
/ 'avə'set /
F&It
any of several rather large long-legged shore birds having webbed feet and a slender upwardly curved bill.
Making their way through the marsh, the birders happened on a foraging avocet.

avoirdupois

avuncular

adj
/ ə'vʌŋkjələ(r) /
L
acting or speaking with the familiarity, kindness, or indulgence of an uncle.
Morris took an avuncular tone with Susan when he advised her on her college plans, even though he was her elder by only three years.

awe

n
/ 'ō /
ON > E
[has homonym: aw] abashed reverence and fear inspired by authority or power.
The good people of Sleepy Hollow were often filled with awe at hearing his nasal melody floating from the distant hill.

awestruck

awl

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awry

adv
/ ə'ri /
E

wrong, amiss.
Gayle's plans for the victory parade went hopelessly awry.

axiology

axiom

n
/ 'aksēəm /
Gk

a proposition, rule, or maxim that has found general acceptance or is thought worthy thereof.
"Early to bed, early to rise" is Uncle Abdul's favorite axiom.

axunge

n
/ 'aksənj /
L

fat or grease usually of pigs or of geese.
Suzanne's cookbook of home remedies recommended axunge to soothe minor burns.

ayatollah

n
/ iə'tɒlə /
Ar > Per

a religious leader among Shiite Muslims—used as a title of respect especially for one who is not an imam.
When Ayatollah Khomeini gained political control of Iran in 1979, he re-created it as a religious Islamic republic.

azimuth

n
/ 'azəməθ /
Ar

an arc of the horizon measured between a fixed point and the vertical circle passing through the center of an object.
Using a compass, the navigator estimated the azimuth of the star.

azotea

azure

adj
/ 'azhə(r) /
Per > Ar > Sp > F

resembling the color of the unclouded sky.
Sarah prefers to call her eyes "azure" instead of "blue."

babblative

adj
/ 'bæblədɪv /
E imitative?
given to excessive talking :
garrulous.

The babblative waitress called everyone at our table "sweetheart."

baboon

n
/ bæ'būn /
F > E
a large primate with a short tail and a doglike snout.

The children at the zoo were entertained by the strange sounds of the baboon.

babushka

n
/ bæ'bʊʃkə /
Russ

a triangularly folded kerchief worn over the head and usually tied under the chin.
Emma's Ukrainian doll wears a red babushka and an elaborately embroidered apron.

Babylonian

adj
/ .bæbəlɒnyən /
Heb > Gk
of, relating to, or characteristic of Babylonia, an ancient country of southern Mesopotamia.
Houses and temples of the Old Babylonian Kingdom have square open courts, arched doorways, and battlemented walls.

baccalaureate

n
/ .bəkəlɔrēət /
L
the degree of bachelor conferred by universities and colleges.
Marika earned a baccalaureate at the age of 12.

bacchanalian

bacciferous

adj
/ bək'sɪf(ə)rəs /
L + Ecf
bearing berries.
Sylvia took care not to park her car under any bacciferous trees.

bachelor

n
/ 'bæç(ə)lə(r) /
Celt > L > F > E
an unmarried man of marriageable age.
Kendrick was the only bachelor living in the apartment building.

bacillus

n
/ bæ'sɪləs /
L
a disease-producing bacterium.
Kendra will use a powerful disinfectant to kill any bacillus that might be lurking on the counter top.

backfisch

backgammon

n
/ 'bæk.gæmən /
E
a game played with dice and counters on a board divided into two tables each marked with 12 points in which each player tries to move his own counters from point to point and off the board.
Ed explained to Tim that the game board edged with tall, thin triangles was used to play backgammon.

bacteriolytic

adj
/ bək.tɪrēə'lɪdɪk /
Gk > L
of, relating to, or producing the destruction or dissolution of bacterial cells.
The bacteriolytic power of blood helps the body overcome many diseases.

badgeringly

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badigeon

n
/ bə'dijən /
F

a cement or paste (as of plaster and powdered freestone) used to fill holes or cover defects in wood or stone.

The plasterer smeared badigeon in the pockmarks on the wall.

badinage

n
/ bad'n'əzh /
L > OProv > F

light and playful repartee or wit : banter.

Mrs. Lopez, our bus driver, frequently engages in badinage with her lively passengers.

badminton

n
/ 'bad.mint'n /
E geog name

a court game played by two or four persons with light long-handled rackets and a shuttlecock volleyed over a net.

After lunch John suggested a leisurely game of badminton.

Baedeker

n
/ 'bādəkə(r) /
G name

guidebook, handbook.

By the time his Italian vacation was over, Ronnie's Baedeker had come apart at the spine.

bagatelle

n
/ bagə'tel /
L > It > F

a game played with a cue and usually nine balls on an oblong table having cups or both cups and arches at one end.

Aaron is an excellent snooker player but is unfamiliar with the rules of bagatelle.

bagel

baignoire

n
/ bān'wār /
L > F

[Note: Could be confused with peignoir.] a theater box having low partitions that is in the lowest tier.

Seats in the baignoire afforded an unobscured view of the stage.

bailiff

n
/ 'bālɪf /
F > E

a court officer who seats witnesses and spectators, announces the entrance of the judge, and keeps order in the court.

Judge Cantor asked the bailiff to remove Mr. Sims from the courtroom.

bailiwick

n
/ 'bālɪ.wɪk /
E

field of activity : sphere of operations.

Only when the topic was birdwatching, his particular bailiwick, did Robin feel at ease talking to strangers.

baize

balaclava

n
/ .balə'klävə /

Crimean geog name
a hoodlike knitted cap covering the head, neck, and part of the shoulders and worn especially by soldiers and mountaineers.

Every climber wore a balaclava for protection from the cold air.

balalaika

n
/ .balə'likə /
Russ

an instrument of the guitar kind having a triangular wooden body and from two to four strings.

Vladimir strummed the balalaika and sang a Ukrainian folk song.

balbriggan

n
/ bal'brɪgən /
Ir geog name

a plain-stitch knitted often tubular usually cotton fabric used especially for underwear, hosiery, or sweaters.

Moirá's imported Irish sweater was made of balbriggan.

balcony

n
/ 'balkənē /
Gmc > It

an interior projecting gallery in a public building (as a theater); specifically : such a gallery immediately above the main floor.

Tickets for seats in the balcony sold out before those in the orchestra.

balestra

ballast

ballerina

n
/ .balə'rēnə /
L > It

a female ballet dancer.

Although the ballerina seemed a bit nervous before her performance, her dancing was faultless.

balletomane

n
/ bə'ledə.mān /
L > It > F + Ecff + Gk > L > E

one who takes extraordinary delight in artistic dance performances.

The well-known balletomane took roses to every performance.

ballistic

adj
/ bə'listɪk /
Gk > L

of or belonging to the hurling of missiles.

Simon used ballistic laws to determine where the arrow would land.

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ballistics

n pl
/ bə'listiks /
Gk > L

the science of the motion of powder-propelled projectiles in flight.

An expert in ballistics testified that the fatal bullet had been fired from the defendant's gun.

balloon

balminess

n
/ 'bämēnəs /
Semitic? > Gk > L > F > E + Ecff
the quality or state of being mild or soothing.
The balminess of the evening breeze helped Kate forget the accident.

balmoral

n
/ bal'mōrəl /
Scottish geog name
a boot or shoe that is laced in front; especially : an oxford shoe with quarters meeting and centered over a separate tongue.
The balmoral first became fashionable in the 1850s, when Prince Albert popularized this type of shoe.

balneation

n
/ balnē'āshən /
L
the act or action of bathing.
Alicia uses a sponge to assist in her daily balneation.

balsam

n
/ 'bōlsəm /
L
an aromatic substance flowing spontaneously or by incision from a plant and not necessarily remaining liquid.
When Henrietta retrieved the ball from the branches of the fir tree, the balsam made her fingers sticky.

balustrade

n
/ 'baləstrād /
It > F
a row of short supports topped by a rail to serve as an open parapet.
Juliet leaned on the balustrade and gazed down at Romeo with adoring eyes.

bamboo

bamboozle

v
/ bam'büzəl /
unknown
conceal one's true motives from someone, especially by elaborately feigning good intentions so as to gain an end or achieve an advantage : mislead, hoodwink.
Gavin tried to bamboozle his neighbor into offering her garage for his party by saying how much it needed a good airing out.

banality

n
/ bā'nalədē /
F
the quality of lacking originality, freshness, or novelty.
Pearl's English teacher commented on the banality of much of the class's poetry.

banana

n
/ bə'nənə /
African > Sp or Pg
the elongated often curved and usually tapering fruit of the banana plant having soft pulpy flesh and a rind that is usually yellow when ripe.
To introduce fractions, the teacher showed her students how a banana can be divided lengthwise into thirds.

banausic

adj
/ bə'nōsik /
Gk
moneymaking, breadwinning : vocational.
Brandon showed no inclination toward banausic pursuits.

bandage

n
/ 'bandij /
F
a narrow length of fabric used to cover a wound, hold a dressing in place, immobilize an injured part, or apply pressure.
Mom immediately cleaned and put a bandage on Ted's scraped knee.

bandalore

n
/ 'bandə.lō(ə)r /
unknown
a toy with an automatically winding cord by which it is brought back to the hand when thrown.
Jeffrey brought a bandalore to school for show-and-tell.

bandicoot

n
/ 'bandē.küt /
Telugu
any of certain small active insectivorous and herbivorous marsupial mammals found in Oceania.
Some species of bandicoot are endangered.

banditry

n
/ 'bandətrē /
Gmc > It
the practice of roving about and pillaging especially in semiorganized groups.
With the government in chaos, outbreaks of banditry were common throughout the country.

banishment

banjo

banjorine

bankruptcy

banquet

baobab

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baptismal

adj
/ bap'tizməl /
Gk > L > F

of or relating to the ceremony of admitting one into membership in a Christian church with the use of water by immersion, pouring, or sprinkling.
The church's new baptismal font is made of Italian marble.

baragouin

n
/ 'barəgwaɪn /

F
outlandish unintelligible speech.
The explorer was taken aback by the baragouin of the excited natives.

barbaric

adj
/ bār'barik /
Gk > L

of, relating to, or characteristic of one who lacks refinement, gentleness, learning, or artistic or literary culture.
Harold was embarrassed by his little brother's barbaric table manners.

barbarism

barbarous

barbellate

adj
/ 'bərbə.lāt /

L
having short stiff hooked bristles or hairs.
The biology students were asked to identify animals with barbellate hides.

barbican

n
/ 'bərbəkən /
L > F > E

an outer defensive work of a city or castle.
The invaders aimed their catapult at the castle's barbican.

barbiturate

n
/ bār'bichərət /
Gk

any of a large group of acids or their salts that are used as sedatives, hypnotics, and antispasmodics.
Even a mild barbiturate can be habit-forming if used incorrectly.

bardiglio

n
/ bār'dēl(,)yō /
L? > Sp > It

an Italian marble commonly having a dark gray or bluish ground traversed by veins.
The most exquisite mantel in the country estate was made of bardiglio.

bargain

bargello

bariolage

n
/ 'barēō.lāzh /
F

a special effect in violin playing obtained by playing in rapid alternation upon open and stopped strings.
Bjorn's deft bariolage during the third movement thrilled the audience.

barker

barnacle

n
/ 'bārnəkəl /
E

any of numerous marine crustaceans that are free-swimming as larvae but fixed to rocks or floating objects as adults.
The sailors scraped many a barnacle from the sides of the ship.

barnacled

barnstorm

v
/ 'bārnz.tōrm /
E + E

tour through rural districts staging theatrical performances in large farm buildings or makeshift theaters.
The troupe set off in buses to barnstorm the Midwest with their version of The Music Man.

barognosis

n
/ .baräg'nōsəs /
Gk > L

the perception of weight by the cutaneous and muscle senses.
The loss of barognosis is a symptom of some muscle diseases.

barometer

n
/ bə'rämədə(r) /
Gk + Gk

an instrument for determining the pressure of the atmosphere.
Erica predicts the weather by using the barometer located on her kitchen wall.

baronet

n
/ .barə'net /
Gmc > F > E

the holder of a dignity or degree of honor ranking immediately below a baron and above a knight.
The baronet swaggered among the knights but quailed before the baron.

baronial

adj
/ bə'rōnēəl /
F > E

splendid, stately, spacious, ample.
The baronial fireplace had enough room to hold six-foot logs.

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baroque

adj

/ bə'ro:k /

It name? > F

of, relating to, or having the characteristics of a style of artistic expression prevalent especially in the 17th century, marked by elaborate and sometimes grotesque ornamentation.

The baroque style in art and architecture was marked by the use of curved figures.

barothermograph

n

/ .bərə'thərmə,grəf /

Gk + Gk + Gk

an instrument for recording both pressure and temperature (as of the atmosphere).

The barothermograph was first used to collect atmospheric data in 1895.

barouche

n

/ bə'rūsh /

L > It > G

a four-wheeled shallow carriage with a driver's seat high in front, two double seats inside, one facing back and the other front, and a folding top over the back seat.

Michelle and Phil rode to the prom in a barouche.

barracks

n pl

/ 'bærəks /

Catal > F

an often permanent building or set of buildings used especially for lodging soldiers.

Each new recruit was assigned a bunk in the barracks.

barrage

n

/ bə'ræzh /

F

a massive concentrated and usually continuous discharge or shower (as of missiles or blows).

In Puritan New England, those who broke the law were sometimes put to death by a barrage of stones.

barratry

n

/ 'bærətrē /

F > E

the persistent incitement of litigation.

Barratry has overloaded our country's courts.

barrel

n

/ 'bærəl /

F > E

[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word.] a unit of measure for petroleum equal to 42 gallons.

Sheiks wept as the price of oil dropped below 17 dollars per barrel.

barren

adj

/ 'bærən /

F > E

[has homonym: baron] deficient in producing vegetation : bare, desolate.

The overcultivated land, once fertile, was now barren.

barricade

n

/ 'bærəkād /

F

a barrier or obstacle that prevents passage.

A police barricade kept the crowds at a safe distance from the burning building.

barrio

n

/ 'bærē.ō /

Ar > Sp

a Spanish-speaking neighborhood or quarter in a city or town in the United States especially in the Southwest.

The politician continually reminded the public of his roots in the barrio.

bartizan

n

/ 'bärd-əzən /

E

a small structure overhanging or projecting from a building for lookout or defense.

The guard posted at the bartizan was the first to spot the approaching army.

bascule

n

/ 'bɑ:skjül /

F

an apparatus or structure in which one end is counterbalanced by the other on the principle of the seesaw or by weights (as in a bascule bridge).

The castle architect proposed building a bascule over the moat.

bashful

basilica

basilisk

n

/ 'basə,lɪsk /

Gk > L > E

a legendary reptile that has a fatal breath and glance.

Jessie debated whether to incorporate a basilisk or a poisonous snake into her fable.

basin

basmati

n

/ .bāz'mädē /

Hindi

a cultivated South Asian long grain rice.

Jacques enjoys the aroma of basmati.

bassoon

bastion

n

/ 'baschən /

Gmc > Prov > F

a projecting part of a fortification.

Matthew paused at the castle bastion to look out over the countryside.

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bathymeter

n
/ bə'thɪməðə(r) /
Gk > ISV + Gk > F
a device for the sounding of depths.
Proper use of the bathymeter was crucial as Captain Byron navigated through the shallows in the fog.

bathymetry

bathyscaphe

batik

n
/ bə'tɛk /
Javanese > Malay
an Indonesian method of hand-printing textiles by coating parts of the fabric with wax to resist dye and dipping in a cold dye solution.
Sheila used both batik and tie-dye in her T-shirt creations.

batiste

batrachoid

battalion

n
/ bə'talyən /
L > It > F
a considerable body of troops organized to act together : army.
The commander advanced the battalion confidently when he saw the pitifully few defenders remaining at the castle walls.

bauble

bavardage

n
/ .bavə(r)'däzh /
L > F
small talk, chitchat.
After a stressful math class, Cora welcomed the opportunity for bavardage with her friends in the cafeteria.

bayonet

bayou

n
/ 'bi:(y)ü /
Choctaw > Louisiana F
a creek, secondary watercourse, or minor river that is tributary to another river or other body of water.
Dale's grandfather lives near a bayou in southern Alabama.

bazooka

n
/ bə'zükə /
Amer E
a light portable usually crew-served shoulder weapon used especially to launch armor-piercing rockets.
Lenny begged his mother for the tank, bazooka, and toy soldiers that he had seen in a commercial.

beachcomber

beacon

n
/ 'bɛkən /
E
a signal fire or lighthouse commonly on a hill, tower, or pole.
That lighthouse once served as a beacon for ships nearing the shore.

beaker

n
/ 'bɛkə(r) /
Old Saxon > ON > E
a deep openmouthed thin vessel that often has a projecting lip for pouring and is used especially by chemists and pharmacists.
As Frank reached for the pipette, he knocked an acid-filled beaker off the lab bench.

beatitude

beaujolais

beaumontage

n
/ bō'mäntij /
unknown > French
a composition used by artisans to fill and conceal holes or cracks in wood or metal.
Bart asked the conservator to replace all the old beaumontage in the statuette.

beauteous

bedizenment

bedlam

n
/ 'bedləm /
Palestinian geog name > E
a place or scene of wild mad uproar.
After the final game of the championship, the parking lot was bedlam.

bedstead

beflustered

beforehand

beggar

beguile

v
/ bə'gɪl /
E
gain the notice of by the use of wiles : charm.
The teenager tried to beguile her teacher into giving her a good grade.

beguiling

adj
/ bə'gɪliŋ /
E
provoking pleased interest and diverting from concern or vexation.
Todd blamed the beguiling influence of TV for his low grades.

beguine

n
/ bə'gɛn /
F
a vigorous popular dance of the islands of Saint Lucia and Martinique somewhat like the rumba.
Cole Porter's song "Begin the Beguine" started the beguine on the road to popularity in this country.

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behemoth

n
/ bə'hēməθ /
Heb > L > E
something of oppressive or monstrous size or power.
Anwar's wrestling opponent was a behemoth of a man.

beige

adj
/ 'bāzh /
Per? > Gk? > L? > It? > F
of a variable color averaging light grayish yellowish brown.
Tired of the beige walls in her home, Ellen decided to repaint all the rooms with bold colors.

beleaguer

v
/ bə'lēgə(r) /
D
subject to oppressive or grievous forces.
In June the black flies will invade the campsite and beleaguer the unsuspecting campers.

belemnoid

adj
/ 'beləm.nɔɪd /
Gk
shaped like a dart.
The museum's collection included belemnoid carvings of unknown origin.

believe

bellicose

belligerent

adj
/ bə'lij(ə)rənt /
L
waging war.
The victorious faction is setting up an interim government and purging its belligerent enemies.

bellipotent

adj
/ be'lipədənt /
L + L
mighty in war.
The nation's desire to become a bellipotent power resulted in a drastic increase in its defense budget.

bellwether

n
/ 'bel.wethə(r) /
E
one that takes the lead or initiative : leader.
Brooke's firm has long been considered a bellwether in the industry.

bellwort

belomancy

belton

benediction

n
/ .benə'dikʃən /
L
an expression or utterance of blessing or good wishes.
Alta's mother orated an impressive benediction at her wedding reception.

beneficence

beneficent

adj
/ bə'nefəsənt /
L + Ecf
performing acts of kindness and charity.
Thanks to the generosity of a beneficent contributor, the symphony will be funded for another season.

benevolence

n
/ bə'nevələn(t)s /
L
kindly disposition to do good and promote the welfare of others.
As a result of his grandfather's benevolence, Chad was able to afford an Ivy League education.

benevolent

adj
/ bə'nevələnt /
L > E
marked by a kindly disposition to promote the happiness and prosperity of others.
Elmer received a commendation for his benevolent actions.

benignant

adj
/ bə'nignənt /
L
kindly, mild, gentle.
The department store always chose a Santa Claus with a benignant countenance.

benison

n
/ 'benəsən /
L > F > E
[Note: Could be confused with venison.] the pronouncing of a blessing : benediction.
Tim's favorite vocal benison is his youth choir's rendition of the Irish Blessing.

bequeath

berceuse

n
/ ber'sə(r)z /
F
a vocal or instrumental composition of a soothing character.
Maya hummed a berceuse to her son to soothe him to sleep.

bereave

bereavement

n
/ bə'rēvmənt /
E
deprivation; especially : loss of a loved one by death.
Some scientific studies have shown that bereavement, such as the loss of a spouse, can affect one's immunity to illness.

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beret

n
/ bə'rā /
Prov > F
a soft flat visorless cap of woolen material originally worn by Basque peasants.
The painter's beret was a bit tattered and moth-eaten.

bergamot

n
/ 'bɜrgəmət /
Turk > It > F
an essential oil much used in perfumery.
Elisa was wearing cologne scented with bergamot.

bergschrund

n
/ 'berk.shrunt /
G
a deep and often broad crevasse or series of such crevasses frequently occurring near the head of a mountain glacier.
The rescuers descended into the bergschrund to reach the injured mountain climber.

beriberi

n
/ ,berē'berē /
Sinhalese
a disease caused by a lack of or inability to assimilate vitamin B-1.
The symptoms of beriberi usually respond well to dietary improvements.

berouged

berylloid

n
/ 'berə,lōid /
Indic > Gk > L > F + Ecf
a form consisting of a double 12-sided pyramid.
The jeweler decided to cut the unusual crystal into a berylloid to heighten its allure to potential buyers.

besmirched

besom

n
/ 'bēzəm /
E
a broom made with a bundle of twigs.
Milena pretended she was a pioneer, sweeping out the garage with a crudely constructed besom.

bestial

betacism

bethel

n
/ 'bethəl /
Heb
a place of worship, as a chapel for nonconformists.
The shelter overlooking the waterfall has become a bethel for Sunday morning hikers who want to contemplate the grandeur of nature.

bevel

v
/ 'bevəl /
F
cut or shape to an angle : put a slant on the edge of.
Rhoda wants the glass shop to bevel her mirror before it is framed.

bevy

n
/ 'bevē /
E
a usually large group or collection.
A bevy of reporters crowded around the gold medal winner.

bewilder

bewitched

v
/ bə'wicht /
E
cast a spell over.
Some say a sorceress bewitched the valley during the early days of settlement.

bialys

bibelot

n
/ 'bēbəlō /
Gk > L > F
a small household ornament or decorative object : trinket.
Mrs. Carnes gave her toddler a bibelot to play with while the women discussed plans for the rally.

biblioclast

bibliography

biblioklept

bibliopegy

n
/ ,bible'äpəjē /
Gk + Gk
the art of binding books.
A local bookbinder visited the class and explained how bibliopegy is both a craft and an art.

bibliothecarial

adj
/ ,bible'əthə'ka(a)rēəl /
Gk + Lcf
of or related to a library.
Thurmond has great interest in the Dewey decimal system and other things bibliothecarial.

bibliotics

n pl
/ ,bible'ädiks /
Gk
the scientific study of handwriting, documents, and writing materials especially for determining genuineness or authorship.
Several experts in bibliotics were asked to examine the scroll.

bicameral

adj
/ bī'kam(ə)rəl /
L
having or made up of two distinct legislative bodies.
The U.S. Congress is bicameral, consisting of the Senate and the House of Representatives.

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bicentennial

n
/ bɪsɛn'tɛnɛəl /
Lcf + L + L > E
a 200th anniversary or its celebration.
Bargersville will celebrate the bicentennial of its founding next year.

biceps

biennial

bifurcation

n
/ bɪfər'kæʃən /
L > F
the point at which separation or branching into two parts, areas, aspects, or connected segments occurs.
Satish pulled his car over and studied the map when he reached a bifurcation in the road.

bijou

bijouterie

n
/ bɛ'ʒjutɛrɛ /
F
jewelry in which delicate or intricate metalwork contributes more to the value than do the constituent materials.
Marge scoured the display case in the antique shop for an addition to her collection of bijouterie.

bikini

n
/ bɪ'kɛnɛ /
Pacific geog name
a woman's abbreviated two-piece bathing suit.
Joan's father does not approve of the bikini she would like to purchase.

bilateral

adj
/ bɪ'lɑdərəl /
L > Ecf + L
of or relating to the right and left sides of a central area.
The maple leaf exhibits bilateral symmetry.

bilge

n
/ 'bɪlj /
unknown
water that collects by seepage or leakage in the bottom of a ship or other vessel.
Jeannie awoke to find bilge sloshing against her bunk.

bilharzia

bilingual

billeted

v
/ 'bɪlədɛd /
L > F > E
served with an official order directing that a member of a military force be provided with board and lodging (as in a private home).
During the Civil War it was not uncommon for homeowners to be billeted.

billiards

n pl
/ 'bɪljə(r)dz /
Celt > F
any of several games played on an oblong table in which small balls are driven against one another or into pockets by means of a cue.
Honorina supplemented her scholarship money by playing billiards for pocket change.

billionaire

billon

n
/ 'bɪlən /
F
gold or silver alloyed with a considerable amount of some less valuable metal.
The numismatist showed the wide-eyed youngster several coins made of billon.

biloculine

bimестrial

bimillenary

n
/ bɪ'mɪlənerɛ /
L
a 2000th anniversary or its celebration.
In 1951 the city of Paris celebrated the bimillenary of its founding.

binary

adj
/ 'bɪ.nɛrɛ /
L
involving a choice or condition of two alternatives only (as on-off or yes-no).
The symbols conventionally used in a binary system of numeration are 0 and 1.

binoculars

n pl
/ bɪ'nɔkyələ(r)z /
L > E + L
a handheld optical instrument composed of two telescopes and a focusing device and usually having prisms to increase magnifying ability.
Binoculars have proved to be a great boon to bird-watching.

binomial

bioluminescent

adj
/ .bɪ(,)ɔ.lümə'nɛs'nt /
Gk + L
of, relating to, or characterized by the emission of light from living organisms as the result of internal oxidative changes.
Bioluminescent animals occur in at least 39 orders of the animal kingdom.

biopsy

bireme

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bisagre

n
/ bə'sa(ɪ)grē /
MexSp
a small spiny cactus of Mexico and the southwestern United States that is sometimes cut into slices and candied.
Elena often rewarded her children's good behavior with slices of bisagre.

biscuit

n
/ 'biskət /
(L + L) > F > E
a quick bread made in a small shape from dough that has been rolled and cut or dropped and that is raised in the baking by a leavening agent other than yeast.
A hot biscuit with butter and honey was the best part of the lunch.

bise

n
/ 'bēz /
Gmc > F > E
[has homonym: bees] a cold wind; especially : a cold dry north wind of southern France, Switzerland, and Italy.
Jake was told that he would need to pack warm clothes to withstand the bise while he toured Switzerland.

bisector

bittern

bivouac

n
/ 'biv.wak /
G > F
a camping out for a night.
Private Slater packed a peanut butter sandwich for his bivouac.

bizarre

adj
/ bə'zär /
It > F
[has near homonym: bazaar] being strikingly out of the ordinary or at variance with some standard, real or implied.
Todd's bizarre behavior prompted his parents to call a doctor.

blague

v
/ 'bläg /
F
talk pretentiously and usually inaccurately or boastfully.
Politicians who blague generally alienate their audiences.

blandishment

n
/ 'blandishmənt /
L > F > E + Ecf
speech, action, or device that flatters and tends to coax or cajole.
No blandishment can sway Gil from his steadfast sense of propriety.

blanquette

n
/ blä'ket /
Gmc > Prov > F
a light meat (as veal or breast of chicken) in a white sauce.
After the play, Grandmother took us to a French restaurant, where we sampled a blanquette of veal from the buffet.

blarney

n
/ 'blärnē /
Ir geog name
smooth wheedling talk.
Mrs. Lewis was not impressed by Al's blarney as he tried to talk her into raising his grade.

blasphemous

adj
/ 'blasfəməs /
Gk > L
speaking or writing irreverence toward God.
During the Middle Ages many books were condemned as blasphemous and burned.

blasphemously

adv
/ 'blasfəməslē /
Gk > L > + Ecf
in an impiously irreverent manner.
Dad blasphemously berated the driver who suddenly cut in front of him without warning.

blasphemy

blatant

adj
/ 'blātənt /
L
completely or crassly obvious : brazen.
Mr. Nall suspended Ed for blatant disobedience during the fire drill.

blather

n
/ 'blathə(r) /
ON
voluble, foolish, or nonsensical talk.
Matt's announcement consisted of 10 percent information and 90 percent blather.

blatherskite

n
/ 'blathə(r).skit /
ON + ON
a blustering, talkative, and often incompetent person.
With Jay's luck, the biggest blatherskite in the theater will sit directly behind him.

blazon

n
/ 'blāzən /
F > E
coat of arms.
The duke's blazon was on everything from the tableware to the towels.

bleach

v
/ 'blēch /
E
remove the color or stains from.
Eliza decided not to bleach her stained socks for fear of ruining their elastic.

bleary

blemish

n
/ 'blemish /
Gmc > F > E
defect, flaw.
A skilled watercolorist can render a blemish invisible.

blenny

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blepharal

adj
/ 'blefərəl /
Gk

of or relating to the eyelids.
Leroy's blepharal inflammation was caused by allergies.

blessing

n
/ 'blesɪŋ /
E

the act or words of one who issues approval or praise.
Nate and Irene sought the blessing of their priest before they married.

blight

blissful

adj
/ 'blɪsfəl /
E

marked by a state of complete or ecstatic happiness.
The blissful bride and groom hurried off on their honeymoon.

blithe

blitz

v
/ 'blɪtʃ /
G

rush (a passer) in football from a position as a linebacker or defensive back.
In a desperate bid to stop the other team from scoring, the coach told all three linebackers to blitz the quarterback.

blitzkrieg

n
/ 'blɪts.krɛg /
G

war conducted with great speed and force; specifically : a violent surprise offensive by massed air forces and mechanized ground forces in close coordination.
The French forces were roundly defeated by the Germans' blitzkrieg.

blizzard

n
/ 'blɪzəd(r) /
unknown

a severe and prolonged snowstorm.
Last winter many cattle perished in a blizzard.

blossom

blossoming

adj
/ 'blɒsəmɪŋ /
E + EcF

flowering.
Between the blossoming branches of the canopy, bits of blue sky looked down like wonderful eyes.

blotch

n
/ 'blɒtʃ /
L? > F > E

imperfection, blemish.
The vendor referred to the ugly blotch on the leather as "natural discoloration."

blouse

bloviate

blucher

n
/ 'blʊkə(r) /
Prussian name

a shoe having the tongue and vamp cut in one piece and the quarters lapped over the vamp and laced together for closing.
The blucher was very popular with returning servicemen after World War I.

bludgeon

n
/ 'blʌdʒən /
unknown

a short stick used as a weapon usually having one thick, heavy, or loaded end.
The shop teacher confiscated the crude bludgeon Harlan had fashioned from a baseball bat.

blueprint

blunderbuss

n
/ 'blʌndə(r).bʌs /
D + L > D

an obsolete short gun or firearm that had a large bore and was intended for shooting at close quarters without exact aim.
The museum exhibit featured a blunderbuss along with other 18th-century weapons.

bobbin

bobolink

bocaccio

n
/ bō'kächō /
AmSp&It > E

a large olive to brown red-flushed rockfish of the Pacific coast from British Columbia to southern California.
The bocaccio feeds on a variety of fishes, crabs, and squids.

bocage

n
/ bō'kážh /
F

countryside or landscape marked by intermingled patches of woodland and heath, small fields, tall hedgerows, and orchards.
The charming bocage of rural France presents a variety that delights travelers.

bodega

n
/ bō'dāgə /
L > Sp

a combined wineshop and grocery store.
Miguel's mother sent him to the bodega for a loaf of bread.

boiserie

n
/ 'bɔwäzə.rē /
Gmc > F

carved wood paneling.
In Louis's living room painted boiserie provides a backdrop for a melange of upholstered armchairs.

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boisterous

adj
/ 'bɔɪst(ə)rəs /
F > E

full of exuberant uninhibited and often excessive spirits.
The locker room was boisterous after the championship.

bole

n
/ 'bɔl /
ON

the trunk of a tree.
Biff threw a knife into the old oak's bole.

bolero

n
/ bə'la(a)(.)rɔ /
Sp

a Spanish dance to music in three-quarter time and characterized by sharp turns and revolutions of the body and stamping of the feet in syncopated rhythm.
Miguel and Ana danced the bolero as the rest of the partygoers watched and clapped.

bolide

n
/ 'bɔlɪd /
Gk

an exploding or exploded meteor or meteorite.
Some UFO reports turn out to result from the appearance of a bolide.

Bolshevik

n
/ 'bɔlshə'vɪk /
Russ

a member of the Russian Communist Party.
The Bolshevik kept repeating, "This could never happen in a communist country."

bombilation

bonanza

n
/ bə'nanzə /
L > Sp

something that yields an often unexpectedly large profit.
Millie struck a bonanza with her latest business venture.

bonhomous

adj
/ 'bänəməs /
L > F + Ecf

warmly genial.
Will told us about the bonhomous master of ceremonies at the banquet.

boniface

n
/ 'bänəfəs /
name in an Irish play
the proprietor of a hotel, nightclub, or restaurant.
The boniface of the Red Horse Inn loves to have his picture taken with visiting celebrities.

bonnet

n
/ 'bänət /
L > F > E
a woman's head covering of cloth or straw usually tied under the chin.
Marie was tying her handkerchief over the kitten's head for a bonnet.

bonsai

n
/ 'bɔn.sɪ /
Jpn
[has near homonym: banzai] a potted plant (as a tree) dwarfed by special methods of culture.
Joanie spent the afternoon instructing a class on pruning a bonsai.

bookcase

bookkeeper

n
/ 'bʊk.kēpə(r) /
E
one who maintains accounts.
Dad has been a bookkeeper at the plant for 14 years.

boomerang

boondoggle

Bordelaise

n
/ ,bɔrd'laɪz /
F geog name
a brown sauce flavored with a table wine from the Gironde department

of France, the capital of which is Bordeaux.
Stuart thickened the Bordelaise over a low flame.

bordereaux

borderline

bore

n
/ 'bɔ(ə)r /
E

[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word. In addition, word has homonyms and near homonym: boar, Boer, and boor.] a tidal flood that regularly or occasionally rushes with a roaring noise into certain rivers.
Ships in the harbor when a bore occurred could suffer damage from its considerable height or force.

borealization

n
/ ,bɔrɛələ'zəʃən /
Gk > L + Ecff
adaptation (as of plants) to life in more northerly regions.
In the far North, borealization is a primary factor in the evolution of different plant species.

borzoi

n
/ 'bɔr.zɔi /
Russ
a Russian wolfhound.
The borzoi resembles a large greyhound with long wavy hair.

bosky

botanist

n
/ 'bät(ə)nəst /
Gk + Ecf
a professional student of plants.
A botanist identified the mysterious plant growing behind Alysia's garage.

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botany

n
/ 'bät(ə)nē /
Gk > F

the branch of biology dealing with plant life.

Jan has no formal education in botany, but she does seem to have a green thumb.

botcher

botuliform

adj
/ 'bächələfōrm /
L + Ecf

shaped like a sausage.

Cattails have botuliform flower heads.

boudoir

n
/ 'bü.dwä(r) /
F

a woman's dressing room, bedroom, or private sitting room.

The boudoir adjacent to the master bedroom was, to Brooke, the most fascinating room on the tour.

bough

n
/ 'baü /
E

[has homonym: bow] a branch of a tree.

Grass would grow better beneath the tree if the lowest bough were removed.

bouillabaisse

bouillon

n
/ 'bü.yän /
F

[Note: Alternate pronunciation has homonym: bullion.] a broth made by slow boiling of meat and especially beef in water.

Benny learned how to make bouillon in his home economics class.

boulevard

n
/ 'bülə.värd /
D > F

a broad thoroughfare often having grassplots with trees along the center or between curbing and sidewalks.

On a warm sunny day many strollers can be found on the boulevard.

boulevardier

boundary

bounteous

bountiful

adj
/ 'baüntəfəl /
L > F > E + Ecf
abundant, plentiful.
The potato farmers rejoiced over their bountiful harvest.

bouquet

n
/ bō'kā /
F

the distinctive fragrance (as of a wine or brandy) derived from the processes of fermentation and aging.

Jim found the bouquet of the mystery wine much to his liking.

bouquiniste

n
/ бүкēnēst /
D > F

a dealer in secondhand books.

The bouquiniste encouraged us to browse as long as we wanted.

bourgeois

adj
/ 'bürzh.wä /
F

of, belonging to, or characteristic of the townsman or the social middle class.

The senator said that he espoused the bourgeois virtues of thriftiness, forethought, and a serious attitude toward life.

bourgeoisie

n
/ .bürzh.wä'zē /
F

the social and economic middle class.

Dillon went to college to, as he put it, "escape from the throes of the bourgeoisie."

boutonniere

n
/ .bü'tn'i(ə)r /
F

a flower or bouquet worn in a buttonhole.

The groom wore a sprig of orange blossom as a boutonniere.

bowdlerize

v
/ 'bōdlə.rīz /
E name + Ecf
remove matter considered indelicate or otherwise objectionable from.

When the publisher chose to bowdlerize the novel, the school librarian refused to order it.

bowery

bowline

n
/ 'bōlən /
E

a rope fastened near the middle of the perpendicular edge of a square sail and used to keep the weather edge of the sail taut forward when the ship is close-hauled.

Suzanne told Julio to cleat the bowline down tightly as she prepared to tack.

boycott

v
/ 'bōi.kät /
E name

combine against (a person, employer, a group of persons, or a nation) in a policy of suspension of dealings or relations for economic or political reasons.

The people of New Athens resolved to boycott the offending company.

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boysenberry

n
/ 'bóiz^ən.berē /
Amer name + E
a very large bramble fruit with a flavor like a raspberry especially valued for canning and preserving.
Mark enjoys the tart flavor of a freshly picked boysenberry.

bracelet

brachiate

v
/ 'brakē.āt /
Gk > L
progress by swinging from one hold to another by the arms.
The children enjoyed watching the chimpanzees playfully brachiate from tree to tree.

brachygraphy

n
/ bra'kigrəfē /
Gk + Gk
shorthand : a method of writing rapidly by substituting characters, abbreviations, or symbols for letters, words, or phrases.
Current job listings for administrative assistants rarely list brachygraphy as a mandatory skill.

brachylogy

n
/ bra'kiləjē /
Gk
conciseness of expression.
A successful poet is a master of imagery and brachylogy.

bradawl

n
/ 'brad.əl /
E + E
an awl with a chisel edge used to make holes for screws or thin, small nails.
Desmond found a bradawl in his grandfather's toolbox, but he couldn't figure out what it was used for.

bradycardia

bradyseism

n
/ 'brādē.sizəm /
Gk
a slow quiet upward or downward movement of Earth's crust.
The outskirts of Naples have been afflicted by bradyseism since a 1980 earthquake.

braggadocio

n
/ .bragə'dōshē.ō /
name in English poem
empty boasting or bragging.
Shelly was sure that Keith's claim to have received ten speeding tickets was mere braggadocio.

brankursine

n
/ braŋ'kərs^ən /
L > F
a prickly European herb having rough, fuzzy leaves.
The brankursine has ornamental value because of its claw-shaped leaves.

brannigan

n
/ 'branəgən /
name?
a difference of opinion : controversy, squabble.
A rousing brannigan erupted at the dinner table.

brasserie

bratwurst

n
/ 'brat.wərst /
G
fresh pork sausage.
Karen is grilling bratwurst for the pool party.

braunschweiger

n
/ 'braún.shwīgə(r) /
G name
smoked liver sausage.
Derek made a braunschweiger and pickle sandwich for his afternoon snack.

bravura

n
/ brə'v(y)ürə /
It
a show of daring or brilliancy.
The crowd cheered the aerialist for his bravura.

brawniness

n
/ 'brònēnəs /
Gmc > F > E
the quality or state of having large strong muscles : muscular.
Chip's brawniness proved to be an asset in playing football.

brazen

adj
/ 'brāz^ən /
E
done in the open or in plain sight with or as if with complete scorn of public opinion, the common good, or ethical principle.
Kevin hopes that his brazen violation of the school's dress code will get him sent home for the day.

breach

breakfast

breath

n
/ 'breθ /
E
air charged with a certain fragrance, odor, or other suggestion.
The breath of roses in the parlor came from the window open to the garden.

breccia

n
/ 'brech(ē)ə /
It
[has near homonym: Brescia] a rock consisting of sharp fragments embedded in a fine-grained matrix (as sand or clay).
A breccia was among the rock specimens that the scientist brought back from her trip to the desert.

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bretelle

n
/ brə'tel /
Gmc > F
one of a pair of ornamental straps that go from the belt on the front of a dress over the shoulders to the belt in back.
Candace asked for help in adjusting her bretelle.

brevet

n
/ brə'vet /
F > E
an official document from a government granting a privilege, title, or dignity.
Dominic found a brevet signed by President Fillmore among his grandfather's papers.

breviloquent

brevity

n
/ 'brevədē /
L
expression in few words : terseness, conciseness.
Polonius told Queen Gertrude that "brevity is the soul of wit."

bribery

n
/ 'brīb(ə)rē /
F > E
the act or practice of giving or taking a reward, gift, or favor with a view to corrupt the conduct especially of a person in a position of trust (as a public official).
When the gambler offered the athletes money to lose the game, he was arrested and charged with bribery.

bridle

briefcase

brigadier

n
/ 'brīgədī(ə)r /
It > F > E
an army, marine, or air force officer ranking just below a major general and above a colonel.
After winning the decisive battle, Hiram was promoted to brigadier.

brigand

n
/ 'brīgənd /
Celt > It > F > E
one who lives by plunder usually as a member of a band.
The captured brigand refused to say a word about his group's leader.

brigantine

n
/ 'brīgən.tēn /
Celt > It > F
a two-masted square-rigged sailing ship.
Sailing school will be held on a specially outfitted brigantine.

brightness

n
/ 'brīt.nəs /
E
the state of being radiant : lustrous.
Walter wore sunglasses while he was skiing to protect his eyes against the brightness of the snow.

brilliant

brimstone

n
/ 'brimz.tōn /
E
sulfur.
If the story were true, upon reaching the sacred spot the demon would vanish in a flash of fire and brimstone.

brine

brinness

n
/ 'brīnənəs /
E
the quality or state of being like salt water or the sea.
Nadine does not enjoy swimming in the ocean because its brinness irritates her skin.

brioche

n
/ brē'ōsh /
Gmc > F
a fancy roll of very light yeast dough rich with eggs and butter.
Amy wanted just a brioche and juice for breakfast.

broach

v
/ 'brōch /
F > E
[has homonym: brooch] open up (a subject) for discussion or debate.
No one dares broach the subject of politics in front of Monique.

broadcaster

n
/ 'brōd.kastə(r) /
E + ON > E
a person who disseminates news on radio or television.
Russell has the clear voice and precise diction of an experienced broadcaster.

brocade

n
/ brō'kād /
L > It > Catal > Sp
a rich oriental fabric with raised patterns embroidered in gold and silver threads.
Tina discovered a gorgeous brocade in the remnant bin at the fabric store.

brochette

n
/ brō'shet /
F
meat broiled on a skewer.
Marsha garnished her beef brochette with green peppers.

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brochure

n
/ brō'shū(ə)r /
F

pamphlet, booklet.
Juanita designed a brochure for the zoological society.

brockage

n
/ 'bräkij /
E

an imperfectly minted coin.
Allen found a brockage in his piggy bank.

bromeliad

n
/ brō'mēlē.ad /
Sw name + Lcf
a plant of a family of tropical American herbs or subshrubs.
The colorful leaves of the bromeliad make it a popular houseplant.

bronchial

bronchitis

n
/ brän'kīd-əs /
Gk

acute or chronic inflammation in the lungs.
Because of his bronchitis, Sam had given up jogging.

brontometer

n
/ brän'täməd-ə(r) /
Gk

an instrument for measuring the phenomena of thunderstorms.
In 1888 meteorologists began using a brontometer to record the details of thunderstorms.

bronze

v
/ 'bränz /
L > It > F

[has near homonym: brawns]
become like bronze, a moderate yellowish brown alloy of copper and tin, especially in color.
Ike's attempt to bronze on the beach took an unfortunate turn when he fell asleep.

brougham

n
/ 'brü(ə)m /
Scottish name

[has near homonyms: broom, brume] a light closed horse-drawn carriage with the driver outside in front.
The brougham was once a common sight on the streets of London.

brouhaha

n
/ 'brü'hä.hä /
Hebrew? > F
publicity, attention, or excitement far beyond the merits or importance of its cause.
Sean dropped his tray in the cafeteria, causing quite a brouhaha.

brucellosis

n
/ ,brüsə'lōsəs /
E name + Lcf
a human disease characterized by extreme exhaustion and generalized aches and pains and acquired through infected animal products.
An outbreak of brucellosis forced the sausage factory to shut down.

bruise

n
/ 'brüz /
F > E
[has homonym: brews] an injury, especially one produced by a blow or collision, that does not break the surface it injures.
Heather's fall from her bicycle left her with a bad bruise.

bruit

brujo

n
/ 'brü.hō /
Sp
sorcerer, witch doctor; especially : one that works black magic.
The character of the brujo in the ballet was played by a dancer who scowled through the entire first act.

brume

n
/ 'brüm /
L > OProv > F

[has homonym and near homonym: broom and brougham] mist, fog.
The ship's foghorn blared through the drifting brume.

brummagem

adj
/ 'brəm-ə-jəm /
E geog name
spurious especially in a cheap and showy way : phony, sham.
Irene usually wears brummagem jewelry when she dines at fancy restaurants.

brumous

brutal

adj
/ 'brüd-əl /
L > F > E
characterized by ruthlessness and insensitivity.
The judge gave Gary the maximum sentence, noting the brutal nature of the crime.

bruxism

n
/ 'brək.sizəm /
Gk > E
the habit of unconsciously gritting or grinding the teeth especially in situations of stress or during sleep.
Ellie's bruxism was so pronounced that her dentist made a bite guard for her to wear at night.

buccaneer

n
/ ,bəkə'ni(e)r /
Tupi > F
one of the pirates preying upon Spanish ships and settlements especially in the West Indies in the 17th century.
While on the "Pirates of the Caribbean" ride at Disneyland, Maria thought she saw the eyes of the nearest buccaneer move.

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buccolingual

adj
/ ˈbʊkəlɪŋɡ(yə)wəl /
L

relating to or affecting the cheek and the tongue.

Pipe smoking can harm the buccolingual tissue.

buckboard

n
/ ˈbʊk.bɔ(ə)rd /
E + E

a four-wheeled horse-drawn vehicle without springs with the platform fastened directly to the front and rear axle, usually with a seat above it often mounted on springs.

The Wilson family used a buckboard for travel and to transport supplies from town.

buckram

bucolic

Buddhism

n
/ ˈbʊ.dɪzəm /
Skt name

a religion of eastern and central Asia.

Buddhism has spread from its original home in Asia to all corners of the globe.

budgetary

buffalo

n
/ ˈbʊfələ /
Gk > L > Sp > It

a large wild ox with a shaggy mane and short horns that was once abundant on the central and western plains of the United States.

Jamie was awed by the enormity of the buffalo she saw at the zoo.

buffoon

n
/ ˈbʊˈfjuːn /
L > It > F

a person professionally engaged in entertaining others by tricks, gestures, or comic pantomime.

Along the midway a buffoon entertained the children with a laughable pantomime.

buffoonery

n
/ (i)ˈbʊˈfjuːn(ə)rē /
F

the practices of a clown or clownish person; especially : coarse loutish behavior.

Mrs. Decker warned that she would tolerate no buffoonery in her classroom.

bugaboo

n
/ ˈbʊgəˌbjuː /
E

something that causes fear or distress often out of proportion to its actual importance in a situation.

Failing the geometry test was Kara's bugaboo.

bulbous

adj
/ ˈbʊlbəs /
L

[has homonym: bulbus]
resembling or suggesting a bulb especially in roundness or in the gross enlargement of a part.

The cartoon character's heavy bulbous body lurched dangerously on his spindly legs, which barely supported him.

bulgur

n
/ ˈbʊl.gʊ(ə)r /
Turk

parched crushed wheat as prepared and used as a dietary staple in Turkey and adjacent regions.

Omar's favorite dish is a salad made with bulgur, pine nuts, and raisins.

bulletin

bulletinize

bullion

bullionist

n
/ ˈbʊljənəst /
F > E + Ecf

an advocate of a metallic medium of exchange.

The bullionist proposed a return to the gold standard.

bumptiously

bungalow

n
/ ˈbʊŋɡə.lə /
Hindi

a lightly built single-story house or cottage.

Wendy's dream vacation includes renting a bungalow on a South Pacific island.

buoyant

adj
/ ˈbɔɪənt /
Sp

able to regain high spirits after depression : lighthearted.

The buoyant author gladly autographed his book for buyers.

buoyantly

buran

n
/ bʊˈræn /
Turk > Russ

a northeasterly wind of gale force in Russia and central Asia usually identified with sandstorms in summer and blizzards in winter.

The dreaded buran from northern Siberia swept across the tundra with extraordinary violence.

bureaucracy

n
/ byüˈrækrəsi /
F

a system of administration marked by lack of initiative and flexibility, by indifference to human needs or public opinion, and by a tendency to defer decisions to superiors or to impede action with red tape.

Helga blamed the bureaucracy for the six-week delay in getting her passport.

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Frequently

bureaucrat

n
/ 'byūrəkɹat /
L > F + Gk > F
a member of the whole body of nonelected government officials.
Alexis spent 20 minutes trying to convince a bureaucrat that she really was seeking employment.

burgher

n
/ 'bərgər /
G&D
a resident of a town : townsman.
Every burgher showed up for Springfield's fireworks display.

burgherly

burgoo

n
/ (,)bər'gü /
unknown
a savory highly seasoned stew or thick soup containing several kinds of meat and vegetables originally served at political rallies, barbecues, picnics, and community occasions.
Everyone looks forward to eating burgoo at Drew's Derby Day party.

burin

n
/ 'byūrən /
Celt? > Catal? > F
an engraver's tool having a steel blade ground obliquely to a sharp point.
The artist used a burin to engrave a design on a copper plate.

burly

adj
/ 'bərle /
E
[has homonym: burley] strongly built : stout, sturdy.
The director chose Harry for the part of the construction worker because of his burly appearance.

burrito

n
/ bə'red̩o /
Sp
a usually baked flour tortilla rolled or folded around a filling (as of meat, beans, or cheese).
For lunch Fred ordered a burrito, rice, and refried beans.

bursar

n
/ 'bərsər /
L
[Note: Could be confused with purser.] an administrative officer (as of a monastery or college) in charge of funds : treasurer.
The bill for the new gym floor was submitted to the school's bursar.

bursiculate

adj
/ .bər'sikyələt /
L > E
shaped like a small pouch or purse.
Some seaweed plants have bursiculate leaves.

bursitis

n
/ .bər'sid̩əs /
L + Ecf
inflammation of a fluid-filled cavity in a joint of the body.
Pain during the tennis game was Brett's first symptom of bursitis.

busby

n
/ 'bəzbē /
E name?
a military full-dress hat made of fur with a bag usually of cloth of the color of the facings of the regiment hanging from the top on the right.
The drum major strutted proudly in his white uniform and black busby.

bushel

butte

n
/ 'byüt /
F
[has homonym: beaut] an isolated hill or small mountain with steep or precipitous sides that usually has a smaller summit area than does a mesa.
A butte erodes mostly from its sides because its uppermost layers consist of hard rock and resist weathering.

butterfly

v
/ 'bʌd̩ə(r)flī /
E
split almost entirely and spread apart in such a way as to resemble the spread wings of a butterfly.
George tried to butterfly the chicken breast but ended up with two ragged chunks of meat.

butterscotch

n
/ 'bʌd̩ə(r)skäch /
E
a hard candy made by boiling together brown sugar, corn syrup, and water.
Butterscotch has a deep golden color and a delicious rich taste.

buttruss

butyraceous

adj
/ .byüdə'rāshəs /
Gk > L
resembling butter.
The mixed vegetables were flavored with a butyraceous sauce.

buzzard

n
/ 'bʌzə(r)d /
L > F > E
any of various birds of prey, such as a turkey vulture or condor.
The buzzard is a common figure in cartoons, making its appearance when other characters are sick or dying.

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byssinosis

n
/ bisə'nōsəs /
Gk > L

a chronic industrial disease associated with the inhalation of cotton dust over a long period of time.

Employees at the mill wore masks to protect themselves from byssinosis.

byte

Byzantine

adj
/ 'bizən.tēn /
Gk

of, relating to, or characteristic of the eastern Roman Empire.
Byzantine bureaucracy has become a byword for cumbersome, complicated, inefficient, and inflexible administration.

cabana

n
/ kə'ban(y)ə /
L > Sp

a tentlike often portable shelter with a projecting canopy over an open side facing a beach or swimming pool.

Sam and Doug will move the cabana closer to the swimming pool.

cabaret

n
/ .kabə'rā /
L? > F

a restaurant that provides entertainment, usually singing and dancing.

Sheila's training in tap dancing helped her get a job at the local cabaret.

cabinet

cabochon

adv
/ 'kabə'shän /
F

in convex form highly polished but not faceted.

The jeweler cut the stone cabochon and mounted it in a platinum setting.

cabriole

n
/ 'kabrē.ōl /
F

[Note: Could be confused with capriole.] a ballet leap in which one leg is extended in mid-air and the other struck against it.

The dancers dressed as wood sprites performed a cabriole in every measure of the music.

cache

v
/ 'kash /
L > F

[has homonym: cash] place or store in safety or concealment.

Jim asked Zelda to cache his valuables while he was on sabbatical in Japan.

cachet

n
/ ka'shā /
F

a characteristic feature or quality conferring prestige or distinction or inspiring respect.

Acting in a hit TV sitcom does not carry the same cachet as acting in a hit movie.

cachinnate

cachinnation

n
/ .kakə'nāshən /
L

the act or action of laughing loudly or convulsively.

The cachinnation of the comedy club's audience convinced the comedian that he was on his way to becoming a star.

cacography

n
/ ka'kəgrəfē /
Gk

bad handwriting.

Martin's cacography made his work illegible.

cacophonous

cacophony

n
/ ka'kəfənē /
Gk

harsh or discordant sound.

Spot's encounter with the skunk was accompanied by a burst of cacophony.

cacuminal

cadaver

n
/ kə'davə(r) /
L

a dead human or animal body usually intended for cutting so as to expose the several parts and their locations and connections.

Duncan dissected a cadaver in anatomy class.

cadaverous

cadence

cadre

n
/ 'kə(ɪ)drā /
L > It > F

a nucleus or core group especially of trained personnel or active members of an organization who are capable of assuming leadership or of training and indoctrinating others.

Its highly skilled cadre of managers enabled the company to achieve great success in its first year.

caduceus

n
/ kə'd(y)üs(h)ēəs /
Gk > L

a conventionalized representation of a staff with two snakes curled around it and with two wings at the top.

In Greek mythology the caduceus was the staff of Hermes, the messenger of the gods.

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cafeteria

n
/ kafə'tirēə /
Turk > Sp
a self-service restaurant or
lunchroom.
*On the last day of school the
students had a food fight in the
cafeteria.*

caisson

n
/ 'kāsän /
L > F
a two-wheeled vehicle for artillery
ammunition attachable to a horse-
drawn limber for marching.
*A caisson is sometimes used to
carry the coffin in a military
funeral.*

caitiff

n
/ 'kādəf /
L > F > E
a base despicable person.
*The story centers on Batman's
encounters with a psychotic caitiff,
the Riddler.*

cajole

cajolery

n
/ kə'jɔl(ə)rē /
F
use of delusive enticements.
*After much cajolery, the kitten
finally came down from the tree.*

calabash

n
/ 'kalə,bash /
Ar? > Sp&F
the common bottle gourd.
*A calabash with a hole cut in it
makes a dandy birdhouse.*

caladium

n
/ kə'lādēəm /
Malay > L
any of a small genus of tropical
American plants with variously
colored arrow-shaped leaves.
*Julie delivered a potted caladium
to her sick cousin.*

calamine

calamity

calcium

n
/ 'kalsēəm /
L
a soft, silver-white bivalent
metallic element that occurs in
combination with minerals and
rocks.
*Calcium is an essential element in
bones.*

calculate

v
/ 'kalkyə.lāt /
L
ascertain or determine by
mathematical processes especially
of some intricacy.
*Toriko likes to calculate her car's
gas mileage after every trip.*

calculator

n
/ 'kalkyə.lādə(r) /
L > E + Ecf
a device used for computing
amounts.
*Mr. Jensen permitted each student
to use a calculator during the
exam.*

calculiform

adj
/ 'kalkyələfōrm /
L > ISV
shaped like a pebble.
*In the Mayan writing system, the
characters were rounded like
pebbles and so were described as
being calculiform.*

calculus

calefacient

adj
/ kalə'fāshənt /
L
making warm : heating.
*A calefacient ointment relieved
some of Dave's muscular pain.*

calendar

calibrate

calico

n
/ 'kaləkō /
Indian geog name
any of various cheap cotton fabrics
with figured patterns.
*Molly's dress was made of a bold
orange and yellow checked calico.*

caliginous

adj
/ kə'lijənəs /
F or L
dark, obscure.
*A caliginous sky foreshadowed the
approaching storm.*

calisthenics

n pl
/ kaləs'theniks /
Gk + Ecf
systematic exercises performed
usually in rhythm and often in a
group to improve the strength,
suppleness, balance, and health of
the body.
*Aunt Julia does calisthenics twice a
week in a program called "Body
Recall."*

calisthenium

callidity

n
/ ka'lidədə /
L
craftiness, cunning, shrewdness.
*Br'er Rabbit was famous for his
callidity.*

calligrapher

n
/ kə'ligrəfə(r) /
Gk
one that writes a beautiful,
ornamental, or stylized hand.
*Joni and William had their
wedding invitations inscribed by a
calligrapher.*

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calliope

n
/ kə'liə(,)pē /
Gk > L

a musical instrument consisting of a series of crude steam or air whistles used on riverboats and in circuses and carnivals.

Passengers gathered on the upper deck of the Mississippi Queen to listen to the calliope.

callously

callow

caloric

adj
/ kə'lōrik /
L > F

of or relating to the heat-producing or energy-producing value of food.
Suzy became obsessed with caloric intake while on her crash diet.

calque

calumet

n
/ 'kalyə.met /
L > F

a highly ornamented ceremonial pipe of the North American Indians that was smoked at sacrifices and other magical or religious rites and on state occasions.

After the three chiefs reached agreement, they passed a feathered calumet.

calumny

n
/ 'kal(y)əmni /
L

a false charge or misrepresentation intended to harm one's reputation : slander.

According to Neal, the recent article about him was pure calumny.

calvities

n
/ kal'vishi.ēz /
L

baldness.

Larry's calvities is intentional: He shaves his head every morning.

calypso

n
/ kə'lip(,)sō /
Gk name

a balladlike improvisation in African rhythm usually satirizing current events first composed and sung in competition in the British West Indies.

Harry Belafonte gained fame as a singer of calypso.

camaraderie

cameline

n
/ 'kamə.lēn /
Sem > Gk > L

a twilled camel's-hair fabric.

Jordan bought a new overcoat made of cameline to wear with his dress suits.

cameo

n
/ 'kamē.ō /
L > F > It

a small theatrical or film role usually performed by a well-known actor and often limited to a single scene.

The producer was grateful that the star accepted a cameo in his new film.

camera

camionette

n
/ .kamyo'net /
F

a small truck or bus.

The hotel provides a camionette to shuttle guests to and from the airport.

camisole

camouflage

n
/ 'kamə.flāzh /
It > F

a disguise, behavior, or expedient adopted or designed to deceive or hide.

Behind Jerry's camouflage of ignorance resides a wealth of knowledge.

camouflaged

camoufleur

campanile

n
/ .kampə'nēlē /
L > It

[Note: Plural form can be pronounced identically.] a bell tower usually freestanding.

From the hilltop Obin could just spot the great campanile of Christ Church in Oxford.

camphor

n
/ 'kam(p)fə(r) /
Malay > Ar > L > AF > E

[has near homonym: chamfer] a tough gumlike substance obtained especially from the wood and bark of the camphor tree and used chiefly as a stimulant in medicine.
Whenever Johnny has a cold, his mother spreads on his chest an aromatic ointment containing camphor.

campodeiform

adj
/ kam'pōdēə.fōrm /
Gk + Gk + L
having an elongated and flattened shape—used especially of larvae of some beetles and other higher insects.
Cybelle identified one of the five campodeiform larvae.

campus

canaille

n
/ kə'nī /
L > It > F

mob, rabble, riffraff.

During the riot the canaille destroyed and looted many stores.

canard

n
/ kə'närd /
F

a false or unfounded report or story; especially : a fabricated report (as by a newspaper).

The report of the famous singer's death turned out to be a canard.

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canary

n
/ kə'nerē /
L geog name > Sp > F
a small greenish-yellow finch extensively bred as a cage bird and singer.
When the canary escaped in her living room, Susan put her cat outside until she found the bird.

canasta

n
/ kə'nastə /
L > Sp
a card game that is a form of rummy played usually as a two-hand or as a four-hand partnership game using two full decks plus four jokers.
The two couples often played canasta after having dinner together.

cancellous

adj
/ kan'seləs /
L
having a spongy or porous structure.
Cancellous tissue occurs at the ends of some bones.

cancrivorious

candelabra

n
/ ,kandə'lābrə /
L
a usually ornate and often heavy and large standard supporting a candlestick or lamp.
In December Stella put red and green candles in her candelabra on the mantle.

candelabrum

n
/ ,kandə'lābrəm /
L
a large candlestick or a lamp usually ornamented and having several arms or branches.
Germaine admired the ornate silver candelabrum in the center of the table.

candent

adj
/ 'kandənt /
L
white or glowing usually from great heat.
The wire glowed candent like the filament of a light bulb.

candescent

adj
/ kan'desənt /
L
glowing or dazzling often from great heat.
A candescent meteorite streaked across the southern sky.

candidacy

n
/ 'kan(d)ədəsē /
L + Ecf
the quality or state of being one that is likely or worthy to gain a post, position, or distinction.
Tony's candidacy for the student council will be jeopardized if he fails his algebra exam.

candlewick

n
/ 'kandəl.wɪk /
L > E + E
the twisted threads of soft cotton yarn contained in a candle.
Victor groped to light the candlewick in the dark.

candor

n
/ 'kandə(r) /
L
[has near homonym: canter]
unreserved, honest, or sincere expression.
Russell's candor in dealing with difficult issues won over the voters.

canine

canitist

n
/ 'kanətəst /
L + Ecf
one who dyes or tints hair especially in a beauty shop.
Polly has been a canitist in a local beauty shop for 25 years.

cannelloni

cannibal

cannibalism

cannonade

canny

canoe

canoeist

n
/ kə'nüəst /
Arawak > Sp > L > F + Ecf
one that paddles a type of long narrow boat.
Evan became an expert canoeist at summer camp.

canopy

cantankerous

adj
/ kan'ta(i)ŋk(ə)rəs /
AF? > E? + Ecf
marked by ill humor, irritability, and determination to disagree.
The cantankerous old man yelled at Grady as he attempted to retrieve the football.

cantata

cantatory

canteen

canter

v
/ 'kantə(r) /
E geog name
[has homonym: cantor] move at or as if at a three-beat gait resembling but smoother and slower than the gallop.
Cindy let the horse canter for a while but soon spurred it on to a gallop.

cantilever

cantonment

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cantor

n
/ 'kantə(r) /
L

[has homonym: canter] a synagogue official who sings or chants liturgical music and leads the congregation in prayer.
Jacob's vocal talent led him to consider becoming a cantor.

canvasser

n
/ 'kanvəsə(r) /
Gk > L > F > E + Ecf

one that takes or counts votes.
Helga volunteered as a canvasser for the upcoming election.

capable

capacious

adj
/ kə'pāshəs /
L

able to contain a great deal.
Dodie went to the beach carrying a capacious canvas bag.

caparison

n
/ kə'parəsən /
Sp > F

an ornamental covering for a horse.
The king's horse wore an elaborately decorated caparison.

capillary

adj
/ 'kapə.lerē /
L

resembling a hair : fine, minute, slender.
The capillary tubes in the tissue puzzled Dr. Chang.

capital

adj
/ 'kapəd³l /
L

[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word. In addition, word has homonym: capitol.] highly meritorious : most enjoyable.

On his dad's birthday, Philip served a capital feast, with every dish cleverly wrapped up in ribbons.

capitativ

adj
/ .kapə'tādvəm /
L

levied or granted at so much per head.
Collecting an affordable capitativ fee for civic pool use will not cover operating costs.

capitulate

cappelletti
n pl
/ .kapə'ledē /
L > It

[Note: Could be confused with cavalletti.] small cases of dough usually filled with meat or cheese.
Bo and Annette dined on cappelletti in marinara sauce.

cappuccino

capriccioso
adv
/ kə'prēchē'ō(s)ō /
It + Itcf

free and impulsive—used chiefly as a direction in music.
The ending segment of the violin concerto was played capriccioso.

caprice

capricious
adj
/ kə'prishəs /
It

not guided by steady judgment, intent, or purpose.
Hazel's capricious behavior is a source of constant annoyance for her sister, Ruth.

capsize

capstan

capsule

caracole

n
/ 'karəkōl /
L? > Sp > F

a half turn either to the right or the left executed by a mounted horse.
The front rank of galloping cavalrymen fired their pistols and then peeled off in a caracole to regroup.

carafe

n
/ kə'raf /
Ar > It > F

a bottle usually made of glass with a narrow neck and spherical body and used to hold water or beverages.
Shlomo ordered a carafe of the house wine.

caramel

n
/ 'karəməl /
L > Pg > Sp > F

a firm chewy candy often containing fruits and nuts and typically cut into small blocks.
Ida's mother warned her not to eat a caramel before she went to the orthodontist.

caramelize

v
/ 'karəməl.līz /
L > Pg > Sp > F + Ecf
change (sugar or the sugar content of a food) into a brittle brown substance by heating to about 170–180 C.
Kara is going to caramelize some sugar to make peanut brittle.

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carbohydrate

n
/ ˌkɑːrbəˈhɪ.drət /
L + Gk

any of a group of neutral compounds composed of carbon, hydrogen, and oxygen including the sugars and starches.

The nutrition facts indicated that the candy bar would provide Sheila with over half her daily allowance of carbohydrate.

carbonaceous

carbonate

adj
/ ˈkɑːrbənət /
L + ISVcf
of or relating to a salt or ester of carbonic acid.

After reading the paragraph six times, Hugo still could not understand the bonding in the carbonate ion.

carboy

carcass

n
/ ˈkɑːrkəs /
Per > Ar > L > F
a dead body of a human being or an animal : corpse.

Kasey found the fresh carcass of one of his cows and knew that the wolves were back.

carcinogen

n
/ kɑːrˈsɪnəjən /
Gk
a substance or agent producing or inciting cancerous growth.
Asbestos has been proven to be a powerful carcinogen.

cardiac

cardigan

n
/ ˈkɑːrdɪgən /
E name
a sweater or jacket that opens the full length of the center front and usually has a round or V-shaped collarless neck.
Samantha's aunt in Scotland sent her a colorful wool cardigan for her birthday.

cardinal

n
/ ˈkɑːrd(ə)nəl /
L > F > E
an American songbird, the male being bright red with a black face and pointed crest and the female being much duller in color.
One of Stephanie's favorite winter scenes is that of a cardinal perched on a snow-covered branch.

cardinalate

cardiomegaly

n
/ ˌkɑːrdɪəˈmegəli /
Gk
enlargement of the heart.
Severe anemia can result in cardiomegaly.

caribou

n
/ ˈkɑːrə.bi /
Algonquian > F
any of several large deer of northern North America.
While in Montana, Jill photographed a caribou silhouetted on a high ridge.

caricaturable

caricature

carillon

n
/ ˈkɑːrə.lən /
L > F
a set of fixed bells pitched in a chromatic series of at least two octaves and sounded by hammers controlled by a keyboard.
Latasha will play the carillon at Andy's wedding.

cark

carnage

n
/ ˈkɑːrnɪj /
L > F
great destruction of life (as in battle) : great bloodshed.
Appeals to stop the carnage of war fell on deaf ears.

carnival

n
/ ˈkɑːrnəvəl /
L > It
a traveling enterprise consisting of such amusements as sideshows, games of chance, rides, and shooting galleries.
The carnival was the only place Ralph had the opportunity to eat cotton candy.

carnivore

n
/ ˈkɑːrnəˌvɔː(ə)r /
L
a flesh-eating animal.
The hyena is a carnivore that usually eats animals found dead.

carnivorous

carotid

adj
/ kəˈrɑːdɪd /
Gk
belonging to or situated near either of the two main arteries that supply blood to the head.
Lara felt her pulse with a finger placed on her carotid artery.

carpaccio

n
/ kɑːrˈpɑːtʃ(ə) /
It
thinly sliced raw meat or fish served with a sauce.
When Linda ordered carpaccio, she didn't know that it is uncooked.

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carpenter

n
/ 'kärpəntə(r) /
L > E
a person who builds or repairs with wood.
Matthew hired a carpenter to construct four bookcases.

carpophagous

carriageable

carrion

n
/ 'kärēən /
L > AF > E
[has near homonym: carillon] the dead and putrefying flesh of an animal.
Vultures were picking over skunk and opossum carrion at the roadside.

carrot

cartel

n
/ kär'tel /
It > F
a voluntary often international combination of independent private enterprises supplying like commodities or services that agree to limit their competitive activities (as by regulating quantity or quality of output).
Started as a cartel, the oil-producing nations control the worldwide price of petroleum.

cartilage

n
/ 'kärð'lij /
L
a translucent elastic tissue that composes most of the skeleton of the embryos and very young of vertebrates and is for the most part converted into bone in the higher forms.
Hans had a small piece of cartilage removed from his elbow.

carton

cartonnage

n
/ 'kärt'n.äzh /
F
material consisting of linen or papyrus glued together in many thicknesses and usually coated with stucco.
The museum guide said that the elaborate mummy case made of cartonnage had been found in a hidden vault of a pyramid.

caryatid

n
/ .kärē'adəd /
Gk
a draped female figure supporting an entablature in the place of a column or pilaster.
The caryatid appeared to be grimacing from the strain of holding up the temple.

cascade

n
/ ka'skād /
L > It > F
a fall of water over steeply slanting rocks (as in a river or brook).
The swiftly moving mountain stream became a cascade as it rushed toward the valley below.

cashew

n
/ 'ka(.)shü /
Tupi > Pg
the kidney-shaped nut of a tropical American tree naturalized in all warm countries.
Jack dug through the can of mixed nuts, looking for the last cashew.

cashier

n
/ ka'shi(ə)r /
F > D
one that handles customer payments for goods or services rendered.
A cashier must keep a watchful eye for counterfeit currency.

cask

n
/ 'kask /
Sp
[has homonym: casque] any barrel-shaped vessel made of staves, headings, and hoops.
The salesman boasted that the Scotch had been aged in an old sherry cask for many years.

casserole

n
/ 'kasə.röl /
Gk > L > OProv > F
a vessel usually having a cover and a handle and in which food may be baked and served.
Laura baked the chicken and broccoli in a casserole.

cassoulet

n
/ 'kasə.lā /
F
a casserole of beans baked with herbs and pork sausage and sometimes other meats.
The cassoulet was originally a specialty of southwestern France.

cassowary

castanets

n pl
/ .kastə'nets /
L > Sp
a pair of rhythm instruments consisting of two shells made of ivory, wood, or plastic which are fastened together to hang from the thumb and are clicked by the other fingers.
The flamenco dancer's rapidly clicking castanets intrigued Diana.

castigate

Castilian

adj
/ ka'stilyən /
L
of, relating to, or characteristic of the standard Spanish language.
Juan incorporates so many English words in his conversation that his speech is far from Castilian.

casuistic

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casuistry

n
/ 'kəʒhəwəstrē /
L > Sp
the study of or the doctrine that deals with cases of conscience.
To complete her degree in philosophy, Tisha had to take a semester of casuistry.

catachresis

n
/ 'kədə'krēsəs /
Gk
the misuse of words.
When Monica used the word infer to mean "imply" in her essay, her English teacher wrote catachresis in the margin.

cataclysm

n
/ 'kədə'klizəm /
Gk
a violent geologic change involving sudden and extensive alterations of Earth's surface.
Scientists are standing by their prediction that a cataclysm will occur in California.

cataclysmic

catacomb

catadromous

adj
/ kə'tadrəməs /
Gk > L
living in fresh water and going to the sea to spawn.
Whereas the salmon migrates from the sea to fresh water to spawn, the catadromous American eel does just the reverse.

cataplexy

n
/ 'kədə'lepsē /
Gk
a condition of suspended animation and loss of voluntary motion associated with hysteria and schizophrenia.
Doctors were confounded by Juan's cataplexy.

catalina

catalytic

adj
/ 'kədə'l'idik /
Gk
causing, involving, or relating to the change in the rate of a chemical reaction brought about by often small amounts of a substance that is unchanged chemically at the end of the reaction.
Iron plus small amounts of potassium and aluminum oxides has a catalytic effect on the synthesis of ammonia.

catamaran

cataphract

n
/ 'kədə'frakt /
Gk
a suit of armor for the whole body.
The knight in a cataphract was mounted on a charger and equipped with a lance.

catapult

v
/ 'kədə'pəlt /
Gk > L
move with a suddenness or force as if propelled by a device that hurls heavy stones.
The general's wartime success was enough to catapult him into political power.

cataract

n
/ 'kədə'rakt /
Gk > L > E
a clouding of the lens of the eye obstructing the passage of light.
Grandpa's cataract necessitated surgical replacement of the lens in his eye.

catarrh

n
/ kə'tär /
Gk > L > F
[has homonym and near homonym: Qatar and guitar] inflammation of a mucous membrane in humans or animals characterized by congestion and secretion of mucus.
Catarrh can be brought on by infection, allergies, dry air, or chemical irritants.

catastasis

n
/ kə'tastəsəs /
Gk
the dramatic complication immediately preceding the climax of a play.
During the catastasis the audience wondered how the hero would resolve his predicament.

catastrophe

n
/ kə'tastrə()fē /
Gk
the final action that completes the unraveling of the plot in a tragedy : denouement.
In the drama's catastrophe the hero dies a valiant death to save his beloved.

catechism

catechumen

n
/ .kədə'kyümən /
Gk > L > F
one receiving rudimentary instruction in the doctrines of Christianity.
A child who attends a Sunday School program could be considered a catechumen.

category

catenary

n
/ 'kədə'nerē /
L
the curve assumed by a perfectly flexible cord hanging freely from two fixed points.
Part of Dominick's math test was to figure out the equation for a catenary.

catenulate

adj
/ kə'tenyələt /
L
having a chain-like form.
The artist's paintings mimic the catenulate markings on butterflies' wings.

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caterer

n
/ 'kādərə(r) /
AF > E + Ecf
one whose business is to arrange for and supervise all the details relating to food service for any social affair.
The caterer placed a parsley leaf on each deviled egg.

caterpillar

n
/ 'kadə(r)pɪlər /
L > F > E
the elongated wormlike larva of a butterfly or moth.
The body-surface hairs on the caterpillar in Jamie's hand contain a poisonous substance that causes intense itching.

caterwaul

cathartic

cathedral

adj
/ kə'thēdrəl /
L > E
of, relating to, or being a bishop's church.
Sister Agatha watered the tulips in the cathedral garden.

cathole

Catullian

adj
/ kə'təlēən /
L name
of, relating to, or like the Roman poet Catullus or his lyric poems.
The great felicity of language and intense personal feeling of Randolph's poem made it Catullian.

caucus

n
/ 'kəkəs /
Algonquian
a conference of party or organization leaders to decide on policies, plans, appointees, or candidates.
The caucus stayed in session until 3 a.m. finalizing its slate of nominees.

caudal

adj
/ 'kōdəl /
L
[has near homonym: coddle]
constituting, belonging to, or relating to a tail.
As a tadpole's legs grow, its caudal appendage gradually disappears.

caudillo

n
/ kaù'thē(l)(.)yō /
L > Sp
a military leader (as in a Latin-American country) usually of guerrilla or irregular forces loyal to him or her personally.
The reporter found that most of the soldiers would willingly give their lives for their caudillo.

cauliflower

n
/ 'kōləflaù(ə)r /
L > It
a garden plant that is closely related to the cabbage and is grown for food.
Sheldon won't eat cauliflower unless it is smothered in melted cheese.

causerie

n
/ ,kōz(ə)'rē /
L > F
an informal light conversation : chat.
Bridget tried unsuccessfully all evening to engage Mrs. Vickers in causerie.

causeway

caustic

adj
/ 'kōstik /
Gk
capable of destroying the texture of anything or eating away its substance by chemical action : corrosive.
Ned never suspected that perfume might have a caustic effect on plastic.

cauterize

v
/ 'kōdərīz /
Gk > L
burn or sear with a caustic brand.
Dr. Bennett used a laser to cauterize Tony's wound.

cavalcade

n
/ 'kavəl.kād /
L > It > F
a procession of riders or carriages.
The king headed up the cavalcade proceeding toward the Duke of Parma.

cavalier

adj
/ ,kavə'li(ə)r /
L > OProv > It > F
marked by lofty disregard of others' interests, rights, or feelings.
Eloise displayed a cavalier attitude toward the homecoming plans.

cavalletti

n
/ ,kavə'ledē /
L > It
[Note: Could be confused with cappelletti.] a series of timber jumps that are adjustable in height for schooling horses.
Black Beauty easily jumped over the cavalletti as Justin watched with pride.

cavalry

caveat

n
/ 'kävē.ät /
L
a warning enjoining one from certain acts or practices.
The oldest caveat of commerce is "Let the buyer beware."

cavernicolous

cavernous

adj
/ 'kavə(r)nəs /
L
constituting or suggesting a large underground chamber.
The thick grove of vine-covered trees threw a cavernous gloom over the area.

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cavil

v
/ 'kavəl /
L

object or criticize adversely for trivial reasons.
Even if Tracy's room is spotlessly clean, she knows that her mom will cavil at something about it.

cavort

v
/ kə'vò(ə)rt /
L? > F > It

bound, prance, or frisk about.
In Bosch's painting Garden of Earthly Delights, horses and giant birds cavort in a surreal landscape.

cedilla

n
/ sə'dilə /
L > Sp

a mark placed under a letter to indicate a sound different from that which the unmodified character bears in certain situations.
Martha did not earn a perfect score on her French paper because she forgot the cedilla in the word garçon.

ceiling

n
/ 'sēliŋ /
E

[has homonym: sealing] the overhead inside lining of a room.
There was a terrible crash from inside the wagon that sounded as if a whole set of dishes had been dropped from the ceiling onto a hard stone floor.

celebrant

celeriac

n
/ sə'lerē.ək /
Gk > L > It?

a plant of the parsley family grown for its turniplike edible root.
Rhoda added chopped celeriac to her soup.

celeritous

adj
/ sə'lerədəs /
L > F > E

swift-moving.
The celeritous bicyclist almost knocked Trudy down.

celery

n
/ 'sel(ə)rē /
Gk > L > It?

a vegetable with leafstalks that are eaten raw or cooked.
Terry's favorite snack is celery filled with pimento cheese.

celestial

adj
/ sə'les(h)chəl /
L

of or relating to the sky.
The awesome display of celestial light was later identified as a meteor shower.

celibacy

cellarage

cellist

cello

cellophane

n
/ 'selə.fān /
(L + Gk) > F
a transparent sheet or tube of regenerated cellulose used chiefly for packaging food and merchandise.

Nina refused to buy tomatoes packaged in cellophane.

cellulose

n
/ 'selyə.lōs /
L > F + Ecf

any of several fibrous substances constituting the chief part of the cell walls of plants and of many fibrous products.
Most household sponges are made of cellulose.

cement

v
/ sə'ment /
L > F > E

join, unite, or cause to adhere by or as if by means of a binding element.
After Byron chose the tiles for his mosaic, he used a strong glue to cement them in place on the pattern.

cemetery

cenotaph

n
/ 'senə.taf /
Gk

a tomb or a monument erected in honor of a person whose body is elsewhere.
A magnificent cenotaph was erected outside the city of Troy.

ensorious

adj
/ sen'sōrēəs /
L

marked by or given to an inclination to discover and severely condemn especially social, moral, or artistic errors.
Helen was in one of her censorious moods at the reception this evening.

census

n
/ 'sen(t)səs /
L

an official enumeration of the population of a country, city, or other administrative district.
In the United States, a census is taken every ten years.

centaur

n
/ 'sent.tò(ə)r /
Gk > L

one of an ancient mythical Greek race imagined as men with the bodies of horses.
The estate garden included a marble statue of a centaur.

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centaury

n
/ 'sen.tòrē /
Gk
an Old World herb formerly used as a tonic.
Since ancient times centaury has had medicinal uses.

centennial

centimeter

n
/ 'sentə.mēdə(r) /
F
a unit of length equal to 1/100 meter.
Your little finger is about a centimeter wide at the top.

centipede

centrifugal

centrifuge

n
/ 'sentrə.fyüj /
L > F
a machine for whirling fluids rapidly to separate substances of different densities.
A centrifuge was used to separate the cream from the milk.

centripetal

adj
/ sen'tripəd'əl /
L + L + Ecf
moving, proceeding, or acting in a direction toward a center or axis.
Centripetal force serves to keep electrons moving around the nucleus of an atom.

century

n
/ 'sench(ə)rē /
L
a period of 100 years.
Mr. Davis asked each student to name what he or she thought was the most important invention of the past century.

cephalalgia

n
/ 'sefə'lalj(ē)ə /
Gk
pain inside the head : headache.
Mortimer's cephalalgia made him irritable and short-tempered.

cephalometry

cephalopod

n
/ 'sefələ.päd /
Gk
any of a class of marine mollusks including the squids, cuttlefishes, and octopuses all having around the front of the head a group of elongated muscular arms usually furnished with prehensile suckers or hooks.
The squid is a ten-armed cephalopod.

Cepheid

n
/ 'sefēəd /
Gk name
one of a class of pulsating stars whose intrinsic light variations are very regular.
The apparent magnitude of a Cepheid can vary greatly in a month's time.

ceraceous

ceramic

adj
/ sə'ramik /
Gk
of or relating to the art of fashioning clay into useful or ornamental objects.
Luke's home is a showcase for ceramic objects he has created.

ceraunograph

n
/ sə'rònə.graf /
Gk + Gk
an instrument for recording chronologically by pen the occurrence of thunder and lightning.
Marie set up a ceraunograph to monitor the late-summer storms.

cereal

n
/ 'sirēəl /
L
[has homonym: serial] a prepared foodstuff of grain (as oatmeal or cornflakes) used especially as a breakfast food.
David was eating his cereal when the school bus drove by his house.

cerecloth

cerise

cerium

cerography

n
/ sə'rägrəfē /
Gk
the art of making characters or designs in or with wax.
The maps in the old book were originally made by the process of cerography, in which beeswax was used.

certainty

n
/ 'sərt'ntē /
L > F > E
the quality or state of being objectively fixed, settled.
Science boasts the beauty of certainty.

cerumen

n
/ sə'rümən /
L
the yellow waxlike secretion from the glands of the external ear—called also "earwax."
The doctor irrigated Ariel's ear to remove impacted cerumen.

cessation

n
/ se'sāshən /
L > F > E
a temporary or final ceasing or discontinuance (as of action).
The peal of the bell marked the cessation of the emergency preparedness drill.

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cetology

n
/ sĕ'täləjĕ /
L + Gk
[has near homonym: sitology] a branch of zoology dealing with the whales.
Many renowned scientists in the field of cetology assembled in Japan to discuss the recent beaching incidents.

chaffinch

n
/ 'cha(,)fɪnʃ /
E
a common Old World bird often kept as a cage bird and having in the male a reddish breast plumage and a cheerful song.
Along the river path Janice spotted a chaffinch perched on the back of a bench.

chaffseed

chagrin

n
/ shə'grɪn /
F
vexation, disquietude, or distress of mind brought on by humiliation, hurt pride, disappointment, or consciousness of failure or error.
Pete tried to conceal his chagrin when his younger brother beat him at chess.

chalaza

chalice

chalicosis

n
/ ,kalə'kōsəs /
Gk > L
a pulmonary disease occurring among stonecutters that is caused by inhalation of stone dust.
Chalicosis afflicted an alarming number of workers at the monument plant.

chamberlain

n
/ 'chāmbə(r)lān /
Gmc > F > E
a bedchamber attendant for royalty or nobility.
The grand council insisted that the chamberlain wake the king.

chamfer

v
/ 'cham(p)fə(r) /
L > F
cut off corners or edges (as of timber columns or beams).
Gordon decided to chamfer the ceiling beams of his cottage.

champagne

n
/ sham'pān /
L > F
[has homonym: champaign] a pale orange yellow to light grayish yellowish brown.
Of the colors of limousines available for hire, Ted and Kara preferred champagne.

champignon

n
/ sham'pɪnyən /
F
an edible fungus; especially : the common meadow mushroom.
At dinner, Denise had a stuffed champignon as an appetizer.

chancel

n
/ 'chan(t)səl /
L > F > E
the part of a church in which is located the altar or communion table, the pulpit, and the lectern and which is customarily on a higher level than the nave.
Fitting 75 choir members in the chancel will be an almost impossible task.

chancellor

n
/ 'chan(t)s(ə)lə(r) /
L > F > E
a university officer of high rank.
Professor Burns has all the requirements to be the next chancellor of Highland College.

chandelier

n
/ ,shandə'li(ə)r /
L > F
a lighting fixture suspended from the ceiling and having two or more lights.
Dad finally got around to installing a dimmer switch for our chandelier.

chandelle

n
/ shan'del /
F
an abrupt climbing turn of an airplane.
Many of the passengers gasped when the pilot executed a chandelle.

changeable

chansonnette

chaos

chaotic

adj
/ kə'ädɪk /
Gk
being in a state of or marked by utter confusion completely wanting in order, sequence, organization, or predictable operation.
The course in time management did not help Brenda alter her chaotic lifestyle.

chapeau

n
/ sha'pō /
L > F
[Note: Plural form can be pronounced identically. In addition, word has near homonyms: chapon, shapo.] a hat.
Pierre doffed his chapeau when he entered the room.

chapel

n
/ 'chapəl /
L > F > E
a private place of worship.
The duke's funeral was held in the castle chapel.

chaplaincy

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chaplet

n
/ 'chaplət /
L > F > E
a garland or wreath to be worn on the head.
Rosalie gazed admiringly at the painting of the maiden in a scarlet gown with a chaplet of flowers on her head.

character

n
/ 'kærəktə(r) /
Gk > L > F > E
personality as represented or realized in fiction or drama.
The main character in the play is Joan of Arc.

characteristic

adj
/ ,kærəktə'ristik /
Gk
belonging to or especially typical of the essential nature of.
At last Meg looked at him, pushing her glasses in characteristic gesture.

charactonym

n
/ 'kærəktənim /
Gk > L > F > E
a name especially for a fictional character that suggests a distinctive trait of the character.
In his novel Breakfast at Tiffany's, Truman Capote gave his protagonist the charactonym "Holly Golightly."

charango

n
/ chə'raŋ(,)gō /
Sp
a small guitar of Spanish America with a body typically made of an animal shell.
Luisa plucked the melody of the song on the charango.

charcoal

n
/ 'chärkōl /
(F + E) > E
a dark-colored or black porous form of carbon used for fuel and various other mechanical, artistic, and chemical processes.
The only supplies Debbie needs for her drawing class are charcoal and a sketch pad.

chariot

charlatan

n
/ 'shärlätən /
It
a pretender to medical knowledge : quack.
A consumer group called the herbal potion vendor a "charlatan."

chartaceous

adj
/ kär'tāshəs /
Gk > L + Ecf
resembling paper : made of paper.
Andrew collected a handful of chartaceous dead leaves.

chartreuse

n
/ shär'trü:z /
L > F trademark
a variable color averaging a brilliant yellow green.
Elsie commented that the chartreuse vehicle looked like a huge dollop of wasabi.

chary

chasm

n
/ 'kəzəm /
Gk > L
a deep opening : a narrow, deep steep-walled valley, gorge or canyon.
Earthquake tremors opened a great chasm in the valley.

chasmophyte

n
/ 'kəzmə'fīt /
Gk
a plant that grows in the crevices of rocks.
There was just enough soil for the chasmophyte to grow in the chinks between rocks on the cliff.

chassepot

chassis

n
/ 'chāsē /
L > F
the frame upon which is mounted the body (as of an automobile or airplane).
Gary popped his slot car's body back onto the chassis and set the vehicle back on the track.

chasuble

n
/ 'chəzəbəl /
L > F
an outer ecclesiastical garment in the form of a sleeveless cloak or mantle that slips over the wearer's head but remains open at the sides.
The priest wore a white chasuble to celebrate Sunday mass.

chateaubriand

n
/ ,shə.tōbrē'ä'n /
F name
a thick tenderloin steak.
The server commented that both the prime rib and the chateaubriand were excellent menu choices.

chatoyant

chattel

Chaucerian

adj
/ chò'sirēən /
E name
of, relating to, befitting, or resembling the English medieval writer Geoffrey Chaucer or his writings.
The old Chaucerian manuscript was unfortunately not on display when Hugh visited the museum.

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chauffeur

n
/ 'shōfə(r) /
F

[has homonyms: shofar, shophar]
one that is employed to operate a motor vehicle for the transportation of persons.

Henry hired a chauffeur to pick up his grandmother at the airport.

chaussure

n
/ shō'sü(ə)r /
L > F > E

footgear.

Before entering the mosque, all are required to remove their chaussure.

chautauqua

n
/ shə'tōkwə /

N Amer geog name

an institution of the late 19th and early 20th centuries that combined popular education with entertainment, often presented outdoors or in a tent.

Chautauqua declined with the advent of radio.

chauvinism

n
/ 'shōvə.nizəm /
F name

undue especially invidious partiality for a group or place to which one belongs or has belonged.
Chauvinism is alive and well in the school's alumni association.

chauvinistic

chayote

n
/ chä'yōdē /
Nahuatl > Sp

the rounded or pear-shaped fruit of a West Indian annual vine of the cucumber family that is widely cultivated as a vegetable.

Aaron went to three different grocery stores, but none carried the chayote that he needed for his recipe.

cheapskate

n
/ 'chēpskāt /
E + ON > E

a person unwilling to share expenses or give : miser.

Tom accused Cathy of being a cheapskate after learning that she recycled gifts.

cheilion

chemicalize

chemistry

chemotherapy

chenille

cheongsam

n
/ 'chōŋ.säm /
Chinese

a dress with a slit skirt and a mandarin collar.

Elizabeth's cheongsam had a teardrop-shaped opening below the collar closed by a single frog button.

chernozem

n
/ 'chernəz.yòm /
Russ

any of a group of dark-colored zonal soils with a deep rich humus horizon found in regions (as the grasslands of central North America) of temperate to cool climate.

The rich chernozem of Ukraine has helped it earn a reputation as "the breadbasket of Eastern Europe."

cheroot

n
/ shə'rüt /
Tamil

a cigar cut off square at both ends.
Josephine had to leave the room whenever her uncle lit up a cheroot.

chevelure

n
/ .shevə'lü(ə)r /
L > F

a nebulous envelope (as around the nucleus of a comet).

The chevelure of Halley's comet was much dimmer than expected at its last appearance.

chianti

chicanery

n
/ shə'kän(ə)rē /
F

deception by artful subterfuge or misrepresentation : trickery.

The mayor was dogged by allegations of financial chicanery and links to organized crime.

chicle

chiclero

n
/ chi'kler(,)ō /
Sp

a gatherer of latex from the sapodilla tree.

Toby interviewed a chiclero for the journal.

chieftain

chiffon

n
/ shi'fän /
F

a sheer plain-weave very lightweight clothing fabric usually given a dull soft finish.

The singer sauntered into the spotlight in a dress of white chiffon.

chiffonade

n
/ .shifə'nād /
F

shredded or finely cut vegetables used in soup or salad dressing.

Lettuce and sorrel are often made into chiffonade to garnish soups.

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chignon

n
/ 'shēn.yän /
L > F

a smooth arrangement of hair worn at the back of the head especially at the nape of the neck.

To emphasize her long neck, Cecile combed her hair into a tight chignon.

Chihuahua

n
/ chə'wä(,)wä /

Mexican geog name
a very small round-headed large-eared short-coated dog reputed to antedate Aztec civilization.

A popular fast food restaurant chain has used a talking Chihuahua in its advertisements.

chilblains

n pl
/ 'chil.blānz /
E + E

instances of redness and swelling of toes, fingers, nose, or ears or sometimes cheeks in cold weather accompanied by itching and burning of skin.

The children stayed out in the snow too long and ended up suffering from chilblains.

chime

chimerical

adj
/ kī'merəkəl /
Gk + Ecff

[Note: Could be confused with chimeric and chimeral.] unreal and existing only as the product of wild unrestrained imagination.

Many video games pit the player against chimerical monsters.

chimney

chimpanzee

n
/ chim.pan'zē /
Kongo

an anthropoid ape of equatorial Africa that is smaller and more arboreal than the gorilla.

The chimpanzee shows inventiveness in making and using tools.

chinchilla

n
/ chin'chilə /

Aimara or Quechua > Sp
a small rodent the size of a large squirrel having very soft fur of a pearly gray color and native to the mountains of Peru and Chile but now extensively bred in captivity.

The chinchilla was introduced into the United States in 1923.

chinook

n
/ shə'nük /
Chehalis

a warm moist southwest wind of the Pacific coastal region from Oregon northward.

The mild temperatures are thanks to a chinook that rolls over the Canadian Rockies.

chiragra

n
/ kī'ragrə /
Gk

pain in the hand.

Aunt Molly's chiragra keeps her from writing many letters.

chiroprapist

chisel

n
/ 'chizəl /
L? > F > E

a tool consisting of a metal bar with a sharpened edge at one end that is used for chipping, carving, or cutting into solid material and is often driven by a mallet.

With chisel and mallet, Fred started shaping the block of wood into a model.

chistera

chivalrous

adj
/ 'shivəlrəs /
F > E

marked by especial courtesy and high-minded disinterested consideration to women.

Chivalrous behaviors of previous generations are less common in today's atmosphere of equal rights for women.

chivalry

n
/ 'shivəlrē /
F > E

qualifications or character of the ideal knight of the age of chivalry according to the romantic tradition of courtesy, gallantry, and honor.

To the knights of the Round Table, chivalry was of primary importance.

chlorine

n
/ 'klɔr.ēn /
Gk > L + Ecf

a common nonmetallic element that is used chiefly as a powerful bleaching, oxidizing, and disinfecting agent.

Samantha refused to swim on Thursday because someone put too much chlorine in the pool.

chocolate

adj
/ 'chäklət /
Nahuatl > Sp

of a warm light brown color approximating the color of fresh milk chocolate.

Eva plans to put her chocolate mink coat in storage until the animal rights activists are less vocal.

cholera

n
/ 'kälərə /
Gk > L

any of several diseases of man and domestic animals usually marked by severe gastrointestinal symptoms.

Cholera is a major public health concern in many tropical countries.

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choleric

adj
/ 'kälərik /
Gk > L > F > E

angry, irate, wrathful.
The vice-principal was ill suited to his job; he was impatient and choleric.

cholesterol

cholesterosis

n
/ kəlestə'rōsəs /
Gk > ISV
abnormal deposition of cholesterol in the blood.
Cholesterosis can often be moderated by changes in diet.

chonolith

n
/ 'kōnə.lith /
Gk
an intrusive igneous rock mass of wholly irregular form.
Ages ago a huge chonolith formed at the base of the volcano as it erupted.

choose

choreographer

n
/ kōrē'agrəfə(r) /
Gk > F
one engaging in the composing and often the teaching of stage dancing.
Martha Graham was a celebrated choreographer of modern dance.

chortle

chortling

chorus

n
/ 'kōrəs /
Gk
[has homonym: koras] a group of dancers and usually singers supporting the featured players in a musical comedy or revue.
The chorus joined the principal singers in the musical's finale.

chough

chowder

n
/ 'chaüdə(r) /
L > F
a soup or stew of seafood (as clams or white-fleshed sea fishes) usually made with milk and containing salt pork or bacon, onions, and potatoes and sometimes other vegetables.
Dean and Susan went to the beach to collect clams for chowder.

chrematistic

adj
/ křēmə'tistik /
Gk
of, relating to, or occupied in the gaining of wealth.
Chrematistic industrialists cared little about the living conditions of their employees.

chrestomathy

n
/ kre'stäməthē /
Gk
a selection of passages from various authors compiled as an aid to learning a language.
At the end of each chapter of the textbook was a chrestomathy illustrating a particular rule of grammar.

chromatic

adj
/ krō'madik /
Gk
of or relating to color or color phenomena or sensations.
As Doris walked home during the shower, she admired the chromatic splendors of a huge rainbow.

chromium

n
/ 'krōmēəm /
Gk > F > L
a blue-white metallic element found naturally only in combination and used especially in alloys and in electroplating.
The car's bumpers were plated with chromium to make them shiny.

chromotrichial

chronic

adj
/ 'kränik /
Gk
marked by long duration and by frequent recurrence over a long time.
Clarence never looked forward to eating because he was troubled with chronic indigestion.

chronically

chronicle

chronological

chrysalis

n
/ 'křisələs /
Sem > Gk > L
an insect (as a butterfly or moth) in the pupal stage of its development in which it is enclosed in a firm case.
Bob and Sam put the chrysalis in a dry container and kept it in the hope that a butterfly would later emerge.

chrysanthemum

n
/ krə'san(t)thəməm /
Gk > L
any plant or flower of a large genus of perennial herbs that are widely distributed in the Old World and that are cultivated for their showy often double and brightly colored flower heads.
Orlando's chrysanthemum won first prize at the flower show.

churlish

adj
/ 'chərlish /
E
difficult to work with or deal with.
Although he was a brilliant conductor, Toscanini could be churlish at times.

churn

v
/ 'chərn /
E
produce or be in violent agitation.
Landon's stomach will churn at the thought of public speaking.

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churrasco

n
/ chù'rä.skō /
Sp

beef broiled on a spit over an open fire or grilled under an oven flame.
At the barbecue the whole family feasted on the churrasco that Dad cooked.

chutney

n
/ 'chətnē /
Prakrit > Hindi

a condiment that has the consistency of jam and is made of acid fruits with added raisins, dates, and onions and seasoned to taste with spices and vinegar.
Spicy or sweet chutney is sometimes eaten with Indian meals containing curry.

chymous

adj
/ 'kīməs /
Gk + Ecf

of or relating to the semifluid mass of partly digested food resulting from the action of gastric juice.
One of the coroner's less pleasant tasks is testing chymous material.

ciborium

cicada

n
/ sə'kādə /
L

any insect of the family Cicadidae—called also “locust.”
The male cicada produces sound by vibrating miniature “drumheads” on the lower surface of its abdomen.

cicerone

n
/ .sɪsə'rōnē /
L > It

one who acts as a guide to or shows the sights to.
At the end of the tour, Maria praised her cicerone as being very knowledgeable and articulate.

Ciceronian

adj
/ .sɪsə'rōnēən /
L name

resembling the Roman orator Cicero in oratorical or literary qualities.
Beulah's Ciceronian bombast about Destiny and Youth impressed the audience.

ciguatera

n
/ .sēgwə'terə /
Taino > Sp

poisoning caused by eating fish or mollusks with flesh toxic to man.
Although she contracted ciguatera in June, Constance could not return to work until November.

cilantro

n
/ sə'lantrō /
L > Sp

leaves of coriander used as a flavoring or garnish.
In Janet's opinion, the best part of the fresh salsa was the chopped cilantro.

cincture

v
/ 'sɪŋ(k)chə(r) /
L

girdle with or as if with a belt or band.
For the Halloween party, Evelina chose to cincture her gypsy costume with a spangled belt.

cinematographer

n
/ .sɪnəmə'tägrəfə(r) /
Gk

a motion-picture camera operator.
Darina won the award for outstanding cinematographer at last year's Montreal Film Festival.

cinereous

cinnabar

n
/ 'sɪnəbär /
Gk > L&F

artificial red mercuric sulfide used principally as a pigment.
The orange color of rubber gaskets is often created by the addition of cinnabar.

cinnamon

n
/ 'sɪnəmən /
? > Gk > L > F > E

a culinary spice prepared from the bark of certain tropical trees.
Akbar likes cinnamon in his hot chocolate.

cioppino

n
/ chə'pē.nō /
It

a dish of fish and shellfish cooked in tomato sauce and usually seasoned with wine, spices, and herbs.
After an afternoon at the beach, Beverly stopped at a local restaurant for cioppino and coffee.

circadian

circinate

adj
/ 'sərs'n.āt /
L

rounded in outline : characterized by or having the form of a flat coil of which the apex is the center.
The retracted tongue of a butterfly forms a circinate coil.

circuit

n
/ 'sərkət /
L > F

the complete path of an electric current.
The average electrical house circuit carries about 30 amperes.

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circuitous

adj
/ ˌsərˈkyuədəs /

L
being a circular or winding course : indirect, roundabout.

As we drove through the mountains, the road took an increasingly circuitous route.

circular

circumambulate

v
/ ˌsɜrkəmˈambyəˌlāt /

L
wander about at leisure without definite purpose or as a result of indirection.

Her first day in London, Connie decided to circumambulate instead of taking a guided tour.

circumlocution

n
/ ˌsɜrkəmˈlɔːkyʊʃən /

L
the use of an unnecessarily large number of words to express an idea.

The attorney's circumlocution caused one of the jurors to doze off.

circumstantial

adj
/ ˌsɜrkəmzˈtɑːnʃəl /

L + Ecf
belonging to, consisting of, influenced by, or dependent on conditions, facts, or events accompanying others.

The report contains strong circumstantial evidence of wrongdoing by the governor.

cirrhosis

n
/ sɪˈrɒsəs /
Gk + Lcf

[has homonym and near homonym: sorosis and xerosis] a chronic progressive disease of the liver.
The damage caused by cirrhosis is irreversible.

cislunar

adj
/ sɪsˈlʊnə(r) /

L + L
of or relating to the space between Earth and the Moon or the Moon's orbit.

The space enthusiast talked often about the practicalities of setting up a colony in the cislunar region.

cistern

n
/ ˈsɪstə(r)n /
L > F > E

[has homonym: sistern] an artificial reservoir or tank for holding or storing water or other liquids.

Three weeks into the drought, the farm's cistern ran dry.

citadel

n
/ ˈsɪdədəl /
L > It > F

a fortress that commands a city both for control and defense; broadly : a strong fortress.

The citadel had three separate walls around it so that defenders could retreat again and again to a position of safety.

citation

cite

citify

citizen

citronella
n
/ ˌsɪtrəˈnelə /
F > L

a yellowish essential oil with lemonlike odor obtained from either of two grasses and used especially as an insect repellent.
Candles containing citronella were kept burning on the picnic table.

civitas

n
/ ˈkɪwɪtəs /

L
a body of people constituting a politically organized community.
The concept of civitas remains strong in many small towns.

clairvoyant

clandestine

adj
/ klanˈdestɪn /
L

marked by, held in, or conducted with secrecy and concealment.

Mike and Sally made clandestine preparations for their mom's surprise birthday party.

claque

n
/ ˈklak /
F

[has homonym: clack] an opera hat with a collapsible crown.

As the gentleman entered the opera house, he doffed and flattened his claque.

claret

clarify

clarion

claustrophobe

claustrophobia

n
/ kləʊstrəˈfɒbiə /
Gk + Gk
abnormal dread of being in closed or narrow spaces.

Herman's claustrophobia keeps him from flying on crowded airplanes.

clavichord

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clavicle

n
/ 'klavəkəl /
L

a bone in man situated just above the first rib on either side of the neck and having the form of a narrow elongated S.

Garth wore shoulder pads to football practice to protect his clavicle.

claviger

n
/ 'klavəjə(r) /
L

one that keeps the key or keys : custodian, warden.
Because she had forgotten her key, Marsha needed to locate the claviger, Mr. Carl, to open her classroom door.

clematis

n
/ 'klemədəs /
Gk

a plant of a genus of opposite-leaved slightly woody vines or erect herbs having elongate plumose styles.
The clematis is cultivated in North America for its attractive flowers.

clemency

n
/ 'klemənsē /
L

[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word.]
tendency to be mild and compassionate.
Emma supposed she must say more before she would be entitled to Mr. Knightley's clemency.

clepsydra

n
/ 'klepsədrə /
Gk > L

an instrument designed to measure time by the flow of a quantity of water.
For his science project Kerry designed and built a clepsydra.

clerisy

n
/ 'klerəsē /
L > G

the well-educated or learned class : intelligentsia.
Many believe that laws should be readily understood by the general public, not solely by an elite clerisy.

clientele

n
/ klīən'tel /
L > F

a body of patrons or customers.
Bill hopes to enlarge the clientele of the shoe store.

climatology

clinically

clinician

n
/ klə'nishən /
Gk > F

one who directs, is closely allied with, or works in or through a clinic or with clinical methods.
At the hospital a clinician drew a vial of Harry's blood to test for diabetes.

clinqant

adj
/ 'kliŋkənt /
F

glittering especially with gold decoration : showily ornate.
The theater lobby in its clinqant splendor cast dazzling reflections from every gleaming surface.

clique

n
/ 'klik /
F

[alternate pronunciation has homonym: cleek] a narrow exclusive circle or group of people.
Sofia didn't want to be part of the popular clique because she thought they were the most boring kids in school.

cloche

n
/ klōsh /
L > F

[alternate pronunciation has homonym: closh] a woman's small helmetlike hat usually with deep rounded crown and very narrow brim.
At the Thatchers' wedding Margaret looked smashing in her white ostrich-feather cloche.

clodhopper

n
/ 'kläd.häpə(r) /
E + E

a large heavy shoe.
The thump of Archie's clodhopper hitting the floor announced that he was going to bed.

cloistered

clothe

v
/ 'klōth /
E

put garments on.
Elizabeth Cady Stanton stressed that she did not propose petitioning the legislature to clothe every woman in male attire.

cloture

cloudy

adj
/ 'klaüdē /
E

made or consisting of fog, mist, or haze.
The mountain with its cloudy veil inspired Sven's painting.

clough

clowder

cluse

n
/ 'klüz /
L > F

[has homonym: clues] a narrow gorge cutting transversely through an otherwise continuous ridge.
Although Brian studied the trail map carefully, he found no mention of the cluse that barred his way.

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cnemial

adj
/ 'nēmēəl /
Gk + E

relating to the shin or shinbone.
Bud suffered a cnemial injury while quarterbacking in the game last night.

coacervate

n
/ ,kōə'sərvət /
L

an aggregate of colloidal droplets held together by electrostatic attractive forces.
The chemist referred to the aggregation of liquid particles in an emulsion as a coacervate.

coadjutor

n
/ ,kōə'jüdə(r) /
L > F > E

one who works together with another usually in a somewhat subordinate position : assistant.
Offended by being called a "lackey," Marcus prefers to be called a "coadjutor."

coagulate

v
/ kō'agyəlāt /
L

curdle, clot.
Hemophiliacs lack a protein needed to help blood coagulate.

coalesce

v
/ ,kōə'les /
L

unite by growth into one body.
The nervous host hoped that the tight little groups of guests would coalesce into a real party.

coalescence

n
/ ,kōə'lesən(t)s /
L

a growing together or union in one body, form, or group.
Rain is the result of the coalescence of water droplets within a cloud.

coalification

coalition

n
/ ,kōə'lishən /
L > F + Ecf

the temporary alliance of distinct parties, persons, or states to achieve a common purpose.
Representatives from a coalition of labor unions met with the multinational corporation's lawyers in an attempt to work out a new contract.

coaming

coaration

n
/ ,kōə'rāshən /
L

cooperative tilling of soil as practiced by early village communities.
The villagers found that coaration was the most efficient system for cultivating the land.

coax

coccygeal

cochineal
n
/ 'kächə'nēl /
Sp > F

a red dyestuff consisting of the dried bodies of the cochineal insect.
Before the introduction of synthetic dyes, cochineal was commonly used in textile production.

cochleariform

adj
/ ,kōklē'a(a)rəfōrm /
Gk > L + Ecf
shaped like a spoon.
Jacques theorized that the cochleariform bone was used in prehistoric times as a spoon.

cockatoo

cocoon

n
/ kə'kūn /
L > Prov > F

a silky or fibrous protective encasement created by a larval insect for shelter during the pupal stage.
Ricky found the cocoon of a moth clinging to a branch of an oak tree.

codeine

n
/ 'kō(,)dēn /
Gk + F

a crystalline alkaloid usually made from morphine but feebler in action.
The patient was given codeine to kill the pain.

codicil

n
/ 'kädəsəl /
L > F

a legal instrument made subsequently to a will and modifying it in some respects.
Robert had his lawyer draw up a codicil to clarify a few ambiguities in his will.

codicology

coelostat

n
/ 'sēləstat /
L > ISV + GK > ISV

a device consisting of a flat mirror that is turned slowly by a motor to reflect the Sun continuously into a fixed telescope.
Professor Merkle plans to use a coelostat to photograph the movements of planetary bodies.

coerce

coercion

coeval
adj
/ kō'ēvəl /
L + Ecf

of the same or equal age or antiquity.
Nearly the same in mass and brightness, the stars were thought to be coeval.

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coffee

cogent

cogitate

v
/ 'kājətāt /
L

ponder on or meditate upon.
Greta liked to cogitate on the tricks she could play on her big brother.

cogitating

cognizant

adj
/ 'kājənəzənt /
L > F > E

aware : perceiving with a degree of controlled thought or observation.
Watching television commercials can make viewers more cognizant of fads and fashions.

cognomen

n
/ kāj'nōmən /
L

one's family name : surname.
The cognomen "Crane" fit the physical attributes of the tall, lank, long-armed, and shovel-footed Ichabod, whose whole frame most loosely hung together.

cognoscitive

adj
/ kāj'näsədīv /
L + Ecf

having the power of knowing.
Lillian explained to her friends that her cognoscitive ability was innate, something like a sixth sense.

coherence

cohesion

coincidental

adj
/ kō'insə'dentl /
L

characterized by the concurrence of events between which there is no causal connection.
It was purely coincidental that the electricity went off just as the guests began to arrive for the surprise party.

cointise

n
/ kwan'tēz /
F > E

a scarf worn on a lady's headdress or as a token of favor on a knight's helmet.
Sir Agravaine proudly displayed the bright red cointise.

colectomy

colic

n
/ 'kälīk /
Gk > L > F > E

acute abdominal pain in man or animals.
Last spring Sam's horse had colic.

collabent

adj
/ kō'lābənt /
L

sunken or falling in : collapsing in the middle.
Orville poked the collabent anthill with a stick.

collaborator

n
/ kə'lābərədər(r) /
L
[has near homonym: collaborateur]
one that works jointly with others.
Sir William Gilbert was Arthur Sullivan's collaborator for many operettas.

collage

n
/ kə'lāzh /
Gk > LF + Fcf
an artistic composition of fragments of printed matter and other materials pasted on a picture surface.
Sabrina spent weeks finishing a large collage of a Paris street scene.

collate

v
/ kə'lāt /
L

arrange or assemble (paper, sheets, or forms) according to an orderly system.
Edith's favorite feature of the new copier was its ability to collate documents.

collateral

adj
/ kə'lādərəl /
L > F > E
[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word.] placed or regarded as side by side : parallel, coordinate, or corresponding in position, order, time, or significance.
Mexico's Sierra Madre Oriental and Occidental mountain ranges are collateral.

college

n
/ 'kälīj /
L

[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word.] an organized group of persons engaged in a common pursuit, having a common duty or role and sometimes a charter or special rights and privileges.
Pope John Paul II was 58 years old when the College of Cardinals elected him to lead the Roman Catholic Church.

collegial

colliery

n
/ 'käljərə /
E

[has near homonym: colory] a coal mine and the buildings connected with it.
The colliery around which the village was built closed when its reserves of coal were exhausted.

collocal

colloquial

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colloquy

n
/ 'käləkwe /
L

high-level serious discussion.
Listeners in the gallery must remain silent during the legislators' colloquy.

collusion

n
/ kə'lüzən /
L

secret agreement : secret cooperation for a fraudulent or deceitful purpose.
For acting in collusion with an enemy agent, the nuclear scientist was sentenced to 20 years in prison.

cologne

n
/ kə'lōn /
G name > F

a perfumed liquid composed of alcohol and certain aromatic oils.
The taxi driver sprayed expensive cologne in his cab every evening.

colonel

colonelcy

n
/ 'kərn'lsē /
L > It > F + Ecf

the office, rank, or commission of a colonel.
Nathan announced that he was being considered for a colonelcy in the infantry.

colonnade

colophon

n
/ 'käləfən /
Gk

an identifying mark, emblem, or device used by a printer or publisher sometimes on the title page, cover, shelfback, or jacket.
The publisher decided on the figure of a Russian wolfhound as its colophon.

coloratura

n
/ kələ'rətūrə /
L > It

[Note: Could be confused with colorature.] the florid ornamentation in vocal music (as runs, trills, arpeggios).
Barry thinks that he would enjoy opera music more if it did not contain so much coloratura.

colossal

adj
/ kə'lāsəl /
Gk > L > F

characterized by extremely great bulk, extent, force, strength, power, or effect.
The new stadium is a colossal building seating about a hundred thousand people.

column

comedienne

n
/ kə.mēdē'en /
Gk > F

[Note: Could be confused with comedian.] an actress who plays in dramas of light and amusing character and typically with a happy ending.
Lucille Ball was America's favorite comedienne during the 1950s.

comestible

comet

n
/ 'kämət /
Gk

a celestial body that consists of a fuzzy head usually surrounding a bright nucleus and that has an orbit varying in eccentricity.
The vaunted Kohoutek comet proved to be a great disappointment for stargazers.

comfort

commemorate

v
/ kə'memə'rāt /
L

call to remembrance as by speech, writing, or ceremony.
Every year on December seventh, ceremonies are held to commemorate those who died during the attack on Pearl Harbor.

commencement

commendable

adj
/ kə'mendəbəl /
L

worthy of praise.
Jim received several scholarships as a result of his commendable academic performance.

commensurable

commensurate

adj
/ kə'men(t)s(ə)rət /
L

corresponding in size, extent, amount, or degree : proportionate.
The want ad stated that salary would be commensurate with experience.

commentary

commercial

adj
/ kə'mərshəl /
L > F + Ecf

from the point of view of profit : having profit as the primary aim.
Leila was determined that her jewelry store would be a commercial success.

commercialize

v
/ kə'mərshə'līz /
L > F + Ecff

make use of for profit-seeking purposes.
The Hopi denounced those who would commercialize their religious dances and ceremonies.

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commination

n
/ ˌkæməˈnāshən /
L

[Note: Could be confused with combination.] an instance or the action of announcing, warning of, or threatening punishment or vengeance.

The president ended his speech with a severe commination against the rebels.

comminute

commiseration

n
/ kəˈmizəˈrāshən /
L

the feeling or showing of sorrow or the expression of condolence for the wants or distresses of another.

Aunt Betsy sighed and moralized with true and steady commiseration.

commissary

commissional

commitment

n
/ kəˈmitmənt /
L

the consignment or sentencing to confinement (as in a prison or mental hospital).

Tony's sentence included commitment to the state penitentiary for at least five years.

commodious

adj
/ kəˈmɒdēəs /
L > F > E + Lcf + Ecf

large or roomy and convenient.
Leo and his family rented a modest but commodious villa in Spain.

commorancy

communicate

commute

v
/ kəˈmyüt /
L

travel back and forth regularly or frequently.

For his work, Horst must commute daily between Philadelphia and New York.

comparatively

adv
/ kəmˈparədɪvlē /
L

nearly, approximately.

"Well, approximately yes," he replied; "that is, comparatively no."

compatible

compelled

v
/ kəmˈpeld /
L

forced by physical necessity.

Artie was compelled to hold his breath while swimming under water.

compendium

n
/ kəmˈpendēəm /
L

a work treating in brief form the important features of a whole field of knowledge or subject matter category.

Eileen is writing a compendium of investment information for small company shareholders.

compensable

competency

n
/ ˈkæmpədənsē /
L

the quality or state of being functionally adequate.

The prospective student questioned the competency of the professor.

competently

compilation

complement

n
/ ˈkæmpləmənt /
L

a finishing or consummating part, integral, or component.

The earrings made the perfect complement to Anjali's ensemble.

comprehend

v
/ ˌkæmprəˈhend /
L > E

see the nature, significance, or meaning of.

Although he had read every word of Moby Dick, Stu failed to comprehend it.

compulsory

compunction

n
/ kəmˈpʌŋ(k)shən /
L

normal human regret, pity, or anxiety : remorse.

The children showed no compunction about having eaten the entire cake before dinner.

compunctious

computernik

comradeliness

n
/ ˈkæm.rɑdlənəs /
L > Sp > F + Ecf

a spirit of friendly familiarity and goodwill.

The comradeliness of her shipmates put Mrs. Stein at ease.

comstockery

concatenate

v
/ kənˈkədənāt /
L

link together : unite in a series or chain.

The professor told the class to write a program that would concatenate two or more files.

conceit

conceivable

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conceivably

concentrate

v
/ 'kän(t)sən.trät /
L + Ecf
bring all one's powers, faculties, or activities to bear : focus.
Anthony couldn't concentrate on the reading material because he was sick.

concentric

adj
/ kən'sentrik /
L
having a common center (as circles one within another).
Shane stared at the concentric circles of the dart board for so long that he seemed to be hypnotized.

concept

n
/ 'kän.sept /
L
thought, idea, notion.
Julie's concept of an entertaining movie was not the same as her younger brother's.

concertina

concerto

n
/ kən'cherd(,)ō /
L > It
a virtuoso piece for solo instrument or voice and orchestra that usually has three contrasting movements.
A violin concerto by Vivaldi concluded the orchestra's program.

concessible

concession

n
/ kən'seshən /
L
the admitting of a point claimed in argument; especially : the voluntary yielding of a disputable contention.
Concession was out of the question, but it was time to appear to forget that they had ever quarreled.

concessionary

conch

n
/ 'känk /
Gk > L
[has homonym: conk] any of various large spiral-shelled marine gastropod mollusks.
Herbert recoiled when he saw conch on the menu of the Caribbean restaurant.

conchiform

adj
/ 'känkə.förm /
Gk > L > ISV
shell-shaped.
Mom keeps her jewelry in a conchiform box.

conchitic

adj
/ kän'kidik /
Gk
composed of shells.
The professor brought in a piece of conchitic limestone so students could examine the mollusk shells in it.

concierge

n
/ kō'syerzh /
L > F
an attendant at the entrance of a building : doorkeeper.
The concierge took note of the mysterious man's comings and goings at the hotel.

conciergerie

conciliate

v
/ kən'silē.ät /
L
win over from a state of hostility or distrust : appease.
The new king hoped to conciliate his subjects by doing them all the good in his power.

concinny

n
/ kən'sinədə /
L
harmony or fitness in the adaptation of parts to a whole or to each other.
After reading through the writer's first draft, the editor praised the writer for her consistency and concinny of style.

conclamant

concoct

v
/ kən'käkt /
L
put together : devise, fabricate.
Mom overheard the boys concoct a story to explain the broken window.

concoction

concomitant

adj
/ kən'kämədənt /
L
occurring along with or at the same time as and with or without causal relationship.
Mr. Simmons noted that his son's poor grades in algebra were concomitant with the start of the basketball season.

concordat

n
/ kən'kōr.dat /
L > F
a compact between a national government and a religious group establishing terms of agreement concerning matters of mutual interest.
Bonaparte and Pope Pius VII signed a concordat that the state of France should protect and acknowledge the Roman Catholic Church.

concrecence

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Frequently

concurrency

n
/ kən'kərən(t)s /
L

[has homonym: concurrents]
agreement in opinion.
Frank agreed to it, but with so quiet a "Yes," as inclined Emma almost to doubt his real concurrence.

concussion

n
/ kən'kəʃən /
L

a smart or hard knock, blow, or collision; also : the shock of such a blow.
When Amy slipped on the ice she nearly suffered a concussion.

condemn

v
/ kən'dem /
L

[has near homonym: contemn]
pronounce as ill-advised, reprehensible, wrong, or evil.
Often custom justifies an action that years later it will condemn.

condescended

v
/ kändə'sendəd /
L > F > E + Ecf

stooped or bent to action or speech less formal or dignified than is customary in one's social rank.
The rajah condescended to seat himself on a rug under the tree.

condign

condiment

n
/ 'kändəmənt /
L > F > E

something usually pungent, acid, salty, or spicy added to or served with food to enhance its flavor or to give added flavor : seasoning.
Mustard is the condiment usually served on hot pastrami sandwiches.

condolence

condor

n
/ 'kändó(ə)r /
Quechua > Sp

a very large American vulture having the head and neck bare and being one of the largest and most powerful of flying birds.
Of all the birds of prey at the zoo, the Andean condor is Alison's favorite.

conductor

conduit

n
/ 'kän(,)düət /
F > E

a natural or artificial channel through which water or other fluid passes or is conveyed.
Grandfather showed Logan the conduit that irrigated his large garden.

confidential

confetti

n pl
/ kən'fedē /
L > It

tiny colored paper disks or paper streamers so made as to scatter readily when thrown.
Ticker tape and confetti swirled like snow over the crowded street.

confiscate

v
/ 'känfə'skāt /
L

seize by or as if by public authority.
After a two-hour wait, the border guard decided not to confiscate Brenda's antique necklace.

conflagration

n
/ 'känflə'grāʃən /
L

a large disastrous fire involving numerous buildings.
Sixty fire trucks were called in to battle the conflagration.

confluence

n
/ 'kän.flüən(t)s /
L

the place of meeting of two streams.
Martina agreed to meet Lynn at the confluence of Rogers Creek and the Little Red River.

confusion

conga

n
/ 'kängə /

African geog name
a Cuban dance of African origin involving three steps followed by a kick and performed by a group in single file.
When he was a child, Jimmy loved to dance the conga.

congeal

congenial

adj
/ kən'jēnyəl /
L

characterized by friendly sociability.
Paul and Linda appreciated the restaurant's congenial atmosphere.

congenital

conglob

v
/ kən'glōb /
L

form into a ball.
Time-lapse photos showed how clouds conglob.

conglomerate

n
/ kən'gläm(ə)rət /
L

a mixture gathered from various sources : a composite mass.
Father called his specialty "Irish stew," but it was really more like a conglomerate of indeterminate substances.

congruent

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Frequently

coniferous

adj
/ kŏ'nif(ə)rəs /
(Gk + L) > L + Ecf
bearing cones.

A covering of coniferous trees keeps some mountains green all winter.

conjugal

conjunctiva

Connecticut

adj
/ kə'nedəkāt /
Mohican? > American geog name of or from the state of Connecticut.
Ichabod Crane is a famous character of Connecticut lore.

connived

connivery

n
/ kə'niv(ə)rē /
L + Ecf
the practice of cooperating secretly, especially in a wrongful act.
Allen suspects Brenda of connivery in the mysterious sale of the mansion.

connoisseur

n
/ .känə'sü(ə)r /
L > F
one who is an expert in a subject; especially : one who understands the details, technique, or principles of an art and is competent to act as a critical judge.
The connoisseur who judged the culinary creations is a chef at a five-star restaurant.

connote

v
/ kə'nōt /
L
arouse as an inseparably associated idea or feeling : imply, suggest.
Eli wonders if sending a dozen long-stemmed roses to Gretchen might connote what he finds difficult to say.

connubial

adj
/ kə'n(y)übēəl /
L
of or relating to marriage or the marriage state.
Susan and Stuart spent their honeymoon in a state of connubial contentment.

conqueror

conquian

conquistador

n
/ kŏn'k(w)ēstədŏ(ə)r /
L > Sp
conqueror; specifically : any one of the leaders in the Spanish conquest of America, especially of Mexico and Peru, in the 16th century.
Mr. Sanchez found the helmet of a conquistador deep in the canyon.

consanguinity

n
/ .känsan'gwinədə /
L
the quality or state of being related by blood.
Consanguinity has historically been of great importance in determining who sits on the various thrones of Europe.

conscience

n
/ 'känchən(t)s /
L
the sense of right or wrong within the individual.
In this country everyone has a right to exercise individual conscience and judgment on all matters of public interest.

conscientious

adj
/ .känchē'enchəs /
L
governed by the dictates of the sense of right or wrong : honest, scrupulous.
Janice was very conscientious about telling the truth.

consciousness

n
/ 'känchəsənəs /
L + Ecf
intuitively perceived knowledge of something in one's inner self.
With a sort of sneering consciousness, Tyler admitted that he had nothing to say that would be entertaining to anyone.

consecrate

v
/ 'känsäkrāt /
L
make or declare sacred or holy.
The bishop will consecrate the new chapel next Sunday.

consecutive

consenescence

consensus

n
/ kən'sen(t)səs /
L
collective opinion : the judgment arrived at by most of those concerned.
The Booster Club's consensus was that popcorn would sell better than cotton candy.

consentaneous

conservatory

considerable

consignment

consistory

consomme

consortium

n
/ kən'sŏrsh(ē)əm /
L
[has near homonym: consortion]
an organization of persons having a common interest.
Several organizations joined the consortium that fosters inclusion of individuals with disabilities in all aspects of society.

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conspiracy

n
/ kənz'pirəsē /

L
an illegal, treasonable, or treacherous plan to harm or destroy another person, group, or entity.
The commissioner charged that the entire industry was in conspiracy to keep out competition.

constabulary

n
/ kənz'tabyələre /

L
a body of policemen (as of a particular town, district, country).
The local constabulary was out in force at the Halloween celebration.

constellation

n
/ kənztə'lāshən /

L
any one of 88 arbitrary configurations of stars or an area of the celestial sphere covering one of these configurations.
Rani found it difficult to see a scale in the constellation Libra.

constituent

constitution

constrain

construe

v
/ kənz'trü /

L > E
explain the sense or intention of often to one's own satisfaction or according to or in conformity with a given set of circumstances.
Paul tried to construe the situation in the best possible light.

consuetude

n
/ kən(t)swət(y)üd /

L
social usage : custom, habit.
The practice of men opening doors for women has fallen from consuetude.

consummate

adj
/ kən(t)səmöt /

L
of the very highest or finest : supremely excellent.
Marie was worried that her son would ruin the party, but he behaved like a consummate gentleman.

contagious

container

contemplate

v
/ kəntəm.plāt /

L
carefully and intently think about something : ponder.
The board of directors will contemplate the proposal from the rival company.

contemporaneous

contemptible

adj
/ kən'tem(p)təbəl /

L
meriting scorn and condemnation as paltry, mean, base, or vile.
Though most people viewed the accused man as a contemptible being, Sister Agatha pitied him and tried to reach out to him.

contiguous

adj
/ kən'tigyəwəs /

L
touching or connected throughout.
Mr. Wallace understands but resents higher shipping costs for U.S. customers living in states outside the contiguous 48.

contingencies

n pl
/ kən'tinjənsēz /

L
possible future events or conditions or unforeseen occurrences that may necessitate special measures.
Setting the date of the family reunion involved considering the contingencies and conveniences of about 100 people.

continuum

contour

contraband

n
/ kəntrə.band /

L > It
goods or merchandise the importation, exportation, or sometimes possession of which is forbidden.
On the teacher's desk sat the contraband taken from students during the day.

contrabass

contrapuntal

adj
/ kəntrə'pənt'l /

It
of, relating to, or according to the rules of melodic part writing.
J. S. Bach was a master of contrapuntal melody.

contrariety

n
/ kəntrə'rīədē /

L
the quality or state of being in opposition or disagreement.
Amanda was becoming impatient with her two-year-old son's contrariety.

contretemps

n
/ kō'trətä /

F + L > F
an inopportune embarrassing occurrence : mishap, mischance.
Jeremy moved steadily from blunder to contretemps to embarrassment.

contrition

n
/ kən'trīshən /

L
consciousness of guilt or sin giving rise to humility and sorrow.
In the warmth of true contrition she would call upon Miss Bates the very next morning, and it should be the beginning, on her side, of a regular, equal, kindly relationship.

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controversy

n
/ 'kɑntrəvɜrsē /
L

a difference marked especially by the expression of opposing views : dispute.

Most television talk shows seem more interested in creating controversy than in trying to resolve it.

contumacious

contumacy

n
/ kən't(y)üməsē /
L > E

stubborn resistance to authority; specifically : willful contempt of court.

In the Middle Ages contumacy could be punished by excommunication and the loss of civil rights.

contusion

n
/ kən't(y)üzhən /
L

a bruise caused by external violence.

The contusion on Wayne's shoulder began to fade nine days after his accident.

conundrums

n pl
/ kə'nɒndrəmz /

unknown
riddles based on some fanciful or fantastic resemblance between things quite unlike and forming a puzzling question whose answer is or involves a pun.

Mr. Elton was invited to contribute any really good conundrums to Emma's collection of riddles of every sort.

convalescence

convection

n
/ kən'vekshən /
L

the circulatory motion that occurs in a fluid at a nonuniform temperature owing to the variation of its density and the action of gravity.

In the tropics, strong convection draws warm air high into the sky.

convene

convenience

convergent

adj
/ kən'verjənt /
L

tending to move toward one point or each other.

The crowds leaving the stadium became convergent on their way to the subway entrance.

conversant

adj
/ kən'versənt /
L

familiar or acquainted by use or study : well-informed.

Sabendra is conversant in the latest movements in European art.

convertible

n
/ kən'verdəbəl /
L

an automobile having a top that may be folded back, lowered, or removed.

Thelma and Louise enjoyed cruising the highway in Louise's convertible.

conveyance

convivial

adj
/ kən'vivēəl /
L

fond of good company and festivity.

The convivial lodge owners enjoyed socializing with their guests.

convivially

adv
/ kən'vivēəlē /
L + Ecf

in a manner that is fond of good company and festivity.

Though the hostess felt ill and wanted to leave the party, she behaved convivially.

convolute

convoy

coordinate

adj
/ kō'örd(°)nət /
L

equal in rank, quality, or significance.

The United States attempts to keep the branches of government coordinate.

coossify

Copernican

adj
/ kō'pərnəkən /
Pol name

of, relating to, or being the astronomic system of Copernicus in which the Sun is taken as the center of the planets.

The Copernican view of the solar system was originally regarded as heretical.

copious

adj
/ 'kōpēəs /
L

present in large quantity : plentiful, abundant, lavish.

Patrick took copious notes during the lecture.

copyright

coquetry

n
/ 'kōkətrē /
F

effort or action intended to attract admiration, gallantry, or affection without responsive feeling.

The princess used coquetry as a tool as a carpenter uses a hammer.

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coquettishly

coracle

n
/ 'kɔrəkəl /
W

a small boat made by covering a wicker frame with hide or leather.
Ted rowed an old coracle to the small island in the lake.

cordially

cordillera

n
/ .kɔ(r)dɪ'lerə /
L > Sp

a group of mountain ranges forming a mountain system of great linear extent.
The Andean cordillera extends along the west coast of South America.

corduroy

n
/ 'kɔ(r)də.rɔi /
F > E name

a cut-pile fabric with vertical ribs or wales, usually made of cotton.
His worn trousers of corduroy were three inches too short.

coriander

n
/ .kɔrɪ'ændə(r) /
L

an Old World herb whose ripened dried fruit is used for flavoring especially of pickles, curries, confectioneries, and liquor.
Jane almost always uses coriander to season her stew.

cormorant

n
/ 'kɔrm(ə)rənt /
L > F > E

any of various dark-colored web-footed seabirds.
In parts of eastern Asia the cormorant is domesticated by fishermen.

cornea

cornice

n
/ 'kɔrnəs /
Gk > L > It > F
the typically molded and projecting horizontal member that crowns an architectural composition.
Here and there among the ruins of the great palace, a cornice or part of a column remained intact.

corniculate

adj
/ kɔ(r)'nɪkyələt /
L
having horns or small horn-shaped processes.
In some species of animals, only the males are corniculate.

cornucopia

n
/ .kɔ(r)n(y)ə'kɔpɪə /
L
a curved goat's horn from the mouth of which fruit and ears of corn overflow, emblematic of abundance—called also “horn of plenty.”
Robert placed various kinds of rolls in the basket shaped like a cornucopia and set it in the center of the table.

corollary

n
/ 'kɔrələ.rɪ /
L
a proposition that follows upon one just demonstrated and that requires no additional proof.
After proving the theorem, Mr. Barnes showed how the corollary logically followed.

coronach

n
/ 'kɔrənək /
ScGael&IrGael
a lamentation for the dead as sung or played on the bagpipes in Scotland and Ireland : dirge.
The mournful coronach could be heard throughout the valley.

coronary

adj
/ 'kɔrənərɪ /
L
of or involving the blood vessels of the heart; broadly : of or relating to the heart.
A blockage in a coronary artery caused Tom's heart attack.

coroner

n
/ 'kɔrənə(r) /
L > F > AF > E
a public officer whose principal duty is to inquire into the cause of any death which there is reason to suppose is not due to natural causes.
The job of coroner combines elements of medicine and detective work.

coronet

n
/ .kɔrə'net /
Gk > L > F
a small or lesser crown usually signifying a high rank below that of a sovereign.
The princess happily let her young cousin try on the coronet.

corporeal

adj
/ kɔ(r)'pɔrɪəl /
L
having, consisting of, or relating to a physical material body : not spiritual.
It's very difficult for Mrs. O'Connor to think in a corporeal way.

corpulent

adj
/ 'kɔ(r)pyələnt /
L
having a large bulky body.
Mike and Edie laughed at the corpulent gorilla as it stuffed bananas into its mouth.

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corpuscle

n
/ 'kɔ(r).pəsəl /
L

a living cell that is somewhat isolated and not aggregated into continuous tissues.

In the science fiction movie, a white corpuscle attacked the tiny ship as it traveled through the bloodstream.

corral

v
/ kə'ral /
L > Sp

[has homonym: chorale] round up and drive (livestock) into a pen.
With the help of his dog, Jerry managed to corral the herd.

corralled

correspond

v
/ .kɔrə'spænd /
L

communicate with a person by exchange of letters.

Mason and his friends correspond frequently by e-mail.

corridor

corroborate

v
/ kə'rɒbərət /
L

provide evidence of the truth of : confirm.

Without a witness to corroborate his alibi, Zorba remained the chief suspect in the robbery case.

corrugated

adj
/ 'kɔrə.gətəd /
L

having a ridged or furrowed surface.

The corrugated sand dune looked like a work of art.

corruptible

corsage

corsair

cortisone

coruscate
v
/ 'kɔrə.skāt /
L

gleam with intermittent flashes : glitter, sparkle.

The flickering light from Trudy's lantern made the cave walls coruscate.

corybantic

adj
/ .kɔrə'bantik /
Gk

like or in the spirit of the attendants or priests of the nature goddess Cybele noted for wildly emotional processions and rites; specifically : wild, frenzied.

At the rock concert many fans engaged in corybantic dancing.

corymb

n
/ 'kɔrɪm(b) /
Gk > L > F

a flower cluster in which the flower stalks arise at different levels on the main axis and reach about the same height, forming a somewhat flat-topped cluster.

Each corymb of Queen Anne's lace by the porch has a bumblebee on it.

cosmogensis

n
/ .kəzmɔ'jenəsəs /
Gk

a part of the science of astronomy that deals with the origin and development of the universe.

Contrary to his expectations, Lionel's study of cosmogenesis made him more religious.

cosmopolite

n
/ kəz'məpə.līt /
Gk

one that is at home in every country.

Although she considered herself a cosmopolite, Sharon still couldn't get used to driving on the left side of the road.

coterie

n
/ 'kɔdərə /
F

an intimate often exclusive group of persons having a binding common interest or purpose : clique.

Phyllis and her coterie arrived fashionably late for the gallery opening.

coterminous

cotyledon
n
/ .kəd'ɪlɛdɔn /
Gk > L

the first leaf or one of the first pair or whorl of leaves developed by the embryo in seed plants and in ferns and related plants.

Mr. Pittman drew a fern cotyledon on the blackboard.

couchant

adj
/ 'kauchənt /
F

lying down with the head up.
The coat of arms depicted a couchant lion.

cough

coulisse
n
/ kü'lēs /
F

a side scene of the stage in a theater or the space between the side scenes.

The path depicted in the coulisse led the eyes to the center stage.

couloir

n
/ kü'lwär /
L > F

a deep gorge.

Lance hiked along the stream at the bottom of the couloir.

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counsel

n
/ 'kaʊn(t)səl /
L > F > E

[has homonym: council] advice, direction.

Mr. Knightley shared unpleasant truths with Emma and proved himself her friend by very faithful counsel.

countenance

n
/ 'kaʊnt(ə)nən(t)s /
L > F > E

the expressive appearance of one's face : look, expression.

The department store Santa's countenance set Loretta at ease.

counterfeit

countermand

countervail

v
/ 'kaʊntər.vəl /
L > F > E

oppose or exert force against : counteract.

Miles built a low wall around his sloping garden to countervail erosion.

countian

coup

n
/ 'kū /
F

a sudden decisive exercise of localized or concentrated force unseating the personnel of a government.

The dictator was ousted by a military coup.

coupon

courier

n
/ 'kʊrɪə(r) /
L > It > F

[has homonym: currier] one who carries messages, news, or information either with urgent haste or in accordance with a regular schedule.

Jaime worked as a courier after school to earn money for a new car.

courlan

courteously

cousin

couture

n
/ kʊ'tu(ə)r /
L > F

the business of designing, making, and selling fashionable expensive custom-made women's clothing.

At the Paris fashion shows Carolyn talked to several young designers who were just starting out in couture.

covenant

n
/ 'kʌvənənt /
L > F > E

an agreement that is usually formal, solemn, and intended as binding.

The book of Genesis describes Noah's covenant with God that saved his family from the Great Flood.

covey

n
/ 'kəvɪ /
L > F > E

a small flock or number of birds of the same kind—used typically of partridges and certain related birds.

The hunter aimed at the covey of quail flying over the pasture.

coyote

n
/ ki'tɔd(ɪ) /
Nahuatl > Sp

a small wolf native to the western part of North America and well established northward in Alaska and eastward at least as far as New York state.

The lone male coyote kept to the edges of the pack for many days before being accepted into the group.

cozened

v
/ 'kəzənd /
L > It

obtained by artful wheedling or tricky dishonesty.

The crooked lawyer cozened the life's savings of several of his clients.

craniectomy

craquelure

crassamentum

credential

credenza
n
/ krə'denzə /
L > It

a sideboard, buffet, or bookcase without legs whose base rests flat on the floor.

Robin's CDs are on the second shelf of the credenza.

credulity

n
/ krə'd(y)ʊlədē /
L

belief or readiness of belief especially on slight or uncertain evidence.

Marco's personality was a strange mixture of shrewdness and credulity.

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creekology

n
/ krē'käləjē /
ON > E + Gk
any method of searching for oil based on a limited knowledge of geology and practiced especially by wildcat prospectors.
Doug, who was known for his nose for oil, attributed his success to creekology.

creel

crenate

adj
/ 'krē.nāt /
L
having the margin cut into rounded scallops.
The crenate leaves on Freda's specimen gave her a clue as to its classification.

creophagy

n
/ krē'äfəjē /
Gk
the use of flesh as food.
After visiting a slaughterhouse, Stephanie was repulsed by creophagy and became a vegetarian.

crepitant

adj
/ 'krēpədənt /
L
having or making a crackling sound : crackling.
The boys rolled and tumbled in the pile of crepitant leaves.

crepuscular

adj
/ krə'pəsk(y)ələ(r) /
L + Ecf
active in the twilight.
Darnel blurted out "firefly" when the teacher asked for an example of a crepuscular insect.

crescendo

n
/ krə'shen(,)dō /
L > It
the peak of a gradual increase (as in physical or emotional force or intensity).
As soon as his boat sailed out of the harbor, Angus realized that the wind was nearing a crescendo.

crescent

n
/ 'kresənt /
L > F > E
the shape or figure defined by a convex and a concave edge.
The moon's silvery crescent disappeared as the eclipse reached totality.

crescive

adj
/ 'kresiv /
L
increasing, growing.
The crecive vines traveled up the trellis.

crecograph

n
/ 'kreskəgraf /
L + Ecf + Gk
an instrument for making perceptible the growth of plants.
The crecograph can magnify small plant movements as much as ten million times.

cretonne

crewelwork

cribbage

n
/ 'kribij /
E
a card game for two and sometimes three or four players each of whom is dealt six cards one or two of which are discarded before play to form an extra hand for the dealer.
Kathy and her cousins are ferociously competitive when they play cribbage.

cribral

adj
/ 'kribrəl /
L
of or relating to a sieve : perforated.
The mouths of certain whales contain a cribral structure for collecting food.

cricetid

n
/ krə'sēdəd /
Slav > L
any of a family of small rodents including lemmings, voles, and hamsters.
The hamster is an example of a cricetid that is kept as a pet.

crimson

n
/ 'krimzən /
Ar > Sp > E
any of several deep or vivid reds or purplish reds of rather indefinite range.
The sun was dropping slowly from sight, and stripes of purple and orange and crimson and gold reached upward from the distant hills.

crinoline

n
/ 'krin'lən /
L > It > F
a full stiff skirt or underskirt.
The crinoline that Andrea wore in the pageant made her knees itch.

criophore

crocheting

v
/ krō'shāin /
F + Ecf
working with needlework consisting of the interlocking of looped stitches formed with a single thread and a hooked needle.
Marie sat nearby crocheting and tried to take a friendly interest in the game.

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cromlech

n
/ 'kräm.lek /
W

a circle of monoliths usually enclosing a dolmen or mound.
Inspired by their study of Stonehenge, Mr. Akala's fifth-grade class built a cromlech on the playground.

cronyism

n
/ 'krōnē.izəm /
Gk + Ecf

partiality to familiar friends especially as evidenced in the appointing of political hangers-on to office without due regard for their qualifications.
When the mayor appointed his best friend head of the police department, he was accused of cronyism.

croquet

n
/ krō'kā /
F

a game in which players drive wooden balls with mallets through a series of wickets set out on a lawn in a particular order.
Erica and her friends played croquet in the churchyard.

crotchety

adj
/ 'krächədəē /
F > E

subject to whims, crankiness, or ill temper.
Not getting enough sleep usually makes Trudy crotchety in the morning.

croup

n
/ 'krüp /
imit

a spasmodic laryngitis in infants and children characterized by episodes of difficult breathing and hoarse cough.
Mrs. Dowling hoped Everett's sore throat wouldn't develop into croup.

croupier

n
/ 'krüpē.ā /
F

an employee of a gambling casino who watches, collects, and pays bets and assists the dealer in charge of the table.
The croupier tossed two more \$100 chips onto Daphne's growing pile.

croustade

n
/ krü'stād /
Prov > F

a crisp shell (as of toasted or fried bread) in which to serve food.
Louise didn't know whether or not she was supposed to eat the croustade in which her salad was served.

crucial

crucible

n
/ 'krüsəbəl /
L

a vessel or melting pot that is used for melting and calcining a substance (as metal and ore) which requires a high degree of heat.
Clyde began the experiment by dumping the collected samples into a crucible.

cruciferous

adj
/ krü'sif(ə)rəs /
L + Ecff

belonging to or having the characteristics of the mustards or related plants.
Cruciferous vegetables are an excellent source of beta carotene.

cruller

n
/ 'krələ(r) /
D

a small sweet cake made of a rich egg batter formed into twisted strips and fried brown in deep fat.
Olive couldn't decide whether to order a cruller or an éclair with her coffee.

Crusade

n
/ krü'sād /
F

an expedition undertaken for a declared religious purpose.
The first Crusade to reclaim Jerusalem for Christians began in 1096.

crustacean

n
/ ,krə'stāshən /
L

an animal belonging to a large class of Arthropoda comprising the majority of the marine or freshwater arthropods (as lobsters, shrimps, crabs, and barnacles).
Our team's mascot is Crusty the Crustacean, a ten-pound Maine lobster.

cryology

n
/ krī'äləjē /
Gk

the study of snow and ice.
In cryology, students learn how glaciers grow, shrink, advance, and retreat.

cryophilic

cryophorus

n
/ ,krī'äfərəs /
Gk > L

an instrument that illustrates the freezing of water by its own evaporation.
The cryophorus was made of glass in the form of a tube connecting two globes partially filled with liquid.

cryptic

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Frequently

cryptographer

n
/ krip'tägräfə(r) /
Gk
one that practices the art of preparing or reading messages in a form intended to prevent their being read by those not privy to secrets of the form.
An inveterate cryptographer, Rico enjoys searching ordinary writing samples for hidden messages.

cryptonym

n
/ 'kriptənim /
Gk
a secret name.
Each person in our club was given a cryptonym known only to the other members.

crystal

adj
/ 'kristəl /
Gk
consisting of or resembling quartz that is transparent or nearly so and that is either colorless or only slightly tinged.
Once inside, they hurried down a long hallway, which glittered with crystal chandeliers.

crystosphere

n
/ 'kristəsfi:n /
Gk
a buried sheet of ice under the tundra of North America formed by the freezing of spring water.
The geologist measured the thickness of the crystosphere.

cubic

adj
/ 'kyübik /
Gk > L > F
relating to a crystal form that consists of six similar, mutually perpendicular faces.
Gold crystallizes in a cubic structure with a density of 19.4 grams per cubic centimeter.

cucaracha

n
/ kükə'rächə /
Mexican song
a Mexican ballroom and nightclub dance.
Determined to win the state ballroom dance title, Joan and Marlon practiced their cucaracha for weeks.

cuchifrito

n
/ küchi'frədō /
Sp
a deep-fried cube of pork.
When Lane wasn't looking, Stephanie popped a cuchifrito into the dog's mouth.

cuckoo

n
/ 'kü(,)kü /
E imitative
[has homonym: kuku] a familiar European bird that is noted for its characteristic two-syllabled whistle and for its habit of laying its eggs in the nests of other birds for them to hatch.
The cuckoo in the aviary sounded just like Grandmother's clock.

cucurbit

n
/ kyü'kərbət /
L > F > E
(Note: Dictionary designates as attributive.) a many-seeded fleshy fruit plant with a hard rind (such as squashes, pumpkins, and certain gourds).
The cucurbit is probably put to a wider variety of uses than is any other fruit family.

cudgel

n
/ 'kəjəl /
E
a short heavy stick used as an instrument for punishment or a weapon.
A nightstick is one kind of cudgel.

cuirass

culgee

n
/ 'kəl.gē /
Per > Hindi
a jeweled plume worn in India on the turban.
Professor Singh happily loaned his grandfather's culgee to the museum.

culinary

adj
/ 'kələnərē /
L
of or relating to the kitchen or cookery.
The early colonists used herbs for both culinary and medicinal purposes.

culminant

adj
/ 'kəlmənənt /
L
being at greatest altitude or on the meridian.
The Sun casts the shortest shadows when it is culminant.

culotte

culpable

adj
/ 'kəlpəbəl /
L
meriting condemnation or censure especially as criminal or as conducive to accident, loss, or disaster.
The property owner was guilty of culpable negligence in the accident involving an uncovered manhole.

culprit

n
/ 'kəlpɹət /
L > AF
one who is guilty of a crime or other wrongdoing.
The detectives devised a plan to capture the culprit.

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cultivation

n
/ kəltə'vāshən /
L

the art or process of farming.
Frigid weather conditions and barren soil make cultivation of tundra almost impossible.

culturati

n pl
/ kəlchə'rād(ɪ)ē /
Gk + Lcf

people intensely interested in the artistic and intellectual aspects or content of human activity.
The scheduled performance by "The Three Tenors" generated excitement among the city's culturati.

cumbersome

adj
/ 'kəmbə(r)səm /
F > E + Ecf

of an excessive size, shape, or length : unwieldy.
Emrick dragged his cumbersome duffel bag by its strap.

cumbrous

adj
/ 'kəmbɾəs /
E

giving trouble : vexatious.
A swarm of cumbrous gnats followed the hikers all day long.

cummerbund

n
/ 'kəmə(r).bænd /
Per > Hindi

a waistband worn in place of a vest with men's dress clothes.
The bride wanted the groom's cummerbund to match the pale pink of her flowers.

cumulative

cuneiform

adj
/ kyü'nēə.fōrm /
L + L

written in characters composed of strokes having the form of a wedge or arrowhead.
The cuneiform Code of Hammurabi is the most complete record of ancient Babylonian law in existence.

cupboard

cupressineous

adj
/ .k(y)üprə'sinēəs /
Gk > L + Ecf

relating to or resembling the cypress.
The wood of cupressineous trees is usually light, moderately hard, and very durable.

curator

n
/ kyə'rādə(r) /
L

one in charge of the exhibits, research activities, and personnel of a museum, zoo, or other place of exhibit.
Eric interviewed the curator of marine mammals at the aquarium.

curiousness

n
/ 'kyürēəsnəs /
L > F > E + Ecf

the quality of being inquisitive.
Dickon's round eyes were full of eager curiousness but he said not a word.

curlew

curliewurly

curmudgeon

n
/ (ɪ)kər'məjən /
unknown

a crusty, ill-tempered, or difficult and often elderly person.
Fiona's dad called her grandfather a "cantankerous old curmudgeon."

current

adj
/ 'kərənt /
L

[has homonyms: courant, currant] presently elapsing.
In the current fiscal year Cornucopia College enjoys a slight budget surplus.

curriculum

n
/ kə'rikyləm /
L

the whole body of courses offered by an educational institution or one of its branches.
The school is planning to add Latin to its curriculum next year.

cursorly

curtain

n
/ 'kərt'n /
L > F > E

the screen separating the stage from the auditorium of a theater.
The law states that the theater curtain must be made of fireproof material.

curtilage

n
/ 'kərd'lij /
F > E

a yard, courtyard, or other piece of ground included within a fence surrounding a dwelling house.
The police searched the house and the curtilage for any clues relating to the robbery.

curvature

n
/ 'kərvə.chü(ə)r /
L

the act or state of deviating from a straight line or course typically with a rounded gradual effect.
The curvature of the brick path gave the garden a pleasing informality.

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custard

n
/ 'kəstə(r)d /
L > Prov > E

a sweetened mixture of milk and eggs that is baked, boiled, or frozen.

Lemon custard is Harold's favorite dessert.

custody

n
/ 'kəstədē /
L > E

charge or control (as of a suspect) exercised by a person or an authority.

The suspect was kept in police custody until she provided an incontrovertible alibi.

cutaneous

adj
/ kyü'tānēəs /
L

of or relating to the skin.

Cutaneous sensation includes feeling cold, heat, contact, and pain.

cuticle

n
/ 'kyüdəkəl /
L

an external membranous or hardened noncellular investment secreted by the outer surface of the body (as in arthropods).

Because expansion cannot occur in the chitinous cuticle, the growing insect must periodically shed its covering.

cyanosis

n
/ .sīə'nōsəs /
Gk

a bluish or purplish discoloration (as of skin) due to deficient oxygenation of the blood.

Cyanosis may result from pneumonia, asphyxiation, heart failure, or heart anomalies.

cybernetics

n pl
/ .sībə(r)'nediks /
Gk

the comparative study of the automatic control system formed by the nervous system and brain and by mechanical-electrical communication systems and devices (as computers or thermostats).

Bertha's new robotics software promised to revolutionize cybernetics.

cyclical

adj
/ 'sɪkləkəl /
Gk

of, relating to, or belonging to a regularly recurring succession of events or phenomena.

Mr. Ramirez explained the cyclical phases of the Moon to the science class today.

cyclogenesis

n
/ .sī(ɪ)klō'jenəsəs /
Gk

the process of development or intensification of a rotating storm system.

Satellites have greatly improved the monitoring of cyclogenesis.

cyclonic

adj
/ sɪ'klänɪk /
Gk

of, relating to, or having the characteristics of a rotating storm.

Cyclonic disturbances known as hurricanes usually occur during the summer and fall.

cycloserine

cygnet

n
/ 'sɪgnət /
Gk > L > F > E

a young swan.

Six-year-old Abby, openly contemptuous of the fairy tale, patiently explained to her mother that there's no way an ugly duckling can turn into a swan—only a cygnet can.

cylinder

cymbals

cynegetics

n pl
/ .sɪnə'jedɪks /
Gk

the art of hunting.

Mrs. White began her talk about cynegetics with a recording of melodies played on hunting horns.

cynology

n
/ sə'näləjē /
Gk

[has homonym: sinology] scientific study of the dog especially in respect to its natural history.

Having a coyote as a childhood pet gave Rick an early interest in cynology.

cynophilist

n
/ sə'näfələst /
Gk

[Note: Could be confused with form of sinophil/sinophile.] a dog fancier : one that is favorably disposed toward dogs.

Although Leon considered himself a cynophilist, he did not trust the pit bull terrier.

cynosure

n
/ 'sɪnə.shü(ə)r /
Gk

a center of attraction or interest.

The student union, with its billiard tables, bowling alley, and snack bar, is a cynosure for freshmen during orientation week.

Cytherean

adj
/ .sɪthə'rēən /
Gk > L + Ecf

of or relating to the goddess Venus or to the planet Venus.

The Cytherean atmosphere has a high concentration of sulfuric acid.

cytotoxic

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cytology

n
/ sī'täləjē /
Gk + Gk

[has homonym: sitology] the branch of biology concerned with the study of cells as vital units with reference to their structure, function, multiplication, pathology, and life history.

For differentiating between benign and malignant lesions, cytology offers a more precise method of diagnosis than does the use of X rays.

dachshund

n
/ 'däks.hünt /
G + G

a small dog of a breed of German origin having long drooping ears, commonly a short sleek coat, and the legs short in comparison with the body length.

Chloe has a brown dachshund named "Oscar."

dacquoise

n
/ dāk.wäáz /
F

a dessert made of baked layers of nut meringue with a filling usually of buttercream.

The hotel dessert buffet included a chocolate-pecan dacquoise.

dactylogram

n
/ dak'tilə.gram /
Gk + Gk

an impression taken from a finger : fingerprint.

Calvin used a magnifying glass to examine the loops and whorls in a dactylogram of his index finger.

dactylogy

dactyloscopy

n
/ daktə'läskəpē /
Gk

identification by comparison of fingerprints.

Dactyloscopy indicated that the suspect's fingerprints are indeed on the murder weapon.

daedal

adj
/ 'dēd'əl /
Gk

ingeniously formed or working : like a maze : intricate.

The children's quiz show led its contestants through a daedal journey of stunts and questions.

daffodil

daffodils

n pl
/ 'däfə.dilz /
D + L > F > D

plants having flowers that have a large corona elongated into a trumpet.

These flowers blooming in the snow are daffodils and snowdrops.

daguerreotype

dahlia

n
/ 'dalyə /
Sw name > L

a plant of a genus of tuberous-rooted herbs having rayed flower heads.

The brightly colored flowers of the dahlia can be six inches in diameter.

daiquiri

dais

n
/ 'dāəs /
L > F > E

a platform raised usually above the floor of a hall or large room to give distinction or prominence to those occupying it.

A round dais was exactly in the center of the room.

Daliesque

adj
/ 'dälē'esk /
Sp name

resembling or suggesting the paintings of the Spanish surrealist artist Dali.

The poster showed a Daliesque face with feathers poking out of each nostril.

dalliance

dallied

damask

Damoclean

adj
/ .damə'klēən /
Gk name + Ecf

involving imminent danger.

Retrieving the car keys from the piranha tank was a Damoclean task indeed.

dandelion

dangerous

dangle

danseuse

n
/ dän'sə(r)z /
F

a female ballet dancer.

Denise was advised that being a danseuse was as exhausting as it was rewarding.

Dantesque

adj
/ .dän'tesk /
It name

of, relating to, or resembling the Italian writer Dante or his writings.
The Dantesque image of a soul in torture repulsed Regina.

dashiki

dashing

adj
/ 'dashiŋ /
E imit + Ecf

vigorously active : spirited.

The dashing actor was the talk of the party.

dastardly

dasymeter

dauntless

dawdle

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dawdler

n
/ 'dɔd(ə)lə(r) /
unknown + Ecf
one who wastes time in idle
lingering.
*Lauren was such a dawdler that
she often missed the school bus.*

dazzling

v
/ 'daz(ə)liŋ /
ON > E + Ecf
overpowering with brightness :
shining.
*Morgan took great satisfaction in
dazzling his neighbors with his
Christmas light display.*

deacon

deactivate

deacerate

dearth

n
/ 'dɜrθ /
E
scarcity : lack of a present
necessity.
*The general realized that his army
was suffering from a dearth of self-
confidence.*

debacle

n
/ də'bækəl /
L > OProv > F
a sudden breakdown : collapse.
*Craig reads everything he can find
regarding the Wall Street debacle
of 1929.*

debarrass

debenture

n
/ də'benʃə(r) /
L
a writing or certificate signed by a
public officer as evidence of a debt
or of a right to demand or receive a
sum of money.
*Uncle John treasures the debenture
issued by the Confederate
government, even though it is
actually worthless.*

debility

debonairness

debouchment

n
/ də'bʊʃmənt /
F
a mouth or outlet especially of a
river.
*The river's debouchment had to be
dredged because the sediment was
a hazard to navigation.*

debridement

n
/ də'brɛd.mənt /
F
the surgical removal of lacerated,
devitalized, or contaminated tissue.
*The doctor explained to the
firefighter why debridement was
the best treatment for his second-
degree burns.*

debris

n
/ də'brɛ /
F
the remains of something broken
down or destroyed.
*Scattered debris lies where
majestic homes stood before last
week's tornado.*

debut

decadent

decaffeinate

decanter

decendent

n
/ də'sɛdnt /
L
a dead person; especially : a person
who has recently died.
*The relatives of the decendent
gathered for the reading of the will.*

deceitful

adj
/ də'sɛtʃəl /
E + Ecf
dishonest.
*The Better Business Bureau warned
Jasper of the awning company's
deceitful business practices.*

deceive

v
/ də'si:v /
L > F > E
cause to believe the false : delude.
*Cara's forgery of her mother's
signature did not deceive the
principal.*

decelerate

v
/ dɛ'sɛlə.rɪt /
L
lessen the speed of : slow down.
*Reversing engine thrust is used to
decelerate jets upon landing.*

deceleron

decennial

decentralization

decibel

n
/ 'desə,bel /
L + Scottish-American name
a unit for measuring the relative
loudness of sounds equal
approximately to the smallest
degree of difference of loudness
ordinarily detectable by the human
ear.
*Differences of one decibel can be
important to a recording engineer.*

deciduous

adj
/ də'si:jəwəs /
L
falling off or shed at the end of the
growing period, at certain seasons,
or at certain stages of development.
*Deciduous trees drop their leaves
each fall.*

decimal

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decimate

v
/ 'desə.māt /
L

select by lot and kill every tenth person of.
The terrorist promised to decimate the group of hostages every half hour until his demands were met.

deciphered

v
/ də'sɪfə(r)d /
L + Ar > L > F > E

made out, read, or interpreted despite obscuration.
When one considers the variety of handwriting, and of bad handwriting, too, that must be deciphered, it increases the wonder that so seldom a letter is delivered to the wrong person.

decistere

n
/ 'desə.sti(ə)r /
F

a metric unit of capacity equal to 1/10 cubic meter.
Caleb bought a decistere of lime for his front lawn.

declamatory

adj
/ də'klamə.tōrē /
L

marked by rhetorical effect or display : stilted.
Minna's declamatory sermon alienated many of her listeners.

declension

decline

declivate

adj
/ də'klɪ.vāt /
L

inclining downward : sloping.
Mary Ann slid down the declivate roof of the playhouse.

declivous

decompose

v
/ dɪkəm'pōz /
L > F

separate or resolve into constituent parts or elements or into simpler compounds.
Mr. Landry asked the students whether they knew any compounds other than methanol which decompose into carbon dioxide and water.

decorous

adj
/ 'dekərəs /
L

marked by propriety and good taste.
Lucia was surprised to find that the disc jockey was as decorous off the air as he was volcanic while on the air.

decorticate

v
/ dɛ'kɔ(r)dəkāt /
L

remove the bark, husk, or other outer covering from.
Sharp front teeth allow squirrels to decorticate hickory nuts.

decoupage

n
/ .dākü'pāzh /
F

the art of decorating surfaces by applying cutouts and then coating them with several layers of a finish such as lacquer or varnish.
Aunt Hazel's interest in arts and crafts was kindled by a free class in decoupage.

decreolization

decrescendo

decuman

adj
/ 'dekyəmən /
L

(of a wave) : extremely large.
That decuman wave that took the ship fore and aft swept the life raft off the deck.

decumbiture

decussate

adj
/ 'dekəsət /
L

shaped like an X.
Each wing of the moth had a decussate marking.

deducibility

defamatory

defeasible

adj
/ də'fēzəbəl /
F + Ecf
capable of being or liable to being voided, annulled, or undone.
When a family adopts a baby, several requirements have to be met; otherwise the adoption is defeasible.

defendant

n
/ də'fendənt /
L > F

a person required to make answer in an action or suit in law or equity or in a criminal action.
When the foreman of the jury read the verdict of "not guilty," the defendant embraced his attorneys.

deferential

defervescence

n
/ .dɛ(ɪ)fər'ves'n(t)s /
L

the subsidence of a fever.
Antonio's mother was relieved to note the signs of defervescence in her son.

deficiency

n
/ də'fɪshənsē /
L

the quality or state of lacking some quality, faculty, or characteristic necessary for completeness.
Scurvy is caused by a deficiency of vitamin C in the diet.

defilade

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definite

adj
/ 'def(ə)nət /
L

free of all ambiguity, uncertainty, or obscurity.
Dad sounded quite definite when he told us to turn off the TV.

degauss

deglutition

dehisce

dehiscence

n
/ də'his'n(t)s /
L + Ecf
the bursting open of a capsule or pod at maturity.
In dry weather, dehiscence of some seed pods occurs prematurely.

deify

deign

deipnosophist

n
/ dip'nəsəfəst /
Gk
a person skilled in table talk.
Clint's reputation as a deipnosophist makes him an ideal dinner guest.

delectable

adj
/ də'lektəbəl /
L
deliciously flavored.
JoAnne selected Black Forest cake from the delectable dessert offerings.

delegate

deleterious

adj
/ delə'tirēəs /
Gk
hurtful, destructive.
The museum did not permit flash photography because of the possible deleterious effects on the paintings.

deleteriously

adv
/ delə'tirēəsli /
Gk + Ecf
in a hurtful or destructive manner.
It seems that every day we are reminded that smoking affects the body deleteriously.

delicacy

n
/ 'deləkəsē /
L
something pleasing to eat that is accounted rare or luxurious.
Caviar is considered a delicacy.

delicatessen

n
/ deləkə'tes'n /
F > G
a store where ready-to-eat food products (as cooked meats and prepared salads) are sold.
Marta stopped at the delicatessen to buy some cold cuts for our lunch.

delicious

adj
/ də'lishəs /
L
appealing to one of the bodily senses, especially that of taste.
Judith said the fudge was the most delicious she had ever tasted.

delineate

delinquency

delinquent

n
/ də'liŋkwənt /
L
a transgressor against duty or law.
The police referred to Harold as a "delinquent" when he was found on the street after curfew.

deliquesce

v
/ delək'wes /
L
become soft or liquid with age.
After a couple of weeks in the refrigerator, lettuce begins to deliquesce.

deliquescent

delirious

adj
/ də'liɾēəs /
L
affected with frenzied excitement or wild enthusiasm.
The delirious fans rushed onto the field to congratulate the champions.

delitescent

adj
/ delə'tesənt /
L
lying hidden : obfuscated, latent.
The psychiatrist tried to discover the delitescent significance of his patient's dreams.

delphinium

deltiology

n
/ delte'äləjē /
Gk
the hobby of collecting postcards.
Jodie got started in deltiology just last year but already has postcards from over 100 countries.

deltoidal

delude

deluge

n
/ 'del(,)yüj /
L > F > E
a drenching rain : downpour.
The children were caught in a deluge as they waited for the school bus.

demagoguery

n
/ 'deməgäg(ə)rē /
Gk + Ecf
the principles or practices of rabble-rousers.
Economic hardship often gives rise to demagoguery.

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demarcate

v
/ də'mär.kāt /
Gmc > It > Sp
mark by bounds.
Sol used fishing line to demarcate his half of the room from his brother's.

demaree

demeanor

n
/ də'mēnə(r) /
L > F > E
behavior toward others : outward manner.
The vice-president's icily serious demeanor was fodder for the late-night talk shows.

demegoric

dementia

demersal

demesne

n
/ də'mān /
F
[has near homonym: domain] legal possession of land as one's own.
The earl vowed to defend his demesne at any cost.

demiglace

demijohn

n
/ 'demē.jän /
F + F name > E
a narrow-necked bottle of glass or stoneware that is enclosed in wickerwork and has one or two wicker handles.
Water glugged from the demijohn as Emily emptied it on the lawn.

demise

demitasse

n
/ 'demē.tas /
L > F > E + Per > Ar > F
a small cup of coffee usually taken black.
Nathan sipped nervously at a demitasse while he waited for his attorney.

demobilize

democracy

n
/ də'mäkrəsē /
Gk > L
a government by the people : rule of the majority.
Cara could not imagine what her life would be like if it were governed not by a democracy but instead by the whims of a few people.

demography

n
/ də'mägrəfē /
Gk
the statistical study of the characteristics of human populations especially with reference to size and density, growth, distribution, migration, and vital statistics.
Beth's interest in demography led her to a career in advertising.

demolition

demoniacal

demulcent

adj
/ də'məlsənt /
L
soothing, softening.
The pharmacist told Boris that a demulcent syrup would be best for his sore throat.

demurrage

demurs

n pl
/ də'mərz /
L
difficulties in making up one's mind : indecisions.
Harriet's message was unequivocal, containing no doubts or demurs.

dengue

n
/ 'deŋ(,)gē /
African? > Sp
[has homonym: dinghy] an acute infectious disease characterized by sudden onset, headache, racking joint pain, and a rash and caused by a virus transmitted by mosquitoes.
The African village was quarantined after an outbreak of dengue.

denizen

n
/ 'denəzən /
L > F > E
a dweller in a certain place or region.
Melvin asked a local denizen for directions.

denominator

denouement

n
/ ,dānū'mä /
L > F
the final outcome, result, or unraveling of the main dramatic complication in a play or other work of literature.
The loose ends of the plot were neatly tied up in the surprising denouement.

dentifrice

n
/ 'dentəfrəs /
L
a powder, paste, or liquid used in cleaning the teeth.
John decided to use a dentifrice containing baking soda.

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denunciation

n
/ dən.ən.sən.ʃən /

L
the act of pronouncing (as a person, idea, course of conduct, or political philosophy) as blameworthy or evil.

The senator's speech was a denunciation of many federal programs.

depilatory

n
/ də'pɪlə.tōrē /

L > F
a cosmetic for the temporary removal of undesired hair.

Hank mixed a depilatory into his sister's shampoo.

deprecated

v
/ 'deprə.kādəd /

L
sought to avert.
When a very thick letter from Mr. Churchill was brought to Emma, she guessed what it must contain and deprecated the necessity of reading it.

deprecatory

depredatory

adj
/ 'deprədə.tōrē /

L
tending to lay waste or prey upon : plundering.
Following the earthquake, depredatory gangs looted many stores.

depurate

v
/ 'depyə.rāt /

L
free from impurities or heterogeneous matter : purify, cleanse.

The hiking book advised using iodine tablets and a filter to depurate groundwater before drinking it.

deracinated

adj
/ də'ras'n.ātəd /

L > F + Ecf
physically, mentally, or emotionally separated from one's racial, social, or intellectual group.
Erica's father worries that she might become deracinated at such a large university.

derailleur

n
/ də'rālə(r) /

F
[has homonym: derailer] a mechanism for shifting gears on a bicycle that operates by moving the chain from one set of exposed gears to another.
Laurent's derailleur jammed a few minutes into the race, and he was forced to the side of the road.

deranged

adj
/ də'rānjd /

F
disordered, unbalanced.
Jane's health seemed completely deranged, though she had no absolutely alarming symptoms.

dereism

derelict

n
/ 'derə.likt /

L
a thing voluntarily abandoned by its owner with the intention of not retaking it and rightly claimed by the first person who takes possession of it; specifically : a boat abandoned on the high seas.
Tom sank his yacht when his rescuers arrived lest it become a derelict.

dereliction

n
/ derə'likshən /

L
intentional or conscious neglect (as of principles).
The security guard was summarily fired for dereliction of duty.

dermatitis

n
/ dər.mə'tɪd.əs /

Gk > L
inflammation of the skin typically marked by reddening, swelling, and scaling.
Bonnie treated her dermatitis with aloe juice.

dermonecrotic

adj
/ ,dər(,)mō.nə'krədɪk /

Gk
relating to or causing the death of skin tissue.
The powerful medication had a dermonecrotic effect on Uncle Arthur's legs.

derogatorily

derogatory

adj
/ də'rägə.tōrē /

L
expressive of low estimation or reproach : disdainful.
Janet did not appreciate the derogatory remarks her brother made about her dress.

derrick

n
/ 'derɪk /

E name
the framework or tower over a deep drill hole (as that of an oil well) for supporting the tackle for boring or for hoisting and lowering.
The rocket was supported on the launch pad by a tower that was a converted oil derrick.

descendible

descent

v
/ dē'sent /

L + E
rid of odor or smell.
After their dog was sprayed by a skunk, the Andersons tried everything to descent him, but nothing worked.

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descried

v
/ də'skrīd /
F > E

caught sight of especially by watchful attention and careful observation of the distant, uncertain, or obscure.

When the dog descried his master walking up the lane, he hurried out to greet him.

desecrate

desiccate

v
/ 'desə,kāt /
L

[has near homonym: desecrate] dry up or cause to dry up : deprive or exhaust of moisture.

The hot sunshine and the dry wind combined to desiccate Martha's tomato plants.

design

desirable

desman

n
/ 'dez mən /
Sw

an aquatic insectivorous mammal of Russia that resembles a mole.
At one end the desman has a long, flared snout and at the other end a long, flattened tail.

desolate

adj
/ 'desələt /
L

characterized by abandonment, isolation, or barrenness.

The irrigation project revived the once desolate farming community.

despair

n
/ də'spa(a)ə)r /
L

utter loss of hope.

Despair overcame Gerald as he stared at his French exam.

desperado

n
/ despə'rā(,)dō /
L > Sp

a bandit of the western frontier.

Louis pretended to be a desperado holding up a stagecoach.

desperate

despicable

adj
/ də'spikəbəl /
L

meriting hatred, scorn, or loathing.
Sylvester's stress level would be greatly reduced if he found fewer situations despicable.

despotism

n
/ 'despə,tizəm /
Gk > F

absolute government in which power is vested in a single ruler.

Those who believe in the progress of humanity have a hard time explaining 20th-century despotism.

desquamate

v
/ 'deskwə,māt /
L

peel off in the form of scales.

Ed came down with scarlet fever and was horrified when his skin began to desquamate.

destrier

n
/ 'destrēər /
L > F > E

a large powerful horse used as a war-horse by a medieval knight.

The knight rapidly saddled his destrier and galloped off to battle the invaders.

desuetude

n
/ 'deswē.tüd /
L

discontinuance from use, practice, exercise, or functioning : a state of protracted suspension or of apparent abandonment.

In some schools the practice of memorizing great poems has fallen into desuetude.

desultorily

adv
/ desəl'tōrəlē /
L

in an erratic, wavering manner.

Orna behaved desultorily at the dress rehearsal.

desultory

adj
/ 'desəl,tōrē /
L

not cogently relevant : digressive.

Nancy's comments in class are usually rather desultory, but today her remarks were very relevant.

detective

n
/ də'tektiv /
L

a plainclothes police officer.

The detective asked the bystanders if any of them had actually seen the shooter.

deterge

detergent

deterrence

n
/ də'tərən(t)s /
L + Ecf

the act or process of turning aside, discouraging, or preventing from acting especially by fear.

The police hoped that Ted's severe jail sentence would promote the deterrence of criminal acts by the other gang members.

deterrent

n
/ də'tərənt /
L

something that discourages or prevents from acting by fear or consideration of unpleasant attendant consequences.

The police hoped that Ted's severe jail sentence would serve as a deterrent to criminal activity by the other gang members.

detinue

detonator

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detour

detriment

detritus

n
/ də'trɪdəs /
L

a product of disintegration or wearing away : fragment or fragmentary material.

The aerial photo of Don's ranch shows a fan of detritus at the mouth of the gulch.

detrude

deuce

n
/ 'd(y)üs /
L > F

[has near homonyms: do's, dues] a tie in tennis in points toward a game or in games requiring scoring of two consecutive points by one side to win the game or set.

The first point won in tennis after deuce is called "advantage in" if won by the server, "advantage out" if won by the receiver.

deuteragonist

n
/ ,d(y)üdə'ragənəst /
Gk + Gk

a person who serves as a foil to another.

The movie's hero was thwarted by the villainous deuteragonist.

deuteranopia

n
/ ,d(y)üdərə'nōpēə /
Gk

red-green blindness believed due to a defect in the optic nerve.

Joel's deuteranopia disqualified him from the Air Force's pilot school.

devolution

dewclaw

dextrally

dhurrie

n
/ 'dərē /
Hindi

a thick cotton cloth or carpet made in India.

The dhurrie in Morgan's foyer is one she purchased during her trip to Delhi.

diabetes

n
/ ,dīə'bēdēz /
Gk

any of certain abnormal conditions characterized by the secretion and excretion of excessive amounts of urine.

Drugs and diet changes can control diabetes in most patients.

diablerie

n
/ dē'äblə(,)rē /
L > F

dealings with the devil or devils : witchcraft, sorcery.

Each Halloween, stories of diablerie resurface in the media.

diacetate

diadem

n
/ 'dīə,dem /
Gk > L > F > E

crown; specifically : an ornamental headband worn (as by Eastern monarchs) as a badge of royalty.

A brocade diadem would be a perfect finishing touch for Josh's King David costume.

diagnose

v
/ 'dīəg,nōs /
Gk > L

identify a condition by evaluating its signs and symptoms.

Dr. Morris was reluctant to diagnose Tina's condition until he had the test results.

diagonal

adj
/ dī'agənəl /
Gk > L

running across from corner to corner.

Chris preferred the tile floor with the diagonal pattern.

diagram

dialysis

n
/ dī'aləsəs /
Gk

the separation of substances in solution by means of their unequal diffusion through semipermeable membranes.

Blood was removed from the patient, purified by dialysis, and then returned to the patient's bloodstream.

diapason

n
/ dīə'pāzən /
Gk > L

a burst of harmonious sound : melody, strain.

The trumpeters filled the courtyard with thrilling diapason.

diapered

diaphanous

adj
/ dī'afənəs /
GK > L

characterized by such fineness and delicacy of texture as to permit seeing through.

The jellyfish were so diaphanous that you could be next to them in the water and never know they were there.

diaphragm

diary

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diaspora

n
/ dī'asp(ə)rə /
Gk

a dispersion (as of people of a common national origin or of common beliefs).

The guest lecturer at the Modern Language Association meeting jokingly referred to the diaspora of Esperanto speakers.

diaspore

diatribe

n
/ 'dīə.trīb /
Gk

a bitter, abusive, and usually lengthy speech or piece of writing.

After supper, Deirdre launched into her familiar diatribe against commercial television.

diazotype

dicerous

adj
/ 'disərəs /
Gk

having two antennae.

Because most insects have a pair of antennae, they are dicerous.

dichotomy

n
/ dī'kädəmə /
Gk

the phase of the Moon or an inferior planet in which just half its disk appears illuminated.

The Moon had just reached dichotomy when Amos began planting.

dickcissel

didactic

adj
/ dī'daktik /
Gk

fitted or intended to teach.

Guy's innovative and effective didactic style inspired his students to produce amazing work.

didacticism

didascal

dietetic

dietetics

n pl
/ dīə'tediks /
Gk

the science or art of applying the principles of nutrition to the feeding of individuals or groups under different economic conditions or for hygienic or therapeutic purposes.

Pam concentrated on dietetics in her graduate studies with hopes of joining a world hunger organization after receiving her degree.

different

difficult

adj
/ 'difə(,)kəlt /
L

hard to understand : puzzling, obscure.

There were so many words that were difficult, and Milo knew hardly any of them.

diffident

adj
/ 'difədənt /
L

lacking confidence in oneself : distrustful of one's own powers.

Emma was always quick and assured; her sister was slow and diffident.

digitalis

n
/ dijə'taləs /
L

the dried leaf of the purple foxglove containing substances that are used to prepare a drug that is a heart stimulant.

Digitalis has proved to be the most effective treatment for Ginger's heart disorder.

dilapidated

adj
/ də'ləpədədəd /
L

decayed, deteriorated, injured, or fallen into partial ruin.

Only birds and bats resided in the dilapidated old house.

dilatory

adj
/ 'dīlə.tōrē /
L

characterized by procrastination or delay : slow.

Mr. Knightley always moved with the alertness of a mind which could be neither undecided nor dilatory.

dilemma

diligence

diligently

dillydally

v
/ 'dīlə.dalē /
Gmc > F > E

waste time by loitering or delay.

"There's lots to do; we have a very busy schedule—from 6:00 to 7:00 we dillydally," he exclaimed.

diluent

n
/ 'dīlyəwənt /
L

an inert substance added to a mixture especially for reducing the concentration of active ingredients.

Water added to the insecticide acts as a diluent and a carrier.

dilute

v
/ dī'lüt /
L

make less concentrated : diminish the strength, activity, or flavor of.

Because of the heat produced, caution is needed when using water to dilute concentrated sulfuric acid.

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dimension

n
/ dɪ'menʃən /
L
a measurable aspect such as length or width.
Height is one dimension of a cube.

diminuendo

diminutive

adj
/ dɪ'mɪnyədɪv /
L
small especially in size : tiny.
Kerry was first to notice the diminutive hummingbird at the honeysuckle bush.

dimissory

adj
/ 'dɪməsɔrē /
L
dismissing or granting leave to depart.
Upon hearing the principal's dimissory words, the students bolted out of the auditorium.

dinosauric

adj
/ .dɪnə's(ə)rɪk /
Gk + Gk + Ecf
huge.
Angela was astounded by the dinosauric size of the statue of Abraham Lincoln at the Lincoln Memorial.

diocese

n
/ 'dɪəsəs /
Gk > L > F
the district in which a bishop has churchly authority.
The local bishop's diocese covers five counties.

diphtheria

n
/ dɪf'thɪrēə /
Gk
an acute highly contagious bacterial disease chiefly of young children that is marked by swelling and obstruction of the throat.
During the Depression, diphtheria claimed the lives of many children.

diphthong

n
/ dɪf'thɒŋ /
Gk
a gliding monosyllabic sound that starts at or near the articulatory position for one vowel and moves to or toward the position for another.
Many people do not pronounce the diphthong in the word realtor correctly.

diphyodont

adj
/ dɪ'fɪə.dənt /
Gk
having deciduous and permanent sets of teeth successively.
The teeth of most reptiles are naturally replaced throughout life, but most mammals are diphyodont.

diploma

diplopia

n
/ də'plɒpēə /
Gk
a disorder of vision in which two images of a single object are seen, owing to unequal action of the eye muscles.
Shirley noticed that her medicine produced the side effects of dizziness and diplopia.

dipnoous

dipody

n
/ 'dɪpədə /
Gk > L
a prosodic unit or measure of two feet.
The teacher commented on the poet's use of dipody for dramatic effect.

diptych

n
/ 'dɪp(,)tɪk /
Gk
a picture or series of pictures painted on two tablets connected by hinges.
The church's altarpiece is a Byzantine diptych.

diremption

dirigibility

dirigible

n
/ 'dɪrəjəbəl /
L + Ecf
airship.
The explosion of the dirigible Hindenburg is famous for its dramatic radio coverage.

dirigisme

n
/ dɪrɛzhɛsm(ə) /
L > F
economic planning and control by the state.
Dirigisme is a characteristic of socialist law.

dirndl

disaffiliate

disappointed

adj
/ .dɪsə'pɔɪntəd /
L > F
defeated in expectation or hope.
Ken's parents were disappointed that he earned only a D in math.

discalced

adj
/ dɪ'skɑlst /
L
unshod, barefooted.
The discalced runner became a celebrity at the Olympics.

discern

discerp

discerptible

adj
/ dɪ'sɜrptəbəl /
L + Ecf
capable of being torn to pieces or pulled apart.
Al's pet dog made short work of his discerptible stuffed animals.

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disciples

n pl
/ dɪ'sɪpəlz /
L

those who receive instruction from another : followers.

Katrina was among Mr. Crane's musical disciples who assembled for instruction one evening a week.

disclaimant

n
/ dɪ'sklæmənt /
L > F

one who makes a denial or disavowal of legal claim.

The disclaimant did not want any part of his grandfather's estate.

discoloration

discomfiture

n
/ dɪ'skɒmfətʃu(ə)r /
L > F > E

the state of being disconcerted or abashed : confusion, embarrassment.

The bright lights added to Verne's discomfiture as he stood behind the lectern.

discotheque

n
/ 'dɪskə.tek /
Gk > L > F

a nightclub for dancing to recorded music.

Allen is a disk jockey at a popular discotheque in Chicago.

discredit

discrepancy

n
/ dɪ'skrepənsē /
L

difference, variation, inconsistency.

The accountant found a mysterious discrepancy between the two payroll records.

discretion

n
/ dɪ'skreshən /
L

power of decision : individual judgment.

The Constitution was framed and adopted to establish a government that should not depend on state opinion and state discretion.

discursive

disdain

n
/ dɪs'daɪn /
L > F > E

a feeling of contempt and aversion for something regarded as unworthy of or beneath one : scorn, contempt.

"This," said Clara with complete disdain, "is my little brother."

disembogue

v
/ .dɪsəm'bɔg /
L > Sp

discharge water from an outlet or mouth.

Many streams disembogue into the river along its course.

disentangle

v
/ .dɪsən'tæŋgəl /
L > Ecf + E

straighten out : unravel.

Mrs. Luce helped David disentangle the strands of the plot in Hamlet.

disguise

v
/ dɪs'gɪz /
E, F

change the customary dress or appearance of.

Ben tried to disguise his voice when he telephoned Jill.

disingenuousness

n
/ .dɪsən'jenjəwəsənəs /
L

state of being unworthily or meanly artful.

Disingenuousness and double dealing seemed to meet Mr. Churchill at every turn.

disintegration

n
/ dɪs.intə'græʃən /
L

the act or process of shattering suddenly : flying to bits.

Mark caused the disintegration of the mirror when he slammed the door.

disinter

dismal

adj
/ 'dɪzməl /
L > F > E

marked by gloom, dejection, somberness, or depression of spirits.

The children who forgot their gloves spent a dismal recess looking out the window at the snow.

disobey

v
/ .dɪsə'bā /
F

refuse or fail to abide by orders, rules, or laws.

A well-trained dog would not disobey a familiar command.

disparage

v
/ dɪ'spəriːj /
F > E

speak slightly of.

Arthur did not want to disparage his mother's cooking, so he complimented her on her pot roast and secretly fed it to the dog.

disparate

disparity

n
/ dɪ'spərədē /
L

marked difference (as in age, rank, grade, condition, quantity, quality, or kind).

The evil of the actual disparity between Mr. Woodhouse's and his daughter's ages was increased by his constitution and habits.

disponible

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disputatious

adj
/ˌdɪspjəˈtʃhəs /
L

inclined to argue for or against something asserted or maintained.
Helen did not enjoy going to family reunions because of her disputatious relatives.

disquisition

n
/ˌdɪskwəˈzɪʃən /
L

an elaborate analytical or explanatory discussion : discourse.
Rhetta's first book was a lengthy disquisition on the Irish potato famine.

disseminate

dissentient

adj
/dəˈsɛnch(ē)ənt /
L

not concurring : disagreeing.
There was not a dissentient voice on the subject.

dissertation

dissident

dissilient

dissimilitude

n
/dɪ(s)səˈmɪlətəd /
L

lack of resemblance.
Although the plots of Gary's two stories resemble each other, there are several points of dissimilitude.

dissipated

v
/dɪsəˈpædəd /
L

dispelled, dissolved.
Mr. Knightley walked in soon after tea and dissipated every melancholy fancy.

dissonant

dissuade

v
/dəˈswād /
L

divert by advice or persuasion : turn from something by reasoning.
Penny tried to dissuade her friend from making a choice she might later regret.

dissymmetry

n
/dɪ(s)ˈsɪmətrē /
Gk + Gk + Gk
the absence of or the lack of balanced proportions.
The quilt designer was inspired by dissymmetry in crystal formations.

distillate

dithyramb

n
/ˈdɪθəˌrɑm /
Gk
a statement or piece of writing in an exalted impassioned style usually in praise of something.
Dennis launched into a dithyramb on Moira's beauty and manifold virtues.

ditokous

adj
/ˈdɪdəkəs /
Gk
producing two eggs or young at a time.
Most common songbirds are ditokous.

dittology

n
/dɪˈtələj /
Gk
a double reading or twofold interpretation (as of a biblical text).
Millicent's first lecture of the semester was a dittology of the story of Genesis entitled "Serpent or Savior?"

diuretic

diurnal

adj
/dɪˈɔrnəl /
L

active chiefly during the daytime.
Few cats are naturally diurnal, which can be a problem for light-sleeping owners.

divagate

v
/ˈdɪvəˌɡæt /
L
move or extend in different directions from a common point.
Several ancient caravan routes divagate from the extinct oasis.

divergent

divestiture

n
/dɪˈvestətʃu(ə)r /
L + Ecf
the compulsory transfer of title or disposal of interests (as stock in a corporation) upon government order.
The Interstate Commerce Commission ordered the divestiture of the company to be carried out no later than September 30.

division

divorce

divulge

v
/dɪˈvʌlj /
L
tell or make known.
Ken was reluctant to divulge the details of the merger.

docent

n
/ˈdɒsənt /
L
a person who guides groups through a museum or art gallery and discusses and comments on the exhibits.
Judd's interest in ancient history was sparked by a knowledgeable docent during a field trip to a museum.

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docilely

adv
/ 'dāsəl(l)ē /
L

in an obedient or submissive manner.

Greg's pet dog docilely follows his every command.

docility

n
/ də'silədē /
L

the quality or state of being easily taught, led, or managed.

Docility and intelligence are important qualities that breeders look for in the horses they buy.

dockhand

doctrinaire

n
/ .däkrə'nə(a)(ə)r /
L > F

one who attempts to put into effect some especially political theory with little or no regard for practical difficulties.

Benito described his opponent as an ivory-tower doctrinaire.

documentary

n
/ .däkyə'mentərə /
L

a presentation (as a film or novel) that has the objective quality, authority, or force of documentation in the representation of a scene, place, condition of life or of a social or political problem or cause.

The documentary is being produced by environmentalists who protest the destruction of forests.

dolcissimo

adv
/ dōl'chēsə.mō /
L > It

very sweet or soft—used as a direction in music.

The composer and the conductor argued over whether the passage should be played dolcissimo.

doleful

adj
/ 'dōlfəl /
L > E + Ecf

attended with or indicating grief or a morose or despairing attitude.

Martha had a doleful look on her face as she gazed out the window at the rain.

dolioform

adj
/ 'dōlēə.fōrm /
L

shaped like a barrel.

The barrel cactus is a common dolioform plant of the deserts of North and South America.

dolorifuge

n
/ də'lōrə.fyūj /
L > F > E

something that banishes or mitigates grief.

Martina was so heartbroken when her dog died that her dad brought home a new puppy as a dolorifuge.

dolorimetry

dolorous

adj
/ 'dōlərəs /
L

expressive of sorrow or affliction.

In a dolorous voice the reporter described the scene of the disaster.

dolphin

n
/ 'dälfən /
Gk > L > Prov > F > E

any of various small toothed whales with the snout more or less elongated into a beak and the neck vertebrae partially fused.

The trained dolphin performed its feats with great agility and grace.

domain

domestic

adj
/ də'mestik /
L

relating to the household or the family.

Selma's domestic situation changed drastically after she married a pack rat.

domiciliated

v
/ .dämə'silē.ädəd /
L

had established residence : resided.

The schoolmaster was domiciliated in a different village house each week.

domineering

domino

n
/ 'dämənō /
L > F

a flat rectangular block of bone, ivory, wood, or plastic the face of which is divided into two equal parts called “ends” which are blank or bear from one to six dots, used in a set of 28 to play a game in which the ends are matched.

As a joke, Grandpa hid a domino before asking Billy if he'd like to play.

donnism

doraphobia

dorcastry

n
/ 'dōrkəs.trē /

Biblical name + Ecf

a church auxiliary organized to plan and execute benevolent work.

The dorcastry served free Thanksgiving dinners for the homeless.

dormancy

n
/ 'dō(r)mənsē /
L > F > E + Ecf

the quality or state of being inactive.

Certain Australian frogs undergo long periods of dormancy during drought.

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dormitories

dorsicollar

dosage

dossieret

dossier

n
/ 'dɒs.jə /
F
an accumulation of records, reports, miscellaneous pertinent data, and documents bearing on a single subject of study or investigation : file.
The physician kept a careful dossier on each of her patients.

Dostoevskian

adj
/ .dɒstə'jefskɛən /
Russ name
of, relating to, or typical of the Russian novelist Fedor Dostoevski or his writings.
The Dostoevskian character's tortured psychic state gripped and twisted Randy's mind as he read page after page.

dotard

douanier

n
/ dwə'niə /
F
a customs officer.
At the international airport the douanier insisted on searching the luggage of everyone proceeding through customs.

doublure

n
/ .də'blu(ə)r /
L > F
the lining of a book cover; especially : an ornamental lining.
The doublure is an important clue in identifying pirated editions of early novels.

douceur

doughiness

n
/ 'dɒnəs /
E
the quality or state of being not thoroughly baked.
The doughiness of the cake mortified Mrs. Cavendish.

doughty

adj
/ 'daʊdē /
E
[has homonym: dowdy] marked by fearless resolution and by stoutness in contest or struggle : valiant.
Daniel was a soldier's soldier—rough, tough, and doughty.

dowager

n
/ 'daʊəjə(r) /
F
one of the elder women of assured position who tend to set the tone of an assembly, social group, or community.
Great Aunt Georgine is the dowager of the Arts Council.

dowitcher

doxology

n
/ dɒk'sæləj /
Gk
a commonly short hymn or formula expressing praise to God.
One common doxology in Protestant churches is set to a tune called "Old Hundred."

doyen

n
/ 'dɔiən /
L > F
[Note: Could be confused with feminine doyenne.] the senior male member of a body or group (as of a diplomatic corps).
George Burns was the doyen of American stand-up comedians.

draconian

adj
/ drə'kɒniən /
Gk name
marked by extreme severity or cruelty : harsh, rigorous.
The pop star's main residence was on an island where the tax laws were less draconian than in her native England.

drainage

drama

dramaturgy

n
/ 'dræmətərjē /
Gk > L > F > E
the technical devices that are used in writing plays and that tend to distinguish the play from other literary forms.
Shakespeare was skilled at both poetry and dramaturgy.

dreadful

adj
/ 'dredfəl /
E
arousing feelings of disapproval or dissatisfaction.
"Turn off that dreadful song," Cynthia's mom calmly demanded.

dreary

adj
/ 'drirē /
E
being without liveliness, cheer, joy, or hope.
The dreary accountant decided that it was time to take an extended vacation.

dreidel

n
/ 'drādəl /
G > Yiddish
a four-sided die that revolves like a spinning top, that is marked on each side with a different Hebrew letter, and that is used as a toy especially during the Hanukkah festival.
Evan gave each of his classmates a dreidel after presenting his report on traditions associated with Hanukkah.

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drepaniform

adj

/ drə'panəfɔrm /

Gk + Ecf

hooked or curved like a sickle.

As Cliff walked home, the drepaniform Moon did little to light his way.

dressage

n

/ drə'säzh /

F

the execution by a horse of maneuvers involving changes of gait, pace, and airs in response to barely perceptible movements of a rider's hands, legs, and weight.

While in Austria, Derrick attended an exhibition of dressage at a famous equestrian school.

drisheen

n

/ drə'shēn /

IrGael

a sausage prepared with sheep's blood, milk, and seasonings.

While in County Cork, Mr. O'Donnell ordered drisheen and eggs for breakfast.

drivel

v

/ 'drivəl /

E

talk stupidly and carelessly without due thought, knowledge, or consideration.

Bart's opinion is highly valued, for he is not one to drivel.

drogue

n

/ 'drɔg /

E

[has homonym: drog] a sea anchor (as a canvas bag with a hooped mouth) used to reduce the speed of a boat and keep her head into the wind.

The captain yelled at the crew to lower the drogue while he signaled the other boat.

dromedary

n

/ 'drämədəerē /

Gk > L > F > E

a camel of unusual speed, bred and trained especially for riding, and having a single large hump on the back.

Camel rides at the zoo featured a dromedary.

dromomania

n

/ 'drämə'mānēə /

Gk > L

an exaggerated desire to wander.

Yielding to his dromomania, Jack bought a recreational vehicle and spent the summer touring the country.

drone

n

/ 'drɔn /

E

one that lives on the labors of others.

In Sleepy Hollow there were some rustic patrons who considered a schoolmaster a mere drone.

drosophilist

n

/ drɔ'säfələst /

G + L + Ecf

one who uses the vinegar fly in the study of genetics.

The drosophilist has helped to advance our knowledge of genes and the role they play in heredity.

drudgery

n

/ 'drəj(ə)rē /

E

dull, fatiguing, or unrelieved work or expenditure of effort.

Machines now take much of the drudgery out of housework.

druggist

n

/ 'drəgəst /

F

one who sells medicine : pharmacist.

Jean asked her druggist to recommend a cough syrup.

drupaceous

adj

/ drü'päshəs /

Gk > L

of or relating to a one-seeded indehiscent fruit having a hard bony endocarp, a usually fleshy mesocarp, and a thin exocarp that is either like a skin or dry and almost leathery.

Cherries, plums, and almonds are drupaceous fruits.

duarchy

n

/ 'd(y)ü.ärkē /

Gk

a government by two rulers having equal power.

Critics accused the governor of establishing a duarchy with her husband.

dubiety

n

/ d(y)ü'biädē /

L

the quality or state of being doubtful or skeptical : uncertainty. *There was dubiety in his voice and a hint of uncertainty in his eye.*

duchy

ductile

dudgeon

n

/ 'dəjən /

unknown

aggrieved or angered feeling : ill humor.

Fuming at the insult, Carl stalked off in high dudgeon.

duet

n

/ d(y)ü'et /

It

performance of a musical composition or movement for two singers or two instrumentalists.

Stephan and Christiana's duet featured Bach's concerto for two violins in D Minor.

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dulcamara

n
/ dɒlkə'märə /
L

a sprawling Old World poisonous plant that is common as a weed in America and has purple flowers and oval coral-red berries and that has a taste at first sweetish and then bitter.

The dried stems of the dulcamara were once used in pharmaceutical preparations as a sedative.

dulcet

adj
/ 'dʌlsət /
L > F > E

pleasing to the ear.
Hiroshi marveled at the dulcet tones of the quartet.

dulcitude

dullard

n
/ 'dʌlə(r)d /
F

a stupid person.
Barry apologized for rashly calling James a dullard.

dumbbell

n
/ 'dʌm,bel /
E

an exercise device that consists of round weights joined by a bar.
With great effort, Tony hoisted the dumbbell above his shoulder.

dune

dungarees

n pl
/ .dʌŋgə'res /
Hindi

heavy cotton work clothes made usually of heavy, coarse, durable, blue cotton twill.
Greg preferred his faded dungarees to any other pants in his wardrobe.

dungeon

dunnage

n
/ 'dʌnij /
unknown

[Note: Could be confused with tonnage, tunnage.] cushioning or padding used in a shipping container to protect fragile articles against shock and breakage.
Mother used popcorn as dunnage in her gift boxes to her family in Germany.

duodenitis

n
/ d(y)üə.dē'nīdəs /
L

inflammation of the first part of the small intestine.
George's cramps were diagnosed as duodenitis.

duplicitous

duplicity

n
/ d(y)ü'plisədē /
L

deception by pretending to entertain one set of feelings and acting under the influence of another.
When the candidate's duplicity was exposed, his supporters felt embarrassed and betrayed.

durable

adj
/ 'd(y)ürəbəl /
L > F > E

able to exist for a long time : lasting.
Jimmy brought along a pair of durable hiking boots for his trek through the mountainous terrain.

duress

n
/ d(y)ə'res /
L > F > E

[has near homonym: dress] stringent compulsion by threat of danger, hardship, or retribution.
Contracts signed under duress are not valid.

durezza

duvet

n
/ d(y)ü'vā /
ON > F

a warm bedcover : quilt, comforter.
Sally stored her duvet in the linen closet and used a light bedspread during the summer months.

dvandva

n
/ 'dvän(,)dvä /
Skt

a class of compound words having two constituents that are equal in rank and related to each other as if joined by and.
The word secretary-treasurer is an example of a dvandva.

dwarf

n
/ 'dwò(ə)rf /
E

an abnormally small person.
The adult dwarf was offended when people treated him as a child.

dwindling

dynamitard

n
/ 'dīnəmə'tärd /
Gk > Sw + Ecf

one that uses explosives for anarchistic or other political acts of violence.
Police agents seized the dynamitard in an old warehouse.

dynamite

dynasty

dysbarism

dyscalculia

n
/ .dɪskəl'kyülēə /
Gk + L

impairment of mathematical ability due to an organic condition of the brain.
Because she disliked math class so much, Kathy was convinced that she suffered from dyscalculia.

dysentery

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dyskinesia

n
/ ˌdɪskəˈnēzh(ē)ə /
Gk

impaired or abnormal motion of voluntary or involuntary muscle.
Some drugs that are used to treat psychiatric disorders can have dyskinesia as a side effect.

dyslexia

n
/ dəˈsleksēə /
Gk

a disturbance of the ability to read.
In Maria's school, students with dyslexia are given special training to improve their reading, spelling, and writing.

dyspepsia

dyspeptic

adj
/ dəˈspeptɪk /
Gk

gloomy or negative.
The editor's dyspeptic views on the election irritated many readers.

dysphemia

dysphemism

n
/ ˈdɪsfəˌmɪzəm /
L

substitution of a disagreeable, offensive, or disparaging word or expression for an agreeable or inoffensive one; also, a word or expression so substituted.
Rachel, whose father is an auto mechanic, cringes every time she hears the dysphemism grease monkey.

dysphoria

n
/ dəˈsfɔːrēə /
Gk

a generalized state of feeling unwell or unhappy.
Edith has had frequent crying spells and periods of dysphoria since early childhood.

dysrhythmia

n
/ dəsˈrɪθmə /
Gk

a condition characterized by various psychological and physiological effects and which occurs following long flight through several time zones and probably results from disruption of human body rhythms that occur in 24-hour cycles : jet lag.
The travel agent gave the tour group several tips on how to avoid dysrhythmia.

dystopia

n
/ dɪˈstɒpiə /
Gk

an imaginary place which is distressingly wretched and whose people lead a fearful existence.
The science-fiction tale was set in a 23rd-century dystopia.

eagle

eaglet

earlobe

earnest

n
/ ˈɛrnəst /
E

[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word.]
something of value given by a buyer to a seller to bind a bargain.
Ms. Giblin gave the sellers \$3,000 as earnest so that they would not entertain other offers.

eavesdrop

ebony

ebriosity

ebullience

ebullient

adj
/ əˈbʊljənt /
L

characterized by enthusiasm or exuberance.
Angela tried to be as ebullient as possible during the cheerleading tryouts.

ebullition

eburnated

eccentric

ecchymosis

n
/ ˌekəˈmɒsəs /
Gk > L

the escape of blood into the tissues from ruptured blood vessels marked by a livid black-and-blue or purple spot or area.
A black eye results from ecchymosis.

ecclesiastic

n
/ əˈklɛzēˈastɪk /
Gk

a person in holy orders or consecrated to the service of the church.
The new bishop was an ecclesiastic of high learning and virtue.

ecclesiastical

adj
/ əˈklɛzēˈastɪkəl /
Gk > L

belonging to, suggestive of, or suitable for use in a church building or service of worship.
Ramona designed and sewed all the ecclesiastical garments worn in the church's services.

ecclesiology

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ecesis

n
/ ə'sēsəs /
Gk

the successful establishment of a plant or animal in a new environment or habitat.

Ecesis by an introduced species often threatens native flora or fauna.

echelon

n
/ 'eshəlän /
L > F

one of a series of levels or grades (as of leadership or responsibility) in an organization or field of activity.

Employees at every echelon of the company were encouraged to make suggestions.

echelonment

echinoderm

n
/ ə'kinədərm /
Gk

any of a phylum of radially symmetrical marine animals that have a true body cavity, a calcareous exoskeleton, a blood-vascular system, a nervous system, and a water-vascular system that provides tentacles and organs of locomotion.

The starfish is a familiar echinoderm.

echoed

v
/ 'e(.)kəd /
Gk

resounded with sounds caused by reflections of sound waves.

Reanna's words echoed back to her from across the canyon.

echolalia

n
/ ekəlälēə /
Gk + Gk

the often pathological repetition of what is said by other people as if imitating them.

The speech of autistic persons is sometimes characterized by echolalia.

echt

adj
/ 'ekt /
G

genuine, authentic.

All the lamps were very attractive, but only one was echt Tiffany.

eclectic

adj
/ e'klektik /
Gk + Gk

composed of elements drawn from various sources.

Gaynor's eclectic taste in music makes selecting CDs for her a cinch.

eclipse

n
/ ə'klips /
L > F > E

the obscuration of one celestial body by another.

Susan and Stuart flew to Mexico to view a total eclipse of the Sun.

eclogue

n
/ 'eklög /
Gk > L

a poem in which shepherds are introduced conversing.

The bucolic view of meadows and hills inspired Shelley to compose an eclogue.

ecocatastrophe

n
/ ē(.)kōkə'tastrə(.)fē /
Gk

a major destructive upset in the balance of nature especially when caused by the intervention of humans.

Sam considers the destruction of the rain forests an ecocatastrophe.

ecologist

n
/ ē'käləjəst /
Gk > G

a specialist in the branch of science concerned with the interrelationship of organisms and their environment.

Kimberly will work as a summer intern for an ecologist in the Everglades.

economist

n
/ ē'känəməst /
Gk

a specialist in or student of the social science that studies the production, distribution, and consumption of commodities.

Adam Smith was the most influential economist of the 18th century.

ecru

n
/ ā'krü /
L > F

[has near homonym: accrue] of a textile : a light grayish yellowish brown that is yellower and lighter than gravel.

The bridal gown is available in both ecru and white.

ecstasy

ecstatic

adj
/ ek'stadik /
Gk

caused by, expressing, or causing a state of exaltation or rapturous delight.

Maria was ecstatic when her boyfriend proposed to her.

ectocanthion

n
/ ektə'kan(t)thēən /
Gk + Gk

the point at which the outer ends of the upper and lower eyelids meet.

Plastic surgery was needed to repair an injury to the patient's face at the ectocanthion.

ectoplasm

n
/ 'ektəplazəm /
Gk

the emanation from a spiritualistic medium that is believed to effect telekinesis and similar phenomena.

In the movies people are always getting slimed by what they call "ectoplasm," but if it exists, it would more likely look like mist.

ecuelle

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ecumenism

n
/ 'ekyəmənizəm /
Gk + Ecf
principles and practices relating to or promoting worldwide Christian unity.

The World Council of Churches is a major force in the religious movement known as "ecumenism."

ecumenopolis

n
/ 'ekyəmənəpələs /
Gk
a single city encompassing the whole world that is held to be a possibility of the future.
Many science fiction stories are based on the premise of Earth's future ecumenopolis.

eczematous

adj
/ ig'zēmədəs /
Gk
relating to or having the characteristics of an inflammatory skin condition characterized by redness, itching, and lesions.
Eczematous skin eruptions may be due to allergies to certain foods, drugs, or cosmetics.

edacious

adj
/ ə'dāshəs /
L + Ecf
[has near homonym: audacious]
voracious, devouring.
Mary Ellen's edacious appetite for gossip is offensive to all.

edaphon

n
/ 'edə.fän /
Gk > ISV
the animal and plant life present in soils.
Stephanie is studying the edaphon of the river delta.

edelweiss

n
/ 'äd'l.wīs /
G
a small perennial herb growing high in the Alps.
Eva recognized the edelweiss by its distinctive white petals.

edentulate

edentulous
adj
/ ɛ'denchələs /
L
lacking teeth; especially : having lost teeth previously present.
When Susie skipped into the second grade classroom, she gave Miss O'Connell an edentulous grin.

edible

edification

n
/ .edəfə'kāshən /
L
a building up of the mind, character, or faith : intellectual, moral, or spiritual improvement.
Though she knew that the word origins wouldn't be on the test, Tara studied them for her own edification.

edifice

n
/ 'edəfəs /
L
building; especially : a large or massive structure (as a church or government building).
To Amy, the most beautiful edifice in our nation's capital is the National Cathedral.

editorial

edulcorate

v
/ ə'dəlkə.rāt /
L
free from harshness (as of attitude)
: make pleasant.
Ben is under the mistaken impression that his flattery will edulcorate the stern judge.

eerily

efface

effectually

adv
/ ə'fekch(əw)əlē /
L&F > E
in a manner producing the desired results.
A warm drink is said to fortify one effectually against the cold.

effervesce

effervescent

adj
/ .efə(r)'ves'nt /
L
impossible or difficult to restrain or suppress : bubbling, exuberant.
Sean's effervescent personality caught the attention of the job recruiter.

effete

efficacious

efficacy

n
/ 'efəkəsē /
L
the power to produce an effect : effectiveness.
For Harriet, the idea of being preferred by Mr. Elton had all the usual weight and efficacy.

efficiency

effigy

n
/ 'efəjē /
L > F
a full or partial representation especially of a person.
Andy felt a chill when he spotted the effigy of his ancestor in the cathedral crypt.

effleurage

n
/ .eflə'rāzh /
L > F
a light stroking movement used in massage.
Abdominal effleurage is a technique used in prepared childbirth.

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efflorescence

n
/ ɛflə'resəns(t)s /

L
the result or culminating feature of a developmental process : outgrowth, flower.

The museum guide commented that change in art is merely the efflorescence of certain long prepared and anticipated effects.

effluent

n
/ ɛ.flüənt /

L
[Note: Could be confused with affluent.] something that flows out, as liquid discharged as waste (as water used in an industrial process).
The effluent from the cooling tower is pure water.

effluvium

n
/ ɛ'flüvĕəm /

L
an exhalation or smell especially when unpleasant.

The effluvium from the backed-up drain nauseated Mr. Locke.

effrontery

n
/ ə'frɒntərĕ /

L > F
flagrant boldness that is offensive or insolent : gall.

Chuck had the effrontery to interrupt the senator during his speech.

effulgence

effulgent

adj
/ ɛ'fjələnt /

L
marked by or as if by brightly shining light.
An effulgent flash of intuition enabled Tony to solve the geometry exam's final problem.

effusive

adj
/ ə'fyüsiv /

L
expressing or marked by unrestrained emotion : unduly demonstrative.
Troy was bowled over by the effusive greeting of his Labrador retriever.

egalitarian

adj
/ (i)ĕ.gələ'terĕən /

L > F
marked by or adhering to a belief that all persons are equal in intrinsic worth and are entitled to equal access to the rights and privileges of their society.
The senator promised to help create and expand opportunities and distribute them in an egalitarian fashion.

egocentric

adj
/ ĕgə'sentrik /

L + Gk > E
self-centered, selfish.
Dillard's friends claimed there was not an egocentric bone in his body.

egocentricity

n
/ ĕgə(ɪ)sen'trisədĕ /

L + Gk > L
the quality or state of being concerned with oneself rather than with others.
The conductor's egocentricity made his interaction with the musicians less than harmonious.

egregious

adj
/ ə'grĕjəs /

L
flagrant : glaringly evident.
As a medical researcher, Laura knew that many of the reports of medical breakthroughs on television contained egregious errors.

egregiously

egress

n
/ ɛ'grɛs /

L
the act or right of going or coming out.
Every hotel should provide accessible ways of egress.

eider

eiderdown

n
/ ɪd(ə)daʊn /

ON > Icel > G
the small fluffy under feathers of any of several large northern sea ducks.
The price tag on the sleeping bag stuffed with eiderdown shocked Kevin's parents.

eidetic

adj
/ ɪ'dedik /

Gk
[has near homonym: identic] of or relating to voluntarily producible visual images having almost photographic accuracy : vivid, lifelike.
Sometimes Grandma would fall into eidetic reveries and talk to her long-deceased brother.

eigne

n
/ ɪn.körn /

G
a one-grained wheat that is regarded by some as the most primitive wheat and is grown especially in poor soils in central Europe.
Einkorn grown in southeastern Turkey is believed to be closely related to a grain first domesticated as early as 9000 B.C.

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Einsteinian

adj
/ 'ɪnz.tɪn.i.ən /
G name

of or relating to American physicist and mathematician Albert Einstein or his theories.

The Einsteinian theory of special relativity revolutionized the field of physics.

einsteinium

ejector

ekistics

n pl
/ ə'kɪstɪks /
Gk

a science dealing with human settlements and drawing on the research and experience of professionals in various fields (as architecture, engineering, city planning, and sociology).

Dora's degree in sociology aided her in her study of ekistics.

elasticity

electrolysis

n
/ ə.lek'træləsəs /
Gk

the destruction of hair roots with an electric current.

Electrolysis was one of the means of hair removal demonstrated in Roweena's cosmetology class.

electuary

n
/ ə'lek.chə.werē /
Gk > L > E

a medicated paste prepared with honey or other sweet substance, used in veterinary practice, and administered by smearing on the teeth, gums, or tongue.

The veterinarian patiently smeared an electuary on the horse's gums.

eleemosynary

adj
/ elə'mäs'nerē /
L

of or relating to charity : charitable, philanthropic.

Participation in eleemosynary activities is a graduation requirement at Janie's school.

elegiacal

elementary

elephant

n
/ 'eləfənt /
Hamitic? > Gk > L > F

any of a family of thickset extremely large nearly hairless herbivorous mammals that have a snout elongated into a muscular trunk and two incisors in the upper jaw developed especially in the male into large ivory tusks.

Zack and Debbie enjoyed watching the elephant use its trunk to spray water on its back.

elephantine

adj
/ elə'fan.tēn /
Gk > L

of enormous size or weight : uncommonly large : immense, massive.

Troy was served an elephantine ice cream sundae.

eligible

adj
/ 'eləjəbəl /
L

[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word.]
preferable, desirable.

The quietness of the game made it particularly eligible for Mr. Woodhouse, who had often been distressed by the more animated sort.

elision

n
/ ə'lɪzən /
L

the use of a speech form that lacks a final or initial sound that a variant speech form has.

Today's French class concentrated on when to use elision.

elitist

adj
/ ə'lɪtəst /
L > F

of or relating to a consciousness of being one of a segment or group regarded as socially superior.

The private school offers many need-based scholarships to combat the impression that its student body is elitist.

elixir

n
/ ə'liksə(r) /
Gk? > Ar > L > E

a substance or concoction held to be capable of prolonging life indefinitely.

Explorers through the ages have sought the elixir of life, better known as the "fountain of youth."

ellipse

n
/ ə'lips /
Gk

an elongated circle.

The walking path behind the school forms an ellipse around the tennis courts.

ellipses

n pl
/ ɛ'lip.sēz /
Gk

[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word.]

omissions of one or more words that are obviously understood but must be supplied to make a construction grammatically complete.

Pat's use of suspension periods to punctuate her main character's ellipses visually portrays the character's disjointed thought.

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ellipticity

elocution

n
/ ˌeləˈkyʊʃən /

L
the art of oratorical or expressive public speaking.
Senator Okada is a master of elocution.

eloquence

n
/ ˈeləkwən(t)s /

L
discourse marked by apt and fluent diction and imaginative fervor.
The defense lawyer addressed the courtroom audience with eloquence.

elucidate

v
/ əˈlʊsəˌdāt /

L
make intelligible by clear explanation or careful analysis.
Belinda asked Mrs. Dent to elucidate the complicated essay question.

elutriation

emaciated

adj
/ əˈmāʃēˌādəd /

L
made lean by impairment (as from hunger).
The emaciated cat stared at Tina with hollow eyes.

emanation

n
/ ˌeməˈnāʃən /

L
a flowing forth.
The air was tainted with the musky emanation from the alligator pen.

emancipation

n
/ əˌman(t)səˈpāʃən /

L
the act or process of setting or making free; broadly : deliverance from any onerous and controlling power.
Abraham Lincoln's decree proclaiming emancipation for slaves came as a joyous daybreak to end the long night of captivity.

emanometer

n
/ ˌeməˈnämədə(r) /

L + Gk
any of various devices designed to measure quantities or intensity of a heavy gaseous element produced by radioactive disintegration.
The emanometer detected dangerous amounts of radon in Theo's basement.

embarcadero

n
/ ɛmˌbärkəˈde(,)rō /

L > Sp
a landing place; especially : a landing place on an inland waterway.
An organ grinder and his monkey entertained visitors at the embarcadero of the restored village.

embargo

n
/ əmˈbär(,)gō /

L > Sp
an edict or order of the government prohibiting the departure or entry of ships of commerce at ports within its dominions.
In defiance of the embargo, the boat slipped out of the harbor at night.

embarrass

embarrassment

n
/ əmˈbarəsmənt /

Pg > Sp > F
confusion or discomposure of mind.
Locking his car keys in his car trunk caused Andy much embarrassment.

embassy

embellish

v
/ əmˈbelɪʃ /

F > E
enhance, amplify, or garnish (an account) by elaboration with inessential but decorative or fanciful details.
Ivan likes to embellish his stories a little differently each time he tells them.

embezzlement

n
/ əmˈbezəlmənt /

F > AF > E
fraudulent appropriation of money by a person to whom it has been entrusted.
The FBI investigation led to the union leader's indictment for embezzlement.

emblazon

v
/ əmˈblāzən /

Lcf > Ecf + F > E
set off conspicuously (as by rich or brilliant decorations).
Andrea asked the seamstress to emblazon the sweater with embroidered flowers.

emblem

embolism

n
/ ˈembəlɪzəm /

Gk
the sudden obstruction of a blood vessel by a foreign or abnormal particle (as a bubble of air or a blood clot).
Careless administration of an injection can cause an embolism.

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embouchure

n
/ 'æmbü.shü(ə)r /
L > F
the position and use of the lips in producing a musical tone on a wind instrument.
After six weeks of criticism about her poor embouchure, Kirsten switched from the clarinet to the piano.

embracery

n
/ əm'brās(ə)rē /
F > E
the act of one who attempts to or acts so as to influence a court, jury, or other office or officer corruptly (as by promises, money, or threats).
After trying to bribe a juror, the mobster was arrested and charged with embracery.

embrasure

n
/ əm'brāzhə(r) /
F
an opening with sides flaring outward in a wall or parapet of a fortification usually for allowing the firing of cannon.
Bobby and Jackie amused themselves during the castle tour by climbing into every embrasure to look out the windows.

embrocate

embrocation

n
/ .embrə'kāshən /
Gk > L
liniment.
The fact that Della's throat is so much better can be attributed to the excellent embrocation her mother applied regularly.

embroidery

embryo

embryonic

adj
/ .embrē'änik /
Gk > L + Ecf
being in an early and undeveloped stage.
Delia disclosed embryonic plans for the new theater.

emerald

n
/ 'em(ə)rəld /
Gk > L > F > E
a highly prized gemstone of rich green color.
Beth's grandfather has a lovely unmounted emerald that he plans to give to her for a graduation present.

emeritus

adj
/ ə'merədəs /
L
retired from an office after gaining recognition.
Our summer school teacher, Dr. Benteen, is Professor Emeritus of history from Dartmouth University.

emigrant

n
/ 'eməgrənt /
L
[has near homonym: immigrant] a person who leaves a country or region to establish permanent residence elsewhere.
Sidney's great-great-grandfather was an Irish emigrant during the potato famine.

eminent

adj
/ 'emənənt /
L
[has homonym and near homonyms: emanent and immanent, imminent] standing out so as to be readily perceived.
The National Cathedral is a building of eminent beauty.

eminently

emissaries

emissary

n
/ 'eməsərē /
L
an agent or representative usually empowered to act more or less independently.
Each government sent an emissary to the trade talks.

emolliate

emollient

adj
/ ə'mälyənt /
L
[Note: Could be confused with emolument.] soothing especially to the skin or mucous membrane.
Erna usually applies an emollient cream to her hands after washing dishes.

emolument

n
/ ə'mälyəmənt /
L
[Note: Could be confused with emollient.] profit or perquisites from office, employment, or labor.
The waitress who did not report the tips portion of her emolument faced incarceration for tax evasion.

empanada

n
/ .empə'nädə /
L > Sp
a turnover filled with meat.
For the hike Luke packed an empanada and an apple in his knapsack.

empathy

empennage

n
/ .ämpə'näzh /
Fcf + L + Fcf
the tail assembly of an aircraft.
After the accident the FAA ordered the airline to inspect the empennage of every plane in its fleet.

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emphatically

adv
/ ɛm'fadəkəleɪ /
Gk

in a markedly forceful manner.
At the school board meeting Jonah spoke emphatically in favor of requiring students to wear uniforms.

emphysema

n
/ ɛm(p)fə'zɛmə /
Gk

a condition characterized by air-filled, blisterlike expansions in the tissues of the lungs.
Most cases of emphysema are caused by smoking.

empirical

adj
/ ɛm'pɪrɪkəl /
Gk > L

originating in or relying or based on factual information, observation, or direct sense experience usually as opposed to theoretical knowledge.
Epidemiologists rely heavily on empirical data in predicting the spread of a contagious disease.

empleomania

n
/ ɛmpleɔ'mānɪə /
F > Sp + Gk > L

an excessive desire for holding public office.
Otis's empleomania drove him to squander his fortune on political campaigns.

emporium

empyrean

n
/ ɛm.pɪ'rɛən /
Gk > L

the highest heaven or heavenly sphere in ancient and medieval cosmology usually described as a sphere of fire or light.
According to Ptolemy, there are five heavens, the last of which is called the "empyrean," from the Greek word meaning "fiery."

emu

emulate

enamel

encephalitis

n
/ ɛn.sefə'lɪdɪs /
Gk

inflammation of the brain, especially when due to infectious agents or their toxins.
The symptoms of encephalitis usually include fever, headache, and tremors.

enchilada

n
/ enchə'lādə /
Sp

a tortilla topped or rolled up with a highly seasoned meat or other filling and served with tomato sauce seasoned with chili.
The sampler platter included a taco, an enchilada, and a burrito.

enclave

n
/ ɛn.klāv /
L > F

a district or region (as in a city) inhabited by a particular race or set apart for a special purpose.
The Warsaw Ghetto was an infamous enclave during World War II.

enclitic

encomium

n
/ ɛn'kɔmɪəm /
Gk

an often formal expression of warm or high praise : eulogy.
At the dedication of the war memorial, the president offered an encomium for the fallen heroes.

encore

n
/ ɛn.kɔ(ə)r /
L > F

the further appearance of a performer or an additional performance requested by an audience.
The audience was so thrilled by the singer's rendition of the aria that it cheered for an encore.

encroachment

n
/ ɛn'krɔtʃ.mənt /
Scand > F > E

advancement beyond set limits.
When a football player enters the neutral zone and makes contact with an opponent before the ball is snapped, the head linesman will penalize the team for encroachment.

encumbrance

encyclical

endemic

adj
/ ɛn'dɛmɪk /
Gk

peculiar to a locality or region.
Despite its name, Rocky Mountain spotted fever is not endemic to the western United States.

endocrinology

endophytous

adj
/ ɛn'däfədəs /
Gk

living within the tissues of plants.
Most vascular plants could not grow without the endophytous fungi that inhabit their roots and supply essential nutrients.

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endorphin

n
/ en'dɔrfɪn /
Gk > ISV
any of a group of proteins with potent pain-killing properties that occur naturally in the brain.
In long-distance runners, elevated blood levels of endorphin can prevent the pain of sustained exertion.

endorsement

endow

endurable

energetic

adj
/ .enə(r)'jɛdɪk /
Gk
marked by energy.
The energetic captain kept the police force ready for any emergency.

enervate

v
/ 'enə(r),vāt /
L
[has near homonym with opposite meaning: innervate] lessen the nerve, vitality, or strength of.
Being outside in the heat of the day would enervate Grandma, so she weeds her garden in the cool hours of early morning.

enervated

adj
/ 'enə(r),vādəd /
L
lacking physical, mental, or moral vigor.
After the 15-mile mountain hike, Marsha found herself completely enervated.

enfilade

n
/ 'enfə.lād /
F
arrangement (as of rooms, doorways, trees) in opposite and parallel rows.
The hallway of the huge hotel was seemingly endless, with an enfilade of doors appearing to grow ever tinier in the distance.

enfranchisement

n
/ ən'frɑn.tʃɪzmənt /
F > E
the act of endowing with a constitutional or statutory right or privilege; especially : the act of endowing with the right to vote.
It is hard to believe today that segments of American society were once denied enfranchisement.

engineer

n
/ enjə'ni(ə)r /
F > E
a person trained to plan and supervise projects in a technical field.
The chief engineer and his team designed a flood control plan for the city.

engrossed

adj
/ ən'grɔst /
L > AF > E
completely occupied or absorbed.
Engrossed in her book, Mary did not hear her mother's repeated calls for her to come downstairs.

enhance

enigmatic

adj
/ .e(,)nɪg'madɪk /
Gk > L
inexplicable, puzzling.
Marla scribbled an enigmatic message on Lance's arm cast.

enlightenment

n
/ ən'lɪt'nmənt /
Ecf + E + Ecf
the act or means of furnishing with useful information.
The rules of the debate will be posted on the bulletin board for the enlightenment of all participants.

enmity

n
/ 'enmədē /
L > F
hostility, animosity.
The enmity which Mr. and Mrs. Elton dared not show in open disrespect to Miss Woodhouse found a broader vent in contemptuous treatment of her best friend.

ennead

enneastyle

adj
/ 'enēə.stɪl /
Gk + Gk
marked with columniation with nine columns across the front.
The new monument has an enneastyle arrangement with Corinthian columns.

ennui

n
/ ən'wē /
F
languor or emptiness of spirit : boredom.
Though she claimed to dislike school, Tara felt a certain ennui when not doing something academic.

ensconce

v
/ ənz'kæn(t)s /
L > F > E
place or hide (as oneself) securely : conceal.
Jared was able to ensconce himself behind the sofa before his brother came looking for him.

ensconced

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ensemble

n
/ ˈænˈsæmbəl /
L > F

a group of supporting players, singers, or dancers.

The principals in the play were ably supported by the ensemble.

ensilage

entablature

entangled

adj
/ ɛnˈtæŋɡəld /
E

involved in a perplexing or troublesome situation from which escape is difficult.

Several birds got entangled in the net Mr. Cantrell placed over his cherry tree.

entente

n
/ ɛnˈtænt /
L > F

a written or unwritten international understanding usually less formally binding than an alliance.

The president decided that her government's policy of isolationism would not be broken by an entente.

entertain

enthymeme

n
/ ˈɛn(t)θəˌmɛm /
Gk

an argument or truncated syllogism in which one of the propositions is understood but not stated.

A good example of an enthymeme is the statement "We are dependent; therefore, we should be humble."

entitle

entomogenous

adj
/ ɛntəˈmɛjənəs /
Gk

growing on or in the bodies of insects.

Some scale insects that feed on trees have entomogenous fungi.

entomologist

n
/ ɛntəˈmɒləjəst /
Gk

one specializing in the study of insects.

Dirk has wanted to be an entomologist since he was in the third grade.

entourage

n
/ ɛntəˈræʒ /
L > F

one's attendants or subordinates.

The rock star and his entourage occupied an entire floor of the hotel.

entrance

entrecote

n
/ ɛnˈtrækəʊt /
L > F

a steak cut from between the ribs; sometimes : sirloin.

Martha's health-conscious brother turned down an entrecote in favor of a flank steak.

entremets

n pl
/ ɛntrəˈmɛ(z) /
L > F
dishes (as vegetables or savories) served in addition to the main course of a meal.

At some restaurants, entremets must be ordered separately from the main course.

entrepreneur

n
/ ɛntrəˈp(r)əˌnɔːr /
L > F

the organizer of an economic venture; especially : one who organizes, owns, manages, and assumes the risks of a business.

The local college gives accounting classes for the first-time entrepreneur.

enumerate

enunciate

v
/ ɛˈnʌn(t)sɪˌeɪt /
L

utter articulate sounds.

Mr. Dubek reminded Val to stand straight and enunciate clearly.

enunciator

environs

n pl
/ ɛnˈvɪrənz /
L > F > E

vicinity, neighborhood.

Residents of the subdivision and its immediate environs are eligible to join the neighborhood pool association.

envisage

v
/ ɛnˈvɪzɪj /
F

have a mental picture of in advance of realization.

Benjamin could scarcely envisage the scale of the project, so he broke it down into smaller, more manageable units.

envisagement

enzyme

n
/ ˈɛn.zɪm /
Gk

any of a very large class of complex proteinaceous substances that are produced by living cells and that are essential to life by acting as catalysts.

Emil Fischer theorized in 1894 that an enzyme acts like a lock to which a certain reactant is the key.

ephapse

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ephedrine

n
/ ə'fedrɪn /
Gk

a white crystalline alkaloid used often in the form of a salt (as the sulfate) chiefly in relieving hay fever, asthma, and nasal congestion.
Ephedrine has been used to treat the bronchoconstriction associated with asthma.

ephemeral

ephemeris

n
/ ə'fem(ə)rəs /
Gk

a publication giving the computed places of the celestial bodies for each day of the year.
Tracy's attorney consulted an ephemeris to verify her story about having seen Venus on the morning of the crime.

epicede

n
/ 'epəsɛd /
Gk

a funeral song or ode.
The poet laureate composed an epicede for the queen's funeral.

epicure

epicurean

adj
/ epə'kyərəən /
Gk name > L + Ecf
stimulating and satisfying to the senses.
The presentation of the epicurean dishes was as delightful as their taste and aroma.

epicycle

n
/ 'epəsɪkəl /
Gk

a circle in which a planet moves and which has a center that is itself carried around at the same time on the circumference of a larger circle.
Ancient astronomers used the epicycle to explain their theory that Earth is at the center of the solar system.

epidemic

epidermis

n
/ .epə'dərməs /
Gk

the outer layer of the skin of a vertebrate.
The paper cut, though painful, barely broke Kayla's epidermis.

epigram

n
/ 'epə.gram /
Gk

a short poem with a witty or satirical point.
Kelly kept a calendar on her desk that gave a humorous epigram for each day of the year.

epilepsy

n
/ 'epəlepsē /
Gk

a chronic nervous disorder of humans and other animals that involves changes in the state of consciousness and of motion.
Epilepsy is sometimes caused by glandular disturbances.

epiphany

n
/ ə'pɪfənē /
Gk

an appearance or revelatory manifestation of a divine being or a god.
Apuleius's Metamorphoses includes a description of an epiphany of the goddess Isis.

episcopacy

episode

n
/ 'epəsəd /
Gk

the part of a radio, television, or motion-picture serial presented at one performance.
The ending of each episode of the soap opera left one wanting to see the next episode.

epistemology

n
/ ə'pɪstə'mäləjē /
Gk

the study of the method and grounds of knowledge especially with reference to its limits and validity; broadly : the theory of knowledge.
The middle books of Plato's Republic are the key to his epistemology.

epistle

epistolary

adj
/ ə'pɪstələrē /
L

written in the form of a series of letters.
Evan read four epistolary novels last summer.

epistrophe

epitaph

epitaphs

n pl
/ 'epətəfs /
Gk

inscriptions on or at tombs or graves in memory of those buried there.
For amusement the children like to read the epitaphs in the old church cemetery.

epitasis

n
/ ə'pɪdəsəs /
Gk

the part of a play developing the main action and leading to the catastrophe.
During the epitasis the characters developed relationships that would complicate their lives.

epithet

n
/ 'epəθet /
Gk

a disparaging or abusive word or phrase.
Donnie apologized for shouting an epithet at Mr. Garibaldi.

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epitome

epitomize

v
/ ə'pidə.mīz /

Gk
serve as the typical representation of.

Sharon's choice of clothing must surely be an attempt to epitomize bad taste.

epizootic

adj
/ epəzə'wädik /

Gk
of or relating to a disease affecting many animals of one kind at the same time.

Great measures are being taken to ensure that the epizootic foot-and-mouth disease does not enter the United States.

epoch

epoche

eponymous

adj
/ ə'pänəməs /
Gk + Ecf

bearing the name of, being, or relating to one for whom or which something is named.

Jason will play the role of Julius Caesar in the drama club's presentation of the eponymous play.

epopee

epyllion

n
/ e'pilēən /
Gk

a relatively short narrative poem resembling an epic in theme, tone, or style.

Is "Hiawatha" short enough to be considered an epyllion?

equanimity

n
/ ēkwə'nimədə /
L

evenness of mental disposition : emotional balance especially under stress.

The writer learned to accept with equanimity the rejections from publishers.

equation

equator

n
/ ē'kwādə(r) /
L

the great circle of the celestial sphere whose plane is perpendicular to the axis of Earth.
Spring begins when the Sun moves north across the equator.

equatorial

adj
/ ēkwə'tōrēəl /

L
of, at, or relating to the equator.
The length of the days and nights doesn't vary much in equatorial regions.

equestrienne

equilateral

equilibrist

n
/ ēkwə'librəst /
L > F

one who balances himself in unnatural positions and performs hazardous movements.
Of all the acts in the circus, Yancy liked the equilibrist best.

equilibrium

n
/ ēkwə'librēəm /
L

a state of dynamic balance attained in a reversible chemical reaction when the velocities in both directions are equal.

Marge injected a flask of colorless nitrogen dioxide with dinitrogen tetroxide, a brown gas, to illustrate chemical equilibrium: When equilibrium occurred, the gas in the flask stopped becoming browner.

equine

equinoctial

adj
/ ēkwə'näkshəl /
L > F > E

relating to either of the two times each year when the Sun crosses the equator and day and night are everywhere of equal length.

Marge began making preparations for her annual spring equinoctial festival.

equinox

n
/ 'ēkwənäks /
L > E

either of the two times each year when the Sun crosses the equator and day and night are everywhere of equal length, being about March 21st and September 23rd.

Legend has it that you can balance an egg on its end only during the equinox.

equipage

equipment

equipoise

v
/ 'ēkwə'pōiz /
L + L > F

put or hold in a state of equilibrium or balance.

Tod's efforts to equipoise the opposing interests of the two groups enabled them to coexist civilly.

equipped

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equitable

equity

n
/ 'ekwədə /

L
the money value of a property or of an interest in a property in excess of claims or liens (as mortgaged indebtedness) against it.
During the three-year real estate boom, Jan's home equity went up 300%.

equivalent

adj
/ ə'kwiv(ə)lənt /

L
corresponding or virtually identical especially in effect or function.
Butter and margarine are equivalent in most recipes.

equivocate

v
/ ə'kwivəkāt /

L
avoid committing oneself in what one says : speak evasively.
When confronted with the facts, Bernie realized it would do no good to equivocate.

eradicable

eradicate

v
/ ə'radəkāt /

L
[has homonym with opposite meaning: irradiate] do away with : destroy completely.
Many wheat farmers use aerial sprays to eradicate weeds, diseases, and insect pests from their fields.

erasable

adj
/ ə'rāsəbəl /

L
capable of being rubbed or scraped out or removed from existence or memory.
Penelope signed the contract with erasable ink.

erasure

eremology

n
/ erə'mäləjē /
Gk + Gk

a science concerned with the desert and its phenomena.
Professor Heath's research on desert flora was hailed as a significant contribution to eremology.

ergot

n
/ 'ərgət /
F

a fungal disease of rye and other cereals.
An outbreak of ergot destroyed Mr. Kern's crop.

ermine

n
/ 'ərmən /
Gmc > F > E

any of several weasels that assume white winter fur usually with more or less black on the tail.
Despite the outcry of animal activists, the fine fur of the ermine is still used for ornamentation of some designer clothing.

errancy

errand

erroneous

ersatz
adj
/ 'er.zäts /

G
substitute, synthetic : simulated.
Because copper was needed for armaments, pennies were made with an ersatz material during World War II.

erubescant

adj
/ er(y)ə'bes'nt /

L
becoming red : reddening.
Eufemia's erubescant complexion made her embarrassment obvious.

erudite

adj
/ 'eryədīt /
L > E

characterized by a love of knowledge for its own sake : devoted to the pursuit of learning.
The speaker's presentation was a compilation of research that would interest only the most erudite scholars in his field.

erudition

n
/ 'eryədishən /
L

an extensive knowledge acquired chiefly from books.
The schoolmaster was esteemed as a man of great erudition.

erumpent

escalator

escamotage

n
/ eskāmötāāzh /
F

juggling, hand trickery.
The street magician accompanied his deft escamotage with jokes and a distracting patter.

escargot

n
/ eskārgō /
OProv > F

a snail prepared for use as food.
Saul fished the escargot out of its shell with a tiny fork and popped it into his mouth.

escarpment

n
/ ə'skärpmənt /
F

a long cliff or steep slope separating two comparatively level or more gently sloping surfaces.
From the top of the escarpment, Peter had a commanding view of both baseball fields.

eschew

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eschewal

n
/ əs(h)'chüəl /
Gmc > F > E
shunning, avoidance.
Peter's eschewal of anything containing peanuts or peanut oil is a matter of life and death.

esonson

escritoire

n
/ 'eskrə.twär /
L > F
a piece of furniture resembling a bureau and providing a writing surface or desk area behind a hinged front that drops down.
Jennifer bought a valuable 18th-century escritoire at Sotheby's.

escrow

esoteric

adj
/ .esə'terik /
Gk
difficult to understand.
Phil found the article on metaphysics too esoteric.

espadrille

n
/ 'espə.dril /
L > Prov > F
a flat sandal having a fabric upper and a flexible often rope sole.
Marsha put on her other espadrille and headed for the beach.

espalier

espaliers

n pl
/ ə'spalyərz /
L > It > F
fruit trees or other plants trained to grow flat against a building, wall, railing, trellis, or other support.
Harriet walked up the broad and neat gravel walk, which led between rows of espaliers to the front door.

especially

espionage

n
/ 'espē.nāzh /
F
the practice of spying or using spies to obtain information about the plans and activities especially of a foreign government or a competing company.
After discovering that Mr. Carmichael had sold company trade secrets to a competitor, his employer charged him with industrial espionage.

esplanade

n
/ 'esplə.nād /
L > It > F
a level open stretch of paved or grassy ground; especially : one designed for walking or driving and often providing a vista (as over water).
Carole decided to go for a stroll on the esplanade before dinner.

espresso

essence

n
/ 'es'n(t)s /
L
an extract (as from fruit) used as flavoring in cooking.
Tatiana could taste the pomegranate essence in the cake's frosting.

estaminet

n
/ estāmēnā /
Gmc > F
a small café : bistro.
While driving through Belgium, Jeff and Linda stopped at a charming estaminet for lunch.

esteem

estimable

adj
/ 'estəməbəl /
L
worthy of esteem or respect.
The statesman had a tarnished youth but is now, in many ways, an estimable figure.

estoppel

n
/ ə'stəpəl /
F
a legal preclusion by which one is prevented from alleging something previously denied or denying something previously alleged.
Because his previous statement was on record, an estoppel prevented Tom from changing his position.

estrepement

n
/ ə'strēpmənt /
F > AF
waste or needless destruction of lands; especially : damage wrought by a tenant for life.
The tenant's estrepement of the farm had made the land almost useless.

estuarine

estuary

n
/ 'es(h)chə.werē /
L
a water passage where the tide meets the current of a stream.
Small boats were warned not to travel the estuary without aid.

esurient

adj
/ ə'sürēənt /
L
having a huge appetite : greedy.
Which one of you esurient fellows ordered the extra-large pizza?

ethnic

ethos

etiolation

n
/ .ēdēə'lāshən /
F
the yellowing or whitening of a green plant through lack of sunlight.
Rhonda uses a special lamp on her houseplants to prevent etiolation.

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Frequently

etiquette

n
/ 'edəkət /
F

the forms required by good breeding or prescribed by authority to be observed in social or official life.

The defendant's attorney advised him on the observance of courtroom etiquette.

etymology

n
/ .edə'mäləjē /

Gk > L > E

a branch of linguistics concerned with the complete history of a linguistic form (as a word or morpheme).

Students have rated Dr. Bailly's class in etymology the best course in the English department.

etymon

n
/ 'edə.män /

Gk
the word in a foreign language that is the source of a particular loanword.

The etymon of the English word cantata is the same word in Italian.

eucalyptus

n
/ .yü.kə'liptəs /

Gk

a tree or shrub native to western Australia.

Brad planted a eucalyptus in the vain hope of attracting koalas.

eudaemonic

adj
/ .yü.dē'mänik /

Gk

producing happiness : based on the idea of happiness as the proper end of conduct.

The company's decision to eliminate production quotas had a eudaemonic effect on all the workers.

Euhemerism

n
/ yü'hēmə.rizəm /

Gk name

a theory held by the Greek mythographer Euhemerus that the gods of mythology were but deified mortals.

While studying Euhemerism, Serjei learned that the god Vulcan was the first to discover how to make bronze and iron.

eulogy

n
/ 'yüləjē /

Gk

a composition (as a set oration) in commendation of someone or something (as of the character and accomplishments of a deceased person).

The university president delivered a moving eulogy at the funeral of the dean.

eupeptic

adj
/ yü'peptik /

Gk

cheerful, optimistic.

The eupeptic president put the people at ease about the nation's economy.

euphemism

n
/ 'yü.fə.mizəm /

Gk

a polite term used to avoid the direct naming of an unpleasant reality.

Marjorie referred to her illness with a vague euphemism.

euphoric

adj
/ yü'förik /

Gk

characterized by a feeling of well-being or elation.

The golfer was absolutely euphoric after making a hole in one.

eureka

interj
/ yə'rekə /

Gk

used to express triumph concerning a discovery.

A loud "Eureka!" emanated from the chemistry laboratory.

eurytherm

n
/ 'yürəthərm /

Gk + Gk

an organism that tolerates a wide range of temperature.

Whereas some animals hibernate during the winter, a eurytherm is active throughout the cold months.

eustacy

eutaxy

n
/ 'yü.taksē /

Gk

good order or management.

Rose's Christmas decoration routine was an example of the eutaxy she practiced constantly.

euthanasia

euthenics

n pl
/ yü'theniks /

Gk

a science that deals with developing human well-being and efficient functioning through the improvement of environmental conditions.

As the world becomes more populated, people pay more attention to the relevance of euthenics.

eutrophic

adj
/ yü'träfik /

Gk + Gk

of a lake : rich in dissolved nutrients but frequently shallow and with seasonal oxygen deficiency.

Since the 1970s the use of phosphates in detergents has been banned in some states because they make lakes eutrophic.

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evaluate

v
/ əˈvæljuə.wāt /
L > F > E
examine and judge concerning the worth, quality, significance, amount, degree, or condition of.
The company sent Chris to evaluate the project's potential for profit.

evanescent

adj
/ .evəˈnesˈn(t) /
L
of short life or duration : fleeting.
The joy and moral stimulation of work is often forgotten in the mad chase of evanescent profits.

evaporable

evidentiary

adj
/ .evəˈdench(ə)rē /
L + Ecf
being, relating to, or affording evidence.
Because he is not an expert in forensics, Harvey's opinion has no evidentiary value.

evildoer

n
/ ˈɛvəl.düə(r) /
E
one who does wicked deeds.
The prosecutor portrayed the defendant as a friendly face with the heart of an evildoer.

evincible

eviscerate

v
/ əˈvisə.rāt /
L
take out the entrails of : disembowel, gut.
The chef showed his apprentice how to eviscerate a fish.

eviternity

evocative

adj
/ əˈvəkədɪv /
L
tending to call forth an emotional response.
Kathy sang an evocative ballad about her emigrant grandparents.

evoke

v
/ əˈvɔk /
L
call forth or up : summon.
For Eva, the first crisp days of autumn always evoke memories of her semester in England.

exacerbate

v
/ ɪgˈzæsə(r)bāt /
L
make more violent or bitter : intensify the bad qualities of.
Cindy learned how name-calling could exacerbate an already violent argument.

exaggerate

v
/ ɪgˈzæjə.rāt /
L
misrepresent on the side of largeness (as of size, extent, or value) : overstate the truth.
Like any fisherman, Tio tends to exaggerate the size of his catches.

example

exanimate

exaration

excelsior

excerpta

exchequer

excise

n
/ ˈɛk.sɪz /
D
any of various taxes on privileges (as of engaging in a particular trade or sport) that are often assessed in the form of a license or other fee.
An excise is included in the cost of a fishing license.

exclamation

n
/ .ɛkskləˈmæʃən /
L
vehement expression (as of protest, reproach, or complaint).
Trudy gave a loud exclamation as the plane took off without her.

exclamatorily

excoriate

v
/ ɛkˈskɔrɪ.āt /
L
censure scathingly.
Mr. Dent proceeded to excoriate Ellen in front of the entire pep squad.

exculpate

v
/ ˈɛk(.)skəl.pāt /
L
clear from alleged fault or guilt.
Greg is positive that the honor council will exculpate him after a thorough investigation.

excursion

exedent

exemplary

adj
/ ɪgˈzemplərē /
L
deserving imitation : commendable.
Hubert was praised for his exemplary conduct.

exercise

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exhaustion

n
/ ig'zɔschən /
L

weariness following overstrain or overexertion.
Vance collapsed from exhaustion after running the marathon.

exhibit

exhilarate

exhortation

exigency

exiguous

adj
/ eg'zɪgəwəs /
L
scanty in amount : meager, narrow.
Fran's father disapproves of her plan to use her exiguous savings for the down payment on a motorcycle.

existential

exonerate

v
/ ig'zænə.rāt /
L
clear from accusation or blame.
DNA analysis has the potential either to exonerate suspects or to place them at the scene of the crime.

exonerated

exoneration

exorbitant

adj
/ ig'zɔ(r)bədənt /
L > F > E
excessive.
The ferryman charged an exorbitant rate to carry people across the strait.

exoskeleton

n
/ ɛksə'skɛlətən /
Gk + Gk > L
an external supportive or protective structure or framework of an insect.
An exoskeleton provides protection for an insect, much like a suit of armor.

exotic

adj
/ ig'zɔdɪk /
Gk
from another country : not native to the place where found.
Little did Polly know that the exotic bird she bought had been illegally smuggled into the country.

expatiate

v
/ ɛk'spəʃi.e.āt /
L
speak or write at length or in considerable detail.
The mighty bulk of the whale affords a congenial theme whereon to enlarge, amplify, and expatiate.

expatriate

expectorant

expeditious

adj
/ ɛkspədɪʃəs /
L
acting with promptness or efficiency : speedy.
Mrs. Elton boasted that her horses were extremely expeditious and that her carriage probably drove faster than anyone else's.

expensive

adj
/ ik'spɛn(t)sɪv /
L
characterized by high price or cost.
The concert tickets were expensive, but the event sold out a month before the performance date.

expiate

v
/ ɛkspɛ.āt /
L
extinguish the guilt incurred by : make conciliation for.
Buddhist doctrine holds that one must expiate the sins committed in past lives.

exploit

n
/ ɛk.splɔɪt /
L > F > E
deed, act.
Sarah's first exploit in baking resulted in a burned pie and charred juice in the oven.

explosive

adj
/ ik'splɔ.sɪv /
L + EcF
of or relating to the act of violently expanding and bursting.
Witnesses told the arson investigator that two men ran from the side door of the warehouse moments before the explosive fire.

expostulate

v
/ ik'spəʃɔ.lət /
L
reason earnestly with a person for purposes of dissuasion or remonstrance.
Nelson takes every opportunity to expostulate about politics with strangers on the subway.

expunge

v
/ ik'spʌŋj /
L + L
strike out, obliterate, or mark for deletion (as a word, line, or sentence).
Jeff agreed to expunge the word stupid from his book report.

exquisite

exculpate

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exsiccate

v
/ 'eksə.kāt /
L + L

drive moisture from (as by the action of heat).

Sara wants to exsiccate the plums she picked to see if they will really turn into prunes.

exsuccous

adj
/ ek(s)'səkəs /
L + L

devoid of all juices or sap : dried up.

The exsuccous orange in Tamra's locker must have been left there months ago.

exsufflation

extemporaneous

adj
/ .ek.stempə'rānēəs /
L

composed, performed, or uttered on or as if on the spur of the moment.

Suzi gave an extemporaneous talk about bonsai at the craft club meeting.

extempore

extensive

extinct

adj
/ ik'stɪŋ(k)t /
L > E

no longer living : deceased, dead.
Latin is an extinct language.

extinguish

v
/ ik'stɪŋwɪʃ /
L + Ecf

cause (as a fire or light) to cease burning.

Procedure dictated that Lenny extinguish his car's headlights before approaching the guardhouse.

extirpate

v
/ 'ektə(r)pāt /
L

pull up or out by or as if by the roots or stem.

Fay made it her mission to extirpate every weed in the lawn.

extract

extraneous

adj
/ ek'strānēəs /
L

existing or originating outside or beyond.

Leona didn't let extraneous noises bother her while she was studying.

extraordinarily

adv
/ ik.strō(r)d'n'erəlē /
L

in a manner beyond what is usual, regular, common, or customary.

Dr. Miller told us that Brutus was extraordinarily frisky this morning.

extraordinary

extrapolate

v
/ ik'strapə.lāt /
L + L > E

infer from a trend within an already observed interval.

From the data she had collected so far, Mirna tried to extrapolate a preliminary conclusion about the insect population of the state.

extraterrestrial

adj
/ ekstrə.tə'restrēəl /
L

originating or existing outside Earth or its atmosphere.

The shiny rock appeared to Zelda to be extraterrestrial.

extravaganza

n
/ ik.stravə'ganzə /
L > It

a lavish or spectacular show or event.

The Mardi Gras extravaganza in New Orleans has several carnival-like parades.

extravasate

v
/ ik'stravə'sāt /
L

pour out or erupt.

When extreme heat and pressure build within a volcano, molten lava may extravasate into the air.

extricate

v
/ 'ekstrə.kāt /
L

pull out.

When the whistle blew, Jason tried to extricate himself from the bottom of the pile of players.

exuberance

exuberant

adj
/ ig'züb(ə)rənt /
L

joyously unrestrained and enthusiastic.

The students at Payton Middle School gave the visiting astronaut an exuberant welcome.

fabiform

adj
/ 'fäbə.förm /
L + Ecf

[has near homonym: faviform] shaped like a bean.

Jodie is having a fabiform swimming pool installed in her backyard.

fabled

fabricate

facade

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facetiousness

n
/ fəˈsiːʃhēˈāsədə /
L + Ecf
the quality or state of being jocular in an often clumsy or inappropriate way.
Mrs. Foster did not appreciate Barney's facetiousness during her history class.

facetious

facial

facile

adj
/ ˈfasəl /
L
easily accomplished or attained.
Sarpedon's facile backgammon victory over his sister made him suspicious of her intent.

facilely

adv
/ ˈfasəl(l)ē /
L + Ecf
in an easy manner : with ease or assurance.
Andy sat down at the piano and played facilely through a book of show tunes.

facilitate

facilitator

n
/ fəˈsɪlətəd(ə)r /
L + Ecff
one that makes something easier or less difficult.
As a teacher, Mr. Logan considers himself a facilitator of learning rather than a dispenser of information.

faconne

facsimile

n
/ fakˈsɪmələ /
L
an exact and detailed copy.
Jared bought a facsimile of Noah Webster's 1828 dictionary.

factitious

factotum

n
/ fakˈtɒdəm /
L
a person having many diverse activities or responsibilities : a general servant.
Mrs. Alexander has so many responsibilities not related to instruction that she feels more like a factotum than a teacher.

facula

n
/ ˈfakyələ /
L
any of the bright regions of the Sun's photosphere seen most easily near the Sun's edge and occurring most frequently in proximity to sunspots.
Seymour tracked the Sun's rotation by charting the position of a facula.

facultative

faculties

n pl
/ ˈfakəltēz /
L > F > E
inherent capabilities, powers, or functions.
While Barbara was recovering from eye surgery she had to rely more on her faculties of hearing and smelling.

faddist

Fahrenheit

adj
/ ˈfarən.hīt /
G name
relating or conforming to a thermometric scale on which under standard atmospheric pressure the boiling point of water is at 212 degrees and the freezing point at 32 degrees.
Nathan knew it was hot outside, but he was astonished to learn that the temperature was 100 degrees Fahrenheit.

faillie

faineant

adj
/ ˈfānēənt /
F
idle and ineffectual.
Lack of purpose can contribute to a faineant life.

faint

faithful

n pl
/ ˈfāthfəl /
E
adherents of a system of religious belief.
The pope spoke to the faithful from his balcony, asking them to pray for the future of the world.

falbala

falcate

adj
/ ˈfal.kāt /
L
hooked or curved like a sickle—used also of the Moon or an inferior planet when less than half its disk is illuminated.
The Moon's falcate form loomed above the horizon.

falcon

faldstool

fallacious

fallacy

n
/ ˈfaləsē /
L
a false or erroneous idea.
Though Ben's argument may seem plausible, it is pure fallacy.

fallibility

n
/ ˈfaləˈbɪlədə /
L
liability or proneness to err.
The executive pardon can be seen as a recognition of the fallibility of our system of justice.

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fallow

adj
/ 'fa(,)lɔ /
E

left untilled or unsown after plowing.

Miriam has big plans for the patch of fallow ground in her backyard.

falsetto

n
/ fəl'sed(,)ɔ /
L > It

an artificially high voice.

Dad draped a mop over his head and sang "Mary Had a Little Lamb" in falsetto.

falsify

familiar

adj
/ fə'milyə(r) /
L > F > E

frequently seen or experienced.

Sandy was chosen for the job because she was familiar with computers.

famish

v
/ 'famish /
E

deprive of food : starve.

The war will famish many people trapped in the besieged city.

fanaticism

n
/ fə'nədə.sizəm /
L + Ecf

excessive enthusiasm and intense uncritical devotion usually toward some controversial matter (as religion, politics, or philosophy).

Throughout history, political fanaticism has led to many violent wars.

fanchonette

n
/ .fanchə'net /
F

an open tart covered with meringue or sometimes whipped cream.

Randy ordered a lemon fanchonette for dessert.

fandango

n
/ fan'daŋ(,)gɔ /
Pg? > Sp

a lively Spanish dance usually performed by a man and woman with castanets and in triple time.

Craig and Ursula danced a fandango in the high school talent competition.

fanfaronade

fantasize

v
/ 'fantə.sīz /
Gk > L > F > E + Ecf

create or develop imaginative and often fantastic views, ideas, or explanations.

After Calvin was elected to the student council, all he ever did was fantasize about becoming president of the United States.

fantoccini

n pl
/ .fäntə'chēnē /
L > It

puppets moved by strings or mechanical devices.

So many spectators stopped to watch the fantoccini that the puppet shows had to be moved to one of the park's larger amphitheaters.

farad

n
/ 'fə.rəd /
E name

the practical meter-kilogram-second unit of capacitance equal to the capacitance of a capacitor between whose plates there appears a potential of 1 volt when it is charged by 1 coulomb.

Todd calculated the necessary capacitance of the insulation to be exactly 1 farad.

farcical

adj
/ 'färsəkəl /
L

receiving or meriting laughter or amused scorn as utterly without claim to serious consideration or as laughably inept.

Shakespeare employs farcical characters in many of his plays to provide comic relief.

farcically

farewell

farinaceous

adj
/ 'färə'nāshəs /
L

containing or rich in starch.

Common farinaceous foods include bread and pasta.

faro

farouche

adj
/ fə'riʃh /
L > F

lacking social graces and experience : marked by shyness and lack of polish.

As a teenager, Inez was rather farouche, hesitant to make eye contact with strangers.

farraginous

farrago

n
/ fə'rä(,)gɔ /
L

a confused, disordered, or irrational assemblage (as of words or ideas).

The candidate's concession speech was a rambling farrago that underscored his instability.

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farthingale

n
/ 'fɑ:θɪŋ.gəl /
L > Sp > F

a support worn especially in the 16th century beneath a skirt to swell out and extend it at the hip line.

No lady-in-waiting at the court of Queen Elizabeth I would have been seen in public without a farthingale.

fascinate

fascine

fascism

n
/ 'fɑ:ʃɪzəm /
L

any program for setting up a centralized autocratic national regime with severely nationalistic policies exercising rigid censorship and forcible suppression of opposition.

Given the current regime's fascism, a coup was inevitable.

fashion

fastidious

fastish

adj
/ 'fɑ:ʃɪʃ /
E

rather speedy.

Jane's mutt was a fastish runner despite its injured leg.

fatal

adj
/ 'fɑ:dəl /
L & F > E

causing death.

The cholera had broken out in its most fatal form.

fathom

n
/ 'fɑ:θəm /
E

a unit of length equal to 6 feet based on the distance between fingertips of a man's outstretched arms and used especially for measuring the depth of water.

The fathom, once standard on British admiralty charts, has been replaced by the meter.

fatigue

n
/ fə'teɪg /
F

weariness from work or exertion.

Fatigue results from doing too much too fast.

fatuous

adj
/ 'fɑ:tʃəwəs /
L

marked by want of intelligence and rational consideration.

Lenny characterized Nestor's attempts to build a perpetual motion machine as fatuous.

faucet

fauna

n
/ 'fəʊnə /
L

animals in general or animal life especially as distinguished from flora.

The customs agent asked Bart if he was bringing any flora or fauna into the country.

Faunteroy

adj
/ 'fəʊntlə.rɔɪ /

E literary name characterized by a short tailored jacket, knee-length trousers, rather frilly shirt, wide collar with rounded corners, or large loose bow.

Lulu's masterpiece was a painting of her little brother dressed in a Faunteroy costume, holding their basset hound by its collar.

faveolate

adj
/ fə'veələt /
L

honeycombed.

The tiny chapel had a faveolate ceiling.

fealty

n
/ 'feɪ(ə)ltē /
L > F > E

faithfulness, allegiance.

One by one, the nobles knelt before the queen and swore fealty to the crown.

feasibility

n
/ 'fi:zə'bɪlədē /
L > F > E

the capability of being done, executed, or effected.

Engineers are studying the feasibility of constructing a tunnel under the river.

feasible

adj
/ 'fi:zəbəl /
L > F > E

capable of being done, executed, or effected.

Because our Constitution is simple and practical, it is feasible to meet extraordinary needs by making changes without loss of essential form.

feature

febrifugal

adj
/ fə'brɪf(y)əgəl /
L

mitigating or removing fever.

Aspirin is well known for its analgesic and febrifugal properties.

febrility

n
/ fə'brɪlədē /
L

feverishness.

As her febrility increased, the patient became delirious.

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feckless

adj
/ 'fek.ləs /
E

impractical and shiftless.

Mort was worried that his long periods of unemployment would make him look feckless when he applied for a job.

fecund

adj
/ 'fɛk.ənd /
L

marked by noteworthy intellectual productivity and inventiveness.

The Renaissance was a fecund era for the arts.

federal

fedora

n
/ fə'dɔrə /

F name

a soft felt hat with a low crown creased lengthwise and with or without a high roll on the side brim.
Brent stepped into the spotlight and pulled his fedora low over one eye.

feign

feigned

feigning

v
/ fāniŋ /
L > F > E

simulating falsely.

Darla wondered if her mother was feigning good feelings about her decision to marry Edgar.

feint

v
/ 'fānt /

F

make a pretense of.

George broke his hand when he attempted to feint a punch at the wall but overshot his target.

felicific

felicitous

adj
/ fə'lisədəs /
L

marked by general happiness or good fortune.

All of Rob's college roommates showed up for the felicitous occasion of his wedding.

felicity

n
/ fə'lisədē /
L

the quality or state of being happy.

Liberty from British rule became more and more necessary for the felicity of the American colonists.

feliform

adj
/ 'fɛlə.fɔrm /

L + Lcf > Ecf

resembling a cat.

Eric found a feliform stone in a cave.

felonious

felsenmeer

n
/ 'fɛlzən.me(ə)r /
G

an assemblage of rock fragments completely mantling the surface and commonly present in mountainous regions.

Our guide showed us a field of felsenmeer formed from underlying bedrock by the action produced by frost.

feminine

adj
/ 'femənən /
L

female.

The feminine characters were played by men and the masculine characters were played by women in Cornell Theatre's production of King Lear.

femoral

adj
/ 'femərəl /
L

[has homonym: femerell] of, relating to, or located near the thigh.

The femoral artery supplies blood to the abdomen and lower extremities.

fenestrated

adj
/ 'fenəstrədəd /
L

provided with or characterized by windows.

Symmetrically fenestrated buildings characterize Georgian architecture.

fenestration

fennel

n
/ 'fenəl /
L > E

a perennial European herb introduced to North America and cultivated for the aromatic flavor of its seeds.

Celene often flavors her vegetables with curry powder and fennel.

feracious

adj
/ fə'rāshəs /
L

producing abundantly : prolific.

Sylvia decided to can some of the tomatoes from her extraordinarily feracious plants.

feral

adj
/ 'ferəl /
L

lacking a human personality due to being reared in isolation from all or nearly all human contacts.

The television executive rejected the idea of another series about a feral child trying to adjust to modern culture.

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feretory

n
/ 'ferətɔrē /
Gk > L

a place for keeping an ornate coffin for the relics of a saint.

Every two hours the monks at the shrine of St. Dionysios in Greece perform a prayer service and open the feretory for viewing.

fermata

n
/ fer'mädə /
L > It

a prolongation at the discretion of the performer of a musical note, chord, or rest beyond its given time value.

To the conductor's consternation, Dean exaggerated each fermata.

fermeture

ferocious

ferraiolone

ferret

n
/ 'ferət /
L > F > E

a semidomesticated variety of the European polecat.

Carl's ferret comes to him for a reward every time he squeezes a squeaky toy.

ferrous

ferrule

n
/ 'ferəl /
L > F > E

[has homonym: feral] a band or cap usually of metal enclosing the end of a cane, tool handle, table leg, or similar object to strengthen it or prevent splitting and wearing.
Both the knob and the ferrule of Mr. Benson's walking stick were made of finely engraved silver.

ferruminate

v
/ fə'rümənāt /
L

join together (as metals) : solder.
Fortunately, Tom's dad was able to ferruminate the broken parts of the metal toy.

fervent

adj
/ 'fərvənt /
L
of great intensity; specifically : characterized by often deep intensity of feeling or expression.
Natalia's remorseful look and fervent plea for leniency did not sway the vice-principal.

fervorous

adj
/ 'fərv(ə)rəs /
L
full of intensity of feeling or expression.
The crowd couldn't help but be swayed by Greg's fervorous speech.

fescue

festoon

festucine
adj
/ 'fest(y)əsīn /
L
of the color straw yellow.
Dorothy's blue eyes suited her festucine hair.

feud

n
/ 'fyüd /
Gmc > F > E
a relationship of aggressive hostility : quarrel.
A feud over the property boundaries developed between the two families.

fianchetto

v
/ .fēən'ched(,)ō /
F + It
move (a bishop) in a chess game to the position Knight 2.
The analysts correctly predicted that Evangeline would fianchetto her bishop.

fiasco

n
/ fē'a(,)skō /
Gmc > It
an utter and often ridiculous failure especially of an ambitious or pretentious undertaking.
The attempt to distribute campaign leaflets by air turned into a fiasco when the wind changed direction.

fibrillar

fibrillation

n
/ .fibrə'lāshən /
L
very rapid irregular contractions of the muscle fibers of the heart resulting in a lack of synchronism between heartbeat and pulse beat.
Ventricular fibrillation is a condition in which the heart twitches haphazardly instead of propelling blood forward in an organized way.

fibrositis

fibrous

adj
/ 'fibrəs /
L
containing, consisting of, or like fibers.
The fibrous content of fruits and vegetables is beneficial to the digestive system.

fichu

ficile

fiction

fictitious

fideism

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Frequently

fidelity

n
/ fə'delədē /

L
the quality or state of being faithful or loyal (as to a person, cause, party, or nation).

When taking the oath of office, the president pledged fidelity to the Constitution.

fiduciary

adj
/ fə'd(y)üşhērē /

L
of, having to do with, or involving a confidence or trust.

Zoe acted in a fiduciary capacity during the lease negotiations.

fiefdom

n
/ 'fēfdəm /

F + E
an area over which one exercises control.

The manager's fiefdom consisted of two departments and the company newsletter.

fiendish

fierce

fiery

adj
/ 'fi(ə)rē /

E
of the color of fire : red.

Kevin knew that a photograph would not portray the fiery sunset in its full splendor.

filament

n
/ 'filəmənt /

L > F
a fine conductor that is rendered incandescent by the passage of an electric current.

Beulah could see that the filament was broken, so she replaced the bulb.

filasse

n
/ fə'las /

L > F
a vegetable fiber prepared for manufacture.

At the mill, sisal plants are processed into filasse.

filial

adj
/ 'filēəl /

L
befitting a child in relation to his or her parents.

During adolescence, many children feel uncomfortable demonstrating filial love in public.

filibuster

n
/ 'filəbəstə(r) /

F > Sp
the use of extreme delaying tactics (as speaking merely to consume time) in an attempt to prevent action by the majority in a deliberative assembly.

The Senate effectively killed the bill with a filibuster.

filoselle

finance

financier

n
/ ,finən'si(ə)r /

F
a large-scale investor.

Marv's uncle, a Boston financier, works one day a week in a soup kitchen.

finesse

finessing

v
/ fə'nesɪŋ /

L > F
bringing about or managing by adroit manipulation.

Vigor and resolution, not maneuvering and finessing, were needed to get the St. Bernard into the car.

fingent

finger

finialed

adj
/ 'finēəld /

L > F > E
provided with a capping ornament.
The lampposts and street signs were elaborately finialed with iron pineapples.

finite

adj
/ 'fi.nīt /

L > E
having clear limits.
Phoebe's creativity was bound by a finite set of resources.

firkin

n
/ 'fərkən /

D > E
a British unit of weight for butter equal to 56 pounds.
Lord Nelson wrote, "I beg that you will send us the following articles: 50 pounds loaf sugar, 1 firkin of good butter, and 2 pounds of black pepper."

firmament

n
/ 'fərməmənt /

L > E
the vault or arch of the sky : heavens.

Carmen looked to the firmament for a sign, but none was forthcoming.

firnification

n
/ ,firnafə'kāshən /

G + L > E
the process whereby snow becomes partially compacted and forms the surface part of the upper end of a glacier.

Solid ice is the end product of firnification.

fiscal

adj
/ 'fiskəl /

F > Sp
of or relating to financial matters.
Several of the president's advisors on fiscal policy are participating in the symposium.

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fissile

adj
/ 'fisəl /
L

capable of being split, cleft, or divided in the direction of the grain or along natural planes of cleavage.
The fissile quality of cedar makes it an excellent material for boxmaking.

fission

fissiparous

adj
/ fi'sipərəs /
L + L

tending to break up into parts or to disintegrate : divisive, factional.
Strong leadership is needed to keep the fissiparous tendencies of the political party in check.

fissure

n
/ 'fɪʃə(r) /
L

[has homonym: fisher] a narrow opening, chasm, or crack of some length and considerable depth usually occurring from some breaking, rending, or parting.
A fissure ran through Irene's backyard after the earthquake.

fisticuffs

n pl
/ 'fɪstəkəfs /
E + E

a fight with the fists : boxing.
The two campers' friendly rivalry ended in a round of mock fisticuffs.

fixture

n
/ 'fɪksʃə(r) /
L

something that is attached as a permanent appendage or structural part; specifically : an electric lighting device usually ornamental and permanently mounted in place.
Mel attached a light fixture to the side of his house for protection against burglars.

flagellum

n
/ flə'jeləm /
L

a long tapering projection that is the primary organ of motion of many algae and bacteria.
The bacterium whipped its flagellum furiously.

flageolet

flagitious

flagitiously

adv
/ flə'jɪʃəsli /
L > E

in a grossly wicked manner.
The criminal was sentenced to ten years' imprisonment for his flagitiously cruel assault.

flagon

n
/ 'flægən /
Gmc? > L > F > E
[has near homonym: flacon] a large usually metal or pottery vessel with handle and spout and often a lid used to hold liquid.
The knights passed around a flagon of ale before riding off to battle.

flail

flambeau

n
/ 'flɑːnbō /
F
a flaming torch usually made by combining thick wicks saturated with a quick-burning substance (as pitch).

A procession of skiers zigzagged down the slope, each of them bearing a flambeau.

flamboyantly

adv
/ flɑː'bɔɪ(y)əntli /
F

in a showy and unrestrained manner.
At the pep rally the students flamboyantly demonstrated their support for the football team.

flamenco

n
/ flə'men(ə)kō /
D > Sp

[has near homonym: flamingo] a vigorous rhythmic dance of the Andalusian Gypsies.
The dancer entertained the patrons at the Spanish restaurant with a rousing flamenco.

flamingo

n
/ flə'mɪŋ(ə)gō /
L > OProv > Sp > Pg

[has near homonym: flamenco] any of several aquatic birds that have remarkably long legs and neck, webbed feet, and usually rosy-white plumage.
Tom and his buddies placed a giant plastic pink flamingo on the roof of the school.

flammable

adj
/ 'flɑːməbəl /
L

capable of being easily ignited and of burning with extreme rapidity.
Both gasoline and kerosene are flammable, but gasoline is more explosive.

flammeous

adj
/ 'flɑːməəs /
L

consisting of or resembling the color of flame.
Flammeous maple leaves carpeted the lawn of the inn.

flammiiferous

adj
/ flɑ'mɪf(ə)rəs /
L + Ecf

producing flame or bright with flame.
The flammiiferous volcano was an awesome spectacle to behold.

flaneur

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Frequently

flange

n
/ 'flɑnj /
F? > E
a rim or edge projecting at right angles to provide a means of attachment to another part.
The plumber pointed out a chipped flange that had caused the leak.

flannel

adj
/ 'flɑnəl /
W > E
a napped cotton fabric of soft yarns.
The sleeves of his plaid flannel shirt were rolled back to the elbow.

flannelette

flaunting

v
/ 'flɔntɪŋ /
Scand?
seeking to attract attention especially by appearing or acting brash and brazen.
During the party Terry seemed to be flaunting his ability to play piano.

flautino

n
/ flau'teɪ(,)nɔ /
It
a small flute : piccolo.
Harriet plays many wind instruments, but she especially enjoys playing flautino in a baroque music group.

flaxen

fleabane

n
/ 'fle,bæn /
E + E
any of various plants of the family Compositae that are supposed to drive away fleas.
A young rabbit was hidden under a clump of fleabane.

fleeciness

fleet

n
/ 'fleɪt /
E
a number of warships under a single command : a naval force.
Naval Intelligence learned that terrorists were noting information about the movement of the fleet.

flexibility

flexuosity

flexure

n
/ 'flekʃə(r) /
L
the slight bending of an astronomical observing instrument caused by the weight of its parts.
Emily reinforced her telescope with strips of titanium to minimize flexure.

flibbertigibbet

n
/ 'flɪbə(r)dɛ,jɪbət /
E
a light-minded or silly restless person.
Mrs. French proved far less of a flibbertigibbet than the world took her to be.

flimflammer

flippant

adj
/ 'flɪpənt /
imit? + Ecf
treating or tending to treat with unsuitable levity that which is serious or to which respect is due.
The principal chastised Clyde and his friends for their flippant behavior during the memorial service.

flocculent

flokati

n
/ flɔ'kɑtə /
Gk
a hand-woven Greek wool rug with a thick shaggy pile.
Katina loves to hear the story of how her grandparents came to the United States with all their possessions wrapped in one flokati.

floppy

adj
/ 'flɒpədə /
E imit
soft and flexible.
Moira purchased her floppy straw hat during a visit to Key West.

florid

adj
/ 'flɔrəd /
L
[has near homonym: fluoride]
flushed or tinged with red : ruddy.
Marsha's face was florid when she finished her five-mile run.

floriferous

adj
/ flɔ'rif(ə)rəs /
L + Ecf
bearing flowers; especially : blooming freely.
Begonias are floriferous even in the shade.

florilegium

n
/ ,flɔrə'lɛjɛəm /
L
a volume or collection of brief extracts or writings : anthology.
Frank pulled a tattered florilegium from the shelf.

florisugent

adj
/ ,flɔrə'sʊjənt /
L + L
sucking nectar from flowers.
The honeysuckle attracted the florisugent hummingbird.

floruit

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floscular

adj
/ 'fläskyələ(r) /
L
composed of florets.
A daisy bears floscular flower heads.

flotilla

n
/ flō'tilə /
ON > F > Sp
a small fleet or a fleet of small watercraft.
The Boy Scouts launched a flotilla of toy sailboats across the lake.

flotsam

n
/ 'flätsəm /
F > AF
wreckage of a ship or its cargo found floating on the sea.
Flotsam is part of wreckage, whereas jetsam has been deliberately cast overboard.

flourish

fluctuant

adj
/ 'fləkchəwənt /
L
moving like a wave : varying and unstable.
The fluctuant beam from Amy's flashlight resulted from weak batteries.

flue

flummery

n
/ 'fləm(ə)rē /
W
porridge made of flour or meal.
Hulbert made flummery for dessert.

fluorescent

adj
/ flū(ə)'res'nt /
L > F + L > Ecf
[has homonym: florescent]
emitting electromagnetic radiation especially in the form of visible light.
The fluorescent bulb above Gary's cubicle thrummed noisily.

fluoridation

n
/ flūrə'dāshən /
L + Ecff
the adding of a binary compound of fluorine to drinking water.
Fluoridation has been proven to deter tooth decay.

fluorocarbon

n
/ 'flū(ə)rō.kärbən /
L + L
any of a class of chemically inert compounds (as tetrafluoroethylene) composed entirely of carbon and fluorine and used chiefly as lubricants and in making resins and plastics.
Fluorocarbon is used to make the nonstick coatings for pots and pans.

fluvial

adj
/ 'flüvēəl /
L
of or relating to rivers.
A lawyer specializing in fluvial law told Emmett that he could claim possession of the newly formed island in the Rum River.

fluxion

n
/ 'fləkshən /
L
the action of flowing.
The fluxion of many liquids slows in cold weather.

fodder

n
/ 'fädə(r) /
E
something (as hay, vegetables, corn) fed to domestic animals.
Field corn makes good fodder.

fogginess

n
/ 'fögēnəs /
Scand? + Ecff
the quality or state of being covered or enveloped with vapor condensed to fine particles of water suspended in the lower atmosphere.
Severe fogginess was blamed for the ten-car pileup on the expressway.

foible

n
/ 'föibəl /
F
a minor flaw or shortcoming in personal character or behavior : failing, weakness.
Kevin's tendency to procrastinate is a foible he claims he will one day correct.

foist

v
/ 'föist /
D
force another to accept especially by stealth or deceit.
Brent knew that Karen would foist another kitten upon him if he wasn't careful.

foliaceous

foliage

n
/ 'föil(ē)ij /
F&L
the mass of leaves of a plant as produced in nature : leafage.
Tourists who come to see fall foliage at its peak are sometimes referred to as "leaf peepers."

foliiform

adj
/ 'fölēə.förm /
F
having the shape of a leaf.
In October, Rhoda and Lamar decorated the classroom windows with foliiform cutouts.

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folliculitis

n
/ fəˌlikyʊˈlɪdəs /

L
inflammation of one or more small cavities in the skin.
An ingrown hair on Bo's cheek resulted in folliculitis.

folliculose

fomentation

fontinal

adj
/ ˈfɑntˈnəl /

L
growing in or near springs.
Cottonwoods are well-known fontinal trees throughout the American Southwest.

forage

v
/ ˈfɔrɪj /
Gmc > F > E
wander or rove in search of food.
The survivors of the airplane crash on the remote mountainside decided to forage in groups of three.

foraminate

adj
/ fəˈrɑmənəɪt /
L
perforated.
Sid examined the foraminate leaf under a microscope.

foray

n
/ ˈfɔ.rā /
F > E
a raid or brief invasion.
Captain McMaster led his troops on a foray into the village.

forbearance

forceps

forecaster

n
/ ˈfɔr.kastə(r) /
E

one who predicts weather conditions on the basis of correlated meteorological observations.
When the forecaster predicted freezing rain, the highway department loaded up its trucks with sand and salt.

foreclosable

foreignness

forensic

forensics

n pl
/ fəˈren(t)sɪks /
L
the art or study of argumentative discourse.
Tara's performance in her class in forensics practically guaranteed her a spot on the debate club team.

foreordain

forestallment

forfeit

v
/ ˈfɔrfæt /
L > F > E
lose or lose the right to by some error, fault, offense, or crime.
Individuals who are convicted of a felony forfeit their right to vote.

forfeiture

forgeable

forgery

n
/ ˈfɔrj(ə)rē /
L > F > E
an act of falsely or fraudulently making or altering a document.
Lorna is charged with two counts of check forgery.

forgotten

forlorn

adj
/ fə(r)ˈlɒ(ə)rŋ /
E

sad and lonely especially by reason of emptiness or abandonment.
The forlorn widow was most appreciative of the party her neighbors held to honor her birthday.

formaldehyde

n
/ fɔrmˈaldəˌhɪd /
L + Ar > Sp > L + L + Gk
an aqueous solution that is used chiefly as a disinfectant and preservative.
The medical laboratory contained specimens preserved in formaldehyde.

formicary

n
/ ˈfɔrməˌkerē /
L
an ant hill or ant nest.
Junior made the mistake of sitting on a formicary of red ants.

formicivorous

adj
/ ˌfɔrməˈsɪv(ə)rəs /
L + Ecf + L + Ecf
feeding on ants.
Formicivorous woodpeckers spend much of their time on the ground looking for ants.

formidable

adj
/ ˈfɔ(r)mədəbəl /
L > E
tending to inspire awe or wonder usually by reason of notable size, quantity, superiority, or excellence.
Though the competition was formidable, Bernie was confident he would emerge victorious.

forsooth

adv
/ fə(r)ˈsʊθ /
E
in truth : certainly.
Forsooth, the queen was the most beautiful woman in the world.

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forsythia

n
/ fə(r)'sithēə /
Brit name

any plant of a small genus of ornamental shrubs that have bright yellow flowers which appear before the leaves in early spring.
The gardener planted forsythia along the entire outer edge of the yard.

fortemente

fortieth

fortissimo

adj
/ fò(r)'tisəmo /
L > It
very loud—used as a direction in music.
When playing the fortissimo passage of her lesson, Suzanne banged so loudly on the piano that the neighbor's dog began to bark.

fortitude

n
/ 'fò(r)dətɪd /
L > E
the strength or firmness of mind that enables a person to encounter danger with coolness and courage.
John Kennedy displayed exceptional fortitude after his patrol boat was attacked during World War II.

fortuitous

adj
/ fò(r)'tɪədəs /
L
occurring by chance without evident causal need or relation or without deliberate intention.
Their meeting was fortuitous, but Dan and Mattie believed that they had been destined to be together.

fortunate

fossil

fossilize

v
/ 'fäsə'lɪz /
L > ISV
turn (as remains of organisms from past geologic eras) into a mineralized form in Earth's crust.
Since not all plant materials fossilize equally well, some plants will be preserved and others will vanish in the course of time.

fossorial

adj
/ fä'sɔrēəl /
L
adapted to digging.
Gophers are fossorial rodents having strong claws on their forelimbs.

foudroyant

fougasse

foul

adj
/ 'faül /
E
offensive to the senses : rotten.
The spoiled contents of the refrigerator created an extremely foul odor.

foulard

foundation

foundry

n
/ 'faüdrē /
F
a building or establishment where metal or glass casting is carried on.
The students saw molten metal being poured into engine block molds at the foundry.

fracas

fraction

fragile

fragrant

frailty

franchise

franchisee

n
/ 'franchī'zē /
L > F + Ecf
one who is granted a right to operate a unit in a chain of business establishments.
The franchisee agreed to pay the franchisor an initial fee and a percentage of gross sales.

frangible

adj
/ 'franʒəbəl /
L
capable of being broken : breakable, brittle, fragile.
Road signs are designed to be frangible so that they won't severely damage cars that hit them.

frankincense

n
/ 'fræŋkən.sen(t)s /
E
a gum resin containing volatile oil.
Aunt Ruby likes to burn frankincense at Christmastime.

fraternal

fraud

n
/ 'fröd /
L > F > E
deceit, trickery; especially : misrepresentation intended to induce another to part with something of value or to surrender a legal right.
Joel is suing his former manager for fraud and breach of contract.

fraudulent

adj
/ 'fröjələnt /
L
characterized by or based on trickery or deceit especially when involving misrepresentation.
The manufacturer was charged with fraudulent advertising.

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fraught

adj
/ 'frɒt /
OFris? > G > D > E
burdened or menaced with.
The work of the firefighter is fraught with danger.

freckles

freight

fremitus

frenetically

adv
/ frə'nedək(ə)lē /
Gk > L > F > E
in a frenzied, hectic manner.
Four dancers moved frenetically around the stage.

frescade

n
/ fres'kād /
Gmc > OProv > F
a cool walk : shady place.
The landscape architect's suggestion of a long frescade under a grape arbor thrilled her client.

fresco

n
/ 'fres.kō /
Gmc > It
the art of painting on freshly spread moist lime plaster with pigments suspended in a water vehicle.
Fresco is a demanding technique because the image cannot be changed after the plaster dries.

fresnel

n
/ frā'nel /
F name
a unit of frequency equal to 1 trillion cycles per second.
A rarely used multiple of the hertz is the fresnel, which was named for the French scientist Augustin Jean Fresnel.

Freudian

adj
/ 'frɔɪdēən /
Austrian name + Ecf
of, relating to, or according with the theories of Austrian neurologist Sigmund Freud and his system of psychoanalysis.
A Freudian slip of the tongue may reveal the speaker's deep-seated concerns and reasons for action.

friable

adj
/ 'frɪəbəl /
L > F
easily crumbled, pulverized, or reduced to powder.
The sand sculpture was so friable that it crumbled in Carl's hands when he tried to pick it up.

fricassee

n
/ 'frɪkəsē /
F
a stew of meat or other foods in light or brown gravy.
Mrs. Delaney prefers to make her fricassee with chicken.

fried

adj
/ 'frɪd /
L > F > E
cooked in hot fat.
Milton's favorite meal is fried catfish and cornbread.

friend

friendliness

frieze

frigorific

adj
/ 'frɪgə'rɪfɪk /
L
causing cold.
Michael was curious about how the frigorific device for wine bottles could possibly work.

frisson

n
/ frē'sɒn /
L > F
shudder, quiver, chill; especially : a pleasurable sensation of fright or gloom : thrill.
Amy suddenly awakened from a nightmare and felt a frisson of terror.

fritillary

n
/ 'frɪd'ɪlərē /
L
any of numerous butterflies that usually are orange with black spots on the upper side of both wings and have silvery spots on the underside of the hind wings.
As Cora was tending her garden, she observed a crab spider capturing a fritillary on a flower.

frittata

n
/ frē'tɪdə /
L > It
an unfolded omelet often containing chopped vegetables or meats.
Tony's frittata was filled with seasoned asparagus tips.

frivolity

n
/ frə'vɪlədē /
L > F
the quality or state of being not serious : playfulness.
The Mardi Gras celebration was marked by boisterousness and frivolity.

frivolous

adj
/ 'frɪv(ə)ləs /
L > E
of little weight or importance.
Mr. Peterson offered only frivolous remarks at the hearing.

frolic

frolicking

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frolicsome

adj
/ 'frälík.səm /
L + Ecf

full of gaiety and mirth : playful.
Each year the Kentucky Derby attracts horse lovers who enjoy the frolicsome festivities associated with the race.

frondeur

n
/ frɔ̃'dœœr /
L? > F

rebel, malcontent, dissident.
The mayor's denouncement referred to Jules as a "frondeur."

frontiersman

n
/ frən'ti(ə)rmən /
F > E

a man living at the edge of known civilization.
Daniel Boone was a famous Kentucky frontiersman of the 18th century.

frontispiece

n
/ frəntə.spēs /
L > F

an illustration preceding and usually facing the title page of a book or magazine.
Morgan was hired to draw the school yearbook's frontispiece.

fronton

n
/ frəntən /
L > It > F

a court or building for the game of jai alai.
The fronton looked bigger on television than in actuality.

froufrou

n
/ frü.frü /
F imit

abundant or excessive ornamentation (as ruffles, beading, flowers) in women's clothing.
The slippers covered with froufrou had to be "for looks" only.

frugal

adj
/ 'frügəl /
L

economical in the use or expenditure of resources.
The "Golden Fleece Award" was started by Senator William Proxmire, who advocated a more frugal government.

fruition

n
/ frü'ishən /
L > F > E

the state of being real, accomplished, or complete.
The new civic center came to fruition after many years' planning and labor.

fruticetum

n
/ früdə'sēdəm /
L

a collection of shrubs grown for ornament or study.
At the botanical garden, the arboretum and fruticetum were combined under one roof.

fruticose

fuchsia

fudge

fughetta

n
/ f(y)ü'gedə /
It

a short or condensed musical piece in which one or two melodic themes are repeated by successively entering voices.
The Vienna Boys' Choir performed a fughetta in their concert at St. Paul's Cathedral.

fugitive

fugue

fuguist

n
/ 'fyügəst /
L > It

one who composes or performs fugues.
As a fuguist, Johann Sebastian Bach has never been excelled.

fulcrum

n
/ 'fülkrəm /
L

prop, support; specifically : the support about which a lever turns.
Using the edge of his plate for a fulcrum, Danny put peas on his fork and catapulted them across the cafeteria.

fulgorant

adj
/ 'fүlg(y)ərənt /
L

flashing like lightning : dazzling.
Emily's fulgorant diamond brooch attracted many eyes at the dinner party.

fuliginous

adj
/ fyü'lijənəs /
L

having the color of soot : dark, dusky.
Smoke-belching factories cast a fuliginous cloud over the entire city.

fulminate

v
/ 'fүlmənāt /
L

issue or send forth censures or invectives menacingly or authoritatively.
The neighbor's habit of mowing the lawn early every Sunday morning caused Dad to fulminate under his breath.

fulsome

adj
/ 'fүlsəm /
E

offensive to the senses : disgusting.
The fulsome odor of a skunk drove the campers out of their tent.

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fulvous

adj
/ 'fʊlvəs /
L

dull brownish yellow.
When Mr. Brown's soybean field turned fulvous, he knew it was time to harvest.

fumigate

funambulist

n
/ fyü'nambyələst /
L

an acrobat who performs feats on a rope extended through the air at some height.
A hush came over the crowd as the funambulist balanced himself on one foot.

funeral

n
/ 'fyün(ə)rəl /
L > E

the observances held in honor of or on behalf of one who has died.
Bonnie wanted dancing at her funeral, so she arranged for a band before she died.

fungicide

n
/ 'fənjəsɪd /
L

an agent that destroys a group of lower plants including molds, rusts, mildews, mushrooms, and yeasts.
A fungicide was sprayed on the apple trees to protect the fruit.

funicular

adj
/ fyü'nikyələ(r) /
L

dependent on the tension of a cord or cable.
Too nervous to take the funicular tramway, Selena chose to drive to the top of the mountain.

furfuraceous

adj
/ fərf(y)ə'rāshəs /
L

consisting of or covered with flaky particles : scaly, scurfy.
The dermatologist recommended a dandruff-removing shampoo to treat Linda's furfuraceous scalp.

furibund

furlough

n
/ 'fər(ɪ)lō /
D

a leave of absence granted to a governmental or institutional employee (as a soldier, civil servant, or missionary).
While on furlough last year, the Lees raised \$10,000 for the dental clinic.

furniture

furtive

adj
/ fərdɪv /
L

done by stealth : secret.
Wendy's furtive attempt to sneak a cookie was interrupted by the appearance of her little brother.

fuselage

n
/ 'fyüsələzh /
F

the central body portion of an airplane designed to accommodate the crew and the passengers or cargo.
Leslie pointed out the bulbous fuselage of a Boeing 747 on the tarmac.

fusillade

n
/ 'fyüsələd /
F

a number of shots fired simultaneously or in rapid succession especially with small arms : volley.
The first rank of infantrymen fired a fusillade, sank to their knees, and waited for the second rank to fire over their heads.

fusion

n
/ 'fyūzhən /
L

a merging of diverse elements into a unified whole.
The spicy pasta dish Fran ordered was a fusion of Italian and Thai cuisine.

fustian

n
/ 'fəschən /
L > F > E

pretentious writing or speech : an inflated style : bombast.
The literary journal refused to print Herman's overwrought fustian.

futilitarian

adj
/ (ɪ)fyü.tilə'terēən /
L

exhibiting or based on an attitude of uselessness.
The futilitarian worker doesn't try to improve his status because he can't see any chance of success.

gabbro

n
/ 'gɑ(ɪ)brō /
L? > It

a rock of a family of granular igneous rocks.
An outcropping of gabbro showed through the soil.

gabion

n
/ 'gæbiən /
L > It > F

a hollow cylinder of wickerwork or strap iron like a basket without a bottom that is filled with stones and is sunk in water to form the foundation of a dam or similar structure.
With the availability of poured cement, the gabion became outmoded.

gadabout

gadgeteer

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gaggle

n
/ 'gagəl /

E
a flock of geese especially when on the water.

The largest goose in the gaggle was soon to play an important role in the holiday dinner.

gainsay

v
/ 'gān.sā /

E
speak against : contradict.

The ruling of the umpire allowed no one to gainsay his decision.

gait

gaiter

galactic

adj
/ gə'laktik /

Gk > L
extremely great : huge.

Ralph was overwhelmed by the store's galactic profusion of merchandise.

galaxy

Galbraithian

adj
/ gal'brāthēən /

American name
of or relating to the economic theories of John Kenneth Galbraith.

The speaker at the symposium claimed that Galbraithian theories on limited growth were not sound.

galette

gallantry

galleon

n
/ 'galēən /

F > Sp
[has homonyms and near homonym: gallein, Gallian and Galium] a heavily built chiefly square-rigged sailing ship of the 15th to early 18th centuries.
Traci built a model of a Spanish galleon out of matchsticks for her history project.

gallery

n
/ 'gal(ə)rē /

geog name > L > F
a platform projecting from one or more interior walls (as of a theater) for additional accommodation (as of a part of an audience); especially : the highest of such platforms in a theater commonly having the cheapest seats.

For the opera's opening performance there wasn't a vacant seat in the entire gallery.

gallimaufry

n
/ ,galə'mófrē /

F
medley, mixture, hodgepodge, jumble.

Ever since her around-the-world trip, Lindsey uses a gallimaufry of foreign phrases when she speaks.

galling

gallinule

n
/ 'galən(y)ül /

L
any of several aquatic birds that resemble a small domestic hen in general proportions and carriage.
Mitch found an injured gallinule in the rushes near Pearson's dock.

gallipot

gallon

n
/ 'galən /

F > E
a unit of liquid capacity equal to 231 cubic inches.
Long-term blood donors tally their donations by the gallon.

galloon

n
/ gə'lün /

F
a narrow ornamental fabric used especially for trimming clothes or upholstery.
Instead of the more common lace, Ling chose a white galloon for the trim on her wedding dress.

gallop

galloping

adj
/ 'galəpiŋ /

F
marked by a bounding and fast natural three-beat gait of a horse.
A galloping horse splashed through the waves on Sunset Beach.

gallyware

galore

adj
/ gə'lō(ə)r /

IrGael
abundant, plentiful, profuse.
Edie found bargains galore at the flea market.

galosh

n
/ gə'lāsh /

F > E
a high overshoe designed to protect the shoe in wet weather or in wet areas and usually made with a rubber or water-repellent fabric.
The galosh was the first type of footwear to employ a zipper fastener.

galvanize

v
/ 'galvənīz /

It name > F
stimulate as if by the application of an electric current.
The enemy attack served to galvanize the government into immediate action.

gambado

n
/ gam'bā(,)dō /

It
a long boot or legging attached to each side of a saddle to protect the rider's feet and legs from the wet or cold.
Preparing for a ride in the rain, the horseman attached a gambado to each stirrup strap.

gambit

gamble

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gambol

v
/ 'gambəl /
GK > L > OProv > F
[has homonym: gamble] bound or spring as in dancing or play.
Susan watched the fawns gambol in the field.

gamopetalous

adj
/ ,gamə'pedʰləs /
Gk
having the corolla composed of united petals.
The flowers of the huckleberry, bluebell, and foxglove are gamopetalous.

gamut

n
/ 'gamət /
Gk > L
an entire range from one extreme to another.
The gamut of fall fashions included micro-miniskirts as well as ankle-length dresses.

ganglion

n
/ 'gæŋglēən /
Gk > L
a mass of nerve tissue containing nerve cells.
Each insect ganglion controls certain activities and is more or less independent of the others.

gangrene

n
/ 'gæŋgrēn /
Gk > L
local death of soft tissues (as from disease, injury, or infection) resulting from loss of blood supply.
The soldier knew that if gangrene set in, his wounded leg would need to be amputated.

garage

gardenesque

adj
/ ,gärd'n'esk /
Gmc > F > E + Ecf
resembling or relating to a plot of land devoted to the growing of herbs, fruits, flowers, or vegetables.
Rosita turned her balcony into a gardenesque area with vines and potted plants.

garderobe

n
/ 'gär.drøb /
F > E
a wardrobe or its contents.
The seamstress hung the completed gown in the garderobe.

gargantuan

adj
/ gär'ganch(əw)ən /
F name
of tremendous size or volume.
The seemingly gargantuan gorilla in the movie was really a four-foot-high computerized model.

garish

garlion

n
/ 'gärlyən /
E + L > F > E
a hybrid vegetable resulting from a cross between garlic and onion.
Shannon uses garlion in her spaghetti sauce.

garnishee

v
/ ,gärnä'shē /
Gmc > F > E + Ecf
take by legal writ the wages or other property of a debtor.
Norton was afraid the court would garnishee his entire salary to pay his back taxes.

garrison

garrulity

n
/ gə'rülədē /
L
the quality or state of being talkative or long-winded.
Paul talks so much that his teacher calls him a "geyser of garrulity."

garrulous

adj
/ 'garələs /
L
given to conversation : loquacious, talkative.
The old colonel turned quite garrulous when talking of war.

gasconade

v
/ ,gaskə'nād /
F name
boast or bluster especially to excess.
Mr. Clay could gasconade at such length that his listeners became bored.

gaseous

adj
/ 'gasēəs /
L
having the form of or being a fluid (as air) that has neither independent shape nor volume but tends to expand indefinitely.
The energy required to completely separate one mole of a solid ionic compound into gaseous ions is called "lattice energy."

gasification

gastric

gastriloquist

n
/ ga'striləkwəst /
Gk + L
ventriloquist.
Lanny hired a gastriloquist to entertain at Betsy's birthday party.

gastronomical

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gastronomy

n
/ gə'strɒnəmē /
Gk > F

the art or science of good eating :
epicurism.
*Chef Bernie specializes in French
gastronomy.*

gauche

adj
/ 'gɔʃ /
Gmc > F

lacking in social graces or ease,
tact, and familiarity with polite
usage.
*Gertrude was embarrassed by her
cousin's gauche behavior at the
christening.*

gaucherie

n
/ 'gɔʃəri /
Gmc > F

a tactless or awkward action; often
: a bit of social or literary crudity.
*Daphne's mom told her that using
one's dinner napkin as a
handkerchief is an unforgivable
gaucherie.*

gaufrette

n
/ gɔ'fret /
F

a wafer of crisply fried potato cut
to resemble a small waffle.
*At the summer festival the French
restaurant featured gaufrette.*

gauleiter

n
/ 'gɔːlɪdər /
G

a political functionary occupying a
subordinate but important position
in a totalitarian regime.
*The memoirs of the gauleiter
contained little of historical
importance.*

gauze

gazelle

n
/ gə'zel /
Ar > F

any of numerous small graceful and
swift African and Asian antelopes
noted for the luster and soft
expression of their eyes.
*The fawn and white coloration of
the gazelle serves to minimize
detection by predators.*

gazetteer

n
/ ,gəzə'ti(ə)r /
Venetian dialect > It > F
a geographical dictionary in which
names and descriptions of places
are usually given in alphabetical
order.
*Chandra consulted her gazetteer to
find the capital of Sri Lanka.*

gazpacho

n
/ gə'spɑː(ɪ)çɔ /
Sp

a soup made of uncooked chopped
tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers,
onion, garlic with vinegar, oil, and
condiments, and served cold.
*The restaurant was famous for its
gazpacho.*

gegenschein

n
/ 'gægənʃaɪn /
G

a faint elliptical nebulous light
about 20 degrees across on the
ecliptic and opposite the Sun.
*The gegenschein is lost in the light
of the Milky Way in the summer
and winter.*

gelatigenous

gelatinous

adj
/ jə'latɪnəs /
L > It > F + Ecf
resembling gelatin or jelly
especially in appearance and
consistency.
*Troy stepped on a gelatinous mass
of frog eggs.*

gendarme

n
/ 'zhændärm /
F

a continental European police
officer; especially : a French police
officer.
*The gendarme asked the victim for
a description of the mugger.*

genealogy

n
/ ,jɛnə'ɒləj /
Gk
a study of family ancestral lines
and the methods of investigation of
them.
*Many Americans interested in
genealogy eventually come to the
National Archives in Washington,
D.C., to do research.*

general

adj
/ 'jɛn(ə)rəl /
L

applicable or relevant to the whole
rather than to a limited part, group,
or section.
*The spring thaw began in one or
two areas, but soon there was a
general change in temperature
throughout the country.*

generalissimo

generosity

genesis

genethliacal

genial

adj
/ 'jɛnyəl /
L

marked by sympathetic
cheerfulness, warmth, and
friendliness.
*Kim's goal was to make the club
members more genial and less
cliquish.*

geniohyoid

genitive

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geniture

n
/ 'jenə.chù(ə)r /

L

nativity, birth.

The geniture of the prince was an event of national importance.

genocide

n
/ 'jenəs.ɪd /

Gk + L

the use of deliberate systematic measures calculated to bring about the extermination of a racial, political, or cultural group.

What stands between civilization and genocide is the respect for the rights and lives of all human beings.

genre

n
/ 'zhä(ə)nrə /

L > F

a category of artistic composition characterized by a particular style, form, or content.

Most of the director's work has been in the genre of science fiction.

genteel

adj
/ jen'tēl /

L > F

free from vulgarity or rudeness : marked by delicacy of manner.

Despite his genteel manner, Senator Smith could be a ruthless opponent.

gentian

gentilitial

adj
/ ,jentə'lishəl /

L + Ecf

relating or peculiar to a people or a family.

In 1917 the gentilitial name of Britain's royal family was changed to Windsor.

gentility

genuflect

v
/ 'jenyə.flekt /

L

touch the knee to the floor or ground especially in worship.

Amy asked the tour guide if everyone had to genuflect upon entering the cathedral.

geochrony

n
/ ,jē'äkronē /

Gk

a system of time divisions used in geology.

In geochrony, time is divided into eras, periods, and epochs.

geodesy

n
/ ,jē'ädəsē /

Gk

a branch of applied mathematics used to determine the exact positions and areas of large portions of Earth's surface and also the gravitational field of Earth.

An expert in geodesy, Dr. Buck determined the variation in gravity between the highest and lowest points of Earth's exposed surface.

geognosy

n
/ ,jē'ägnəsē /

Gk + Gk

a branch of geology that deals with the materials of Earth and its general exterior and interior constitution.

Hilda's research in geognosy involved classifying several kinds of minerals and recording their distribution throughout the world.

geography

n
/ ,jē'ägrəfē /

Gk

the descriptive science that deals with the surface of Earth and its features.

Chelsea was surprised by how much she learned about geography in her history class.

geometric

geosyncline

n
/ ,jē(,)ō'sɪn.klɪn /

Gk

a great downward flexure of Earth's crust.

A deep layer of sediment has accumulated in the geosyncline.

geranium

n
/ ,jə'rānēəm /

Gk > L

any of a widely distributed genus of plants having regular usually white, pink, or purple flowers.

For decoration, Anita placed a potted geranium at the side of the front door.

geriatrics

n pl
/ ,jerē'atrɪks /

Gk + E

a branch of medicine that deals with the problems and diseases of old age and aging people.

Marie's expertise in geriatrics made her well qualified to work in the city's Department of Aging.

germane

adj
/ ,jə(r)'mān /

L > F > E

having a close relationship : appropriate, pertinent.

Judge Beacon ruled that the plaintiff's past record was not germane to the current case.

germicide

n
/ ,jərməsɪd /

L > F

an agent that destroys germs (as disease germs).

Mouthwash is a common germicide.

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germinal

adj
/ 'jɜrmənəl /
L > F

being in the earliest stage of development.

Jonathan's social studies class is studying the germinal political ideas underlying our democratic government.

gerontocracy

gerrymander

v
/ 'jɛrē.mandə(r) /
American name + Gk > L
divide (an area) into political units so as to give special advantages to one group.

The governor vetoed the bill that would gerrymander a county in favor of his opponent.

gerund

n
/ 'jɛrənd /
L
the English verbal noun ending in -ing.

In the sentence "Swimming is Claudia's favorite activity," the word swimming is a gerund.

gestapo

n
/ gə'stə(,)pə /
G acronym
a secret-police organization that operates especially against persons suspected of treason or sedition and employs means held to be underhanded and terrorist.

In the novel, morality became nothing more than subservience to the dictates of the ruthless gestapo.

gesticulate

v
/ je'stikyə.lāt /
L
make gestures or motions of the body or limbs especially when speaking.
The way public figures gesticulate while talking is often fodder for comedians.

gesture

n
/ 'jes(h)chə(r) /
L
a movement usually of the body or limbs that symbolizes or emphasizes an idea, sentiment, or attitude.

When Alex made the winning touchdown, Coach Miller swung his hands up in the air as a gesture of victory.

gesundheit

interj
/ gə'zunt.hīt /
G
—used to wish good health especially to one who has just sneezed.
"Gesundheit" echoed throughout the school when Mr. Brown sneezed during an intercom announcement.

ghastliness

ghastly
adj
/ 'gastlē /
E
giving rise to terror : frightening.
The gnarled trees appeared ghastly in the moonlight.

ghetto

ghoul

ghoulish
adj
/ 'gūlish /
Ar
of, resembling, or suggestive of an evil being held to rob graves and feed on corpses.
Tricia favors rather ghoulish nail colors like green and black.

giallolino

giantesque
adj
/ ,jɪənt'esk /
Gk > L > F > E + Fcf
having the characteristics of a giant : immense.
A giantesque Snoopy balloon was the highlight of the parade.

gibberish

gibbous

adj
/ 'jɪbəʃ /
L > F > E
seen with more than half but not all of the apparent disk of a moon or a planet illuminated.
Vladimir and Sonya took a long romantic walk under the gibbous Moon.

gibleh

n
/ 'gɪblə /
Ar
a hot desert wind of northern Africa.
The gibleh brought huge clouds of powdery sand that covered the roads.

gigantesque

gigantic

adj
/ jɪ'gəntɪk /
Gk
greater in size than the usual or expected.
The American flag flying over the service station is so gigantic that it can be seen from a mile away.

gigot

n
/ 'jɪgət /
F
[has homonym: jigget] a leg (as of lamb or mutton) especially when cooked.
Marie praised the chef for cooking the gigot with exactly the right touch of garlic.

gimmick

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gimmicky

adj
/ 'giməkē /
unknown + Ecf
having or being like a new and ingenious device, scheme, or idea with a novel or unconventional twist.

The advertisement displayed gimmicky gizmos, such as a wristwatch that played Notre Dame's fight song.

gingerbread

n
/ 'jinjə(r).bred /
F > E
a cake made with molasses, flavored with ginger, and often cut in shapes and frosted.
Pam entertained the children by helping them bake and decorate gingerbread.

gingham

n
/ 'ginəm /
Malay
a fabric in plain weave made in solid colors, checks, plaids, and stripes.
Betsy made curtains of blue gingham for her kitchen.

gingivitis

n
/ 'jinjə'vīdəs /
L
inflammation of the gums.
To prevent gingivitis Beth has her teeth cleaned regularly.

ginglymus

n
/ 'jinɡlɪməs /
Gk
a hinge joint admitting of motion in one plane only.
In health class Jerry learned that the humerus and the ulna are connected by a ginglymus.

giraffe

n
/ jə'raf /
Ar > It
a large fleet African ruminant mammal that is the tallest of living quadrupeds and has a very long neck and a short coat with dark blotches separated by pale lines.
Each giraffe has a unique pattern of coat markings that distinguishes it from all other giraffes.

girandole

n
/ 'jirən.dəl /
L > It > F
a mirror having attached candle holders.
The girandole over Pete's mantel is a replica of one in a Loire Valley chateau.

girth

gizzard

n
/ 'gizə(r)d /
Iranian? > L > F > E
the muscular enlargement of the alimentary canal of birds that serves to grind the food, its muscular action being commonly assisted by gravel swallowed by the bird.
Aunt Lena's favorite part of the chicken is the gizzard.

glabrescent

glabrous

adj
/ 'glābrəs /
L
having an epidermal covering that is totally or relatively devoid of hairs or down.
Mr. Franklin showed the first graders that reptiles, unlike mammals, are completely glabrous.

glacial

adj
/ 'glāshəl /
L
extremely cold, frigid, freezing.
A glacial wind withered the roses overnight.

glacier

n
/ 'glāshə(r) /
L > F
[has near homonym: glazier] a large body of ice moving slowly down a slope or valley or spreading outward on a land surface.
The iceberg that sank Titanic had probably broken off from a glacier on Greenland.

glaciology

glacon

n
/ gla'sō /
F
a piece of sea ice ranging in size from a small fragment to a floe of medium dimensions.
At least one seagull was perched on every glacon in the bay.

gladiator

n
/ 'gladē.ādə(r) /
Celt > L
a person engaged in a fight to the death as public entertainment for ancient Romans.
The victorious gladiator was cheered by the excited crowd in the Coliseum.

glasnost

n
/ 'gläs.nōst /
Russ
a policy permitting public discourse and expression of opinion on domestic issues formerly forbidden to discussion especially in the former Soviet Union.
Glasnost spawned a profusion of new political and literary journals in Moscow.

glasphalt

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glaucoma

n
/ gló'kómə /
Gk > L

a disease of the eye marked by increased pressure within the eyeball that damages the optic disk and results in gradual loss of vision and ultimate blindness.
Ophthalmologists routinely test for glaucoma as part of their eye examinations.

glaucous

adj
/ 'glókəs /
Gk

[has homonym: Glaucus] of a pale yellow green color.
The antique glass beads had a glaucous color that matched Pamela's dress exactly.

glazier

n
/ 'glāzhə(r) /
E

[has near homonyms: glacier, glazer] one whose work is cutting and setting glass.
Mom called a glazier who agreed to repair our broken window on Thursday.

glimmer

v
/ 'glimə(r) /
E

emit feeble or intermittent rays of light.
From Table Top Mountain, the couple watched the city lights glimmer in the cool clear evening air.

glimpse

n
/ 'glim(p)s /
E

a brief fleeting look : a momentary or incomplete view.
From the taxi the passengers caught a glimpse of the Jefferson Memorial.

glioma

n
/ glī'ōmə /
Gk

a tumor arising from the tissue which supports the essential elements of nervous tissue.
An examination by our veterinarian revealed that the problems our dog was having were caused by a glioma.

glissade

v
/ glə'säd /
F

move along smoothly and effortlessly : glide.
Kris watched the skaters glissade over the frozen pond.

glissando

n
/ glə'sän(,)dō /
F + It

a rapid series of consecutive notes played on a piano, harp, or other similar instrument by sliding one or more fingers across adjacent keys or strings.
Joachim diligently practiced the glissando at the end of the first movement.

glistening

v
/ 'glis'nɪŋ /
E

shining brightly usually by reflection with a sparkling radiance.
Clarabelle watched the raindrops glistening in the moonlight.

globular

adj
/ 'gläbyələ(r) /
L

round like a ball : spherical.
A globular lamp hung from the center of the ceiling in Gretchen's dining room.

globule

glockenspiel

n
/ 'gläkən.s(h)pəl /
Celt > G

a percussion musical instrument consisting of a series of graduated metal bars tuned to the chromatic scale and played with two hammers.
The glockenspiel tinkled to life as its player joined in a rendition of Beethoven's "Ode to Joy."

glogg

n
/ 'glüg /
Sw

a Swedish hot punch made from a sweetened highly spiced mixture of wines, almonds, raisins, and usually orange peel.
Each evening a bowl of hot glogg awaited the returning skiers.

glomerulus

glossary

glottogonic

adj
/ ,glädō'gänik /
Gk

of or relating to the origin of language.
Three Russian linguists lectured on their glottogonic research.

glowworm

n
/ 'glō.wərm /
E + E

any of various luminous insects with wings rudimentary or lacking.
Kyle scooped up the glowworm and put it in his collection jar.

gloxinia

n
/ gläk'sinēə /
G name

a greenhouse herb having large flowers with a turbinate calyx and irregular bell-shaped corolla; especially : a Brazilian herb that is the source of many horticultural varieties.
Charlena's gloxinia bears bright pink, trumpetlike flowers in early summer.

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glucose

n
/ 'glü.kōs /
Gk > F

the sweet colorless sugar that occurs especially in plant saps and fruits and normally in blood.

Glucose is formed from water and carbon dioxide by photosynthesis.

gluttonously

adv
/ 'glət(°)nəsle /
L > F > E

in a manner marked by excess in eating and drinking especially when habitual.

After eating gluttonously, Jack took a short nap on the couch.

glycogen

gnocchi

n pl
/ 'näke /
Gmc? > It

dumplings of a pasta often made with cheese or riced potato and served with a sauce.

Celeste ladled a cream sauce over the gnocchi before serving them.

gnome

gnomic

adj
/ 'nōmik /
Gk

[has homonym: nomic]
characterized by or expressive of moralistic wisdom especially concerning human condition or conduct.

The calendar contained 12 Norman Rockwell illustrations, each accompanied by a gnomic sentiment.

gnomon

gnotobiotic

adj
/ .nōdə(,)bi'ädik /
Gk

of, relating to, living in, or being a controlled environment containing one or a few kinds of organisms.

A good example of a planned gnotobiotic environment is the international space station.

goalie

n
/ 'gōle /
E

a player who defends the goal in various games.

Jake rifled off shot after shot on goal, but the goalie was too good.

goatee

n
/ (,)gō'tē /
E

a small trim pointed or tufted beard on a man's chin.

Sally wanted to know why she couldn't have a goatee when she grew up.

gobemouche

n
/ (,)gōb'müş /
F + L > F

a credulous person; especially : one who believes everything heard.

Jack's brothers are always making up fantastic stories to tell him because he is such a gobemouche.

goldenrod

n
/ 'gōldən.räd /
E + E

a yellow flower with long stalks with small clusters of petals.

Many people are allergic to the goldenrod.

golem

n
/ 'gōləm /
Heb > Yiddish

an artificial figure constructed to represent a human being and endowed with life.

Some people believe that Mary Shelley based her story of Frankenstein on the ancient Jewish tradition of the golem.

gondola

gondolier

gonfalon

n
/ 'gänfəlän /
F > It

[Note: Could be confused with synonym gonfanon.] a flag that hangs from a crosspiece or frame.

As a distinguished alumnus, Walter was asked to carry the gonfalon of the College of Arts and Sciences at the graduation ceremony.

gongorism

n
/ 'gängə.rizəm /
Sp name

an excessively involved, ornate, and artificial style of writing.

In his later years, the poet lapsed into gongorism.

goosander

gorgeous

adj
/ 'gōrjəs /
F > E

characterized by brilliance or magnificence of any kind.

The parade floats were gorgeous with their array of flowers.

gorget

n
/ 'gōrjät /
F

a specially colored patch on the throat.

The woodpecker sported a broad black gorget and beautiful red and white plumage.

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gorgonize

v
/ 'gò(r)gə.nīz /

Gk name

stupefy, petrify.

The glare of Mrs. McGillicutty has the potential to gorgonize even the most arrogant student.

Gorgonzola

n
/ .gò(r)gən'zòlə /

It geog name

a blue cheese usually made of cow's milk.

Kendra crumbled some Gorgonzola on a piece of bread and toasted it.

gorilla

n
/ gə'rilə /

Gk > L

[has homonym: guerrilla] an anthropoid ape of the forest region of equatorial West Africa.

The behavior of the gorilla has been extensively studied by anthropologists and zoologists.

gorse

n
/ 'gò(ə)rs /

E

a spiny evergreen shrub : juniper.

Taryn went hiking in an area of England that is just miles and miles of wild land covered with heather and gorse.

gory

gosling

n
/ 'gäzliŋ /

E

a young goose.

Judy rescued a stray gosling from Mrs. Porter's cat.

gossamer

n
/ 'gäsəmə(r) /

E

a fine filmy substance consisting of fragments or strands of cobweb often seen floating in air in calm clear weather or caught on grass or bushes.

The dew and gossamer had dried from the grass by midmorning.

gossip

n
/ 'gäsəp /

E

rumor, report, tattle, or behind-the-scenes information especially of an intimate or personal nature.

"Turn a deaf ear to gossip," advised Mrs. Dunbar.

gouge

n
/ 'gäuĵ /

Celt > L > F > E

a chisel for scooping or cutting holes, channels, or grooves (as in wood or stone).

Adrian used a gouge to incise a leaf pattern on the bench.

gourami

n
/ gü'rämē /

Malay

any of several small brightly colored Asian fishes often kept in the tropical aquarium.

Jonathan bought a colorful gourami for his new aquarium.

gourd

gourmet

n
/ .gü(ə)r'mā /

F

a connoisseur in eating and drinking.

At the market the gourmet chose his ingredients with the greatest of care.

gout

n
/ 'gäüt /

L > F > E

a metabolic disease marked by a painful inflammation of the fibrous and ligamentous parts of the joints.

Poor old John is bedridden with the rheumatic gout in his joints.

governess

n
/ 'gəvə(r)nəs /

Gk > L > F > E

a woman entrusted with the care and supervision of a child or young person; especially : a female teacher employed in a private household.

Alice plans to enroll in a course that will enable her to be a certified governess.

gracile

gracility

n
/ gra'silədē /

L

the quality of being pleasing in movement.

David's youthful gracility was one of his chief assets as a dancer.

grackle

gradient

graffiti

grallatorial

adj
/ .gralə'törēəl /

L

of or belonging to the wading birds.

The horned screamer is a South American grallatorial bird with a long projection on its forehead and a shrill cry.

gramineous

adj
/ grə'minēəs /

L

[has near homonym: graminous] resembling or relating to a grass.

The vast plain is an excellent habitat for gramineous plants.

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grammar

n
/ 'gramə(r) /
Gk > L > F > E

a branch of linguistic study that deals with the classes of words, their means of indicating relation to each other, and their functions in the sentence as employed according to established usage.

Mrs. Cates makes sure that her students can define the eight parts of speech before she progresses to other aspects of grammar.

grammarian

n
/ grə'merēən /
Gk > L > F > E

a specialist in the study of what is to be preferred and what avoided in the inflections and syntax of language.

The grammarian in Johnny cringes every time he hears someone ask, "Where at?"

grammatically

gramophile

n
/ 'gramə.fil /
Gk

a lover and protector of old phonograph records.

Earl became a real gramophile after inheriting his uncle's record collection.

grandeur

n
/ 'granjə(r) /
L > F

personal greatness characterized chiefly by dignity of character, largeness of spirit, or significant scope of accomplishment.

After Katherine Graham's death, many magazines ran feature articles describing her grandeur in the world of newspapers.

grandiloquence

n
/ gran'diləkwən(t)s /
L

the use of lofty words or phrases : bombast.

Professor Simon's grandiloquence failed to impress Robbie.

grandiose

adj
/ 'grandē.ōs /
L > It > F

impressive because of uncommon largeness, scope, effect, grandeur, or majesty.

Cleo didn't want to listen to all of Nicolette's grandiose ideas for the party.

grangerize

v
/ 'grānjə.rīz /
E name + Ecf

illustrate (as a book) by inserting material (as photographs or engravings) collected from other sources.

To complete her family memoirs, Miriam will have to grangerize the book using her great-aunt's scrapbooks and artwork.

granophyre

granule

graphospasm

grapnel

graticule

n
/ 'gradə.kyül /
L

the network of lines of latitude and longitude upon which a map is drawn.

Jeff plotted a graticule before he began to draw his map of the islands.

gratinate

v
/ 'grat'n.āt /
F > Ecf

cook with a covering of buttered crumbs or grated cheese until a crust or crisp surface forms.

Mom decided to gratinate the macaroni for lunch.

gratuitous

graupele

n
/ 'gräupəl /
Slav? > G

granular snow pellets.

Peter calls graupele "tapioca snow" because of its shape and color.

gravel

graveolent

adj
/ grə'vēələnt /
L

having a rank smell.

Elaine quickly disposed of the rotten, graveolent egg.

gravitate

v
/ 'gravətāt /
L

move casually but inexorably as though under an external force.

Ellen tends to gravitate toward the shoe store in any mall.

grazioso

adv
/ ,grätsē'ō(,)sō /
L > It

graceful, smooth, or elegant in style—used as a direction in music.

Several of Mozart's piano sonatas include pieces that are played grazioso.

greffier

n
/ 'grefē.ā /
L > F

registrar, recorder.

The office of the greffier is lined with ledgers.

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gregarious

adj
/ grə'ga(a)rēəs /
L

marked by an instinctive or temperamental preference for a social rather than a solitary existence.

Because of their gregarious nature, dogs make good house pets.

grenadier

n
/ ,grənə'di(ə)r /
F

a soldier who carries and throws missiles consisting of a container fitted with a priming charge and a bursting charge and filled with a destructive agent (as gas, high explosive, incendiary chemicals).
The grenadier started the assault, followed immediately by the riflemen.

gressorial

adj
/ gre'sōrēəl /
L

adapted for walking.
Some birds, such as the turkey, have gressorial feet.

grievance

grievous

adj
/ 'grēvəs /
F > E

causing, characterized by, or indicative of severe physical pain or suffering.

Jason screamed as if the scratch on his leg were a grievous wound.

grimace

n
/ 'grimàs /
Gmc > F

a deliberate or involuntary distortion of the face expressive of some feeling (as contempt, disapprobation, complacency).

The camera caught Allie's grimace during the pep rally.

grimoire

n
/ grəm'wär /
F

a magician's manual for invoking demons and the spirits of the dead.
The witch looked in her grimoire to find a spell to change the child into a rat.

grimthorpe

v
/ 'grim(p).thò(ə)rp /
E name

remodel (an ancient building) without proper knowledge or care to retain its original quality and character.

Darryl is afraid the developers will grimthorpe the old mill.

griot

n
/ 'grē(.)ō /
F

any of a class of musician-entertainers of West Africa whose performances include tribal histories and genealogies.

While doing research for his book Roots, Alex Haley was stunned to meet a griot who was able to tell the story of how Haley's ancestors were captured by slavers and sent to America.

grisaille

n
/ grə'zī /
F

painting in monochrome usually in shades of gray often as decoration to simulate sculptured relief.

The old manuscript contained a grisaille of a skeleton personifying death.

grissini

gristliness

n
/ 'gris(ə)lēnəs /
E

the quality or state of containing tough fiber or cartilage especially in table meats.

When Ruth noticed the gristliness of the beef, she decided to cut it up and cook it in a stew.

gristmill

grizzled

grobian

n
/ 'grōbēən /

G name
a slovenly crude often buffoonish individual : boor, lout.

Vicki knew better than to expect Prince Charming on her blind date, but she never envisioned a grobian.

groceries

grocery

groceteria

n
/ ,grōsə'tirēə /

F > E + Ecf
a self-service food store.

Patrice bought four lemons at the groceteria.

groggy

grosgrain

n
/ 'grō,grān /
F

a firm fabric in plain weave.

The ribbon in Alta's hair was made of grosgrain.

grotesque

grovel

v
/ 'grävəl /
ON > E

creep on the earth or with the face to the ground as one's natural gait or manner of locomotion.

Jacques let his pig grovel through the forest to find truffles.

gruel

n
/ 'grüəl /
Gmc > F > E

a liquid food made by boiling a cereal (as cornmeal, oatmeal, flour) in water or milk.

Isabella and her father had a nice basin of gruel together.

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grunion

n
/ 'grʏnyən /
L > Sp

a small silver-striped fish of the California coast notable for the regularity with which it comes inshore to spawn at the time of a nearly full moon.

Jose caught a grunion with his bare hands when it came to spawn on the beach.

gruyere

guardian

n
/ 'gärdēən /
F > AF > E

one to whom a person or thing is committed for protection, security, or preservation.

Alcibiades' guardian was the famous statesman Pericles.

Guatemalan

n
/ ,gwädə'mälən /

Central American name
a native or inhabitant of Guatemala, a country in Central America.
Maria was a Guatemalan by birth, but had become a naturalized Brazilian.

guava

n
/ 'gwävə /
Arawak > Sp

the globular yellow fruit of a small shrubby tropical American tree.

A slice of guava topped off Rawonda's fruit salad.

gubernatorial

adj
/ ,gübə(r)nə'törēəl /
L + Ecf

of or relating to a governor or government.

The gubernatorial signature was required for the law to become effective.

guerdon

guernsey

n
/ 'gərnzē /

E geog name
an animal of the breed of fawn and white dairy cattle producing rich yellowish milk.

A lone guernsey grazed in the middle of the herd of black and white holsteins in Mr. Henley's pasture.

guess

v
/ 'ges /
Scand? > E

form an opinion or judgment of without knowledge.

Harvey decided to guess how much sugar to put in the pie.

guffaw

v
/ (,)gə'fò /
imit

laugh noisily or coarsely.

The comic hoped that the audience members would guffaw at his jokes, but they merely snickered.

guidon

n
/ 'gīdän /
OProv > F

a usually swallow-tailed flag borne by a military unit usually as a unit marker.

Leah was selected to carry the guidon in the ROTC parade.

guignolet

guile

guileful

adj
/ 'gīlfəl /
Gmc > F > E
characterized by cunning, deceit, or treachery.

His classmates thought Jack was guileful in paying \$12 for a \$1200 baseball card.

guillemot

guilloche

n
/ gə'lōsh /
F name?

a pattern (as on metalwork) made by interlacing curved lines.

The dense guilloche on the iron gate prevented people from reaching through to turn the inside knob.

guillotine

n
/ 'gilə'tēn /
F name

a machine for beheading by means of a heavy ax or blade that slides down in vertical guides.

The guillotine was considered a merciful means of capital punishment when it was invented.

guipure

guitar

n
/ gə'tär /
Gk > Ar > Sp > F

[Note: Could be confused with catarrh.] a flat-bodied stringed instrument with a long fretted neck and usually six strings plucked with a pick or with the fingers.

Brett's parents bought him an acoustic guitar for his 15th birthday.

gullibility

n
/ ,gələ'bilədē /
E + Ecff

the quality or state of being easily deceived.

Gertrude's gullibility made her the object of many practical jokes.

gullible

gulosity

n
/ gyü'läsədē /
L

excessive appetite : greediness.

It would be much easier for Roslyn to lose weight if she could curb her gulosity.

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gummiferous

adj
/ ,gə'mif(ə)rəs /
Egypt > Gk > L + L
producing or bearing a colloidal substance that is gelatinous when moist but hardens on drying.
A sapodilla is a gummiferous tree.

gummosis

n
/ ,gə'mōsəs /
L
the pathological production of sticky exudates in plants as a result of cell degeneration.
Plants afflicted with gummosis are often beset with ants.

gumption

n
/ 'gəm(p)shən /
unknown
blended initiative, resolution, and effort.
Of all his brothers, only Grandpa had the gumption to leave the old country and come to America.

gurney

n
/ 'gərnē /
American name
a wheeled cot or stretcher.
The gurney squeaked ominously as Heywood was wheeled into the operating room.

guru

n
/ 'gü.rü /
Skt > Hindi
a personal religious teacher and spiritual guide in Hinduism.
Shri asked his guru whether he should undertake a pilgrimage.

gustatory

adj
/ 'gəstə.tōrē /
L + Ecf
of, relating to, affecting, or associated with the sense of taste.
Gaylord was hired as a food taster because of his highly refined gustatory skills.

guttural

adj
/ 'gədərəl /
L > F
being or belonging to a speech sound that is articulated in the throat.
Guttural consonants posed a problem for Emily in German class.

gutturalize

v
/ 'gədərəlīz /
L + Ecf
pronounce or utter with sounds articulated in the throat.
Because of her German background, Ursula has a tendency to gutturalize certain words.

gymkhana

n
/ jim'känə /
Per&Gk > Hindi
a horseback-riding meet featuring games and novelty contests.
Clem practiced daily with his horse so that he could enter several events in the upcoming gymkhana.

gymnasium

gynarchy

n
/ 'ji.närkē /
Gk
government by women.
Although it has had a few male officers, Reta's investment club has always been a gynarchy.

gypsum

n
/ 'jipsəm /
Sem > Gk > L
plasterboard.
Kiki nailed a sheet of gypsum to the garage wall.

gyrate

v
/ 'ji.rāt /
Gk > L
turn or swing back and forth often rapidly with or as if with a circular or spiral motion.
Couples on the dance floor started to gyrate as a new song began.

gyrations

gyroscope

gyroscopic

haberdasher

n
/ 'habə(r).dashə(r) /
AF > E
a dealer in men's furnishings (as shirts, ties, hats).
Another upscale haberdasher has opened a shop on Brighton Street.

habiliment

habiliments

n pl
/ hə'biləmən(t)s /
F
clothing suited to or characteristic of a calling, occupation, or profession : garb, costume.
Burt dressed for the rodeo in the habiliments of a cowboy.

habilitate

habitat

n
/ 'habətət /
L
the place where a plant or animal species naturally lives and grows.
The government appropriated money to preserve the natural habitat of the endangered species.

habitual

adj
/ hə'bich(ə)wəl /
L
established by or repeated by force of a developed mode of behavior that has become nearly or completely involuntary.
Brian had to explain his habitual tardiness to the assistant principal.

hacienda

n
/ ,(h)äsē'endə /
L > Sp
the main building of a farm or ranch.
A winding, tree-lined driveway led to the hacienda.

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hackamore

n
/ 'hakə.mō(ə)r /
Ar > Sp
a bridle that consists of a halter often of soft rope or braided horsehair and is used especially in breaking and training horses.
Charlene pulled back on the hackamore and cried "Whoa!"

hacked

hackneyed

adj
/ 'haknēd /
E geog name
commonplace : trite.
The marketing adjective extreme will soon be as hackneyed as super and ultra.

haggard

adj
/ 'hagə(r)d /
F
having a worn or emaciated appearance caused by suffering, anxiety, or age.
Ever since she last saw him in the courtroom, Frank's haggard face and wild eyes had haunted her.

haggis

n
/ 'hagəs /
E
a pudding especially popular in Scotland made of the heart, liver, and lungs of a sheep or a calf minced with suet, onions, oatmeal, and seasonings and boiled in the stomach of the animal.
Haggis is often served on January 25, the birthday of the Scottish poet Robert Burns.

hagiocracy

hagiography

haiku

n
/ 'hī.kū /
Jpn
an unrhymed verse form of Japanese origin having three lines containing usually five, seven, and five syllables, respectively.
Compressing an image or idea into only 17 syllables is what makes a haiku most challenging to compose.

halberdier

halcyon

adj
/ 'halsēən /
Gk > L > E
pleasingly or idyllically calm or peaceful : serene.
Aaron spent the halcyon afternoon in his hammock.

halibut

n
/ 'haləbət /
E
the largest of the flatfishes, being an inhabitant of all northern seas.
At the aquarium, Ernie saw a halibut the size of a sleeping bag.

halieutics

n pl
/ ,halē'(y)üdiks /
Gk
the art or practice of fishing.
Izaak Walton's The Compleat Angler is the most famous book on halieutics.

halitosis

n
/ ,halə'tōsəs /
L
a condition of having bad breath.
The new mouthwash is advertised to cure halitosis.

hallucination

n
/ hə'lūs'n'āshən /
L
perception of objects with no reality.
Maynard swears that the ghost he saw was no hallucination.

hallucinogen

n
/ hə'lūs'n'jen /
L + Gk
a substance that induces perceptions of objects with no reality; especially : one taken orally.
The medicine that the doctors prescribed was an effective pain killer, but in larger doses it sometimes became a frightening hallucinogen.

halophyte

n
/ 'halə.fīt /
Gk + Gk
a plant that grows naturally in soils having a high content of various salts.
Australian aborigines grind into flour the seeds of a halophyte that grows in the coastal mud flats.

hamadryad

n
/ ,hamə'drī.ad /
Gk > L
a nymph of trees and woods; especially : a nymph whose life begins and ends with that of a particular tree.
Darcy sat on a bench in the arboretum and imagined she was a hamadryad.

hamartia

n
/ ,hämär'tēə /
Gk
a defect of character : error, guilt, or sin especially of the tragic hero in a literary work.
Overweening ambition proved to be Macbeth's hamartia.

hamate

adj
/ 'hāmāt /
L
hooked.
Elliott examined the hamate hairs on the insect's forelegs.

hammering

hammock

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hamulus

handleable

handwrought

adj
/ 'hand.rɒt /

E
fashioned by hand or chiefly by hand processes.
Barbie found a handwrought trivet at the garage sale.

hansom

n
/ 'han(t)səm /
E name

[has homonym: handsome] a light two-wheeled covered carriage with the driver's seat elevated behind and with the reins passed over the top.
Holmes and Watson jumped into a hansom and ordered the driver to follow discreetly the cab ahead.

haphazard

adj
/ hap'hazə(r)d /
ON > E + Ar > F > E
aimless, random.

The apartment's haphazard furniture arrangement made it look untidy.

hapless

adj
/ 'hapləs /
ON > E + Ecf

marked by the absence of good luck : unfortunate.
The hapless students were caught between the school district and the striking teachers.

haplology

n
/ hə'plələjē /
Gk

contraction of a word by the omission of one or more similar sounds or syllables in pronunciation.
The use of "proibly" instead of probably in hasty speech is an example of haplology.

happiness

harangue

n
/ hə'raŋ /
Gmc? > It > F > E
a bombastic, ranting speech.
Amasa's harangue at the sophomore assembly offended nearly everyone.

harass

harassed

adj
/ hə'rast /
Gmc > F
sorely troubled, vexed, or burdened : badgered.
The harassed waitress decided she had tolerated inconsiderate customers long enough and found a different line of work.

harbinger

n
/ 'hərbənjər /
Gmc > F > E
something that presages or foreshadows what is to come.
The howling wind was the harbinger of a storm.

hardiness

n
/ 'hɑrdənəs /
E
the capability of endurance or resistance.
The rose's hardiness was severely tested by a cold snap.

hare

n
/ 'ha(a)(ə)r /
E
[has homonym: hair] any of various timid long-eared gnawing mammals with a divided upper lip, long strong hind legs adapted to leaping, and a short tail.
Most schoolchildren have heard the story of the tortoise and the hare.

haricot

n
/ 'harəkō /
F
the ripe seed or the unripe pod of any of several beans used as a vegetable.
The baby nibbled on a haricot and wrinkled her nose.

Harlequin

adj
/ 'hɑrlək(w)ən /
E > F > It > F
a stock character in comedy and pantomime who appears variously as a clown and a magician and usually wears a mask and variegated tights and carries a wooden sword.
The children especially enjoyed the buffoonish antics of the Harlequin.

harmonica

harmoniously

adv
/ 'hɑr'mōnēəslē /
Gk
in a manner marked by accord in sentiment or action : compatibly.
For a large family to live harmoniously, rules and chores are a must.

harness

n
/ 'hɑrnəs /
ON > F > E
the gear or tackle other than a yoke of a draft animal such as a horse.
The horse pulling the carriage through Central Park had silver bells on its harness that jingled whenever the driver shook the reins.

harpoon

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harpsichord

n
/ 'härpsəkörd /
L > It

a keyboard instrument resembling the grand piano in shape and producing tones by the plucking of wire strings with quills or leather points.
Kristin heard the jangling tones of the harpsichord through the practice room door.

harridan

n
/ 'harədən /
F?

a haggard old woman.
Ruth asked a woman in the town square if she could take her picture, but the harridan just shook her fist at her and walked away.

harrier

harrumph

v
/ hə'rəm(p)f /
imit

make a pompous throat-clearing sound.
Monique wished that Mr. Nickels wouldn't harrumph directly into the microphone.

hartal

n
/ här'täl /
Hindi

concerted cessation of work and business especially as a protest against a political situation.
The Goa liberation committee called a hartal on Friday in memory of Indians killed by Portuguese fire on Monday.

hartebeest

n
/ 'härðə.bēst /
D > Afrikaans

a large African antelope with short ringed divergent horns.
The hartebeest grazes mainly on the open plains and scrublands of sub-Saharan Africa.

hassock

n
/ 'hasək /
E

a bulky upholstered footstool.
Phyllis decided to purchase the wing chair with the matching hassock.

hatchet

hauberk

n
/ 'hò(,)bærk /
Gmc > F > E

a long tunic of ring or chain mail that with a close-fitting helmet and a shield constituted the main defensive armor of the 12th to 14th centuries.
Most of the Norman soldiers wore a hauberk, which was put on over the head.

haughtily

adv
/ 'hòd'lē /
L > F > E

in a disdainfully proud or overbearing manner.
Gertrude haughtily replied that she receives an allowance of 20 dollars per week.

haulage

n
/ 'hòlij /
Gmc > F > E

a charge made for transporting something.
Paul's final bill for his new car included haulage for transportation from the factory to the dealer.

haunted

adj
/ 'hòntəd /
Gmc > F > E

inhabited by or as if by apparitions : frequented by ghosts.
The deserted Victorian house outside town is said to be haunted.

hauteur

n
/ hó'tər /
F

[has near homonyms: auteur and hotter] an assumption of superiority : arrogant or condescending manner.
The young couple was put off by the waiter's hauteur.

haversack

havoc

n
/ 'havək /
Gmc > F > AF > E

wide and general damage or destruction.
The havoc created by the hurricane made the area look like a war zone.

hazardous

adj
/ 'hazə(r)dəs /
Ar > F > E

exposed or exposing one to danger or peril.
The mountain road has many hazardous curves.

headache

healthy

adj
/ 'helthē /
E

free from disease : functioning properly and normally in its vital functions.
A perfectly healthy tree in Tammy's backyard was twisted and torn out of the ground by the tornado.

hearsay

n
/ 'hi(ə)r.sā /
E

something heard from another : report, rumor.
Jody's elaborate account of the argument was based purely on hearsay.

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Frequently

hearth

n
/ 'hɑ:θ /
E

a brick, stone, or cement area of floor in front of a fireplace.
Toby placed a plate of cookies and a glass of milk on the hearth for Santa.

heathen

n
/ 'heθən /
E

a person whose culture or enlightenment is of an inferior grade.
Embarrassed by her brother's behavior in front of her friends, Simone asked her mother to send the little heathen outside.

heather

n
/ 'heθə(r) /
E

a common evergreen low-growing shrubby plant that has racemes of tiny usually purplish pink flowers.
The true heather of Scotland is also called "ling" or "common heath."

heaume

n
/ 'hōm /
F

[has homonym: home] a large helmet chiefly of the 13th century worn over a hood of mail or close-fitting steel cap and supported by the shoulders rather than the head.
Each knight wore a heaume and carried a lance in the tournament.

hebdomad

n
/ 'hebdə.məd /
Gk

a group of seven.
Though some people think there is just a hebdomad of stars in the Pleiades, there are actually many more.

hebetate

v
/ 'heβətət /
L

blunt the sensitivity or keenness of : make dull or obtuse.
Some parents fear that video games hebetate young minds.

hebetude

heckelphone

hectare

n
/ 'hek.tə(a)(ə)r /
Gk > F + L > F

a metric unit of area equal to 10,000 square meters.
The firefighters reported that more than a hectare of land was on fire.

hedgehog

n
/ 'hej.hòg /
E

any of several Old World nocturnal spine-bearing mammals.
Prudence spotted a hedgehog in the strawberry patch.

hedgingly

hedonism

n
/ 'hed'n.izəm /
Gk

a way of life based on or suggesting the principle that pleasure or happiness is the sole or chief good in life.
When André turned 30, he renounced his youthful hedonism.

hegemony

n
/ hə'jemənē /
Gk

preponderant influence or authority (as of a government or state) : leadership, dominance.
Nazi Germany attempted world hegemony and failed.

heifer

n
/ 'hefə(r) /
E

a young cow.
This year's blue-ribbon heifer belongs to Mrs. Cates.

heinous

heinousness

n
/ 'hānəs'nəs /
Gmc > F > E + Ecf
the quality or state of being hatefully or shockingly evil.
Even the police were appalled by the heinousness of the crime.

heiress

n
/ 'erəs /
L > F > E
[has near homonym: eros] a female who inherits or is entitled to inherit great wealth.
Antoine dreamed that he married an heiress and moved to an island.

heirloom

heldentenor

heleoplankton

n
/ .helē(,)ō'pləŋktən /
Gk
plankton typical of small bodies of still fresh water.
Dozens of species gathered at the south end of the lake to feed on heleoplankton.

helicon

helicopter

heliography

heliolatry

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heliophobic

adj
/ hēlē'afəbəs /
Gk + Gk + Ecf
avoiding the sun : shade-loving.
Jackie planted ferns, hostas, and other heliophobic plants in her shady garden.

heliotrope

helium

helmeted

helotry

n
/ 'helətrē /
Gk > L + Ecf
the slaves or serfs of a country or an estate.
In ancient Sparta the helotry was required to serve in the army.

hematogenous

adj
/ hēmə'tājənəs /
Gk
spread by way of the blood stream.
Andrea was treated with antibiotics to prevent any hematogenous infection.

hematoma

n
/ hēmə'tōmə /
Gk > L
a tumor or swelling containing blood.
A hematoma can result from various types of blunt trauma to the head.

hemeralopia

n
/ hēmərə'lōpēə /
Gk
a defect of vision characterized by reduced visual capacity in bright lights.
A deficiency of vitamin A can lead to hemeralopia.

hemisphere

n
/ 'hemə'sfī(ə)r /
Gk
a half of the celestial sphere.
Vince's star chart depicts all visible heavenly objects in the hemisphere.

hemophiliac

n
/ hēmə'filē.ak /
Gk
one affected with a tendency to uncontrolled bleeding.
A hemophiliac must take care to avoid even minor cuts and bruises.

hemorrhage

hemorrhagic

hendiadys

n
/ hen'diədəs /
Gk
the expression of an idea by two nouns connected by and instead of by a noun and an adjective.
Thierry used the hendiadys iron and bit to denote an iron bit.

henna

n
/ 'henə /
Ar
a reddish brown dye used in tinting the hair, skin, or nails red.
The ancient use of henna is confirmed by the presence of the dye in Egyptian mummies.

hennin

n
/ 'henən /
F
a high cone-shaped headdress usually with a thin veil pendent from the top worn by European women in the 15th century.
Lady Agnes appeared at the king's ball wearing an elegant hennin.

hepatitis

n
/ hepə'tidəs /
Gk > L
inflammation of the liver.
Serum hepatitis can be transmitted through blood transfusions and unsterilized hypodermic needles.

heptarchy

herbaceous

adj
/ (h)ər'bāshəs /
L
of, relating to, or having the characteristics of a nonwoody plant.
Monique surrounded her patio with herbaceous perennials.

herbalist

n
/ '(h)ərbələst /
L + Ecff
one that collects, grows, or deals in medicinal plants.
Lisa consulted an herbalist regarding her wart.

herbarium

n
/ (h)ər'ba(a)rēəm /
L
a room, building, or institution housing a collection of dried plant specimens.
Jackson was looking forward to visiting the herbarium while on vacation.

hercogamy

Herculean

adj
/ hək'yə'lēən /
Gk name > L
of heroic proportions.
Jim's competitor was known for his Herculean frame and great strength.

hereditary

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heresy

n
/ 'herəsē /
Gk
dissent from a dominant theory or opinion in any field.
Much of what used to be considered scientific heresy is now regarded as truth.

heretical

adj
/ hə'redəkəl /
L
of, relating to, or characterized by departure from accepted beliefs or standards : unorthodox.
A free society allows the expression of all opinions, however heretical they may seem.

heritage

hermeneutics

n pl
/ .hərmə'n(y)üdiks /
Gk
the study of the general principles of biblical interpretation.
Experts in hermeneutics met to discuss the Dead Sea scrolls.

hermetically

adv
/ hə(r)'medək(ə)lē /
Gk + Eeff
in a manner that prevents entry or change.
With its flowered wallpaper and quaint furniture, the old house looked as though it had been hermetically sealed sometime in the 1880s.

hermit

hermitage

n
/ 'hərmədij /
Gk + L > F
a secluded residence or private retreat.
Dave's father has always dreamed of living in the city during the week and escaping to some country hermitage on the weekends.

heroic

adj
/ hə'rōik /
Gk > L
arising from, exhibiting, or suggestive of boldness, spirit, or daring.
The mountain climbers made a heroic effort to reach the peak.

heroine

n
/ 'herəwən /
Gk > L
[has homonym: heroin] the principal female character in a drama, novel, story, or narrative poem.
In the melodrama the spunky heroine took the law into her own hands and brought down the villain.

herpetology

n
/ .hərpə'täləjē /
Gk > L
a branch of the science of animal life that treats of reptiles and amphibians.
Jason studied herpetology to learn about the habits of cold-blooded creatures.

herring

herringbone

n
/ 'herɪnbōn /
E
a pattern (as on a fabric) made up of adjacent rows of parallel lines where any two adjacent rows slope slightly in reverse directions.
Dina wove herself a new wool scarf in herringbone.

hesitancy

hesitant

adj
/ 'hezədənt /
L
tending to hold back, pause, or falter.
The toddler took hesitant steps toward the large dog.

hesthogenous

heteroclite

heterodox

adj
/ 'hedərə.däks /
Gk
differing from an established religious point of view.
Father O'Driscoll holds a few heterodox opinions that astonish his parish.

heterogeneous

heterophemy

n
/ 'hedərə.fēmē /
Gk + Gk
unconscious use of words other than those intended.
When his client used the term debtor to mean "creditor," the accountant corrected the heterophemy.

heuristic

adj
/ '(h)yü.ristik /
Gk
of or relating to exploratory problem-solving techniques that utilize self-educating strategies to improve performance.
The computer that beat Gary Kasparov in the chess tournament was programmed to use heuristic methods.

hexamethyl

hibachi

n
/ hē'bächē /
Jpn
a charcoal brazier.
Antoni's hot dog fell through the grill of the hibachi onto the glowing coals below.

hibernal

adj
/ hī'bərnəl /
L
of or relating to winter : wintry.
Horace admired the hibernal scene depicted in the painting.

hibernate

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hibiscus

n
/ hɪˈbɪskəs /
L

any plant or flower of a large widely distributed genus of herbs, shrubs, or small trees with dentate or lobed leaves and large showy flowers.
Darla planted a hibiscus outside her bedroom window.

hickory

n
/ ˈhɪk(ə)rē /

Virginia word
any of a genus of North American trees of the walnut family that produce a hard nut.
Sophie napped in the shade of the tall hickory.

hideous

adj
/ ˈhɪdēəs /
F > E

offensive to the sight : gruesome, ugly.
During the thunderstorm, Ernie saw a hideous face at the window.

hiemal

adj
/ ˈhɪəməl /
L

of or relating to winter : wintry.
Inger's favorite hiemal activity is skiing.

hierarchy

n
/ ˈhɪərəkē /
Gk > L > F > E

a form of government administered by an authoritarian group.
Michelle's study of hierarchy made her appreciate living in the United States.

hieroglyph

n
/ ˈhɪ(ə)rəˌglɪf /
Gk

a character used in a system of writing mainly in pictorial characters.
The Egyptian hieroglyph for the word king was a royal head complete with beard.

hieroglyphics

n pl
/ ˈhɪ(ə)rəˌglɪfɪks /
Gk

characters in the ancient Egyptian writing system which are for the most part recognizable pictures of objects.
Egyptian hieroglyphics remained a mystery until the Rosetta Stone provided the key to deciphering them.

hierophant

n
/ ˈhɪ(ə)rəˌfənt /
Gk

a priest in ancient Greece.
The hierophant portrayed in Tim's history book was dressed in an animal skin and wore a crown of leaves.

hilarious

Himalayan

n
/ ˌhɪməˈlɑːən /
Asian geog name
any of a breed of domestic cats developed by crossing the Persian and Siamese.
A Himalayan won "Best of Show" in the local cat competition this winter.

hinge

n
/ ˈhɪnj /
E
a jointed or flexible device on which a door, lid, or other swinging part turns.
The hinge stopped creaking after Tony oiled it.

hippocampus

n
/ ˌhɪpəˈkæmpəs /
Gk
a curved elongated ridge extending over the lateral ventricles of the brain.
Injury to the hippocampus often results in emotional impairment.

hippodrome

n
/ ˈhɪpəˌdrɒm /
Gk > L > F
an arena for equestrian performances.
The circus horses performed for the spectators in the hippodrome.

hippogriff

n
/ ˈhɪpəˌgrɪf /
Gk > L > It > F
[Note: Could be confused with hippogriffin.] a legendary animal having the foreparts of a winged griffin and the body and hindquarters of a horse.
The Gothic cathedral contained many strange carvings, including a hippogriff and several gargoyles.

hippopotamian

adj
/ ˌhɪ(,)pɒpəˈtɑːmēən /
Gk > L + Ecf
unwieldy because of massive size.
Uncle Lon's hippopotamian armchair takes up half the living room.

hippopotamus

n
/ ˌhɪpəˈpɑːdəməs /
Gk
any of various large herbivorous four-toed chiefly aquatic mammals with an extremely large head and mouth, bare and very thick skin, and short legs.
The hippopotamus spends most of the day in water because in the warm, dry air it loses water through its skin.

hippotigrine

adj
/ ˌhɪpəˈtɪgrən /
Gk + Gk
of or relating to the zebra.
The city zoo has a special exhibit on the hippotigrine environment.

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hircine

adj
/ 'hɜr.sɪn /
L

of, relating to, or resembling a goat; especially : resembling a goat in smell.

After the week-long camping trip, the Flidre family was relieved to get out of their hircine clothes and into the shower.

hirsute

hirundine

adj
/ hɪ'rʌndɪn /
L

of, relating to, or resembling the swallow.

The hirundine population in near-equatorial countries rises sharply when autumn returns to the northern hemisphere.

histrionic

histrionics

n pl
/ 'hɪstrɪ'ɒnɪks /
L

theatrical performances.

Teresa loved the theater from an early age and excelled in histrionics while in school.

hitchhike

hoarseness

n
/ 'hɔ(ə)rnsnəs /
E

the quality or state of having a rough-sounding voice.

Paul's remedy for hoarseness is hot water with lemon.

hoax

n
/ 'hɔks /
unknown

[has homonym: hokes] an act intended to trick or dupe : a piece of trickery.

Sarah forwarded the e-mail message, unaware she was participating in a hoax.

hoboism

hoeing

hoist

v
/ 'hɔɪst /

imit D or G

raise, lift, elevate.

Manuel decided to use a crane to hoist the stone into place.

hokku

n
/ 'hɔ(,)kʊ /
Jpn

a fixed lyric form of Japanese origin having three short unrhymed lines of five, seven, and five syllables and being typically epigrammatic or suggestive.

Haiku, the most familiar form of hokku, pertains to the seasons.

holard

holiness

hollandaise

hollyhock

holocaust

n
/ 'hɒləkɒst /
Gk

a complete or thorough sacrifice or destruction especially by fire.

Many lives were lost in the hotel holocaust.

holograph

n
/ 'hɒləgrɒf /
Gk

a document (as a letter, deed, or will) wholly in the handwriting of the person from whom it proceeds and whose act it purports to be.

Amongst the early wills of Middlesex County, Roberta found many a fascinating holograph.

homburg

n
/ 'hɒmbɜrg /
G

a man's hat of smooth-finished felt with a stiff curled brim and a high tapered crown creased lengthwise.

The villain in the movie wore a dark suit and a black homburg.

homely

adj
/ 'hɒmlē /
E

commonplace, familiar.

Mr. Mann can translate the most complex issue into homely terms.

homeostasis

n
/ ,hɒmē'ɒstāsəs /
Gk

a tendency toward maintenance of a relatively stable internal environment in the bodies of higher animals through a series of interacting physiological processes.

Panting is the primary means of achieving homeostasis for dogs.

homespun

homestead

n
/ 'hɒmz.ted /
E + E

the home and land of a family; especially : ancestral home.

The city offered reduced property taxes on any homestead occupied by the legal owner.

homily

n
/ 'hɒməlē /
Gk

a lecture or discussion on a moral theme : admonition.

At the baccalaureate service, Mr. Lopez gave a brief homily on the theme "To thine own self be true."

hominyl

homogenized

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homologate

v
/ hō'mäləgāt /
Gk
approve, allow, confirm.
The fact that the Joneses do not appeal the court's decision does not mean they homologate it.

homologous

homonym

homophonous

honorific

n
/ äänə'rifik /
L
conferring or conveying public esteem.
Dr. Ellerman received an honorific wreath at the banquet.

hoochinoo

hoodwink

hooligan

n
/ 'hüləgən /
Ir name?
thug, hoodlum.
After an intense interrogation by detectives, the hooligan finally broke down and confessed.

horde

n
/ 'hō(ə)rd /
Mongolic > Pol > G&F
[has homonym: hoard] a vast number : crowd, swarm.
To prepare for the horde of tourists, the police department is using computer modeling to aid in logistics.

horizon

n
/ hə'rīz'n /
Gk > L > E
the point where the earth appears to meet the sky.
Stan thought he saw an airplane on the horizon.

horizontal

adj
/ hōrə'zänt'l /
L + Ecf
placed or operating in a plane parallel to the horizon.
Lori wore a sweater with red and blue horizontal stripes.

hormone

horologium

n
/ hōrə'lōj(ē)əm /
L
an instrument (as a clock) for measuring time.
A sundial was the ancient Egyptians' horologium.

horrendous

horripilation

n
/ hō.rīpə'lāshən /
L
a bristling of the hair of the head or body (as from disease, terror, or chilliness) : gooseflesh.
Jennifer reacted to the movie's scary scenes with noticeable horripilation.

hortative

adj
/ 'hō(r)dədīv /
L
giving persuasive counsel : advisory, urging strongly.
Joe's hortative letter to the editor of the newspaper persuaded many citizens to contact their representatives regarding the proposed budget.

horticulture

n
/ 'hō(r)də.kəlchə(r) /
L
the science and art of growing fruits, vegetables, flowers, or ornamental plants.
Mr. Sakai's skill in horticulture has won him many blue ribbons at garden shows.

hosanna

n
/ hō'zanə /
Heb > Gk > L > E
an expression of enthusiastic praise : acclamation.
Mr. Wong greeted Katya with a loud hosanna.

hosiery

n
/ 'hōzh(ə)rē /
E + Ecff
stockings, socks.
Mrs. Desmond prefers silk hosiery to that made of nylon.

hospice

n
/ 'hāspəs /
L
a facility or program designed to provide a caring environment for supplying the physical and emotional needs of the terminally ill.
Rebekah works as a counselor at a hospice for the elderly.

hospitable

hospitality

hostage

hostelry

n
/ 'hāst'lrē /
L > F > E
a place where food and lodging are available to the traveler : inn, hotel.
To celebrate their tenth anniversary, the Mortons returned to the French hostelry where they spent their honeymoon.

hotelless

howel

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howitzer

n
/ 'hau̩tsə(r) /
Czech > G > D
a cannon employed to fire projectiles at a target (as enemy artillery behind a ridge) which cannot be reached by flat-trajectory weapons.
Corporal Slater towed the howitzer to the base of the ridge.

hoyden

n
/ 'hoid̩n /
D?
a girl or woman of loud, boisterous, or carefree behavior : tomboy.
Sierra knew that her skateboard expertise and casual clothing made her look like a hoyden to the neighbors, but she didn't care.

hoyle

n
/ 'hōil /
unknown
a natural object used as an archery mark at short range.
Martha used a large mushroom in her backyard as a hoyle.

hubbub

n
/ 'həbəb /
Celt?
a noisy confusion of sound.
In the hubbub after the concert, Bronwen did not notice the pickpocket who took her wallet.

hubristically

adv
/ hyü'bristək(ə)lē /
Gk
insolently, vainly, arrogantly.
Lance's opinions, though brilliant and sound, are unwelcome because he conveys them so hubristically.

huisache

humane

adj
/ hyü'mān /
L > F > E
marked by compassion, sympathy, or consideration for other human beings or animals.
Sharon received an award for her humane treatment of stray pets.

humectant

n
/ hyü'mektənt /
L
a substance that promotes retention of moisture.
Toothpastes contain a humectant to carry the abrasive and other agents.

humerus

humidistat

n
/ (h)yu̩'midəstat /
L > F > E
an instrument for regulating or maintaining the degree of moisture.
Since he bought the humidistat, Rudy has gotten fewer colds.

humidor

n
/ 'hyümə.dò(ə)r /
L or F + Ecf
a case or enclosure (as for storing cigars) in which the air is kept properly humidified.
Art always kept his expensive cigars in a humidor.

humiliation

n
/ (,)hyü.milē'āshən /
L > F > E
the state of being reduced to a lower position in one's own eyes or the eyes of another : an instance of being humbled.
Mary did not even try to control her rage and humiliation.

humoresque

n
/ ,(h)yümə'resk /
(E + Fcf) > G
a musical composition typically whimsical or fanciful in character.
Schumann's opus 88 is a humoresque for violin, cello, and piano.

Hunanese

adj
/ .hünə'nēz /
Chin geog name
of or relating to the province of Hunan, China.
The waiter indignantly replied that hamburger was not a feature of Hunanese cuisine.

hundredth

adj
/ 'həndrədθ /
E
being number 100 in a countable series.
Residents lined the streets to watch the parade on Danville's hundredth anniversary.

hurl

hurricane

n
/ 'hərəkān /
Taino > Sp
a tropical cyclone with winds of 73 miles per hour or greater.
When the townspeople realized that the hurricane was heading their way, they boarded up their windows and evacuated.

hurtle

hussar

n
/ hə'zär /
L > Serb > Hung
[Note: Could be confused with huzza, huzzah.] a member of the light cavalry of various European armies usually distinguished by a brilliant much-decorated uniform.
In a short story by Thomas Hardy, a young Englishwoman has an ill-fated romance with a homesick German hussar.

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hutch

hyacinth

n
/ 'hɪə.sɪn(t)θ /
Gk > L

a common garden flower widely grown for its beauty and fragrance.
Mimi planted a hyacinth right next to her screened porch.

hyalithe

hybrid

n
/ 'hɪbrəd /
L

an offspring of two animals or plants of different races, breeds, varieties, species, or genera.
A hybrid often has increased vigor and strength.

hybridize

v
/ 'hɪbrədɪz /
L

cause to produce offspring that are a cross between breeds : interbreed.
Horace is attempting to hybridize a large, showy, red rose and a smaller, more fragrant variety.

hydrangea

n
/ hɪ'drændʒə /
Gk > L

any of a genus of shrubs of the family Saxifragaceae having showy clusters of usually sterile white or tinted flowers.
Although the flowers of the hydrangea are spectacular, the leaves are poisonous.

hydrant

n
/ 'hɪdrənt /
Gk

a discharge pipe with a valve and spout at which water may be drawn from the mains of waterworks.
The city workers affixed a metal rod with a red diamond on the top of the hydrant in Mishi's yard so they would be able to find it if it snowed.

hydraulic

adj
/ hɪ'drɒlɪk /
Gk > L

operated, moved, or effected by means of water.
The stream and the waterwheel were sure signs that the grain mill was operated by hydraulic power.

hydrofoil

hydrogen

n
/ 'hɪdrədʒən /
Gk > F

a nonmetallic element that is the simplest and lightest of the elements and which is normally a colorless, odorless, and highly flammable diatomic gas.
Hydrogen and oxygen are the components of water.

hydrography

n
/ hɪ'drəgrəfē /
Gk

description and study of seas, lakes, rivers, and other waters.
A knowledge of hydrography is helpful in navigation.

hydrolysis

n
/ hɪ'drələsəs /
Gk + Gk

a chemical process of decomposition involving the splitting of a bond and the addition of the hydrogen cation and the hydroxide anion of water.
Digestive enzymes promote the hydrolysis of nutrients into simpler compounds.

hydrophilous

adj
/ hɪ'drəfələs /
Gk

pollinated by the agency of water.
The ultimate adaptation to aquatic life is the formation of completely submerged hydrophilous flowers.

hydroplane

v
/ 'hɪdrəplān /
Gk + L

skim over the water with the hull either clear of the surface or barely immersed.
Lex loves to make his speedboat hydroplane across a glassy lake.

hyetology

n
/ ,hɪə'tələʒjē /
Gk

a branch of meteorology that deals with precipitation (as of rain or snow).
Even a period of extended drought can be of interest to a student of hyetology.

hygiene

hygienist

hymn

n
/ 'hɪm /
Gk

a song of praise to God.
Wesley remembered every hymn from his days at the Episcopal school.

hymnody

n
/ 'hɪmnədə /
Gk

a body of hymns of a specified kind or period.
Gospel songs enjoy wide popularity in American hymnody.

hypaethral

hyperbaton

n
/ hɪ'pərbətən /
Gk

a transposition or inversion of idiomatic word order.
Joey decided the hyperbaton echoed the hills fit his poem better than the hills echoed.

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hyperbole

n
/ hī'pərbə(,)lē /
Gk
extravagant exaggeration that represents something as much greater or less, better or worse, or more intense than it really is or that depicts the impossible as actual.
To say that life as we know it will never be the same after the next election is hyperbole.

hypercritical

adj
/ .hīpə(r)'kridəkəl /
Gk
meticulously or excessively inclined to notice faults and imperfections.
Ellen's skating coach was hypercritical of her technique the day before a competition.

hyperglycemia

n
/ .hīpə(r)glī'sēmēə /
Gk
excess of sugar in the blood.
Since diabetes runs in her family, Carla is regularly tested for hyperglycemia.

hypertension

n
/ .hīpə(r)'tenchən /
Gk + L
abnormally high arterial blood pressure.
Doctors recommend reducing salt intake for patients with hypertension.

hypertrophic

adj
/ .hīpər'trāfik /
Gk + Gk + Ecf
affected with or tending toward overgrowth or excessive development of an organ or part.
After Blake lost one kidney, the other became hypertrophic.

hyphen

hypnology

hypobulia

n
/ .hīpō'byülēə /
Gk > L
lowered ability to make decisions or to act.
The climbers began to suffer from hypobulia as they moved higher and higher on the mountain.

hypochondria

n
/ .hīpə'kändrēə /
Gk
extreme depression of mind or spirits often centered on imaginary physical ailments.
Having found nothing physically wrong with her, Sylvia's doctor noted that her persistent complaints about her health are probably due to hypochondria.

hypochondriac

n
/ .hīpə'kändrē.ək /
Gk
one whose depression is centered on imaginary physical ailments.
Colin was an hysterical half-crazy little hypochondriac.

hypocorism

n
/ hī'pəkə.rizəm /
Gk
a pet name or term of endearment.
Susan's parents bestowed the hypocorism "Bubbles" on her when she was a toddler.

hypocrisy

n
/ hə'pəkrəsē /
Gk > L > F > E
the act or practice of pretending to be what one is not or to have principles or beliefs that one does not have.
The abominable proceeding was nothing but a system of hypocrisy and deceit, espionage and treachery.

hypodermic

hypothalamus

n
/ .hī(,)pō'thaləməs /
Gk
a part of the brain that is usually considered to include vital autonomic regulatory centers.
The hypothalamus exercises control over involuntary actions such as temperature regulation, emotional responses, and the rhythm of sleep.

hypothesis

hypothetical

hypotrophy

n
/ hī'pätṛəfē /
Gk
subnormal growth.
Nutritional deficiency resulted in hypotrophy among the aborigines.

hypotyposis

n
/ .hīpō.tī'pōsəs /
Gk
[Note: Could be confused with plural hypotyposes.] vivid picturesque description.
Mark Twain employed hypotyposis in his writing.

hypsoigraphy

hyssop

n
/ 'hisəp /
Sem > Gk > L > F > E
a European mint that has highly aromatic and pungent leaves and is often cultivated in gardens as a remedy for bruises.
Aunt Cara made a paste of hyssop and oil and applied it to Darien's bruised shoulder.

hysteria

n
/ hə'sterēə /
Gk > L
conduct or an outbreak of conduct exhibiting unmanageable fear or emotional excess.
Hysteria overcame the defendant when the guilty verdict was announced.

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Frequently

hysterical

adj
/ hi'sterəkəl /
Gk

exhibiting unrestrained emotionalism.

When their team won the world championship, the fans became hysterical with joy.

iatrogenic

adj
/ i.ə'trɒ'dʒenik /
Gk > L

induced by a physician—used chiefly of ailments induced in a patient by autosuggestion based on a physician's words or actions during examination.

Belinda had iatrogenic pains after her annual checkup.

icequake

ichneumon

n
/ ik'n(y)ümən /
Gk

any member of the insect family Ichneumonidae.

The ichneumon burrowed into the caterpillar larva, providing a natural check on the destructive insect.

ichnolite

n
/ 'iknə.lit /
Gk

a fossil footprint.

The museum guide showed us an ichnolite of a plesiosaur.

ichnology

n
/ ik'näləjē /
Gk

the study of fossil footprints.
Several students interested in ichnology took a field trip to Dinosaur State Park in Connecticut.

ichthyology

n
/ ikt̩hē'äləjē /
Gk

a branch of zoology that deals with fishes.

Mr. Pout didn't need a degree in ichthyology to see that he had caught a dead branch.

icicle

n
/ 'i:sikəl /
E

a pendent usually conical mass of ice formed by the freezing of dripping water.

By evening, the longest icicle hanging from the eaves had grown to about two feet.

iconoclast

n
/ i'känəklast /
Gk > L

one who attacks established beliefs, ideals, customs, or institutions.

Malcolm has always considered himself the iconoclast of the family.

icosahedron

n
/ i.kōsə'hēdrən /
Gk

a figure or solid formed by 20 plane faces.

The icosahedron occurs frequently in nature in molecular and viral structures.

identical

identify

v
/ i'dentə.fi /
F

show or prove the sameness of (as with something known, stated, or possessed).

The victim was asked to identify the attacker from a lineup.

ideogram

n
/ 'idēə.gram /
Gk + Gk

a character in Chinese writing made by combining two or more other characters for words of related meaning.

In Chinese, the ideogram for to love depicts a woman and her child.

idiosyncratic

adj
/ idēə.sin'kradik /
Gk

marked by a peculiarity of physical or mental constitution or temperament.

In his autobiography Andrew described the idiosyncratic behavior of his zany upper-class family.

idiosyncratically

adv
/ idēə.sin'kradək(ə)lē /
G > E

in a manner peculiar to the individual.

Because Emily Dickinson wrote so idiosyncratically, her poems are immediately recognizable.

idly

idolater

idolatry

idyllic

adj
/ i'dilik /
Gk

pleasing or picturesque in its natural simplicity.

The Elsons spent a week in an idyllic little town in the Pyrenees.

igneous

adj
/ 'ignēəs /
L

of, relating to, or suggestive of fire.
The igneous desert air shimmered on the horizon.

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ignite

v
/ ɪg'nīt /
L

set aflame : kindle.
The arson squad spent hours trying to discover what could ignite such a variety of apparently safe materials.

ignominious

ignominy

n
/ ɪgnə'mɪnē /

L > F
disgraceful or dishonorable conduct, quality, or action.
Although the coward was glad to be alive, he felt the ignominy of abandoning his comrades.

ignoramus

n
/ ɪgnə'rāməs /
L

an utterly uninformed person : dunce.
Schuyler is so afraid of his own intelligence that he refuses to speak in class and refers to himself as a "happy ignoramus."

ignorance

ikebana

n
/ ɪkə'bänə /
Jpn

the Japanese art of flower arranging that emphasizes form and balance.
Hana is trained in ikebana, and her arrangements are displayed in many restaurants throughout the city.

ileitis

n
/ ɪlē'īdēəs /
L

inflammation of the lower small intestine.
Stella mistook her ileitis for indigestion.

iliacus

illegible

adj
/ ɪ(l)'leɪjəbəl /
L

not capable of being read or deciphered.
Although the physician's prescription appeared illegible, the pharmacist seemed to have no trouble deciphering it.

illegitimate

illeism

illicit

illiterate

illth
n
/ 'ɪlθ /

ON > E
the condition of being economically unprosperous or miserable.
Sharon didn't mind her family's illth as much as she minded the fact that they had all simply given up on any possibility of prosperity.

illuminati

n pl
/ ə'lümə'nād(ə) /
L > It

persons who are or who claim to be unusually enlightened.
The mayoral candidate worked hard to win the support of the city's illuminati.

illumination

n
/ ə'lümə'nāshən /
L > F > E

a giving of physical light or the state of being lighted up.
Because of its many windows, Sarah's office always has ample illumination.

illusion

illusory

adj
/ ə'lüs(ə)rē /
L

of, relating to, or marked by illusion : deceptive.
Citizens of both countries hope that the apparent peace between the two nations is not illusory.

illustrate

v
/ 'ɪlə'strāt /
L

make clear by giving or by serving as an example or instance.
The stained-glass windows illustrate the Nativity scene.

illustration

image

imagery

imaginary

adj
/ ə'majə'nerē /
L

having no real existence : existing only in imagination or fancy : fictitious, hypothetical.
Not all of the characters in the novelist's best seller were imaginary.

imbecile

n
/ ɪmbəsəl /
L > F

one marked by mental deficiency.
The professor told his students that they should not be writing as if their reader were an imbecile.

imbecilic

adj
/ ɪmbə'sɪlɪk /
L > F + Ecf

characteristic or suggestive of one that acts stupidly or recklessly.
Iris effectively tuned out her brother-in-law as he described another of his imbecilic money-making schemes.

imitative

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immaculate

adj

/ ə'makyələt /

L > E

having no spot, soil, or smirch : spotlessly clean.

Told that her room must be immaculate before she could go to the mall with friends, Tollie started cleaning feverishly.

immalleable

adj

/ i(m)'malēəbəl /

L > F > E

not open to outside forces or influences : unyielding, rigid.

Dean remained immalleable in his refusal to resign.

immature

adj

/ im.mə'tu(ə)r /

L

lacking complete growth or development.

The immature insect resembles the adult in form and eating habits but differs in size, body proportions, and color pattern.

immense

adj

/ ə'men(t)s /

L > F

characterized by greatness in size or degree.

Wilbur's portliness is a reflection of his immense appetite.

immersion

imminent

adj

/ 'imənənt /

L

ready to take place : near at hand.

Although Ellen's departure date was imminent, she was not ready to go.

immiscible

adj

/ i(m)'misəbəl /

L

not capable of mixing or being mixed.

Oil and water are immiscible.

immiserization

immolate

v

/ 'imələt /

L

[has near homonym: emulate] sacrifice or abnegate (as oneself) usually in the interests of some cause or objective.

Sheri persuaded the monk not to immolate himself in protest.

immortal

adj

/ i(m)'mörd·l /

L

connected with or possessing everlasting life.

The priest warned his flock of the many dangers to their immortal souls, such as envy, greed, and sloth.

immunocyte

n

/ 'imyənəsīt /

L

a cell that functions in the prevention of a disease.

The immunocyte is the body's primary defense against germs.

immured

v

/ ə'myü(ə)rd /

L

[has near homonyms: enured, inured] enclosed within or as if within walls.

*While Sir Walter Raleigh was immured in the Tower of London, he used his time to write his *Historie of the World*.*

immutable

adj

/ i(m)'myüdəbəl /

L

not capable of or susceptible to change.

The immutable laws of thermodynamics preclude the invention of a perpetual motion machine.

impair

impalpable

adj

/ im'pəlpəbəl /

L + L + L

incapable of being felt by the touch.

The puppy began chasing his impalpable shadow.

imparisyllabic

impasse

n

/ 'im.pas /

F

barrier, deadlock.

A rockslide created an impasse on the mountain road.

impeccable

adj

/ im'pekəbəl /

L

free from fault or blame : flawless.

A background investigation affirmed the candidate's impeccable character.

impeccancy

impecunious

impecuniously

adv

/ im.pə'kyünyəsli /

L

in an indigent, penniless manner.

George squandered his inheritance and plodded through the remainder of his life impecuniously.

impedance

n

/ əm'pēd·n(t)s /

L

the apparent opposition in an electrical circuit to the flow of an alternating current that is analagous to the actual electrical resistance to a direct current.

A high-fidelity amplifier must have a low output impedance to make loudspeakers produce natural sound.

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impediment

n
/ ɪmˈpɛdəmənt /
L
hindrance, block.
Clementine's lack of a degree was an impediment to her getting a good job.

impedimenta

n pl
/ ɪmˌpɛdəˈmentə /
L
things that hinder progress or movement; especially : baggage, equipment, or supplies.
Regina always travels with one small carry-on bag and considers anything more to be impedimenta.

impenetrable

adj
/ ɪmˈpenətrəbəl /
L > F > E
incapable of being comprehended.
Sarah found Einstein's theories impenetrable.

imperatively

imperative

imperceptible

adj
/ ɪmpə(r)ˈseptəbəl /
L
extremely slight, gradual, or subtle.
The air was filled with a delicate, springlike fragrance, almost imperceptible.

imperial

adj
/ ɪmˈpɪriəl /
L
[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word.] being the British legal standard : belonging to the official British series of weights and measures.
Several measurement terms are used both in the U.S. customary and British imperial systems.

impertinence

n
/ ɪmˈpɜrt(ə)nən(t)s /
L
lack of due respect for others in conduct.
For his impertinence Mrs. Brennan sent Kyle to the principal's office.

imperturbable

adj
/ ɪmpərˈtɜrbəbəl /
L > E
unlikely to be disconcerted, agitated, or alarmed.
Hitherto imperturbable, Stacy suddenly showed signs of alarm.

impervious

adj
/ ɪmˈpɜrvēəs /
L
not allowing entrance or passage through : impenetrable.
Ted covered the woodpile with a tarp impervious to water.

impetigo

n
/ ɪmpəˈtɪ(ɡ)ō /
L
an acute contagious skin disease transmitted by contact between persons or between healthy and infected skin.
Impetigo can quickly make the rounds in a kindergarten class.

impetuosity

n
/ ɪmˈpɛtʰəwəsnes /
L > F > E
the quality or state of being impulsively vehement in feeling.
Theo's youthful frankness and impetuosity were excused by his boss.

impetus

n
/ ɪmpədəs /
L
a driving or impelling force.
Ralph's new girlfriend was the impetus behind his new exercise program.

impinge

implacable

adj
/ ɪmˈpləkəbəl /
L > F
not capable of being appeased or pacified.
The defeated candidate harbored implacable resentment toward his opponent.

implausible

implement

n
/ ɪmˈpləmənt /
L + L
a tool or utensil forming part of equipment for work.
Dawson discovered a paleolithic stone implement near the entrance to a cave.

implicit

adj
/ ɪmˈplɪsət /
L
capable of being inferred : implied.
Implicit in Amy's reaction was a message for Carole to mind her own business.

imponderabilia

importance

n
/ ɪmˈpɔrtənt(s) /
L
the quality or state of being marked by or possessing consequence : weight, significance.
Mrs. Lynch cannot understand why some students do not see the importance of good manners.

impossible

adj
/ ɪmˈpäsəbəl /
L > It > F
incapable of being or occurring.
So many things are possible just as long as you don't know they're impossible.

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impoverish

v
/ ɪm'pəv(ə)rɪʃ /
F > E
make poor : reduce to indigence.
Medical bills will impoverish the Williams family if outside aid is not available.

imprecation

n
/ ɪmprə'kæʃən /
L
[Note: Could be confused with imbrication.] curse : malediction.
Jerod did not realize that the microphone was on when he uttered an imprecation under his breath.

impresario

n
/ ɪmprə'sær̩iə /
It
[has homonym: empresario] the projector, manager, or conductor of an opera or concert company.
The impresario arranged for the opera company to perform in several cities.

imprescriptible

adj
/ ɪmpr̩'skriptəbəl /
L > F
inalienable, absolute.
A dictator considers few human rights imprescriptible.

impressionable

adj
/ ɪm'preʃ(ə)nəbəl /
L + L > E + Ecf
easily influenced or affected.
Dan's grandmother considered him very young and very impressionable.

imprimatur

n
/ ɪmpr̩'mädə(r) /
L
a sign or mark of approval.
The dean put her imprimatur on the smoking ban.

imprimis

impromptu

adv
/ ɪm'prɒm(p)ɪt(y)ü /
L > F
without previous study, preparation, or consideration : on the spur of the moment.
Leah is able to speak impromptu and at length on countless subjects.

improprieties

n pl
/ ɪmpr̩'prɪəd̩ēz /
L
unsuitable or improper acts or remarks.
Emma was willing to forget Mr. Elton's late improprieties and be as well satisfied with him as before.

impriety

impugn

v
/ ɪm'pyün /
L
assail by words or arguments : make insinuations against.
Josie's comment was a feeble attempt to impugn Sara's honesty.

impuissance

impunity

n
/ ɪm'pyünəd̩ē /
L
exemption or freedom from punishment, harm, or loss.
Mr. Starks allowed anglers to trespass on his land with impunity.

imputable

imputrescible

adj
/ ɪmpyü'tresəbəl /
L
not capable of rotting.
Imputrescible trash is filling up dump sites throughout the state.

inaccurate

inadvertence

inagglutinable

inanimate

adj
/ ɪn'anəmət /
L
not endowed with consciousness or animal life.
Vera talked to her plants as if they were not inanimate objects.

inaniation

n
/ ɪnə'nɪʃən /
L
the exhausted condition which results from a complete lack of food and water.
The injured hiker, finally found after a three-day search, had to be treated for inanition.

inanity

n
/ ɪ'nænəd̩ē /
L
meaningless quality : shallowness.
The inanity of conversation at the party made Karen think up an excuse to leave early.

inapplicable

adj
/ ɪn'apləkəbəl /
L
not adapted : not suitable.
The name Brutus was inapplicable to the small dog.

inaugural

adj
/ ɪ'nɔgyərəl /
L + Ecf
relating to or performed or pronounced at a formal induction or investiture.
In his inaugural address, the president promised to get the country on the road to economic recovery.

inauguration

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incandescence

n
/ ɪn(,)kən'des'n(t)s /
L > F

the glowing of a body due to its high temperature.
The first light bulbs were illuminated via the phenomenon of incandescence.

incandescent

incarcerate

v
/ ɪn'kɑrsə.rāt /
L

put in prison.
Because the crime was his first offense, Lonnie was hopeful that the judge would not incarcerate him.

incarceration

n
/ (,)ɪn.kɑrsə'rāshən /
L

a confining or state of being confined : imprisonment.
The terrorist was sentenced to incarceration for the rest of his life.

incendiary

n
/ ɪn'sendē.erē /
L

[Note: Could be confused with incendiary.] a person who deliberately sets fire to a building or other property.
The state fire inspectors determined that the fire was the work of an incendiary.

incense

incessancy

incessant

adj
/ ɪn'ses'nt /
L

continuing or following without interruption.
Incessant changes in other parts of this restless country bypass the inhabitants of Sleepy Hollow.

inchoate

adj
/ ɪn'kōət /
L

imperfectly formed or formulated : unorganized.
The songwriter explained that his melodies usually begin as inchoate humming.

incienso

n
/ ɪn(t)sē'en(t)(,)sō /
L > Sp

a desert shrub producing a resin that when burned emits a fragrant odor.
Early missionaries in the Southwest used to burn incienso in their churches.

incinerate

v
/ ɪn'sɪnə.rāt /
L

cause to burn to ashes.
In her fury, Elise decided to incinerate all of Jerry's letters.

incipiency

n
/ ɪn'sɪpē.ənsē /
L

[Note: Could be confused with incipience.] beginning, commencement.
Stan was quick to extinguish the fire in its incipiency.

incipient

inclement

adj
/ ɪn'klemənt /
L

unmerciful, rigorous.
The harsh sentence of an inclement judge took 30 years of Sam's life.

incognito

incoherence

incompetent

incomprehensible

adj
/ ɪn.kəmprə'hən(t)səbəl /
L > E

lying above or beyond the reach of the human mind.
Every civilization tries to penetrate the incomprehensible mysteries of creation.

inconclusible

incondite

incongruous

inconnu

inconscious

adj
/ ɪn'känçənt /
L > F

lacking consciousness or full awareness.
The unconscious pedestrian was an easy victim for the mugger.

incontrovertible

incorrigible

adj
/ ɪn'kōrəjəbəl /
L

bad beyond the possibility of correction or rehabilitation : utterly bad or depraved.
They sentenced the incorrigible offender to life imprisonment.

increment

incubator

n
/ ɪŋkyə.bədə(r) /
L

an apparatus for housing premature or sick babies in an environment of controlled humidity, oxygen supply, and temperature.
Who would have thought that the star linebacker spent the first three months of his life in an incubator?

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inculcate

v
/ ɪn'kʌl.kəːt /
L

teach and impress by frequent repetitions or admonitions.
Religion is professed and practiced in various forms, yet most of them inculcate honesty, truth, temperance, gratitude, and the love of humanity.

incumbency

n
/ ɪn'kʌmbənsē /
L

the sphere of action or period of office of one who holds a public or academic office.
Political analysts now say that a candidate's incumbency is not an asset but a liability.

incumbent

incunabulum

n
/ ɪnkyə'nabyələm /
L

a book printed before 1501.
Alfred was looking at an incunabulum in the British Library when he met his future wife.

incurvariid

adj
/ ɪn.kər'va(a)rēəd /
L

of or relating to a member of the Incurvariidae family of minute moths.
Many brilliantly colored incurvariid moths are found worldwide.

indebted

adj
/ ɪn'dedəd /
L > F > E

owing gratitude (as for a favor received or a kind act done).
Carmen was indebted to her piano teacher for helping her perfect her technique.

indefatigable

adj
/ ɪndə'fadəgəbəl /
L

incapable of being tired out : untiring.
The mayor thanked his indefatigable campaign workers for their invaluable help in getting him reelected.

indefeasible

adj
/ ɪndə'fēzəbəl /
L > F > AF
not capable of being or liable to being voided, annulled, or undone.
The Constitution vests the populace with indefeasible rights.

indelible

adj
/ ɪn'deləbəl /
L

that cannot be removed, washed away, or erased : permanent.
Lily's narrow escape from drowning left an indelible mark on her personality.

indemnify

indemnity

independence

indescribable
adj
/ ɪndə'skrībəbəl /
L

that cannot be described with precision.
The aromatic herb has a peppery odor and an indescribable but delicious flavor.

indicate

indicia
n pl
/ ɪn'dish(ē)ə /
L

indications, signs, tokens, criteria.
The reporter used many different indicia of public sentiment to obtain a reliable rating of the leader's popularity.

indicable

indictment

n
/ ɪn'dɪtmənt /
L > AF
an official written statement charging a person with an offense.
The grand jury's indictment of the seven men charges that they conspired to smuggle guns into the country.

indigenous

adj
/ ɪn'dijənəs /
L
originating or produced naturally in a particular land or region or environment.
Tomatoes are not indigenous to Europe.

indigent

adj
/ ɪndʒənt /
L
being poor usually without being destitute : impoverished, needy.
The basketball star donated money to build a community center for the indigent residents of his old neighborhood.

indigo

n
/ ɪndəgō /
Gk > L > It
a blue vat dye that was obtained originally from plants (as indigo plants or woad).
The production of indigo was the major factor in South Carolina's early development.

indiscretion

n
/ ɪndə'skrɛʃən /
L
an act at variance with the accepted morality of a society.
Biographers of presidents often comb their subjects' lives in search of every indiscretion.

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indissoluble

adj
/ ɪndə'sɔːljəbəl /
L

incapable of being annulled or undone or broken.

The friendship of Holmes and Watson proved indissoluble even by Watson's marriage and Holmes's supposed death.

indoctrinate

v
/ ɪn'dɔːktrəˈneɪt /
L

give instructions especially in fundamentals or rudiments : teach.
Special classes were designed to indoctrinate the new employees.

indolence

indolent

adj
/ ɪndələnt /
L

constantly indulging in ease : chronically averse to labor and exertion.

Doctors warn that an indolent lifestyle can contribute to heart disease.

indomitable

adj
/ ɪn'dəmədəbəl /
L

incapable of being subdued.

The pens, the tongues, the fortunes, and the indomitable wills of many women were pledged to secure the right of the elective franchise.

indubitable

adj
/ (ɪ)ɪn'd(y)übədəbəl /
L

not open to question or doubt.

Shakespeare is considered by many to be the indubitable master of English literature.

inducement

n
/ ɪn'd(y)üsəmənt /
L + Ecf

a motive or consideration that leads one to action.

Emma's desire to see Harriet better informed was an inducement to read more herself.

indulge

v
/ ɪn'dəlʒ /
L

give free rein to.

It is natural for humans to indulge in the illusions of hope.

indulgent

indurate

adj
/ ɪnd(y)ərət /
L > E

physically or morally hardened.

The war contributed greatly to Herbert's seemingly indurate manner, but he was always tender with his pigeons.

industrious

ineducable

adj
/ ɪn'efəbəl /
L

incapable of being expressed in words.

Sarena's joy at being chosen for the play was ineffable.

ineluctable

adj
/ ɪnə'læktəbəl /
L

not to be avoided, changed, or resisted : inevitable.

Mrs. Badger joked that death and taxes are the only two ineluctable aspects of life.

ineludible

adj
/ ɪnə'lüdəbəl /
L + Ecf

inescapable.

Detective Marchand's bloodhounds were considered by many to be ineludible.

inenarrable

adj
/ ɪnɛ'nərəbəl /
L

incapable of being narrated : indescribable, ineffable.

The sight of his newborn son brought Elijah inenarrable pleasure.

ineptitude

ineradicable

adj
/ ɪnə'radəkəbəl /
L

incapable of being rooted out or destroyed completely.

In the 1920s Britain had to yield to Ireland's ineradicable will for independence.

inertia

n
/ ɪ'nɪrʃə /
L

indisposition to motion, exertion, or action.

The senator railed against the inertia of the citizenry.

inexorable

adj
/ ɪ'ɪnks(ə)rəbəl /
L

unyielding, inflexible, relentless.

The inexorable force of the hurricane changed the shape of Bell Island.

inexplicable

inextinguishable

inextirpable

inextricable

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Frequently

infallible

adj
/ in'faləbəl /
L

incapable of error.
Dr. Cameron's colleagues on the faculty regard him as virtually infallible.

infatuation

infaust

infectious

adj
/ ən'fɛkʃəs /
L

producing the establishment of a pathogen in its host after invasion.
Katie's sore throat is not infectious, so she will not have to miss any school.

inferentially

adv
/ infə'renʃəlē /
L

in a manner that involves a conclusion reached by reasoning or implication.
The report concludes that our social stresses are based almost wholly on misunderstanding, and thus, inferentially, can be eliminated by good communication.

inferior

adj
/ ən'firē(ə)r /
L

of poor quality : second-rate.
An inferior violinist has no chance of becoming an orchestra's concertmaster.

inficete

infinitesimal

adj
/ in.fɪnə'tes(ə)məl /
L + Ecf

immeasurably or incalculably small : very minute.
Infinitesimal yellow flecks on the leaf made it appear metallic.

inflammatory

adj
/ ən'flamətōrē /
L

tending to excite anger, animosity, disorder, or tumult.
Rachel received a two-day suspension after she delivered an inflammatory speech at the assembly.

influenza

n
/ in.flū'enzə /
L > It

an acute highly contagious infectious virus disease.
Influenza kept Russell out of school for a week.

infractible

infrangible

adj
/ in'franʒəbəl /
L

not capable of being broken or separated into parts.
Though it looks like the finest china, Jennifer's teapot is made of an infrangible polymer.

infructuous

adj
/ in'frʌkʃəwəs /
L

fruitless, unprofitable.
Efforts to discourage the bear from returning to Cynthia's backyard proved infructuous, and so it was tranquilized and taken to a more suitable area.

infusible

ingenious

n
/ 'ɛnjənü /
L > F

a stage part representing a character that is youthful, innocent, appealing, sweet, and sympathetic.
Stephanie was one of three students called back in the tryouts for the ingenue in the school's spring musical.

ingenuous

adj
/ ən'jestəbəl /
L

capable of being taken in for digestion.
An increasing number of Americans are using food, dietary supplements, and other ingestible products to cure what ails them.

inglenook

ingratiating

adj
/ ən'grāshē.ədiŋ /
L

intended or adopted in order to win favor : flattering.
During his campaign, the politician's manner became ingratiating.

inhale

v
/ ən'hāl /
Ecf + L > E

draw in by breathing.
Natasha stopped to inhale the wonderful aroma emanating from the bakery.

inimical

adv
/ ə'nimək(ə)lē /
L

in a hostile or unfriendly manner.
The majority of citizens reacted inimically to the proposed increase in city taxes.

inimitable

adj
/ i'nimədəbəl /
L

not capable of being copied : matchless.
Charmed by Miss Woodhouse, Mr. Elton considered all of her drawings inimitable.

iniquitous

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Frequently

iniquity

n
/ ə'nikwədə /
L > F > E

absence of or deviation from just dealing : wrongful conduct : wickedness.

The judge referred to the defendant's house as a "den of iniquity."

initial

initials

initiative

initiatory

adj
/ ə'nish(ē)ətōrē /
L

constituting an introduction or beginning.

On page three of the book is an initiatory paragraph that gives personal information about the author.

injurious

inmate

innermost

adj
/ 'inə(r)mōst /
E

farthest inward.

Starletta reached the cave's innermost chambers by crawling on her hands and knees and sometimes on her stomach.

innkeeper

innocent

adj
/ 'inəsənt /
L

free of wrongdoing or corruption : guiltless.

Julian's offer to help stems from innocent motives.

innocuity

n
/ .inə'kyüədē /
L

the quality or state of being harmless.

Thelma was wary of the seeming innocuity of her sister's remarks.

innocuous

adj
/ i'näkyəwəs /
L

not likely to arouse ill will or give offense : inoffensive.

Betty was dismayed when Henry interpreted her innocuous remark as an insult.

innovation

n
/ .inə'vāshən /
L

the introduction of something new.

The people of the small village were suspicious of all innovation.

innumerable

adj
/ ə'n(y)üm(ə)rəbəl /
L

too many to be numbered or counted.

Katie's seemingly innumerable chicken pox blisters slowly faded away.

inoculate

v
/ ə'näkyələt /
L > E

introduce microorganisms, vaccines, or sera into a living body to establish immunity to a disease.

Dr. Cooper had to bribe Frank with a lollipop before he would let her inoculate him.

inoculator

n
/ 'inkwəlīn /
L

an animal that lives habitually in the nest or abode of some other species.

The burrowing owl is an inquiline who lives in prairie dog colonies.

inquisitor

n
/ ən'kwizədə(r) /
L

a person whose official duty is to examine and inquire.

When the inquisitor asked a very personal question, the witness glared at him and remained silent.

insalubrious

adj
/ .insə'lübrēəs /
L + Ecf

tending to impair health : unwholesome, noxious.

Andrew has vowed to give up all his insalubrious habits.

insatiable

inscribe

inscrutable

adj
/ inz'krüdəbəl /
L

not readily comprehensible : mysterious.

Kayla's grin was so inscrutable that no one could tell if she were happy or up to something mischievous.

insecticide

n
/ ən'sektəsīd /
L

an agent that destroys insects.

Malathion is an insecticide with low toxicity to mammals.

insentient

inseparable

insessorial

insidious

adj
/ ən'sidēəs /
L

having a gradual, cumulative, and usually hidden effect : subtle.

Loretta's suspicion led her to pose a question with the insidious design of further discovery.

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insinuate

v
/ ɪn'sɪnyə.waɪt /
L

impart or communicate with artful indirect wording or oblique reference : hint, imply.

Did April insinuate that she won't be inviting Dante to the party?

insipid

adj
/ ɪn'sɪpɪd /
L

dull, uninteresting, commonplace.
Jed could hardly bear listening to the sportscaster's insipid comments.

insidious

adj
/ ɪn(t)sə'tɪʃəs /
L

constituting an insertion.

Research that Jennifer failed to include in her bound report was included as insidious pages.

insolence

n
/ ɪn(t)s(ə)lən(t)s /
L

[has homonyms and near homonym: insolents, insulants and insulins] the quality or state of being haughty and contemptuous or brutal in behavior or language.

In Greek mythology Athena transformed Arachne into a spider for her insolence.

insolent

insomnia

n
/ ɪn'sæmnēə /
L

prolonged inability to obtain adequate sleep : sleeplessness.

Cora's doctor suggests that her insomnia may be caused by the emotional stress of her new job.

insomniac

insouciance

insouciant

adj
/ ɪn'süsɪənt /
F

exhibiting or characterized by freedom from concern or care.

The pompous, insouciant aristocrat never had to work a day in his life.

inspirometer

n
/ ɪnzpə'ræməðə(r) /
L > F > E + Gk > L > F > E

an apparatus for measuring air inhaled in breathing.

The nurse used an inspirometer on Mr. Davis during his checkup.

instantaneous

adj
/ ɪnzstən'tānēəs /
L

done or occurring without any perceptible duration of time.

Harold's slow, nervous marriage proposal was balanced by Emily's instantaneous reply.

instauration

n
/ ɪnz.tə'rāʃən /
L

restoration after decay, lapse, or dilapidation.

The instauration of the Statue of Liberty was a long and complicated project.

insulin

n
/ ɪn(t)səlɪn /
L + Ecf

a protein pancreatic hormone that is essential especially for the metabolism of carbohydrates and which is used in the treatment and control of diabetes mellitus.

Marty gives himself an injection of insulin every morning to control his diabetes.

insurrection

n
/ ɪn(t)sə'rekʃən /
L > F > E

an act or instance of revolting against civil or political authority or against an established government.

The dictator quickly suppressed the peasants' insurrection.

insusceptibility

n
/ ɪnsəseptə'bɪlədē /
L

the quality or state of being incapable of being moved, affected, or impressed.

Sylvia prides herself on her insusceptibility to flattery.

intaglio

n
/ ɪn'tal(,)yō /

It
an engraving or incised figure in stone or other hard material.

Judd was pleased with the intaglio on his signet ring.

intangible

integument

n
/ ɪn'tegyəmənt /
L

an enveloping layer, membrane, or structure (as the skin of a fish or the exoskeleton of an insect).

The dried cicada integument attached to the brick wall fascinated the children.

intensity

n
/ ɪn'ten(t)sədē /
L + Ecf

extreme or very high degree : extreme strength, force, or energy.

Gino was astonished at the little flashlight's intensity.

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intercalate

v
/ ʔn'tərkəlāt /
L

insert between or among existing elements.
It was the editor's job to intercalate the new manuscript pages into the narrative.

intercede

intercept

v
/ ɪntə(r)'sept /
L

stop or interrupt the progress or course of.
Rick will intercept the office mail, as requested by Dr. Taylor.

intercessory

adj
/ ɪntə(r)'ses(ə)rē /
L

relating to or marked by the act of pleading in behalf of another.
The congregation joined in intercessory prayers for the sick parishioners.

interfered

interior

interlocutor

n
/ ɪntə(r)'ləkyədə(r) /
L

one who takes part in a dialogue or conversation.
The seminar leader instructed everyone to choose an interlocutor and discuss the video one-on-one.

interlucent

interment

n
/ ʔn'tərmənt /
L > F > E

the act or ceremony of placing a dead body in a grave or tomb.
Uncle Oliver's desire was that only family members be present at his interment.

intermezzo

n
/ ɪntə(r)'met(ɪ)sō /
L > It

a movement coming between the major sections of a symphony or other extended work.
The singers were able to take a break while the orchestra played the intermezzo.

interminable

adj
/ ʔn'tərmənəbəl /
L

having no end : wearisomely protracted.
Dad complained about the interminable lines at the theme park.

intermittence

n
/ ɪntə(r)'mitʰn(t)s /
L

periodic cessation or interruption.
The intermittence of the moving windshield wipers supposedly allows better visibility during a light rain.

intermittent

adj
/ ɪntə(r)'mitʰnt /
L

coming and going at intervals : not continuous.
The weather forecast warned of intermittent showers for the afternoon.

internal

international

internecine

adj
/ ɪntər'ne.sēn /
L

marked by great slaughter : deadly.
Many areas of the former Soviet Union have been plagued with internecine struggles.

interpellation

interplanetary

adj
/ ɪntə(r)'planə.tərē /
L + Gk + Lcf > E

existing, carried on, or operating between planets.
Interplanetary travel may someday be a reality, but for now it must remain the stuff of science fiction.

interpolate

interpret

v
/ ʔn'tərpɹət /
L > F > E

explain or tell the meaning of : translate into intelligible or familiar language or terms.
Shareen asked the psychiatrist to interpret her dream.

interregnum

n
/ ɪntə(r)'regnəm /
L

the time during which a throne is vacant between the death, abdication, or expulsion of a sovereign and the coronation of his or her successor.
The prime minister urged citizens to band together during the interregnum.

interrogatory

n
/ ɪntə'rägətōrē /
L

a formal question or inquiry.
The principal instructed Betty to prepare within two days a written response to the interrogatory regarding her honor offense.

interrupt

v
/ ɪntə'rəpt /
L

prevent (one) from proceeding by intrusive or interpolated comment or action.
"Must you always interrupt like that?" asked Mr. Kelley.

intersperse

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interstice

n
/ ən'tərstɪs /
L

a space that intervenes between one thing and another : a space between things closely set.

The tightly-woven cloth looked solid, but a sharp needle easily found an interstice to slip through.

intertriginous

interviewee

n
/ .ɪntə(r).vyü'ē /
F

one that is questioned or conversed with especially in order to obtain information or ascertain personal qualities.

The receptionist administered a spelling test to each interviewee.

intestacy

intolerable

adj
/ in'täl(ə)rəbəl /
L

not capable of being endured : unbearable.

The intolerable cold made Janice's eyes water.

intractable

adj
/ in'traktəbəl /
L

not easily governed, managed, or directed.

The intractable child was amusing for a while.

intrait

intramural

intrepid

adj
/ in'trepəd /
L

characterized by resolute fearlessness in meeting dangers or hardships and enduring them with fortitude.

Bob's military honors attest to his intrepid character.

intricate

adj
/ 'ɪntrə'kət /
L > E

having many complexly interrelating parts or elements : complicated.

Jason described the intricate mechanism of the clock as "awesome."

intrigue

v
/ ən'trɪ'g /
L > It > F

arouse the interest, desire, or curiosity of.

The designer wanted the picture on the dust jacket to intrigue potential readers.

intrinsic

introduction

introit

intuitable

adj
/ ən't(y)üədəbəl /
L

knowable by insight or without rational thought.

Ashley believes that the concepts of good and evil are intuitable.

inumbrate

v
/ 'ɪnəm.brāt /
L

put in shadow : shade.

Carl watched the cloud temporarily inumbrate the soccer field.

inundate

inundation

n
/ .ɪ(ɪ)nən'dāshən /
L

a rising and spreading of water over land not usually submerged : a flood.

As the river swelled with snowmelt, the levees protected the fields from inundation.

inurement

investive

inveigh

v
/ ən'vā /
L

protest bitterly or violently.

When the suspect was arraigned, he began to inveigh against what he claimed was police brutality.

inveigle

inveterate

adj
/ ən'vedərət /
L

continuous, recurrent, chronic.

The inveterate lateness of Linda's mail delivery caused her concern.

invidious

adj
/ ən'vɪdēəs /
L

of an unpleasant or objectionable nature : hateful.

It is not uncommon for Sean to respond with invidious remarks that may or may not be true.

invincible

inviolable

adj
/ in'vɪələbəl /
L

secure from assault or trespass.

An electrified security fence, ten feet high, did not make the film star's estate inviolable.

invitation

ionosphere

n
/ ɪ'änəsfi(ə)r /
Gk

the part of Earth's atmosphere containing free electrically charged particles.

Ham radio operators transmit their signals great distances by bouncing them off the ionosphere.

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iota

n
/ ɪˈoʊdɪə /
Gk

an infinitesimal amount : a very small degree.
The analgesic worked so well that Jeremy felt not even an iota of pain.

ipsedixitism

n
/ ɪpsɪˈdɪksɪd.ɪzəm /
L

dogmatic assertion or assertiveness.
Martine's ipsedixitism tired her friends and put off strangers.

ipseity

irascibility

n
/ ɪˈræsəˈbɪlədɪ /
L

the quality or state of being marked by a hot temper and resentful anger.
The artist's stubborn irascibility led to many family squabbles.

irascible

adj
/ ɪˈræsəbəl /
L

marked by hot temper and resentful anger.
After breaking his leg, Lennie became so irascible that his friends stopped visiting him.

irate

adj
/ ɪˈrɑːt /
L

feeling and showing a high degree of anger.
When Calvin returned home late, his father was irate.

irenicism

n
/ ɪˈrenəsɪzəm /
Gk + Ecf

a social temper or condition or a state of public opinion making for peace.
Ella detected a growing irenicism among her constituents, though many still advocated cold war.

iridescent

adj
/ ɪˈrɪdəsənt /
L

showing colors like those of the rainbow especially in shifting patterns of hues and shades that vary with a change of light or point of view.
Louis C. Tiffany developed a famous type of iridescent glass.

irradiate

v
/ ɪˈrædɪeɪt /
L

throw rays of light upon : shine upon.
Cynthia's beauty seemed to irradiate the room with a mystical glow.

irreconcilable

adj
/ ɪˈrɛkənˈsɪləbəl /
L

not capable of being brought into friendly accord or understanding.
Bill finally realized that his differences with Sheila were irreconcilable.

irrecusable

adj
/ ɪˈrɛˈkyüzəbəl /
L

not subject to exception or rejection.
The company's most recent offer to the strikers was presented as irrecusable.

irredeemable

irrefragable

adj
/ ɪ(r)ˈrefrəgəbəl /
L

impossible to gainsay, deny, or refute.
The prosecutor maintained that the evidence against the defendant was irrefragable.

irregular

irrelevant

adj
/ ɪˈrɛləvənt /
L

not applicable or pertinent : foreign, extraneous.
Patrick introduced irrelevant arguments to cloud the central issue.

irreparable

irrepressible

adj
/ ɪrəˈpresəbəl /
L

impossible to repress, restrain, or control.
Sondra's irrepressible urge to drive fast earned her a speeding ticket.

irresistible

irretrievably

adv
/ ɪrəˈtrɛvəblɪ /
L > F > E

so as to be impossible to recoup, repair, or overcome.
Environmentalists bemoan the irretrievably lost sections of the rain forest.

irrevocability

n
/ ɪˈrevəkəˈbɪlədɪ /
L > F > E + E cff

the quality or state of being unalterable.
The chairman insisted upon the irrevocability of the rules of order.

irrevocable

irrevocably

adv
/ (ɪ)ˈrevəkəblɪ /
L

beyond any possibility of change.
The coach announced that the intramural team rosters had been irrevocably determined.

irrigation

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irritability

n
/ ɪrədəˈbɪlədē /

L
quick excitability to annoyance, impatience, or anger.

On the second day of Josh's diet, his irritability was apparent to everyone around him.

irritate

isagoge

n
/ ɪsəˈɡɔːjē /

Gk
a scholarly introduction to a branch of study or research.

The eminent economist wrote an isagoge for the new economics text.

isinglass

n
/ ɪzˈnɡlɑːs /

D
mica especially when in thin transparent sheets.

Isinglass is economically important because its low iron content makes it a good electrical and thermal insulator.

Islamic

adj
/ ɪˈslɑːmɪk /

Ar
of, relating to, or characterized by the religious faith of Muslims.

The central tenets of Islamic doctrine are that there is no god but Allah, and Mohammed is his prophet.

isle

n
/ ɪl /

L > F > E
[has homonyms: aisle, I'll] a small piece of land surrounded by water on all sides.

Kent dreamed of vacationing on a tropical isle.

isocryme

isogram

n
/ ɪ(ˌ)səˈɡrɑːm /

Gk + Gk
a line on a map or chart along which there is a constant value (as of temperature, pressure, or rainfall).

The meteorologist drew an isogram on the map to show places having the same barometric pressure.

isohyetal

adj
/ ɪ(ˌ)səˈhɪədəl /

Gk > ISV
relating to or indicating equal rainfall.

The weather forecaster's map shows isohyetal areas of the Great Plains.

isolability

n
/ ɪsələˈbɪlədē /

L > F > E
the capability of being placed alone or apart.

According to the philosophical principle of isolability, every isolated event must have an isolated cause.

isomorphic

adj
/ ɪsəˈmɔːrfɪk /

Gk
being of identical or similar form or shape or structure.

English spelling is difficult because of the frequent lack of isomorphic correspondence between the spoken word and the written word.

isosceles

adj
/ ɪˈsæsələz /

Gk > L
having two equal sides—used of a triangle.

Zola counted 16 isosceles triangles on the playground equipment.

isotope

issuable

Isthmian

adj
/ ɪsmiən /

Gk
of or relating to the Isthmus of Corinth or the games anciently held there.

Pindar's victory odes celebrate the victors in Olympic, Nemean, Pythian, and Isthmian games.

isthmus

n
/ ɪsməs /

Gk > L
a narrow strip of land running through a body of water and connecting two larger land areas.

The country of Panama is an isthmus connecting North and South America.

italicization

itemize

iterance

n
/ ɪdərən(t)s /

L > E
[Note: Could be confused with iterancy.] repetition, repetitiousness, recurrence.
Carol noticed an iterance of the name Elizabeth in her genealogical chart.

iterative

adj
/ ɪdərətɪv /

L
marked by or involving repetition or recurrence.

The name Elizabeth formed an iterative pattern in Maggie's genealogical chart.

itinerant

adj
/ ɪˈtɪn(ə)rənt /

L
traveling about from place to place.
The large farm employed many itinerant workers during the harvest season.

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itinerary

n
/ ɪˈtɪn.ə.rɪ.ərē /
L

a sketch of the prospective course of a journey or trip.
The senator's itinerary called for ten stops in two days.

ivory

adj
/ ɪv(ə)rē /
Hamitic > L > F > E

of a creamy white color.
The ivory sweater that Karen purchased qualifies as "winter white."

izzat

jabberwocky

n
/ ˈjəb(ə)r.wækē /
E nonsense name
meaningless speech, writing, or patter : gibberish.
Dina listened as the two babies carried on a lengthy conversation in jabberwocky.

jabot

n
/ zhaˈbō /
F
a ruffle or pleated frill of cloth, lace, or both attached down the center front of a shirt, blouse, or dress bodice.
Tom insisted that the shirt of his Captain Hook costume have a jabot.

jacal

jacamar

n
/ ˈjəkə.mär /
Tupi > F
any of many brightly colored birds inhabiting tropical forests from Mexico to Argentina.
Tio recognized the cry of the jacamar but couldn't see the bird through the thick foliage.

jackal

n
/ ˈjəkəl /
Skt > Per > Turkish
any of several small wild dogs of Africa and Asia having large ears and a bushy tail and feeding on small animals, fruits, and carrion.
The zoologist explained that the popular image of a jackal as a cowardly scavenger is not justified by the facts.

jackanapes

n
/ ˈjəkən.əps /
E nickname
an impertinent or conceited fellow.
Billy was thrown out of English class for being an insolent jackanapes.

jackknife

jaconet

jacquard

n
/ jaˈkɑrd /
F name
a fabric of an intricate variegated weave.
In the antique store's front window was a fabulous jacquard that portrayed the Last Supper.

jadeite

n
/ ˈjɑdīt /
Sp > F
a monoclinic mineral found chiefly in Myanmar that when cut constitutes a valuable variety of jade.
Alexis bought a necklace made of jadeite and black onyx at the craft bazaar.

jaguar

n
/ ˈjəg.wär /
Tupi&Guarani > Pg&Sp
a large cat chiefly of Central and South America that is larger and stockier than the leopard and is brownish yellow or buff with black spots.
Although the jaguar is a good climber, it usually stalks its prey on the ground.

jaleo

jalousie

n
/ ˈjæləsē /
F
[has near homonym: jealousy] a blind or shutter having horizontal slats that are adjustable or fixed at an angle to admit light and air and to permit looking out without being seen from the outside.
Helen hung a jalousie in each downstairs window of her new house.

jambalaya

n
/ ˌjəmbəˈliə /
Prov > F
rice cooked with ham, sausage, chicken, shrimp, or oysters and usually tomato and seasoned with herbs.
No trip to New Orleans would be complete without sampling a bowl of spicy jambalaya.

jambeau

n
/ ˌjəmbō /
F > E
[has homonym: jambo] a piece of medieval plate armor for the lower leg.
The knight staggered under a blow that left a groove across his jambeau.

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jamboree

n
/ ˌjambəˈreɪ /
unknown
a long mixed program of entertainment.
The finale at the jamboree was a brilliant display of fireworks.

jangle

janiform

adj
/ ˌjanəˈfɔrm /
L + L
having a face on each of two sides.
While in Rome, Stacey bought a replica of an ancient coin depicting a janiform figure.

janitor

n
/ ˌjanədə(r) /
L
one that keeps the premises of an apartment, office, or other building clean and free of refuse, tends the heating system, and makes minor repairs.
Morris took a part-time job as a janitor at an apartment complex in exchange for free rent.

japery

n
/ ˌjəp(ə)rē /
E
jesting talk : jokes.
Tired of the disk jockey's japery, Terry turned the radio off.

jarabe

n
/ həˈrɑ(,)bɑ /
Ar > Sp
any of several provincial Mexican couple dances that have the zapateado as their basic step.
The jarabe is sometimes performed at Mexican weddings.

jardiniere

jargon

n
/ ˈjɑrgən /
imit > F > E
the technical terminology or characteristic idiom of specialists or workers in a particular activity or area of knowledge.
Anna was sure the computer programmers were speaking English, but their jargon made it impossible for her to understand what they were saying.

jarl

jasper

jaundice

n
/ ˈjɒndəs /
L > F > E
yellowish pigmentation of the skin, tissues, and body fluids caused by the deposition of bile pigments.
David's jaundice was brought on by a liver problem.

jaundiced

adj
/ ˈjɒndəst /
L > F > E + Ecf
exhibiting or affected by distaste, or hostility.
Dr. Willis was jaundiced and querulous after being bedridden for so long.

jauntily

adv
/ ˈjɒntɪl̩ /
F > E + Ecff
in a light or carefree manner.
Steve's hat was perched jauntily on the side of his head.

jaunty

adj
/ ˈjɒnt̩ /
L > F
nonchalant or sprightly in manner or appearance.
The music teacher is far more jaunty at the keys of a piano than in the classroom.

javelin

n
/ ˈjav(ə)lɪn /
Celt > F
a slender shaft of wood not less than 260 centimeters long, tipped with iron or steel, and intended to be thrown for distance as an athletic feat or exercise.
Lucas threw the javelin only 20 feet on his first attempt.

javellization

jealousy

n
/ ˈjeləs̩ /
F
[has near homonym: jalousie] a disposition or state of mind that is intolerant of rivalry or unfaithfulness.
Tormented by jealousy, Shakespeare's Othello is driven to murder his wife.

jecorize

jeer

v
/ ˈji(ə)r /
unknown
speak or cry out with derision or mockery.
No one dared jeer when the venerable actor forgot his lines.

jeune

adj
/ ˈjɒˈjuːn /
L
immature, juvenile.
Dennis rejected the jeune poems for publication.

jellyfish

jeopardize

v
/ ˌjɛpə(r)dɪz /
L > F > E + Ecf
expose to danger : imperil.
Mr. Turner refuses to jeopardize his family by driving at high speed.

jeopardy

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jerboa

n
/ jər'boʊə /
Ar
any of several social nocturnal Old World jumping rodents with long hind legs and a long tail.
The well-developed jumping ability of the jerboa enables it to escape from many predators.

jeremiad

n
/ jərə'miəd /
Heb name > Gk > L > F
a protracted speech marked by deep misery.
The old philosopher gave a moving jeremiad against a culture that values knowledge above wisdom.

jerkin

n
/ 'jɜrkən /
unknown
a close-fitting hip-length jacket.
As his quest led him northward, the knight began wearing a jerkin for additional warmth.

jeroboam

jettison

v
/ 'jedəsən /
L > F > E
drop (as auxiliary equipment, bombs, cargo, or fuel) from an airplane in flight (as for lightening the load or providing greater safety).
The airplane's malfunctioning engine prompted the crew to jettison all unnecessary cargo.

jettisoned

jibboom

jicama

n
/ 'hɛkəmə /
Nahuatl > Sp
a tall-climbing Mexican vine with showy flowers and a sweet watery root that is sometimes eaten raw or cooked.
Suleika made a coleslaw of jicama and shredded carrot.

jillion

jinete

jingoism

jittery

jocose

jocosity

n
/ jō'käsədē /
L
the quality or state of being given to jokes and jesting.
Lennie's jocosity endeared him to no one.

jocular

adj
/ 'jäkylə(r) /
L
given or disposed to jesting.
The jocular keynote speaker peppered his remarks with humorous anecdotes.

jocund

adj
/ 'jäkənd /
L
feeling or exhibiting mirth or good cheer : cheerful.
The jocund host made everyone feel completely at ease.

jodhpur

n
/ 'jädpə(r) /
Indian geog name
a short riding boot; especially : an ankle-length boot fastened with a strap that is buckled at the side.
Among young or short equestrians, the jodhpur is a popular choice of boot.

joist

jongleur

n
/ zhō'nglər /
F
an itinerant medieval minstrel reciting and singing for hire.
Timothy went to the Renaissance Fair dressed as a jongleur, with a handmade lute and a velvet cap.

jonquil

n
/ 'jäŋkwəl /
L > Sp > F
a perennial bulbous herb native to southern Europe and northern Africa that has long slender leaves and is widely cultivated for its flowers.
A single jonquil in a bud vase adorned each table in the restaurant.

jostlement

joule

n
/ 'jül /
E name
[has near homonym: jewel] the absolute meter-kilogram-second unit of work or energy equal to 10 million ergs or approximately 0.7375 foot-pound or 0.2390 gram calorie.
In electrical terms, a joule represents the energy released in 1 second by a current of 1 ampere through a resistance of 1 ohm.

journal

journalism

n
/ 'jərn'lizəm /
F
an academic study concerned with the collection and editing of news or the editorial or business management of a news medium.
Students of journalism at Northwestern University often list the class taught by Oprah Winfrey as one of their favorites.

journey

joyial

adj
/ 'jōvēəl /
L > F
characterized by or showing marked good humor especially as exhibited in mirth, hilarity, or conviviality.
The joyial chef made cooking look easy and enjoyable.

joyiality

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jubilant

adj
/ 'jübələnt /
L

manifesting or expressing exultation or gladness.

Fans were jubilant when the batter hit the winning home run in the bottom of the ninth inning.

jubilarian

jubilation

judicial

judiciary

judicious

adj
/ jü'dishəs /
L

directed or governed by sound usually dispassionate judgment : characterized by discretion.

Jane's mom saw to it that her summer activities were a judicious mixture of chores and amusement.

juggernaut

n
/ 'jəgə(r).nət /
Skt > Hindi

a massive force or object that advances irresistibly and crushes whatever is in its path.

Sherman's armies moved like a juggernaut through the South.

juggler

n
/ 'jəg(ə)lə(r) /
L > F > E

[has near homonym: jugular] one skilled in keeping several objects in motion in the air at the same time by alternately tossing and catching them.

The crowd was most impressed when the juggler started juggling flaming torches.

jugular

adj
/ 'jəgyələ(r) /
L

of or relating to the throat or neck.
It is easy to find one's own pulse in the jugular region.

juiciness

juicy

julienne

adj
/ 'jülē.en /
F (name?)
[has homonym: Julian] cut in long thin strips—used especially of vegetables and fruits.
Bruce added julienne cucumber to the salad.

jumart

jumelle

junction

juncture

n
/ 'jən(k)chə(r) /
L
joint, seam.
Lulu found a note wedged in the juncture between the two seats.

jungle

juniper

n
/ 'jünəpə(r) /
L > E
an evergreen shrub or tree characterized by low, lateral spreading.
Grandma gathers berries from her juniper to use in cooking.

junket

n
/ 'jəŋkət /
L > It > E
a pleasure trip or tour made by an official at public expense ostensibly for purposes of inspection, investigation, or other public business.
Many citizens complained that the mayor's business trip to Japan was merely a junket.

junta

n
/ 'hüntə /
L > Sp
[has somewhat near homonyms: hunter, junto] a closely knit group of persons composing or dominating a government especially after a revolutionary seizure of power.
The military junta set up its headquarters in the former presidential palace.

jurimetrician

n
/ ,jürəmə'trɪshən /
L + Gk > E
a specialist in the application of scientific methods to legal problems.
The judge heard testimony from a jurimetrician and a forensic pathologist.

jurisdiction

n
/ ,jürəs'dɪkʃən /
L
the limits or territory within which any particular power may be exercised.
Sgt. Voss couldn't issue the reckless driver a ticket because the highway was outside his jurisdiction.

jurisprudence

n
/ ,jürə'sprüd'n(t)s /
L
[has homonym: jurisprudents] the science or philosophy of law.
Tom is a professor of jurisprudence at Yale Law School.

jussive

adj
/ 'jəsɪv /
L + Ecf
expressing or having the effect of a command.
There was a jussive tone to Mr. Contreras's request, and the boys obeyed him immediately.

justice

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justiciable

adj
/ ˌjʌˈstɪʃ(ē)əbəl /
L > F

capable of being decided by legal principles or by a court of justice : liable to trial in a court of justice.
The judge decided that Al's dispute with his employer was justiciable under the new law.

justifiable

juvenescence

n
/ ˌjʊvəˈnes˙n(t)s /
L

the state of being youthful or of growing young.
The director helped the aging actress produce the illusion of juvenescence through careful makeup and lighting.

juvenile

n
/ ˌjʊvəˈnɪl /
F or L

of or relating to childhood.
Many breakfast-cereal advertisements are geared to a juvenile audience.

juvenilia

n pl
/ ˌjʊvəˈnɪliə /
L

artistic or literary compositions produced in the author's youth and typically marked by immaturity of style, treatment, or thought.
The artist's juvenilia showed that he had been developing the same themes throughout his career.

juxtapose

v
/ ˌjʌkstəˈpōz /
L

place side by side.
Picasso often used collage to juxtapose coarse and refined elements in his art.

juxtaposition

n
/ ˌjʌkstəpəˈzɪʃən /
L

the act or an instance of placing two or more objects in a close spatial or ideal relationship.
The juxtaposition of the different styles within the same painting won the praise of the art critic.

Kabuki

n
/ kəˈbʊkē /
Jpn

traditional Japanese popular drama with singing and dancing performed in a stylized manner.
Performers of Kabuki must learn to move with great control.

kairos

n
/ ˈkɪrəs /
Gk

a time when conditions are right for the accomplishment of a crucial action.
Feeling that the kairos would never be better, Barbara approached her boss and demanded a raise.

kaiser

kaiserdom

n
/ ˈkɪzə(r)dəm /
G

the territory ruled by the German emperors from 1871 to 1918.
Otto was the best clockmaker in the kaiserdom.

kakemono

n
/ ˌkækəˈmō(,)nō /
Jpn

a picture or writing on silk or paper that usually has a roller at its lower edge.
Yasuki hung a kakemono in the living room.

kakistocracy

n
/ ˌkəkəˈstākɹəsē /
Gk

government by the worst individuals.
Denny thought the current student council was a kakistocracy.

kaleidoscope

n
/ kəˈlɪdəˌskōp /
Gk + E

an instrument that contains loose fragments of colored glass confined between two flat plates and two plane mirrors placed so that changes of position exhibit its contents in an endless variety of forms.
Raj received a fancy brass kaleidoscope for a birthday present.

kamikaze

kangaroo

kanone

karate

karst

karting

katabatic

adj
/ ˌkədəˈbədɪk /
Gk

of or relating to the downward motion of air (as in air drainage induced by surface cooling).
The ventilation system relied on katabatic action for optimal efficiency.

katana

n
/ kəˈtänə /
Jpn

a single-edged sword that is the longer of a pair worn by the Japanese samurai.
Hiroko proudly showed the guests her great-grandfather's katana hanging on the wall.

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katharometer

n
/ˌkathəˈrämədə(r) /
Gk

an apparatus for determining the composition of a gas mixture.
With the help of a katharometer, the chemist was able to analyze the engine's exhaust.

katzenjammer

kaumographer

n
/kó'mägrəfə(r) /
Gk

a worker who transfers designs, trademarks, or other printed material to cloth articles with a hot iron.
The sweatshirt store employs a kaumographer to decorate shirts with designs chosen by the customer.

keepsake

keeshond

kempt

kennel

n
/'ken¹l /
L > F > E

[has near homonym: quenelle] a house for a dog or pack of hounds.
Jack plans to help his father build a kennel for their beagles.

keno

n
/'kē(ˌ)nō /
F

[has homonym: kino] a game resembling lotto or bingo in which numbers printed on pellets are taken from a sack and announced to the players who cover the numbers on cards and in which five numbers covered in the same horizontal row win for the player.
The casino coffee shop had runners to sell the diners cards for keno.

kepi

n
/'kāpē /
L > G > F

a military cap having a close-fitting band, a round flat top sloping toward the front, and a visor.
In the foyer of the French embassy there is a statue of a general with a kepi atop his head.

keratitis

n
/ˌkerə'tidəs /
Gk

inflammation of the cornea of the eye.
After being struck in the eye, the boxer had to be treated for keratitis.

keratoderma

n
/ˌkerədō'dərmə /
Gk

a hard, callous condition of the skin.
The patient's keratoderma caused him pain and loss of movement.

keratoplasty

n
/'kerədōˌplastē /
Gk

plastic surgery on the cornea.
Keratoplasty, especially corneal grafting, has improved the vision of many people.

kerchief

n
/'kərchāf /
F > E

a square of cloth usually folded worn by women as a head covering.
Before Eileen went out to tend to her garden, she put on a blue and white kerchief.

kerf

n
/'kərf /
E

a slit or notch made in cutting usually by a saw or cutting torch.
Roger's toy racetrack is made from a piece of wood with a wide kerf along which the little cars move.

kerflop

kernel

kerplunk

adv
/kə(r)'pləŋk /
imit
with a thud.
Mimi dropped the apple kerplunk onto Mrs. Vega's desk.

kerseymere

kestrel

n
/'kestrəl /
L > F > E
a common small European falcon.
Sean found an injured kestrel on the roof of the library.

ketch

khaki

kibitz

kibitzer

n
/'kibətsə(r) /
Yiddish
an outsider or nonparticipant who looks on and may offer unwanted advice or comment.
Officer Morrow ordered the kibitzer to stand back and get out of the way of the rescue squad.

kidnap

kielbasa

n
/kil'bäsə /
Pol
[Note: A differently pronounced variant of the word is kielbasy.] a smoked sausage.
Adria ordered a half-pound of potato salad and a kielbasa from the deli.

kilim

kiln

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kiloton

n
/ 'kilə.tən /
Gk + E

an explosive force equivalent to that of 1,000 tons of TNT—used especially in reference to an atom or hydrogen bomb.

Given the strength of nuclear bombs, 1 kiloton is a small amount of explosive force.

kilowatt

kimono

kindergarten

adj
/ 'kində(r).gärt̩n /
G

of or relating to an elementary level or initial phase.

After her request to skip from the sixth to the eighth grade was denied, Kathleen was openly scornful of the kindergarten math problems the teacher kept assigning.

kindling

kindness

kinesiology

n
/ kə.nēsē'äləjē /
Gk

the study of the principles of mechanics and anatomy in relation to human movement.

All physical therapy students are required to take a course in kinesiology.

kinesitherapy

n
/ kə.nēsē'therəpē /
Gk

the therapeutic and corrective application of active and passive movements (as by massage) and of exercise.

The stroke victim's muscular problems were almost totally corrected through intensive kinesitherapy.

kinetic

adj
/ kə'nedik /
Gk

relating to the motion of matter and the forces and energy associated therewith.

The kinetic theory of gases treats each molecule in a gas as a point, which has mass but negligible volume.

kinetosis

n
/ kinə'tōsəs /
Gk > L

sickness induced by motion and characterized by nausea.

Before boarding the ship, Claire made sure she had brought along medication for kinetosis.

kingdom

kinkajou

n
/ 'kiŋkəjü /
Algonquian > F
a slender long-tailed mammal of Central and South America related to the raccoon.

The kinkajou is sometimes called the honey bear.

kishke

n
/ 'kishkə /
Slav > Yiddish
beef or fowl casing stuffed with a savory filling (as of matzoth flour, chicken fat, and onion) and roasted.
Steve ate four helpings of his grandmother's kishke.

kitchen

n
/ 'kitchən /
E
a room or some other space (as a wall area or separate building) with facilities for cooking : a place for preparing meals.

Joey spent several hours in the kitchen on Thanksgiving Day.

kitsch

n
/ 'kich /
G

artistic or literary material held to be of low quality, often produced to appeal to popular taste, and marked especially by sentimentalism, sensationalism, and slickness.
Souvenir shops are filled with kitsch for the indiscriminating tourists.

kiwi

klendusity

n
/ klen'd(y)üsədē /
Gk

the tendency of a plant or variety to escape infection as a result of having some property that prevents or hinders inoculation : disease-escaping ability.

The plant's thick cuticle is largely responsible for its klendusity.

klinotaxis

n
/ klinə'taksəs /
Gk

directional orientation involving turning toward a stimulus.

The klinotaxis of honeybees is dependent on the angle of the sun.

klomp

n
/ 'klämp /
D

[has homonym: clomp] a wooden shoe worn in the Low countries.
The Dutch villager proudly showed Pam a klomp that he had just finished carving.

knapsack

n
/ 'nap.sak /
G&D

a bag or case often of canvas supported on the back by a strap over each shoulder and used especially for carrying supplies while on a march or hike.

The next morning, Boris found a young snapping turtle in his knapsack.

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knave

knavery

knead

kneadable

adj

/ 'nēdəbəl /

E + Ecf

having the proper texture for mixing into a well-blended whole by or as if by repeatedly drawing out and pressing together.

Flour was mixed with other ingredients to produce a kneadable dough.

knickers

n pl

/ 'nikə(r)z /

American name

[has homonym: nickers] loose-fitting knee-length pants gathered at the knee on a band for sports and informal wear.

The man was dressed in a shaggy tweed jacket and knickers with long woolen stockings.

knickknacky

knight

knightling

knish

n

/ kə'nish /

Russ > Yiddish

a round or square of rich baking-powder dough folded over a savory meat or cheese filling and baked or fried.

Sol searched his new neighborhood in vain for a restaurant that served a decent knish.

knishes

knock

knockabout

knoll

n

/ 'nɒl /

E

a usually small rounded land eminence.

Drucilla lay at the top of the knoll to catch some rays.

knout

knowledge

n

/ 'nälj /

E

the fact or condition of knowing.

Jack's knowledge of carpentry immediately earned him a job when he arrived in Miami.

knuckle

knucks

knurl

kohlrabi

n

/ kɔl'räbē /

G

a variety of cabbage having a turnip-shaped edible stem.

The flesh of the kohlrabi resembles that of the turnip but is sweeter and milder.

kookaburra

n

/ 'kükəbərə /

Australian name

a kingfisher of Australia that is about the size of a crow, has a call resembling loud laughter, and feeds in part on reptiles.

While vacationing in Melbourne, Lindsay was at first startled by the peculiar chortling of a kookaburra.

kremlin

n

/ 'kremlən /

Russ

the citadel or fortress of a Russian city or town.

Bruce hiked to the ancient kremlin for the best view of the city.

kriegspiel

n

/ 'krēgz,pē(ə)l /

G

chess in which neither player sees the other's board but is given some information as to the opponent's moves by a referee who keeps track of all moves on a third board.

Orvil attributes his ability to mentally picture a chessboard in play to his fondness for kriegspiel.

Krugerrand

n

/ 'krügə.ränd /

S Afr name + S Afr geog name

a one-ounce gold coin of the Republic of South Africa.

Martin purchased a Krugerrand at the New York Coin Show last year.

krypton

n

/ 'kriptän /

Gk

a colorless relatively inert gaseous element found in air at about one part per million and used especially in electric lamps.

A light bulb filled with krypton will last longer and shine more brightly than a regular bulb of the same wattage.

kuchen

n

/ 'kükən /

G

any of several varieties of coffee cake typically made from sweet yeast dough and variously shaped, flavored, and frosted.

Aunt Mitzi served a warm apple kuchen for Christmas brunch.

kudize

v

/ 'k(y)ü.dīz /

Gk

grant honors to : praise.

The planning committee had a luncheon to kudize Mr. Blalock, who donated 100 acres of land for the city park.

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kudos

n pl
/ 'k(y)ü.dōz /
Gk

praises given for achievement.
Daphne received many kudos from the drama coach after her performance in the school play.

kudzu

n
/ 'küd(ü)zü /
Jpn

a vine of China and Japan that is used widely in the southern United States for erosion control and soil improvement.
Along many highways of the deep South, kudzu covers the roadside like drapery.

kwashiorkor

n
/ ,kwäshē'örkär /
Ghana name
severe malnutrition in infants and children caused by a high-carbohydrate, low-protein diet.
Supplying protein supplements to affected children is one way in which UNICEF works to eradicate kwashiorkor.

labefaction

laboratory

laborious

adj
/ lə'bōrēəs /
L

involving much work : tiresome.
Restoration of the mansion will require laborious effort.

labyrinth

n
/ 'labə.rin(t)th /
Carian? > Gk > L > E
a structure full of intricate passageways that make it difficult to find the way from the interior to the entrance or from the entrance to the interior.
Lost in the labyrinth of passages beneath the castle, the invaders gave up the attack plan and instead concentrated on finding a way out.

labyrinthine

laccate

adj
/ 'lakāt /
L + Ecf
having a varnished or lacquered appearance.
The leaves of some tropical evergreens have a laccate surface.

lacerate

laceration

n
/ ,lasə'rāshən /
L > F
a wound made by tearing or rending roughly.
Forty stitches were required to close the laceration in Jeremy's scalp.

lachrymose

adj
/ 'lakra:mōs /
L
dismal, melancholy.
The lachrymose play ruined Samantha's weekend.

lackadaisical

adj
/ ,lakə'dāzəkəl /
E + Ecf
lacking life, spirit, or zest : devoid of energy or purpose.
John's piano teacher criticized him for his lackadaisical performance in the recital.

laconic

adj
/ lə'känik /
Gk > L
spoken, written, or expressed briefly or tersely : pithy.
Mrs. Fitzpatrick's laconic speaking style was quite popular with her students.

lacrosse

n
/ lə'krōs /
F
a game that is played on a turfed field by two teams of ten players, each of whom uses a long-handled stick with which the ball is caught, carried, and thrown, with the object being to throw the ball into the opponents' goal.
Curious about lacrosse, Pamela signed up for a college intramural team.

lacteal

adj
/ 'laktēəl /
L + Ecf
relating to, consisting of, producing, or resembling milk.
Liz was surprised to learn that her lacteal drink was made from soybeans.

lacuna

n
/ lə'k(y)ünə /
L
a blank space : a missing part : gap, hole.
Gabe discovered a mysterious lacuna in the manuscript.

ladle

lageniform

adj
/ lə'jēnə.fōrm /
L + Ecf
shaped like a flask : dilated below and tapering to a slender neck above.
While on the field trip, the botanist directed the class to an example of a lageniform fungus.

laggard

adj
/ 'lagə(r)d /
Scand + Ecf
slow or relatively slow to act, move, follow, or respond.
Successful mail order companies are rarely laggard in handling complaints.

laggardly

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lagniappe

lagomorph

n
/ 'lagə.mɔrf /
Gk > L

[Note: Could be confused with Lagomorpha.] any of several gnawing animals (as hare, rabbit, or pika) resembling the rodents.
A lagomorph has well-developed incisors to help it sever plant stems and gnaw on bark.

laity

n
/ 'lāede /
Gk > L > F > E + Ecf

[Note: Could be confused with lady.] the great body of the people of a religious faith as distinguished from its clergy.
In most churches, many tasks and duties are given to the laity.

lallation

laloplegia

n
/ .lələ'plēj(ē)ə /
Gk

paralysis of the muscles involved in speech.
Since Uncle Harry's stroke caused laloplegia, he had to communicate with pencil and paper.

lamasery

n
/ 'lāməs.ərē /
Tibetan > F + Per > F

a monastery of Tibetan Buddhist monks or priests.
Xiang returned from the lamasery a wiser and more introspective man.

lambda

lambent

lambently

adv
/ 'lambəntlē /
L

in a light and brilliant manner.
Carla's eyes flashed lambently under her dark brows.

lambrequin

n
/ 'lambə(r)kən /
D > F

a short decorative drapery for a shelf edge or for the top of a window casing : valance.
An embroidered lambrequin hung over each of the mansion's windows.

lament

v
/ lə'ment /
L

express sorrow for : bewail, mourn.
Railroad buffs still lament the demise of the steam locomotive.

lampoon

n
/ lam'pūn /
F

a light mocking satire.
The new movie is a lampoon of the horror films that are made especially for teenagers.

lamppost

n
/ 'lamp.pōst /
Gk > L > FE + E
a pole supporting a usually outdoor lighting device.
The speeding automobile didn't make the curve and slammed into a lamppost, knocking it to the ground.

lamprey

n
/ 'lamprē /
Gaulish? > L > F
any of various freshwater and saltwater vertebrates that are widely distributed in temperate and subarctic regions and resemble eels but have a large circular jawless suctorial mouth with numerous small conical teeth.
A large lamprey slithered out of the underwater cave, startling the diver.

lampyrid

n
/ 'lampərəd /
Gk > L
a beetle or firefly of medium or small size having an elongate form.
The lightning bug is a common lampyrid.

lancet

landau

n
/ 'lan.daü /
G geog name
a four-wheeled covered carriage.
People who cannot picture what a landau looks like should think of Cinderella's carriage.

landscape

n
/ 'lanz.kāp /
D
a portion of land or territory that can be seen in a single view including all the objects so seen.
After the snowstorm the landscape looked like a winter wonderland.

langlauf

langouste

n
/ lä'güst /
L > OProv > F
spiny lobster.
Alicia ordered the langouste at the fancy seafood restaurant.

language

n
/ 'langwij /
L > F > E
[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word.] the inner tongue or flat plate opposite the mouth of an organ flue pipe.
A small chip in the organ's smallest language subtly affected its tone.

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languescent

adj
/ lan'gwes'nt /
L

becoming listless or fatigued.
The languescent ballerina struggled through the final scene.

languid

adj
/ 'lanwəd /
L > F

sluggish in character or disposition.
In India Mary had always felt hot and too languid to care much about anything.

languor

languorous

languorously

adv
/ 'lan(g)(ə)rəslē /
L + Ecff

in a manner characterized by listless indolence or sluggishness.
After returning from work, Cora reclined languorously on the sofa.

laniary

adj
/ 'lānē.erē /
L

adapted for tearing.
Laniary teeth are common in most carnivores.

lanolated

adj
/ 'lan'l.ādəd /
L > ISV + Ecff

containing wool grease refined for use in ointments and cosmetics.
Agnes used lanolated cream to treat her dry, rough skin.

lantern

n
/ 'lantərn /
Gk > L > F > E

a portable lamp.
The red light in the distance came from a lantern that hung from the last car of the train.

lapidary

lapideous

adj
/ lə'pidēəs /
L

of the nature of stone.
Lapideous concretions that form in the bladder or kidneys can cause extreme pain.

lapillus

larcenous

larceny

n
/ 'lārs(ə)nē /
L > F > E

the unlawful taking and carrying away of personal property without the consent of its lawful possessor.
When Tina first saw Victor's art collection, she suspected him of larceny.

largetto

adv
/ lār'ged(,)ō /

It
in a somewhat slow manner—used as a direction in music.
In the second movement, which is played largetto, Beethoven unfolds one melodic idea after another.

largitonal

adj
/ lār'jishən'l /
L + Ecf

of or relating to a gift or gratuity.
The seed money for the new museum consists entirely of largitonal funds.

lariat

n
/ 'larēət /
L > Sp

a long light but strong rope used with a running noose for catching livestock.
Jonathan watched in fascination as the cowboy demonstrated his skill with the lariat.

larigo

n
/ 'lārə.gō /
Sp

a ring at each end of the cinch of a western saddle through which the straps pass.
When Lynn investigated her loose saddle, she found that a larigo had broken.

larithmics

n pl
/ lə'riθmiks /
Gk

the scientific study of the quantitative aspects of population.
In accordance with a principle of larithmics, the emigration from the country was offset by an increased rate of population growth.

larmoyant

adj
/ lār'mōiənt /
L > F

given to tears or weeping : tearful.
Even Jorge, who is not usually larmoyant, had to wipe his eyes during the eulogy.

larrigan

n
/ 'larə.gən /
unknown

an oil-tanned moccasin with legs that is used especially by loggers and trappers.
The statue of Paul Bunyan depicted him with an ax over his shoulder and a hole in one larrigan.

larva

n
/ 'lārvə /
L

the immature, wingless, and often vermiform feeding form of an insect which has hatched from the insect egg.
The caterpillar is the larva of the butterfly.

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laryngitic

adj
/ˌlɑrənˈjɪdɪk/
Gk

affected with an inflammation of the upper part of the trachea containing the vocal cords.

After a long day of pitching his merchandise, the salesman returned home exhausted and laryngitic.

laryngitis

larynx

n
/ˈlɑrɪŋ(k)s/
Gk > L

the modified upper part of the respiratory passage of air-breathing vertebrates bounded above by the glottis and continuous below with the trachea.

The vocal cords are situated within the larynx.

laser

n
/ˈlāzə(r)/
English acronym
a device that utilizes the natural oscillations of atoms or molecules between energy levels for generating coherent electromagnetic radiation.

The surgeon used a laser to make the incision.

lassitude

n
/ˈlɑsəˌtʃʊd/
L

a condition of weariness or debility : fatigue.

Lassitude is a symptom of many tropical diseases.

latensify

laterigrade

adj
/ˈlɑdərəˌgrɑd/
L + L

running sidewise or characterized by such running.

The laterigrade movements of the crab delighted the children on the beach.

lathe

n
/ˈlɑθ/
E

a machine in which work is rotated about a horizontal axis and shaped by a fixed cutting tool while being held in a chuck.

Chloe donned her safety glasses before switching on the lathe.

laticiferous

adj
/ˌlɑdətʃɪf(ə)rəs/
Gk? > L + Ecff

containing, bearing, or secreting latex.

Some laticiferous tropical vines are good sources of rubber.

latitude

latitudinous

adj
/ˌlɑdətʃʊdˈnəs/
L

having breadth especially of thought or interpretation.

Poetry is a latitudinous category, ranging from the moralistic to the nihilistic.

latkes

lattice

n
/ˈlɑdəs/
Gmc? > F > E

a framework or structure of wood or metal made by crossing laths or other thin strips so as to form a network.

The window has a lattice, but that did not stop Renton from getting through it.

laud

v
/ˈlɔd/
L

sing the praises of.

The proud parents would laud their child's slightest accomplishment.

laudatory

adj
/ˈlɔdətɔrē/
L

of, relating to, or containing praise.
Seth made sure everyone saw his laudatory telegram from the dean.

laughable

adj
/ˈlɑfəbəl/
E + Ecff

comical, absurd.

Marlene wore antique finery which would have been laughable on any other woman.

laughter

launder

launderer

n
/ˈlɔndərə(r)/
L > F > E

one who washes and irons clothing.
Gina took her blouse to the launderer for cleaning.

laureation

n
/ˈlɔrēˈɑʃən/
L

an act of crowning with or as if with a wreath of leaves as a mark of honor or achievement.

At her laureation the recipient of the honorary degree paid tribute to her college professors.

laurel

n
/ˈlɔrəl/
L

[has homonym: loral] foliage used by the ancient Greeks to crown victors in the Pythian games.

The ancient statue of an unknown athlete bore a carefully carved wreath of laurel.

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lavash

n
/ 'lä.väsh /
Armenian
a large thin crisp unleavened wafer with a rough surface caused by air bubbles during baking.
Phil served lavash with goat cheese.

lavatory

n
/ 'lavə.tōrē /
L
a room with conveniences for washing the hands and face and usually with one or more toilets.
All of the soap dispensers in the lavatory were empty.

lavender

layette

league

n
/ 'lēg /
Gaulish > L > E
[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word.] an English unit of distance of about 3 miles.
Long car rides seem shorter if you figure them by the league instead of by the mile.

leaky

leasable

lease

leatherine

leaven

n
/ 'levən /
L > F > E
[has homonym and near homonyms: levin and eleven, levan] a substance (as yeast) acting or used to produce fermentation in a dough or a liquid.
Nina neglected to add the leaven that causes the bread dough to rise.

lebkuchen

n
/ 'läp.kükən /
G
a Christmas cookie usually made with honey, brown sugar, almonds, candied fruit peel, and spices.
Bart slipped a lebkuchen to the schnauzer.

lecithin

n
/ 'lesəthən /
Gk
a substance that is obtained in the manufacture of soybean oil and that is used in foods (as margarine, chocolate, bakery products).
Lecithin is used in the production of caramel to make it smoother.

lectern

n
/ 'lektə(r)n /
L
a desk or stand with a sloping top and usually a ledge at the bottom of the slope designed to support a book or script in a convenient position for a reader standing before it.
Miguel clutched the lectern in an attempt to conceal his nervousness.

lectionary

lectotype

lederhosen

n pl
/ 'lädə(r).hōz²n /
G
knee-length leather trousers worn especially in Bavaria.
All the men who volunteered to work at Oktoberfest were asked to wear lederhosen.

legacy

n
/ 'legəsē /
L > F > E
money or property given to someone by direction of a will.
Tim opened a small business with the legacy from his father.

legerdemain

n
/ .lejə(r)də'mān /
F
skill and dexterity in the performance of juggling or conjuring tricks.
The performer's legerdemain included making a coworker disappear from an enclosure.

legerity

n
/ lə'jerədē /
L > F
mental or physical agility and quickness.
The gymnast performed on the balance beam with remarkable legerity.

leggieramente

legibility

legible

legislate

legislatorial

adj
/ .lejəslə'tōrēəl /
L + Ecf
having the power or performing the function of making laws.
Unfinished legislatorial duties kept Congress in session past its normal adjournment date.

legislature

n
/ 'lejə.slāchə(r) /
L + Ecf
an organized body of persons having the authority to make laws.
Ellen served as a page for the legislature last year.

legitimacy

leguminous

adj
/ lə'gyümənəs /
L
of, resembling, or consisting of peas or other vegetables.
The only leguminous food that Mandy likes is peas.

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leisurable

adj

/ 'lɛzh(ə)rəbəl /

L > F > E

proceeding deliberately without haste.

The bikers made a leisurable tour of the campus.

leisure

lemming

n

/ 'lemɪŋ /

ON > Norw

any of several small rodents of circumpolar distribution.

The legend of suicide by drowning associated with the lemming is fascinating but probably untrue.

lemniscate

lemonade

lemur

n

/ 'lɛmə(r) /

L

any of numerous arboreal chiefly nocturnal mammals formerly widespread but now largely confined to Madagascar that are related to the monkeys.

The lemur is lower on the evolutionary scale and less intelligent than the monkey.

length

n

/ 'lɛŋ(k)θ /

E

the longer of the two straight-line dimensions of a surface or plane or the longest of the three straight-line dimensions of a solid : extent from end to end.

Marsha and her father frequently argue over the length of her skirts.

leniency

n

/ 'lɛnɪənsɪ /

L

the quality or state of being tolerant or merciful.

At his sentencing the convicted felon expressed remorse and pleaded for leniency.

lenient

leoncito

n

/ .lɔən'sɛ(,)tɔ /

Sp

a lion monkey; any of several South American marmosets.

The leoncito has a mane of fur around its head like a lion.

leonine

adj

/ 'lɛə.nɪn /

L

resembling or suggesting that of a lion.

Portraits of Beethoven and Einstein always depict them with leonine hairstyles.

leopard

n

/ 'lɛpə(r)d /

Gk > L > F > E

a large strong cat of southern Asia and Africa that is adept at climbing and is usually tawny or buff with black spots.

The so-called "black panther" is actually a black-coated form of the leopard.

leopardess

leotard

n

/ 'lɛə.tɑrd /

F name

a close-fitting garment for the torso that is worn for practice or performance by dancers and acrobats.

In modern dance, performers often wear a very simple leotard.

lepidopterist

n

/ .lɛpə'dæptərɪst /

Gk

a specialist in the study of butterflies and moths.

Judy was well on her way to becoming a lepidopterist; she already had her own butterfly net.

leporiform

adj

/ 'lɛpərə.fɔrm /

L + E

resembling a hare or rabbit in form.
For Easter, Mom decorates the windows with leporiform figures bearing baskets of eggs.

leprosy

n

/ 'lɛprəsɪ /

Gk > L

a progressive infectious disease that affects the skin and nerves and causes lumps, ulcers, white scaly patches, deformities, and eventual loss of sensation.

Even though approximately 270 cases of leprosy are diagnosed in the United States each year, effective medications have made the existence of leper colonies unnecessary.

leptocercal

adj

/ .lɛptə'sɜrkəl /

Gk + Gk

tapering off to a long slender point—used of the tail of a fish.
The scuba diver showed Jane his scar from a wound he received when whipped by the leptocercal tail of a stingray.

lesion

n

/ 'lɛzhən /

L > F > E

[has near homonym: legion] an abnormal change in structure of an organ or part due to injury or disease.

Sarah had Dr. Kendall treat the lesion on her shin.

lethal

adj

/ 'lɛθəl /

L

of, relating to, or causing death.

The lethal fire spread through the Riggs Building rapidly.

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lethargic

adj
/ lə'thɑːrjɪk /
Gk > L > F
slow-moving, sluggish.
Rhea's dry throat and lethargic disposition warned her that a cold was coming.

lethargy

n
/ 'lethə(r)jē /
Gk
the quality or state of being lazy or indifferent : lassitude, apathy.
The hot, humid air of the tropics spreads a feeling of lethargy over everyone.

letteret

lettuce

n
/ 'ledəs /
L > F > E
a common garden vegetable with succulent leaves that are often used in salads.
Rosemarie prefers romaine lettuce for her salads.

leucitite

leucoryx

n
/ 'lūkə(ɹ)riks /
Gk
a large chiefly pale brownish antelope of North Africa.
The horns of the leucoryx are evenly curved backwards.

levade

n
/ lə'väd /
F > G
a show-ring movement in which a horse raises the forequarters, brings the hindquarters under him, and balances with haunches deeply bent and forelegs drawn up.
When a horse's body is at a less-than-45-degree angle with the ground, the movement is called a "levade."

levanter

n
/ lə'vantə(r) /
L > F > E + Ecf
a strong easterly Mediterranean wind.
When the levanter hits the Rock of Gibraltar, it soars up 1,400 feet, and its vapor becomes a dense white cloud.

levee

n
/ 'levē /
L > F
[has homonym: levy] an embankment built alongside a body of water to prevent flooding of nearby land.
The city plans to construct a levee to prevent flooding from the river.

level

leverage

leveret

n
/ 'lev(ə)rət /
L > F > E
a wild rabbit in its first year.
Jimmy's pet rabbit is a leveret that his dad caught while cutting hay.

leviathan

adj
/ lə'vīəθən /
Heb > L > E
of enormous size.
The ore was hauled away in leviathan trucks.

levity

n
/ 'levədē /
L
excessive or unseemly frivolity : lack of fitting seriousness.
The minister's levity during the eulogy was inappropriate.

levy

v
/ 'levē /
F > E
impose or collect by legal process or by authority.
The political candidate promised to levy no new taxes if he were elected.

lexicography

lexicon

n
/ 'leksəkän /
Gk
the vocabulary of a subject or of an occupational group.
The lexicon of computer programmers is slowly becoming part of everyday language.

liability

liable

liaison

libel

liberalism

n
/ 'lib(ə)rəlɪzəm /
L + Ecf
a political philosophy based on the belief in freedom for the individual and on the belief of governmental guarantees of human rights and civil liberties.
Alex believes that persons attracted to liberalism are often more compassionate than practical.

liberalize

librarian

n
/ lɪ'brerēən /
L
one whose vocation is working with collections of books, manuscripts, or other literary materials kept for study or reading.
Juan asked the librarian for the key to the rare-book cabinet.

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library

n
/ 'lɪ.brərē /
L

a room or section of a building or a building itself given over to books, manuscripts, or other literary and sometimes artistic materials usually kept in some convenient order for use but not for sale.

Stella owns many books and plans to convert a spare bedroom to a library.

libretto

n
/ lə'bre(,)dō /
L

the text of a work (as an opera) for the musical theater.

Michelle bought a dual-language edition of the libretto of Tosca for a quarter at a garage sale.

licensable

licentiate
n
/ lɪ'sençēət /
L

an academic degree ranking below that of a doctor given by some European institutions of higher education.

After two years' study, Reverend Pease received a licentiate in canon law.

lichen

n
/ 'lɪkən /
Gk > L

[has homonym: liken] any of numerous complex plants that are made up of an alga and a fungus growing in symbiotic association on various solid surfaces (as rocks or the bark of trees).

Sean used a mixture of green paint and sawdust to simulate lichen on his model train layout.

lichenified

lichenophagous

licit

adj
/ 'lɪsət /
L

not forbidden by law : lawful.

Even licit drugs can be dangerous if not used as directed by a physician.

lidocaine

liege

adj
/ 'lēj /
L > F > E

having the right to feudal allegiance and service.

The serf bowed low before his liege lord.

lien

lienholder

n
/ 'lɛn.hōldər /
L > F + E

one having a valid mortgage.

When she returned from vacation, Iris was mortified to find a stack of letters from her lienholder.

lieu

n
/ 'lü /
L > F

[has homonym: loo] place, stead.

Miss Woodhouse had many acquaintances, but not one among them could be accepted in lieu of her best friend Miss Taylor for even half a day.

lieutenancy

n
/ lü'tenənsē /
L > F > E

the term of a commissioned officer in the army, air force, or marine corps ranking below a captain.

During his lieutenancy, Lionel served in Guam.

lieutenant

n
/ lü'tenənt /
L > F > E

a military officer in the army, navy, air force, or marine corps.

At the end of the novel, the young naval hero was finally promoted to lieutenant.

ligament

n
/ 'lɪgəmənt /
L

something that ties or unites one thing or part to another.

International law is considered by some to be the ligament of mankind.

ligature

n
/ 'lɪgəçə(r) /
L > F > E

something that is used to bind; specifically : a thread, wire, or other material used in surgery.

Dr. Adams removed the ligature that had held the vein closed during the operation.

lightning

adj
/ 'lɪtnɪŋ /
E

[has near homonym: lightning] moving with or having the speed and suddenness of lightning.

The lightning rapidity of Mr. Julia's jargon and wit is a tool of his trade as an auctioneer.

ligneous

adj
/ 'lɪgnēəs /
L

of or resembling wood.

Mr. Hart described the plant as a perennial herb with a ligneous crown.

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ligniperdous

adj
/ .lignə'pərdəs /
L + L

destructive to wood.
The house had to be inspected for any ligniperdous insects before it could be sold.

lilac

liliaceous

adj
/ .lilē'āshəs /
L

of, relating to, or resembling any of numerous erect perennial leafy-stemmed bulbous herbs.
Deb's curtain material has a colorful liliaceous pattern.

lilliputian

adj
/ .lilə'pyūshən /
imaginary geog name + Ecf
extremely small.

The lilliputian furniture and fixtures in the dollhouse astounded and delighted the museum visitors.

limb

n
/ 'lim /
E

[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word. In addition, word has homonym: limn.] the outer edge of the apparent disk of a celestial body or a portion of the edge.
Teresa spied a crater directly on the Moon's limb.

limbiferous

adj
/ lim'bif(ə)rəs /
L + L

having a border or margin.
Mr. Lovejoy told his pupils that they would be expected to use limbiferous paper for all their assignments.

limby

limerick

n
/ 'lim(ə)rik /
Irish geog name
a light verse form of five anapestic lines.
Noel composed a funny limerick about his teacher.

limitrophe

adj
/ 'limə.trōf /
L + Gk
situated on a border or frontier : adjacent, neighboring.
The geography teacher asked the class to name all the countries that are limitrophe to Russia.

limn

v
/ 'lim /
L > F > E
[has homonym: limb] outline in clear sharp detail : delineate.
The object of the video game is to fire when the periscope sights limn the tanker.

limnology

n
/ lim'näləjē /
L + Gk
the scientific study of physical, chemical, meteorological, and biological conditions in fresh waters especially of ponds and lakes.
An expert in limnology testified that pollution is reducing the fish population in Crystal Lake.

limousine

n
/ 'limə.zēn /
F geog name
a small bus (as for transporting passengers to and from an airport).
Mrs. Waldrupe was disappointed that her airport limousine was a ramshackle van.

limpid

adj
/ 'limpəd /
L
completely free from cloudiness or other obstacles to the passage of light.
Mary got an eerie feeling when she looked into the limpid blue eyes of the Siberian Husky.

linctus

lineament

linear

adj
/ 'linēə(r) /
L
involving a single dimension : not square or cubic.
The micrometer caliper is an instrument for making precise linear measurements of dimensions such as diameters, thicknesses, and lengths.

linen

lingerie

linguist

n
/ 'lingwəst /
L
a student of or expert in languages.
The famous linguist described how many tribal languages are becoming extinct.

linguistically

liniment

n
/ 'linəmənt /
L > E
a liquid or semiliquid alcoholic, oily, or saponaceous preparation for application to the skin with friction.
Winona delicately rubbed liniment over her sore shoulder.

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linoleum

n
/ lɪˈnɒləəm /

L
a floor covering made by laying on a cloth backing a mixture of solidified linseed oil and various solid particles and usually pigments.

The pattern in Sheena's kitchen linoleum resembles inlaid pebbles.

liquefaction

n
/ .likwəˈfakʃən /

L
the process of making or becoming liquid : conversion of a solid into a liquid by heat or of a gas into a liquid by cold or pressure.

Much earthquake damage results from the liquefaction of soil on which buildings stand.

liquefiable

adj
/ .likwəˈfiəbəl /

L
capable of being reduced to a liquid state.

Many familiar solid materials are easily liquefiable by heating.

liquescent

adj
/ liˈkwesnt /

L
being, becoming, or tending to become liquid : melting.

When a giant asteroid hits the ground, it is transformed into a liquescent mass that becomes a fireball.

liqueur

liquidate

lisle

lisse

litany

literate

adj
/ ˈlɪdərət /

L
able to read and write.
The government's goal for all adult citizens to be literate in 20 years needs a strategic plan.

literati

n pl
/ .lɪdərˈrædē /

L&It
the educated class : intelligentsia.
The New York literati gathered at the book-signing party.

literature

lithesome

adj
/ ˈlɪθsəm /
E + E
characterized by agile grace.
Denise's lithesome performance in her audition won her a place in the Royal Ballet.

lithification

n
/ .lɪθəfəˈkæʃən /
Gk + L
the conversion of unconsolidated sediments into solid rock.
Ben's science project explained how limestone is formed by lithification.

lithochromy

n
/ ˈlɪθəˌkrɒmə /
Gk
the art of painting on stone.
Arthur's work in lithochromy earned him a commission to paint a scene on the museum's slate wall.

lithograph

lithoid
adj
/ ˈlɪˌθɔɪd /
Gk

resembling a stone.
The lava eventually solidified into lithoid masses.

litigation

litigator

n
/ ˈlɪdəˌɡædər /

L
one that prosecutes or defends by pleadings, evidence, and debate in a court.
The cough drop manufacturer hired a famous litigator to appear in its new commercial.

litigiousness

n
/ ˈlɪtɪʒənəs /
L
the quality or state of being prone to engage in lawsuits.
An increase in lawsuits can be attributed in part to the growing litigiousness of American society.

litmus

n
/ ˈlɪtməs /
Scand
a coloring matter that turns red in acid solutions and blue in alkaline solutions and is obtained from several lichens.
Chris will use litmus to test for acidity in the chemical solution.

litotes

n
/ ˈlɪdətēz /
Gk
understatement in which an affirmative is expressed by a negative of the contrary (as in "He's not a bad ball player").
Rupert loved to use the litotes "not bad" to convey high praise.

litterateur

litterbug

littoral

adj
/ ˈlɪdərəl /
L
[has homonym: literal] of, relating to, or being near a shore, especially of the sea.
Eduardo finally realized his dream when he established a littoral nature preserve.

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liturgical

adj
/ lɪ'tɜrjəkəl /
Gk > L

of, relating to, or having the characteristics of ceremonial or ritualistic worship.

The priest donned his liturgical vestments before the mass.

liturgy

n
/ 'lɪdə(r)jē /
Gk

a rite or series of rites, observances, or procedures prescribed for public worship in the Christian church in accordance with authorized or standard form.

Since the Second Vatican Council, the use of the vernacular language, rather than Latin, has become widespread in Catholic liturgy.

livelihood

liveried

livid

adj
/ 'lɪvəd /
L > F
discolored by or as if by bruising : black-and-blue.
The bicycle accident left a large livid patch on Violet's arm.

llama

n
/ 'lāmə /
Quechua > Sp
[has homonym: lama] any of a genus of wild or domesticated cud-chewing mammals of South America related to the camels but smaller and without a hump.
The llama thrives in the Alpine grasslands of Bolivia, Peru, Chile, and Argentina.

loam

loathsome

lobotomy

n
/ lɒ'bədəmə /
Gk
incision into the brain to sever nerve fibers for the relief of certain mental disorders and tension.
Lobotomy is no longer the preferred treatment in cases of extreme psychosis.

lobscouse

n
/ 'lɒb.skaʊs /
unknown
a sailor's dish prepared by stewing or baking bits of meat with vegetables, hardtack, and other ingredients.
After Fritz returned from his fishing trip, he ordered a hearty portion of lobscouse for dinner.

locale

n
/ lɒ'kəl /
L > F
a place or locality especially when viewed in relation to a particular event or characteristic.
Evan's doctor told him he needed to live in a drier locale, so he moved to Tucson.

location

lochetic

adj
/ lɒ'kɛdɪk /
Gk
lying in wait for prey—used especially of insects.
Josh claimed that the ants in the nest next to his porch must be lochetic, because they always seemed to know when he was barefoot.

locomotion

locust

n
/ 'lɒkəst /
L > E
a grasshopper that frequently travels in swarms.
Cooper placed the captured locust in a mason jar.

lodging

n
/ 'lɑdʒɪŋ /
E
a place to live : dwelling.
After a fire destroyed their home, the family depended on relatives for temporary lodging.

logarithm

n
/ 'lɒgə.rɪθəm /
Gk
the exponent that indicates the power to which a number must be raised to produce a given number.
When the math teacher said that 4 is the logarithm of 16 to the base 2, only half the class understood what she was saying.

logarithmic

loggia

n
/ 'lɑdʒ(ē)ə /
F > It
[has near homonym: logia] a roofed open gallery or arcade in the side of a building especially when facing upon an open court.
An airy second-floor loggia ran around three sides of the tiny courtyard.

logician

logion

n
/ 'lɒdʒi.ən /
Gk
a usually short pointed saying or observation especially of a religious teacher.
The guru's devotees treasured every logion that he uttered.

logistics

n pl
/ lɒ'dʒɪstɪks /
Gk
military science in its planning and handling and implementation of personnel, equipment, and facilities.
Juan has been interested in logistics since he first played with toy soldiers.

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logograph

n
/ 'lɒgəˌgrɪf /
Gk
[has near homonym: logograph] a word puzzle.
Katrina spent the afternoon constructing a logograph for her little brother.

logomachy

n
/ lɒ'gəməki /
Gk
a dispute over or about words.
Behind the legislature's logomachy about what makes a Great Lake "great" lay political and economic motives.

logorrhea

n
/ .ləgə'reə /
Gk
pathologically excessive and often incoherent talkativeness.
The patient's logorrhea was indicative of deep emotional problems.

loiter

lonely

adj
/ 'lɒnlē /
E + Ecf
being without company.
Allie took a picture of a lonely fisherman on the pier.

longanimity

n
/ .lɒŋə'nɪmədi /
L
a disposition to bear injuries patiently : forbearance.
Murphy's Law strikes often in George's project, but his longanimity will help him weather all setbacks.

longevity

n
/ lɒn'jevədē /
L
a long duration of individual life.
Mr. Wade's longevity was remarkable, considering he had been sickly as a child.

longiloquence

longitudinal

loquacious

adj
/ lɒ'kwəʃəs /
L
given to excessive talking : garrulous.
Bryn's loquacious sister was quite a hit at the rehearsal party.

loquacity

lorgnette

n
/ lɒ(r)n'jet /
F
a pair of eyeglasses or opera glasses with a handle.
Lorgnette in one hand and hankie in the other, Mrs. Vandergriff looked just like the opera-goers portrayed in cartoons.

loricate

n
/ 'lɒrəkət /
L
an animal having a hard protective case or shell.
The armadillo is a well-known loricate, as is the alligator.

lorikeet

n
/ 'lɒrəkēt /
Malay + Sp&F
any of numerous small arboreal parrots that are found in Australasia and that feed largely upon the nectar of flowers.
Ginger has a pet lorikeet that rides on her shoulder.

lounge

loupe

n
/ 'lup /
Gmc > F
[has homonyms: loop and loup]
small magnifying glass used by jewelers and watchmakers.
At his jewelry store Arlo always wears a loupe on a chain around his neck.

lovat

loveliness

n
/ 'ləvlənəs /
E
the state of being beautiful.
Colette was awestruck by the loveliness of the stained-glass windows.

loxocosm

n
/ 'ləksəkəzəm /
Gk
a device to show how the inclination of Earth's axis causes the day's length to vary from season to season.
John constructed a loxocosm for the science fair.

lozenge

n
/ 'ləzənj /
F
a small diamond-shaped medicated candy.
Mother gave Rick a cherry-flavored lozenge for his sore throat.

luau

n
/ 'li:au /
Hawaiian
a feast with Hawaiian food and usually Hawaiian entertainment.
Sabrina wore a grass skirt to the luau.

lucernal

adj
/ .li'sərnəl /
L + Ecf
of or relating to a lamp.
A slide projector is a lucernal device for displaying images on a screen.

lucid

adj
/ 'lūsəd /
L
penetrated with light : translucent.
The otters romped and played in the lucid stream.

lucidity

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lucrative

luculent

adj
/ 'lūkyələnt /

L
transparently clear in thought or expression.
The audience was pleasantly amazed at the luculent commentary on the state of the economy.

ludicrous

adj
/ 'lūdəkrəs /

L
meriting derisive laughter or scorn : absurd.
The jury was instructed to disregard the ludicrous remarks made by the defendant.

luftmensch

n
/ 'lūft.menʃ /

G > Yiddish
an impractical contemplative person having no definite trade, business, or income : dreamer.
Every large family seems to have at least one luftmensch among its members.

lugubrious

adj
/ lə'gūbrēəs /

L > E
expressive of, marked by, or giving rise to grief or sorrow.
The funeral director spoke in lugubrious tones as she explained the arrangements.

lullaby

n
/ 'lələbi /

E
a soothing refrain; especially : a song used to quiet children or lull them to sleep.
The baby was asleep before Mary finished singing the lullaby.

lumen

n
/ 'lūmən /

L
a unit of luminous flux equal to the light emitted in a unit solid angle by a uniform point source of one candle.
The lumen is used in calculations regarding artificial lighting.

luminaire

n
/ .lūmə'nə(a)(ə)r /

L > F
a complete lighting unit including lamp, shade, reflector, fixture, and other accessories.
A luminaire was built into each cubicle in the office.

luminary

n
/ 'lūmə.nerē /

L
one that is an inspiration to others : one who has achieved success in his or her chosen field.
Although a luminary in the field, Peter was reluctant to weigh in with his opinion about the ethics of cloning.

luminosity

n
/ .lūmə'näsədē /

L
the quantity of radiation emitted by a star or other celestial source usually expressed in terms of the Sun's intensity.
The comet's luminosity was so great that it could be seen during the day.

luminous

adj
/ 'lūmənəs /

L
emitting or seeming to emit a steady suffused light that is reflected or produced from within.
During the movie Stan periodically checked the time on the luminous dial of his watch.

luncheon

luncheonette

n
/ .lənʃə'net /

E + Fcf
a place where light lunches are sold.
After playing racquetball, Jaime stopped at the luncheonette for a sandwich.

lunge

v
/ 'lənʃ /

F
make a forceful forward movement.
Every few seconds the swordsman would lunge at his opponent.

lunule

luscious

adj
/ 'ləʃəs /

E
having a delicious taste or smell.
The waiter pointed to cakes and pastries, each more luscious than the last, as he told us about them.

lustrous

adj
/ 'ləstrəs /

L > It > F + Ecf
having a gloss or shine : gleaming.
When dining out, Marcia always wears some lustrous jewelry.

lute

n
/ 'lüt /

Ar > OProv > F > E
[has homonym: loot] a stringed musical instrument of Oriental origin that has a large pear-shaped body.

The court minstrel strummed his lute thoughtfully, deciding which song to play next.

luthier

n
/ 'lūdēə(r) /

Ar > OProv > F
a maker of stringed instruments.
The luthier gave Dolores a choice of inlay patterns for her new guitar.

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lux

n
/ 'lʌks /
L

[has homonyms: lucks, luxe] a unit of illumination equal to the direct illumination on a surface that is everywhere 1 meter from a uniform point source of one candle.
Paul's new video camera is designed to operate in a light intensity of only 1 lux.

luxate

luxuriant

luxurious

adj
/ ,lʌg'zʰɪrɪəs /
L

characterized by wealth or rich abundance.
The price of the car with the luxurious interior astounded even wealthy customers.

luxury

lycanthrope

n
/ 'lɪkən.thrɒp /
Gk

a person transformed temporarily or permanently into a wolf or capable of assuming a wolf's form.
The zoologist contends that the myth of the lycanthrope is one of the reasons wolves are so maligned.

lyceum

lycopene

lymphatic

adj
/ lɪm'fædɪk /
Gk > L
conveying a pale fluid that bathes the tissues of an organism.
The lymphatic system is vital in removing harmful bacteria from tissues.

lynx

n
/ 'lɪŋ(k)s /
Gk

[has homonym: links] any of several wildcats with relatively long legs, a short stubby tail, mottled coat, and often tufted ears.
The lynx lives in cold northern latitudes, where its favorite prey is the snowshoe hare.

lyonnaise

adj
/ 'lɪɒnəz /
F geog name
prepared or seasoned with onions and sometimes parsley.
Ricardo ordered lyonnaise potatoes as an elegant alternative to french fries.

lyre

lyrically

macadam

n
/ mə'kadəm /
British name
broken stone used in roadway paving.
Depending on the climate, some roads are best made of macadam and others, of asphalt.

macaque

n
/ mə'kak /
Pg > F
any of numerous short-tailed Old World monkeys chiefly of southern Asia and the East Indies.
The islanders trained a macaque to perform several routines for public entertainment.

macarize

v
/ 'makəɹɪz /
Gk
pronounce happy or blessed : felicitate, laud.
After the wedding ceremony various friends will give speeches to macarize the happy couple.

macaroni

n
/ ,makə'rɒnē /
It
an alimentary pasta composed chiefly of semolina dried in the form of slender tubes or small fancy shapes.
Lucy's favorite pasta dish is macaroni and cheese.

macaroon

n
/ ,makə'rūn /
It > F
a small cake composed chiefly of the white of eggs, sugar, and ground almonds or almond paste or coconut.
Cheryl placed a fresh macaroon on each saucer before serving the coffee.

macaw

maceral

n
/ 'masəɹəl /
L?
a fragment of plant debris in coal.
Penny examined the maceral under a microscope.

macerate

Machiavellian

adj
/ ,makēə'velēən /
It name
of or relating to Machiavelli or his political theory that any means however lawless or unscrupulous can justifiably be used in achieving political power.
The Machiavellian politician was accused of wheeling and dealing, backstabbing, and creating fall guys and cover-ups.

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machicolation

n
/ məˈchɪkəˈlāshən /
F > L + L

an opening on a parapet of a battlement for the purpose of dropping missiles upon assailants attacking from below.
Whenever a castle gets stormed in the movies, the defenders are shown pouring boiling oil through a machicolation onto the enemy attacking the gates.

machination

machinator

mackerel

mackinaw

n
/ ˈmækəˌnəʊ /
Amer geog name
a short usually double-breasted and belted coat or jacket of heavy fabric.
“No guts, no glory!” exclaimed the skier in a plaid mackinaw as he pushed off down the slope.

macle

macrame

n
/ ˈmɑkrəˌmɑ /
Ar > Turk > It or F
a coarse lace or decorative fringe made by knotting threads or cords in a geometrical pattern.
Penny prefers to use soft yarn in her macrame.

macrocosm

Madagascar

adj
/ ˌmɑdəˈgɑskə(r) /
African geog name
of or from Madagascar, an island in the Indian Ocean.
Lemurs, cute large-eyed furry monkey-like animals, are the best known Madagascar fauna.

madarosis

n
/ ˌmɑdəˈrɔsəs /
Gk > L
loss of the eyelashes or of the hair of the eyebrows.
Dorothy suffered from madarosis during chemotherapy, but her eyelashes eventually grew back even thicker than before.

madeleine

n
/ ˈmɑdˈleɪn /
F name
a small rich cake baked in a tin shaped like a shell.
Knut skipped the main course and went right to the madeleine.

mademoiselle

n
/ ˌmɑdəˈmwɛːzəl /
F
an unmarried French woman.
Robert is smitten by a young mademoiselle he met during his trip to Paris.

madrigal

n
/ ˈmɑdrɪgəl /
L > It > E
a polyphonic part-song originating in the 14th century.
At the coronation feast the haunting madrigal brought tears to the eyes of the new king.

madrilene

maelstrom

n
/ ˈmælztrəm /
D
a powerful water current that usually moves in a circular direction with extreme rapidity.
A memorable scene from the movie Fantasia features the sorcerer’s apprentice caught in a maelstrom.

maestro

n
/ ˈmɑi(ə)strɔ /
L > It
a master or teacher of an art (as music).
The award-winning singer gave tribute to her maestro at the conservatory.

maffick

magazine

magenta

n
/ məˈdʒentə /
It geog name
a deep purplish red; specifically : one of the subtractive primary colors.
The visual afterimage of magenta is green.

maggoty

magisterial

adj
/ ˈmɑdʒɪstɪriəl /
L
of, relating to, or having the characteristics of a master or teacher : authoritative.
Jubril’s magisterial air served him well with everyone but his daughter.

magistracy

n
/ ˈmɑdʒɪstrəsi /
L
the office of a public official entrusted with administration of the laws : magisterial power and dignity.
The dissenters were persecuted by the state for refusing to accept the authority of the magistracy.

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magnanimity

n
/ mæg'nə'nimədē /
L

a nobility of feeling that is superior to meanness, pettiness, or jealousy and that disdains revenge or retaliation.

The philosopher praised the victor's magnanimity in allowing the captives to return home.

magnanimous

adj
/ mag'nənəməs /
L

showing or suggesting nobility of feeling and generosity of mind.
Simone's magnanimous attitude toward the homeless wasn't shared by her sister.

magnetic

adj
/ mag'nɛdɪk /
Gk geog name
possessing the ability or power to attract.
Even as a child, Julie's magnetic personality charmed everyone who spoke to her.

magnetizable

magnificat

magnificent

mahatma

n
/ mə'hätmə /
Skt
a person held worthy of reverence for high-mindedness, wisdom, and selflessness.
Raoul trekked for three days to seek the advice of the mahatma.

mahogany

n
/ mə'hägənē /
unknown
the durable yellowish brown to reddish brown wood of a West Indian tree that is widely used for cabinetwork and fine finish work.
Kate's bedroom furniture is made of solid mahogany.

mahout

n
/ mə'haüt /
Skt > Hindi
a keeper and driver of an elephant.
The mahout trained his elephant to move logs.

mai

n
/ 'mī /
Jpn
[has homonym: my] a slow Japanese folk or theater dance featuring hand gestures.
Midori is an expert in all forms of Japanese dance, but her favorite is the mai.

maillot

n
/ mə'yō /
F
[has near homonym: mayo] a woman's one-piece usually strapless bathing suit.
Becky thought that the maillot was out of fashion until she saw several in the catalog.

maimed

adj
/ 'māmd /
Gmc > F > E
crippled, mutilated.
The maimed dog was taken to the animal hospital for treatment.

maintenance

n
/ 'mānt(ə)nən(t)s /
F
the labor of keeping something (as buildings or equipment) in a state of repair or efficiency : upkeep.
Excellent maintenance preserved the original gingerbread trim on the Victorian house.

maize

n
/ 'māz /
Taino > Sp
[has homonym: maze] Indian corn.
Gina enjoys hearing the story of how the native Americans taught the Pilgrims to grow maize.

majordomo

n
/ mājə(r)'dō(,)mō /
L > It > Sp
[has near homonym: mayordomo] a head steward or palace official.
Jeeves has been majordomo of Huntington Castle for the last 30 years.

majority

n
/ mə'jōrədē /
L
a number greater than half of a total.
A runoff is necessary because none of the candidates captured a majority of the votes in the primary.

majuscule

adj
/ 'majə'skyül /
L > F
written in large letters (as capitals).
Dr. Jenkins could see immediately that the majuscule scripts of the two letters were identical and deduced that the same scribe had written both.

malachite

n
/ 'maləkīt /
Gk > L > E
a mineral consisting of a green carbonate of copper that is an ore of copper and is used to make ornamental objects.
Pierre bought a piece of malachite at the museum of natural history.

maladive

maladroit

malady

n
/ 'malədē /
L > F > E
a disease, distemper, disorder, or indisposition of the body proceeding from impaired or defective functions.
In the 14th century, the malady known as The Black Death swept across Europe, leaving about 25 million people dead.

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malaguena

n
/ .malə'gānyə /
Sp geog name
a Spanish couple dance similar to a fandango.
Juan and Carmela danced the malaguena with extraordinary grace and emotional excitement.

malapropism

n
/ 'maləprə'pizəm /
F > E theater name
a blundering use of a word that sounds somewhat like the one intended but is ludicrously wrong in the context.
No matter how careful he tries to be, Sherman usually utters at least one malapropism in every campaign speech.

malaria

n
/ mə'lerēə /
L > It + Gk > L > It
a disease caused by sporozoan parasites in the red blood cells, transmitted by the bite of anopheline mosquitoes, and characterized by periodic attacks of chills and fevers.
During the construction of the Panama Canal many workers succumbed to malaria.

malaxage

n
/ 'mā.laksij /
Gk > L > F
the act or process of softening a material (as clay) by moistening and working it.
After the malaxage the clay was ready for molding on the potter's wheel.

malediction

n
/ .malə'dikshən /
L
curse, execration.
The villain's last words were a malediction on the entire royal family.

malefactor

n
/ 'maləfaktə(r) /
L
one who commits an offense against the law.
The state's correctional program was designed to rehabilitate as well as punish the malefactor.

maleficent

malice

n
/ 'maləs /
L > F > E
revengeful or unfriendly feelings : ill will, enmity.
In spite of all he has had to put up with from his classmates, Joel bears them no malice.

malign

malignant

adj
/ mə'liŋənt /
L
evil in nature or influence or effect.
The dark clammy coldness surrounded her like a malignant beast of prey.

malingerer

n
/ mə'liŋerə(r) /
Gmc? > F
one who pretends to be ill or otherwise physically or mentally incapacitated so as to avoid duty or work.
*Jamie Farr's character on the television series M*A*S*H was an entertaining malingerer.*

mallard

n
/ 'malə(r)d /
F > E
a common wild duck of the northern hemisphere.
When Timmy fed the ducks at the marina, he gave his last piece of bread to the mallard.

malleable

adj
/ 'malēəbəl /
L > F > E
capable of being extended or shaped by beating with a hammer or by the pressure of rollers.
Because tin is malleable at ordinary temperatures, it has been used to make many household implements.

malleolus

n
/ mə'lēələs /
L
[has somewhat near homonym: malleus] the rounded lateral projection on each bone of the leg at the ankle.
When Marcie realized that her brother was about to reveal her secret, she kicked him on the malleolus.

mallet

n
/ 'malət /
F > E
a tool with a large head for striking a surface without marring it.
Ray used a rubber mallet to put the wheel cover back in place after he changed the flat tire.

malloseismic

adj
/ .malō'sizmik /
Gk
of, relating to, or being a region subject to frequent destructive earthquakes.
Chris refuses to move to any of the malloseismic areas of California.

malocclusion

n
/ malə'klüzhən /
L
an abnormality in the fitting together of upper and lower teeth or dentures.
Hector wore braces on his teeth to correct a malocclusion.

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malodorous

adj
/ mal'ōdərəs /
L + L

having a bad odor : rank, fetid, stinking.

Evelina smelled the malodorous skunk from 500 yards away.

mammoth

adj
/ 'maməθ /
Yakut? > Russ

gigantic.

Clarence specialized in growing mammoth vegetables and held several records for his specimens.

manacle

managerial

adj
/ .manə'jirēəl /
L > It + Ecf

of, relating to, or characteristic of a person who conducts, directs, or supervises something.

The classified ads included a notice for a managerial position at the steel wool factory.

mandate

n
/ 'man.dāt /
L

a formal order from a superior court or official to an inferior one.

The clerk delivered the written mandate to the lower court judge by hand.

mandatory

adj
/ 'mandə.tōrē /
L

containing, constituting, or relating to an authoritative command, order, or injunction.

Several states are instituting a mandatory work program for employable welfare recipients.

mandible

n
/ 'mandəbəl /
L

any of various invertebrate mouthparts serving to hold or bite into food materials.

Most insects use the mandible for crushing their food.

mandolinist

manducatory

adj
/ 'manjəkə.tōrē /
L

relating to, employed in, or adapted for chewing.

Mr. Rollins brought a live lobster to our biology class so that we could observe its manducatory processes.

manganese

n
/ 'mangə.nēz /
Gk > L > It

a grayish white metallic element that is ordinarily hard and brittle, resembles iron but is not magnetic, and is used chiefly in making steel. *Manganese nodules, which cover vast stretches of ocean floor, are composed mostly of manganese but also contain iron, nickel, copper, and cobalt.*

mange

mangle

v
/ 'mangəl /
F > AF > E

[has homonym: mangel] cut, bruise, or hack with repeated blows or strokes.

As an act of vengeance, Scott vowed that he would mangle Sara's prize-winning painting.

mangonel

n
/ 'mangə.nəl /
Gk > L > F > E

a military engine formerly used for throwing missiles.

With a sharp twang the mangonel hurled a boulder at the castle gate.

manicotti

n pl
/ .manə'kädē /
L > It

tubular pasta shells stuffed with ricotta.

The caterer filled the chafing dish with manicotti.

manifesto

n
/ .manə'fe(,)stō /
L > It

a public declaration of intentions, motives, or views.

The Unabomber's rambling manifesto appeared in a number of newspapers nationwide.

manipulator

manna

n
/ 'manə /
Heb > Gk > L > E

[has near homonym: mana] something of value that falls one's way : windfall.

Children swarmed the parade route collecting the manna of treats tossed from the float.

manoptoscope

mansard

mansuetude

n
/ 'man(t)swə.tüd /
L

the quality or state of being gentle : meekness.

Gary remembered his mother as having the sensitivity and mansuetude of a saint.

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Frequently

manumit

v
/ 'manyə.mit /
L

set free; especially : release from slavery.
The tobacco farmer had agreed to manumit his one slave just before the Civil War began.

manuscript

maraca

n
/ mə'rākə /

Tupi > Pg
a dried gourd or rattle containing dried seeds or pebbles that has a handle and is used as a percussion instrument often in pairs.
The band's percussionist accentuated the rhythm with a maraca.

maraschino

n
/ .marə'skē.nō /

It
a sweet liqueur that is used as a cocktail ingredient and in preserving cherries.
Even though she's a grown woman, Evelyn sometimes likes to make herself a Shirley Temple with clear soda and maraschino.

maraud

marauding

v
/ mə'rōdɪŋ /
F

roaming about and making irregular sudden small-scale attacks, raids, or incursions for the sake of obtaining loot.
Outlaws were marauding in areas where the law was not well established.

marble

marcescent

adj
/ mār'ses'nt /
L

of a plant part : withering without falling off.
Autumn's first cold snap left many marcescent leaves in its wake.

marchioness

n
/ 'märsh(ə)nəs /
L

a woman who holds in her own right the rank of marquess.
Once a month the workers on the estate brought their disputes before the marchioness to be resolved.

mare

n
/ 'mä(ɹ)rā /
L

[has near homonym: moray] one of several dark areas of considerable extent on the surface of either the Moon or Mars.
The Sea of Tranquility is perhaps the best-known mare on the Moon.

margaritaceous

adj
/ 'mārgərə'tāshəs /
Gk > L > F > E

having a satiny iridescence like that of pearl or mother-of-pearl : pearly.
The tabletops at the diner have a margaritaceous finish.

mariachi

n
/ .mä're'ächē /
F > Sp

a group of Mexican folk musicians usually consisting of singers, guitarists, and a violinist.
On weekends the mariachi entertained diners at the Mexican restaurant.

maricolous

marine

adj
/ mə'rēn /
L

of or relating to the sea.
Marine iguanas live on the shores of the Galapagos Islands and eat seaweed.

marionette

n
/ .ma(a)rēə'net /
F

a puppet moved by strings or by hand (as in a puppet show).
A marionette of Jay Leno was the hit of the show.

maritime

adj
/ 'marə.tīm /
E name

of or relating to navigation or commerce on the sea.
After Bob graduates, he plans to join the Navy to study maritime law.

marjoram

n
/ 'mär.jərəm /
L > F > E

any of various usually fragrant and aromatic mints that include several forms used as seasoning in cookery.
Vance likes to add marjoram and cream cheese to his scrambled eggs.

marmalade

n
/ 'märm.lād /
Gk > L > Pg

a soft clear translucent jelly holding in suspension pieces or slices of fruit and fruit rind.
Mom's homemade marmalade on toast is always a great treat for breakfast.

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marmoset

n
/ 'märmə.set /
F > E

any of numerous small soft-furred South and Central American monkeys with claws instead of nails on all the digits except the great toe.
The chisel-like incisors of the marmoset are used for gouging trees to obtain gums and saps.

marotte

n
/ mə'rät /
F name + Fcf

a pet idea or notion.
Katrina's marotte is that she is really too good for life as a bookkeeper and should be a company vice-president.

marplot

marriageable

marshmallow

n
/ 'märsh.melō /
E

a confection made from corn syrup, sugar, albumen, and gelatin, beaten to a light creamy consistency, and usually rolled in powdered sugar when partly dry.
Burt toasted a marshmallow and put it between layers of graham crackers and chocolate squares.

marsupial

n
/ mär'süpēəl /
Avestan? > Gk > L
any of an order of mammals having a pouch for carrying the young and including kangaroos, wombats, bandicoots, and opossums.
The common stereotype of a marsupial is a female kangaroo with a large young one in her pouch.

martial

adj
/ 'märshəl /
L

[has homonyms: marshal, marshall] belonging or relating to an army or to military life.
Patrick Henry believed that the only purpose of England's martial array in the colonies and their seaports could be to force the colonists into submission.

martinet

n
/ 'märt'n.et /
F name

one who lays stress on a rigid adherence to the details of forms and methods.
A true-born martinet never thinks he is at all severe.

martinetish

adj
/ 'märt'n'edish /
F name + Ecf

like or characteristic of a person who lays stress on a rigid adherence to the details of forms and methods.
Though all the students disliked Mr. Wall's martinetish attitude, most of them thought he was an excellent teacher.

martyr

n
/ 'märdər /
Gk

one who voluntarily suffers death as the penalty of witnessing to and refusing to renounce his or her religion or a tenet, principle, or practice belonging to it.
St. Stephen, who was stoned to death, is believed to have been the first Christian martyr.

martyrology

n
/ 'märdə'räləjē /
Gk

an official catalog of martyrs and saints of the Roman Catholic Church.
Keith bought an old martyrology at the rummage sale.

marzipan

n
/ 'märtsə.pän /
Ar > It > G

a confection made of crushed almonds or almond paste, sugar, and egg whites that is often shaped into various forms (as fruit or animals).
Marlene filled the candy dish with marzipan.

mascara

masonry

masquerade

n
/ 'maskə'räd /
It > F
a social gathering of persons wearing covers on their faces and often fantastic costumes especially to impersonate characters from history or legend.
Todd and Sheila wore Conehead costumes to the masquerade.

massacre

n
/ 'masəkə(r) /
F
the act or instance of killing a considerable number of human beings or animals.
The massacre of buffalo is a regrettable part of the history of the West.

massage

masseter

n
/ mə'sēdə(r) /
Gk > L
a large muscle that raises the lower jaw and assists in chewing.
Tracy argued that she was trying to strengthen her masseter, but Mr. Gold made her throw out her chewing gum anyway.

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masseuse

n
/ ma'sə(r)z /
Ar > F + Fcf

a woman who practices massage and physiotherapy.

Delia spent an hour with the club's masseuse working out the kinks in her back.

massif

n
/ ma'sɛf /
F

a block of Earth's crust bounded by faults or flexures and displaced as a unit without internal change.

In the late 13th century a roadway was opened over the St. Gotthard massif in Switzerland.

mastiff

n
/ 'mastɪf /
L > F > E

a very large powerful deep-chested smooth-coated dog of a very old breed used chiefly as a watchdog and guard dog.

A big brown mastiff stood motionless behind the gate.

mastodon

n
/ 'mastədɒn /
L

someone or something of gigantic size or unusually large size : giant.

Mrs. Campbell's automobile collection ranges from a tiny two-seater to an antique mastodon.

mastoiditis

n
/ .ma.stɔɪ'dɪdɪs /
Gk > L

inflammation of the process of the temporal bone behind the ear.

Amy's doctor treated her mastoiditis immediately so that it wouldn't cause any permanent hearing damage.

matelot

matelote

n
/ 'madʰl.ɔt /
F

a sauce made of wine, onions, seasonings, and fish stock.

Even though it is served with fish, a matelote often contains red wine.

mathematician

mathematics

n pl
/ .mathə'mædɪks /
Gk

a science that deals with the relationship and symbolism of numbers and magnitudes and that includes quantitative operations and the solution of quantitative problems.

Jill's favorite subject in school is mathematics.

matinee

n
/ .mat'nɪ /
L > F

a performance of a production (as a play, opera, film) or the presentation of a concert or sometimes the holding of some other event in the afternoon or occasionally in the morning or at midnight.

The English class attended a matinee of Our Town at the local playhouse.

matriarch

matriarchal

matriculant

matriculation

matrimony

n
/ 'matrə.mɒnɪ /
L + L

the union of man and woman as husband and wife : marriage.

The Las Vegas chapel specialized in instant matrimony.

matrix

mattock

n
/ 'madək /
L > E

a tool that combines features of an ax, adze, and pick and is used for digging and chopping.

It took Mark three hours of hard work with a mattock and shovel to dig up the tree stump.

mattress

maturescent

matutinal

matutine

adj
/ 'machətɪn /
L

of a star : rising in or just before the dawn.

For centuries those who live outdoors have used matutine stars as a kind of alarm clock.

maudlin

adj
/ 'mɔdln /
Biblical Gk name > L > F > E
tearfully or weakly emotional : effusively sentimental.

Brian allowed himself to become maudlin only on St. Patrick's Day.

maudlinism

mausoleum

mauve

n
/ 'mɔv /
L > F

a strong purple with a bluish cast.
Karen has tired of her bedroom of mauve and blue.

maverick

n
/ 'mav(ə)ɪk /
Amer name

a member of any group who refuses to conform and who takes an unorthodox stand.

The rest of the teachers considered Ms. Thorne to be a maverick because she invited her students to call her by her first name.

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mawkish

mawkishly

adv
/ 'mɔkɪʃli /

ON > E
in a cloying or sickly sentimental manner.

During a mawkishly romantic scene in the movie, Ted got up to get some popcorn.

maxim

n
/ 'mæksɪm /

L
a saying of proverbial nature.
"The early bird gets the worm" is Toni's favorite maxim.

mayhem

n
/ 'mā.hem /

AF > E
willful and permanent crippling, mutilation, or disfigurement of any part of another's body.

The victim was so badly disfigured that the assailant was charged with felony mayhem.

mayonnaise

n
/ 'mā.nāz /
geog name? > F

a semisolid dressing made by emulsifying a mixture of raw eggs or egg yolks, vegetable oil, and vinegar or lemon juice usually together with salt and condiments.
Helga wouldn't eat a roast beef sandwich without mayonnaise.

mayoralty

n
/ 'mā.rəlti /

L > F > E
the term of office as the chief executive or nominal head of a city or borough.

His opponent's television commercial made the point that Henry Vermillion had accomplished little during his mayoralty.

meadow

mealmouthed

adj
/ 'mē.lə.maʊθd /
E + E

tending to cloak thoughts, ideas, or intents by the use of obscure or devious language.

All of Judy's friends saw through her mealmouthed explanation.

meandrous

adj
/ mē'andrəs /
Gk geog name
winding, flexuous, rambling.
Over thousands of years the river had cut a meandrous channel through the plain.

measles

n pl
/ 'mēzəlz /
E
a contagious disease characterized by red spots.

Most doctors recommend that children be vaccinated against measles, mumps, and rubella.

measurable

mecometer

medallion
n

/ mə'dalyən /
L > It > F
a large medal (as for a memorial purpose).
Charise bought a World War II medallion on eBay.

medallionist

meddlesome

adj
/ 'med'lsəm /
L > F > E
officiously intrusive.
Her landlady's meddlesome manner annoyed Hatty so much that she moved out.

mediate

v
/ 'mēdē.ət /
L

interpose between parties in order to reconcile them or to interpret them to each other.

The envoy attempted to mediate between the warring factions.

medicinal

medicine

n
/ 'medəsən /

L
the science and art dealing with the maintenance of health and the prevention, alleviation, or cure of disease.

Campbell knows that she would like to one day pursue a career in the field of medicine.

medicolegal

mediocre

adj
/ .mēdē'ɔkə(r) /

L
of but a moderate or low degree of quality.

Jill's grades were mediocre until she started wearing glasses.

Mediterranean

adj
/ .medətə'rānēən /

L
of, relating to, characteristic of, or situated near the Mediterranean Sea.

The Mediterranean island of Malta has been the location for the filming of several movies.

medulla

n
/ mə'dələ /

L
a posterior portion of the brain.
The medulla governs various involuntary vital functions such as respiration.

meemies

meerschau

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megacephalic

megalomaniac

n
/ .megə'lō'mānē.ək /
Gk
one affected with or exhibiting an excessive enthusiasm for doing great or grandiose things.
The candidate decried his opponent as a publicity-seeking megalomaniac.

megalopolis

n
/ .megə'läpələs /
Gk
a very large city.
Without community growth guidelines, a moderately sized city could become a megalopolis like Los Angeles in just a few decades.

megaphone

megaseism

n
/ 'megə.sizəm /
Gk + Gk
a violent earthquake.
A nuclear bomb can have effects far worse than those of a megaseism.

megohmmeter

n
/ 'me.gōm.mēdə(r) /
Gk + G name + Gk
an instrument for the measurement of large electrical resistances.
Professor Allen designed a laboratory session to acquaint students with the use of the megohmmeter.

melancholia

melancholy

adj
/ 'melən.kälē /
Gk > L > F > E
depressed in spirits : mournful.
The melancholy chirp of a cricket was the only sign of life near him.

melba

n
/ 'melbə /
Australian name
fruit served with ice cream, raspberry sauce, and whipped cream.
The peach melba was served in a crystal goblet.

melee

n
/ 'mā(,)lā /
F
[has homonyms: Malay, mele] a fight or contest between individuals mingled in a confused mass : a confused struggle.
The soccer match turned into a melee after angry fans stormed the field.

melitensis

adj
/ .melə'ten(t)səs /
L geog name
of, derived from, or caused by a particular bacterium of the genus *Brucella*.
Clyde's melitensis fever was reduced by antibiotics.

mellifluous

adj
/ me'liflūwəs /
L
sweetly flowing : smooth, honeyed.
The soprano's mellifluous voice lulled Frank to sleep.

mellisonant

adj
/ me'lis'nənt /
L + L
pleasing to the ear.
Tonia's mellisonant voice never failed to put her little sister to sleep.

mellophone

mellow

adj
/ 'me(,)lō /
E
[has homonym: melo] relaxed and at ease : pleasantly convivial.
The after-dinner crowd enjoyed listening to the mellow, laid-back singer.

melodrama

n
/ 'melə.drämə /
Gk > L > F
a play characterized by extravagant theatricality, subordination of characterization to plot, and predominance of physical action.
George was put off by the opera's melodrama but was enthralled by the beauty of the music.

melophonic

memoir

n
/ 'mem.wär /
L > F
a history or narrative composed from or stressing personal experience and acquaintance with the events, scenes, or persons described.
The memoir of Burton Smith was published last year.

memorabilia

n pl
/ .memərə'bیلē /
L
things remarkable and worthy of remembrance or record.
The memorabilia in the hall of fame traced the history of basketball from its beginning in 1891.

memoriter

adv
/ mə'mörə.te(ə)r /
L
by or from memory : by heart.
Much to her surprise, Sue was able to recite the soliloquy that 20 years ago she had learned memoriter.

memory

menace

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menagerie

n
/ mə'naj(ə)rē /
F

a collection of wild or foreign animals in cages or enclosures.
The eccentric billionaire's menagerie includes two pandas and a white rhino.

mendacious

mendicancy

n
/ 'mendəkənsē /

L
the practice or act of begging.
Panhandlers became so aggressive in the city that its voters demanded legal enactments against mendicancy.

mendicant

n
/ 'mendəkənt /
L

one who begs; especially : one who lives by begging.
The mendicant on the street corner once had a high-paying job.

menhune

n
/ .menə'hünē /
Hawaiian

a small mythical Polynesian being living in the mountains and working at night as a stone builder.
The Hawaiian folklorist told the tale of a stone temple built overnight by a menhune.

menial

adj
/ 'mēniəl /
L > E

of, relating to, or being work not requiring special skill or not calling into play the higher intellectual powers and often regarded as lacking dignity, status, or interest.
Viewed by some office workers as a menial task, making coffee can be quite an art.

meningitis

n
/ .menən'jīdəs /
Gk > L

a disease in which microorganisms cause inflammation of the membranes that envelop the brain and spinal cord.
Trudy had meningitis when she was seven.

meniscus

n
/ mə'niskəs /
Gk > L

the curved upper surface of a liquid column.
Because mercury sticks to itself better than to other substances, its meniscus is convex, or rounded upward.

menorah

n
/ mə'nōrə /
Heb

a candelabrum with nine candlesticks used in the celebration of Hanukkah.
Stuart put the candles in the menorah just before the ceremony.

mentality

n
/ men'talədē /
L

intellectual power or capacity : learning ability.
The mentality of dolphins is greater than that of sharks.

menthol

n
/ 'men.thəl /
L > G

an alcohol that occurs naturally in peppermint oil and Japanese mint oil and can be made synthetically.
Menthol is used in medicines to relieve pain, itching, and nasal congestion.

mentor

n
/ 'men.tò(ə)r /
Gk name

teacher, tutor, coach.
After Helen won the spelling competition, she said that her mother was her mentor.

mephitis

n
/ mə'fīdəs /
OScan > L

a noxious, pestilential, or foul exhalation from the earth.
Ivy suspected she was approaching the geyser when she smelled a strong mephitis.

mercantilism

n
/ 'mər.kən.tē.lizəm /
L > It > F + Ecf
devotion to commercial enterprise.
The turn of the century saw a boom in mercantilism.

mercenarily

adv
/ .mərs'n'erəlē /
L + Ecff
in a manner showing conspicuous lust for money.
Being mercenarily inclined, Joel refused to work for just the minimum wage.

mercenary

adj
/ 'mərs'n'erē /
L
showing conspicuous lust for money : based on or marked by greed.
No one in the family knows where Antonio gets his mercenary tendencies.

mercurial

adj
/ .mər'kyūrēəl /
L
characterized by rapid and unpredictable changeableness or by quick-wittedness : sprightly, temperamental, volatile.
Christopher's mercurial twists of temperament were a trial to his mother.

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merely

adv

/ 'mi(ə)rli /

L > E + Ecf

no more than : barely, only.

Joseph was merely pretending to be asleep.

merganser

n

/ mər'gan(t)sər /

L

any of various fish-eating diving ducks with a slender bill and usually a crested head.

Many people consider the red-breasted merganser one of the most beautiful ducks.

meridian

n

/ mə'ridiən /

F > E

a great circle of the celestial sphere passing through its poles and the zenith of a given place.

The apparent solar day is measured by the interval of time between two successive passages of the Sun across the observer's celestial meridian.

meringue

n

/ mə'riŋ /

F

[has near homonym: marang] a mixture of beaten egg whites and powdered sugar baked at low temperature and used as a topping (as on pies and puddings).

Thelma scraped the meringue off her pie.

mermaid

n

/ 'mər.mād /

E

a fabled marine creature having the upper body of a woman and the lower body of a fish.

As they sailed closer to what they thought was the end of the world, the sailors kept expecting to see a mermaid.

mermithergate

merotomize

v

/ mə'rädə.miz /

Gk + Ecf

divide into parts.

In tomorrow's biology class Jan will merotomize a frog to study its anatomy.

merriment

meshummad

mesmerize

mesoscale

adj

/ 'mezə.skāl /

Gk > L + ON > E

of or relating to a meteorological phenomenon approximately 1 to 100 kilometers in horizontal extent.

Unlike a blizzard, which can blanket a dozen states for days, mesoscale weather covers only a small area and passes through quickly.

mesoseismal

adj

/ .mezə'sizməl /

Gk

of or relating to the center of an area of earthquake disturbance.

The town in the mesoseismal area suffered the most damage from the earthquake.

metachrosis

n

/ .medə'krəsəs /

Gk

the power of some animals (as many fishes and reptiles) to change color voluntarily by the expansion of special pigment cells.

Metachrosis helps octopi blend with their environments to avoid being easy prey.

metagnomy

metallurgical

metallurgist

n

/ 'med'ɪ.ərjəst /

Gk

a specialist in the study of the structure and properties of metals.

Theobald hired a metallurgist to evaluate the ore deposits on his ranch.

metamorphosis

n

/ .medə'mò(r)fəsəs /

Gk > L

change of physical form or substance that takes place during an insect's life as it matures.

Complete metamorphosis is characteristic of beetles, butterflies and moths, flies, and wasps.

metaphor

n

/ 'medə.fò(ə)r /

Gk

an implied comparison in contrast to the explicit comparison of the simile.

The poet used the image of a drifting boat as a metaphor for the troubled soul.

metaphrast

n

/ 'medə.frast /

Gk

translator; specifically : one who turns verse into a different meter or prose into verse.

In translating the epic poem, Elliott consulted a well-known metaphrast.

metastasis

v

/ mə'tastə.siz /

Gk

spread, as a disease-producing agent, from the original site of disease to another part of the body.

The oncology professor pointed on the diagram to where the cancer cells would metastasize next.

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meteoroidal

adj

/ .mēdēə'roïd'ɪ /

Gk + Ecf

of or relating to meteors in orbit around the Sun.

The many craters on the Moon are the result of meteoroidal bombardment.

methodical

meticulosity

n

/ mə'tikyə'läsədē /

L + Ecf

the quality or state of being extremely painstaking in the consideration or treatment of details.

The gallery visitor marveled at the artist's meticulousity in depicting details so realistically.

metonymy

n

/ mə'tänəmē /

Gk

a figure of speech that consists in using the name of one thing for that of something else with which it is associated (as in "spent the evening reading Shakespeare").

The metonymy "threads" for clothes has recently come back into popular slang.

metoposcopy

n

/ .medə'päskəpē /

Gk

the art of reading character or telling fortunes from the markings of the forehead.

Gerald has a high, bumpy forehead that would provide a truly interesting study in metoposcopy.

metronome

n

/ 'metrənōm /

Gk

an instrument that emits an audible repetitive tap regulated to mark rhythm (as for music or marching).

Martina used a metronome to hypnotize her cat.

mettwurst

meuniere

meuse

mezzanine

n

/ 'mez'n.ēn /

L > It > F

the lowest balcony in a theater.

Melinda says that she enjoys the view from the mezzanine better than the view from the orchestra.

miasma

n

/ mī'azmə /

Gk > L

[Note: Could be confused with miasm.] a vaporous exhalation (as of a marshy region or of rotting matter) formerly believed to contain a substance causing disease.

Eloise couldn't wait to escape from the miasma that had settled over the entire swamp.

Micawber

n

/ mə'kōbə(r) /

E literary name

[has near homonym: macabre] an improvident person who lives in expectation of an upturn in his fortunes.

Jenny was careful not to live like a Micawber just because she expected to receive a fellowship.

microcosm

n

/ 'mīkrəkāzəm /

Gk

a miniature universe.

Kate could spend hours watching the microcosm of her ant farm.

microfiche

n

/ 'mīkrō.fēsh /

F

a sheet of film containing several rows of photographic records on a reduced scale that are enlarged for reading or viewing.

Norma examined a microfiche of old newspaper pages while doing research at the library.

micrograph

n

/ 'mīkrəgraf /

Gk + Gk

a graphic reproduction of the image of an object formed by a microscope.

The biology teacher showed the class a micrograph of a plant cell.

micrurgy

n

/ 'mī(,)krərjē /

Gk > ISV

the practice of using minute tools in a magnified field.

Lorraine's excellence at micrurgy helped her greatly with her model making.

midgetism

n

/ 'mījəd.izəm /

E + Ecf

the state of being an unusually small creature or thing.

In the art of bonsai, midgetism is highly valued.

midinette

n

/ .mid'n'et /

F

a Parisian shopgirl.

In the novel, Marie was a midinette who worked as a seamstress during the 1890s.

midriff

n

/ 'mi.drif /

E

the midregion of the human torso; especially : its external ventral aspect.

According to the dress code, any student coming to school with an exposed midriff will be sent home.

mien

n

/ 'mēn /

L > F > E

[has homonym: mean] the air or bearing of a person.

Fame and fortune did not alter Cindy's humble mien.

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Frequently

mignonette

n
/ˈmɪnɪəˈnet /
F

an annual plant native to North Africa that has long racemes of fragrant yellow or greenish white flowers.

Lord Bateman sent seeds of mignonette to England in 1742 and called it mignonette, although it was not known by that name in France at the time.

migraine

n
/ˈmɪˌɡrɑːn /
Gk > L > F

a condition marked by recurrent severe headache often with nausea and vomiting.

Karen's doctor found out that her migraine was due to a food allergy.

mikado

n
/məˈkɑː(d)ō /
Jpn

an emperor of Japan.

The Mikado is one of Gilbert and Sullivan's best-loved operettas.

milacre

milchig

adj
/ˈmɪlˌkɪk /
G > Yiddish

made of or derived from milk or dairy products.

The dairy association posted on its web site several menus for milchig meals.

mildewed

militancy

militia

n
/məˈlɪʃə /
L

a reserve unit of the armed forces.

Captain Weston's military career began when he entered his county's militia.

millennialism

millennium

n
/məˈlɛnɪəm /
L

a period of 1,000 years.

In his "Four Freedoms" speech, Franklin D. Roosevelt stressed that his vision was not that of a distant millennium.

millinery

millionaire

mimeograph

v
/ˈmɪmɪəˌɡrɑːf /
Gk + Gk

copy with a duplicator that consists of a frame in which the stencil is stretched and an inking roller for pressing ink through the porous lines of the stencil onto paper.

Kerry was puzzled when her grandmother talked of how she used to mimeograph her boss's company memos.

mimic

v
/ˈmɪmɪk /
Gk > L

copy or imitate very closely especially in external characteristics (as voice, gesture, or manner).

Christie has learned to mimic Grandma so well on the telephone that she can fool the whole family.

mimicry

mimosa

n
/məˈmɒsə /
L

a tree or shrub that is native to tropical and warm regions and that has usually bipinnate leaves and globular heads of small pink or white flowers.

Deanna planted a mimosa in the front yard.

minacious

adj
/məˈnɑːʃəs /
L

of a menacing or threatening character.

Though the butler seemed minacious, he was not the culprit.

minaret

minatory

adj
/ˈmɪnəˌtɔːrɪ /
L

having a menacing quality : expressive of or conveying a threat.

In a minatory tone, Mrs. Sampson asked the boys what they planned to do about her broken window.

minestrone

n
/ˈmɪnəˈstrɒnɪ /
L > It

a rich thick vegetable soup with dried beans, macaroni, vermicelli, or similar ingredients sometimes topped with grated cheese.

Steve crumbled oyster crackers into his minestrone.

miniascape

n
/ˈmɪnɪəˌskɑːp /
L > It > L

a dish garden made with dry or other plant materials that do not require water.

A miniascape makes an interesting host or hostess gift.

miniature

adj
/ˈmɪn(ɪ)əˌtʃʊ(ə)r /
L > It

being or represented on a small scale.

The miniature productions of architects' dream houses were all made out of children's building blocks.

miniaturize

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minimization

n
/ˌmɪnəmə'zāʃən/
L + Ecff
the action or process of reducing to the smallest possible number, degree, or extent.
The credit counselor told Shanika that the first step should be the minimization of her interest payments.

minor

n
/ˈmɪnə(r)/
L
[has homonym: miner] a person under full age or majority : one who has not attained the age at which full civil rights are accorded.
Because Randy is a minor, the airline will not allow him to take the red-eye flight unaccompanied.

minstrel

minuend

n
/ˈmɪnyəwɛnd/
L
a quantity in mathematics from which another quantity is to be subtracted.
In the equation $7 - 5 = 2$, 7 is the minuend.

minuscular

adj
/mə'nəskyələ(r)/
L
very small in size or importance.
A minuscular speck of dirt on Alison's frock was enough to infuriate her.

minutia

mirabelle

n
/ˈmɪrəbel/
F
the fruit of a small hardy European plum tree used especially for preserves and for making a liqueur.
Joey ate a stewed mirabelle as he helped his grandmother make jam.

mirador

n
/ˈmɪrədō(ə)r/
L > Catal > Sp
a turret or a bay window or enclosed balcony designed to command an extensive outlook—used chiefly of Spanish architecture.
The castle's mirador offered a commanding view of the sea.

mirage

Miranda

adj
/mə'rændə/
American name of, relating to, or being the legal rights of an arrested person to have an attorney and to remain silent so as to avoid self-incrimination.
At the time of arrest, each person must be advised of his Miranda rights.

mirrored

v
/ˈmɪrə(r)d/
L > F > E + Ecf
reflected.
The moonlight was mirrored in the smooth surface of the pond.

misanthropic

adj
/ˌmɪsˈnˌθrəpɪk/
Gk + Ecf
marked by a hatred or contempt for humankind.
The moral corruption the policeman witnessed caused him to become a misanthropic cynic.

miscellanea

n pl
/ˌmɪsəlˈænēə/
L
a collection of assorted objects.
Among the miscellanea on Ernie's bookshelf were five textbooks on world history and a complete set of the works of Shakespeare.

miscellaneous

miscellany

mischief

n
/ˈmɪs(h)chəf/
F > E
action or conduct that annoys or irritates without causing or meaning to cause serious harm.
Hearing the puppy's thumping and barking, Erica went to investigate the mischief he was creating.

mischievous

miscible

adj
/ˈmɪsəbəl/
L
[Note: Pronouncer should provide definition of this word.] capable of being mixed in any ratio without separation of two phases—used especially of fluids.
Oil and kerosene are miscible, but carbon tetrachloride and water are not.

miscreant

n
/ˈmɪskrənt/
L > F > E
one who behaves criminally or viciously.
Some miscreant dumped a bucket of paint in Herb's convertible.

misdemeanor

n
/ˌmɪsdə'mɛnə(r)/
E + L > F > E
a crime less than a felony.
The trespasser was arrested and charged with a misdemeanor.

miserable

adj
/ˈmɪz(ə)rəbəl/
L
marked by extreme discomfort or unhappiness.
The refugees struggled for survival in the miserable mountainside encampment.

misericordia

misfeasance

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misnomer

n
/ mə'snōmə(r) /
L > F > E
an incorrect designation or term.
The name "Greenland" is a misnomer because an icecap covers most of the island.

misogynistic

adj
/ mə'sājə'nistik /
Gk
relating to or given to a hatred of women.
The soprano complained that only a critic with misogynistic cruelty could have written the review.

misogyny

misoneism

n
/ misə'nē.izəm /
Gk + Gk
a hatred or intolerance of something new or changed.
Because of his mom's misoneism, Brian still does not have a computer in his home.

misopedist

n
/ misə'pēdəst /
L + Ecf
one who hates children.
W. C. Fields was a famed misopedist.

misprision

n
/ mə'sprizhən /
L > F > E
the active or passive concealment of treason or felony from the prosecuting authorities by one not guilty of those crimes.
Congressman Walters was charged with misprision of felony in the election fraud.

misshapen

adj
/ mis(h)shāpən /
E
having an ugly or deformed shape.
The misshapen pumpkin made a fierce-looking jack-o'-lantern.

missile

n
/ 'misəl /
L
[has homonym: missal] a weapon or other object thrown or projected.
Ichabod endeavored to dodge the horrible missile, but too late.

missionary

mistassini

n
/ mistə'sēnē /
Canadian geog name
a dwarf primrose of northern and alpine America.
Ava saw a mistassini growing in a rock crevice.

mistigris

n
/ 'mistē.gris /
F
a joker or blank card that the holder can play as any card.
Darryl won the hand using a mistigris and three queens for four of a kind.

mistletoe

n
/ 'misəl.tō /
E
any of various American plants of the genus Phoradendron that grow on deciduous trees.
Lance earned extra Christmas money selling mistletoe at the mall.

mistral

n
/ 'mistrəl /
L > OProv > F
a violent cold dry northerly wind of the Mediterranean provinces of France.
In Provence, the mistral sometimes dries out the vines and grapes.

misuse

v
/ mis'yüz /
Ecf + L > F > E
employ for a wrong or improper purpose.
Employees who misuse their Internet connection at work will be fired.

mitigate

v
/ 'midə.gāt /
L
make less severe, cruel, intense, painful.
The general interceded to mitigate the soldier's punishment.

mitigative

adj
/ 'midə.gādiv /
L
tending to make less severe : alleviating.
Mariko's herbal tea had a mitigative effect on Raga's headache.

mitochondrion

n
/ mīdə'kändrēən /
Gk + Gk
any of various round or long cellular organelles that are found outside the nucleus, produce energy for the cell through cellular respiration, and are rich in fats, proteins, and enzymes.
Gabrielle easily found the mitochondrion in the image projected by the electron microscope.

mitrailleuse

mittimus

n
/ 'midəməs /
L
a warrant committing the person specified to prison.
In this state no person can be committed to a correctional facility without a mittimus from a judge.

mixology

mneme

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mnemonic

mnesitic

adj
/ 'nestik /
Gk
of or relating to memory or the persistent effect of past experience of the individual.
Granny spends much of her time reminiscing and performing other mnesitic activities.

mocha

n
/ 'mōkə /
Arabian geog name
a flavoring made of a strong coffee infusion or of a mixture of cocoa or chocolate with coffee.
Samantha detected a hint of mocha in her hot chocolate.

moderate

adj
/ 'mäd(ə)rät /
L > E
neither small nor large.
Sally's room was of moderate size, but her sister's was quite small.

modicum

n
/ 'mädəkəm /
L > F
a small portion : a limited quantity or amount.
Bernie displayed not even a modicum of modesty as he bragged about his hole in one.

modificative

adj
/ 'mädəfəkädiv /
L + Ecf
serving to make minor changes in the form or structure of.
To thicken the runny sauce, Hester used flour as the modificative ingredient.

modiste

mohair

n
/ 'mō.ha(a)ə /
Ar > It > E
any of various fabrics or yarns made wholly or in part of the hair of the Angora goat.
For her birthday Linda got a matching scarf and sweater, both made of mohair.

moiety

n
/ 'mōiədē /
L > F > E
a share paid by the government to an informer out of duties and penalties collected because of the individual's help.
The whistleblower received a moiety of the large fine imposed upon his employer for supplying faulty engine parts to the military.

molasses

n
/ mə'lasəz /
L > Pg
the thick dark to light brown syrup that is separated from raw sugar in sugar manufacture.
Mollie always adds molasses to beans before baking them.

molecule

molecules

molinary

adj
/ 'mälə.nerē /
L
of or relating to a mill or the process of grinding.
Elsworth's firm specializes in the manufacture of molinary equipment.

mollify

momentousness

n
/ mō'mentəsnəs /
L > F > E
the quality or state of being very important.
An orchestra fanfare accentuated the momentousness of the occasion.

momentum

n
/ mō'mentəm /
L
a property of a moving body that determines the length of time required to bring it to rest when under the action of a constant force or moment.
The snowball gained momentum as it rolled down the hill.

monadnock

n
/ mə'nad.näk /
New Hampshire geog name
a hill or mountain of resistant rock surmounting an eroded plain.
The familiar shape of the monadnock was a landmark for travelers.

monarch

monastery

n
/ 'mänə.sterē /
G > L > E
a house of religious retirement or of seclusion from the world for persons under religious vows.
Last fall Stan attended a retreat at a monastery near Bardstown, Kentucky.

monetarily

adv
/ 'mänə'terəlē /
L + Ecf
with respect to money.
Bud said he wasn't broke, just monetarily deficient.

monetary

adj
/ 'mänə'terē /
L
of or relating to money or to the instrumentalities and organizations by which money is supplied to the economy.
So many Americans are active investors that even a slight change in interest rates can have serious monetary repercussions.

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mongoose

n
/ 'mäŋgüs /
Dravidian? > Prakrit > Hindi
an agile keen-sighted grizzled brown and black mammal of India that is about the size of a ferret and feeds on snakes and rodents.
The mongoose is an active, bold predator.

mongrel

n
/ 'mäŋgrəl /
E
an animal or plant resulting from the interbreeding of two or more breeds or strains.
Jeff's dog is a friendly mongrel named Mutt.

monocle

n
/ 'mänəkəl /
L
[has homonyms: monacal, monachal] an eyeglass for one eye.
The villain wore a tuxedo, a top hat, and a monocle.

monocoque

monolith

n
/ 'män^əlith /
Gk
something resembling a single great stone.
Sir Larry is considered a pillar of strength by his friends and a hulking obstinate monolith by his enemies.

monomachy

monomaniacal

adj
/ .män^əmə'nīəkəl /
Gk + Gk + Ecf
relating to, characterized by, or affected with such concentration on a single object or idea as to suggest mental derangement.
Stuart's obsession with racing cars seems almost monomaniacal to his friends.

mononucleosis

n
/ .mänōn(y)üklē'ōsəs /
Gk + L
an acute infectious disease associated with Epstein-Barr virus and characterized by fever, swelling of the lymph nodes, and an increase in the number of lymphocytes in the blood.
Morgan had to spend several weeks in bed after contracting mononucleosis.

monopoly

monotonous

adj
/ mə'nät^ənəs /
Gk
having no change or variety : wearisomely uniform.
The lecturer's monotonous tone put half the audience to sleep.

monotony

monsoon

n
/ män'sün /
Ar > Pg > D
a periodic wind especially in the Indian Ocean and in southern Asia.
The monsoon brought thunderstorms that blanketed the city with a dust cloud and then flooding rains.

monstrosity

n
/ mänz'träsədē /
L
an object of terrifying size or force or complexity.
The atom bomb is the greatest monstrosity of the 20th century.

monstrous

adj
/ 'mänztrəs /
L > F > E
having extraordinary and often overwhelming size : unusually and unpleasantly huge.
The tourists in South America were terrified and sickened by the monstrous flying cockroach.

montage

n
/ män'täzh /
F
an impressionistic sequence of images introduced into a film or television program to develop a single theme, suggest a state of mind, or bridge a time lapse.
The program's opening credit sequence is a montage of white beaches, swaying palm trees, racing boats, and attractive sun worshipers.

moppet

moraine

n
/ mə'rān /
F
an accumulation of earth and stones carried and finally deposited by a glacier.
A push moraine is carried ahead of an advancing glacier, whereas a lateral moraine is deposited at the side of a glacier as it moves.

morass

moratorium

n
/ .mōrə'tōrēəm /
L
a suspension of activity : a temporary ban on the use or production of something.
Environmentalists demanded a moratorium on the mining operation until its potential effects on the ecosystem could be evaluated.

morbid

adj
/ 'mōrbəd /
L
abnormally susceptible to or characterized by gloomy or unwholesome feelings.
The inventor was haunted by a morbid sense of guilt about the possible harmful effects of her invention.

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morbidezza

n
/ .mò(r)bə'detsə /
L > It

an extreme delicacy and softness.
The piano music had a certain morbidezza that required a delicate touch.

morceau

n
/ mòr'sō /
F

[Note: Could be confused with more so. Also, plural of word can be similarly pronounced.] a short literary or musical piece.
Natasha entertained the partygoers with a lively morceau on the violin.

mordacious

mordancy

n
/ 'mò(r)d'nsē /
L > F
a biting and caustic quality of style.
The mordancy of the candidate's comments made her opponent wince.

mores

n pl
/ 'mò(,)rāz /
L
[has homonym: morays] the fixed customs or folkways of a particular group which are morally binding upon all members of the group and necessary to its welfare and preservation.
Some religious groups have developed a society of their own with distinct and strict mores.

morigeration

n
/ mə'rijə'rāshən /
L
servile obedience : obsequiousness.
The judge expected morigeration from everyone in the courtroom.

morion

n
/ 'mōrēən /
F
a visorless high-crested helmet of Spanish origin worn by foot soldiers in the 16th and 17th centuries.
The conquistador was pictured wearing a morion, with the brim forming high peaks at the front and back.

mormorando

adj
/ .mò(r)mə'rän(,)dō /
L > It
in a murmuring manner—used as a direction in music.
At first Ralph thought his CD player was broken, but then he realized he was listening to a mormorando passage.

morose

adj
/ mə'rōs /
L
marked by or expressive of gloom.
The basketball team was morose after losing in the state finals.

Morpheus

n
/ 'mōrfēəs /
Gk
something that induces or prolongs sleep.
Tim cannot recall exactly what Morpheus caused Rip van Winkle to sleep for 20 years.

mortal

adj
/ 'mōrd'əl /
L
destructive to life : causing or capable of causing death.
The diver's cage would protect him from receiving a mortal wound from a shark.

mortar

n
/ 'mōrdər /
L > F > E
something that binds or holds together.
Sam watched as the bricklayer expertly set the bricks into the hardening mortar.

mortarboard

n
/ 'mōrdər.bō(ə)rd /
L > F > E + E
an academic cap consisting of a closely fitting headpiece with a broad flat projecting square top.
Lamont adjusted his mortarboard as he joined the procession to begin the commencement program.

mortgage

n
/ 'mōrgij /
L > F > E
a binding obligation.
Sarah found a signed copy of the mortgage in Richard's desk.

mortuary

adj
/ 'mò(r)chə.werē /
L
of or relating to the burial of the dead.
Professor Habib is an expert in ancient mortuary rituals.

mosaic

mosaicist

n
/ mō'zāəsəst /
L > It > F > E
a designer who creates surface decoration by inlaying small pieces of variously colored material.
An expert mosaicist decorated the altar of the new church.

mosque

n
/ 'mäsk /
Ar > Sp > It > F
an Islamic place of public religious worship.
Visitors were required to remove their shoes before entering the mosque.

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mosquito

n
/ mə'skēd(,)ō /
L > Sp

any of numerous two-winged flies that have a rather narrow abdomen and usually a long slender rigid proboscis with which they puncture the skin of animals to suck the blood.

Dr. Walter Reed proved that the yellow fever virus is carried by the mosquito.

mosquitoey

mostaccioli

n
/ .mōstāt'chōlē /

It
a pasta in the form of a short tube with oblique ends.

It was the usual banquet fare: mostaccioli and roast beef.

motley

adj
/ 'mätlē /

E
composed of a haphazard and incongruous mixture of heterogeneous elements.

Each guest drew a gift from the motley assortment in the grab bag.

moulage

n
/ mü'lāzh /
F

an impression (as of a tire mark or tooth print) made for use as evidence in a criminal investigation.

At the scene of the crime, detectives were able to make a moulage of the tire marks left by the criminal's car.

mountain

n
/ 'maünt'n /
L > F

[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word.] a vast number or quantity : pile, slew.
Mrs. Johnson assigned her students a mountain of homework that was due the day after the holiday break.

mountebank

n
/ 'maüntəbāŋk /
It

an entertainer (as a juggler or magician) employed by a quack to attract a crowd.

The charlatan used a mountebank to entice crowds into the tent.

mourn

moussaka

n
/ mü'säkə /
Turkish > Gk

a dish of ground meat (as lamb) and sliced eggplant or potatoes often topped with a seasoned sauce.

Dimitrio's restaurant serves the best moussaka in the area.

mousse

n
/ 'müs /
L > F

[has homonym: moose] a frothy dessert; especially : a dessert of sweetened and flavored whipped cream, or thin cream and gelatin, frozen without stirring.

Michael ordered chocolate hazelnut mousse for dessert, but Vera ordered just coffee.

mousseline

mozambique

mozzarella
n
/ .mätsə'relə /

It
a moist white rubbery unsalted cheese.

Mozzarella is used in many Italian foods.

mucedine

mucilage

mucilaginous

adj
/ myüsə'lajənəs /
L

relating to or resembling a liquid adhesive of low bonding strength.
Billy's mother told him to wash the mucilaginous remains of his peanut butter and jelly sandwich from his face and hands.

mufti

n
/ 'mäftē /
Ar

civilian dress when worn by one in military service.

The general ambled down the street unrecognized in mufti.

mugient

adj
/ 'myüjēənt /
L

making a lowing sound : bellowing.
In mid-April the mugient herds of cattle are turned out to pasture.

mugwump

n
/ 'məgwəmp /
Natick

one who is undecided or neutral (as in politics) often as a result of an inability to make up one's mind.

William is too much a mugwump to ever realize his ambition to hold elective office.

mugwumpery

mulberry

n
/ 'məl.berē /
Gk > L > F > E

a tree or shrub that bears a fruit resembling a raspberry.

The Nelsons planted a mulberry in their backyard.

mulch

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muliebral

adj
/ .myūlē'ebṛəl /

L + Ecf

of, relating to, or characteristic of women.

The artist captured the essence of muliebral beauty in his portrait of Venus.

mulligan

n
/ 'mələgən /

E name

a free shot sometimes awarded a golfer in nontournament play when the preceding shot has been poorly played.

Gordy took a mulligan after hitting a "worm burner" on the first tee.

mullion

multifarious

adj
/ .məltə'fa(a)rēəs /

L

having multiplicity : having great diversity or variety.

The multifarious activities at the Hands-On Museum make it a place that everyone can enjoy.

multiplication

n
/ .məltəplə'kāshən /

L

a mathematical operation commonly indicated by ab that repeats b as many times as there are units in a.

The fourth grade class was learning the process of multiplication of whole numbers.

multipotent

multitude

n
/ 'məltətüd /

L

a great number : host.

A multitude of reporters besieged the plaintiff as she left the courtroom.

multitudinous

adj
/ .məltətüdənəs /

L + Ecf

existing in great numbers.

Multitudinous varieties of wildflowers grow on Sand Mountain.

mummery

n
/ 'məməṛē /

F

a performance given by actors in a pantomime.

Costumed actors performed a comic mummery in the school auditorium.

mumps

n pl
/ 'məmps /

imit

an acute contagious viral disease marked by fever and swelling of the parotid gland.

Russell sympathized with his brother who was suffering with mumps, but couldn't help but laugh at his swollen face.

municipal

adj
/ myū'nisəpəl /

L

of or relating to a primarily urban political unit (as a town or city).

Real estate taxes are set by the municipal government.

municipally

munificence

n
/ myū'nifəsən(t)s /

L

a giving or bestowing with extraordinary liberality : lavish generosity.

Hazel's uncle, known widely for his munificence, hosted an elaborate dinner for her bat mitzvah.

murarium

n
/ myū'ra(a)rēəm /

L

a place for rearing mice or rats under controlled conditions.

Research at the murarium resulted in the initial claim that saccharine consumption causes cancer.

murenger

n
/ 'myūrənjə(r) /

L > F > E

one in charge of the wall of a town and its repairs.

When city walls served as fortresses, the murenger was responsible for the security of the citizens.

murmur

v
/ 'mərmər /

L

utter or give forth in low or indistinct sounds or words.

Mrs. Chambers reminded Dylan not to murmur his introduction.

murrain

musciform

adj
/ 'məsəförm /

L

resembling moss.

Rosa's new hat has a musciform texture.

muscle

musculature

n
/ 'məskyələchü(ə)r /

L

the muscles of an animal that are related to each other and function together.

Dissection of the frog revealed its underlying musculature.

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muse

v
/ 'myüz /
L > F > E

[has homonyms: meuse, mews]
become absorbed in thought.
When he was a boy, Howard used to sit on the porch and muse on what he would do with his life.

museum

n
/ myü'zēəm /
Gk > L

an institution devoted to the procurement, care, study, and display of objects of lasting interest or value.
The National Air and Space Museum is one of the components of the Smithsonian Institution.

muskmelon

n
/ 'mäsk.melən /
Skt > Per > Gk > L > F > E + Gk > L

the usually sweet odorous edible melon that is the fruit of a trailing or climbing Asiatic herbaceous vine.
The muskmelon was one of the foods that Columbus introduced to the New World.

muslin

n
/ 'məzlən /

Iraq geog name > Ar > It > F
[has near homonym: Muslim]
a plainwoven cotton fabric that is used bleached or unbleached for sheeting, embroidery, or other purposes.
The simple look of tab curtains made of unbleached muslin is perfect for Barbara's den.

mussitation

n
/ .məsə'tāshən /

L
movement of the lips as if in speech but without accompanying sound.
The cameras picked up the speller's mussitation as she pondered the word.

mutable

adj
/ 'myüdəbəl /
L

prone or liable to change.
The weather in the foothills was extremely mutable due to the nearby mountains.

mutafacient

adj
/ .myüdə'fāshənt /
L + L + EcF
capable of inducing a biological change in hereditary material.
Botanists make use of mutafacient chemicals to develop new strains of plants.

mutinous

mutton

n
/ 'mət'n /
Celt > F > E
the flesh of a sheep that is used for food.
Ingrid purchased some mutton and pork chops from the butcher.

muumuu

n
/ 'mü.mü /
Hawaiian
a loose dress with gay colors and patterns, worn chiefly in Hawaii.
Pandora bought a red flowered muumuu during her trip to Maui.

myasthenia

n
/ .mīəs'thēnēə /
Gk > L
muscular debility.
Keith was informed that his myasthenia was brought on by overexertion and would disappear with rest.

mycophagous

adj
/ mī'kāfəgəs /
Gk
feeding on fungi.
Because they are mycophagous, ladybugs are good for gardens.

myelitis

n
/ .mīə'līdəs /
Gk > L
inflammation of the spinal cord or of the bone marrow.
Myelitis is usually a result of a viral infection such as mononucleosis or mumps.

myelopathy

n
/ .mīə'läpəthē /
Gk
a disease or disorder of the spinal cord or the bone marrow.
After the accident Ursula's dog had to be treated for myelopathy.

mynheer

n
/ mīn'he(ə)r /
D
mister—used as a polite address to a Dutch gentleman.
The owner of the village bank was addressed as Mynheer Grauer.

myocarditis

n
/ .mīəkär'dīdəs /
Gk > L
inflammation of the middle muscular layer of the heart wall.
A severe case of myocarditis could result in heart failure.

myopia

n
/ mī'öpēə /
Gk
nearsightedness.
Kyle's myopia was first apparent when he had trouble reading what was on the chalkboard at school.

myriads

n pl
/ 'mīrēədz /
Gk
immense numbers.
The plain was covered with myriads of insects swarming and devouring all the vegetation.

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myringitis

n
/ .mirən'jīdās /
Gk > L

inflammation of the tympanic membrane.

Dr. Croke explained that Amy's myringitis was caused by a bacterial infection in her ear.

myrmecologist

n
/ .mər.mə'käləjəst /
Gk

a specialist in the scientific study of ants.

The myrmecologist told the reporter that his interest in ants began when he had been given an ant farm at the age of seven.

myrmecology

n
/ .mər.mə'käləjē /
Gk

a scientific study of ants.

Receiving an ant farm for Christmas was the beginning of Art's interest in myrmecology.

myrmidon

n
/ 'mər.mədän /
Gk

a follower or subordinate who unquestioningly or pitilessly executes orders : hireling.

Although the mayor always speaks civilly to everyone, his myrmidon can be ruthless in criticizing opponents.

myrrh

n
/ 'mər /
Semitic > Gk > L > E

a yellow to reddish brown aromatic bitter gum resin that is obtained from various trees of East Africa and Arabia.

In medieval Europe myrrh was rare and precious.

mysticity

mystique

n
/ mi'stēk /
Gk > L > F

the special esoteric skill or mysterious faculty essential in a calling or activity.

The mystique of computer programming is completely foreign to Jacqueline.

mythologem

mythomania

nabob

n
/ 'nā.bāb /
Ar > Hindi

man of great wealth.

The Hollywood nabob rarely traveled without his personal chef, secretary, and masseur.

nacelle

n
/ nə'sel /
L > F

an enclosed shelter on an aircraft for an engine or sometimes for the crew.

The cramped, stifling nacelle gave Rico an attack of claustrophobia.

Naderism

n
/ 'nād.ə.rizəm /
American name
named after consumer advocate Ralph Nader, the promotion of consumer interests especially by public outcry against dangerous or defective goods.
The policy of Naderism is named for an outspoken consumer advocate.

nadir

n
/ 'nādə(r) /
Ar > F > E
the point of the celestial sphere that is directly opposite the zenith and vertically downward from the observer.

There was no way for Amos to see the Moon, since it was at the nadir.

naiad

n
/ 'nāəd /
Gk

one of the nymphs believed by the ancient Greeks and Romans to live in and give life to lakes, rivers, springs, and fountains.

Glenda came upon a statue of a naiad by the lake.

naiant

nainsook

n
/ 'nān.sūk /
Skt > Hindi

a soft lightweight cotton fabric in plain weave and various finishes that is used especially for clothing and curtains.

Janet's new summer blouse is made of nainsook.

naology

n
/ nā'äləjē /
Gk

a study of sacred edifices.

With her background in architecture and naology, Shauna is just the right person to help restore the old cathedral.

napalm

v
/ 'nā.pām /
Iranian > Gk > L + L > F
attack with bombs made with a highly flammable jellied fuel composed of gasoline and a mixture of aluminum soaps as a thickener.

The decision to napalm enemy territory had more ramifications than the intended destruction of vegetation.

naprapathy

n
/ nə'prəpəthē /
Czech + Gk > E

a therapeutic system of drugless treatment by manipulation of the ligaments and connective tissues.

Norma relied on naprapathy to relieve her pain after she sprained her back.

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narcissus

n
/ nār'sisəs /
Gk > L
any plant of the genus *Narcissus* of which the flowers have a short corona and are usually borne separately.
The common daffodil is a type of narcissus.

narcoleptic

adj
/ .närkə'leptik /
Gk
of, relating to, or affected with a transient compulsive tendency to attacks of deep sleep usually of unknown causes.
Steve becomes narcoleptic whenever he is under great stress.

narcoticism

n
/ nār'kädə'sizəm /
Gk
addiction to habit-forming drugs.
The police sergeant lectured Zakia's class about the dangers of narcoticism.

naricorn

n
/ 'na(a)rəkörn /
L
the horny covering protecting the nostrils of albatrosses and some other birds.
The naricorn is an irregularly convoluted little scroll, very thin and delicate in texture.

narrate

v
/ 'narāt /
L
tell or recite the happenings of (a story).
Jacob volunteered to narrate the slide show.

narrative

adj
/ 'narədɪv /
L
having the form of a story.
A ballad is a poem that has several distinct characteristics, including a strong narrative element.

narrow

adj
/ 'nɑ(ɹ)rō /
E
not possessing usual or expected width.
The sidewalk was too narrow for the three friends to walk side by side.

narthex

n
/ 'när.theks /
Semitic? > Gk
a vestibule leading to the nave of a church.
The bridal party lined up in the narthex and waited for the cue to proceed down the church's center aisle.

nasal

adj
/ 'nāzəl /
L
of or relating to the nose.
Juno's nasal inflammation caused considerable discomfort and made it hard for her to breathe.

nascency

n
/ 'nas'nsē /
L
the condition or process of being born or of beginning to exist.
The nascency of the novel as a literary form can be traced to 18th-century England.

nascent

adj
/ 'nās'nt /
L
undergoing the process of being born : beginning to exist.
The Boston Tea Party revealed nascent revolutionary tendencies among the American colonists.

nastaliq

nasturtium

n
/ nə'stərshəm /
L
any of several herbs having showy variously colored spurred flowers.
The nasturtium will add color to a drab landscape design.

natal

natator

natatorium

n
/ .nādə'tōrēəm /
L
a place for swimming; especially : an indoor swimming pool.
William Randolph Hearst built an ostentatious natatorium at his California mansion.

naupathia

n
/ nō'pathēə /
Gk
seasickness.
Several spells of naupathia made Joni's cruise an experience she hopes never to repeat.

nausea

n
/ 'nōshə /
Gk > L
a feeling of discomfort in the stomach usually associated with an urge to vomit.
A bout of nausea kept Denise from enjoying the ferry ride.

nauseate

nauseous

adj
/ 'nōshəs /
L
causing a sensation of discomfort in the stomach and an urge to vomit.
The smell emanating from the swamp was nauseous.

nautical

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nautilus

n
/ 'nòd'ʌs /
Gk > L
any of several cephalopod mollusks of the southern Pacific and Indian oceans that produce a spiral chambered shell.
Frank keeps a polished shell of a nautilus in his bookcase.

nebula

n
/ 'nebyələ /
L
any of many immense bodies of highly rarified gas or dust in interstellar space.
The astronomer identified the Horsehead Nebula on the chart.

nebulous

adj
/ 'nebyələs /
L
vaguely defined, poorly grasped, or dimly realized.
Melissa's nebulous fears about the future interfered with her enjoyment of the present.

necessary

necklace

neckwear

n
/ 'nek.wa(a)r /
E
articles of clothing worn about the neck.
Greta thinks warm neckwear is the key to avoiding a cold.

necromancy

n
/ 'nekrə.man(t)sē /
Gk > L > F > E
the art or practice of magically conjuring up the souls of the dead.
Abraham Lincoln was interested in necromancy, and his wife held séances in the White House.

nectar

nectarine

n
/ 'nektərēn /
Gk > L + Ecf
a peach that has a smooth-skinned fruit.
Jason prefers a nectarine to a common peach.

nefarious

adj
/ nə'fa(a)rēəs /
L
heinously or impiously wicked : detestable.
The murderer's crimes were considered so nefarious that he was sentenced to life imprisonment without parole.

negative

neglect

negligent

negotiable

adj
/ nə'gōsh(ē)əbəl /
L
that can be converted into cash or the equivalent value.
Leah wondered if the old bills she found in the trunk were still negotiable.

negotiate

negotiator

negus

neigh

nematocyst

n
/ nə'mədə.sist /
Gk + Gk
one of the minute stinging organs of coelenterates (as corals, sea anemones, and jellyfishes) used in catching prey.
Each nematocyst of the jellyfish contains a spiral-coiled thread tipped with a toxin-bearing barb that can be ejected into the skin.

nemesis

n
/ 'neməsəs /
Gk
a formidable and usually victorious rival or opponent.
The Tigers were defeated by the first-rate pitching of their old nemesis.

nemoral

adj
/ 'nem(ə)rəl /
L
of, relating to, or inhabiting a wood or grove.
Doris collected a basketful of nemoral mushrooms.

nenuphar

n
/ 'nenyə.fär /
Skt > Per > Ar > L
water lily; especially : Egyptian lotus.
The nenuphar is a common motif in Egyptian art.

neolalia

n
/ .nēō'lālēə /
Gk
speech especially of a psychotic that includes words that are new and meaningless to the hearer.
The doctor recorded the patient's neolalia for further study.

neologism

n
/ nē'älə.jizəm /
Gk > F
a new word, usage, or expression.
Nelson encountered a neologism in almost every paragraph of the computer article.

neomenia

neon

adj
/ 'nē.än /
Gk
of, relating to, or resembling the reddish glow of neon lamps.
Even though Tim was wearing neon swimming trunks, his mom had trouble spotting him on the crowded beach.

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neonatology

n
/ .nēōnā'täləjē /
Gk + L + Gk
a branch of medicine concerned with the care, development, and diseases of newborn infants.
Jackie hopes to specialize in either pediatrics or neonatology.

neophyte

n
/ 'nēə'fīt /
Gk
a new convert; especially : a convert to the Christian faith in the early church.
In just three years St. Cyprian of Carthage went from being a neophyte to being the bishop of Carthage.

neossology

n
/ .nē.ä'säləjē /
Gk
the study of young birds.
The student of neossology was thrilled to receive a baby parrot for his birthday.

nepenthe

n
/ nə'pen(t)thē /
Gk
something capable of causing oblivion of grief and suffering.
The old man sought respite and nepenthe from bad memories.

nephalism

n
/ 'nefə.lizəm /
Gk
total abstinence from alcoholic beverages.
In Muslim countries nephalism is a way of life for many people.

nephelognosy

n
/ .nefə'ləgnəsē /
Gk + Gk
scientific observation of clouds.
Satellite photos of cloud formations and movements have been a great aid in the field of nephelognosy.

nephelometer

n
/ .nefə'lämədə(r) /
G + G
an instrument for measuring cloudiness.
The nephelometer has been proved useful in detecting and measuring air pollution.

nephew

nephology

nephoscope

n
/ 'nefə.skōp /
Gk
an instrument for observing the direction of motion and velocity of clouds.
Mr. Tadeusz explained to his new assistant how the nephoscope worked.

nephrectomy

n
/ nə'frektə.mē /
Gk
the surgical removal of a kidney.
Barry's kidney was so diseased that his physician recommended a nephrectomy.

nepotism

n
/ 'nepə.tizəm /
L > It > F
favoritism shown to relatives (as by giving them positions because of their relationship rather than on their merits).
Most employees resent nepotism because it reduces motivation for advancement via hard work.

nescience

nescient

adj
/ 'nesh(ē)ənt /
L
exhibiting or characterized by lack of knowledge or awareness : ignorant.
George's nescient response to the question about the plot demonstrated that he had not read the book.

nettlesome

adj
/ 'ned'lsəm /
E + E
causing vexation : irritating.
The city's traffic situation was nettlesome to the visitors from the small town.

neuralgia

n
/ n(y)ü'raljə /
Gk
an acute paroxysmal pain radiating along the course of one or more nerves usually without demonstrable changes in the nerve structure.
Garret's neuralgia was so painful that he sought relief from a chiropractor.

neurasthenic

adj
/ .n(y)üras'thenik /
Gk
affected with a syndrome characterized by easy fatigability, by worrying and depression, and often by headache and digestive and circulatory problems.
The neurasthenic patient complained of being bored, neglected, and depressed.

neurokyme

neurological

adj
/ .n(y)ü'rə'lājəkəl /
Gk
of or relating to the scientific study of the nervous system.
Dr. Will is a specialist in the treatment of neurological disorders.

neuropathy

n
/ n(y)ü'räpəthē /
Gk > ISV
an abnormal and usually degenerative state of the nervous system or nerves.
Neuropathy can lead to numbness and weakness of the hands, feet, or limbs.

neurotic

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neuston

neutercane

n
/ 'n(y)üde(r).kän /
L + Taino > Sp
a subtropical cyclone that is usually less than 100 miles in diameter and that draws energy from sources common to both the hurricane and the frontal cyclone.
The weather bureau is tracking the neutercane to see if it develops into a hurricane.

neutral

neutralize

v
/ 'n(y)ütrəl.iz /
L + Ecf
make chemically neither acid nor base.
Scientists used nitric acid to neutralize the magnesium hydroxide that had formed on the space capsule tape when it came in contact with seawater.

newel

newspaporial

nexus

n
/ 'neksəs /
L
a connected group or series.
A nexus of events led to the overthrow of the government and the exile of the king.

Nicaraguan

adj
/ .nikə'rægwən /
Central American geog name of or relating to the country of Nicaragua in Central America.
Much Nicaraguan coffee is exported to the United States.

nicety

n
/ 'nīsədē /
F > E
a dainty, delicate, or elegant thing or feature.
Dad considered a meal at a posh restaurant to be a nicety of good living.

niche

n
/ 'nich /
L > F
a place suitable for the capabilities or merits of a person.
Wendy felt she had found her niche at school in the student government association.

nickelodeon

n
/ .nikə'lōdēən /
G? > Sw + F > G
a theater affording a motion-picture exhibition or a variety show for an admission price of five cents.
The silent movies at the nickelodeon were usually enhanced by piano music.

nicotinism

n
/ 'nikə.tē.nizəm /
F name + cff
the effect of the excessive use of tobacco.
Patients who suffer from nicotinism exhibit lung and heart problems.

nictitant

nidicolous

adj
/ nī'dikələs /
L
living in a nest; especially : sharing the nest of another kind of animal.
Many insects are nidicolous, sharing the nests of birds who sometimes eat their larvae.

nidificate

v
/ 'nidəfə.kāt /
L
build a nest.
While recuperating, Jan watched the robin gather bits of string and small twigs to nidificate in the maple tree outside the bedroom window.

nidifugous

adj
/ nī'difyəgəs /
L
leaving the nest soon after hatching.
Because they are relatively highly developed when they hatch, ducks and chickens are nidifugous.

nidor

n
/ 'nī.dō(ə)r /
L
[Note: Alternate pronunciation has homonym: niter/nitre.] a strong smell : reek.
The nidor of the hot grease warned Della that she should lower the temperature.

nidorous

adj
/ 'nīdərəs /
L
smelling of or like burning or decaying animal matter.
The sailors were repulsed by the nidorous bilge water.

niece

niello

n
/ nē'e(,)lō /
L > It
any of several alloys of sulphur with silver, copper, or lead having a deep black color.
After cutting a design in the silver jewelry box, Phillip filled in the design with niello.

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Nietzschean

adj
/ 'nēchēən /
G name
of or relating to the German philosopher Friedrich Wilhelm Nietzsche.
Norman characterized John's views as juvenile Nietzschean nonsense.

niggardly

adj
/ 'nigə(r)dlē /
Scand > E
characterized by a reluctance to part with money : tightfisted.
The wealthy banker was best known for his niggardly spending habits.

nightingale

n
/ 'nīt'n.gāl /
E
a thrush common in Great Britain that is noted for the sweet song of the male often heard at night during the breeding season.
Haley was awakened by a nightingale singing outside her bedroom window.

nightmare

n
/ 'nīt.ma(a)(ə)r /
E
a frightening dream accompanied by anxiety or terror.
Cara's nightmare was caused by the ghost stories told around the campfire.

nihilism

n
/ 'nīə.lizəm /
L + Ecf
a viewpoint that all traditional values and beliefs are unfounded and that all existence is consequently senseless and useless.
The rock star's lyrics were criticized for advocating a bleak nihilism.

nimiety

n
/ ni'miədē /
L
excess, redundancy.
Usually Caleb's writing is concise, but his most recent essay is a glowing example of nimiety.

nimious

adj
/ 'nimēəs /
L
[Note: Could be confused with niveous.] excessive, extravagant.
Oscar, who could barely afford to rent a costume for the masked charity ball, found the whole thing oppressively nimious.

nineteenth

ninetieth

nippy

adj
/ 'nipē /
E
chilly, chilling.
The nippy breeze reddened Ryan's cheeks.

nisei

n
/ 'nē.sā /
Jpn
a son or daughter of Japanese immigrant parents who is born and educated in the United States.
Tomoko is the only nisei in her family; all her siblings were born in Japan.

nitidity

n
/ ni'tidədē /
L + Ecf
the quality or state of being bright, glossy, or lustrous.
The moon's nitidity helps owls find their prey.

nitrogen

n
/ 'nītrəjən /
Gk
a colorless tasteless odorless element that as a diatomic gas is relatively inert and constitutes 78 percent of the atmosphere by volume and occurs as a constituent of all living tissues.
Lightning causes the oxidation of nitrogen to nitric oxide, which is rained out as nitrate.

niveau

n
/ nē'vō /
F
[Note: Plural form is pronounced similarly.] a level (as of existence or achievement) especially in a progression.
Ben's tennis class is at the intermediate niveau.

niveous

adj
/ 'nivēəs /
L
of, relating to, or resembling snow.
The niveous landscape looked most inviting to the cross-country skiers.

nobiliary

adj
/ nō'bilē.ērē /
L > F > E + Ecf
of or relating to the nobility.
By threat of force the king quelled the nobiliary squabbles.

nobly

nocent

nociceptor

n
/ 'nōsē.septə(r) /
L
a part of the body that transmits to the central nervous system injurious or painful stimuli.
The spicy salsa activated each nociceptor on Michelle's tongue, bringing her to tears.

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nocive

adj
/ 'nōsiv /

L
harmful, injurious.
The laboratory assistant wore a mask to protect himself from nocive fumes.

noctivagant

adj
/ nāk'tivəgənt /

L
going about in the night : night-wandering.
The bat, being a noctivagant mammal, has inspired many legends.

nocturnal

adj
/ nāk'tɔrnəl /

L > F
active at night.
Some zoos have special habitats for nocturnal animals.

nocuous

nodosity

n
/ nō'däsədə /

L
a protuberance or swelling.
Ardis felt a slight nodosity on the cat's back.

nodule

noegenesis

noisome

adj
/ 'noisəm /

E
offensive to the senses : noxious, harmful, unwholesome, destructive.
A noisome odor emanated from the plastics factory.

nomenclature

n
/ 'nōmən.klāchə(r) /

L
the collective names given to or borne by places in a particular region or area.
The nomenclature of Boston streets confused Ling when she first arrived.

nominal

adj
/ 'nāmənəl /

L
of, relating to, or being a word that is otherwise characteristically an adjective or adverb but that takes a noun construction in a given context.

A good example of a nominal word is good in "the good die young."

nominee

n
/ .nāmə'nē /

L + Ecf
a person named or proposed for an office, duty, or position.
The president's nominee for the Supreme Court had to be approved by a Senate committee.

nomological

nonage

n
/ 'nānij /

F > E
a period of youth, childhood, or infancy.
The pieces that Mozart wrote in his nonage demonstrate an understanding of music that few adults ever attain.

nonagenarian

n
/ .nānjə'nerēən /

L + Ecf
a person who is 90 or more and less than 100 years old.
Ernestus bragged that he was the only nonagenarian at the rock concert.

nonchalance

n
/ .nānshə'län(t)s /

F
a display or air of jaunty unconcern or indifference.
Sarah reacted with nonchalance when her neighbors complained about her unruly dog.

nonchalant

noncommittal

adj
/ .nānkə'midəl /

L
taking no clear position or giving no clear indication of attitude, feeling, or point of view.
Lacy's tone was friendly but noncommittal.

nondescript

adj
/ .nāndə'skript /

L
lacking distinguishing characteristics.
Because he was utterly nondescript, Virgil was the perfect infiltrator.

nonmetal

nonpareil

adj
/ .nānpə'rel /

L > F
having no equal : peerless.
Tom's lack of common sense overshadowed his nonpareil intellect.

nonplus

v
/ nān'pləs /

L
cause to be at a loss as to what to say, think, or do.
Vince's aggressive interviewing technique tends to nonplus inexperienced candidates.

nonsense

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nonuple

adj
/ 'nä.n(y)üpəl /
L > F

consisting of nine : being nine times as great or as many.
There was a nonuple increase in the rate of traffic citations after the new regulations went into effect.

noology

n
/ nō'äləjē /
Gk

the study of mind : the science of phenomena regarded as purely mental in origin.
Ahmet found that his interests in philosophy and psychology converged in the field of noology.

noontide

normocyte

nosocomial

adj
/ .nä.sə'kōmēəl /
L

originating or taking place in a hospital.
Since implementing its new disinfection protocol, the hospital has seen a 40 percent drop in nosocomial infections.

nostalgia

n
/ nə'stalj(ē)a /
Gk > L

homesickness.
Theo was overcome with nostalgia at the sight of a McDonald's in Istanbul.

nostril

n
/ 'nästrəl /
E

either of the outer openings of the nose.
In some cultures, a pierced nostril adorned with a ring is considered attractive.

nostrum

n
/ 'nästrəm /
L

a remedy or medicine of secret composition recommended by its preparer but usually lacking general repute or acceptance.
Mr. Sherwood insists that his nostrum will cure warts within a week.

notabilia

notarize

notoriety

n
/ .nō.də'riədē /
L

the condition of being an object of wide or general attention, interest, and comment for something reprehensible or scandalous.
A red convertible enhanced Thurmon's notoriety.

nougat

n
/ 'nügət /
L > Prov > F

a confection of nuts or fruit pieces in a sugar paste.
Lynn's boyfriend gave her a box of chocolates filled with hazelnut nougat.

noumenal

adj
/ 'nümənəl /
Gk

of or relating to an object of purely rational apprehension as opposed to an object of perception.
Philosophy deals with noumenal concepts, while science deals with phenomenal concepts.

novemdecillion

novercal

adj
/ nə'værkəl /
L

of, relating to, or characteristic of a stepmother.
Helene's novercal relationship with her husband's children is close and loving.

novice

n
/ 'nävəs /
L > F > E

[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word.] one who has entered a religious house for a trial period.
The film The Nun's Story stars Audrey Hepburn as a young novice who eventually becomes a nurse in Africa.

noxious

adj
/ 'näkshəs /
L

harmful or destructive to man or to other organisms.
Emma is studying the noxious effects of gasoline fumes.

noxiously

noyade

nuance

n
/ 'n(y)ü.än(t)s /
L > F

minute variation : delicate gradation : subtle distinction.
The music critic took notes on every nuance of the performance.

nubbin

nubilous

adj
/ 'n(y)übələs /
L

cloudy, foggy, misty.
Trade wind clouds are constantly piling up in nubilous traffic jams.

nuchal

adj
/ 'n(y)ükəl /
Ar > L + Ecf
of or relating to the nape, the back part of the neck.
Midge's new necklace gave her a nuchal rash.

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nuciform

adj
/ 'n(y)üsə.förm /

L
like a nut in shape.
Preston gave Anna a box of nuciform chocolate candies.

nuclear

nugacious

adj
/ n(y)ü'gāshəs /

L
trifling, trivial.
Arguments about who sits in the front seat seem nugacious to many adults.

nugacity

nugatory

adj
/ 'n(y)ügə.tōrē /

L
having little or no consequence : worthless.
The prize Jeff won at the carnival was just a nugatory plastic trinket.

nugget

n
/ 'nəgət /
unknown
a lump; especially : a lump of gold.
Adrian kept a gold nugget as a good-luck charm.

nuisance

n
/ 'n(y)üs˚n(t)s /
L > F > Ar > E
something that is disagreeable or troublesome : annoyance.
The barking dogs in Jeff's backyard were a nuisance he could not ignore.

nullibicity

n
/ .nələ'bisədē /
L + Ecf
the quality or state of being nowhere.
Natalie accused the state of putting freedom and basic rights into nullibicity.

nullification

n
/ .nələfə'kāshən /
L
the act of depriving of legal or binding force or validity.
Louis XIV's accession to the throne was ushered in by the nullification of his father's will.

nullifidian

n
/ .nələ'fidēən /
L
a person of no faith or religion.
The nullifidian decided to start a magazine devoted to the theory and practice of secular humanism.

numb

numerology

numinous

adj
/ 'n(y)ümənəs /
L + Ecf
dedicated to or hallowed by association with a deity : sacred.
A soft light seemed to glow from the numinous vessel on the altar.

numismatist

n
/ n(y)ü'mizmədəst /
L
a specialist in the study of coins : a coin collector.
When Emery wanted to know the value of a coin, he showed it to his neighbor, who was a numismatist.

nummary

numnah

nunchaku

n
/ nün'chäk(,)ü /
Jpn dialect
a weapon of Japanese origin made of two hardwood sticks joined at their ends by a short length of rawhide, cord, or chain.
Eli insists that a nunchaku with a Bruce Lee image would make his martial arts paraphernalia complete.

nuncio

n
/ 'nən(t)sē.ō /
L
a top-ranking diplomatic envoy of the pope accredited to a civil government.
The papal nuncio worked with the governor's office to prepare for the pope's tour of the region.

nuncupation

n
/ .nənkypāshən /
L
an oral will.
While the sailor was ill aboard ship, he made a nuncupation in which he bequeathed his property to his mother.

nuncupative

adj
/ 'nəŋkypādīv /
L
stated verbally : oral—used chiefly of a will.
The terms of Grandpa's nuncupative will were not contested by the family.

nuptiality

n
/ .nəpshē'alədē /
L
the marriage rate.
Nuptiality usually increases dramatically in June.

nurture

nurturer

nutrient

nutrition

nutritiously

adv
/ n(y)ü'trishəslē /
L + Ecf
in a manner that promotes growth and development.
Judging from the kinds of foods that George likes, it is not going to be easy to get him to eat nutritiously.

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nyala

n
/ 'nyälə /
Tsonga&Venda
an antelope of southeastern Africa with vertical white stripes on the sides of the body and with shaggy hair along the male underside.
The nyala thrives in the heaths and forests of the Ethiopian highlands.

nyctalopia

n
/ ,niktə'löpēə /
Gk
a defect of vision characterized by reduced visual capacity in faint light or at night.
Nyctalopia may be corrected by vitamin therapy.

nymph

nystagmus

n
/ nə'stagməs /
Gk
a rapid involuntary oscillation of the eyeballs occurring normally with dizziness during and after bodily rotation or abnormally after injuries.
Bart suffered from nystagmus for several days following the boxing match.

oakenshaw

oakum

oarlock

oasis

n
/ ɔ'āsəs /
Hamitic? > Gk > L
a small isolated fertile area that is surrounded by general barrenness and typically marked by trees or other greenery and that has a water supply.
The caravan rested for two days at the oasis.

obdurate

adj
/ 'äbd(y)ərət /
L
resistant to persuasion or softening influences : unyielding.
Fritz is maintaining an obdurate opposition to the new highway bypass.

obedient

adj
/ ɔ'bēdēənt /
L > F > E
submissive to the restraint, control, or command of authority.
The toddler was not very obedient and even seemed to enjoy being defiant.

obeisance

n
/ ɔ'bāsⁿn(t)s /
L > F > E
an attitude of respect : deference, homage.
Josh demonstrated his obeisance for the famous professor by writing down her every word.

obeisant

adj
/ ɔ'bāsⁿnt /
F
servile, obsequious.
By the third course, the waiter's obeisant behavior was starting to get on Tara's nerves.

obelisk

n
/ 'äbəlisk /
Gk
an upright four-sided monolithic pillar that tapers as it rises and terminates in a pyramid.
The Washington Monument is a world-famous obelisk.

obese

obesity

obfuscate

obfuscatory

adj
/ äb'fəskə.tōrē /
L
tending to make difficult of comprehension or interpretation.
Oleg found the obfuscatory language in his apartment lease infuriating.

obituary

objective

n
/ əb'jektiv /
L
a lens or system of lenses that forms an image of the object in the focal plane of an eyepiece (as in a telescope).
The light-gathering power of a telescope is a function of the diameter of its objective.

objicient

n
/ əb'jishənt /
L
one who opposes something with words or argument.
The bill became a law despite the protests of a very influential objicient.

objurgation

objurgatory

adj
/ əb'jərgə.tōrē /
L
expressing sharp reprimand.
The mayor sent an objurgatory letter to the negligent department head.

obligation

n
/ ,äblə'gāshən /
L
something that one is bound to do : an imperative duty.
Because of Carra's past assistance, Craig felt an obligation to return the favor.

obligatory

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oblique

adj
/ ə'blɪk /
L

neither perpendicular nor parallel :
having a slanting direction or
position.

*All triangles have at least one
oblique side.*

obliquity

n
/ ə'blikwədē /
E > F > L + Ecf

the angle between the planes of
Earth's equator and orbit.

*Seasonal changes in temperature
are due to the obliquity of Earth's
orbital path.*

obliterative

oblivion

obliviscence

n
/ äblə'vis'n(t)s /
L

[Note: Could be confused with
oblivescence.] forgetfulness.

*Serious obliviscence in older
people may be a symptom of
Alzheimer's disease.*

obloquy

n
/ 'äbləkwe /
L

a strongly and often intemperately
condemnatory utterance.

*Mr. Willett recited the names of the
pranksters with uncharacteristic
obloquy.*

obmutescence

n
/ äbmyə'tes'n(t)s /
L

a becoming or keeping silent.

*To ensure the press's obmutescence
regarding the case, the judge
issued a gag order.*

obnounce

obreptitious

adj
/ äbrep'tishəs /
L

done or obtained by trickery or by
concealing the truth.

*The undercover agent passed the
obreptitious information to his
superiors.*

obrogate

obsecration

n
/ äbsə'krāshən /
L

a supplicatory prayer mentioning in
its appeal things or events held to
be sacred.

*"Through thy victory over death, O
Lord, deliver us" is an obsecration.*

obsequious

adj
/ əb'sɛkwɛəs /
L > E

meanly or servilely attentive.

*Marshall tends to be obsequious
toward Mrs. Kirby.*

obsessive

obsolescence

obsolescent

adj
/ äbsə'les'nt /
L

falling into disuse especially as
unable to compete with something
more recent.

*Many linguists believe that the
relative pronoun whom is
obsolescent except when it follows
a preposition.*

obsolete

obstacle

n
/ äbz(,)tikəl /
L

something that hinders progress :
hindrance.

*Carrie believes there is no obstacle
she cannot overcome in her quest
to become an Olympian.*

obstetrician

n
/ äbz'tet'rishən /
L

a physician or veterinarian
specializing in birth and its
antecedents and sequels.

*The obstetrician often relied more
on instincts and old-fashioned
psychology than he did on his
medical expertise.*

obstetrics

obstinate

adj
/ 'äbz'tənət /
L

pertinaciously adhering to an
opinion, purpose, or course.

*Franklin has missed at least two
promotions because he is so
obstinate about doing things his
own way.*

obstreperous

adj
/ əbz'trep(ə)rəs /
L

stubbornly defiant : resisting
control or restraint often with a
show of noisy disorder.

*The noisy diner was asked to leave
but became obstreperous and had
to be escorted out of the restaurant.*

obtenebrate

v
/ äb'tenəbrāt /
L

darken by or as if by shadowing.

*As the storm approaches, dark
clouds obtenebrate the valley.*

obtrusive

obtundent

adj
/ äb'təndənt /
L

blunting irritation or lessening pain.

*Aspirin is used for its obtundent as
well as its antipyretic qualities.*

obviate

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obvious

adj
/ 'ɒbvᵊəs /
L

readily and easily perceived by the sensibilities or mind.

"We're moving!" Harold shouted, which was a fact that had already become obvious to everyone.

ocarina

n
/ ˌɔkə'rɪnə /
L > It

a simple wind instrument or toy of the flute class having a mouthpiece and fingerholes.

Professor Miller unearthed a four-hole ocarina used by the ancient Mayas.

occasion

occasionally

adv
/ ə'kɑːzhənəl /
L

now and then : here and there.

The Spelling Bee replied, "Years ago I was just an ordinary bee minding my own business, smelling flowers all day, and occasionally picking up part-time work in people's bonnets."

occipital

adj
/ ɔk'sɪpədəl /
L

of or relating to the back part of the head of a vertebrate or an insect.

In the accident Mr. Stein's occipital bone was fractured.

occision

n
/ ɔk'sɪʒən /
L

an act or instance of slaughtering.

Ecologists are protesting the wholesale occision of sea turtles within national boundaries.

occlude

occlusion

n
/ ə'klʒhən /
L

the front formed by a cold front overtaking a warm front and lifting the warm air above Earth's surface.

As the advancing cold air met the warm front, a cold occlusion developed that caused the temperature to drop.

occult

occultation

n
/ ˌɔ(ɪ)kəl'tæʃən /
L > E

the shutting off of the light of a celestial body by the intervention of some other celestial body.

A solar eclipse is the occultation of the Sun by the Moon.

occurrence

occurring

ocellus

n
/ ˈɔsələs /
L

one of usually three simple eyes in an insect located in a triangle between the compound eyes.

A single ocellus can do no more than detect light, but more than one grouped together can produce an image of the surrounding area.

ocelot

n
/ ˈɔsələt /
Nahuatl > F

a medium-sized American wildcat ranging from Texas to Patagonia and having a tawny yellow or grayish coat that is dotted and striped with black.

The ocelot appears in Aztec stone carvings.

ochlocratic

adj
/ ˌɔklə'kradɪk /
Gk

of or relating to mob rule.

Pure ochlocratic government would pay no heed to minority voices.

ochlophobia

n
/ ˌɔklə'fɒbiə /
Gk

morbid fear of crowds.

Alice never attended rock concerts because of her ochlophobia.

ochlophobist

octane

octave

n
/ ˈɔktəv /
L > E

a musical interval embracing eight diatonic degrees.

Tricia explained the concept of an octave to her music class at school.

octavo

octogenarian

octopus

oculauditory

oculogyric

adj
/ ˌɔkyələ'jɪrɪk /
L + Gk > L

relating to or involving circular movements of the eyeballs.

The silent movie comedian specialized in oculogyric close-ups.

oculus

n
/ ˈɔkyələs /
L

an architectural part resembling or suggestive of an eye.

In the west end of Norman churches there is often an oculus.

oddment

odious

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odium

odograph

n
/ ˈɒdəˌɡrɑːf /

Gk
an instrument for automatically plotting the course and distance traveled by a vehicle.
Now that Carlos has a car equipped with a Global Positioning System receiver, an odograph is the logical next step.

odontoloxia

n
/ ɒˌdɒntəˈlɒksɪə /

Gk
irregularity of the teeth.
Odontoloxia can usually be corrected with braces.

odyssey

n
/ ˈɒdəsɪ /

Gk
a long wandering or series of adventurous journeys.
When he talks about his odyssey, André means the summer he spent working his way across Europe.

oeuvre

n
/ ˈɔːv(r) /
L > F

a substantial body of work constituting the lifework of a writer, an artist, or a composer.
The poet won the award not for any particular work, but for his oeuvre.

officiousness

ogive

n
/ ˈɒˌjɪv /
L? > F? > E

a diagonal arch or rib across a Gothic vault.
The middle of a Gothic vault, where each ogive cuts across the others, is called the key and is often in the form of a rose.

ogle

ogre

n
/ ˈɒɡə(r) /
L > F

a hideous giant represented in fairy tales and folklore as feeding on human beings : monster.
Jason wrote a tale about an ogre who lived under a bridge and feasted on every tenth person who crossed.

ohm

n
/ ˈɒm /

G name
[has homonyms: aum, om] the practical meter-kilogram-second unit of electric resistance that is equal to the resistance of a circuit in which a potential difference of 1 volt produces a current of 1 ampere.
Michael was confused by the Greek symbol for omega in his textbook until he realized that it was the abbreviation for an ohm.

oilcloth

n
/ ˈɔɪlˌklɒθ /
Gk > L > F > E + E
cotton cloth coated with a dull or glossy finish made of oil, clay, and colored pigment to make the cloth waterproof.
A kitchen stove, a table covered with oilcloth and two chairs could be seen from the doorway.

ointment

okapi

n
/ ɒˈkæpɪ /
African name
an African animal that is related to the giraffe but has a relatively short neck and solid reddish coat with black and cream rings on its legs.
In Zaire the meat of the okapi is a favorite food of the Pygmies.

oleaginous

adj
/ ɒlɪˈeɪʃənəs /
Gk > L > F
characterized by smooth courteousness or sickly sentimentality.
Grandpa was too smart to be taken in by oleaginous salesmen.

oleander

n
/ ˈɒlɪˌændə(r) /
L
an ornamental evergreen shrub that has narrow leaves and clusters of fragrant white to red flowers.
The sweet aroma of the oleander wafted through the window.

oleiculture

olericulture

n
/ ˈɒlərəkəlchə(r) /
L + Ecf + L
a branch of horticulture that deals with the production, storage, processing, and marketing of vegetables.
As a college subject, olericulture is generally divided into market gardening and truck farming.

olfactory

adj
/ ɒlˈfakt(ə)rɪ /
L
of, relating to, or connected with the sense of smell.
Humans have relatively weak olfactory abilities compared to many other animals.

oligarchic

adj
/ ɒlɪˈɡɑːrkɪk /
Gk
of, relating to, characteristic of, or supporting a group or organization that is controlled by a privileged few.
A society dominated by large-scale oligarchic organizations eventually develops an oligarchic political regime.

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oligarchy

n
/ ˈälə.gärkē /
Gk + Gk
government by the few.
Over the years, the tiny state's government eroded from a democracy to an oligarchy.

oligophrenia

n
/ ˈäləgōˈfrēnēə /
Gk
mental deficiency.
Although afflicted with oligophrenia, Cynthia was capable of taking care of herself in her home.

ombrometer

n
/ ămˈbrämədə(r) /
Gk + Gk
an instrument for measuring the quantity of precipitation that falls at a given place and time.
Precipitation in the area was studied by collecting data from radar scans and an ombrometer.

ombrophilous

adj
/ ămˈbräfələs /
Gk
capable of withstanding or thriving in the presence of much rain.
After three days of rain, Kathy hoped that her garden plants were ombrophilous.

ombrophobous

adj
/ ămˈbräfəbəs /
Gk
incapable of withstanding long-continued rain.
Ombrophobous plants would perish in a Seattle garden.

ombudsman

n
/ ˈäm.búdzmən /
Sw
[Note: Plural form is pronounced identically.] one that investigates complaints (as from students or customers), reports findings, and helps to achieve equitable settlements.
The college hired a special ombudsman to investigate widespread charges of unfair grading practices.

omega

ominous

adj
/ ˈämənəs /
L
indicative of future misfortune or calamity : causing anxiety and fear.
For an instant there was an ominous stillness, quieter and more silent than ever before, as if even the air was holding its breath.

omissible

omission

n
/ ɔ̄ˈmishən /
L
the act of failing to insert, include, or name.
Katie refused to believe that Joe's omission of her name on the guest list was accidental.

omitted

v
/ ɔ̄ˈmīdəd /
L
left out.
Harry Nebuchadnezzar Schwartz usually omitted his middle name when he filled out forms.

omnibus

adj
/ ˈäm̄nəbəs /
L
of, relating to, or providing for many things or classes at once : containing or including many items.
Ursula purchased an omnibus edition of Shakespeare's works, which was bound in leather.

omnifarious

adj
/ ˈäm̄nəˈfa(a)rēəs /
L
of all varieties, forms, or kinds.
The natural history museum has an omnifarious collection of animal bones.

omnigenous

omnilegent

adj
/ ămˈnīləjənt /
L
reading or having read everything : characterized by encyclopedic reading.
The omnilegent student was a valued member of the academic team.

omnipotence

n
/ ămˈnīpədən(t)s /
L
almighty or unlimited power.
With an attitude of omnipotence, the government presumed that it could take any land it wanted.

omnipotent

omniscience

omniscient

adj
/ ămˈnīshənt /
L
having infinite awareness, understanding, and insight : knowing all things.
In most monotheistic religions, God is understood to be both omniscient and all-powerful.

omnivorous

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onager

n
/ 'änəjə(r) /
Gk > L > E
an Asian wild ass that usually has a broad dorsal stripe.
Although the onager looks like a donkey, it runs as swiftly as a horse.

oncogeny

n
/ 'än'käjənē /
Gk > L
the process of tumor formation.
Certain plant extracts have been shown to inhibit oncogeny.

oncology

n
/ 'äj'käləjē /
Gk
the study of tumors.
Ed is focusing on oncology in his medical studies and is particularly interested in pancreatic cancer.

oneiric

onerous

adj
/ 'änərəs /
L > F > E
that involves, imposes, or constitutes much oppressive or irksome work, effort, difficulty, or responsibility.
Ron grudgingly completed the onerous task of cutting and stacking the firewood.

oniomania

onion

onionskin

onlooker

onomastics

n pl
/ 'änə'mastiks /
Gk
the science or study of the origins and forms of proper names of persons or places.
A book on onomastics explained that the name Donald is a Scottish Gaelic word meaning "world ruler."

onomatope

n
/ 'änəmətōp /
Gk
a word formed in imitation of natural sounds.
Tim found the onomatope kaboom in today's comic strip.

onomatopoeia

onslaught

n
/ 'ön.slót /
D > E
an especially fierce attack.
The Britons were unable to withstand the onslaught of the Saxons.

ontogeny

n
/ 'än'täjənē /
Gk + Gk
the biological development or course of development of an individual organism.
The role of brain ontogeny in Alzheimer's disease requires that an autopsy be performed to obtain a definitive diagnosis.

onus

n
/ 'önəs /
L
burden.
Caring for her six children was an onus for the young widow.

onychosis

n
/ 'änə'kōsəs /
Gk
[has near homonym: onchoses] a disease of the nails.
Even though he had only a mild onychosis, Eric was not allowed to work in the lab.

onyx

adj
/ 'äniks /
Gk
of the color jet black.
The teacher told the schoolchildren that space looks onyx from the shuttle.

oometer

n
/ 'ō'amədə(r) /
Gk + Gk
an instrument for measuring eggs.
Mr. Horton uses an oometer to determine which eggs go in which cartons.

oophagous

adj
/ 'ō'afəgəs /
Gk
living or feeding on eggs—used of insects or reptiles.
Oophagous insects help control the bug population.

opacity

n
/ 'ō'pasədə /
L > F
the quality or state of a body that renders it impervious to the rays of light : lack of transparency or translucency.
The envelope's opacity made it impossible for Garnet to see if there was a check inside.

opah

opalescence

n
/ 'ōpə'les'n(t)s /
Skt > L + Lcf
the quality or state of reflecting an iridescent light.
The moonstone's opalescence gave it a pearly luster.

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opalescent

opaque

adj
/ ɔ̄'pāk /

L
impervious to the rays of visible light : not transparent or translucent.
The Dornans hung an opaque window shade in their son's nursery.

opeidoscope

n
/ ɔ̄'pīdə.skōp /
Gk

an instrument using light rays, a flexible membrane, and a mirror to exhibit the vibratory motions caused by sounds.
Mr. Peterson used a simple opeidoscope to compare the sounds of musical instruments.

operatable

adj
/ 'āpə.rādəbəl /
L + Ecf

fit, possible, or desirable to use.
Renata hoped that her car would be operatable after the collision.

operettist

ophelimity

ophicleide

ophiolatry

n
/ .āfē'älətrē /
Gk

the worship of or the attribution of divine or sacred nature to snakes.
Before the rise of monotheism, ophiolatry in one form or another was nearly universal among ancient peoples.

ophthalmic

ophthalmologist

n
/ .āf.thal'mäləjəst /
Gk

a physician that specializes in the study and treatment of defects and diseases of the eye.
Monica goes to the ophthalmologist once a year because she has a family history of glaucoma.

ophthalmology

opiate

opine

v
/ ɔ̄'pīn /
L > F

state as an opinion.
There are some things humans think they know, and some that they merely opine.

opodeldoc

opossum

n
/ ə'päsəm /
Algonquian

[Note: Could be confused with possum.] an omnivorous largely nocturnal and arboreal mammal that has a prehensile tail and an abdominal pouch to which the young are transferred at birth.
Arnold caught the opossum eating the cat's food.

oppidan

adj
/ 'āpədən /
L

of or relating to a town or to town as opposed to country.
The painter sold his oppidan scenes of market day on the sidewalk, earning just enough to live on.

opportune

adj
/ .āpə(r)'tūn /
L > F > E

fit, suitable, or convenient for a given purpose.
We could not have chosen a more opportune spot for a picnic than the shore of Lake Walcott.

opportuneness

opposite

n
/ 'āpəzət /

L
the person occupying the position across from one's own in square dancing.
Daniel's opposite in the square dance is a better dancer than he.

opposition

n
/ .āpə'zishən /
L

a configuration in which one celestial body is opposite another in the sky.
The Moon, when full, is said to be in opposition to the Sun.

opprobrious

adj
/ ə'prōbrēəs /
L > F > E

conveying or intending to convey disgrace.
The principal denounced the vandals in opprobrious terms.

opprobrium

oppugn

v
/ ə'pyün /
L

challenge the accuracy, propriety, probity, or other quality of.
The newspaper had a tendency to oppugn the actions of Congress in its editorials.

optimistic

adj
/ .āptə'mistik /
L > F + Ecff

anticipating the best.
Jackie remained optimistic about winning the national spelling bee.

option

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Frequently

opulent

adj
/ 'ɒpyələnt /
L

exhibiting or characterized by wealth or affluence.

Leather wall covering is one feature of the room's opulent décor.

opusculum

n
/ ɒ'pəskyələm /
L

a minor work (as of literature).

Although critics regarded Jerome's first novel as an opusculum, it has steadily risen on the best-seller lists.

oracle

orally

orator

n
/ 'ɔrədə(r) /
L

one distinguished for skill and power in public speaking.

Daniel Webster was an eminent 19th-century orator.

orbital

n
/ 'ɔ(r)bədə¹ /
L

a solution of the Schrödinger wave equation describing a possible mode of motion of a single electron in an atom or molecule.

There is theoretically no outer limit to the orbital of an electron.

orchard

n
/ 'ɔrchəd /
L + E

a plantation or enclosure containing fruit trees, nut-bearing trees, or sugar maples.

In the orchard were bare fruit trees growing in the winter-browned grass.

orchestra

n
/ ɔ'(r)kəstrə /
Gk

a large group of players of musical instruments including typically strings, woodwinds, brasses, and percussion organized especially for performing one of the larger forms of concert music or for accompanying an oratorio or other dramatic work.

The orchestra dazzled the audience with its performance of Tchaikovsky's 1812 Overture.

orchid

n
/ 'ɔrkəd /
Gk > L

a distinctive and often brightly colored tropical flower with three petals.

Many varieties of the orchid can be found in Hawaii.

orchidaceous

adj
/ ɔrkə'dəʃəs /
Gk > L + Ecf

expressing or characterized by a showy or ostentatious quality.

Today's journalists generally eschew orchidaceous writing.

ordeal

ordination

n
/ ɔ'(r)dən'āʃən /
L

the act or state of being admitted into the Christian ministry.

At her ordination Heather delivered a sermon on the 23rd Psalm.

ordnance

n
/ 'ɔrdnən(t)s /
F

[has homonym and near homonym: ordinance and ordonnance] military supplies including weapons, ammunition, and combat vehicles.

As quartermaster, Sergeant Russo was responsible for all of the ordnance on the base.

orfevriere

n
/ ɔrfevrə'rē /
F

goldsmith's or jeweler's work : jewelry.

Dave carefully looked over the orfevriere, trying to decide what his wife would like for her birthday.

organ

oriel

n
/ 'ɔriəl /
L? > F > E

[has homonym and near homonym: oriole and aureole] a large bay window of semihexagonal or semisquare plan projecting from the face of a wall and supported by a corbel or bracket.

Megan set her chair in the pleasantly sunny oriel and sat down to read.

orifice

n
/ 'ɔrəfəs /
L > F

the mouth or opening of something.

Each sprinkler head had an orifice of one-half inch.

oriflamme

origami

n
/ ɔrə'gāmē /
Jpn

the art or process of Japanese paper folding.

After only a few hours of studying origami, Veronica was creating paper cranes by the dozen.

original

oriole

orison

n
/ 'ɔrəsən /
L > F > E

prayer.

The pastor designated time in the service for a silent orison for the hostages.

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Frequently

ormolu

n
/ 'ò(r)mə.lü /

F
brass made to imitate gold and used in mounts for furniture and for other decorative purposes.
The large mirror's frame was decorated with ormolu.

ornithopter

ornithotomy

n
/ ó(r)nə'thäd-əmē /

Gk
the anatomy or dissection of birds.
Through ornithotomy Derrick learned how a bird's bones are interconnected.

orofacial

adj
/ òrə'fāshəl /

L
of or relating to the mouth and face.
Roseanne underwent plastic surgery to correct orofacial abnormalities.

orogeny

n
/ ó'rājənē /

Gk
the process of mountain making especially by folding of Earth's crust.
Mrs. Scott was demonstrating orogeny when she used a piece of carpet to show how mountains form.

orotund

adj
/ 'òrə.tənd /

L
unduly full and strong in delivery or style : pompous, bombastic.
The more nervous Jeff gets while giving a speech, the more orotund his delivery becomes.

orphan

n
/ 'òrfən /

Gk > L
a child without parents.
Oliver Twist is a famous fictional orphan.

orphanage

orpiment

n
/ 'ò(r)pəmənt /

L > F > E
an orange to yellow mineral consisting of arsenic trisulfide and used in fireworks and as a pigment.
Orpiment is used to produce yellow pigment for painting.

orrery

n
/ 'òrərə /

E name
an apparatus that illustrates the relative positions and motions of bodies in the solar system.
Sheila fashioned a crude orrery out of coat hangers and Styrofoam.

orthodox

adj
/ 'ò(r)thə.däks /

Gk + Gk
marked by conformity to doctrines or practices especially in religion that are held as right or true by some authority, standard, or tradition.
In orthodox Jewish synagogues, men and women are seated separately.

orthoepy

n
/ 'ò(r)thə.wepē /

Gk > L
the study of the pronunciation of a language.
Differences between the English spoken in the United States and that spoken in England is a topic of orthoepy familiar to many linguists.

orthogonal

orthographize

oryx

n
/ 'òriks /
Gk > L

any of a genus of large heavily built African and Arabian antelopes that have a light-colored coat with dark conspicuous markings especially on the face.
The adaptations of the Arabian oryx to the desert include its predominantly white coat to reflect heat and its splayed hooves for walking on sand.

oscillating

oscillation

n
/ äsə'lāshən /

L
a swinging or moving backward and forward like a pendulum.
Engineers specified that slots be constructed in the deck of the bridge to reduce oscillation.

oscillatory

adj
/ 'äsələ.tōrē /

L
characterized by the action of swinging or moving backward and forward like a pendulum.
The oscillatory motion of the airplane caused Deborah to become airsick.

oscilloscope

n
/ ə'silə.skōp /

L + Gk > L
an instrument in which the variations in a fluctuating electrical quantity appear as a visible wave form on the fluorescent screen of a cathode-ray tube.
The technician used an oscilloscope to help him pinpoint the problem.

oscitation

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Frequently

osculatory

adj
/ 'ɔskyələ.tōrē /

L
of, relating to, or characterized by kissing.

Julie had no idea Shaun was talking about kissing when he asked if she would help him refine his osculatory skill.

osmosis

n
/ əz'mōsəs /

Gk
the flow or diffusion that takes place through a semipermeable membrane typically separating either a solvent and a solution or a dilute solution and a concentrated solution.

An experiment using red dye gave a dramatic demonstration of osmosis.

osprey

n
/ 'ɔsprē /

L > F > E
a large hawk that is a dark brown color above and mostly pure white below and feeds on fish that it captures by hovering and diving.
Because of its preferred diet, the osprey is also called a "fish hawk."

ossicle

n
/ 'ɔsəkəl /

L
any of certain small bones.
The sports doctor told Nate that an ossicle in his left ear had been damaged by the blow from his opponent.

ossuary

ostensible

adj
/ ə'sten(t)səbəl /

L
professing genuineness and sincerity but often concealing the real aspects behind a plausible facade.
Mr. Elton's ostensible reason for stopping by was to ask whether Mr. Woodhouse's party could be made up in the evening without him.

ostentatious

adj
/ əstən'tāshəs /

L
for the purpose of attracting attention : pretentious.
Mrs. Howell's purchase of a diamond-studded collar for her poodle was one of her many ostentatious extravagances.

ostentatiously

osteoclasia

osteoporosis

n
/ əstēōpə'rōsəs /
Gk + L
a condition characterized by decrease in bone mass with decreased density and enlargement of bone spaces producing porosity and fragility.
Diane's doctor recommended increasing her calcium intake to prevent osteoporosis.

ostracism

ostracize

ostrich

otacoustic

adj
/ ɔdə'küstik /

Gk
assisting the sense of hearing.
Mrs. Jordan fashioned a piece of cardboard into an otacoustic horn.

otalgia

n
/ ɔ'talj(ē)ə /

Gk
pain in the ear : earache.
Otalgia is more common in children than in adults.

otherwise

adv
/ ə'θə(r),wīz /

E
in a different way or manner : differently.
Bret told us to always back up our work; otherwise, we would be sorry.

otitis

n
/ ɔ'tidəs /

Gk > L
inflammation of the ear.
Jeff's earache was diagnosed as a symptom of otitis of the middle ear.

otolaryngology

n
/ ɔdə.larən'gələjē /

G
a branch of medicine that deals with the ear, nose, and throat and their disorders and diseases.
When Hazel's sore throat persisted, her family physician recommended an appointment with a specialist in otolaryngology.

otomycosis

n
/ ɔdə.mī'kōsəs /

Gk
disease of the ear produced by the growth of fungi in the external auditory canal.
Jane's otomycosis proved resistant to treatment.

otter

n
/ 'ɔdə(r) /

E
[has homonym: odder] any of various largely aquatic carnivorous mammals that are related to the weasels and minks and usually have webbed and clawed feet and dark brown fur.
The sea otter places a stone on its chest and uses it as an anvil on which to open mussels and clams.

ottoman

n
/ 'ɔdəmən /

Turk name > It > F
an overstuffed footstool.
Andrew spilled orange juice all over the ottoman.

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oubliette

n
/ ˌuːblēˈet /
L > F
a dungeon with an opening only at the top and often a concealed pit below the floor.
Every medieval French castle Karen visited on the tour had an oubliette.

ourselves

outlet

outrageous

adj
/ ˌaʊtˈrɑːʒəs /
F
extravagant, fantastic.
The sophomores created an outrageous float for the homecoming parade.

ouzo

ovation

overbearance

overcast

adj
/ ˈoʊvə(r)ˌkɑːst /
E
clouded over.
On a gloomy overcast muggy Minnesota summer day, the circus came to town.

overcompensate

override

overriding

overt

overweening

adj
/ ˌoʊvə(r)ˈwēniŋ /
E
unduly confident.
Elaine's overweening pretensions fell flat when it was revealed that she could not even speak French.

oviparous

adj
/ ˈoʊvɪpərəs /
L
producing eggs that develop and hatch outside the maternal body.
The platypus is an oviparous mammal.

ovoid

oxbow

oxen

oxidation

oximeter

oxlip

oxydactyl

adj
/ ˌɒksəˈdaktl /
Gk + Gk
having slender tapered digits.
The glove was made for a delicate, oxydactyl hand.

oxygen

n
/ ˈɒksɪdʒən /
Gk > F
a nonmetallic element that is normally a colorless odorless tasteless nonflammable gas, is the most abundant of the elements on Earth, and occurs in air and water, in most common rocks and minerals, and in a great variety of organic compounds.
Oxygen is the second most abundant element in Earth's atmosphere.

oxylophyte

n
/ ɒkˈsɪləˌfɪt /
Gk
a plant that prefers or is restricted to an acid soil.
Sphagnum moss, which grows in bogs, is a common oxylophyte.

oxymoron

n
/ ˌɒksəˈmɔːrən /
Gk
a combination for epigrammatic effect of contradictory or incongruous words.
Dexter feels that the phrase jumbo shrimp is an oxymoron.

oyez

v
/ ˈoɪyā /
F
—used by criers of courts as a command to secure silence and attention before a proclamation.
“Oyez, oyez, oyez!” yelled the crier as the judge entered the courtroom.

oyster

n
/ ˈɔɪstə(r) /
Gk > L > F > E
a marine bivalve mollusk found along seacoasts or in the mouths of rivers.
Dad would not eat an oyster.

ozonic

ozonosphere

pabulum

n
/ ˈpəbʊləm /
L
rudimentary or sentimental writing.
The famous poet's early works were pure pabulum.

pachinko

n
/ pəˈtʃɪŋ(ɪ)kō /
Jpn
a Japanese gambling device resembling a pinball machine but with automatic payoff as in a slot machine.
Since the 1950s, playing pachinko has been a favorite pastime among the youth of Japan.

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pachyderm

n
/ 'pakədɜrm /
Gk > F

one of a group of thick-skinned mammals (as an elephant or rhinoceros).

When the circus came to town, it usually featured at least one pachyderm.

pacificator

pacifist

pacifistically

adv
/ .pasə'fistək(ə)lē /
L > F > E

in a manner characterized by opposition to violence as a means of settling disputes.

Randall approached his angry neighbor pacifistically.

paddock

padishah

n
/ 'pādəshā /
Per

a powerful important personage : mogul.

George Lucas is a padishah of motion picture epics.

paella

n
/ pə'elə /
L > F > Catal

a saffron-flavored stew containing rice, chicken, seafood, and various vegetables.

Paella can be an expensive dish to prepare because saffron threads are so costly.

pagan

adj
/ 'pāgən /
L

of, relating to, or having the characteristics of followers of a polytheistic religion (as in ancient Rome).

New Age spirituality has given rise to a number of organized pagan groups.

pageant

pageanteer

n
/ .pājən'ti(ə)r /
L + Ecf

an actor or other performer in a spectacle.

The pageanteer startled Benji by leaping onto the table.

pageantry

n
/ 'pājəntre /
L > E

colorful, rich, or splendid display.

Rachel could not wait to see the pageantry of the medieval festival.

pagination

pagoda

n
/ pə'gōdə /
Skt > Pg

a Far Eastern structure resembling a tower that is often richly decorated and typically has projecting roofs that curve upward between each story and that is erected usually as a temple or memorial.

The tour guide claimed that 1000 pounds of gold went into the decoration of the ornate pagoda.

paisley

adj
/ 'pāzlē /

Scottish geog name
printed with an elaborate design consisting typically of curved abstract figures.

Mrs. Whatsit untied a blue and green paisley scarf.

pajamas

n
/ pə'jäməz /
Hindi

loose clothing designed for sleeping and relaxation.

Danielle received some flannel pajamas for Christmas.

palace

paladin

n
/ 'paləd'n /
L > It > F

a champion of a medieval prince : a legendary hero.

A medieval prince could be challenged to a duel, but his paladin would do the actual fighting.

palatable

adj
/ 'palədəbəl /
Etruscan? > L > E + Ecf

agreeable to the palate or taste : savory.

Mom poured cheese over the spinach to make it more palatable.

palatial

palatially

adv
/ pə'lāshəlē /
L + Ecf

in a manner suitable for a palace.

The new hotel was palatially surrounded by high stone walls with elaborate bronze gates.

palatinate

n
/ pə'lat'nət /
L

the province or territory of a European nobleman.

Prince Vlad bowed, saying "I offer you the hospitality of my palatinate."

palaver

n
/ pə'lavə(r) /
Gk > L > Pg

profuse, idle, or worthless talk : chatter.

Dean left when the seminar discussion degenerated into palaver.

palazzo

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paleontology

n
/ ˌpālɛ.ən'täləjē /
Gk > F

a science that deals with the life of past geological periods, is based on the study of fossil remains of plants and animals, and gives information especially about the chronology of the history of Earth.

Theo traces his interest in paleontology back to his discovery of fossils in his yard when he was a young boy.

palilalia

n
/ ˌpālə'lālɛə /
Gk > L

a speech defect marked by abnormal repetition of syllables, words, or phrases.

Palilalia is a symptom of some mental disorders.

palimpsest

n
/ ˌpālɒm(p).sɛst /
Gk

a parchment, tablet, or other portion of writing material that has been used twice or three times after the earlier writing has been erased.

Special equipment will help determine whether the old parchment Colin found is a palimpsest.

palindrome

n
/ ˌpālən.drɒm /
Gk

a word, verse, or sentence that reads the same backward or forward.

Ada struggled to contrive a palindrome centered around her own name.

palladium

n
/ pə'lādɛəm /
Gk > L

something that affords effectual protection or security.

Many consider the Second Amendment to be the palladium of democracy.

pallbearer

n
/ ˈpɒl.bɛrə(r) /
L > E+E

an attendant at a funeral who helps carry the coffin.

Each pallbearer wore a carnation in his lapel.

pallescent

pallesthesia

palliate

v
/ ˈpālɛ.ət /
L
moderate the intensity of : lessen.
For many prisoners, books palliate the boredom of isolation from society.

palliative

pallor

n
/ ˈpālə(r) /
L
abnormal paleness.
The pallor of Julian's stage makeup gave his girlfriend a fright.

palmyra

n
/ ˌpāl'mɪrə /
L > Pg
a tall fan palm that is native to Africa but widely cultivated in India.
The palmyra made a stately addition to Ramu's garden.

palometa

n
/ ˌpālə'medə /
L
any of various butterfishes (as the California pompano).
The fish dealer readily identified Chet's greenish, slippery-coated catch as a palometa.

palooka

n
/ pə'lükə /
unknown
an inexperienced or incompetent boxer.
The boxing manager told his fighter to box like a palooka for one round, then come out swinging hard.

palouser

palpability

palpable

adj
/ ˈpɒlpəbəl /
L
easily perceptible by the mind : obvious, manifest.
The injustice of the situation was palpable to even the least fair-minded individual present.

palpebral

adj
/ ˈpɒlpəbrəl /
L
[has near homonym: palpable] of, relating to, or located on or near the eyelids.
Mike's palpebral spasms were alleviated when he was treated with a muscle relaxant.

palpitant

adj
/ ˈpɒlpədənt /
L
trembling, quivering, throbbing.
Darryl jabbed his fork into the palpitant pudding.

palpitation

n
/ ˌpɒlpə'tāshən /
L
an abnormally rapid beating of the heart when excited by violent exertion, strong emotion, or disease.
Ron could feel the palpitation in his chest as he approached Marie to ask her out on a date.

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paludal

adj
/ pə'lüdəl /
L

of, relating to, or made up of marshes.

The map shows a boardwalk trail through the paludal areas.

palustrine

adj
/ pə'ləstrən /
L

living or thriving in a marshy environment.

The alligator is an excellent palustrine hunter.

palynology

pamphlet

pamphleteer

n
/ ,pam(p)flə'ti(ə)r /
Gk > L name + Ecf

a writer of pamphlets attacking something or urging a cause.

Thomas Paine made a name for himself in colonial America as a pamphleteer.

panacea

panacean

adj
/ ,panə'sēən /
Gk > L + Ecf

having the properties of a remedy for all ills and difficulties.

Advertisements for the new pain medicine suggest that it has panacean qualities.

panache

n
/ pə'nash /
L > It > F

dash or flamboyance in style or action.

The novel's great strength is the splendidly depicted panache of the protagonist.

panary

panbroil

v
/ 'pan.brōil /
L > F > E

cook food in a skillet with little or no fat.

The recipe called for one to panbroil the chicken along with the vegetables.

pancreatitis

n
/ ,pankrēə'tid-əs /
Gk > L

inflammation of the gland that produces insulin.

The physician recommended immediate surgery for Gordon's acute pancreatitis.

pandiculation

n
/ pan.dikyə'lāshən /
L

a stretching and stiffening especially of the trunk and extremities (as when fatigued and drowsy or after waking from sleep).

A cat usually extends its claws during pandiculation.

panegyric

n
/ ,panə'jirik /
Gk > L

an oration or writing expressing praise.

Walt Whitman composed a famous panegyric on the occasion of Abraham Lincoln's death.

panelist

panettone

n
/ ,pä'nə'tōnē /
L > It

a usually yeast-leavened holiday bread containing raisins and candied fruit peels.

Tad received a panettone in the mail from his Italian grandmother.

panickiness

n
/ 'panəkēnəs /
Gk > E

the quality or state characterized by or resulting from sudden overpowering fright.

In her panickiness in calling for an ambulance, Gretchen forgot to give the street address.

panoramic

pantisocracy

n
/ ,pantə'säkrəsē /
Gk

a utopian community in which all rule equally.

The romantic poets dreamed of establishing a pantisocracy wherein everyone would share in the governing of the community.

pantomime

n
/ 'pantəmīm /
Gk > L

a dramatic performance using no dialogue.

The sixth-grade class put on a pantomime of the story "Androcles and the Lion."

papacy

paparazzi

n pl
/ ,päpə'rätsē /
It name

free-lance photographers who aggressively pursue celebrities in order to take candid photographs.

Many people still blame the paparazzi for their apparent role in the death of Princess Diana.

papeterie

paprika

n
/ pə'prēkə /
Gk > Serb > Hung

a condiment consisting of the dried finely ground pods of various cultivated sweet peppers.

Paprika has been a prized export of Hungary for centuries.

papyrus

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Frequently

parable

n
/ 'parəbəl /
L

a usually short fictitious story that illustrates a moral attitude or a religious principle.
Ella's Sunday school teacher began every class with a parable.

parabolize

parabulia

n
/ ,parə'byülēə /
Gk > L

abnormality or perversion of willpower.
One critic called Nietzschean philosophy "a celebration of parabulia."

parachute

paraclete

n
/ 'parəklet /
Gk

[Note: Could be confused with parrakeet.] one called to aid or support : an advocate.
The popular senator was hailed as a paraclete of civil rights.

paradigm

n
/ 'parədīm /
Gk

an outstandingly clear or typical example or pattern.
The paradigm of sin and salvation underlies much of 17th-century English poetry.

paradise

parador

paradox

n
/ 'parədäks /
Gk

a statement or sentiment that is seemingly contradictory or opposed to common sense and yet perhaps true in fact.
The homework assignment was to write an essay on the following paradox: "To guarantee freedom of religion, the government must be free from religion."

paraffinic

adj
/ ,parə'finik /
L > G

of, relating to, or characterized by paraffin hydrocarbons or paraffin wax.
The new pesticide contains a highly refined paraffinic oil.

paragraph

parallax

n
/ 'parələks /
Gk > F

the apparent displacement or the difference in apparent direction of an object as seen from two different points not on a straight line with the object.
Sujata carefully allowed for the parallax when framing the picture in her viewfinder.

parallel

adj
/ 'parələl /
Gk

extending in the same direction and everywhere equidistant.
The parallel lines of the railroad tracks tipped off analysts to the location of the munitions plant.

paralogize

v
/ pə'raləjīz /
Gk

reason falsely : draw conclusions not warranted by the premises.
Although James tends to paralogize, he is so eloquent that his listeners often overlook his faulty reasoning.

paralysis

n
/ pə'raləsəs /
Gk

a state of powerlessness or inactivity.
A sort of paralysis overcame the frightened child.

paramedic

paramount

adj
/ 'parə.maunt /
L > F > AF

superior to all others (as in power, position, or importance).
Victor holds the paramount seat on the library's board of directors.

paranoia

n
/ ,parə'nöi(y)ə /
Gk

a tendency on the part of individuals or of groups toward suspiciousness and distrustfulness of others that is based not on objective reality.
Paranoia of government eavesdropping caused members of the militia to encrypt their communications.

paraparesis

n
/ ,parəpə'rēsəs /
Gk

partial paralysis affecting the lower limbs.
Kent's paraparesis was caused by a skateboarding accident.

parapet

n
/ 'parəpət /
L > It

a rampart raised upon or above the main wall in a permanent fortification.
The princess walked along the parapet every evening at dusk, watching for the return of her beloved.

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paraph

n
/ 'parəf /
Gk > L
a flourish at the end of a signature
sometimes used as a sort of rude
safeguard against forgery.
*Delia always signs her name with
an elaborate paraph ending in a
smiley face.*

paraphernalia

n pl
/ ,parəfə(r)'nālyə /
Gk > L
articles of equipment.
*Mark lugged all his photographic
paraphernalia to every spelling
bee.*

paraphrasable

adj
/ 'parəfrāzəbəl /
Gk + Ecf
capable of being restated in another
form usually for clearer and fuller
exposition.
*The teacher asked the students if
the meaning of the poem was
paraphrasable.*

paraplegic

adj
/ ,parə'plējɪk /
Gk
affected with paralysis of the lower
half of the body including both legs
due to disease or injury to the
spinal cord.
*With much determination, effort,
and training, the paraplegic patient
learned how to take care of himself
at home.*

parasite

parasitic

adj
/ ,parə'sɪdɪk /
Gk > L
living in or on another organism.
*Dogs are susceptible to parasitic
organisms such as fleas and
heartworms.*

parasol

n
/ 'parəsəl /
L > It > F
a lightweight umbrella used as a
sunshade.
*Georgina decided to splurge on an
antique parasol even though she
knew she'd never actually use it.*

parboil

v
/ 'pär:böil /
L > F > E
cook briefly in simmering liquid as
a preliminary or incomplete
cooking procedure.
*It is advisable to parboil dense
vegetables like carrots before stir-
frying them with other vegetables.*

parcel

pare

parenthesize

parfait

n
/ pär'fä /
L > F
a cold dessert consisting of
alternating layers of fruit, syrup, ice
cream, and whipped cream.
*Following a light lunch, Carmen
ordered a parfait of tropical fruits.*

pariah

n
/ pär'iä /
Tamil
a person despised or rejected by
society : outcast.
*The candidate became a pariah to
his party, and many members
refused to be seen with him.*

parietal

adj
/ pär'iəd'əl /
L > F
of, relating to, or located in the
upper posterior part of the head.
*The X ray revealed no damage to
Hernando's parietal bone.*

parishioners

n pl
/ pä'rɪʃ(ə)nə(r)z /
Gk > L > F > E + Ecf
the members of a local church
community.
*The parishioners held a meeting
and decided to build a new
gymnasium for the school.*

parity

n
/ 'parədē /
L
[has homonym: parody] the quality
or state of being equal : close
equivalence or resemblance.
*American automobile
manufacturers believe they have
achieved parity with their foreign
competitors.*

parkin

parlance

n
/ 'pärlən(t)s /
F
idiom, phraseology.
*In educational parlance the new
high school is a "magnet school."*

parley

n
/ 'pärlē /
L > F
[has homonym: parlay]
conversation, discussion.
*Mr. Elton and Harriet had a very
interesting parley about what could
be done and should be done.*

parliament

parochial

adj
/ pä'rəkēəl /
L > F > AF > E
of or relating to a church parish.
*Five of Susan's friends attended
parochial schools.*

parodist

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parody

n
/ 'parədē /
Gk

[has homonym: parity] a writing in which the language and style of an author or work is closely imitated for comic effect or in ridicule.
The Battle of the Frogs and the Mice is a Hellenistic parody of the Iliad.

paroemia

n
/ pə'remēə /
Gk > L

a rhetorical proverb.
Coach Morgan's favorite paroemia is "A rolling stone gathers no moss."

paroxysm

n
/ 'parək.sizəm /
Gk

a sudden, violent, and uncontrollable action or occurrence of emotion.
When Jeff unknowingly sat on the whoopie cushion, Al burst into a paroxysm of laughter.

paroxysmal

adj
/ .parək'sizməl /
Gk > L > F

marked or accompanied by sudden attacks or spasms (as of a disease).
Mike's whooping cough was treated with antibiotics in its early paroxysmal stage.

parquet

n
/ pər'kɑ /
F

a patterned flooring.
Terry had expensive parquet installed in the foyer.

parrhesia

n
/ pa'rēzh(ē)ə /
Gk

[Note: Could be confused with Parisian.] boldness or freedom of speech.
When Bill was in elementary school, his parrhesia earned him many stints of standing in the corner.

parsec

n
/ 'pär.sek /
Gk + L

a unit of measure for interstellar space equal to a distance of 3.26 light-years or to 19.2 trillion miles.
Porgy estimated the distance between the stars to be one parsec.

parsimony

parsnip

n
/ 'pär.snip /
L > F > E

a biennial plant with yellow flowers and a long, thick, sweet, white root used as a vegetable.
Jake yanked a parsnip from his garden.

parterre

n
/ pär'te(ə)r /
L > F

the part of the floor of a theater behind the orchestra.
For the season premiere, the seats in the parterre were reserved for the stockholder of the opera company.

parthenogenesis

n
/ .pärthənō'jenəsəs /
Gk

reproduction that involves development of a gamete without fertilization.
Parthenogenesis occurs commonly among some stick insect species.

partridge

n
/ 'pärtrij /
L > F > E

any of several game birds belonging to the same subfamily as the bobwhite.
A partridge fluttered out of the tall grass and startled Katrina.

parturition

n
/ .pär-də'rishən /
L

the action or process of giving birth to offspring.
In some cultures, women return to manual labor within hours of parturition.

parvenuism

n
/ 'pärvən(y)ü.izəm /
L > F + Ecf

the behavior of one who makes great pretensions because of acquired wealth.
The parvenuism of the steel and railroad barons caused them to build some of the most amazing private homes in the United States.

pasigraphy

pasimology

n
/ .pasə'mäləjē /
Gk? + Gk + Gk
the study of gestures as a means of communication.
Native American sign language is one means of communication studied in pasimology.

pasqueflower

pasquinade

n
/ .paskwə'nād /
It > F

a lampoon or satire usually having a political significance.
The president's misadventure quickly became the subject of an editorial pasquinade.

passemeterie

passenger

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passerine

adj
/ 'pasərən /
L

of or relating to the largest order of birds including more than half of all living birds and consisting chiefly of songbirds of perching habits.

Mr. Perrault, an avid birder, told us that passerine birds have a maximum life-span of about ten years in the wild.

pasteurization

pasteurize

v
/ 'pas(h)chə.rīz /
F name + Ecf
subject to heating long enough to kill disease-causing microorganisms.
Dairies pasteurize milk before delivering it to stores.

pastiche

n
/ pa'stēsh /
It > F
a usually incongruous medley of different styles and materials : hodgepodge.
Jordan considers the design for the new library a pretentious pastiche.

pasture

n
/ 'pas(h)chə(r) /
L > F > E
land that is used for the grazing of animals.
Every morning the cows returned to the grassy pasture.

patache

patella

n
/ pə'telə /
L
kneecap.
Shelby bumped her patella against the bottom of the desk when she stood up too quickly.

pathogeny

n
/ pə'thājənē /
L
Gk
the origination and development of a disease.

Much research has been done on the factors involved in the pathogeny of muscular dystrophy.

pathos

n
/ 'pā.thäs /
Gk
an element in experience or in artistic representation evoking pity or compassion.
The actress was highly praised for the pathos she evoked in her death scene.

patois

n
/ 'pat.wä /
F
a dialect other than the standard or literary dialect.
Parisians considered the French spoken in the English court to be a patois.

patriarch

n
/ 'pātrē.ärk /
Gk
a man regarded as father or founder (as of a race, science, religion, or class of people).
In many religious circles Adam is considered to be the patriarch of the human race.

patrician

adj
/ pə'trīshən /
L
of, relating to, or characteristic of gentle or noble birth or of breeding and cultivation.
Escorting Cassie to her debutante ball is a patrician experience Rob will never forget.

patriciate

n
/ pə'trīshēət /
L
a class of high-ranking nobles or aristocrats.
As members of the New York patriciate, Donald and his wife kept a high social profile and lived extravagantly.

patrikin

patriot

n
/ 'pātrēət /
Gk > L > F
a person who loves his country and defends and promotes its interests.
The foreign spy convinced others that he was a flag-waving patriot.

patroness

n
/ 'pātrənēs /
L
a woman who provides for or promotes the interests of a protégé.
Emma was soon left in peace, not forced to be the very active patroness of Jane Fairfax.

patronymic

patulous

adj
/ 'pachələs /
L
spreading widely from a center.
The old apple tree had many patulous branches.

patzer

n
/ 'pātsə(r) /
G
an inept chess player.
When Drew won the chess game so easily, he jokingly called his opponent a "patzer."

paucispiral

paucity

n
/ 'pōsədē /
L
a small number : fewness.
The choir suffered from a paucity of male voices.

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paunchiness

paupiette

n
/ pə'pyet /
F
a thin slice of meat or fish wrapped around a filling (as of forcemeat).
At the new restaurant Carol enjoyed a veal paupiette stuffed with ham and cheese.

pavement

pavilion

n
/ pə'vilyən /
L > F > E
a large often sumptuous tent.
The servants scurried to set up the queen's pavilion before the Sun went down.

pavonine

adj
/ 'pavə.nīn /
L
of, relating to, or resembling the peacock.
Audrey cooled herself by waving a pavonine fan.

paysanne

adj
/ pə'zɑn /
F
prepared (as with diced root vegetables) in country or simple style.
Errol served a paysanne sauce with the tenderloins.

peaceable

adj
/ 'pēsəbəl /
L > F > E + Ecf
marked by freedom from war, strife, hostilities, or disorder.
Aggressive doctrines are incompatible with any peaceable administration of the government.

pearlescent

pearly

adj
/ 'pərlē /
L > F > E
having the color of a pearl, which is usually white or light-colored.
"Show me your pearly whites," encouraged the photographer.

peccadillo

n
/ ,pekə'di(,)lə /
L > Sp
a slight offense or petty fault.
The defense lawyers lost the case when they tried to classify high treason as a "minor peccadillo."

peccant

adj
/ 'pekənt /
L
guilty of a moral offense : sinning, corrupt.
The council members railed against the peccant mayor.

peculiar

pecuniary

adj
/ pə'kyünē.erē /
L
taking the form of or consisting of money.
Margaret values her grandmother's engagement ring for its sentimental rather than its pecuniary worth.

pedagogist

n
/ 'pedə.gājəst /
Gk
a specialist in education.
It didn't take a pedagogist to know the school was overcrowded.

pedantic

adj
/ pə'dantik /
L? > It > F + Ecf
excessively meticulous.
Frazier's pedantic approach bored the few remaining audience members.

pedestrian

adj
/ pə'destrēən /
L
marked by drabness or dullness : commonplace.
The critic wrote the play off as a pedestrian imitation of Shakespeare.

pedicure

pedodontist

n
/ ,pedō'däntəst /
Gk
a specialist in the branch of dentistry that is concerned with the dental care of children.
The pedodontist recommends that infants and toddlers not be allowed to fall asleep with a bottle of milk or juice in their mouths.

peekaboo

n
/ 'pēkə.bü /
E + cf + E
a game to entertain an infant or young child in which one hides his or her face and then reappears and makes an exclamation.
The photographer finally managed to elicit a smile from the baby when she started playing peekaboo.

peerless

adj
/ 'pi(ə)rləs /
E
matchless, incomparable.
Randy wondered how he could compete against the peerless defending champion.

peevisly

adv
/ 'pēvəshlē /
E
in a manner marked by ill temper.
"There, you see," he said peevisly; "I'm even afraid to make a positive statement."

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peirastic

adj
/ pīˈrastɪk /
Gk

fitted for trial : experimental.
The new drug has been approved only for peirastic use with patients who volunteer to take it.

pejorative

adj
/ pəˈjɔːrədɪv /
L

having a tendency to make or become worse : depreciatory, disparaging.
The critic's pejorative comments angered the entire cast.

pelagic

pelican

pelisse

n
/ pəˈlɪs /
L > F

[has homonym: police] a woman's loose lightweight cloak with wide collar and fur trimming.
Grandmother's old pelisse was a perfect costume for our production of A Christmas Carol.

pellagra

pellucid

Peloponnesian

adj
/ .peləpəˈnɛzhən /
Gk name + Gk

of or relating to the southern peninsula of Greece.
The Peloponnesian War was between Athens and Sparta.

pemphigoid

penalty

n
/ ˈpenəl̩tē /
L

a disadvantage (as loss of yardage, time, or possession of the ball) imposed for violation of the rules of a contest.
In ice hockey a penalty of two minutes off the ice is frequently given to players who commit minor infractions of the rules.

penance

n
/ ˈpenən(t)s /
L > F > E

[has homonym: pennants] act of self-abasement either voluntarily performed to show sorrow for sin or imposed as a punishment for sin by a church official.
Emma resolved to keep Harriet no longer in the dark and went, the very next day, to undergo the necessary penance of communication.

penchant

n
/ ˈpenʃənt /
L > F

a strong leaning or attraction; broadly : liking.
While traveling overseas, Brad developed a penchant for Turkish coffee.

pencraft

pendeloque

pendulum

n
/ ˈpenjələm /
L

a body suspended from a fixed point so as to swing freely to and fro under the action of gravity and commonly used to regulate the movements of clockwork and other machinery.
Trina stops the grandfather clock's pendulum each evening so that the chimes will not ring during the night.

penguin

penicillin

n
/ .penəˈsɪlən /
L

a mixture of antibiotic relatively nontoxic acids produced especially by molds of the genus *Penicillium*.
When penicillin did not cure Frankie's ear infection, the doctor prescribed a different antibiotic.

peninsula

n
/ pəˈnɪn(t)s(ə)lə /
L

a portion of land nearly surrounded by water and connected with a larger body by an isthmus.
Florida is actually a very large peninsula.

penitence

n
/ ˈpenədən(t)s /
L

sorrow for sins or faults.
Because of Ella's true penitence, her best friend was quick to forgive her for her breach of confidence.

penitentiary

n
/ .penəˈtɛnʃ(ə)rē /
L > E

a public institution in which offenders against the law are confined for detention or for punishment, discipline, and reformation and in which they are generally compelled to labor.
The judge sentenced the bank robber to 25 years in the state penitentiary.

pennant

n
/ ˈpenənt /
L

a flag or banner.
Whenever the queen was in residence, her pennant was raised on the palace flagpole.

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pensive

adj
/ 'pen(t)siv /
L > F > E

absorbed or engrossed in or given to sober thoughtfulness.
Lori appeared pensive on the last day of vacation.

pentathlon

n
/ pen'tath.län /
Gk

a contest in the modern Olympic Games involving participation by each contestant in horseback riding, shooting, fencing, swimming, and running.
Miguel is practicing four hours a day for the upcoming pentathlon.

pentecostys

penumbra

n
/ pə'nəmbɾə /
L

a shadow cast (as in an eclipse) where the light is partly but not wholly cut off by the intervening body.
Bert caused a penumbra on the screen when he walked in front of the slide projector.

penurious

penury

n
/ 'penyərē /
L

scantiness.
Jane cited the penury of intelligent conversation at the children's table as her reason for wanting to sit with the adults in the main dining room.

peony

n
/ 'pēənē /
E

any of a genus of perennial often double-flowered plants with large pink, white, red, or yellow showy flowers.
Ben placed a brightly colored peony in a tall vase.

perambulate

v
/ pə'rambyə.lāt /
L

travel over or through especially on foot.
Sid and Amy often perambulate the park on sunny days.

perceive

perceptible

percipient

percnosome

n
/ 'pərknə.sōm /
Gk

a small body occurring in the androcyte of a fern.
Under the microscope, the dark shape of the percnosome was clearly visible.

percolate

v
/ 'pərkə.lāt /
L

prepare by causing (a liquid) to pass through (as coffee) in order to extract the essence.
Sal did not allow enough time to percolate his coffee before he had to go to work.

percussor

n
/ pə(r)'kəsə(r) /
L

a small hammer with a rubber head used as a diagnostic tool by physicians.
Dr. Goldman tested Paula's reflexes with a percussor.

peregrinate

v
/ 'pɛəgrə.nāt /
L

travel on foot : walk, tour.
Nicki hopes to peregrinate across England in the fall.

peremptory

adj
/ pə'rem(p)t(ə)rē /
L

putting an end to or precluding a right of action, debate, or delay.
Mr. Stone interrupted Cindy's wrong answer by raising his hand in a peremptory gesture.

perennate

v
/ 'pɛrənāt /
L

live over from season to season : persist.
Ornamental banana trees will seldom perennate outdoors north of the subtropics.

perennial

adj
/ pə'renēəl /
L

continuing or lasting through several years—used specifically of a plant that dies back seasonally and produces new growth from a part that lives over from season to season.
The garden is bare of flowers because the perennial plants have been cut down for their winter rest.

perestroika

n
/ (ˌ)pɛrə'strɔɪkə /
Russ

extensive restructuring and reform intended to revitalize the government and economy of the former Soviet Union.
Perestroika was the key that unlocked the former Soviet Union and other Warsaw Pact nations to democratization.

perezone

perfervid

adj
/ ,pɛr'fɛrvəd /
L

extremely or excessively fervent : zealous, impassioned.
In front of the Capitol a man was giving a perfervid speech on the evils of national taxation.

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perfidious

perfidy

perforate

perfume

n
/ 'pɜːfjʊm /
L > OProv > F
a fluid preparation used for scenting : fragrance.
Some theaters designate a fragrance-free seating area for those persons allergic to perfume and scented lotions.

pergelisol

n
/ pɜː'jeləsəl /
L
permanently or perennially frozen ground : permafrost.
Chan's theory is that there are large oil deposits beneath the pergelisol.

Periclean

adj
/ ,pɜːrə'klɛən /
Gk name
of or relating to Pericles or his age when Athens was at its highest material and intellectual state.
Periclean Athens bequeathed the Parthenon and many other monuments of artistic splendor to the world.

perigee

n
/ 'pɜːrə(j)ɪ /
Gk
the point in the orbit of a satellite of Earth that is nearest to the center of Earth.
As the communications satellite neared perigee, its signal became stronger.

perinatal

peripatetic

adj
/ ,pɜːrəpə'tedɪk /
Gk
performed or performing while moving about : itinerant.
Adrian spent an exciting three years as a peripatetic journalist before settling in Chicago.

peripety

n
/ pə'ri:pədə /
Gk > F
a sudden or unexpected reversal of circumstances or situation in a literary work.
The peripety in the last act of the play stunned the audience.

peripheral

adj
/ ,pɜːrɪf(ə)rəl /
Gk
located away from a center or a central portion.
Although Kerry's main interest lies in literature, she has peripheral interests in art history and psychology.

periphery

n
/ pə'rɪf(ə)rɪ /
Gk
the external boundary or surface of any body or area.
Many villages dotted the periphery of the extinct volcano.

periphrasis

n
/ pə'rɪfrəsəs /
Gk
the use of a longer phrasing in place of a possible shorter and plainer form of expression.
Frustrated by the document's endless periphrasis, Ludwig threw up his hands in despair.

perishable

adj
/ 'pɜːrəʃəbəl /
L > F > E + Ecf
subject to quick deterioration or spoilage except under proper conditions (as of temperature or moisture content).
The advent of refrigeration changed the way perishable foods are packaged.

peristalsis

n
/ ,pɜːrə'stɔːlsəs /
Gk
successive waves of involuntary contraction passing along the walls of the intestine and forcing the contents onward.
Disruption of peristalsis can lead to digestion problems.

perjury

n
/ 'pɜːrj(ə)rɪ /
L > AF > E
the voluntary violation of an oath.
One thing is certain after the testimony: Either Mr. Jakes or Mr. Cleveland has committed perjury.

perlustrate

permanence

permeable

permeate

v
/ 'pɜːrmē.ət /
Gk
spread or diffuse through.
Igor wiped up the spill immediately, lest the smell of formaldehyde permeate the room.

pernicious

adj
/ pə(r)'nɪʃəs /
L
highly injurious or destructive : deadly.
The doctors finally eradicated the pernicious infection from the patient's lungs.

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pernoctate

v
/ (i)pər'nɒk.tət /
L

stay up or out all night.
Brian knew he would have to pernoctate at least once in order to finish his term paper.

peroration

n
/ .pə'rəʃən /
L

a flowery, highly rhetorical speech.
Trudy's peroration was lost on her audience at the school board meeting.

perpendicular

perpetual

adj
/ pə(r)'pɛch(əw)əl /
L > F > E

everlasting, eternal.
Shawna expected to enjoy perpetual bliss in heaven.

perplexing

adj
/ pə(r)'pleksɪŋ /
L

that causes an agitated or confused mental condition.
Silvio found English grammar terribly perplexing.

perquisite

n
/ 'pɜrkwəzət /
L

a privilege, gain, or profit incidental to an employment in addition to regular salary or wages.
A perquisite attractive to many business executives is unlimited use of a cellular telephone.

persecute

v
/ 'pɜrsə.kyüt /
L

harass in a manner to injure, grieve, or afflict usually because of some difference of opinion.
The revolutionary extremists vowed to persecute the peasants who would not support their cause.

perseverance

n
/ .pɜrsə'vɪrən(t)s /
L

continued or steadfast pursuit or prosecution of an undertaking or aim.
After much perseverance, Frank induced the most upright female mind in creation to stoop in charity to a secret engagement.

persevere

persevered

v
/ .pɜrsə'vi(ə)rð /
L > F > E

persisted in spite of counter influences, opposition, or discouragement.
Winston persevered at his post in accordance with his duty.

persiflage

n
/ 'pɜrsə.fləʒh /
F

frivolous bantering talk : a frivolous and somewhat derisive manner of treating a subject.
As the teams moved up and down the court, both benches kept up a constant stream of persiflage.

persillade

adj
/ .pɜrsē'äd /
F

dressed with or containing parsley.
Marina's dinner guests enjoyed a flavorful sea bass in a persillade sauce.

persimmon

n
/ pə(r)'sɪmən /
Algonquian

a medium-sized tree of the southern and eastern United States with hard fine-grained wood, oblong leaves, and bell-shaped flowers followed by an orange several-seeded berry that is edible when fully ripe but usually extremely astringent when unripe.
Leroy's mouth puckered when he bit into an unripe persimmon.

personification

personnel

perspicacious

adj
/ .pɜrspə'kæʃəs /
L + Ecf
of acute mental vision or discernment.
The chairman attributed the company's record profits to perspicacious management.

perspicuity

perspiration

persuade

pertinacious

adj
/ .pɜrt'n'æʃəs /
L

stubbornly unshakable.
There was something mysterious in the moody and dogged silence of this pertinacious companion.

pertinent

pertinently

perusal

n
/ .pɜ'rüzəl /
L? > E + E

the action of reading through or over with some attention and typically for the purpose of discovering or noting one or more specific points.
The legal advisor's perusal of the proposed contract identified many points of concern.

peruse

v
/ pɜ'rüz /
L > E

read; specifically : read through or read over with some attention and typically for the purpose of discovering or noting one or more specific points.
Jan plans to peruse several journals in the hope of getting needed material for further research.

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pervasive

adj
/ pə(r)'vāsiv /
L + Ecf

that permeates or tends to permeate.

The turkey farm had a pervasive odor that clung to clothes.

pervicacious

perwitsky

pessimist

n
/ 'pesəməst /
L > F

one inclined to put the least favorable construction on actions and happenings, to emphasize adverse aspects, conditions, and possibilities, or to anticipate the worst possible outcome.

Being a pessimist made keeping friends very difficult for Mark.

pestilence

n
/ 'pestələn(t)s /
L

a contagious or infectious epidemic disease that is virulent and devastating.

Pestilence has historically been one of society's main causes of death.

pestle

n
/ 'pesəl /
L > F > E

a usually club-shaped implement for pounding or grinding substances especially in a mortar.

Grandma bought a brass mortar and pestle from an antique dealer.

petchary

petechia

petrogeny

n
/ pə'trājənē /
Gk + Gk

the science of the origin of rocks.

A vacation trip to the Grand Canyon sparked Lauren's interest in petrogeny.

petrolage

n
/ 'petrəlɪj /
L > F + Ecf

the treatment of stagnant water with mineral oil so as to exterminate mosquitoes.

The health department was advised to use petrolage every spring to eliminate the mosquitoes.

petroleum

petrophilous

adj
/ pə'trəfələs /
Gk

attached to or living on rock; used especially of algae and crustaceans.

Petrophilous barnacles and limpets can be found along rocky shores.

pettifogger

n
/ 'pedē.fägə(r) /
E + G name?

lawyer whose methods are petty, underhanded, or disreputable.

Unlike the pettifogger who hung out his shingle across the street, Mr. Patterson was a gentleman of the law.

petulance

petulant

adj
/ 'pechələnt /
L

characterized by temporary or capricious ill humor : peevish.

The striking ballplayers were characterized as spoiled, petulant, and self-obsessed.

petunia

n
/ pə'tünyə /
L > F

a common garden plant with funnel-shaped flowers of many colors and patterns.

Russell pulled a purple petunia from the flower bed.

phaeton

n
/ 'fäət'n /
Gk > L

[has near homonym: Phaëthon] an open automobile with two cross seats, usually four doors, and a folding top.

Charles almost bought the 1931 Rolls Royce phaeton at the auction.

phalacrosis

n
/ falə'krōsəs /
Gk

baldness.

Phalacrosis is an inherited characteristic.

phalanx

n
/ 'fā.ləŋks /
Gk

a group or body in close formation.

Sarah craned her neck in wonder as the phalanx of military jets flew over in tight formation.

phansigar

pharaoh

n
/ 'fe(,)rō /
Egypt > Heb > Gk > L

a ruler of ancient Egypt.

Tutankhamen is one pharaoh whose name most people recognize.

pharisaical

adj
/ .farəsāəkəl /
Aram > GK > L + E

making an outward show of piety and morality but lacking the inward spirit : hypocritical.

Cardinal Newman spoke of the vast numbers of pharisaical individuals among baptized Christians.

pharmaceutical

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Frequently

pharos

n
/ 'fɑːrəs /
Gk

a lighthouse or beacon to guide seamen.

Leland said the restaurant acted like a pharos for all those at sea off the tip of the island.

pharynx

phase

n
/ 'fɑːz /

Gk
[has homonyms: fays, faze] a homogeneous, physically distinct, and mechanically separable portion of matter that is present in a nonhomogeneous physical-chemical system and that may be either a single compound or a mixture.

Water exists in the solid phase as ice, in the liquid phase as water, and in the gaseous phase as vapor or steam.

pheasant

n
/ 'fezənt /

Gk > L > F > AF > E
any of numerous large, often long-tailed, and brilliantly colored Old World birds with legs adapted for running and scratching the ground where most of their food (as seeds or worms) is found.

After a morning of hunting, Larry returned with a pheasant, two rabbits, and a wild duck.

phenomenon

n
/ fə'ni:mənən /
Gk > L

an observable fact or event.

The civil rights movement began as a startling phenomenon to many complacent Americans.

pheon

pheromone

n
/ 'ferəmōn /
Gk

a chemical substance that is produced by an animal and serves as a specific stimulus to other individuals of the same species for one or more behavioral responses.
When attacked by another beetle, the defensive beetle emitted a repellent pheromone.

phew

phial

philatelist

philately

n
/ fə'lɪdʰɪl /
Gk > F
[has near homonym: flatly] stamp collecting.
Philately can be an excellent inexpensive hobby.

philharmonic

n
/ .filə(r)'mænɪk /
Gk > L > It
a musical concert or musical organization (as a society or orchestra).
The philharmonic celebrated the Fourth of July with a program of patriotic music.

philhellene

n
/ fil'he.lēn /
Gk
an admirer or supporter of Greece or of the Greeks.
After one trip to the museum, Lydia became an instant philhellene.

philippic

philippics

n pl
/ fə'lipɪks /
Gk
declamations full of acrimonious invective : tirades.
The philippics that the two legislators shot back and forth across the chamber roused the lethargic Senate.

philistine

adj
/ 'filəstēn /
Heb > Gk
of, relating to, or characterized by crass materialism and insensitivity to aesthetics.
Nineteenth-century essayists derided the English middle class as being vulgar and philistine.

phillumenist

n
/ fə'lümənəst /
Gk > L + Ecf
one who collects matchbooks or matchbox labels.
The phillumenist kept a fire extinguisher near his prize collection.

philologist

n
/ fə'läləjəst /
Gk
a scholar concerned with human speech as the vehicle of literature and as a field of study that sheds light on cultural history.
Hannah wants to become a philologist and study ancient Russian dialects.

philology

philomath

philosopher

phlebitis

n
/ flə'bɪdəs /
Gk + Lcf
inflammation of a vein.
If phlebitis is not treated early, a blood clot can form in the inflamed vein.

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phlebotomize

phlegm

phlegmatic

adj
/ fleg'madik /
Gk

calm, composed, undemonstrative.
Phlegmatic game-show contestants are usually not as entertaining as those who show excitement.

phloem

n
/ 'flō.em /
Gk > G

a complex tissue in the vascular system of higher plants functioning chiefly in distributing food materials but also in support and storage.
Mr. Cartwright pointed out the xylem and the phloem on the newly cut tree.

phlox

n
/ 'flāks /
Gk > L

any plant of a genus of American herbs having red, purple, white, or variegated flowers.
Dean planted phlox along the sidewalk.

phocine

adj
/ 'fō.sin /
Gk > L + Ecf

of, relating to, or resembling seals.
One of the phocine characteristics is having limbs modified into webbed flippers adapted primarily to swimming.

phoenix

n
/ 'fēniks /
Gk

a legendary bird represented by the ancient Egyptians as living five or six centuries in the Arabian desert, being consumed in fire by its own act, and rising in youthful freshness from its own ashes.
The phoenix is a well-known symbol of immortality.

phonasthenia

n
/ .fōnəs'thēnēə /
Gk

weakness or hoarseness of voice.
After the football game some of the cheerleaders complained of phonasthenia.

phoresy

n
/ 'fōrəsē /
Gk > L

the nonparasitic association of one kind of animal with another in order to obtain transportation.
Feather lice accomplish phoresy by clinging to the body hairs of blood-sucking flies.

phosphoresce

v
/ .fās'fə.res /
Gk > L > F

glow especially in the dark.
Emmet's jigsaw puzzle will phosphoresce after being exposed to a strong light source.

photogenic

photogrammetry

photograph

photophygous

adj
/ fō'täfəgəs /
Gk + Gk + Ecf

preferring or thriving in shade.
Ferns and hostas are photophygous plants often used in gardens.

photosynthesis

n
/ .fōdō'sin(t)thəsəs /
Gk + Gk

synthesis of chemical compounds with the aid of light.
Photosynthesis in plants provides them with necessary carbohydrates.

phraseology

n
/ .frāzē'äləjē /
Gk > L

choice of words : vocabulary.
The candidate's careful phraseology avoided any hint of controversy.

phrasing

n
/ 'frāziŋ /
Gk > L

style of expression : wording.
In writing poetry, phrasing is critically important.

phrenology

n
/ frə'näləjē /
Gk + Gk + Ecf

the study of the conformation of the skull as indicative of mental faculties and traits of character.
Phrenology enjoyed great popular appeal well into the 20th century but has been wholly discredited by scientific research.

phylactery

n
/ fə'lakt(ə)rē /
Gk

either of two small square leather boxes containing slips inscribed with scriptural passages and traditionally worn by Jewish males during morning prayer.
Milton explained that a phylactery is worn as a reminder to keep the laws of Judaism.

phylliform

adj
/ 'filə.förm /
Gk + Ecf

having the shape of a leaf.
Every fall, phylliform silhouettes adorn the windows of Mrs. Gaskin's classroom.

phylloporous

adj
/ fə'läf(ə)rəs /
Gk + Gk

producing leaves : leaf-bearing.
Softwoods come from coniferous trees, while hardwoods come from phylloporous trees.

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phylon

physically

adv
/ 'fizək(ə)lē /

Gk + Ecff
in respect to the body.
It was physically impossible for the campers to hike another mile.

physician

physicist

n
/ 'fizəsəst /

Gk
a specialist in the science of matter and energy and their interactions.
The physicist explained how a laser is used to read what is recorded on a compact disc.

physics

physiognomy

n
/ 'fizē'ä(g)nəmē /

Gk
the technique or art of discovering temperament and character from outward appearance (as from facial features).
The artist's careful study of physiognomy showed up in his brilliant caricatures of politicians.

physique

phytocoenosis

n
/ 'fidōsē'nōsəs /

Gk
the whole body of plants occupying a particular habitat.
William studied the effects of acid rain on the Adirondack phytocoenosis.

phytophilous

adj
/ fī'täfələs /

Gk + Gk + Ecf
living or feeding on plants.
The forest fire deprived many phytophilous animals of their habitat and food.

piacular

adj
/ pi'akyələ(r) /

L
of, relating to, or involving sacrifice : sacrificial.
While visiting the island of Patmos, tourists saw an ancient altar where the Greeks burned piacular offerings to the gods.

pianissimo

piazza

n
/ pē'azə /

L > It
an arcaded and roofed gallery that often surrounds an open court.
The tourists ran to the abandoned monastery's piazza when the rain started pouring down.

pica

n
/ 'pikə /

ML
[has homonym: pika] a size of type equivalent to 12 point.
Part of Katie's proofreading job was to add another line of pica to pages that had enough space.

picaresque

adj
/ 'pikə'resk /

Sp
relating to or being a type of prose fiction in which the principal character is a rogue or vagabond and the narrative is a series of incidents or episodes.
In a typical picaresque novel, the hero has many adventures.

picayune

adj
/ 'pikē'yün /

L > Prov > F
of little value : paltry, measly.
The other players chided the halfback for his picayune contribution to the team.

piccalilli

n
/ 'pikə.lilē /

unknown
a relish of chopped vegetables and pungent spices.
Wanda put a dab of piccalilli in her tuna salad.

piccata

n
/ pə'kädə /

F > It
thin slices of meat (as veal) sautéed and served in a lemon and butter sauce.
Julia served veal piccata and asparagus at Jack's birthday dinner.

piccolo

pickelhaube

n
/ 'pikəl.häubə /

G
[Note: Could be confused with pickelhauben.] a spiked helmet formerly worn by German soldiers.
In the chapter on World War I, the history book included a photo of a German general wearing a silver-plated pickelhaube.

pickle

v
/ 'pikəl /

D? > E
[has homonyms: pickel, picol, picul, pikel, pikol] steep in a solution of salt or vinegar for preservation.
Every year, the Johnsons pickle enough onions to give a jar to everyone in the neighborhood.

picnicking

pictorialism

picturesque

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pidan

n
/ pĕˈdän /
Chinese

[has near homonym: pĭtən] duck eggs preserved in brine to which lime, ashes, and tea are added.
Art's grandmother makes authentic pidan.

piecemeal

adv
/ ˈpiːsmē(ə)l /
Gaulish > L > F > E + E
one piece at a time : little by little.
The magazine published the novel piecemeal for several weeks.

piety

pigeon

n
/ ˈpijən /
L > F > E
[has homonym: pidjɪn] a bird having a stout body with rather short legs and smooth and compact plumage.
A pigeon fluttered about the eaves of the old barn.

pignorate

pilaster

n
/ pəˈlastə(r) /
Gk > L > It > F
an upright architectural member that is structurally a vertical support but architecturally treated as a column that usually partially projects from the wall and may be load-bearing or merely applied as surface decoration.
The architect explained that because the pilaster was merely a decoration, removing it for the room's renovation would be permissible.

pilchard

n
/ ˈpɪlchə(r)d /
unknown
a fish related to the herring and sardine occurring in great schools along the coasts of Europe.
The pilchard is the principal fish used for canning by the French and Portuguese.

pilferage

n
/ ˈpɪlf(ə)rɪj /
F > E
the act of stealing stealthily in small quantities.
Pilferage in stores usually leads to increased prices for the customers.

pilgrimage

n
/ ˈpɪlgrəmiʒ /
L > F > E
a journey to visit a shrine or a holy place as a devotee.
Felipe made a pilgrimage to Santiago last year.

pillar

pillbox

n
/ ˈpɪlbæks /
L + Gk > L > E
a small round brimless hat; specifically : a woman's shallow hat with a flat crown and straight sides.
Margaret wore her blond hair pinned up under a leopard skin pillbox.

pillion

n
/ ˈpɪljən /
ScotGael or IrGael
a motorcycle or bicycle riding saddle for a passenger.
Denny improvised a pillion in order to give LaToya a ride home.

pillory

n
/ ˈpɪləre /
F > E
a device formerly used for the public punishment of wrongdoers that consists of a wooden frame with holes in which the head and hands can be locked.
Pam took a snapshot of Julian standing by a pillory in the reconstructed colonial village.

piloncillo

n
/ ˌpɛlɔnˈsɛ(ˌ)yɔ /
Sp
unrefined sugar especially when molded into cones or sticks.
Rosita grated piloncillo into a bowl of custard.

pinafore

n
/ ˈpinæfɔ(ə)r /
E
a covering garment worn to protect clothes from soil, made variously as an apron with or without a bib.
Mrs. Dobbins wears a canvas pinafore while working in the potting shed.

pinioned

pinnacle

n
/ ˈpɪnəkəl /
L
a lofty mountain peak.
The clouds obscured the pinnacle from the view of those in the valley below.

pinnigrade

adj
/ ˈpɪnəgrād /
L
walking by means of fins or flippers.
The seal and the walrus are pinnigrade animals.

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pinniped

n
/ 'pinə,ped /
L

any of a suborder of aquatic carnivorous mammals (as a seal or walrus) with all four limbs modified into flippers.
Although the pinniped finds its food in the sea, it needs to be on land or ice to give birth to its young.

pinocytosis

pintle

pioneer

adj
/ ,piə'ni(ə)r /
F

of, relating to, or characteristic of early settlers or their time.
Julie worked last summer in a restored pioneer village.

pious

adj
/ 'piəs /
L
devout.

The pious Jewish historian saw in Israel's exile God's punishment for sin.

piquancy

n
/ 'pɛkənsē /
F + Ecf

the quality of being agreeably stimulating to the palate : pleasantly tart.
Colette especially liked the piquancy of Cajun cuisine.

piqued

v
/ pɛkt /
F
[has homonyms: peaked, peeked]
excited or aroused by a provocation, challenge, or rebuff.
The envelope sealed with sealing wax piqued Helen's curiosity.

piracy

n
/ 'piərəsē /
Gk > L

robbery on the high seas.
Charged with piracy, Blackbeard was hunted down by government warships.

pirouette

n
/ ,piərə'wet /
F

a full turn on the toe or ball of one foot in ballet.
The pirouette is one of the most striking movements in a dancer's repertoire.

piscatorial

pistachio

n
/ pə'stəʃiə /
Gk > L > It
the edible green seed of a small tree of southern Europe and Asia
Minor.
Patricia placed a pistachio on each parfait.

piston

n
/ 'pɪstən /
L > It > F
the part of an engine that is forced back and forth inside a cylinder due to combustion.
Kyle learned to identify a piston in the automobile repair class.

pitcher

piteous

adj
/ 'pidɪəs /
E
arousing or deserving pity or compassion.
The piteous kitten stood shivering in the snow.

pitiable

piton

pittance

n
/ 'pitə'n(t)s /
L > F > E
a usually small often barely sufficient portion, amount, or allowance.
Gloria was tired of working long hours for a pittance.

pityriasis

n
/ ,pidə'rɪəsəs /
Gk
one of several skin diseases marked by the formation and peeling of scales.
Uncle Nick's pityriasis prevents him from sleeping well.

pivot

n
/ 'pɪvət /
L > F
a person or thing on or around which something turns or depends : central point.
The pivot of controversy is Roberta's questionable handling of public funds.

pivotally

pizzeria

n
/ ,piətə'rɪə /
L > It + Itcf
An establishment (as a bakery, restaurant, shop) where pizzas are made and sold.
Hank waited tables in the pizzeria on weekends.

pizzicato

adv
/ ,pi:tʃə'kɑd(,) /
It
played by plucking with the fingers.
The score called for the violins to play the passage pizzicato.

placable

placatory

placebo

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placet

n
/ 'plāsət /
L

an expression of approval or vote of assent.

The commander got the placet of the other generals for his coup d'etat.

placidity

n
/ plə'sidədē /
L

the quality or state of being calm or composed.

Not resenting the repeated attention offered to another woman was a degree of placidity which Emma could neither comprehend nor respect.

plagiarism

plagiarize

v
/ 'plājə.rīz /
L + Ecf

present as new and original an idea or product derived from an existing source.

Simon knew that it would be better not to turn in an essay at all than to plagiarize.

plaintiff

n
/ 'plāntəf /
L > F > E

[has near homonym: plaintive] one who commences a personal action or lawsuit to obtain a remedy for an injury to one's rights.

The plaintiff was suing the hospital for negligence because he suffered bacterial infection after surgery.

planetarium

planetary

adj
/ 'planə.tərē /
Gk > L > F > E

global, worldwide.

Deforestation is a planetary concern.

plangi

plantar

planxty

plasticize

platelet

n
/ 'plātlət /
Gk? > L > F > E + Ecf

a minute flattened body.

A blood platelet is a minute protoplasmic disk that plays a role in blood clotting.

platinum

platypus

n
/ 'plədəpəs /
Gk

a small egg-laying aquatic mammal of southern and eastern Australia and Tasmania having a fleshy bill resembling that of a duck, dense blackish brown fur, five-toed webbed feet, and a broad flattened tail.

Cindy has asked for a pet platypus for her birthday.

plaudit

n
/ 'plōdət /
L

strong and openly expressed approval : enthusiastic approbation.

Claudette's report on UFOs was accorded a special plaudit by the professor for its originality.

plauditory

plaustral

playwright

n
/ 'plā.rīt /
E + E

a person who writes a composition arranged for enactment (as by actors on a stage) and intended to portray life or character or to tell a story through the actions and usually dialogue of the enactors.

The playwright based his drama on the struggles between gangs in the ghetto.

pleach

pleiad

n
/ 'plēəd /
Gk > F

[has near homonym: plead] a group of illustrious or brilliant persons or things usually seven in number.

The maestro named a pleiad of pianists who were once his pupils.

plenary

adj
/ 'plənərē /
L

fully attended or constituted : including all entitled to be present.

Because of the important bills to be voted on, the legislature convened a plenary session.

plenilune

n
/ 'plēnəlün /
L > E

the time of full Moon.

Zeke will begin planting after the plenilune.

plenipotentiary

plentiful

adj
/ 'plentəfəl /
L > F > E + Ecf

containing or yielding abundance.

The orange growers are looking forward to a plentiful harvest.

pleonasm

n
/ 'plēə.nəzəm /
Gk

iteration or repetition in speaking or in writing : the use of more words than those necessary to denote mere sense.

Mr. Miller gave the phrase true facts as an example of a pleonasm to be avoided.

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plethora

n
/ 'plɛθərə /
Gk

excess, profusion.
The jury retired to consider the plethora of evidence presented in court.

pleurisy

n
/ 'plɪərəsē /
Gk > L > F > E
inflammation of the membrane lining the chest cavity and enveloping the lungs.
Pleurisy, causing fluid to accumulate in Zachary's chest cavity, further complicated his pneumonia.

pleuston

n
/ 'plɪstən /
Gk
small but macroscopic floating organisms that form mats or layers on or near the surface of a body of water.
The mat of pleuston floating in the swamp consists mostly of green algae.

plexus

n
/ 'pleksəs /
L
an intricately interwoven combination of elements or parts in a cohering structure.
The transportation board carefully mapped out the plexus of commuter paths across the city.

pliant

adj
/ 'plɪənt /
F > E
flexible, workable, lithe.
To make his catcher's mitt more pliant, Gary smeared shaving gel on it and baked it at a low temperature.

plover

n
/ 'plɒvə(r) /
L > F > E
any of numerous shore-inhabiting birds having a short hard-tipped bill and a stout compact build.
Taylor could see that the plover circling over the tennis court had spotted upper plumage.

plucky

adj
/ 'plʌkē /
E + Ecf
having or marked by courage : spirited, brave, resolute.
Henry was plucky enough to get back on his bicycle although he had just fallen for the seventh time.

plumage

n
/ 'plʊmɪj /
L > F > E
the entire clothing of feathers of a bird.
The plumage of the male peacock is more colorful than that of the female.

plumassier

n
/ ,plʊmə'si(ə)r /
F
one who prepares or deals in ornamental plumes or feathers.
The plumassier showed DeeDee a boa that complemented her recital costume perfectly.

plumbeous

adj
/ 'plʌmbēəs /
L
having a dull gray color like that of lead.
The plumbeous core of a so-called "lead pencil" is graphite.

plumber

n
/ 'plʌmə(r) /
L > F > E
one who installs, repairs, and maintains piping, fittings, and fixtures that are involved in the distribution and use of water in a building.
The plumber replaced the lead pipes in the Davidsons' house with copper ones.

plummet

plurality

n
/ plʊ'ralədē /
L
a number of votes cast for a candidate in a contest of more than two candidates that is greater than the number cast for any other candidate but not more than half the total votes cast.
Because all three candidates have strong voter support, the number of votes cast for the winner will probably be a plurality, not a majority.

plutology

n
/ plʊ'täləjē /
Gk + Gk
the scientific study of wealth : theoretical economics.
Jeremy is using his expertise in plutology to study emerging democracies.

pluvioscope

n
/ 'plʊvɪəskɒp /
L + Gk > L
rain gauge.
Johnny ordered a pluvioscope from the scientific catalog.

pneumatic

adj
/ n(y)ü'madɪk /
Gk
[has homonym: neumatic] adapted for holding compressed air : inflated with air.
The development of the pneumatic tire was a major advance for the bicycle.

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pneumatography

poacher

n
/ 'pōchə(r) /
Gmc > F > E
one who kills or takes wild animals (as game or fish) illegally.
The sign at the reservation stated that any poacher would be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

podiatrist

n
/ pə'diətrəst /
Gk
one who practices the care and treatment of the human foot in health and disease.
The podiatrist recommended that Carlita get special inserts for her shoes.

poetaster

n
/ 'pōəd.astə(r) /
L
a writer of worthless or inferior verses.
The poetaster spewed out poem after poem, each worse than the last.

poetic

adj
/ pō'edik /
Gk
of or relating to poets.
Ovid tried to become a lawyer early in life, but his true and natural poetic character would not be suppressed.

pogonip

n
/ 'pägə.nip /
Paiute
a dense winter fog containing frozen particles that is formed in deep mountain valleys of the western United States.
The dense pogonip leaves a sheath of frost crystals on every shrub and blade of grass.

poignant

adj
/ 'pōin(y)ənt /
L > F > E
painfully sharp with regard to the feelings : piercing, keen.
Emma's distress was not poignant enough to keep her from falling asleep, and she awoke feeling somewhat more hopeful.

poinciana

n
/ .pōin(t)sē'anə /
F name + Lcf
an ornamental tropical tree or shrub having bright orange or red flowers.
While in southern Florida, Jake was impressed by the fiery flowers of the poinciana.

poinsettia

n
/ 'pōin'sedēə /
American name
a showy Mexican and South American plant with tapering scarlet petallike leaves that surround small yellow flowers.
The delivery woman brought a poinsettia to Karen's door.

poise

poised

adj
/ 'pōizd /
L > F > E + Ecf
marked by easy composure of manner or bearing.
The poised skater performed her routine with great precision and self-assurance.

poisonous

adj
/ 'pōiz(ə)nəs /
L > F > E + Ecf
having the qualities or effects of a toxin.
The mushrooms looked and tasted great but were devastatingly poisonous.

polarize

v
/ 'pōlə.rīz /
L > F
cause (as light waves) to vibrate in a definite pattern.
Sunglasses that polarize light reflected off water help the wearer see into the water.

polder

n
/ 'pōldə(r) /
Gk
a tract of low land reclaimed from the sea or other body of water.
Leanne and Amy scoured the polder for fossils.

polemic

adj
/ pə'lemik /
Gk
of, relating to, or of the nature of a controversial discussion or argument.
Try as he might, Rupert could not prevent the conversation from turning into a polemic debate.

polemology

n
/ (.)pōlə'mäləjē /
Gk + Gk > E
the study of war.
In polemology, military and naval strategies are studied and discussed.

polemoscope

n
/ pō'lemə.skōp /
Gk
an opera or field glass with an oblique mirror arranged for seeing objects not directly before the eye.
The detective used a polemoscope to observe the suspect unobtrusively.

policize

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Frequently

poliomyelitis

n
/ ˌpɒliˈeɪ.mi.əˈliːdɪs /
Gk
an acute infectious viral disease characterized by fever, motor paralysis, and atrophy of skeletal muscles often with permanent disability and deformity.
Up to about 40 years ago, poliomyelitis often meant a lifetime on crutches or in an iron lung.

poliosis

n
/ ˌpɒliˈɔːsɪs /
Gk
loss of color from the hair.
One of the effects of the disease was poliosis.

politesse

n
/ ˌpɒləˈtes /
L > F
formal and cultivated politeness.
The ambassador greatly enjoyed the diplomatic world of pomp and politesse.

polka

n
/ ˈpɒlkə /
Pol > Czech
a lively Bohemian dance in fast duple time that consists of three steps and a hop.
Gwen taught her dance students the polka.

pollen

n
/ ˈpɒlən /
L
the fine, dustlike mass of grains produced by seed plants.
Many hay fever sufferers are bothered by ragweed pollen.

pollutant

n
/ pəˈlʊtənt /
L
any substance that makes the air or water impure or unclean.
Ethylene gas is a pollutant associated with industrial manufacturing and automobile exhaust.

pollute

polonaise

n
/ ˌpɒləˈnɑːz /
L geog name > Pol > F
a stately Polish processional dance fashionable in 19th-century Europe.
Chopin wrote many compositions based on the rhythm of the polonaise.

poltergeist

n
/ ˈpɒltə(r)ˌɡɪst /
G
a noisy and usually mischievous ghost.
Our favorite Halloween story is about a poltergeist who tormented the tenants of a house in which there had previously been a murder.

poltroon

poltroonery

n
/ pɒlˈtrʊn(ə)rē /
L > It > F
cowardice.
The historian said that poltroonery among politicians in an election year is not uncommon.

polychrest

polychromatic

adj
/ ˌpɒləˈkrɒˈmædɪk /
Gk
showing a variety or a change of colors : multicolored.
It is not unusual for people to drive by Sarah's house simply to admire its polychromatic brickwork.

polydactyly

n
/ ˌpɒləˈdaktəlē /
Gk + Gk
the condition of having more than the normal number of toes or fingers.
The Ernest Hemingway Home and Museum on Key West is home to approximately 60 cats, about half of which exhibit polydactyly.

polyester

n
/ ˈpɒliˌestər /
Gk
a synthetic fiber consisting wholly or chiefly of a complex ester formed by polymerization.
Bridget bought the loudest polyester jacket she could find at the thrift store to wear on Halloween.

polygamous

polyglot

adj
/ ˈpɒliˌɡlɒt /
Gk
containing matter in several languages; especially : composed of correlative text in several languages often arranged in parallel columns.
Products sold in electronics stores often have polyglot instructions.

polygonal

adj
/ pəˈlɪɡənəl /
Gk
having many sides.
Mr. Ewing taught his math class how to find the areas of polygonal figures.

polyphagism

n
/ pəˈlɪfəˌdʒɪzəm /
Gk
the habit of feeding on a variety of plants or animals.
By feeding various kinds of foods to the insects, the researcher could discover which ones exhibited polyphagism.

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polysaccharide

n
/ ˌpɑlᵊˈsɑkəˌrɪd /

Gk

a carbohydrate that can be decomposed by hydrolysis into two or more molecules of monosaccharides or their derivatives; especially : one of the more complex carbohydrates (as starch or cellulose).

Cellulose is the polysaccharide providing the chief constituent of the framework of plants.

polysemous

adj
/ ˌpɑlᵊˈsɛməs /

Gk + Gk

having many meanings.

Puns are based on the humorous use of polysemous words.

polysyllabic

adj
/ ˌpɑlᵊsəˈlɑbɪk /

Gk > L + Ecf

having three or usually four or more units of spoken language.

Martha often uses polysyllabic words to impress her teachers.

pomaceous

pomade

n
/ pəˈmɑd /

L > It > F

a perfumed ointment.

Mr. Underwood was partial to sweet-smelling pomade.

pomander

n
/ pɒˈmɑndə(r) /

L > F > E

a mixture of perfumed or aromatic substances usually made in a ball and enclosed in a perforated bag or box.

Gayle included a pomander in the chest containing her winter clothes.

pomegranate

n
/ ˈpɑm(ə)ˌɡrɑnət /

L > F > E + L

a thick-skinned several-celled reddish berry that is about the size of an orange and has many seeds in a crimson acid pulp.

The bright red splotches on Julia's hands testified to her having eaten a pomegranate.

pomological

adj
/ ˌpɒmɒˈlɑjəkəl /

Gk > L

of or relating to the science of the cultivation of fruits.

Certainly in the pomological sense, one bad apple eventually spoils the whole bunch.

pompadour

n
/ ˈpɑmpəˌdɔ(ə)r /

F name

a man's style of hairdressing in which the hair is combed back so as to stand up straight.

Chuck spent an hour in front of the mirror preening his pompadour.

pompous

ponderous

adj
/ ˈpɑnd(ə)rəs /

L > F > E

unwieldy or clumsy because of weight and size.

Roy could barely lift the ponderous ancient weapon.

pontificalibus

pontificate

v
/ pɑnˈtɪfəkət /

L

deliver oracular utterances or dogmatic opinions.

Randy proceeded to pontificate for five minutes on the dangers of listening to loud music.

populous

porcelain

n
/ ˈpɔrs(ə)læn /

L > It > F

[has near homonym: purslane] a hard, fine-grained, white ceramic ware that has a hard paste body, is fired at a high temperature, and is used especially for table and ornamental wares.

Many old houses have doorknobs made of porcelain.

porcine

porcinely

adv
/ ˈpɔr.sɪnli /

L + Ecf

swinishly.

In Wanda's opinion, Bart treated his hosts porcinely.

porcupine

n
/ ˈpɔrkyəˌpɪn /

L > It > F > E

any of various relatively large rodents having stiff sharp erect bristles mingled with the hair.

The yelping dog's snout was covered with quills from a porcupine.

porphyry

n
/ ˈpɔ(r)fərə /

Gk > L

an Egyptian rock consisting of feldspar crystals embedded in a dark red or purple groundmass much used by the ancient Romans.

At the archaeological dig Carlo unearthed a broken urn made of porphyry.

porpoise

n
/ ˈpɔrpəs /

L > F > E

a small, friendly whale with teeth and a short, rounded snout and that somewhat resembles a dolphin.

Miles saw a porpoise at the aquarium.

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porraceous

adj
/ pŏ'rāshəs /
L

having the clear light green color of leek leaves.

The deep green of the kitchen countertops seemed to tint the walls a porraceous color.

porridge

n
/ 'pŏrij /
F > E

a soft food made by boiling grains or legumes in milk or water until thick.

The campers were extremely hungry, and each consumed a large bowl of porridge.

porringer

portcullis

n
/ pŏrt'kələs /
F > E

a large grating of iron bars or heavy timbers suspended by chains over the gateway of a fortified place and lowered between grooves to prevent passage.

The guard quickly lowered the portcullis after the king and his knights had passed through the gate.

portentous

adj
/ .pŏr'tentəs /
L

of, relating to, or constituting something that foreshadows a coming event : ominous.

Oliver's dream proved portentous.

portiere

portmanteau

n
/ pŏrt'mant(,)ŏ /
L > F

a large traveling bag.

The clown removed an enormous pumpkin from his portmanteau.

portraiture

portrayal

n
/ pŏr'trā(ə)l /
L > F > E

the act of representing something in a drawing or painting.

Vincent used witnesses' descriptions in his portrayal of the criminal.

posology

n
/ pŏ'säləjē /
Gk

a branch of medical science concerned with dosage.

Derek took several classes in posology for his pharmacy degree.

posse

n
/ 'päsē /
L

a detachment or body (as of police) often assigned to or brought together because of a particular emergency.

Noah's favorite part of westerns is when the marshal and his posse corner the bandit.

possessed

v
/ pə'zest /
L

influenced or controlled by something (as an evil spirit or a passion).

During the race the winning horse ran as if he were possessed by a demon.

possessor

posset

v
/ 'päsət /
E

[has near homonym: posit] pamper with delicacies.

Aunt Mimi expects everyone to posset Pedro, her chihuahua.

postcibal

adj
/ pŏs(t)'sibəl /
L

occurring after a meal.

George and Harriet hired a vocalist for the banquet's postcibal entertainment.

posterity

n
/ pä'sterədē /
L > F > E

all succeeding generations : future time.

The seventh grade class put together a time capsule for posterity.

postern

n
/ 'pŏstə(r)n /
L > F > E

a back door or gate.

The thief escaped through the postern without being detected.

posthumous

adj
/ 'päschəməs /
L

published after the death of the author.

Ironically, the novelist's posthumous works were his most popular.

postprandial

adj
/ .pŏs(t)'prandēəl /
L > E

of, relating to, or occurring in the period after a meal.

After the huge dinner, George and Barbara decided to take a leisurely postprandial walk.

posttension

v
/ pŏs(t)'tenchən /
L + L

apply stress to (reinforcing steel) after concrete has set.

The construction crew will posttension the steel in the columns.

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postulate

n
/ 'päsçhəlät /
L

an underlying hypothesis or assumption.

Most cosmologists base their work upon the postulate of the Big Bang.

posture

n
/ 'päsçhə(r) /
L

characteristic position or bearing of the body.

A dancer's posture is as important in ballroom dancing as it is in ballet.

potable

adj
/ 'pōdəbəl /
L

suitable, safe, or prepared for drinking.

Chemicals are often added to water supplies to make them potable.

potamology

potassium

n
/ pə'tasēəm /
L

an element of the alkali metal group.

Bananas and potatoes are good dietary sources of potassium.

potatoes

n pl
/ pə'tādōz /
Taino > Sp

the edible starchy tubers of plants of the genus Solanum and species tuberosum.

For dinner Harry made roast beef and baked potatoes.

potentate

n
/ 'pōtən.tāt /
L

one who possesses great power or sway : ruler.

Barry acts more like a potentate than a leader in his role as class president.

potpourri

n
/ ,pōpərə /
F

a jar of flower petals mixed with spices and used for scent or perfume.

Stella kept a potpourri on her kitchen windowsill.

poultice

n
/ 'pōltàs /
L

a soft mass usually heated and spread on cloth for application to inflamed areas to supply moist warmth, relieve pain, or act as a counterirritant.

Aunt Julia's remedy for rashes or skin problems of any sort is a mustard poultice.

poultry

pourboire

n
/ pürb'wär /
L > F

a tip or gratuity.

When he checked out of the hotel, Jonathan left a pourboire for the chambermaid.

pourparler

poussette

v
/ pü'set /
F

swing in a semicircle hands joined with one's partner.

The caller instructed the couples to poussette before changing partners.

poussin

n
/ pü'saⁿ /
L > F

a young chicken of about one pound weight for table use : a small broiler.

Celeste was not sure how to season and cook a poussin, so she consulted a cookbook by Julia Child.

praline

n
/ 'prä.lēn /
F name

a round patty of creamy brown sugar containing pecan meats.

The praline is a favorite candy of the southern United States.

precaution

precautionary

adj
/ prē'kōshən.ērē /
L

advising, suggesting, or using caution beforehand.

Vaccinating children against polio is a wise precautionary measure.

precedent

n
/ 'presədənt /
L

something done or said that may serve as an example or rule to authorize or justify a subsequent act of the same or an analogous kind.

As far as Sasha knew, the decision to allow a girl to play on the football team was without precedent.

precept

n
/ 'prē.sept /
L

a command or principle intended as a general rule of action.

Mark owes his success to the precept that it never hurts to ask a question.

precibal

adj
/ prē'sībəl /
L

occurring before meals.

The host graciously proposed a precibal toast to the guest of honor.

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precinct

n
/ 'prɛːsɪŋ(k)t /
L > E

a part of a territory (as a city) having definite bounds or functions and often established for administrative purposes.

In this precinct voters cast their ballots at the middle school.

preciosity

precipice

n
/ 'presəpəs /
L

a very steep, perpendicular, or overhanging place (as the face of a cliff).

Just looking down from the precipice made Gloria dizzy.

precipitately

precisionist

precocious

precocity

n
/ prɛː'kəsədə /
L

exceptionally early or premature development; especially : early development of the mental powers.

The precocity of five-year-old Stella becomes evident after just a few minutes of talking with her.

preconceive

precursor

n
/ prɛː'kɜrsər /
L

one that precedes another in an office or process : forerunner.
Greek geometry was the precursor to modern calculus.

precursory

predator

n
/ 'predədə(r) /
L

an animal that preys on or devours other animals for its food.

An insect may be of value because it is a predator on another insect that is a pest to humans.

predecessor

n
/ 'predəsəsə(r) /
L

one who comes before in order of time; especially : a person who has previously occupied a position or office to which another has succeeded.

The employees are hoping that the new CEO is more labor-friendly than his predecessor.

predestine

predilection

n
/ .prɛd'lekshən /
L

inclination, liking, preference.

Maira has a predilection for bittersweet chocolate.

preeminent

adj
/ .prɛ'ɛmənənt /
L

having paramount rank, dignity, or importance : first, outstanding, supreme.

The attorney introduced her expert witness as the preeminent researcher in his field.

preen

v
/ 'prɛn /
E

trim or dress with or as if with the beak or the tongue.

Kitty liked to sit and preen herself in the afternoon sun.

prefatorily

preferential

prejudicial

adj
/ .prɛjə'dishəl /
L > E

leading to premature judgment or unwarranted opinion.

The jury was sequestered in order to prevent exposure to any prejudicial material.

preliminary

n
/ prɛ'limənərɛ /
L

something introductory or preparatory.

As a preliminary to a video there is usually a warning regarding its use.

premeditation

n
/ prɛː.mədə'tāshən /
L

consideration or planning of an act beforehand that shows intent to commit that act.

The prosecutor's position is that the accused killer acted with premeditation and thus should be charged with first-degree murder.

premonition

n
/ .prɛmə'nɪshən /
L

anticipation of an event without conscious reason.

Yolanda had a premonition that she would win the lottery.

prepollent

preposterous

prerogative

n
/ prɛː'rägədɪv /
L

a special right or privilege belonging to a person, group, or class of individuals.

It is the prerogative of the president of the United States to have Air Force One at his disposal.

presage

presbyter

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prescience

n
/ 'prēsh(ē)ən(t)s /
L
the human faculty or quality of being able to anticipate the occurrence or nature of future events : foresight.
In 1955 the city authorities had the prescience to set aside land for a future park site.

prescient

adj
/ 'prēsh(ē)ənt /
L
having foreknowledge : characterized by foresight.
Carrie seemed unusually prescient as she sat smugly under her umbrella on what was once a clear afternoon.

presentient

adj
/ prē'senchənt /
L
apprehensive in advance : feeling or perceiving beforehand.
Kate was presentient of her lost dog's return.

prestidigitation

prestidigitator

n
/ ,prestə'dijj.tādə(r) /
L&F&It
a performer of sleight of hand.
The prestidigitator mystified the children by making cards appear and disappear.

presumably

adv
/ prē'z(y)üməblē /
L
by reasonable assumption : probably.
Mrs. Janko is presumably going to the Christmas party this year.

presume

v
/ prē'z(y)üm /
L&F > E
accept as true or credible without proof.
If it rains that day, Nancy will presume that our tennis game will be postponed.

pretentious

adj
/ prē'tenchəs /
L > F
making or possessing claims (as of excellence, superiority, greatness).
The pretentious candidate found little support among the common people.

preterition

n
/ ,predə'rishən /
L
the act or an instance of passing by or over without mention, notice, or attention.
"I won't even mention his lesser crimes," cried the orator in preterition.

prevalent

prevaricate

v
/ prē'varəkāt /
L
deviate from the truth : speak equivocally or evasively : lie.
Emmy tends to prevaricate whenever the teacher questions her behavior.

priest

n
/ 'prēst /
Gk > L > E
one who performs sacrificial, ritualistic, mediatorial, interpretative, or ministerial functions especially as an authorized or ordained religious functionary or official minister of a particular religion.
A Greek Orthodox priest, unlike a Catholic priest, is allowed to be married.

primavera

primitive

adj
/ 'primədɪv /
L
of or relating to the earliest age or period of something.
Primitive humans fashioned tools from rocks.

primordial

adj
/ prɪ'mò(r)dēəl /
L
existing at or from the beginning : first created or developed : earliest, primeval.
Blake's story depicted a creature emerging from the primordial ooze.

principal

adj
/ 'prin(t)səpəl /
L
[has homonym: principle] most important, consequential, or influential.
The map showed principal roads, towns and cities, and locations of historic sites.

pristine

adj
/ 'prɪstēn /
L
belonging to the earliest period or state.
The antique chest was in pristine condition.

private

privilege

n
/ 'prɪv(ə)lɪj /
L
a peculiar or personal advantage or right.
Mr. Neng grants his neighbors the privilege of fishing in his pond.

proaulion

n
/ prō'olēən /
Gk
a portico or colonnade that opens into the narthex of a church or temple.
Pine garlands adorned the proaulion.

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proboscis

n
/ prŏ'bäsəs /
Gk > L
the flexible conspicuously long snout of some animals; especially : the trunk of an elephant.
An elephant's proboscis can support great weight.

probouleitic

procedure

n
/ prə'sējər /
L > F > E
a particular way of doing or of going about the accomplishment of something.
Even though he carefully followed all the steps in the procedure, Jack still couldn't retrieve his messages.

proceed

procellous

adj
/ prŏ'seləs /
L
stormy.
There are many dangers for a small boat on a procellous sea.

proclivity

n
/ prŏ'klivədə /
L
an inclination or predisposition toward something.
After spending a couple of days in Las Vegas, Conan decided he had no proclivity for gambling.

procrustean

adj
/ prŏ'krəstēən /
Gk name > L
marked by complete disregard of individual differences and by violent forcing into conformity with something.
The principal's procrustean attitude left no room for a student government at the school.

proctor

procumbent

procurable

prodigal

adj
/ 'prädəgəl /
L + Ecf
given to reckless extravagance.
Victor has written a memoir of his prodigal youth in Europe.

prodigious

adj
/ prə'dijəs /
L
extraordinary in bulk, extent, quantity, or degree : enormous, immense.
The public works crews were complimented for coping with this year's prodigious job of snow plowing.

producible

proem

n
/ 'prŏ'em /
Gk > L > F > E
a preliminary discourse to a longer piece of writing.
The excited scholar was sure he had found a previously unknown proem to Plato's Republic.

profane

v
/ prŏ'fān /
L
treat as not sacred : desecrate.
Michael was told sternly not to profane the holy water font by throwing pennies in it.

profiterole

profligacy

n
/ 'präfləgəsē /
L
reckless wastefulness and extravagance.
Arno's profligacy during his sophomore year caused him to forfeit his scholarship.

profuse

adj
/ prə'fyüs /
L
overly plentiful : bountiful.
Buttons on the entertainer's suit were so profuse that not another one could be placed anywhere.

progenitor

n
/ prŏ'jenədə(r) /
L
an ancestor in the direct line : forefather.
Tad assumed his unusual height was inherited from a particularly tall progenitor.

progeny

prognosis

n
/ präg'nŏsəs /
Gk
the act or art of foretelling the course of a disease.
Although the patient's surgery was tough and go, Dr. Symm's prognosis was for complete recovery.

prognostication

prognosticator

n
/ (,)präg'nästəkādə(r) /
L
one that forecasts from signs or indications.
The local prognosticator predicted a balmy spring weekend.

prolegomenon

n
/ ,prŏlə'gämənən /
Gk
a reading or group of readings or intellectual exercises leading to further understanding, development, or advance in knowledge or technique in a subject matter field.
Dr. Taylor's course in art history constituted a carefully planned prolegomenon for students who would be choosing art as their major.

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proletarian

adj
/ ˌprɒləˈteriən /
L

of, relating to, or representative of the lowest social or economic class of a community.

Gina's proletarian background proved to be an asset in her campaign for mayor.

proliferation

prolific

adj
/ prəˈlifɪk /
L > F

occurring or existing in large numbers : abundant, profuse.

The article's prolific footnotes hampered rather than aided Tina's comprehension.

prolix

adj
/ ˈprɒˌliks /
L

given to verbosity and diffuseness in speaking or writing : long-winded.

Quentin's prolix style was not well suited to a short-answer exam.

prolonger

n
/ prəˈlɒŋə(r) /
L > E

one who lengthens in time, extends in duration, or draws out.

Dr. Murphy kept his remarks short because he did not want to be the prolonger of the meeting.

prolusionary

promenade

n
/ ˌpräməˈnād /
L > F

a leisurely walk or ride especially in a public place for pleasure, display, or exercise.

After the meeting Gilda and Jaime took a promenade down Main Street.

prominent

promontory

n
/ ˈprämən.tɔri /
L

a high point of land projecting into a body of water.

The architect designed a home that blended in with the rocky promontory.

promulgate

v
/ ˈpräməl.gāt /
L

make known (as a decree, a dogma) by open declaration : proclaim.

The high school principal attempted to promulgate the attendance policy many times, but the seniors mostly ignored him.

pronounceable

adj
/ prəˈnaʊn(t)səbəl /
L > F > E + Ecf
capable of being pronounced.
A word that Dr. Cameron finds easily pronounceable could tie your tongue into knots.

propaedeutic

adj
/ ˌprɒpēˈd(y)üdɪk /
Gk
needed as preparation for learning or study.
Reading is a propaedeutic skill.

propaganda

n
/ ˌpræpəˈgændə /
L
dissemination of ideas, information, or rumor for the purpose of helping or injuring an institution, a cause, or a person.
In 1941 President Roosevelt warned that the democratic way of life was being assailed by secret spreading of poisonous propaganda.

propagate

v
/ ˈpræpə.gāt /
L

cause to spread out and affect a greater number or greater area : foster the spread of.

Chris uses e-mail to propagate news among his friends.

propensity

n
/ prəˈpen(t)sədē /
L

a natural inclination.

Most cats have a propensity to be curious.

propinquity

n
/ prəˈpɪŋkwədē /
L

nearness in place : proximity.

The roots of the trees in close propinquity to the new sidewalk will soon ruin it.

propitiate

propitious

adj
/ prəˈpɪʃəs /
L > E
being of good omen : auspicious, encouraging, favorable.
Ray's perfect score on his science test was a propitious start for the new school year.

propolis

n
/ ˈpræpələs /
Gk > L
a brownish resinous material of waxy consistency collected by bees from the buds of trees and used as a cement.
A honeycomb is constructed from beeswax and propolis.

proportion

n
/ prəˈpɔrʃən /
L

relative size or portion.

The proportion of local, domestic, and foreign news varies considerably on television.

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proposition

n
/ ˌprɑːpəˈzɪʃən /
L
a project, plan, undertaking, or situation requiring some action.
The highway superintendent presented his proposition for spring street repair to the mayor.

proprietor

propulsion

prorogue

v
/ prəˈrɒɡ /
L > F
defer, postpone.
Parliament decided to prorogue discussion of the bill until after the election.

prosaical

adj
/ prəˈzɑːkəl /
L
of, relating to, or written in the ordinary language of speaking and writing.
Jonathan's Veteran's Day poem was more memorable than the major's 20-minute prosaical speech.

prosateur

n
/ ˌprɒzəˈtɜː /
L > It > F
a writer of prose.
Scott's fountain pen belonged to a famous prosateur of the 19th century.

proscenium

n
/ prəˈsɛnɪəm /
Gk
the wall that separates the stage from the auditorium in a modern theater.
An apron stage juts out from the proscenium.

prosciutto

n
/ prəˈʃiːtʃuː /
L > It
dry-cured spiced ham.
Melon slices wrapped in prosciutto make a classic appetizer.

proselyte

n
/ ˈprɒsəˌlɪt /
Gk > L
one who has been converted from one religious faith to another.
Edith Stein, canonized in 1998 as Saint Teresa Benedicta of the Cross, was a proselyte to Catholicism.

proselyting

v
/ ˈprɒsəˌlɪtɪŋ /
Gk
recruiting members for an institution, team, or group especially by the offer of special inducements.
Though it does not engage in proselyting, the college usually turns out fine basketball teams.

prosody

n
/ ˈprɒsəˌdi /
Gk
the study of versification.
The prosody of Horace's first ten odes was Humbert's downfall on the exam.

prospectus

n
/ prəˈspektəs /
L
a preliminary printed statement describing a business or other enterprise and distributed to potential buyers, investors, or participants.
According to the prospectus, the scooter market increased threefold in the last year.

prospicience

n
/ prəˈspɪʃən(t)s /
L
the act of looking forward : foresight.
Qualities associated with leadership usually include prospicience.

protagonist

n
/ prəˈtɑːɡənɪst /
Gk
one who takes the leading part in a drama.
The protagonist was portrayed with his faults as well as his virtues.

protean

adj
/ ˈprəʊˌdiːən /
Gk name
[has near homonym: protein]
readily assuming different shapes or forms.
An amoeba is a protean organism.

protocol

n
/ ˈprɒtəˌkɒl /
Gk + Gk
a rigid long-established code prescribing complete deference to superior rank and strict adherence to due order of precedence and precisely correct procedure.
Lieutenant Griffin was censured for violating protocol after he got up in the middle of the meal without excusing himself.

protuberant

provenance

n
/ ˈprəʊvənən(t)s /
L
place of origin.
The lecturer maintained that Africa was the provenance of all human life.

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Frequently

provincial

adj
/ prə'vɪnchəl /
L

exhibiting the ways and manners of a province or rural district : unsophisticated.

Katie's open midwestern friendliness was labeled "provincial" by the snooty big city dwellers.

proviso

n
/ prə'vɪ(ɪ)zō /
L

an article or clause (as in a statute, contract, or grant) that introduces a condition, qualification, or limitation and usually begins with the word provided.

The grant's proviso was that the money would be awarded only if the student maintained an A average in his studies.

provost

n
/ 'prɒ.vɒst /
L > E

a high-ranking administrative officer of an American university.

Professor Myers met with the provost to discuss the new curriculum.

prowess

n
/ 'praʊəs /
F > E

distinguished bravery : gallantry.

The knight's prowess on the battlefield was surpassed only by the king's.

proximity

n
/ præk'sɪmədē /
L > F

the quality or state of being close.

The Fletchers bought the house on Vine Street because of its proximity to neighborhood schools.

prudent

prytanis

psalmody

n
/ 'sɑ(l)mədē /
Gk

the act, practice, or art of singing sacred songs in worship.

Although the New England Puritans did away with church organs and instruments, they kept their psalmody.

psilanthropy

n
/ sɪ'lan(t)θrəpē /
Gk + Gk

a doctrine of the merely human existence of Christ.

A well-known subscriber to psilanthropy was Thomas Jefferson, who regarded Jesus as a great moral teacher but not as a divine being.

psilosis

n
/ sɪ'lɒsəs /
Gk

a falling out of hair.

Jerome's psilosis was a side effect of chemotherapy.

psoriasis

psyche

n
/ 'sɪ(ɪ)kē /
Gk

soul, self, personality.

Brianna loves music so much that she considers it part of her psyche.

psychedelic

adj
/ 'sɪkə'delɪk /
Gk + Gk

very bright in color.

Kate showed Mary a psychedelic Peter Max poster she had saved as a memento of the '60s.

psychiatry

n
/ sə'kɪətrē /
Gk + L

a branch of medicine that deals with the science of treating mental, emotional, or behavioral disorders.

The concept of multiple personalities is of special interest to Helen, who plans to pursue a career in psychiatry.

psychological

psychomachy

n
/ sɪ'käməkē /
Gk > L

a conflict of the soul (as with the body or between good and evil).

Countless novels have as their theme the psychomachy within the hero as he struggles to do right.

psychrometer

n
/ sɪ'krämədə(r) /
Gk + Gk

a hygrometer whose operation depends on two similar thermometers with the bulb of one being kept wet so that it is cooled as a result of evaporation and shows a temperature lower than that of the dry-bulb thermometer.
Greg built a crude psychrometer out of two old thermometers and some cotton gauze.

psychrophilic

adj
/ 'sɪkrə'fɪlɪk /
Gk

thriving at a relatively low temperature.

The psychrophilic bacteria died when the refrigerator's compressor failed.

ptarmic

n
/ 'tärmɪk /
Gk > L

a substance that causes sneezing.

Andrea is extremely allergic to dust, an everpresent ptarmic difficult for her to avoid.

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ptarmigan

n
/ 'tärmáɡən /
ScotGael
any of various grouses of northern regions having completely feathered feet.
"Why did the ptarmigan cross the road?" asked Martha.

pteridology

pterodactyl

n
/ .terə'daktəl /
Gk
any of numerous extinct flying reptiles having a featherless wing membrane and a rudimentary tail.
The museum's dinosaur exhibit includes a mechanical replica of a pterodactyl.

ptomaine

n
/ 'tō.mān /
Gk > It
any of various organic bases some of which are poisonous and which are formed by the action of putrefactive bacteria on nitrogenous matter.
About three hours after he had eaten, Dunstan realized that his lunch had been tainted with ptomaine.

ptosis

n
/ 'tōsəs /
Gk
[has near homonym: tussis] a sagging or prolapse of an organ or part; specifically : drooping of the upper eyelid.
The film star had a clear case of ptosis.

publication

puce

pucellas

n pl
/ pyə'seləs /
It
a spring tool resembling tongs and used for shaping molten glass.
With the pucellas the glassblower grasped the lip of the vase and turned it over in a graceful curve.

puchero

n
/ pü'che.rō /
L > Sp
a Latin American boiled dinner or stew containing beef, sausage, bacon, and various vegetables.
Olivia sampled puchero at an Argentine restaurant.

puerile

adj
/ 'pyú(ə)rəl /
L
childish or immature.
Mrs. Yolton was not impressed by Tommy's puerile behavior.

puerilely

adv
/ 'pyú(ə)rəl(l)ē /
L + Ecf
[Note: Could be confused with purely.] in an immature or childish manner.
Hunter reacted puerilely when his mother told him it was time for bed.

pugilist

n
/ 'pyüjələst /
L + E
a professional boxer.
Years as a pugilist took their toll on Leo's coordination.

pugilistic

pugnacious

adj
/ pəɡ'nāshəs /
L
having a quarrelsome or belligerent nature.
Bushpigs are pugnacious enough to put up a fight against a leopard.

puissance

puissant

adj
/ 'pyüəs'nt /
F
strong, powerful.
Enduring Adria's piano practice called on all of her mother's puissant patience.

pulchritude

pullulate

v
/ 'pəlyələt /
L
swarm, teem.
At rush hour the train station began to pullulate with activity.

pulmonary

adj
/ 'pūlmə.nerē /
L
of, relating to, or associated with the lungs.
Uncle Rob's pulmonary disease requires that he breathe pure oxygen at all times.

pulsatile

adj
/ 'pəlsəd'l /
L
beating, throbbing.
The heart is a pulsatile muscular organ that maintains the flow of blood.

pultaceous

adj
/ .pəl'tāshəs /
L + Ecf
having a consistency like that of porridge.
Serena dislikes rice pudding because of its pultaceous consistency.

pulverize

pulverulent

adj
/ pəl'veryələnt /
L
consisting of or reducible to fine powder.
Chalk is a pulverulent deposit of calcium carbonate.

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Frequently

pumice

n
/ 'pʊməs /
L

[has homonyms: pomace and pumace] hardened volcanic froth.
Ground pumice is sometimes used as an abrasive ingredient in soap.

pumpernickel

n
/ 'pʌmpə(r).nikəl /
G

a sourdough bread made with rye and wheat flours.
Sam's favorite sandwich is ham and Swiss on pumpernickel.

punchinello

punctilious

adj
/ ,pʌŋ(k)'tɪliəs /
L

marked by precise exact accordance with the details of codes or conventions.
Inflexible people often pay punctilious attention to rules of etiquette.

punctual

adj
/ 'pʌŋ(k)ch(əw)əl /
L

marked by exact adherence to an appointed time.
Everybody was punctual for the wedding, and all behaved charmingly.

punctuation

punditry

pungent

adj
/ 'pʌŋjənt /
L

causing a sharp sensation : pricking, irritating, acrid.
The pungent odor of wet dog sent the guests out for fresh air.

punishment

punitive

purgatory

purlieu

n
/ 'pɜrl(i)yü /
F

a place of resort : haunt.
Vince can be found most evenings in the local pool hall, his favorite purlieu.

purlain

v
/ pə(r)'lɔin /
L > F > E

appropriate wrongfully and often under circumstances that involve a breach of trust.
The district manager was fired when he was caught trying to purlain company earnings.

purportedly

pursued

pursuer
n
/ pə(r)'süə(r) /
E

one that chases or follows after.
By the middle of the race, Gail had outdistanced her nearest pursuer by two yards.

purveyor

n
/ pə(r)'vāə(r) /
L > F > E

one who provides supplies of food or whose business is to make provisions for the table : caterer.
The reception was delayed because the purveyor got stuck in traffic.

pusillanimous

adj
/ ,pyüsə'lanəməs /
L

lacking or showing a lack of courage, manly strength, and resolution : marked by mean-spirited and contemptible timidity.
Edgar never forgave his brother's pusillanimous desertion during the war.

putrescent

adj
/ pyü'tres'nt /
L

decaying, rotting.
The disagreeable odor was coming from the putrescent skunk carcass.

putrid

adj
/ 'pyütrəd /
L

in an advanced state of decomposition : rotten.
The putrid heap of kitchen scraps will compost in no time.

putsch

n
/ 'pʊch /
imit G
a secretly plotted and suddenly executed attempt to overthrow a government or governing body.
The right-wing nationalist group plotted a putsch for early September.

putty

n
/ 'pʊdē /
F

[has homonym: puttee] a cement usually made of whiting and boiled linseed oil beaten or kneaded to the consistency of dough and used in fastening glass in sashes and stopping crevices in woodwork.
The window repairman smoothed the new putty and inserted the double-paned glass into the sash.

puzzling

adj
/ 'pʌz(ə)liŋ /
unknown + Ecf
mystifying : difficult to understand.
The puzzling directions in the instruction manual rendered it useless.

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pylon

n
/ 'pɪ.lən /
Gk

a tower for supporting either end of a wire over a long span.

The steel pylon at the north end of the footbridge was showing dangerous signs of wear.

pylorus

n
/ pɪ'lɔrəs /
Gk > L

the opening in a vertebrate from the stomach into the intestine.

The pylorus regulates the flow of food and liquid from the stomach.

pyramid

n
/ 'pɪrə.mɪd /
Gk

an ancient massive structure of huge stone blocks found especially in Egypt having typically a square ground plan, outside walls in the form of four triangles that meet in a point at the top, and inner sepulchral chambers.

The sight of a pyramid on the desert horizon took Rico's breath away.

pyre

pyrethrum

n
/ pɪ'rɛθrəm /
Gk > L

any of various chrysanthemums with finely divided and often aromatic leaves.

The pyrethrum is a source of a natural insecticide.

pyretogenic

adj
/ .pɪrətə'dʒenɪk /
Gk

inducing fever.

Because Jamie's illness was not pyretogenic, his mom did not initially believe that he was sick.

pyrite

pyrosis

n
/ pɪ'rɔsəs /
Gk

heartburn.

Gill had a wicked case of pyrosis after eating at Billy Joe Bob's Char and Grill.

pyrotechnics

n pl
/ .pɪrə'teknɪks /
Gk

a display of fireworks.

The amusement park had a show including pyrotechnics every night.

Pyrrhic

adj
/ 'pɪrɪk /
Gk > L

[has homonym: pyric] of, relating to, or resembling that of Pyrrhus, a king who sustained heavy losses in defeating the Romans.

When the team's star quarterback broke his leg in the game it won against its toughest rival, the win was indeed a Pyrrhic victory.

pythonic

adj
/ pɪ'thɒnɪk /
Gk > L

of, relating to, or like a python : huge, monstrous.

In classical mythology, the god Apollo killed a pythonic serpent at Delphi.

quackery

quadragenarian

n
/ .kwɒdrə'dʒə'nɑ(a)rɪən /
L

a person who is 40 or more and less than 50 years old.

Evelyn became a grandmother while she was a quadragenarian.

quadrangle

n
/ 'kwɒdræŋgəl /
L > F > E

a square or rectangular enclosure or court especially when surrounded by buildings (as in some schools and colleges).

Norm sailed a pie tin across the quadrangle.

quadrant

quadrennial

quadrilateral

n
/ .kwɒdrə'lədərəl /
L

a plane figure of four sides and consequently four angles.

The perimeter of a baseball diamond forms a quadrilateral.

quadrille

n
/ kwə'drɪl /
F

a four-handed form of a card game played throughout Europe in the 17th and 18th centuries.

Mrs. Bates was a very old lady, almost past everything but tea and quadrille.

quadrumanous

adj
/ kwə'drʊmənəs /
L

having four hands.

Luke complained that a bass player would have to be quadrumanous to master the piece he was given to play.

quagmire

n
/ 'kwag.mɪ(ə)r /
unknown + ON > E

a complex or precarious position where disengagement is difficult.

In his position as protocol officer, Russell often found himself in a quagmire of delicate relationships.

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Frequently

quail

n
/ 'kwāl /
L > F > E
a migratory game bird of Europe, Asia, and Africa that is about seven inches long.
The vintner decided to name his wine after the quail because the birds were so plentiful on his property.

quaint

adj
/ 'kwānt /
L > F > E
uncommon, old-fashioned, or unfamiliar but often agreeable or attractive in character, appearance, or action.
In the middle of the ultramodern mall was a quaint tearoom that drew customers from miles around.

qualitative

adj
/ 'kwälə.tādiv /
L
of, relating to, or involving quality or kind.
Although the essay was judged to be short quantitatively, it was a qualitative masterpiece.

qualm

quandary

n
/ 'kwänd(ə)rē /
unknown
a state of perplexity or doubt : dilemma.
Taylor's advice left Miriam in more of a quandary than she was in when she sought his help.

quantum

quaquaversal

adj
/ kwāk wə'vərsəl /
L
dipping from a center to all points of the compass.
From the air, the quaquaversal shape of the Indian mound could be seen.

quarantine

quarrel

quarrelsome

adj
/ 'kwör(ə)lsəm /
L > F > E + E
apt or disposed to argue : contentious.
If Angie weren't so quarrelsome, she might have more friends.

quarry

quartz

quash

quasi

quaternion

n
/ kwə'tərnēən /
L
a set of four parts, things, or persons.
The auto parts store offered a special price on a quaternion of tires.

quatorzain

n
/ kə'tör.zān /
F
a poem of 14 lines that resembles a sonnet but lacks strict sonnet structure.
When his English teacher was satisfied with Walter's quatorzain, she encouraged him to write a sonnet.

quatrefoil

n
/ 'kadə(r).föil /
F
a conventionalized representation of a flower with four petals or of a leaf with four leaflets.
The Gothic window featured a quatrefoil at the top of its arch.

quay

quebracho

n
/ kə'bra(ç)chō /
Sp
a tree that is native to Argentina and is used as a source of tannin and in dyeing.
In Argentina grows the quebracho, which literally means "ax-breaker," so named because its wood is so hard.

quell

quellable

adj
/ 'kweləbəl /
E
capable of being quieted or allayed.
The restless crowd proved quellable at the sight of the entertainer they had come to see.

quench

v
/ 'kwench /
E
put out (as a fire or a light).
For three days the firefighters tried to quench the blaze.

quenelle

n
/ kə'nel /
G > F
a ball or oval of meat stuffing cooked in boiling water or stock and served as a garnish or as a separate dish.
Martha served a quenelle of chicken in brown onion sauce as an appetizer.

quercitron

n
/ 'kwər.sitrən /
L
a black oak or the bark of this tree used in tanning and dyeing.
When used as a dye, quercitron turns fabrics yellow.

querimonious

adj
/ kwərə'mōnēəs /
L
habitually complaining.
Luther was known for his querimonious temperament.

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Frequently

quern

n
/ 'kwɜrn /
E

a primitive mill for grinding grain consisting of two circular stones with the upper one being turned by hand.

Some Tibetan villagers still grind wheat into flour by using a quern.

querulous

adj
/ 'kwɛr(y)ələs /
L

expressing or suggestive of complaint : fretful, whining.

As the crow fluttered from the tree, it gave a loud, querulous caw.

querulously

query

quest

n
/ 'kwɛst /
L > F > E

an act or instance of searching : expedition, pursuit, venture.

In "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow," the horseman rides forth to the scene of battle in nightly quest of his head.

question

v
/ 'kwɛs(h)ʃən /
L

express doubt about : dispute.

Corporal Sage decided he had to question Sergeant McGonigle's orders.

questionnaire

queue

queuer

quibble

quiche

n
/ 'kɛʃ /
G > F

a baked custard pie usually having an added savory ingredient (as chopped ham, seafood, or vegetables).

Lois served soup and a seafood quiche for lunch today.

quiddity

n
/ 'kwɪdɪtē /
L

the essential nature or ultimate form of something.

The photographer was noted for her ability to capture the quiddity of her subjects.

quidnunc

n
/ 'kwɪd.nʌŋk /
L

one that is avidly curious and given to speculating especially about ephemeral or petty things.

Every neighborhood seems to have a quidnunc.

quiescent

n
/ kwɪ'ɛdɛs /
L

final discharge or acquittance (as from debt or obligation) : final settlement.

The judge is expected to rule tomorrow on a quietus in Mr. Ford's civil case.

quill

n
/ 'kwɪl /
E

a bird's feather; especially : one of the large stiff feathers of a bird's wing or tail.

Jay found a beautiful quill and placed it alongside his mom's antique inkwell on her desk.

quincentennial

quincunx

n
/ 'kwɪŋkən(k)s /
L

an arrangement of five things with one at each corner and one in the middle of a square.

Any nine-block square of a chessboard will include a quincunx of either black or white blocks.

quinine

n
/ 'kwɪ.nɪn /
Quechua > Sp

a bitter alkaloid derived from cinchona bark and used in medicine especially in the form of bitter salts to reduce fever.

Quinine was a common remedy when Dr. Prentice was young.

quinquennial

adj
/ kwɪŋ'kwɛnɪəl /
L + L

occurring at the end of every five years.

The philanthropist makes a quinquennial gift to the school.

quinsyberry

n
/ 'kwɪnzɪ.bɛrɪ /
Gk > L > F > E + E

an Old World black currant.

Edgar mashed a quinsyberry on his sister's new yellow dress.

quintessence

n
/ kwɪŋ'tɛsɪn(t)s /
L

the most typical example or representative : the consummate instance (as of a quality or class).

To be steadfast in the face of mortal danger is the quintessence of courage.

quire

n
/ 'kwɪ(ə)r /
L

four sheets (as of paper) folded together into eight leaves.

The teacher showed the second-graders how to make a book from a quire of paper.

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Frequently

quirt

n
/ 'kwɜrt /
L > Sp

a riding whip with a short handle and a rawhide lash.

Eager to get home, Juanita urged her horse on by using the quirt.

quisling

n
/ 'kwizliŋ /

Norw name

a traitorous national who aids the invader of his country and often serves as chief agent or puppet governor.

Many French citizens thought that Marshal Petain, head of the Vichy regime during World War II, was little better than a quisling.

quiver

n
/ 'kwivə(r) /
Gmc > F > AF > E

[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word.] a case for carrying arrows.

The archer slung his quiver over his shoulder and set out in search of deer.

quixotic

quizzical

quizzically

adv
/ 'kwizək(ə)lē /
unknown + Ecff
in a questioning, curious manner.
Martin sat with his head quizzically tilted as the algebra teacher was explaining the new concept.

quodlibet

n
/ 'kwɔdləbet /
L

a subtle or debatable point; especially : a theological or scholastic question proposed for argument or disputation.
The best students in the philosophy seminar were often given a quodlibet to sharpen their debating skills.

quoits

n pl
/ 'k(w)ɔits /
F > E

a game played with flattened rings of iron or circles of rope that are thrown from a mark toward a pin in an attempt to ring the pin or to come as near to it as possible.
Jordan had never played quoits before but found it very similar to horseshoes.

quokka

n
/ 'kwäkə /
Australian name
a stocky Australian reddish or chestnut brown wallaby with a short tail—called also “short-tailed wallaby.”
Meggie’s pet quokka wanted to follow her everywhere.

quomodo

n
/ 'kwɔmədō /
L
means, manner.

Devon claims that he lacks the quomodo to repay Philip before next month.

quondam

adj
/ 'kwændəm /
L
having been formerly.
Jared and his quondam stepbrother are still the best of friends.

quorum

n
/ 'kwɔrəm /
L
the number of members of an organization who when assembled can legally transact business in the absence of the other members.
There were not enough members present at the school board meeting to constitute a quorum, so no voting took place.

quotable

adj
/ 'kwɔdəbəl /
L

fit to be repeated or published.
Tonya likes to highlight quotable passages in the books she reads.

quotation

quotidian

adj
/ 'kwɔ'tidēən /
L
commonplace, ordinary.
Thelma rebelled against her quotidian existence.

quotient

n
/ 'kwɔʃənt /
L
the number resulting from the division of one number by another.
In the equation $48 \div 4 = 12$, 12 is the quotient.

rabbinate

Rabelaisian

adj
/ 'rəbəl'läzēən /
F name
marked by or manifesting a gross robust humor or extravagance of caricature, characteristic of the French humorist François Rabelais.
In the 19th century many writers, including Mark Twain, were criticized for having a Rabelaisian view of life.

rachimeter

n
/ 'rākē'ämədə(r) /
Gk
an instrument for measuring spinal curvatures.
When Kate complained of back problems, her orthopedist used a rachimeter to examine her spine.

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racketeer

n
/ rakə'ti(ə)r /
imit?
one who extorts money or advantages by threats of violence or blackmail.
The Justice Department was successful in prosecuting the racketeer for tax evasion.

raconteur

n
/ ra.kän'tər /
F
one who excels in telling anecdotes : storyteller.
Mr. Backstrom is the resident raconteur at the county library.

radar

n
/ 'rā.dār /
E acronym
a radio device for locating an object.
With the help of radar, the weather bureau was able to track the storm.

radarscope

n
/ 'rādär.sköp /
E acronym + Gk
the oscilloscope or screen serving as the visual indicator in a radar receiver.
The pilot relied on the radarscope to fly through the storm safely.

radiant

adj
/ 'rādēənt /
L
marked by or expressive of joy, pleasure, love, confidence, or happiness.
Emily looked positively radiant when she saw her newborn sister for the first time.

radical

adj
/ 'radəkəl /
L > E
characterized by a significant difference from the norm: extreme.
The new governor promised radical changes in the state's welfare system.

radicchio

n
/ ra'dikēō /
L > It
a chicory of a red variety with variegated leaves that is used as a salad green.
Instead of lettuce, Angela always uses radicchio in her salads.

radioactive

n
/ rādē.ō'ak.tiv /
L + L
of, relating to, caused by, or exhibiting the emission of radiant energy.
Radioactive materials are carefully tracked and monitored.

radioactivity

radioscopy

n
/ rādē'äskəpē /
L + Gk + Ecf
direct observation of objects opaque to light by means of some other form of radiant energy (as X rays).
Upon radioscopy Thelma's fracture became clearly visible.

radius

ragamuffin

raglan

ragout

n
/ ra'gü /
L > F
meat and vegetables well seasoned in a thick rich usually brown sauce.
The rich ragout made a complete meal.

raillery

n
/ 'rālörē /
F
good-natured ridicule : mockery.
The new students soon became accustomed to the raillery of their dormitory mates.

raiment

n
/ 'rāmənt /
E
clothing, garments.
The stranger's raiment was well-worn but clean and pressed.

raisiny

adj
/ 'rāz'nē /
L > F > E
containing or resembling sun-dried grapes.
Taylor enjoyed the raisiny trail mix.

ramage

n
/ 'ramij /
L > F
the boughs or branches of a tree.
As soon as Buttons got out the door, she disappeared into the ramage of the big poplar.

rambunctious

adj
/ ram'bən(k)shəs /
E
excessively exuberant : wild, uncontrollable.
Nothing pleases a group of rambunctious youngsters more than a good pillow fight.

ramellose

adj
/ 'ramələs /
L
having little branches.
In the biology lab Carla observed the ramellose extremities of freshwater algae.

ramification

n
/ raməfə'kāshən /
L
a resulting development : consequence.
Tina felt that the only negative ramification of accepting the job offer was that she would have to take a pay cut.

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rampage

v
/ 'rampāj /
Scots
act, rush, or storm wildly or excitedly.
Crazed fans began to rampage in the streets after their team won the championship.

rampant

adj
/ 'rampənt /
F
marked by the absence of check or restraint.
A rampant smallpox epidemic decimated the population.

ramshackle

adj
/ 'ram.shakəl /
ON > E
appearing as if ready to collapse : dilapidated, rickety.
Bonnie heard strange noises coming from the ramshackle house next door.

rancid

adj
/ 'ran(t)səd /
L
having an offensive smell or taste usually from chemical change or decomposition.
After a month at room temperature, most cheese will be rancid.

rancor

n
/ 'ran(kə)r /
L
vehement hatred or ill will.
Samuel's rancor flashed from his eyes.

rancorous

ransack

ransom

rantipole

adj
/ 'rantē.pōl /
D? + G > E?
characterized by a wild unruly manner or attitude.
The antics of the rantipole bear cubs amused the zoo visitors.

rapacious

rapier

rappelled

v
/ ra'peld /
L > F
[has near homonym: repelled]
descended a precipitous cliff by means of a rope.
Simon pushed off with his feet as he rappelled down the precipice.

rappelling

rapport

n
/ ra'pō(ə)r /
F
relation characterized by harmony, accord, or affinity.
Mr. Sanchez works hard to achieve rapport with all his students.

rapprochement

n
/ ra.prōsh'mäⁿ /
F
establishment or a state of cordial relations.
The rapprochement between the country's two religious groups suffered a setback when members of one group bombed a church that belonged to the other group.

rapscallion

raptorial

rapturous

adj
/ 'rapchərəs /
L
feeling, expressing, or marked by ecstasy : ecstatic.
Cecilia always became rapturous during the final movement of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony.

rascette

n
/ ra'set /
Ar > L > F
a line crossing the wrist below the palm of the hand that is sometimes held by palmists to provide additional indication of a strong or weak constitution.
Madame Xantha peered closely at Helen's rascette and told her she would live to be 100.

rasgado

n
/ räs'gä(,)dō /
L > Sp
the arpeggio effect produced by sweeping the strings with the thumb in guitar playing.
Rod ended his guitar solo with a resounding rasgado.

rasorial

raspberry

n
/ 'raz.berē /
unknown + E
any of various usually black or red sweet juicy edible berries.
The raspberry is highly prized for making jams and preserves.

ratafia

n
/ radə'fēə /
F
a small sweet biscuit made from almond paste.
May ate a ratafia with her coffee for breakfast.

rataplan

n
/ radə'plan /
F
the iterative sound of beating (as from a drum or the hooves of a galloping horse).
One verse of the song required the campers around the bonfire to make a rataplan by clapping their hands and slapping each thigh in turn.

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ratatouille

n
/ rətətüü /
L > F
a stew made of eggplant, tomatoes, green peppers, squash, and sometimes meat.
Marnie used vegetables from her own garden to make the ratatouille.

rathskeller

n
/ 'rät.skələ(r) /
G
a restaurant located usually below the street level and patterned after the cellar or basement of a German city hall.
There are three good restaurants on this block, but college students seem to prefer the rathskeller.

ratification

ratihabition

ratiocinate

v
/ .radē'ōs'n.āt /
L
reason according to a logical process.
A philosopher should ratiocinate strictly and rigorously.

ratiocination

ration

rational

rationale

rattlesnake

n
/ 'rad'ɫ.snāk /
E + E
any of numerous pit vipers that have a series of interlocking joints at the end of the tail which make a sharp rattling sound when vibrated.
Mr. Bergson's valuable stallion died last summer after being bitten by a rattlesnake.

raucous

adj
/ 'rökəs /
L
disagreeably harsh or strident.
Up in one of the elms an old black crow gave its raucous cry.

ravel

ravenous

adj
/ 'rav(ə)nəs /
F
craving for satisfaction or gratification.
The children tore into the meal with a ravenous hunger.

ravigote

n
/ rävē'göt /
L > F
a sauce or dressing colored green with spinach puree and seasoned with vinegar and a mixture of herbs.
The specialty of the seafood brunch was shrimp ravigote.

ravine

ravioli

n
/ .ravē'ōlē /
L > It
alimentary paste made in little shells or cases and stuffed (as with cheese, spinach, or meat).
Fletcher bought a package of frozen spinach ravioli and a jar of tomato sauce.

rawinsonde

rayonnant

adj
/ 'rānənt /
F
depicted with rays darting forth—used especially in heraldry.
The sun rayonnant on the Philippine flag signifies liberty and freedom.

razzia

realize

v
/ 'rēə.līz /
F
bring into existence.
With her inheritance money, Marty was able to realize her dream of owning a small business.

realm

realpolitik

n
/ rā'äl.pōlē'tēk /
(L + Gk) > G
politics based on practical factors as distinguished from theoretical objectives.
Some analysts credit realpolitik for the increase in voter participation.

realschule

realty

n
/ 'rē(ə)ltē /
L > F > E
land and its permanently affixed buildings or other structures together with its improvements and its natural assets (as minerals, crops, waters).
Aurora built a large business in corporate realty.

reappraisal

rebarbative

adj
/ rē'bärbədīv /
L
serving or tending to repel or irritate.
Teresa complained that she found the school play rebarbative.

rebellion

reboant

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reboation

n
/ ˌrɛbəˈwɑːʃən /
L

a loud reverberation.
The reboation of the ship's foghorn signaled the ship's entrance into the harbor.

rebote

rebus
n
/ ˈrɛbəs /
L

a representation of words or syllables by pictures of objects or by symbols whose names resemble the intended words or syllables in sound.
A popular game show required contestants to solve a rebus to win.

rebuttal

n
/ ˈrɛˈbʊtəl /
F > E

the act of contradicting.
Dennis's convincing rebuttal sent Oscar home in a huff.

recalcitrant

adj
/ ˈrɛˈkalsɪtrənt /
L

obstinately defiant of authority or restraint : stubbornly disobedient.
An extremely recalcitrant adolescent, Tommy rejects everything any authority figure says.

recapitulate

v
/ ˌrɛkəˈpɪtʃələt /
L

repeat the principal points of : restate briefly : give a summary of.
It is customary for Professor Burns to recapitulate his lecture at the end of class.

receipt

receive

recension

n
/ ˈrɛˈsɛnʃən /
L

a critical revision of a text (as of an ancient author) by an editor.
Patricia recently read a modern recension of Dante's Inferno.

receptacle

recess

recidivism
n
/ ˈrɛˈsɪdɪvɪzəm /
L + Ecff

repeated relapse into criminal or delinquent habits.
Unemployment of ex-convicts is at the root of much of the recidivism that leads to overcrowded prisons.

recipe

n
/ ˈrɛsə(ˌ)pē /
L

a formula for cooking or preparing something to be eaten or drunk.
Chuck's chili recipe is a closely guarded secret.

recipient

reciprocal
adj
/ ˈrɛˈsɪprəkəl /
L + Ecf

consisting of or functioning as a return in kind.
James is truly unselfish, always ready to help without expecting reciprocal benefit.

reciprocity

n
/ ˈrɛsəˈpræsədəē /
L

mutual dependence, action, or influence.
A treaty of reciprocity called for the lowering of protective tariffs by both countries.

recital

recluse

n
/ ˈrɛˌklüs /
L

one who leads a retired or solitary life.
Alison was shocked when the old recluse next door called to invite her for tea.

recognizance

n
/ ˈrɛˈkɪgnəzən(t)s /
L > F > E
an obligation of record entered into before a court or magistrate requiring the performance of an act (as appearance in court) usually under penalty of a money forfeiture.
The suspect was arraigned the next morning and released on his own recognizance.

recommendation

reconcile
v
/ ˈrɛkən.səl /
L

obtain agreement between two financial records.
Because he kept such poor records, it often took Evan several hours to reconcile his checkbook to his bank statement.

recondite

adj
/ ˈrɛkən.dīt /
L
very difficult to understand and beyond the reach of ordinary comprehension and knowledge.
Mansur chose the recondite subject of quantum mechanics for his paper.

recreant

recrementitious

recrudescence

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recrudescence

adj
/ rĕkrü'des'nt /
L

breaking out again : renewing disease or dangerous activity after abatement, suppression, or cessation.

Because of the recrudescence nature of tuberculosis, those who have been exposed to this disease should be tested for it periodically.

recuperate

v
/ rĕ'k(y)üpə.rāt /
L

recover health or strength.

Aaron spent a month in Florida to recuperate after the campaign.

recurrence

recurrent

recusancy

n
/ 'rekyəzənsē /
L

refusal to accept or obey constituted authority : nonconformity.

In post-Reformation England, recusancy was the refusal especially of Roman Catholics to attend the services of the Church of England.

recusant

redingote

redolent

adj
/ red'lənt /
L > F > E

conveying an aura : tending to suggest.

Every page of Ryan's essay is redolent of fine scholarship.

redoppe

n
/ rĕ'döp /
L > It > F

a show-ring movement in which a horse gallops in circles whose diameter never exceeds ten feet.

The last movement in Thunder's performance was a fast redoppe.

redoubtable

adj
/ rĕ'däüdəbəl /
F > E

inspiring awe or reverence : august, eminent.

Mount Rushmore is a fitting memorial to four redoubtable statesmen.

reductase

redundancy

referee

referential

refluence

refocillate

v
/ rĕ'fäsə.lāt /
L

refresh, revive.

Mom hopes that a good watering will refocillate her drooping ferns.

refraction

n
/ rĕ'frakshən /
L

the deflection from a straight path undergone by a light ray in passing obliquely from one medium into another in which its velocity is different.

Mr. Popkin explained that an oar in water is not bent, but that refraction makes it appear bent.

refuge

n
/ 're(.)fyüj /
L > F > E

shelter or protection from danger or distress.

The high hills are a refuge for wild goats.

refugium

refulgent

regale

v
/ rĕ'gāl /
F

entertain (as a person) sumptuously or agreeably : feast with delicacies.

The hostess will regale her bridge club members with a variety of delightful homemade desserts.

regardless

regatta

n
/ rĕ'gädə /
It

an organized series of rowing, speedboat, or sailing races.

The famous rowing regatta at Henley-on-Thames has been held each year since 1839.

reggae

n
/ 'rā(.)gā /
unknown

a popular music of Jamaican origin that combines indigenous styles with elements of rock 'n' roll and soul music and is performed with the accent on the offbeat.

The video travelogue about Jamaica included a soundtrack of reggae.

regicide

n
/ 'rejə.sid /
L

the killing or murder of a king.

The peasants resorted to regicide when their pleas were ignored by the tyrannical monarch.

regime

n
/ rĕ'zhēm /
L > F

the period during which a government or social system prevails.

During the communist regime in Romania, environmental problems were flagrantly ignored.

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regimen

n
/ 'rɛjəmən /
L

a systematic plan designed to improve and maintain health.
Cassandra's regimen includes getting at least seven hours of sleep per night.

regurgitate

v
/ rɛ'gɜrjətāt /
L

throw, cast, or pour back or out again.
Brenda watched the redbird regurgitate food to feed his nestlings.

rehabilitation

n
/ rɛ(h)ə,bilə'tāshən /
L

the process of restoring an individual (as a convict, mental patient, or disaster victim) to a useful and constructive place in society.
The penitentiary employed psychologists and educators to help in the rehabilitation of the prisoners.

rehearsal

n
/ rɛ'hɜrsəl /
E

a private recital or practice session held in preparation for a public appearance.
Roland was somewhat nervous during his first rehearsal with the New York City Ballet.

reindeer

reiterate

v
/ rɛ'ɪdɪərāt /
L

say or do over repeatedly.
The new teacher decided to reiterate each point of the lesson at the end of the period so that the students could not claim they missed the information.

rejoice

rejuvenescence

relegate

v
/ 'rɛlə,gāt /
L

[has homonym: religate] degrade, demote.
The coach decided to relegate the quarterback to second string after his poor performance in the game.

reliable

relic

n
/ 'rɛlɪk /
L

an object (as a bone, an article of clothing or of personal use) kept in esteem and veneration because of its association with a saint or martyr.
The Shroud of Turin is the most famous relic in Christendom, in spite of its disputed history.

relinquish

reliquary

remainder

remedial

adj
/ rɛ'mɛdɪəl /
L

concerned with the correction of faulty study habits, the improvement of skills imperfectly learned, and the raising of a pupil's general competence.
The test results indicate that 20 percent of the students in Laura's school need to take a remedial course in math.

reminisce

v
/ rɛmən'ɪs /
L&F

indulge in the practice of thinking about past experiences.
The old photographs prompted Grandpa to reminisce about his youth.

reminiscence

reminiscingly

remuneration

n
/ rɛ'myünə,rāshən /
L

an act of paying an equivalent for a service, loss, or expense : compensation.
Mr. Shimada gave Mitzi two tickets to Disneyland as remuneration for the many errands she had run for him.

renaissance

n
/ .rɛnə'sän(t)s /
L > F

enthusiastic activity along literary, artistic, and cultural lines distinguished by a revival of interest in the past and an increasing pursuit of learning.
In the 1970s, there was a renaissance of interest in organic gardening techniques.

render

v
/ 'rɛndə(r) /
L > F > E

melt down : extract or clarify by melting.
The process of cooking a few strips of bacon can render enough fat to fry several eggs.

rendezvous

n
/ 'rændəvü /
F

a meeting at an appointed place and time.
The astronauts completed a rendezvous with the orbiting space station.

renege

renitent

adj
/ 'rɛnədənt /
L

resisting pressure, constraint, or compulsion.
Mark's dog proved too renitent to learn any tricks.

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renounce

v
/ rə'naʊn(t)s /
L

[has near homonym: renowns]
announce one's abandonment of the ownership of : give up, abandon, or resign usually formally (something possessed).
In 1936 Edward, Prince of Wales, decided to renounce his claim to the throne of England and marry American divorcée Wallis Simpson.

renovation

renovator

n
/ 'renə.vədə(r) /
L

one that restores to a former state (as worn or damaged articles).
The Rehmers hired a renovator to work on the old farmhouse they bought.

renvoi

n
/ ren'vɔi /
F

the return by a government of an alien to his own country.
Because of crowded prisons, New York has been practicing renvoi on illegal aliens who have committed a crime.

repaint

reparation

repatee

n
/ repə(r)'tē /
F

a succession of clever retorts.
Susie and Josh's repatee is so excessive that even their friends tire quickly of the constant retorts.

repechage

n
/ .repə'shāzh /
L > F

a second-chance trial heat (as in Olympic rowing) in which losers in the first round of competition are given another chance to qualify for the semifinals.
Luigi fell behind in the first heat of the single sculls, but he hoped to make up for it in the repechage.

repercussions

repertoire

n
/ 'repə(r).twär /
L > F

a list or supply of pieces or parts that a company or person has thoroughly rehearsed and is prepared to perform.
The folk dance troupe has added several Balkan dances to its repertoire.

repertory

n
/ 'repə(r).tɔrē /
L

the practice of presenting with a resident company a number of different productions (as plays or dances) during a season either successively or alternately.
The ballet company is presenting four productions in repertory this winter.

repetition

n
/ .repə'tishən /
L

the fact of occurring, appearing, or being said again.
The repetition in the epic poem was anything but boring.

repetitious

adj
/ .repə'tishəs /
L

marked by the act of repeating something already said or done.
Bettina complained that her piano lessons were repetitious.

replaceable

replenish

v
/ rə'plenish /
L

fill up again.
The heavy rain from the hurricane served to replenish the drought-stricken reservoirs of the state.

replevin

n
/ rə'plevən /
L? > F

the return to or recovery by a person of goods claimed to be wrongfully taken or detained upon the person's giving security to try the matter in court and return the goods if defeated in the action.
Before the goods could be moved from the warehouse, the judge issued a writ of replevin.

repository

repoussage

n
/ rə.pü'sāzh /
F

the art or process of hammering out or pressing thin metal from the reverse side.
Fiona bought a brass box decorated with repoussage at the antique shop.

reprehensible

adj
/ .reprə'hən(t)səbəl /
L > E

deserving rebuke or reprimand : censurable.
This amiable, upright, perfect Jane Fairfax was apparently cherishing very reprehensible feelings.

represent

reprieve

n
/ rə'prēv /
F?

a formal suspension of the execution of a sentence especially of death.
Bowing to public pressure, the governor granted a reprieve to the convict awaiting execution.

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reprimand

v
/ 'reprə.mənd /
L > F
reprove severely : chide for a fault :
censure formally and especially
with authority.
*Dean felt guilty as he began to
reprimand Shirley; was the blame
partially his?*

reprisal

n
/ rə'prɪzəl /
L > It > F > E
an action of retaliation (as for
injury or attack).
*The team captain decided to use a
trick play as a reprisal for the other
team's roughhousing.*

repristinate

v
/ rē'prɪstə.nāt /
L
restore to an original state or
condition : revive.
*Barb and Ray spent the better part
of the summer working to
repristinate the old farm house.*

reproach

v
/ rə'prɔːtʃ /
F > E
rebuke strongly or sternly : scold.
*Van hoped that Mrs. Krishnan
wouldn't reproach him in front of
the whole lunchroom crowd.*

reprobate

v
/ 'reprə.bāt /
L
disapprove of : reject as unworthy
or evil.
*Patty will not be going to the sock
hop because her parents reprobate
dancing.*

reptilian

repudiate

v
/ rə'pyüde.āt /
L
refuse approval or belief to : reject
as untrue or unjust.
*Jacqueline wanted to repudiate her
family's ideas about class
distinction, so she married their
chauffeur.*

repugnance

n
/ rə'pəgnən(t)s /
L
strong dislike, distaste, or
antipathy.
*Mr. Churchill felt deep repugnance
toward his aunt, whose illnesses
never occurred but for her own
convenience.*

Requiem

n
/ 'rekwēəm /
L
a grand musical hymn in honor of
the dead.
*Many orchestras include a
classical Requiem in their
repertoire.*

requiescence

requisite

adj
/ 'rekwəzət /
L
required by the nature of things or
by circumstances or by the end in
view.
*Buried under a calmness that
seemed all but indifference was an
attachment that would have led
either of the two brothers, if
requisite, to do everything for the
good of the other.*

rescind

v
/ rə'sɪnd /
L
repeal.
*The new bill would rescind several
outdated laws.*

rescindable

rescue

v
/ 're(ɪ)skyü /
L > F > E
free from confinement, violence,
danger, or evil : save, deliver.
*Three lifeguards dived into the pool
to rescue the flailing girl.*

reservoir

n
/ 'rezəv.wär /
L > F
a place where water is collected
and kept in quantity for use when
wanted.
*Because of the dry spell, our
reservoir was only half full, and
water restrictions had to be
imposed.*

residential

residual

residue

n
/ 'rezəd(y)ü /
L
the part of a molecule that remains
after the removal of a portion of its
constituents.
*Sondra asked Jeff to analyze and
write out the formula for the
residue in the Erlenmeyer flask.*

residuum

resile

v
/ rə'zɪl /
L
draw back : recoil, retract, recede.
*The rubber bands in Greta's desk
were so old that several had lost
their ability to resile.*

resilience

n
/ rə'zɪlyən(t)s /
L + Ecf
an act of springing back : rebound,
recoil.
*Vera showed her resilience by
recovering so quickly from her
skiing accident.*

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resiliency

n
/ rə'zilyənsē /
L + Ecff

capability of a strained body to recover its size and shape after deformation caused especially by compressive stress.

A pole vaulter must adjust to the resiliency of his pole.

resilient

resinous

resipiscence

n
/ .resə'pɪsɪn(t)s /
L

change of mind or heart; often : return to a sane, sound, or correct view or position.

The soldier's severe war experience brought about in him a resipiscence marked by much regret for shortcomings in his personal life.

resistible

resolute

adj
/ 'rezəlüt /
L

having or characterized by a decided purpose : determined.

Jody remained resolute in his decision to resign from the committee.

resonance

n
/ 'rezɒnən(t)s /
L

[Note: Could be confused with plural noun resonants.] a phenomenon that is shown by a molecule, ion, or radical to which two or more structures differing only in the distribution of electrons can be assigned.

To illustrate the concept of resonance, Mr. Abadi drew two different Lewis structures of ozone on the board.

respiratory

respite

n
/ 'respət /
L > F

temporary intermission of labor or of any process or operation : interval of rest.

Seeking respite from the arguing of his siblings, Jerold left the table in the middle of their family dinner.

resplendence

n
/ rə'splendən(t)s /
L > E

the quality or state of shining brilliantly.

The resplendence of the sunset over Loon Lake enticed Eric to stay one more day.

restauratrice

n
/ .restərə'trēs /
L

a woman who operates or owns a public eating place.

While Ted and Sue were dining, the restauratrice came to their table to ask for their comments on the food and service.

restitution

restitutory

adj
/ .restə'tiüdərə /
L

of, relating to, or aiming at the return of something to its rightful owner.

The judge's verdict included punitive as well as restitutory features.

resurgence

resurgent

adj
/ rə'sɜrtʃənt /
L

rising again from an inferior state to a superior state.

The former Soviet republic is experiencing resurgent nationalism.

resurrection

resuscitate

v
/ rə'səsə.tāt /
L

revive from apparent death or from unconsciousness.

A young intern pushed through the crowd to resuscitate the unconscious child.

resuscitation

reticence

n
/ 'redə'sən(t)s /
L > F

restraint in speaking or communicating : reserve.

Jordan's usual reticence disappears when he sits at the radio microphone.

reticulated

adj
/ rə'tɪkyələdəd /
L + Ecf
constructed or faced with diamond-shaped stones or square stones placed diagonally.
The hotel lobby's reticulated floor provided stark geometric contrast with the gentle curves of the atrium.

reticule

n
/ 'redə.kyül /
L

a woman's small drawstring bag used as a pocketbook, workbag, or carryall.

Mrs. Bates folded up a letter which she had been reading and returned it into the purple and gold reticule by her side.

retina

n
/ 'retɪnə /
L > E

the multilayered innermost lining of the eyeball that contains various types of photoreceptive cells that are connected to the brain via the optic nerve.

The ophthalmologist treated Mrs. Simpson for a detached retina.

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retinue

n
/ 'ret'n.(y)ü /
L > F > E
a train of attendants.
The actress obtained coveted awards ceremony tickets for her entire retinue.

retractile

retribution

n
/ .retrə'byüşən /
L
something given or exacted in compensation.
Art felt certain that his fender bender was divine retribution for all the times he had honked his horn impatiently at other drivers.

retrocedence

n
/ .retrə'sēd'n(t)s /
L
the act of ceding back typically by treaty.
In 1997 the British government completed the retrocedence of Hong Kong to China.

retrogress

retrospect

v
/ 'retrə.spekt /
L
practice the act of surveying the past.
Colin's ability to retrospect makes history classes a breeze for him.

revanche

n
/ rə'väñch /
F
the policy of a government intent on the recovery of lost territory.
Under the domination of the USSR, tendencies toward revanche were kept under tight control.

reveille

revenant

adj
/ 'revənənt /
F
coming back : recurring.
The more Rachel tries to put the revenant dream out of her mind, the more often it recurs.

revenue

n
/ 'revə.n(y)ü /
L
the income that comes back from an investment.
The revenue from Maria's rental property enabled her to buy a vacation cabin.

reverberate

v
/ rə'vərbə.rāt /
L
continue or become repeated in or as if in a series of echoes.
Kevin stood on one side of the canyon, yelled as loudly as he could, and waited for his voice to reverberate.

reverberated

v
/ rə'vərbə.rādəd /
L
returned or sent back : echoed.
Loud sounds reverberated throughout the cave.

revere

reverence

reversible

adj
/ rə'vərsəbəl /
L > F > E
made to be worn either side out and often with a different fabric on each side.
Mark's reversible vest matches everything else in his wardrobe.

revictualment

n
/ rē'vid'lmənt /
L + L > F > E + Ecf
the obtaining of fresh stocks of provisions (as by an army).
We cannot go that far into enemy territory without a clear plan for revictualment.

revirescent

adj
/ .revə'res'nt /
L
growing fresh or young again : reviving.
The incumbent surprised his opponents with the revirescent vigor of his campaign.

reviviscent

rhabdomancer

n
/ 'rəbdə.man(t)sə(r) /
Gk
one who practices divination by rods or wands.
With his divining rod in hand, the rhabdomancer set out to find an undiscovered spring of water.

rhapsodical

adj
/ rap'sädəkəl /
Gk
extravagantly emotional : rapturous.
The music critic lavished rhapsodical praise on the Brahms concert.

rheostat

n
/ 'rēə.stat /
Gk
a resistor for regulating a current by means of variable resistances.
The light dimmer has refused to work ever since Henry adjusted the rheostat.

rhetoric

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rhetorician

n
/ .redə'rishən /
Gk
one who writes or speaks in an inflated or bombastic style.
People tend to ignore Mr. Wade's good ideas because he is such a rhetorician.

rheumatic

adj
/ rü'mædik /
Gk > L > F
of, relating to or characteristic of inflammation, pain, and swelling in and around the joints.
Once Ben had rheumatic fever, and once he had typhoid.

rheumatism

n
/ 'rümətizəm /
Gk
any of numerous conditions characterized by inflammation or pain in muscles, joints, or fibrous tissue.
Shea's grandfather complained of rheumatism whenever the weather was cold and damp.

rheumy

rhinarium

n
/ rī'na(a)rēəm /
Gk > L
the hairless area of roughened skin at the tip of the snout of a mammal.
Vince checked the puppy's temperature by touching its rhinarium.

rhinestone

n
/ 'rīnz.tōn /
geog name + E
a colorless imitation stone of high luster made of glass, paste, or gem quartz.
Basil didn't bother looking for the rhinestone that fell out of his belt buckle.

rhinitis

n
/ rī'nīdēs /
Gk
common cold.
The doctor diagnosed rhinitis and prescribed rest.

rhinoceros

n
/ rī'näs(ə)rəs /
Gk
any of various large powerful herbivorous thick-skinned mammals that have one or two heavy upright horns on the snout.
The videotape showed dramatic footage of a rhinoceros charging a photographer.

rhizotomy

rhodium

rhododendron

n
/ .rōdədendrən /
Gk
any of various plants of the genus Rhododendron with persistent leathery leaves and bell-shaped flowers.
Evan's mother plants a rhododendron along the driveway every year on his birthday.

rhodolite

n
/ 'rōd'līt /
Gk + Gk
a pink or purple garnet that is used as a gem.
The gem exhibit included a 75-carat rhodolite from Tanzania.

rhomboid

n
/ 'rämböid /
Gk > L > F
a parallelogram in which the angles are oblique and adjacent sides are unequal.
One of our geometry problems was to find the area of a rhomboid.

rhombus

n
/ 'rämbəs /
Gk > L
an equilateral parallelogram.
The most familiar form that a rhombus takes must certainly be a square.

rhubarb

n
/ 'rü.bärb /
(Gk + L) > L? > F > E
a plant having large leaves with thick succulent stems that are often eaten in pies or preserves.
Rhubarb and strawberries make a good combination for a pie.

rhythm

n
/ 'rithəm /
Gk > L > F
the aspect of music comprising all the elements (as accent, meter, time, tempo) that relate to forward movement as contrasted with pitch sequence or tone combination.
Latin American music is usually easily recognizable by its distinctive rhythm.

ribald

adj
/ 'ribəld /
Gmc > F > E
characterized by broad coarse humor.
Sharon's mom was surprised to learn that the ribald tale her daughter was reading was written by Geoffrey Chaucer.

ricochet

n
/ 'rikəshā /
F
a glancing rebound or skipping (as of a flat stone thrown along the surface of water).
Albert and Tyler carefully counted each ricochet in the stone-skipping contest.

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ricotta

n
/ rĭ'kòdə /
L > It

a white unripened whey cheese of Italian origin that resembles cottage cheese.
Angela's favorite Italian recipe calls for ravioli stuffed with ricotta.

rictus

n
/ 'rĭktəs /
L

a gaping grin or grimace.
Reuben's face was frozen in a rictus of horror during the movie's last scene.

rideau

n
/ rĭ'də /
F

a small ridge or mound of earth.
The cottage was built on a rideau overlooking the marsh.

ridiculous

rifeness

riffler

rift

n
/ 'rĭft /
Scand > E

a divergence (as of interests or beliefs) resulting in disagreement or dispute.
Deciding what the puppy should be named caused a temporary rift between the twins.

rigatoni

n
/ rĭgə'tōnē /
Gmc > It

hollow alimentary paste made in short curved fluted pieces.
Paula served rigatoni stuffed with cheese and diced vegetables.

righteous

adj
/ 'rĭchəs /
E

characterized by uprightness or justice.
The civil rights protesters were fearless in their righteous cause.

rigorous

rime

n
/ 'rĭm /
E

[has homonym: rhyme] a covering of minute ice crystals on a cold surface that is formed by the condensation of atmospheric vapor at temperatures below freezing : frost.
Rime may occur in large, feathery flakes, but they lack the crystalline patterns of snowflakes.

riparian

adj
/ rĭ'pĕrĕən /
L

[Note: Could be confused with riparial.] of, relating to, or living or located on the bank of a watercourse (as a river or stream).
Most wildlife depends on riparian areas for survival.

risibility

n
/ rĭzə'bĭlədē /
L

the ability or inclination to laugh : alertness or sensitiveness to the ridiculous, incongruous, or absurd.
Mary's risibility has earned her the nickname "Giggle Girl."

rissole

n
/ rĭ'sōl /
L > F

[has near homonym: resole] minced meat or fish covered with pastry and fried in deep fat.
Marianne ate a rissole for lunch.

ritziness

riverain

rivulet

n
/ 'rĭvyələt /
L > It

a small stream : brook.
The fast-melting snow gushed down the rivulet to the pond below.

roan

adj
/ 'rōn /

Gothic > Sp > F
[has near homonym: rowan] of an animal's coat : having the base color (as black, red, gray, or brown) muted and lightened by a liberal admixture of white hairs.
The roan pony is the tamest mount at Camp Wannagohome.

roborant

adj
/ 'rābərənt /
L

strengthening.
In China, ginseng has for ages been esteemed for its roborant effects on the body.

rococo

adj
/ rə'kō(,)kō /
F

excessively ornate or intricate.
The rococo decor of Griselda's new house is typical of those built with "new money."

rodomont

n
/ 'rādə.mänt /

It name
a vain or blustering boaster.
James's new roommate is something of a rodomont.

rognon

rogue

n
/ 'rōg /

unknown
a dishonest unprincipled person.
The sheriff warned the newcomers that he would not tolerate a rogue in his town.

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roleo

n
/ 'rōlē.ō /
L > F > E&E
a logrolling tournament.
A roleo is similar to a rodeo but has floating logs instead of bucking broncos.

romance

rondache

n
/ rān'dash /
F
a small shield carried by a foot soldier.
In medieval warfare the rondache often had a slit in the upper part for seeing through.

ronquil

n
/ 'rāŋkəl /
Sp
any of several fishes of the northwest coast of North America that resemble the jawfishes.
Sheila caught a ronquil while fishing off the Alaskan coast.

rood

n
/ 'rūd /
E
[has homonym: rude, rued] a unit of land area used in England and Scotland equal to 40 square rods or ¼ acre.
After the uprising, every rood of the estate of Hugh of Thorpe was left burnt and barren.

roommate

roriferous

adj
/ rō'rif(ə)rəs /
L
generating dew.
The cool, roriferous evenings were a pleasant contrast to the hot, dry days.

Rorschach

n
/ 'rō(ə)r.shäk /
Swiss name
a psychological test of personality and intelligence using inkblot designs.
Keesha's responses during the Rorschach caused the examiner to believe that she was trying to make the results unreliable.

rosemaling

n
/ 'rōzə.mäliŋ /
L > ON > Norw + G > Norw
painted or carved decoration (as on furniture, walls, or wooden dinnerware) in Scandinavian peasant style that consists of colorful floral and other designs and inscriptions.
Tad restored the rosemaling on his wife's antique chair.

roseola

rostrum

n
/ 'rästrəm /
L
a pulpit or platform occupied by an orator or public speaker.
Robin stepped up on the rostrum, took a drink of water, and then began her speech.

rotisserie

n
/ rō'tisərə /
F
a cooking appliance with a spit on which food is rotated before or over a source of heat.
Herb cooked the chicken on a rotisserie over his gas grill.

rotogravure

n
/ .rōdəgrə'vyü(ə)r /
L + F
a photogravure process in which the impression is produced by a rotary press.
Rotogravure is used to print the magazine section of the Sunday paper.

rotulet

n
/ 'rächələt /
L
a small scroll or register.
The circuit judge logged all his court business in a rotulet.

rotundity

n
/ rō'təndədē /
L
roundness.
When he looked in the fun-house mirror, Chris was astounded by his rotundity.

rouge

n
/ 'rüz /
L > F
any of various cosmetics that give a red coloring to the cheeks or lips.
Loretta's mother said she was too young to wear rouge.

rough

adj
/ 'rəf /
E
[has homonym: ruff] difficult to travel over or penetrate.
The rough waters off its coast made the island a bane for sailors.

roughhewn

roulette

n
/ rü'let /
L > F
a gambling game in which players bet on which compartment of a revolving wheel a small ball spun in the opposite direction will come to rest in.
Bonita spent the entire time on the riverboat playing roulette.

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roundelay

n
/ 'raʊndə.lā /

F
a folk or ritual group or couple dance in which participants form a ring and move in a prescribed direction.

The roundelay dates back to prehistoric times, when people danced around a central totem.

rowel

v
/ 'raʊ(ə)l /

F > E
goad with a revolving disk at the end of a spur.

After she rounds the bend, Gabrielle will rowel her horse to a fresh burst of speed.

ruade

rubefacient

n
/ 'rübə'fāshənt /

L
a substance for external application that causes redness of the skin.

Isopropyl alcohol is a well-known rubefacient found in many people's medicine cabinets.

rubella

n
/ rü'belə /

L
an acute contagious disease usually affecting children and young adults and characterized by a red skin eruption, mild symptoms, and a short duration : German measles.

Rubella is especially dangerous when contracted by an expectant mother because it can threaten the health of her unborn child.

Rubenesque

adj
/ 'rübə'nesk /

Flem name
of, relating to, or having the characteristics of the Flemish painter Peter Paul Rubens.

The luxuriant drapery, use of light, and coloration of the painting in the Jones's entryway were Rubenesque.

rubicund

rubicundity

n
/ 'rübə'kændədē /

L
the quality or state of being ruddy or reddish.

The rubicundity of Laura's face was evidence of her embarrassment.

rubric

n
/ 'rü(,)brɪk /

L
name, title.
The fields of botany, zoology, and geology were once classified together under the rubric of "natural history."

rudimentary

adj
/ 'rüdə'mentərē /

L
basic, fundamental.
Thurston possessed only a rudimentary knowledge of opera.

ruefully

adv
/ 'rüfələ /

E + Ecf
in a pitiable or woeful manner.
Joe ruefully replied that he hadn't been able to bring any lunch with him.

ruminant

n
/ 'rümənənt /

L
any of a suborder of even-toed hoofed mammals (as sheep, giraffes, deer, and camels) that chew the cud and have a complex usually four-chambered stomach.
Microorganisms play an essential role in the digestive system of a ruminant.

ruminate

v
/ 'rümənāt /

L
muse upon : contemplate over and over.

Luke likes to ruminate in the backyard while chewing on a stem of grass.

rumored

rumormonger

n
/ 'rümə(r).mängə(r) /

L + Gk > L > E
one that spreads unconfirmed pieces of information.
If Alfonso doesn't learn to hold his tongue, he's going to earn a reputation as a rumormonger.

runnel

rupestrian

adj
/ rü'pestrēən /

L
composed of rock.
The designer of the famous rupestrian monument known as "Mt. Rushmore" died before the 14-year project was completed.

rural

adj
/ 'rürəl /

L
of, relating to, associated with, or typical of the country.
Kevin has always resided in the city and knows little about the rural way of life.

rurigenous

adj
/ rü'rijənəs /

L
born or living in the country.
As the town grew, some of the stores began to neglect their rurigenous customers.

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ruse

n
/ 'rüs /
F

a stratagem or trick usually intended to deceive.
Little did Carey know that Mrs. Bradley was onto his ruse.

russet

adj
/ 'rəsət /
L > F > E

reddish brown.
Troy's Robin Hood costume featured a russet top and forest green pants.

rustic

adj
/ 'rəstik /
L

naturally simple in character or manners.
Visitors to the village considered the inhabitants rustic.

rutabaga

n
/ 'rüdə.bāgə /
ON > Sw

a turnip with a very large yellowish root that is used as food both for stock and for human beings.
In England, the vegetable Americans know as a rutabaga is called a "swede."

rutch

rutilant

adj
/ 'rüdə'lənt /
L

having a reddish glow : shining.
The evening sun put a rutilant sheen on the sunbathers' skin.

sabbatical

sable

n
/ 'sābəl /
Slav > G > F > E

[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word.] the heraldic color black.
Anita began painting her family's coat of arms by creating a background of sable.

sabotage

n
/ 'sabətəzh /
F

malicious destruction of or damage to property with the intention of injuring a business or impairing the economic system or weakening a government or nation in time of war or national emergency.
When a drug enforcement agency airplane crashed, sabotage was suspected and an investigation was launched.

saboteur

sacalait

n
/ 'sakə.lā /
Choctaw > F

a crappie that is typically smaller and more silvery than the black crappie and that is highly esteemed as a food fish.
Ray and Moira went to the French Quarter to dine on sacalait and cornbread.

saccade

n
/ sa'käd /
F

a small rapid jerky movement of the eye especially as it jumps from fixation on one point to another (as in reading).
Mary felt that her eyes could not take one more saccade, so she closed them during the remainder of the PowerPoint presentation.

saccadic

adj
/ sa'kädik /
F

[has near homonym: psychotic] of or relating to a sudden movement : jerky.
Virginia's saccadic motions were symptomatic of a neurological disorder.

saccharify

sacciform

adj
/ 'sak(s)ə.förm /
L

resembling a pouch.
The squirrel filled its sacciform cheeks with acorns.

sacerdocy

n
/ 'sasə(r).dösē /
L

priesthood.
Will announced in a letter to his sister that he felt a calling to the sacerdocy.

sacerdotal

adj
/ ,sasə(r)'dödəl /
L

of or relating to priests or a priesthood.
Some types of sacerdotal clothing distinguish the clergy from the laity, and some signify rank within the priesthood.

sachem

n
/ 'sächəm /
Narraganset&Pequot

the leader of a political party; specifically : one of the 12 governors of the Tammany Society.
William Tweed was a sachem of the political organization known as Tammany Hall.

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sachet

n
/ sa'shā /
F

[has homonym: sashay] a small bag or packet; especially : a small bag containing a perfumed powder that is used to scent clothes.

Aunt Kate keeps a sachet in her clothes closet.

sacralize

sacrifice

v
/ 'sakra.fis /
L

[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word.] bunt in baseball with fewer than two out, enabling a base runner to advance a base while the batter is put out at first base.

The coach told Marvin to sacrifice because George was on third base and the team needed one more run to win.

sacrificial

sacristy

sacroiliac

sacrosanct

adj
/ 'sakra.sən(k)t /
L

most holy or sacred : inviolable.
The use of loud voices is inappropriate in the sacrosanct temple.

safari

n
/ sə'fārē /
Ar > Swahili

a hunting or other expedition in east Africa, especially on foot.
While on safari, Ariel photographed lions and elephants.

saffron

n
/ 'safrən /
Ar > L > F > E

a deep orange-colored substance consisting of the aromatic pungent dried stigmas of the saffron crocus and used to color and flavor foods.
Saffron is the most expensive spice at Walker's Market.

sagacious

adj
/ sə'gāshəs /
L

possessing quick intellectual perceptions.
The neighbors often came to the sagacious old man for advice about investments.

sagacity

n
/ sə'gasədē /
L

quickness or acuteness of sense perceptions.
Chuck's sagacity made him the finest detective in the arson unit.

sagathy

sagebrush

sagittal

adj
/ 'sajədəl /
L

of, relating to, or shaped like an arrow or arrowhead.
Murray fantasized that the sagittal rock he found in the quarry was an Indian arrowhead.

Sagittarius

n
/ .sajə'ta(a)rēəs /
L

the ninth sign of the zodiac.
The Moon was in Sagittarius when Sherman was born.

salaam

salamander

n
/ 'salə.mandə(r) /
Gk > L > F > E

a metal disk or plate heated and held over a food (as pastry or pudding) to brown the top of it.
A salamander is often used to caramelize the top of desserts like crème brûlée.

salami

n
/ sə'lāmē /
L > It

a highly seasoned sausage made of pork and beef.
Randy made a sandwich of salami and cheese.

salesclerk

salicetum

n
/ .salə'sēdəm /
L

a collection or plantation of willows.
The salicetum is Nikki's favorite picnic spot.

salicylate

salient

saline

salivary

salmon

n
/ 'samən /
L > F > E

a variable color of salmon's flesh averaging a strong yellowish pink.
Unable to find a purse in the right shade of salmon, Vera decided to stick with basic black.

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salmonellosis

n
/ˌsɑlməˈneɪlōsəs /
American name + Lcff
infection with a bacterial disease typically marked by gastroenteritis but often complicated by septicemia, meningitis, and other conditions.
Vaughn contracted salmonellosis while on the cruise.

salon

salsilla

n
/sal'silə /
L
a tropical American plant with edible roots sometimes used as a substitute for potatoes.
In the West Indies we had our first taste of salsilla.

saltine

n
/sól'tēn /
E
a thin, crisp cracker sprinkled with salt.
The stale saltine crumbled as the raccoon tried to wash it in the creek.

salutary

adj
/'salyətərē /
L
promoting health : curative, restorative.
The long vacation had a salutary effect on Grace's mental health.

salve

n
/'sav /
E
a healing ointment.
Jason's grandmother prepared a mustard oil salve and told him that if he used it, his troubles would be over in three days.

salvo

n
/'sal(,)vō /
L > F > It
a sudden eruption or explosion (as of laughter, cheers, or handclaps).
When the villain met with doom after an intense struggle, the movie theater was filled with a salvo of applause.

samba

n
/'sambə /
African > Pg
a Brazilian dance of African origin characterized by a sprightly step pattern in duple time and a bending of the knee at each beat of the music.
The Campbells, who love Latin dancing, went to special classes to learn the samba.

samizdat

n
/'sämēz.dät /
Russ
the system in the former U.S.S.R. by which government-suppressed literature was clandestinely printed and distributed; also : such literature.
After the fall of communism, numerous small publishers of samizdat found their place in the open market.

samovar

samphire

n
/'sam.fī(ə)r /
F name
a fleshy European coastal plant that is sometimes pickled.
Daphne ordered the salad of samphire and other greens.

sampler

samurai

sanctified

sanctimonious

adj
/ˌsɑŋ(k)tə'mōnēəs /
L
displaying high-mindedness with intent to impress.
Ronnie's voice took on a sanctimonious tone when he volunteered to give his mother his meal.

sanction

sanctity

sanctum

n
/'sɑŋ(k)təm /
L
a sacred place.
The innermost sanctum of the temple in Jerusalem was known as the Holy of Holies.

sandal

n
/'sandəl /
Gk > L > E
a shoe consisting essentially of a sole fastened to the foot by means of straps or thongs passing over the instep and around the ankle.
Lorraine stopped to refasten the strap of her sandal because her ankle had swollen.

sangaree

sangfroid

n
/sɑŋ'frwä /
L > F
extraordinary self-possession or imperturbability, especially under strain.
Justin remained calm during the prosecutor's attack and replied to the questions with sangfroid.

sanguinary

sanguine

adj
/'sɑŋgwən /
L
marked by eager hopefulness.
Ever sanguine, Kathy said that she would one day win the lottery.

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sanguinolent

adj
/ san'gwɪnələnt /

L
of, containing, or tinged with blood.

Theo's phlegm became sanguinolent for a while from bronchitis.

sanitary

adj
/ 'san.ət.ərē /

L
for or relating to the preservation of health.

Conditions at Christ Hospital are as sanitary as is humanly possible.

sapiential

adj
/ 'sāpē.ənchəl /

L
characterized by wisdom.
The philosopher's library is filled with sapiential books.

saponaceous

adj
/ ,sapə'nāshəs /

L
soapy.
Talc and soapstone have a saponaceous feel.

saporous

adj
/ 'sapərəs /

L
having flavor; especially : agreeable in taste.
When Dad returned from work, Mom treated him to a saporous beef stew.

sapphire

n
/ 'sa.fī(ə)r /
Skt > Heb > Gk > L > F > E
a precious stone of transparent rich blue corundum of great value.
Sapphire has been highly prized as a gemstone since 800 B.C.

sapphiric

adj
/ sə'fīrɪk /
Skt > Heb > Gk > L > F > E
having the nature of or resembling a sapphire.
Diane's bracelet held a series of sapphiric stones.

saprogenous

adj
/ sə'prājənəs /
Gk + Gk + Ecf
capable of producing decay or putrefaction.
Saprogenous bacteria aid in the decomposition of dead organic matter.

saprophagous

adj
/ sə'präfəgəs /
Gk + Gk
feeding on decaying matter.
While hiking, Ted and Paul passed the carcass of a squirrel that was covered with saprophagous insects.

saran

sarcasm

sarcophagus

sardine
n
/ ,sär'dēn /
Gk? > L > F > E
any of several small or immature fishes preserved for food.
The only way to entice the frightened cat from under the porch was to offer him a sardine.

sardonic

sardonyx

sarong

sarrazin

sarsaparilla

n
/ ,sas(ə)pə'rɪlə /
Sp
a sweetened carbonated beverage similar to root beer with the predominant flavor from birch oil and saffras.
Sylvester's yen for sarsaparilla is well known to cartoon aficionados.

sartorial

adj
/ sär'tōrēəl /
L
of or relating to dress or to tailored clothes.
Sandy, who longed to be a sartorial rebel, sometimes went to class wearing purple tights under her uniform.

sashay

v
/ sa'shā /
F > E
[Note: Could be confused with chassé. Also, word has homonym: sachet] strut in an ostentatious or conspicuous manner.
Tommy and Suzanne tried to sashay as the caller instructed, but they both tripped and fell.

Saskatchewan

adj
/ sə'skəchəwən /
Cree > Canad geog name
of or from the province of Saskatchewan, Canada.
Among the Saskatchewan flora is the saskatoon, a sweet purple berry.

saskatoon

n
/ ,saskə'tūn /
Canadian geog name
a juneberry of the northern and western United States and adjacent Canada.
The purple fruit of the saskatoon is eaten eagerly by birds.

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sassafras

n
/ 'sas(ə).fras /
Sp > L
the dried bark of the root of an aromatic tree used as a diaphoretic, a flavoring agent, an aromatic stimulant, or as a source of an aromatic volatile oil used in perfumes.
Alba's family has a recipe for medicinal tea that contains sassafras.

satchel

satellite

n
/ 'səd˙l.i.t /
Etruscan? > L > F
a celestial body orbiting another of larger size.
Earth has only one natural satellite—the Moon.

satiate

satiety

n
/ sə'ti.ə.dē /
L > F
the quality or state of being fed to or beyond capacity.
Nell wondered if her beagle puppy would ever reach satiety.

satire

n
/ 'sa.tī(ə)r /
L
a usually topical literary composition holding up human or individual vices, folly, abuses, or shortcomings to censure by means of ridicule, derision, burlesque, irony, or other method sometimes with an intent to bring about improvement.
Gulliver's Travels is a scathing satire of political and religious hypocrites.

satiric

satirical

adj
/ sə'tir.ə.kəl /
L > F
characterized by caustic or ironic comment.
Ned's cartoons have a sharp, satirical edge.

saturate

v
/ 'sach.ə.rāt /
L
infuse thoroughly or cause to be pervaded.
The aroma of a turkey roasting in the oven began to saturate the entire house.

saturnine

adj
/ 'səd(ə)r.nīn /
L
of a moody or surly character : morose, sullen.
Shirley's father-in-law is a saturnine person with a quick temper.

saucer

sauciness

n
/ 'sə.sē.nəs /
L > F + Ecf
the quality or state of being amusingly or unobjectionably forward or impertinent.
Emma felt they were friends again, and the conviction gave her at first great satisfaction, and then a little sauciness.

sauerbraten

n
/ 'sau(ə)r.brät'n /
G
oven-roasted or pot-roasted beef marinated in a vinegar solution with peppercorns, garlic, onions, and bay leaves before cooking.
Phil's favorite German restaurant features sauerbraten during Oktoberfest.

sauger

saunter

saurian

sausage

n
/ 'sə.sij /
L > F > E
highly seasoned chopped or ground meat that is used either fresh or cured.
Harry's favorite pizza is topped with sausage and onions.

savagism

savorous

adj
/ 'sāv(ə)rəs /
L > F > E
pleasurable to the taste : flavorful.
Mabel prepared a savorous Thanksgiving dinner for her family.

savory

adj
/ 'sāv(ə)rē /
F
fragrant.
Guido bought a savory wooden bowl smelling of rich cedar and varnish.

savvy

n
/ 'savē /
L > Sp
expertness in a particular field based on experience and native ability.
Officer Ramos's street savvy was a great help in apprehending drug dealers.

saxophone

sayonara

n
/ .sə.yə'närə /
Jpn
good-bye.
Charlene found it hard to bid Nagano sayonara at the end of the 1998 Winter Olympics.

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scabbard

n
/ 'skabə(r)d /
G > AF > E

a usually leather or metal sheath in which the blade of a sword, dagger, bayonet, or other cutting weapon is enclosed when not in use.

The knight began to pull his sword from its scabbard, but a look from the queen stopped him.

scabrous

adj
/ 'skabrəs /
L

rough to the touch : having small raised dots, scales, or points.

The leaf's scabrous texture was caused by insect attacks.

scaffold

scalene

adj
/ 'skā.lēn /
Gk

having the sides unequal—used of a triangle.

The boat's sail formed a scalene triangle.

scallopini

scalpel

n
/ 'skalpəl /
L

a small straight knife with a thin keen blade used especially for dissecting.

In surgery the scalpel is now often replaced by a laser beam.

scampi

scandal

scansion

n
/ 'skanchən /
L

the analysis of a rhythmic structure (as a verse) so as to show the elements or units of which its rhythm is composed.

There are three major types of English scansion: the graphic, the musical, and the acoustic.

scaphoid

adj
/ 'ska.fōid /
Gk > L

shaped like a boat.

Terence found a scaphoid depression in the rock.

scarce

adj
/ 'ske(ə)rs /
L > F > E

not plentiful or abundant.

Lettuce became scarce and expensive after the recent flooding.

scarcity

scarifier

n
/ 'ska(a)rə.fī(ə)r /
Gk > L > F

an implement or machine that tears up the surface of a road prior to resurfacing.

Paul operates a scarifier for the Highway Department.

scarlatina

n
/ 'skārlə'tēnə /
L

an acute contagious disease marked by fever.

Diseases such as scarlatina were once the scourge of childhood.

scarlet

adj
/ 'skārlət /
Per > L > F

having the face reddened by emotion (as embarrassment, anger) : red-faced.

Jill turned scarlet with rage when she discovered her sister was wearing her new sweater.

scaturient

adj
/ skə'türēənt /
L

gushing forth : effusive, overflowing.

The explorers followed the river to its scaturient source.

scavenging

scelidosaur

scenario

n
/ sə'na(a)rē.ō /
Gk > L

an outline or synopsis of a play.

After the actor read the scenario, he decided that he was not right for the leading role.

scenewright

n
/ 'sēn.rīt /
Gk > L + E

a designer and maker of theatrical sets.

The scenewright worked closely with the playwright to create the appropriate backgrounds for each act.

scentless

adj
/ 'sentləs /
L > F > E + Ecf

emitting no odor.

Gerald prefers scentless soap.

scepter

n
/ 'septə(r) /
Gk > L > F > E

a staff or baton borne by a sovereign as a ceremonial emblem of authority.

When Ben played Henry VIII in the school play, his mother made him a scepter.

schadenfreude

n
/ 'shäd'nf.rōidə /
G

enjoyment obtained from the mishaps of others.

Morgana claimed to be sympathetic, but the schadenfreude was all too obvious.

scheduling

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schefflera

n
/ 'sheflərə /
G name > L

any of several shrubby tropical plants that are cultivated for their showy foliage.
When frost was predicted, Demont covered the schefflera with a blanket.

scheme

v
/ 'skēm /
Gk

accomplish by clever contriving.
Walter resolved to scheme out a way to get a new bike.

schemer

n
/ 'skēmə(r) /
Gk

one that forms plots or intrigues.
Joe was a schemer who always had big plans to get rich.

scherzando

adj
/ skert'sän(,)dō /
Gmc > It

playful, jesting—used as a direction in music indicating style and tempo.
The Flight of the Bumblebee was played with scherzando lightness.

scherzo

schiafone

schipperke

schism

schismatic

adj
/ siz'madik /
Gk > L
of, relating to, or characteristic of division, separation, or discord.
The book describes numerous schismatic movements in church history.

schizoid

schizophrenia

schnitzel

n
/ 'shnitsəl /
G

a veal cutlet variously seasoned and garnished.
The Bavarian restaurant's menu included sauerbraten, sausages, and schnitzel.

scholarly

adj
/ 'skälə(r)lē /
Gk > L

characteristic of one who is devoted to learning : studious.
Nathan's scholarly habits earned him a spot on the honor roll.

schooner

schottische

n
/ 'shäd-ish /
G

a round dance in duple time characterized by gliding and hopping steps and similar to but slower than the polka.
After an hour of dancing the schottische, Ed and Sarah wearily headed for the soda machine.

schuss

n
/ 'shüs /
G

a straightaway skiing course.
In a tucked position Kira followed the schuss all the way to the bottom.

schussboomer

n
/ 'shüs.bümər /
G + imit

one who skis usually straight downhill at high speed.
When the schussboomer lost control, he somersaulted and rolled to the foot of the slope.

scialytic

adj
/ .sīə'lidik /
Gk > L

dispersing or dispelling shadows.
After a long night of ghost stories, Erma welcomed the scialytic dawn.

sciamachy

n
/ sī'aməkē /
Gk

a fighting with a shadow or an imaginary enemy.
Engaging in sciamachy helped the boxer prepare for his next match.

sciatica

n
/ sī'adəkə /
Gk > L

pain along the course of a sciatic nerve or its branches and especially in the leg.
As Alicia struggled out of bed, she complained of sciatica in her left leg.

scientific

adj
/ .sīən'tifik /
L

concerned with or treating of a branch or department of systematized knowledge that is or can be made a specific object of study.
Alain's scientific training landed him a job at Dow Chemical.

scientist

scilicet

scintilla

scintillate

v
/ 'sint'lāt /
L

gleam or emit quick flashes as if throwing off sparks.
Mom's eyes scintillate whenever she is joyously excited.

scintillation

n
/ .sint'l'āshən /
L

rapid changes in the brightness of a celestial body caused by turbulence in Earth's atmosphere.
The stars' scintillation is less pronounced at higher altitudes.

scintiscan

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sciolistic

adj
/sīə'listik/
L

of or relating to superficial knowledge or to one whose knowledge is superficial.
The students' sciolistic conversation amused Professor Pickett.

sciosophy

scissors

sclerosis

n
/sklə'rōsəs/
Gk

pathological hardening of tissue produced by overgrowth of fibrous tissue and other changes or by increase in interstitial tissue.
Sclerosis is often a consequence of old age.

scofflaw

n
/'skäflə/
E + E

a contemptuous lawbreaker; especially : one who ignores parking tickets.
The scofflaw tore up his ticket in front of the police officer and was subsequently fined \$500.

sconce

n
/'skän(t)s/
L > F > E

an ornamental electric light fixture for a wall that resembles a bracket candlestick or group of candlesticks.
Tamara bought an elaborate sconce for her hallway.

scopate

adj
/'skō.pāt/
L + E

resembling a brush.
Some cacti have scopate flowers.

scotopia

n
/skə'tōpēə/
Gk + Gk > L
vision in dim light with dark-adapted eyes believed to be mediated by the rods of the retina.
Astronomers rely on scotopia to resolve detail in images.

scoundrel

n
/'skaüdrəl/
unknown
a bold selfish person who has very low ethical standards.
The treasurer of the company was fired when he was found out to be an opportunistic scoundrel.

scourge

n
/'skərj/
L > F > E
a social evil.
Much of the city's crime is attributed to the scourge of recurrent unemployment.

scraggly

scramble

v
/'skræmbəl/
D?
prepare (eggs) by stirring during frying.
After she burned the meatloaf, Arlene decided to scramble some eggs for dinner.

scrawny

adj
/'skrōnē/
unknown
marked by an appearance of undernourishment : skinny and bony.
The scrawny kitten mewed plaintively in the tree.

screenplay

n
/'skrēn.plā/
D > F > E + E
the written form of a story prepared for motion-picture production including description of characters, details of scenes and settings, dialogue, and stage directions.
The director, with screenplay in hand, was ready for the day's filming.

scrimmage

n
/'skrimij/
Gmc > E
practice play between a team's various squads.
Today's exciting scrimmage is a good indication that both squads are ready for the upcoming season.

scrimshaw

n
/'skrim.shō/
unknown
any of various carved or engraved useful or decorative articles sometimes colored by brushing ink into the engraved lines and made especially by American whalers from whalebone or whale ivory.
The whaling museum has a large collection of scrimshaw.

script

n
/'skript/
L
something written : text.
By the end of vacation, Mary had the entire script of the play memorized.

scriptural

adj
/'skripchərəl/
L > E + Ecf
of, relating to, contained in, or according to a sacred writing.
Ivan spent five years translating the scriptural material.

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scrivener

n
/ 'skriv(ə)nə(r) /
L > F
a professional or public copyist or writer.
The critic dismissed the writer's novel as the uninspired work of a scrivener.

scroll

n
/ 'skrɔ:l /
Gmc > F > E
a long strip used as the body of a written document and often having a rod or rods for convenience in rolling and storing.
The writing on the magician's scroll erased itself after the spell was read aloud.

scrumptious

adj
/ 'skrəm(p)ʃəs /
L
delightful, excellent.
The bakery down the street makes a scrumptious almond coffee cake.

scruples

n pl
/ 'skrupəlz /
L
mental reservations : qualms.
Emma recommended the minced chicken and scalloped oysters with an urgency she knew would be acceptable to the civil scruples of her guests.

scrupulously

adv
/ 'skrupyələslē /
L
conscientiously, painstakingly.
Katie washes her hands so scrupulously that her friends wonder if she has a psychological disorder.

sculpin

n
/ 'skəlpən /
unknown
any of a family of spiny large-headed broad-mouthed often scaleless bony fishes.
A small sculpin was Van's only catch on the expensive charter-boat outing.

sculptor

n
/ 'skəlp(tə)r /
L
one that carves, engraves, molds, welds, or constructs (materials) into a primarily three-dimensional work of art.
Pablo Picasso was equally influential as a painter, a sculptor, and a draftsman.

sculpture

scuppernong

n
/ 'skəpə(r)nɒŋ /
geog name
any of various cultivated muscadine grape varieties which have yellowish-green fruit suggesting a plum in flavor.
Molly picked and ate a scuppernong from her grandmother's grape arbor.

scurrilous

adj
/ 'skərələs /
L
containing low obscenities or coarse abuse.
The farmers hurled scurrilous accusations across the barbed-wire fence.

scurvy

n
/ 'skərvē /
Scan > E
a disease characterized by spongy gums, loosening of the teeth, and a tendency to bleed into the skin and mucous membranes and caused by a dietary deficiency of ascorbic acid.
Scurvy is easily preventable by eating fruits and vegetables rich in vitamin C.

scutellate

adj
/ sk(y)ü'telət /
L
rather flat with a distinct rim and a rounded to oval outline.
Beryl opened the packet and examined the scutellate seeds.

scuttlebutt

scythe

scytodopsis

seabound

seafaring

searchlight

n
/ 'sərch.līt /
L > F > E + E
an apparatus for projecting a powerful beam of light of approximately parallel rays usually devised so that it can be swiveled about.
The festival hired a searchlight to sweep the sky and advertise its presence.

seasonably

sebaceous

adj
/ sə'bāshəs /
L
relating to, composed of, or secreting fatty matter.
Oily skin is usually the result of overactive sebaceous glands.

secco

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Frequently

secede

v
/ sə'sēd /

L
withdraw from a federation.
About ten more deputies have opted to secede from the governing majority.

secernment

n
/ sə'sərnmənt /

L
[Note: Could be confused with secernent.] the act or process of distinguishing or discriminating in thought.
The thesaurus proved enlightening in its secernment of the subtle differences between synonyms.

secession

n
/ sə'seshən /

L
formal withdrawal from an organization (as a religious communion or political party or federation).
The history teacher explained that the South's secession from the United States was not solely an issue regarding slavery.

secessionist

secondariness

secularism

secund

sedens

sedentary

adj
/ 'sed'n.terē /

L
characterized by or requiring sitting or slight activity.
Isabelle's sedentary job provided little opportunity for exercise.

Seder

n
/ 'sādə(r) /

Heb
[has homonym: satyr] a Jewish home or community service and ceremonial dinner held on the first evening of the Passover.
Jim had never been to a Seder before he met Julia.

sediment

n
/ 'sedəmənt /

L
material deposited (as by water, wind, or glaciers).
The layers of sediment were evident in the shades of color on the rocky hillside.

sedition

n
/ sə'dishən /

L > F > E
an insurrection against constituted authority.
Because Paul openly advocated the overthrow of the government, he was charged with sedition.

sedulous

seedling

n
/ 'sēdliŋ /

E + Ecf
a nursery plant (usually a tree) that has not been transplanted.
Karen bought a maple seedling at the tree farm.

seersucker

seethe

segue

v
/ 'sā(,)gwā /

L > It
make a transition from one activity, topic, scene, or part to another as or as if part of a natural progression.
Senator Ward used an anecdote to segue to a new topic in his speech.

seguidilla

n
/ ,sāgē'dē(y)ə /

L > Sp
a Spanish dance with many regional variations or the music for this dance performed with guitar and castanets.
In the second act of the opera, the Spanish gypsy performs a seguidilla.

seiche

n
/ 'sāsh /

F
an oscillation of the surface of a lake or landlocked sea.
A seiche can be almost as powerful as a tidal wave.

seine

v
/ 'sān /

E
[has homonym: sane] fish with or catch fish with a net that hangs vertically in the water.
David and Joel like to seine for perch.

seismism

n
/ 'sīz.mizəm /

Gk
earthquake phenomena.
Ralph gave a report about seismism in Chinese folklore.

seity

seizure

n
/ 'sēzhə(r) /

E
a sudden attack (as of a disease or sickness).
A seizure of hay fever ruined the picnic for Tom.

seldom

selectivity

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selenian

adj
/ sə'leɪniən /
Gk

of, relating to, or designating the Moon.

Jim's story tells the tale of an explorer going off to create a selenian colony.

selenologist

n
/ ,selə'näləjəst /
Gk

an astronomer who specializes in the study of the Moon.

The selenologist gave a description of the chief craters of the moonscape.

selenology

semanteme

n
/ sə'mantēm /
Gk > F

a word or a base that expresses a definite image or idea—distinguished from morpheme.

The verb run is an example of a semanteme.

semaphore

semester

n
/ sə'mestə(r) /
L

either of the two periods of instruction commonly 18 weeks in length into which an academic year is usually divided.

Yolanda was delighted that her grades for the first semester were all A's.

semiautomatic

seminary

n
/ 'semənərē /
L

an institution for the training of candidates for the priesthood, ministry, or rabbinate.

The pulpit committee's first choice is a young person who has just completed seminary.

semolina

n
/ ,semə'lēnə /
L > It

the purified middlings of durum or other hard wheat used for macaroni and other alimentary pastes.

The best pasta is made from semolina.

senary

adj
/ 'sɛnərē /
L

[has homonym: scenery] of, based upon, or characterized by six : compounded of six things : consisting of six parts.

Jethro experimented with music using a senary scale.

senectitude

senescent

adj
/ sə'nesənt /
L

growing old.

The town's senescent infrastructure struggled under the burden of a growth spurt.

seneschal

n
/ 'senəʃhəl /
Gmc > F > E
a bailiff, steward, or majordomo of a great medieval lord.
The seneschal pounded his staff on the floor three times and announced the king's visitors.

senile

sensibilia

sensibility

sensible

adj
/ 'sen(t)s(ə)rē /
L + E

of or relating to the senses.

In some insects the sensory organs of taste, touch, smell, and hearing are located in the antennae.

sententious

adj
/ sen'tenchəs /
L

terse, aphoristic, or moralistic in expression : pithy.

The sitcom's drop in popularity was attributed to its growing tendency toward sententious sermonizing.

sentient

sentimental

sentinel

n
/ 'sent(ə)nəl /
L > It > F

one that watches or guards.

The sentinel peered into the distance through tiny binoculars.

sentry

n
/ 'sentrē /
E

[has near homonym: century] a soldier standing guard.

The sentry reported a suspicious vehicle parked down the street from the barracks.

separate

sepia

n
/ 'sepēə /
Gk > L

a pigment of rich brown color containing melanin, prepared from the ink of various cuttlefishes, and used in watercolor painting and in ink.

Black-and-white photographs can be stained with sepia to give them an old-fashioned look.

septennial

adj
/ sep'tenēəl /
L

continuing or lasting for seven years.

Since legislation in 1716 the British government has had septennial parliaments; previously they were triennial.

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septentrional

adj
/ sep'tentrēən'ɪl /

L
northern.
The septentrional seaports of Russia are frozen in the winter.

septuagenarian

n
/ .sep.t(y)üəjə'nerēən /

L
a person who is 70 or more but fewer than 80 years old.
Aunt Daisy is proud of the fact that she has lived to be a septuagenarian.

sepulchral

adj
/ sə'pəlkrəl /

L
having a funereal quality.
Dusk and a vase of gardenias gave the parlor a sepulchral air.

sequaciousness

n
/ sə'kwāshəsnes /

L > E
the quality or state of being imitative or obsequious.
Cal's sequaciousness failed to win him a promotion.

sequel

n
/ 'sēkwəl /

L
continuation; especially : a literary work continuing the course of a narrative begun in a preceding one.
The film was so popular that the producer asked the screenwriter for a sequel.

sequela

n
/ sə'kwelə /

L
an aftereffect of disease or injury.
Peeling of the skin is a common sequela of sunburn.

sequester

v
/ sə'kwestə(r) /

L > F > E
hide from public view : seclude.
The judge wanted to sequester the jury to keep them from hearing news reports that might sway their opinions.

seraphic

adj
/ sə'rafik /

Heb > L
of, relating to, or befitting an angel of the highest order especially in beauty or ecstatic adoration.
The choir's hymn of praise sounded sublimely seraphic.

serenade

v
/ .serə'nād /

L > It > F
play or sing music in honor of.
The football team plans to serenade its coach during the pep rally.

serendipitous

adj
/ .serən'dipədəs /
Ar geog name + Ecf
obtained or characterized by unexpected but fortunate discovery.
Mickey's serendipitous discovery of five quarters and two dimes on the sidewalk made his day.

serge

adj
/ .sirē'ādəm /

L
in sequence.
Although the classes meet seriatim, each day of the week starts with a different class in the series.

sericeous

adj
/ sə'rishəs /

Gk > L
having a fuzzy surface; specifically : covered with soft, silky hairs.
The plant's sericeous leaves felt almost like velvet.

serictery

n
/ sə'riktərə /

Gk > L
the silk-producing gland of a caterpillar or other insect larva.
As it spins its cocoon, the silkworm caterpillar secretes a gummy substance from each serictery.

serigraphy

adj
/ 'sərmən.īz /

F > E
address at length in a didactic and solemn manner.
Everyone is hoping that Dad won't find something to sermonize about when he chaperones the school dance.

serotinal

adj
/ sə'rät'nəl /

L + Ecf
of or relating to the latter and usually drier part of summer.
Many small ponds dry up during the serotinal season.

serpiginous

adj
/ 'se.rādəd /

L
notched or toothed on the edge.
Under the microscope, dust mites appear to be hairy monsters with serrated claws.

serrefine

adj
/ 'serēd /

F
crowded or pressed together.
The serried tenements of the big city soon gave way to rolling hills.

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serviceable

adj
/ 'sɜrvəsəbəl /
L > F

suited for a purpose.
Filene lamented that the poncho's design, though serviceable, is not very fashionable.

servile

adj
/ 'sɜrvəl /
L

[has homonym: serval] of, relating to, or appropriate to slaves.
Oscar was thankful to be freed from his servile status.

sesquicentennial

n
/ ,seskwəsen'tenēəl /
L

a 150th anniversary.
The state issued special license plates to commemorate its sesquicentennial.

sesquipedalian

adj
/ ,seskwəpə'dālyən /
L

given to or characterized by the use of long words.
Norbert dozed off halfway through the principal's sesquipedalian speech.

session

severance

sewage

n
/ 'süij /
L > F > E
waste matter that is carried away by a drain.
The smell of sewage permeated the dilapidated building.

shackle

v
/ 'ʃakəl /
E

[has homonym: shackle] confine the limbs of so as to prevent free motion.
The prisoner of war told the United Nations delegation that his guards had threatened to shackle him 24 hours a day.

shaddock

n
/ 'ʃadək /
E name
a very large thick-rinded typically pear-shaped citrus fruit.
The shaddock resembles the grapefruit but is larger, coarser, and drier.

shadiness

n
/ 'ʃādēnəs /
E + Ecff
the quality or state of comparative darkness.
On a hot day, the cool shadiness of a tree is very welcome.

shaganappi

shagreen

n
/ 'ʃa,grēn /
F > E
an untanned leather covered with small round granulations and dyed a bright color.
Chloe bought the bride and groom leather placemats made of shagreen.

shako

n
/ 'ʃa(,)kō /
G > Hung > F
a stiff military headdress with a metal plate in front, a high crown, and a plume.
Each member of the band wore a plumed shako in parades.

shale

n
/ 'ʃāl /
E
a fissile rock that is formed by the consolidation of clay, mud, or silt.
The petroleum refinery also markets by-products of shale.

shallot

n
/ ʃə'lät /
L > F
a perennial herb that resembles an onion and is used in cooking.
Ted didn't have time to go to the store again, so he substituted a white onion for a shallot in the recipe.

shanghai

v
/ 'ʃaŋ,hī /
Chinese geog name
to put by trickery into an undesirable position.
Winona won't allow the condominium board to shanghai her into serving as its president.

shanghaied

shears

shebang

sheepshearer

n
/ 'ʃhēp,ʃhīrə(r) /
E + E
a person that cuts the wool from sheep by hand or machine.
At the county fair, the sheepshearer always draws the largest crowd.

shekel

n
/ 'ʃhekəl /
Hebrew
a Hebrew unit of weight equal to about 252 grains troy.
In the Talmudist system, a shekel is 1/60 of a mina.

shenanigan

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shenanigans

n pl
/ shə'nanəgənz /
unknown
high-spirited, daring, or mischievous acts : pranks.
On the first day of school Mrs. Gibson warned the class that she would not put up with any shenanigans in her classroom.

shepherdess

n
/ 'shepə(r)dəs /
E
a woman or girl who tends sheep.
Alma painted a watercolor of a shepherdess and three lambs.

sheriff

n
/ 'sherəf /
E
a county officer who is usually elected by the people of the county and has the duty of preserving the peace.
The office of sheriff is a holdover from medieval English law.

shibboleth

n
/ 'shibələθ /
Heb
a custom or usage regarded as a criterion for distinguishing members of one group (as a social class) from those of another.
Table manners are sometimes used as a shibboleth of class distinction.

shillibeer

n
/ 'shilə.bi(ə)r /
E name
a horse-drawn hearse with seats for mourners.
The museum has acquired an ornate Victorian shillibeer.

shillyshallyer

shindig

n
/ 'shin.dig /
E
a jovial social affair that includes dancing.
Max hosted the shindig at the hotel.

shipwreck

n
/ 'shi.prek /
E + Scand > F > E
a large ruined or stranded seagoing boat or its parts.
The shipwreck was mottled with barnacles.

shivering

v
/ 'shiv(ə)riŋ /
E
trembling due to cold, fear, or physical pressure.
Norma was shivering because she did not dress in warm clothing.

shoal

n
/ 'shōl /
E
[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word. In addition, word has homonym: shole.] a great number thronged together or considered as a group.
The spelling bee champion received a shoal of congratulatory letters in the month following her win.

shrapnel

n
/ 'shrapnəl /
E name
bomb, mine, or shell fragments.
The surgeon found and removed all of the shrapnel in the soldier's leg, ensuring a swift recovery.

shrewdness

n
/ 'shrüdnəs /
E
the quality or state of being discerning or astute.
Shrewdness is Janet's strong suit.

shriek

n
/ 'shrēk /
E
a shrill, usually wild or involuntary cry.
Nancy let out a shriek when her little brother dropped an ice cube down the back of her dress.

shubunkin

shuddering

v
/ 'shəd(ə)riŋ /
E
shaking with fear, aversion, horror, or cold.
Joan woke shuddering from a nightmare.

sibilant

adj
/ 'sibələnt /
L imit
having, containing, or producing the sound of or a sound resembling that of the s or the sh in sash.
"She sells sea shells. . . ." is a sibilant tongue twister.

siccative

adj
/ 'sikədɪv /
L
causing to dry : promoting the action of drying.
Zinc oxide is often used as a siccative agent for skin rashes.

sickle

sicklocyte

n
/ 'sik(ə)ləsɪt /
E + Gk
an abnormal red blood cell of crescent shape.
The patient with sickle-cell anemia wanted to see a sicklocyte under the microscope.

sidereal

adj
/ sɪ'dirēəl /
L
[has near homonym: sideral] of or relating to stars or constellations.
Time-lapse photography was used by the observatory to detect sidereal motion.

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siege

n
/ 'sēj /
L > F > E

the operations of an army around a fortified place for the purpose of compelling its surrender by assault or blockade.

The defenders were confident they could outlast the siege, since the castle had an underground source of fresh water.

siffilate

v
/ 'sifə.lāt /
L > F

whisper.

The diners began to siffilate when the celebrity entered the restaurant.

sightseer

n
/ 'sīt.sēə(r) /
E

one that visits places of interest.

The unusual sightseer asked whether anyone had noticed any interesting manhole covers or drain grates in the area.

signature

silentary
n
/ sī'lenchē.erē /
L

one appointed to keep silence and order (as in a court of law or a public assembly).

One stern glance from the silentary was all it took to stop Karsten's insipid murmuring.

silhouette

n
/ .silə'wet /
F name

a representation of the outlines of an object filled in with black or some other uniform color.

Mrs. Baldwin has a framed silhouette of each of her children on the wall of her foyer.

silhouettist

silica

n
/ 'siləkə /
L

the chemically resistant dioxide of a nonmetallic element that occurs in combined form as the most abundant element next to oxygen in Earth's crust.

Nora learned from her research that silica is used for making glass and ceramic products and is found naturally in quartz and sand.

siliciferous

adj
/ .silə'sif(ə)rəs /
L

producing, containing, or united with silica.

When geologists analyzed the siliciferous rock, they found quartz and chlorite veins.

silicon

n
/ 'siləkən /
L

[Note: Could be confused with silicone.] a nonmetallic element that occurs abundantly in combined form and is used chiefly in the form of alloys.

The scientist was striving to devise a new method for purifying silicon for use in fabricating microchips.

sillar

n
/ sēl'yär /
L > Sp

[has somewhat near homonym: sillier] building material consisting of large blocks cut from a natural deposit.

The hikers came upon a low structure made of sillar and nearly covered in vines.

sillographer

n
/ sə'ləgrəfə(r) /
Gk

a writer of satires.

The marble bust of the ancient sillographer crashed to the library floor.

similarity

simile
n
/ 'simə(,)lē /
L

a figure of speech comparing two essentially unlike things and often introduced by like or as.

Kermit has a pet chicken and knows firsthand what the simile "as scarce as hens' teeth" means.

simnel

n
/ 'simməl /
Semitic? > L > F > E

a rich fruit cake sometimes covered with almond paste.

Auntie Grace always serves simnel during the December holidays.

simpatico

adj
/ sim'pədə.kō /
L > It

possessing attractive qualities : appealing, likable.

The hero of the novel is a thoroughly simpatico character.

simulacrum

n
/ .simyə'lākkrəm /
L

a representation of something : image, effigy.

A simulacrum of Elvis stood at the entrance to the wax museum.

simulcast

v
/ 'sīməl.kast /
L + ON > E

broadcast by radio and television simultaneously.

Years ago, radio and television stations would sometimes simulcast operatic performances to provide listeners with quality stereophonic sound.

simultaneity

simultaneous

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simultaneously

adv
/ˌsɪməl'tænɪəsli /
L

at the same time : concurrently.
Jason, who often types and talks simultaneously, calls himself a "master of multitasking."

sinciput

sinecure

n
/ˌsɪnəkjü(ə)r /
L

an office or position that requires little or no work and that usually provides an income.
The mayor made the grave mistake of handing out a sinecure to a friend.

sinew

n
/ˌsi(ː)nyü /
E

tendon; especially : one dressed for use as a cord or thread.
Ephraim wore a jade pendant in the shape of a bear on a sinew around his neck.

singeing

singular

adj
/ˌsɪŋgələ(r) /
L

extraordinary, exceptional.
The singular quality of Sean's voice was the envy of all the other choir members.

singularize

v
/ˌsɪŋgələˈrɪz /
L + Ecff

distinguish.
By practicing every day, Ben believed he could singularize himself in the school orchestra.

sinistral

adj
/ˌsɪnəstrəl /
L

of or relating to the left.
The sorcerer's mask was ripped away, revealing terrible scars on the sinistral side of his face.

sinuosity

n
/ˌsɪnyə'wəsədə /
L

the quality or state of bending in and out.
The sinuosity of the mountain road taxed Ken's driving skills.

sinusitis

n
/ˌsɪnə'sɪdɪs /
L

inflammation of any of the several cavities in the skull.
The allergist explained that Alice's headaches and sneezing are due to sinusitis.

Sioux

adj
/ˈsü /
Dakota
[has homonyms: sault, sou, sue] of or relating to the Dakota people or their language.
Following a speech in Sioux language, the dancers began the Sun Dance.

sirloin

n
/ˈsɜr.lɔɪn /
L > F > E
a cut of meat and especially of beef taken from the hindquarters.
The butcher cut the sirloin into steaks for his customers.

sitology

n
/sɪ'täləj /
Gk
[Word has homonym: cytology. In addition, an alternate pronunciation has near homonym: cetology.] the science of nutrition and dietetics.
Deirdre plans to major in sitology and write cookbooks for vegetarians.

skedaddle

v
/skə'dadl /
unknown
run away : leave hastily.
A sudden shower caused Karen to skedaddle from the bazaar.

skeleton

n
/ˈskelətən /
Gk
the bones of a human being or other vertebrate.
Dr. Symonds has a real human skeleton in his office.

skewbald

skewer

n
/ˈskjüə(r) /
unknown
[has near homonym: skua] a pin of wood or metal for fastening meat to keep in form while roasting or to hold small pieces of meat and vegetables for broiling.
Maggie put pieces of steak and vegetables on the skewer.

skillet

n
/ˈskɪlɪt /
E
frying pan.
A quality deep skillet has many uses in the kitchen.

skimeister

n
/ˈskɛ.mɪstə(r) /
G + L > G
[Note: Caution should be taken not to confuse second part of this compound word with master.] a professional skier or skiing instructor.
Diantha pretended to be a poor skier just to get close to the handsome skimeister.

skimpiness

n
/ˈskɪmpɪnəs /
Scand? > E? + Ecff
the quality or state of being deficient in supply or execution.
The skimpiness of Eunice's budget did not allow for many luxuries.

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skirmish

n
/ 'skərmish /
F > E
a minor dispute or contest between opposing parties.
Winston hopes that his skirmish with the neighbors over his dog does not foreshadow a lengthy feud.

skirret

n
/ 'skirət /
Ar? > F > E
an Asiatic herb cultivated in Europe for its sweet edible tuberous roots.
After foraging for an hour, Yang happened on a skirret, the roots of which he would boil and eat.

skittish

skoal

skookum

adj
/ 'skükəm /
Chinook
marked by excellent quality : first-rate.
Liz felt sure that the pail of blueberries would make a skookum pie.

slalom

n
/ 'släləm /
Norw
skiing in a zigzag or wavy course between upright obstacles.
Tully did the slalom down the mountainside.

slanderous

slantindicular

adj
/ ,slant'ndikyələ(r) /
E + L > F > E
somewhat oblique.
The main staircase of the new library rises at a slantindicular angle to the facade.

slapstick

n
/ 'slapstik /
G imit + E
comedy that depends for its effect on fast, boisterous, and zany physical activity and horseplay often accompanied by broad rowdy verbal humor.
The Three Stooges were famous for their slapstick.

sleazily

sledgehammer

sleuth

v
/ 'slüth /
ON > E
act as a detective or investigator : search for information or facts.
There are several game programs that teach children how to sleuth out facts and figures on the Internet.

slobberhannes

sloganeer

n
/ ,slögə'ni(ə)r /
Gaelic
a coiner or user of brief striking phrases in advertising or promotion.
Without the sloganeer, most commercials would probably be deadily dull.

slovenly

adj
/ 'sləvənlē /
G or Flemish
negligent of neatness and order especially in dress or person.
He that is born under Capricorn shall incline to the slovenly.

sluice

n
/ 'slüs /
L > F > E
a body of water pent up behind a floodgate.
Ellen crossed the sluice in a canoe.

slumgullion

n
/ ,sləm'gəlyən /
unknown + (L > F > E)?
a meat stew.
The sailors protested when they were served yet another meal of slumgullion.

smectic

smoggy

adj
/ 'smägē /
(E + Scand?) > E
characterized by or abounding in a fog made heavier and darker by smoke and chemical fumes.
The smoggy atmosphere of Los Angeles aggravated Frank's allergies.

smorgasbord

n
/ 'smörgəs.börd /
Sw
a luncheon or supper buffet offering a variety of foods and dishes.
Nita's smorgasbord included turkey and smoked salmon.

snagrel

n
/ 'snagrəl /
unknown
an herb of the genus Aristolochia of the eastern United States.
Snagrel is also called Virginia snakeroot.

snood

n
/ 'snüd /
E
a net or fabric bag for confining a woman's hair pinned or tied on at the back of the head.
Kathryn auditioned for a part in the Noel Coward play wearing a tea-length gown and snood from the 1930s.

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soavemente

adv

/ sō'āvā'mentā /

L > It

with sweetness or smoothness : in a gentle manner—used as a direction in music.

The serenade was played soavemente by the strings.

sociable

adj

/ 'sōshəbəl /

L

enjoying companionship.

The dolphin is one of the most sociable creatures known to man.

sodality

sojourner

n

/ 'sōjərnə(r) /

F > E

one that stays as a temporary resident.

Even though he had lived there for five years, Russell knew he was regarded as a sojourner by the neighbors.

solace

v

/ 'säləs /

L

[has near homonym: solus] console.

When Janie learned she had failed her swimming exam, she decided to solace herself by going out to a movie.

solatium

n

/ sō'lāshēm /

L

something that alleviates or compensates for suffering or loss; especially : an additional allowance (as for injured feelings).

The government offered a solatium to the families of those killed in the terrorist bombing.

solder

v

/ 'sädə(r) /

L > F > E

[has homonym: sodder] unite or make whole by means of a melted metallic alloy.

Jennifer's science class learned how to solder wires so they could experiment with electrical circuits.

soldier

solecism

solecistic

adj

/ .sälə'sistik /

Gk > L

relating to, constituting, or involving an ungrammatical combination of words in a sentence.

Careful writers shun as solecistic the use of the word like as a conjunction.

sofatara

n

/ .sälfə'tärə /

L > It

a volcanic area or vent that yields sulfur gases and hot vapors and represents a late stage of volcanic activity.

Harry noticed a rotten-egg odor coming from a sofatara on the north side of the previously inactive volcano.

solferino

solicitous

adj

/ sə'lisədəs /

L

manifesting or expressing concern.

Dr. Turner is especially solicitous toward his older patients.

soliloquy

n

/ sə'liləkwē /

L

a discourse made by one in solitude to oneself.

At the talent contest Angelo stepped into the spotlight and recited Hamlet's famous soliloquy "To be or not to be, . . ."

solipsism

n

/ 'sōləp.sizəm /

L

extreme indulgence of and concern with the self at the expense of social relationships especially as expressed in a failure of artistic communication.

Critics accused the popular actor of solipsism.

solitaire

n

/ 'sälə.ta(ə)r /

L

a card game designed for one person to play alone.

Shelley often relaxes by playing solitaire after everyone else has gone to bed.

soliterraneous

adj

/ .sōlətə'rānēəs /

L

of or relating to Earth and the Sun.

Scientists attribute the recent drought to soliterraneous causes.

solivagant

adj

/ sō'livəgənt /

L

marked by solitary wandering.

During his first semester in college, Gerry took frequent solivagant walks around the campus.

solleret

n

/ .sälə'ret /

L > F

a flexible steel shoe forming part of a medieval suit of armor.

The curator explained that the cumbersome solleret had to be removed to allow the knight to fight on foot.

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solmization

solon

n
/ 'sɒlən /
Gk name
a wise and skillful lawgiver or statesman.
Judge Kantz is revered throughout the county as a solon.

solstice

n
/ 'sɔːltɪs /
L > F > E
one of two points on the ecliptic at which its distance from the celestial equator is greatest and which is reached by the Sun each year about June 22nd and December 23rd.
The North Pole is tilted directly toward the Sun at the summer solstice.

solstitial

adj
/ sɔːl'zɪʃəl /
L
of or relating to the two points on the ecliptic at which its distance from the celestial equator is greatest and which is reached by the Sun each year about June 22nd and December 23rd.
Ancient myths about the eternal battle between light and dark are tied to equinoctial and solstitial moments in the year.

solvolysis

sombrero

n
/ sɒm'brɛ(,)rɒ /
Sp
a high-crowned hat of felt or straw with a very wide brim worn especially in the Southwest and in Mexico.
Maria was dressed quite expensively, with leather boots covering her legs and a dark sombrero poised levelly on her head.

somnambulant

adj
/ sɒm'nambyələnt /
L + L
walking or addicted to walking while asleep.
Sheila could remember nothing of her somnambulant activities when she was told of them the next morning.

somniloquist

somnolence

sonorous

adj
/ 'sɒnərəs /
L
characterized by full or loud sound often with clear or rich tone, marked volume, or easy audibility.
Alex's sonorous voice made him the clear choice to perform the reading.

soothsaying

sophisticate

v
/ sə'fɪstəkāt /
Gk > L
alter deceptively: adulterate.
Lanny feared that someone would sophisticate the survey results.

sophistry

n
/ 'sɒfəstrē /
Gk > F
reasoning that is superficially plausible but actually fallacious.
Larry's masterful but irresponsible sophistry easily convinced naive listeners.

Sophoclean

adj
/ ,sɒfə'klēən /
Gk name
of, relating to, or characteristic of the Athenian tragic poet Sophocles or his dramas.
Finding a new Sophoclean fragment in the museum's papyri was Gunther's claim to fame.

sophomore

n
/ 'sɒf(ə)mɒ(ə)r /
Gk
a student in his second year or with second-year standing at a college.
As a sophomore, Jason was expected to find a one-semester internship in his major subject.

soporific

adj
/ ,sɒpə'rɪfɪk /
L > F
causing or tending to cause sleep.
The students valiantly attempted to fight off the soporific effects of the lecture.

sorbet

n
/ 'sɒrbət /
Turkish > It > F
[Note: Could be confused with sherbet.] a frozen dessert made with a mixture of fruits.
Wylie ate sorbet between courses to cleanse his palate.

sorcerer

n
/ 'sɒ(r)s(ə)rə(r) /
L > F
magician.
Traveling alone in the dark, the sorcerer saw no harm in conjuring up a lamp for his convenience.

sorcery

sorghum

n
/ 'sɔːrgəm /
L? > It
syrup produced by evaporating the juice from stems of certain tropical grasses.
Rachel likes sorghum on her oatmeal.

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sorrel

n
/ 'sɔrəl /
Gmc > F > E
[has homonyms: saurel, soral, sorel] a light bright chestnut horse often with white mane and tail.
Ken promised to take good care of the sorrel his dad had bought for him.

sortie

sortileger

n
/ 'sɔ(r)dʰliʒə(r) /
L
one that tells fortunes; especially : a person who for payment predicts what are claimed to be future events or influences in the life of another.
The sortileger predicted a radical change in Frank's lifestyle.

soubise

n
/ sü'bēz /
F geog name
a white or brown sauce containing onions or onion puree.
A sauceboat of soubise accompanied the roast.

soubresaut

n
/ ,sübrə'sɔ /
L > F
a ballet jump from and a landing on both feet in closed position.
Keith demonstrated his lack of ballet prowess with an awkward soubresaut.

soubrette

sourdough

sousaphone

n
/ 'süzəfɔn /
Amer name + Gk > E
a large circular tuba having a flaring adjustable bell.
The band director was looking for someone who could play the sousaphone.

soutane

souterrain

southpaw

n
/ 'saʊθ.pə /
E + F > E
left-hander; specifically : a left-handed baseball pitcher.
Some fans think Babe Ruth was the best southpaw ever to play major league baseball.

souvenir

n
/ ,süvə'ni(ə)r /
L > F
something that serves as a reminder : memento, remembrance.
Moirra kept a seashell as a souvenir of her trip to the ocean.

spacious

spacistor

n
/ 'spā.sistə(r) /
L
a high-frequency semiconductor amplifying device.
The spacistor has replaced the transistor because of its greater ability to amplify electrical energy.

spaghetti

n
/ spə'gedē /
It
a pasta made in solid strings of small diameter but larger than vermicelli.
The specialty of the restaurant was spaghetti with meat sauce.

spandex

spangle

n
/ 'spʌŋgəl /
Scand > E
a small object that brightly reflects light.
The packrat ran out into the road to pick up the glittering spangle.

spaniel

spatiotemporal

adj
/ ,spāshē(,)ɔ'temp(ə)rəl /
L
having the quality of something that is at once extended and enduring.
The philosopher pointed out that two things cannot coexist in one spatiotemporal point.

spatterdock

spatula

n
/ 'spachələ /
L
a flat thin flexible dull-edged usually metal implement used especially for spreading or mixing soft substances, scooping, or lifting.
With batter on his face and a spatula in his fist, Casey smiled for his mom and her camera.

species

n pl
/ 'spē(,)shēz /
L
a category of biological classification ranking immediately below a genus or subgenus.
The housefly belongs to the genus Musca and the species domestica.

speciesism

n
/ 'spē(,)s(h)ē.zizəm /
L + Ecf
prejudice or discrimination based on species; especially : discrimination against animals.
Some animal rights activists go so far as to claim that swatting a fly is an act of speciesism.

specimen

n
/ 'spesəmən /
L
a particular single item, part, aspect, or incident that is typical and indicative of the nature, character, or quality of others in the same class or group.
At the museum Ken and Allison saw an excellent specimen of a moon rock.

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specious

adj
/ 'spēshəs /
L

superficially fair, just, or correct, but not so in reality.
Only after the candidate was elected was the actual truth of her specious claims exposed.

spectral

adj
/ 'spektrəl /
L

of, like, or relating to a disembodied spirit, apparition, or ghost.
Galloping toward him was a spectral rider on horseback.

spectrum

n
/ 'spektrəm /
L

a series of images formed when a beam of light is subjected to dispersion.
The specialty store carried a spectrum of ties to suit any man's taste.

speleologist

n
/ ,spēlē'äləjəst /
Gk > L > ISV

a specialist in the scientific study or systematic exploration of caves.
Dale's work as a speleologist takes him to spectacular natural features around the world.

speleothem

n
/ 'spēlēə.thəm /
Gk > L > ISV + Gk

a cave deposit or formation.
Receding waters have left a speleothem of carbonate on the cavern floor.

spelunking

n
/ spə'lŋkɪŋ /
E

the hobby or practice of exploring caves.
Spelunking is a popular activity in eastern Kentucky.

sphagnum

n
/ 'sfagnəm /
Gk > L

any plant of a large genus of atypical mosses that grow only in very wet acid areas where their accumulated remains become compacted with other plant debris to form peat.
A large patch of sphagnum grew in the bog by the police station.

spherical

adj
/ 'sfɪrəkəl /
Gk > L + Ecf

like a sphere : globular.
Linda suspected that the spherical rock she found was a geode.

spheterize

v
/ 'sfedə.rīz /
Gk

take for one's own : appropriate.
The invading army proceeded to spheterize the villagers' private property.

sphinx

n
/ 'sfɪŋ(k)s /
Gk > L

a monster in Greek mythology having typically a lion's body, wings, and the head and bust of a woman.
According to Greek legend, the sphinx of Thebes would pose a riddle to a passerby and then kill that person if he or she could not answer it.

spiedino

n
/ ,spēə'dē(,)nō /
Gmc > F > It

a dish of meat rolled around a filling or minced and formed into balls, then usually batter-dipped and cooked on a skewer.
The chef grilled a spiedino of beef on a charcoal grill.

spinescent

adj
/ spī'nes'nt /
L

tapering to a sharp rigid point.
The fish Homer caught had two spinescent fins.

spinet

n
/ 'spɪnət /
L > It

a compactly built upright piano of reduced height and usually reduced keyboard suitable for limited space.
Percival didn't have room for a full-size piano in his studio apartment, so he bought a spinet.

spinnaker

n
/ 'spɪnəkə(r) /
unknown
a large triangular sail set on a long light pole and used when running before the wind.
The spinnaker on Diane's boat is cardinal red.

spiracle

n
/ 'spɪrəkəl /
L

one of the breathing pores found on the thorax and abdomen of an insect.
The muscular valve of a spiracle opens only to allow the uptake of oxygen and the escape of carbon dioxide.

spiritual

splendent

splenectomize

splenetic

adj
/ splə'nedɪk /
Gk > L
marked by morose bad temper, sullen malevolence, or spiteful, peevish anger.
The splenetic critic gave the musical a scathing review.

spoliation

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spondylitis

n
/ ,spändə'lidəs /
Gk > L
inflammation of the vertebrae.
Jewel's back pain was caused by spondylitis.

spongicolous

sponson

spontaneity

n
/ ,späntə'nēədē /
L
the quality or state of being unconstrained or impulsive.
Brian has always liked to stick to a schedule, but lately he has shown more spontaneity than usual.

spontaneous

adj
/ spän'tānēəs /
L
proceeding from natural feeling or native tendency without external constraint.
His employee's spontaneous obedience made Tim's job pleasant.

spoonerism

n
/ 'spünə.rizəm /
E name
a transposition of usually initial sounds of two or more words that generally creates a comic effect.
Vivian was afraid that she would utter a spoonerism in her recitation.

sporadically

sporogenous

adj
/ spə'räjənəs /
Gk > L
producing or adapted to the production of minute unicellular reproductive bodies.
The botany class studied the development of the fern's sporogenous tissue.

sporran

n
/ 'spärən /
ScotGael
a large pouch of skin with the hair or fur on that is worn in front of the kilt by Highlanders in full dress and used as a purse.
Angus picked up a quarter and put it in his sporran.

springerle

n
/ 's(h)prinjərlə /
G
a thick hard cookie usually flavored with anise and impressed with a relief design and traditionally eaten at Christmas in German-speaking countries.
Klaus broke his tooth on a stale springerle.

spur

spurious

squadron

squalid

adj
/ 'skwäləd /
L
marked by filthiness and degradation usually from neglect.
The squalid tenement building was condemned and scheduled for demolition.

squaliform

adj
/ 'skwālə.förm /
L > E
resembling a shark or dogfish in form.
While scuba diving, Mike encountered a group of curious squaliform fish.

squeamish

adj
/ 'skwēmish /
AF > E
inclined to become nauseated : queasy.
Pat is squeamish when it comes to rides at the fair.

squelch

v
/ 'skwelch /
imit
move with water or mud in one's shoes and produce a sucking or splashing sound.
After playing in mud puddles all the way home, Frances tried to squelch quietly to her room without getting caught by her mother.

squirrel

n
/ 'skwər(ə)l /
Gk > L > F > E
any of various widely distributed small to medium-sized rodents that have a bushy tail and long strong hind limbs.
On the trunk of the tree, a brown squirrel was clinging and watching the boy below.

stabilimeter

stable

staccato

adj
/ stəkäd(.)ō /
F > It
marked by short clear-cut playing or singing of tones or chords.
Marcia's piano teacher told her to practice the etude's staccato passage several minutes each day.

stagnant

adj
/ 'stagnənt /
L
having undergone physical changes while standing; especially : impaired in flavor, odor, or texture by such changes.
Josh stood still in disbelief after Kevin pushed him into the stagnant water of the ditch.

stalactite

n
/ stəl'ak.tīt /
Gk
a deposit of calcium carbonate resembling an icicle hanging from the roof or sides of a cavern.
It takes hundreds of years for a stalactite to form.

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stalagmite

n
/ stə'lag.mīt /
Gk

a deposit of crystalline calcium carbonate more or less like an inverted stalactite formed on the floor of a cave.

A gigantic stalagmite blocked the spelunker's path.

stalwart

adj
/ 'stɔl.wə(r)t /
E

brave, valiant, resolute.

The new musical comedy is based on the story of Robin Hood and his stalwart companions.

stamina

n
/ 'stamənə /
L

strength or courage of conviction : staying power.

The elderly senator doubted that he had the stamina to last through another election campaign.

stamnos

stampede

n
/ stam'pēd /
Gmc > Sp

a wild headlong rush or flight of a number of animals usually due to fright.

The lightning strike caused a cattle stampede.

stanchion

n
/ 'stanchən /
L > F

an upright bar, post, prop, brace, or support.

When Oliver lost control of his car, it swerved and hit a traffic-light stanchion.

stanniferous

adj
/ sta'nif(ə)rəs /
Celt > L

containing tin.

In Spain, Italy, and the Middle East pottery is sometimes covered with a white stanniferous glaze as a base for other decoration.

stannous

adj
/ 'stanəs /
L

of, relating to, or containing tin—used especially of compounds in which this element is bivalent.

In geology class Syadi was surprised to learn that cassiterite, the principal ore of tin, is not considered stannous.

stanzaical

adj
/ ,stan'zāikəl /
L > It

relating to or consisting of groups of lines arranged together in a recurring pattern of metrical lengths and usually a sequence of rhymes.

Kerri prefers poetry with a more stanzaical form.

stapes

statically

adv
/ 'stədək(ə)lē /
Gk > L

in stable or unchanging terms.

Alan's problem was that he always viewed problems statically.

stationary

adj
/ 'stāshə.nerē /
L

[has homonym: stationery] fixed in a place, position, course, or mode.

The clerk calmly remained in a stationary position.

stationery

n
/ 'stāshə.nerē /
L > F > E

[has homonym: stationary] materials (as paper, pens, pencils, ink, blankbooks, ledgers, and cards) for writing or typing.

Claudia complained that just before the beginning of every school year the office stationery began to disappear.

statistician

n
/ ,stadə'stishən /
L > G

one versed in or engaged in compiling masses of numerical data.

Jamie's career as a statistician began with following baseball scores.

statistics

n pl
/ stə'tistiks /
L

a science dealing with the collection, analysis, interpretation, and presentation of masses of numerical data.

Our state has lost some of its voting clout because of statistics reported by the U.S. Census Bureau.

statuesque

adj
/ ,stachə'wesk /
L > F > E + F > Ecf

having a massive dignity or impressiveness : majestic.

A statuesque sculpture stood in the town square.

steadily

stearic

steatogenous

steeple

stegosaur

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steinkern

n
/ 's(h)tɪn.kɜrn /
G

a fossil consisting of a stony mass that entered a hollow natural object (as a bivalve shell) in the form of mud or sediment, was consolidated, and remained as a cast after dissolution of the mold.
For show-and-tell, Rose brought in a steinkern she had found at the beach.

stellar

adj
/ 'stelə(r) /
L

of, relating to, or derived from the stars.
Rapid stellar rotation can modify the structure of a star's atmosphere.

stenographer

n
/ stə'nəgrəfə(r) /
Gk + Gk

one who is employed chiefly to take and transcribe dictation.
Sergeant Fitzpatrick called in a stenographer to record the suspect's confession.

stentorophonic

steppe

n
/ 'step /
Russ

[has homonym: step] one of the vast tracts in southeastern Europe or Asia that are usually level and without forests.
The tourists explored the steppe in search of exotic wildlife.

stereotype

sternutation

n
/ .stɜrnyə'təʃən /
L

the act, fact, or noise of sneezing.
Pat's sternutation was so frequent and loud that his office mate asked to be transferred to another department.

stertorous

adj
/ 'stɜrdərəs /
L

characterized by a harsh snoring or gasping sound.
While asleep in his easy chair, Uncle Max would give a start every few minutes, briefly awakened by his own stertorous breathing.

stethoscope

n
/ 'stethə.skɒp /
Gk > F

an instrument used for the detection and study of sounds within the body.
Heard through a stethoscope, the rumbling of the stomach can sound like a storm at sea.

stevedore

n
/ 'stēvədə(ə)r /
L > Sp

one who works at or is responsible for the loading or unloading of a ship in port.
The stevedore returned to the ship after dining at his favorite dockside restaurant.

stewardess

n
/ 'st(y)üə(r)dəs /
E

a woman who attends to the needs of passengers (as on an airplane, ship, or train).
When addressed as stewardess, Emily requested that she be called a flight attendant.

sthenic

adj
/ 'sthenik /
Gk

marked by excessive vitality or nervous energy.
Fido's sthenic symptoms finally subsided.

stifle

v
/ 'stɪfəl /
F > E

kill by smothering : asphyxiate.
Smoke can stifle a person in a short period of time.

stimulus

stipend

n
/ 'stɪ.pend /
L

a fixed sum of money typically modest in amount that is paid periodically in compensation for services.
The university gave Professor Barrett a stipend for his lecture series.

stirrup

stochastic

adj
/ stə'kastik /
Gk

lacking or seeming to lack a regular plan, purpose, or pattern.
Vince programmed the computer to create a stochastic series of numbers.

stoically

stolkjaerre

stollen

n
/ 's(h)tɒlən /
G

[has homonym: stolen] a sweet yeast bread containing fruits and nuts, usually made in a long oval loaf.
Henrietta found a recipe for stollen in her German cookbook.

strabismus

n
/ strə'bɪzməs /
Gk > L

inability of one eye to attain binocular vision with the other because of imbalance of the extrinsic eye muscles.
Corrective surgery was performed to remedy Herman's strabismus.

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straiten

v
/ 'strātˈn /
L > F > E

[has homonym: straighten] cause to suffer or ebb by reason of insufficient funds : reduce (as oneself) to poverty.

With the generous university grant, Joanne's family would not have to straiten itself to provide the education she desired.

strangulate

v
/ 'strangyə.lāt /
L

compress the windpipe of until death results from stoppage of respiration.

Many nonvenomous snakes strangulate their prey.

stratagem

n
/ 'stradəjəm /
Gk

a cleverly contrived trick or scheme for gaining an end.

Barb was disappointed that her mother saw through her stratagem for staying out past curfew.

strategist

strathspey

n
/ 'strath.spā /
Scot geog name

a Scottish dance similar to but slower than the reel.

The highland fling is one example of a dance in the manner of the strathspey.

stratocirrus

n
/ .stradō'sirəs /
L

a low dense fairly uniform cloud formation.

The meteorologist predicted a heavy cover of stratocirrus for the weekend.

strength

strephosymbolia

n
/ .stre(,)fō.sim'bōlēə /
Gk

reversal or transposition of phrases, words, or letters or of any symbols especially in reading.

Because of his strephosymbolia, Ryan was diagnosed as having a learning disorder.

strepitous

adj
/ 'strepədəs /
L

characterized or accompanied by much noise.

The playoff game was a strepitous event.

streptomycin

n
/ .streptō'mīsˈn /
Gk

an antibiotic organic base active against many bacteria and used especially in the treatment of infections (as tuberculosis) by gram-negative bacteria.

Streptomycin was the first drug to prove effective against tuberculosis.

streusel

streuselkuchen

n
/ 'strüsəl.kükən /
G

coffee cake that is baked with a topping of a crumbly mixture of butter, sugar, and flour and sometimes nuts and spices.

Mrs. Messer, our neighbor, always bakes her family a streuselkuchen for the holidays.

stricture

n
/ 'strikchə(r) /
L

an abnormal narrowing of a tubular organ : constriction.

The stricture of Lucy's throat was caused by an allergic reaction to a bee sting.

strident

adj
/ 'stridˈnt /
L

marked by insistent, discordant, harsh, shrill, or grating noise or sound.

Mary-Ellen's fingernails produced a strident sound as she drew them across the blackboard.

strigil

n
/ 'strijəl /
L

an instrument usually of metal or ivory used by the ancient Greeks and Romans for scraping the skin especially after athletic exercises.

Damocles appreciated receiving a strigil personalized with his initials.

stringent

adj
/ 'strinjənt /
L

marked by rigor, strictness, or severity.

Stringent regulations have helped curb environmental pollution.

stroganoff

adj
/ 'strōgə.nōf /

Russ name

sliced thin and cooked in a sauce of meat stock, sour cream, onion, and condiments.

Erica prepared beef stroganoff for the mayor's visit.

strongylid

strophulus

n
/ 'sträfyələs /
Gk

a rash in infants popularly associated with teething distress.

The pediatrician prescribed an ointment for our baby's strophulus.

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strudel

n
/ 's(h)trüd'1 /
G

a sheet of paper-thin dough rolled up with any of various fillings and baked.

The flight attendant served the coach passengers a light breakfast of coffee, juice, and strudel.

strychnine

n
/ 'stri:k.nīn /
Gk

a very poisonous bitter crystalline alkaloid obtained from various plants.

Strychnine is a popular poison in murder mystery novels.

stubborn

studious

adj
/ 'st(y)üdēās /
L

of, relating to, or concerned with the application of the mental faculties to the acquisition of knowledge.

Pam is the most studious pupil in Mr. Ramsey's class.

stultiloquence

n
/ ,stəl'tiləkwn(t)s /
L + L

senseless or silly talk : babble.

Myra soon broke her vow never to resort to stultiloquence when communicating with her baby.

stupefy

v
/ 'st(y)üpəfī /
L

blunt or deaden the faculties of perception and understanding of.

Bright headlights will often stupefy a deer and cause it to stand motionless in the path of an oncoming vehicle.

stupendous

adj
/ st(y)ü'pendəs /
L

of amazing size or greatness.

The construction of Khufu's pyramid was a stupendous accomplishment for the ancient Egyptians.

sturgeon

stygian

adj
/ 'stij(ē)ən /
Gk name

characteristic of death.

A black robe, a papier-mâché sickle, and some grayish makeup completed Sean's stygian Halloween costume.

stylebook

styptic

adj
/ 'stiptik /
Gk

tending to arrest bleeding.

Kenneth had to apply a styptic agent to his chin where he cut himself while shaving.

suable

suasible

adj
/ 'swāsəbəl /
L

capable of being induced into some mental position : easily brought to belief, certainty, or conviction.

When it comes to trying new foods, Ming is the least suasible member of her family.

suavity

subaltern

adj
/ sə'böltə(r)n /
L

inferior in status or quality : subordinate.

Julia is disappointed with her subaltern role in the school play.

subaqueous

adj
/ ,səb'ākweəs /
L

being or found under water or beneath the surface of water.

Bartley rented a glass-bottomed boat to get a better look at the subaqueous fauna.

subbasement

subboreal

adj
/ səb'bōrēəl /
L

very cold : approaching the frigid.

Hope grew up in Florida and finds it very difficult to live in what she calls the "subboreal climate" of Minnesota.

subfulgent

adj
/ ,səb'fūljənt /
L

moderately lustrous.

The silver platter in Mary's antique shop was battered but still had a subfulgent gleam.

subfuscous

subjugate

v
/ 'səbjəgāt /
L

bring under the yoke of power or dominion.

The love of acquisition and conquest are powers of destruction when used to subjugate one person to another.

submersible

adj
/ səb'mərsəbəl /
L + Ecf

capable of functioning under water.

The earliest designs for submersible vehicles date to antiquity.

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suborn

v
/ sə'bò(ə)rŋ /
L > F

induce (as a person) by underhanded means to do some improper or unlawful thing.
The sting operation exposed Mr. Underwood's attempts to suborn the city treasurer.

subrident

adj
/ .sə'brīd'nt /
L

wearing or offered with a smile.
Eilene's subrident answer belied the furious feelings she had toward the questioner.

subscriber

subservient

adj
/ (.)səb'sərvəənt /
L

subordinate.
In ancient Rome, wives were legally subservient.

subsidiary

adj
/ (.)səb'sidē.ərē /
L

of secondary importance or prominence.
Marge's role was subsidiary, but her first-rate performance stole the show.

subsistence

n
/ səb'sistən(t)s /
L

a mode of obtaining the necessities of life : livelihood.
Mr. Ellis preaches to his students that a good education goes far to ensure a respectable subsistence.

substitute

n
/ 'səbzətə.ti:t /
L

a person who takes the place of or acts for another.
When Donald fouled out of the basketball game, the coach decided to send in a substitute who had been warming the bench for weeks.

subterfuge

n
/ 'səbtə(r).fyüj /
L

deception by trickery or stratagem to conceal, escape, avoid, or evade.
George's experience in subterfuge is mostly in cryptography.

subterranean

subtleness

n
/ 'səd'lnəs /
L > F > E + Ecf
the quality or state of being delicate or elusive.
The subtleness of the almond custard eluded Mr. Denson.

succedent

successor

succinct

adj
/ sək'siŋ(k)t /
L

marked by brief and compact expression or by lack of unnecessary words and details.
Sandy's succinct answers do not satisfy those who question him.

succorance

n
/ 'səkə(r)rən(t)s /
L > F > E

dependence.
Harold took measures to reduce his succorance on nasal decongestants.

succotash

n
/ 'səkətəʃ /
Algonquian

a mixture of lima beans or shell beans and kernels of corn cooked together.
Even though Thelma likes both corn and lima beans, she isn't fond of succotash.

succulence

succulent

adj
/ 'səkyələnt /
L

full of juice : juicy.
Perry wiped his mouth with his sleeve after he bit into the succulent peach.

succumb

v
/ sə'kəm /
L

yield and cease to resist or contend before a superior strength, overpowering appeal or desire, or inexorable force.
Joanie found it impossible not to succumb to her drowsiness.

succumbence

sudadero

n
/ .südə'de(.)rō /
L > Sp

a broad piece (as of leather) attached to a stirrup strap to protect a rider's leg from sweat.
Before mounting his horse, the cowboy checked to see that each sudadero was properly attached.

suddenness

sudoriferous

adj
/ .südə'rif(ə)rəs /
L

producing or conveying sweat.
Cycling and running are sudoriferous forms of exercise.

suede

s

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uerte

n
/ 'swɜr(ɪ)tā /
L > Sp

a skilled movement or pass in a bullfight.

The crowd cheered as the toreador demonstrated a dangerous suerte.

suffice

v
/ sə'fɪs /
L

be enough : meet or satisfy a need.

One teaspoonful of salt will suffice for the stew.

sufficiently

adv
/ sə'fɪʃəntlē /
L + Ecf

in a manner marked by quantity, scope, power, or quality to meet with the demands, wants, or needs of a situation.

The number of books printed sufficiently filled the back orders.

sufflamine

v
/ sə'fləmənāt /
L

obstruct, impede.

Because Tim said not having a computer would sufflamine his progress, his parents relented and bought him one.

suffocate

v
/ 'səfəkāt /
L

die from being unable to breathe.

It was so hot and stuffy in the classroom that Mark thought he would suffocate.

suffrage

n
/ 'səfrɪj /
L > F

the right or power to participate in electing public officials and adopting or rejecting legislation in a representative form of government.

The 19th Amendment to the Constitution gives women suffrage.

suffrutescent

adj
/ ,sə'frü'tes'nt /
L

having a base that is somewhat woody and does not die down each year—used of a plant or stem.

Eunice prunes her suffrutescent shrubs in the fall.

suffumigate

v
/ sə'fyüməgāt /
L

apply smoke, vapor, or gas to from below, as to treat (as a house or room) with a gas for the purpose of disinfecting or of destroying pests.

Clayton joked that his downstairs neighbor was trying to suffumigate him with his incessant grilling on his deck.

suffuse

v
/ sə'fyüz /
L

spread over or through in the manner of fluid or light.

The fixtures were intended to suffuse the patio in warm light.

suggestible

suitable

sukiyaki

n
/ ,sükē'(y)äkē /
Jpn

meat, soybean curd, onions, bamboo shoots, and other vegetables cooked in soy sauce, sake, and sugar.

Joyce watched with fascination as the Japanese cook prepared sukiyaki right at the table.

sulkily

adv
/ 'səlkəlē /
E?

in a moodily silent manner.

When asked to explain why he had been fighting, Tim looked sulkily down at the floor.

sultanate

n
/ 'səlt'nāt /
Ar > F

a state or country governed by a sultan.

Arhat's ancestors ruled a small sultanate on the Arabian Peninsula.

sultriness

n
/ 'səltrēnəs /
E

the quality or state of being oppressively hot and humid.

Marge's air-conditioned car provided welcome relief from July's sultriness.

summarily

summary

sumpter

n
/ 'səm(p)tər /
L > F > E

a saddlebag.

Grandpa's sumpter is embossed with his initials.

sumptuous

adj
/ 'səm(p)chəwəs /
L

involving large outlay or expense : costly, lavish.

Our grandparents treated the whole family to a sumptuous brunch on Saturday.

sundae

superannuated

adj
/ ,süpə'ranjə.wādəd /
L

rated no longer fully or passably efficient in one's job because of age : incapacitated or disqualified for active duty by advanced age.

The superannuated file clerk held little hope of finding a job in the near future.

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supercilious

adj
/ˌsüpə(r)'silēəs /

L
arrogantly superior : haughty, disdainful.

The supercilious senior ignored the first-year student.

superficies

superfluous

adj
/sü'pərləwəs /

L
exceeding what is sufficient, necessary, normal, or desirable.
Alex's teacher told him to eliminate superfluous words from his essay.

superintendent

n
/ˌsüp(ə)rən'tendənt /

L
one who has the oversight and charge of a place, institution, department, organization, or operation with the power of direction.
Frustrated residents petitioned the superintendent to improve the building's electrical service.

supernatural

adj
/ˌsüpə(r)'nach(ə)rəl /

L
attributable to or liable to be attributed to the action or presence of a ghost, spirit, or other invisible agent.
The book was filled with tales of supernatural occurrences.

supernumerary

n
/ˌsüpə(r)'n(y)ümərəre /

L
an actor employed to play a walk-on (as in a mob scene or spectacle).
The casting director wanted a supernumerary to play one of the bank's customers.

supersonic

adj
/ˌsüpə(r)'sänik /

L
moving or capable of moving at speeds from one to five times the speed of sound in air.
Myrna says that when she grows up, she wants to fly supersonic aircraft.

superstitious

adj
/ˌsüpə(r)'stishəs /

L > F > E
having or based on a belief, conception, act, or practice resulting from ignorance, unreasoning fear of the unknown, or a false conception of causation.
The bridge became more than ever an object of superstitious awe.

supination

n
/ˌsüpə'nāshən /

L
a rotation of the hand and radius around the ulna so that the palm is turned up.
Supination aggravated Henri's tennis elbow.

supine

adj
/sə'pīn /

L
lying on the back or with the face upward.
Greg's dog stayed supine while getting her belly rubbed.

suppedaneum

supplicate

v
/ˌsəpləkāt /

L
ask earnestly and humbly of.
The defendant's only hope was to supplicate the court for mercy.

surcease

suretyship

n
/ˌshür(ə)dēˌship /

L > E + Ecf
the obligation of a person to answer for the debt, default, or failure in duty of another.
When Sally's father co-signed her first automobile loan, he accepted the suretyship that it represented.

surfactant

n
/ˌsər'faktənt /

L
a substance useful for its cleansing, wetting, dispersing, or similar powers.
The surfactant in a detergent lowers the water's surface tension, enabling faster wetting of the fabric being washed.

surfeit

n
/ˌsərfət /

L > F > E
an overabundant supply, yield, or amount of something : excess.
The reviewer commented that the novel was burdened with a surfeit of details.

surgeon

surly

adj
/ˌsərlē /

E
ill-natured, abrupt, and rude : churlishly cross.
Marie complained to the manager about the surly, uncooperative clerk.

surplus

surrealism

n
/sə'reälizəm /

F
the principles, ideals, or practice of producing fantastic or incongruous imagery in art or literature by means of unnatural juxtapositions and combinations.
David Lynch is a modern master of cinematic surrealism.

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surreptitious

adj
/ ,sə'ɹɪp'tɪʃəs /

L
done, made, or acquired in secret or by stealth.

Denise was embarrassed when her surreptitious note to Steve was intercepted by the teacher.

surrey

surrogate

n
/ 'sɹə'gāt /

L
something that replaces or substitutes for another.

In formulating new laws, the legislature acts as a surrogate for the entire population.

surtout

n
/ ,sɹ'ʈü /

L > F + L > F

a man's fitted coat or overcoat; especially : frock coat.

Gerald rented a surtout to complete his Abraham Lincoln costume for the party.

surveillance

n
/ sə(r)'vālən(t)s /

L > F

close watch kept over one or more persons (as to detect movements or activities).

The suspects in the bombing investigation were kept under police surveillance.

surviving

adj
/ sə(r)'vīvɪŋ /

L > F

remaining alive or in existence.

Uncle Leonard is the oldest surviving graduate of Milburn College.

susceptible

adj
/ sə'septəbəl /

L
easily influenced or affected through some trait.

People who smoke are very susceptible to chronic bronchitis and emphysema.

suspicion

n
/ sə'spɪʃən /

L
mistrust, doubt.

President Kennedy called for cooperation with our adversaries to "push back the jungle of suspicion" and allow the preservation of peace.

suspicious

sustain

sustenance

n
/ 'sɹstənən(t)s /

L > F

something that gives support, endurance, or strength.

Tyrone drew sustenance from the letters his girlfriend wrote him while he was overseas.

susurrant

susurration

n
/ ,süsə'rāʃən /

L

a whispering sound : murmur.

A mild susurration could be heard in the study hall despite the teacher's "no talking" mandate.

suture

v
/ 'süchə(r) /

L&F

unite the parts of by using a strand or fiber.

The doctor estimated that it would take about 45 minutes to suture the gash in Tim's leg.

suzerain

n
/ 'süzərən /

F

a superior lord to whom allegiance is due : a feudal lord.

The suzerain gave the vassal the use of his land and agreed to protect him when necessary.

suzerainty

Svengali

n
/ sfen'gälē /

Brit literary name

one who attempts usually with evil intentions to persuade or force another to do his bidding.

Many fans thought that the rock star's wife was a Svengali who engineered the group's breakup.

swallow

sweltering

adj
/ 'sweltərɪŋ /

E

oppressively hot : causing or marked by excessive sweating or faintness.

Despite the sweltering heat, thousands of people lined the streets to watch the Fourth of July parade.

swill

swindleable

adj
/ 'swɪnd(ə)ləbəl /

G + Ecf

capable of being deprived of money or property by fraud or deceit.

The circus owner maintained that the majority of people are gullible and swindleable.

swineherd

n
/ 'swɪn.hɜrd /

E

a person who looks after hogs.

Ian loathed his job as a swineherd.

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swivel

v
/ 'swivəl /
E

turn or pivot freely.
Frank chose an office chair that could swivel and tilt.

sybaritic

adj
/ .sibə'ridik /

Gk geog name
marked by or given to luxury or voluptuous living.
The duke's sybaritic bathroom had marble sinks with gold fixtures, floor-to-ceiling mirrors, and a whirlpool bath.

sybaritically

adv
/ .sibə'ridək(ə)lē /

Gk > L > E
in a luxurious or voluptuous manner.
Dana reclined sybaritically on the velvet sofa.

sycamine

sychnocarpous

adj
/ .siknəkə'kərpəs /
Gk + Gk > L > E
able to produce fruit repeatedly.
The apple and pear are sychnocarpous trees.

sycophant

syllable

syllabus

n
/ 'siləbəs /
Gk > L
a compendium or summary outline of a discourse, course of study, or examination requirements.
After reading the syllabus for the seminar, Brad realized he had made a terrible mistake by enrolling.

syllogism

n
/ 'silə'jizəm /
Gk

a brief form of argument that consists of two statements and a conclusion that must be true if these two statements are true.
The following argument is a syllogism: All lawbreakers deserve punishment. This person is a lawbreaker. Therefore, this person deserves punishment.

syllogize

v
/ 'silə'jīz /
GK > L > E

deduce something by analysis of a formal argument that consists of a major premise, a minor premise, and a conclusion.
To teach logical thinking, Mr. Canby had the class syllogize the philosopher's argument.

sylph

n
/ 'silf /
unknown > L

a slender woman or girl of light and graceful carriage.
One sylph after another joined the growing circle of ballerinas on the stage.

symballophone

symbiosis

n
/ .simbē'ōsəs /
Gk + Gk

the intimate living together of two dissimilar organisms in any of various mutually beneficial relationships.
Some insects depend on symbiosis with bacteria to supplement otherwise nutrient-poor diets.

symbol

symmetry

symminct

sympathy

symphony

n
/ 'sim(p)fənē /
Gk + Gk

an elaborate instrumental composition usually in sonata form for full orchestra.
The concert program featured a symphony by Gustav Mahler.

symposiarch

synchronicity

n
/ .sɪŋkrən'nēədē /
Gk + Ecf

the state of happening, existing, or arising at the same time.
The fireworks display was a spectacle of synchronicity.

syncopation

n
/ .sɪŋkə'pāshən /
Gk > L

a temporary displacement or shifting of the regular metrical accent in a musical composition.
Syncopation is typical of much Eastern European folk dance music.

syncope

n
/ 'sɪŋkə(ɪ)pē /
Gk

a partial or complete temporary suspension of respiration and circulation : faint, swoon.
Unexplained dizziness and syncope occasionally occur on arrival at high altitude.

syndicate

n
/ 'sɪndəkāt /
L

a loose association of racketeers in control of organized crime.
The police have spent years trying to get evidence to convict the head of the local crime syndicate.

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synecdoche

n
/ sə'nekədə(,)kē /
Gk

a figure of speech by which a part is put for the whole or vice versa.
Fifty sail is a synecdoche for fifty ships.

synod

n
/ 'sinəd /
Gk > L > E

an ecclesiastical council : a formal meeting to consult and decide on church matters.
Karl is an active participant in the regional Presbyterian synod.

synopsis

n
/ sə'näpsəs /
Gk

a brief orderly outline affording a general view.
Marvin read a plot synopsis before he saw Macbeth.

synoptophore

n
/ sə'näptə.fō(ə)r /
Gk

an instrument for diagnosing imbalance of eye muscles.
The ophthalmologist prescribed eye exercises to correct the muscular imbalance detected by the synoptophore.

syntax

synthesis

n
/ 'sin(t)θəsəs /
Gk

composition or combination of parts or elements so as to form a whole.
Language arts is a synthesis of reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills.

syringe

n
/ sə'rinj /
Gk > L > E

a device used to inject fluids into or withdraw them from the body or its cavities.
Cameron let the toddler use an old ear syringe as a bathtub toy.

syzygy

n
/ 'sizəjē /
Gk

the nearly straight-line configuration of three celestial bodies in a gravitational system.
Tides are highest when the Sun, Moon, and Earth are in syzygy.

tabby

tabernacle

n
/ 'tabə(r)nakəl /
L > F > E

a meetinghouse with a large assembly hall.
The town meeting will be held at the tabernacle.

tabetisol

n
/ tə'bedəsəl /
L + EcF
unfrozen ground above, within, or below the permanently frozen ground.
Arctic wildflowers are able to survive in areas of tabetisol.

tableau

n
/ 'ta.blō /
F

[Note: Plural form can be pronounced similarly.] a static depiction usually presented on a stage with participants in appropriate costume.
The final scene is a tableau in which the family is gathered at the gravesite.

tabloidism

tabulable

tachometer

n
/ ta'kämədə(r) /
Gk

a device for indicating the speed of rotation.
By watching the tachometer, Mr. Henderson was able to keep the engine running above 3000 rpm.

tachygraphy

n
/ ta'kigrəfē /
Gk > F

the art or practice of rapid writing.
Professor Jespersen lectures so quickly that students who practice tachygraphy have an advantage.

taciturn

adj
/ 'tasətərn /
L > F

habitually silent : temperamentally disinclined or reluctant to talk or converse.
Mrs. Gibbons found it challenging to draw the taciturn boy into class discussions.

taciturnity

n
/ ,tasətərnədə /
L

the quality or state of being disinclined or reluctant to talk or converse.
Gene and Leo's taciturnity about the cause of the scuffle resulted in a trip to the principal's office.

tackline

tactful

tactician

tadpole

tagraggery

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taiga

n
/ 'tīgə /
Turkish > Russ
[has near homonym: tiger]
swampy coniferous forest of
Siberia beginning where the tundra
ends.
*Olga's great-grandfather was born
in a cabin on the edge of the taiga
and grew up playing among spruce
and fir trees.*

tailgate

takkanah

talcum

talebearer

talipes

n
/ 'talə.pēz /
L
a congenital deformity of the foot
in which the forepart is twisted into
one of several directions : clubfoot.
*Gordon's talipes was so severe that
surgery was needed to adjust the
tendons and bones of his foot.*

talisman

n
/ 'taləsmən /
Gk > Ar > It > Sp > F
an object thought to act as a charm
to avert evil and bring good
fortune.
*Vern showed us his rabbit's foot,
which he claimed was an effective
talisman.*

talkathon

tallow

n
/ 'ta(,)lə /
E
the rendered fat of cattle and sheep
that is used chiefly in making soap,
glycerol, margarine, candles, and
lubricants.
*Inside of her little tent, the fortune
teller began to shuffle her cards by
the light of a candle made from
tallow.*

tallowy

Talmudic

adj
/ tal'm(y)üdik /
Heb
of, relating to, or characteristic of
the authoritative body of Jewish
law and custom developed on the
basis of the scriptural law.
*The novel was full of Talmudic
lore.*

taloned

tamale

n
/ tə'mälē /
Nahuatl > Sp
ground meat seasoned with chili or
other filling, rolled up in cornmeal
dough, wrapped in corn husks, and
steamed.
*Rosita ordered a tamale, two tacos,
and a burrito from the street
vendor.*

tamarack

tambourine

tamburello

tandem

tangerine

n
/ .tanjə'rēn /
Moroccan geog name
a variable color ranging from
moderate reddish orange to vivid or
strong orange.
*To Petra, the most beautiful color
of mum is tangerine.*

tangible

adj
/ 'tanjəbəl /
L
capable of being touched.
*The black darkness of the night
seemed to have a tangible quality.*

tangy

adj
/ 'tanjē /
Scand > E + Ecf
having a particularly pungent odor.
*The burning pile of old tires will
leave the air tangy for several days.*

tantalize

v
/ 'tant'līz /
Gk name
tease or torment by presenting
something to the view and exciting
desire but continually frustrating
the expectations by keeping it out
of reach.
*Philip used a rod and reel to
tantalize the kitten with a toy mouse
tied to the fishing line.*

tantamount

adj
/ 'tantə.maunt /
L > F > AF > E
equivalent in value, significance, or
effect.
*Because of inflation, Jamie's
meager raise was tantamount to a
pay reduction.*

tantivy

adv
/ tan'tivē /
unknown
in a headlong dash.
*Patsy ran tantivy toward second
base after the bunt.*

tapestry

n
/ 'tapəstrē /
Gk > F > E + Ecf
a heavy handwoven textile for
hangings, curtains, and upholstery.
*Teresa admired the vivid colors of
the tapestry hanging in the
corridor.*

taphophobia

n
/ .tafē'fōbēə /
Gk
fear of being buried alive.
*After reading Edgar Allan Poe's
"The Cask of Amontillado," Mr.
Gallo developed a bad case of
taphophobia.*

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tapir

n
/ 'tāpə(r) /
Tupi

[has homonym: taper] any of a genus of chiefly nocturnal hoofed mammals of tropical America and Myanmar to Sumatra that have the snout and upper lip prolonged into a short flexible proboscis.

The tapir is both a browser and a grazer, feeding on leaves, twigs, and fruits, as well as on grasses.

tarantula

n
/ tə'ranch(ə)lə /

It geog name
any of a family of large hairy spiders that are capable of biting but are not significantly poisonous to humans.

Alexander's friend tried in vain to convince him to get a pet tarantula.

tardigrade

adj
/ 'tārdə,grād /

L
moving or stepping slowly.
The sloth is a well-known tardigrade animal.

tariff

n
/ 'tarəf /
Ar > It
the duty or rate of duty imposed by a government on imported or exported goods.

A high tariff protects the home industries from foreign competition.

tarmac

n
/ 'tār.mak /
(E + Brit name) > trademark
a road, apron, or runway made of asphalt.
Neil's suitcase fell out of the airplane and its contents spilled out onto the tarmac.

tarpaulin

n
/ tār'pōlən /
E + E

a piece of material (as durable plastic) used for protecting exposed objects or areas.

When rain began during the second inning of the baseball game, the ground crew rolled out the tarpaulin to protect the field.

tarragon

n
/ 'tarə,gän /

Ar > L > F
a small European perennial wormwood grown for its aromatic foliage that is used in cooking.

Paul planted tarragon in his herb garden.

tartar

n
/ 'tārdər /

L
[has homonym and near homonyms: tarter and tartare, Tatar] an incrustation on the teeth consisting of salivary secretion, food residue, and various salts.
The hygienist carefully removed the tartar from Rekha's teeth.

tassel

tatami
n
/ tə'tāmē /

Jpn
a straw matting used as a floor covering in a Japanese home.
The Japanese restaurant had a special room in which patrons could sit on a tatami while dining.

tatterdemalion

adj
/ .təd-ə(r)də'mālyən /
Scand > E + unknown
ragged or disreputable in dress or appearance.
No one would have guessed that the tatterdemalion fellow is a millionaire.

tattersall

n
/ 'təd-ə(r).səl /
E name

a fabric having a pattern of colored lines forming squares of solid background.

Jeanne bought a blue-and-white tattersall to make into a skirt.

tattletale

n
/ 'təd-əl.tāl /

D + E
one that blabs or tells secrets.
Erica's official title is "social reporter," but Will considers her a plain old tattletale.

taught

taunt

v
/ 'tònt /
F? > E
reproach in a mocking or insulting manner : jeer at.
Spectators on the sidewalk began to taunt the suspect as he exited the van.

tauntingly

taupe

n
/ 'tōp /
L > F
[has homonym: tope] a light brownish gray.
It took some time, but Pam finally matched the taupe of her dress to a pair of shoes.

tauromachy

n
/ tò'räməkē /
Gk + Gk
the art or practice of bullfighting.
The toreador is well known for his slow, dignified style of tauromachy.

taut

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tautology

n
/ tō'täləjē /
Gk

an instance of needless or meaningless repetition in close succession of an idea, statement, or word.
The phrase a beginner who has just started is a tautology.

tautophony

n
/ tō'täfənē /
Gk

repetition of the same sound.
The insistent tautophony of Josh's alarm clock finally woke him up.

tawdrily

adv
/ 'tōdrälē /
name > E

in a cheap and gaudy manner.
The tawdrily dressed actress signed autographs outside her hotel.

tawdry

taxation

tazza

technetronic

technical

tedious

tektite

telamon

n
/ 'teləmän /
Gk > L

a male figure used as a supporting column or pilaster.
While in Athens, Anita had her picture taken beside a telamon.

telecine

telegnosis

n
/ .telə'nōsəs /
Gk + Gk

knowledge of distant happenings obtained by occult or unknown means : clairvoyance.
The psychic claimed to have telegnosis of events happening on the other side of the Atlantic.

telephone

n
/ 'teləfōn /
Gk + Gk

a device for reproducing sounds, especially articulate speech, at a distance.
Ginger's parents asked her to limit her time on the telephone to three 15-minute conversations per night.

telesis

n
/ 'teləsəs /
Gk

progress intelligently planned and directed.
The mayor revealed the city council's ten-year plan for telesis at the press conference.

telltale

temerarious

adj
/ .temə'ra(a)rēəs /
L

rashly or presumptuously daring : reckless.
Mrs. Jasper punished Tim for his temerarious behavior by withholding certain privileges.

temerity

n
/ tə'merədē /
L

unreasonable or foolhardy contempt of danger or opposition.
The private with the temerity to speak up against the sergeant's bullying was assigned to KP indefinitely.

temperament

temperate

adj
/ 'temp(ə)rət /
L > E

having a moderate climate.
All of the United States, except for Hawaii and parts of Alaska and Florida, lies within the temperate zone.

tempest

tempestuous

adj
/ tem'pes(h)chəwəs /
L

of, involving, or resembling a furious storm.
The tempestuous action of wind and waves imperiled the ships.

tempura

n
/ .tempə'rä /
Jpn

[has near homonym: tempera]
fritters of seafood and vegetables fried in deep fat.
The waiter brought a small dish of vegetable tempura as an appetizer.

tenacious

adj
/ tənāshəs /
L > E

holding fast or tending to hold fast.
Marjorie is tenacious in her belief that her cousin was abducted by aliens and replaced by an impostor.

tenacity

n
/ tənəsədē /
L

the quality or state of holding fast : determination, firmness, persistence.
Randy's tenacity often made him seem stubborn.

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tenaculum

n
/ tənə'kyləm /
L

a slender sharp-pointed hook attached to a handle and used mainly in surgery for seizing and holding parts (as arteries).
Connie slipped the tenaculum under the patient's carotid artery.

tendency

n
/ 'tendənsē /
L

a proneness to or readiness for a particular kind of thought or action.
Tom's tendency to say exactly what he feels has gotten him into trouble several times.

tenderloin

tendon

n
/ 'tendən /
L

a tough cord of specialized fibrous connective tissue that unites a muscle with some other part and transmits the force which the muscle exerts.
The team doctor said that Larry's Achilles tendon was inflamed and that he shouldn't run in Saturday's race.

tendresse

n
/ tã'dres /
F

tender feeling : fondness.
Sarah portrayed the sister who, in maidenly fashion, conceals her tendresse for the hero.

tenebrific

adj
/ .tenə'brifik /
L + Ecf + L > Ecf
causing gloom or darkness.
Tenebrific rain clouds overshadowed the entire region.

tenebrosity

n
/ .tenə'bräsədē /
L

darkness.
Nocturnal animals moved silently through the tenebrosity of the forest.

tenement

tenet

n
/ 'tenət /
L
[has near homonym: tenant] a principle, dogma, belief, or doctrine generally held to be true; especially : one held in common by members of a group or profession.
The basic tenet of Central High's Key Club is that community service benefits everyone.

tennis

n
/ 'tenəs /
L > AF > E
[has homonym: tenace] a typically outdoor game that is played with rackets and a light elastic ball by two players or pairs of players on a level court divided by a low net.
Jeannine is so eager to learn to play tennis that she is willing to pay for lessons out of her allowance.

tenon

n
/ 'tenən /
L > F > E
a projecting member in a piece of wood or other material for insertion into a mortise to make a joint.
Curtis used his jigsaw to cut a tenon on each board of the box he was making.

tensible

adj
/ 'ten(t)səbəl /
L
capable of being extended.
The old rubber band was not very tensible.

tensile

tension

tentacle

n
/ 'tentəkəl /
L
one of the arms of a cephalopod.
In the horror movie the giant octopus tried to grab the heroine with a long tentacle.

tentative

tentatively

adv
/ 'tentədəvle /
L
in a hesitant or uncertain manner.
Janna smiled tentatively, not knowing if she should show her happiness.

tenuous

adj
/ 'tenyəwəs /
L
having little substance or strength : flimsy, weak.
The prosecutor's case was so tenuous that the judge dismissed the charge against the defendant.

tepid

adj
/ 'tepəd /
L
marked by an absence of enthusiasm or conviction.
The debate drew a tepid response from the audience.

teratism

n
/ 'terətizəm /
Gk + Ecf
fascination with monsters.
Monster movies appeal to the teratism of the viewing public.

teratogenic

adj
/ .terətō'jenik /
Gk
tending to cause developmental malformations.
Sylvia carefully avoided any potentially teratogenic drugs during her pregnancy.

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teratological

adj
/ .terə'täljəkəl /
Gk

relating to abnormality of organic growth or structure.

Because of his several deformities, the so-called "elephant man" was the subject of teratological study.

teratology

n
/ .terə'täləjē /
Gk

the study of malformations, monstrosities, or serious deviations from the normal type in growing organisms.

Because of his several deformities, the so-called "elephant man" is often featured in textbooks for courses in teratology.

tercentenary

n
/ .tərsən'tenərə /
L

a 300th anniversary or its celebration.

Next year Possumville will celebrate the tercentenary of its founding.

terdiurnal

adj
/ .tərdi'ərnl /
L

occurring three times per day.

The meteorologist set his instrument to take terdiurnal measurements of the air pressure.

tergiversate

v
/ 'təɹjəvər.sāt /
L

evade straightforward action or clearcut statement of position.

While political leaders tergiversate, petty tyrants are taking over the country.

tergiversation

n
/ .təɹjə(ɪ)vər'sāshən /
L

evasion of straightforward action or clear-cut statement of position.

The ambassador explained that in diplomacy there is sometimes defensible tergiversation in communication.

termagancy

n
/ 'tərməgənsē /
E name

habitual bad temper : scolding disposition.

Lillian's abusive termagancy alienated her husband and children.

termitarium

terrace

n
/ 'terəs /
L > OProv > F

a colonnaded porch or promenade.

The marketplace consisted of a row of shops along a terrace.

terraceous

adj
/ .te'rāshəs /
L

made of earth : earthen.

Bulldozers hurriedly built up a terraceous dam to prevent further flooding.

terrapin

n
/ 'terəpən /
Algonquian
any of various North American turtles living in fresh or brackish water.

Murray awoke from his lakeside nap to find a terrapin sunning on the blanket.

terraqueous

adj
/ ter'ākweəs /
L

consisting of land and water.

Global pollution threatens Earth's terraqueous environment.

terrarium

n
/ tər'reɹəm /
L

a fully enclosed wholly or predominantly glass container for the indoor cultivation of moisture-loving plants.

Mosses and other small woodland plants thrive in a terrarium.

terrazzo

n
/ tər'rät(ɪ)sō /
OProv > It

a mosaic flooring made by embedding small pieces of marble or granite in freshly placed mortar and after hardening grinding and polishing the surface.

The contractor explained that if Travis wanted a hard, shiny floor at a reasonable price, terrazzo was an excellent option.

terrestrial

terrible

adj
/ 'tɹərəbəl /
L > F > E
requiring extreme effort or fortitude.

Donating blood may be a terrible ordeal for those people who do not like needles.

terricolous

adj
/ te'rikələs /
L + L
living on or in or growing from the land.
The heath was rich in terricolous lichens.

terrific

adj
/ tər'rifɪk /
L
of an extraordinary nature : astounding, tremendous.
Terrific, serrated outcrops of bare rock stood on either side of the lush valley.

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Frequently

terrigenous

adj
/ tər'ɪjənəs /
L

formed by the erosive action of rivers, tides, and currents—used of an ocean bottom.

At the brink of the continental shelf, terrigenous deposits build up and are swept away.

tertiary

tessitura

n
/ .tesə'tʃrə /
L > It

the general range of a melody or voice part; specifically : the part of the register in which most of the tones of a melody or voice part lie.

Soprano parts in Bellini's operas call for a very high tessitura.

testaceous

adj
/ te'stāshəs /
L

having a shell.

The oyster is a testaceous marine animal.

testimony

n
/ 'testə.mōnē /
L

a solemn declaration usually made orally by a witness under oath in response to interrogation by a lawyer or authorized public official.

According to Victoria's testimony, she had just returned from vacation when she discovered that the statue was missing.

tetanus

n
/ 'tet'nəs /
Gk

an acute infectious disease characterized by tonic spasm of voluntary muscles and especially of the jaw muscles.

Puncture wounds are dangerous because they allow the bacteria that cause tetanus to enter the body.

tetracycline

textuary

thalassic

adj
/ thə'lasɪk /
Gk

of or relating to the sea or ocean.

Some thalassic currents travel for thousands of miles.

thanatophobia

n
/ .thanətə'fɒbēə /
Gk

fear of death.

Michael had such a strong belief in an afterlife that he was not troubled by thanatophobia.

thaumatology

n
/ .thòmə'täləjē /
Gk

doctrine, discussion, or study of the performing of miracles.

Although he had never successfully performed any miracles, the young priest was nonetheless an expert in thaumatology.

thaumaturgy

n
/ 'thòmə.tərjē /
Gk > L > F

the performance of miracles.

The sacred writings of many religions contain stories of thaumaturgy.

theatrical

adj
/ thē'atrəkəl /
Gk

marked by extravagant display or exhibitionism : showy, spectacular.

The performer took a theatrical bow, but the audience's applause was lukewarm.

theftproof

theocracy

theodicy

n
/ thē'ädəsē /
Gk > F

an area of philosophy that treats of the nature and government of God and the destiny of the soul.

One hotly contested question in theodicy is whether the existence of evil precludes the existence of an omnipotent and perfect God.

theodolite

n
/ thē'äd'līt /
Ar? > L > E

a surveyor's instrument for measuring horizontal and vertical angles.

The theodolite invented by Digges in the 16th century consisted of a horizontal graduated circular plate with an index bearing sights.

theosophize

therapeutant

n
/ .therə'pyüt'nt /
Gk > E

a healing or curative agent or medicine.

The diseased elm trees were sprayed with a chemical therapeutant.

therapeutic

adj
/ .therə'pyüdɪk /
Gk

of or relating to the treatment of disease or disorders by remedial agents or methods.

Changes in diet can have a therapeutic effect on obesity, hypertension, peptic ulcer, and osteoporosis.

therblig

n
/ 'thər(ɪ)blig /

anagram of Amer name

one of the manual, visual, or mental elements into which an industrial manual operation may be analyzed in time and motion study.

The supervisor's goal was to eliminate one therblig at each station in the assembly line.

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theretofore

adv
/ ˈθɛrədəˌfɔ(ə)r /
E

up to that time : until then.
The public parks committee created a playground where theretofore there had been a weedy vacant lot.

therianthropic

adj
/ ˈθɪriənˌθræpɪk /
Gk + Gk

combining human and animal form.
The falcon-headed Horus was a therianthropic god of ancient Egypt.

thermometer

n
/ θə(r)ˈmæmədər /
Gk + Gk

an instrument for determining temperature.
The thermometer that takes a temperature reading from one's ear is now used widely.

thermostat

n
/ ˈθɜrməstat /
Gk + Gk

an automatic device for regulating temperature (as by controlling the supply of gas or electricity to a heating apparatus).
The repair person found that our heating problem was caused by a defective thermostat.

thesaurus

n
/ θəˈsɔrəs /
Gk > L

a book containing a store of words or of information about a particular field or set of concepts; specifically : a dictionary of synonyms.
Caleb's paper read as if he had consulted a thesaurus frequently while writing it.

thesmothete

n
/ ˈθɛzməθɛt /
Gk

lawgiver, legislator.
Joseph has in his office a marble bust of a famous Athenian thesmothete.

thespian

n
/ ˈθɛspɪən /
Gk name

an actor.
Fiona became stagestruck at an early age and was determined to become a thespian.

thirsty

thistle

n
/ ˈθɪsəl /
E

a plant with prickly leaves having a head with white, purple, pink, or yellow flowers.
Dean plucked a thistle from the lawn of the middle school.

tholepin

thoracic

adj
/ θəˈræsɪk /
Gk

of, relating to, located within, or involving the part of the body of humans and other mammals located between the neck and the abdomen.
The thoracic nerve controls the muscles in the walls of the thorax.

thoracodynia

n
/ ˌθɔrəkəˈdɪniə /
Gk

pain in the chest.
When Grandpa complained of thoracodynia, Dolly immediately took him to the hospital.

thorax

n
/ ˈθɔr.əks /
Gk > L > E

the portion of an insect body that is the middle of the three chief divisions.
The thorax of an insect consists of three segments, each having a pair of legs.

thoroughbred

n
/ ˈθərəbred /
E

purebred or pedigreed animal.
Alex's thoroughbred comes from a line of Kentucky Derby winners.

thoroughfare

threaten

threnody

n
/ ˈθrɛnədə /
Gk

a song, poem, composition, or speech of lamentation especially for someone dead or something regarded as dead.
Asked to write a threnody for English class, Libby composed a song about the death of a robin.

threshold

n
/ ˈθrɛsh.(h)ɔld /
E

place or point of entering or beginning : entrance, outset.
Now at the threshold of adulthood, James wonders if he will miss the carefree days of his previous years.

thrombosis

n
/ θrəmˈbɔsəs /
Gk

the formation or presence of a blood clot within a blood vessel.
The severe pain in Greg's leg was found to have been caused by a thrombosis in one of the veins.

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throstle

n
/ 'θrɒsəl /
E

a largely olive-brown Old World perching bird noted for its song.
While on a walking tour in London, Madeline spotted a throstle in a sycamore tree.

thule

thumb

thurible

n
/ 'θ(y)ʊrəbəl /
Gk > L > F > E
a vessel used in religious services for burning incense.
When a thurible is used in the procession, the odor of incense suffuses the church.

thylacine

n
/ 'θɪləsɪn /
Gk > L
a now-extinct somewhat doglike carnivorous marsupial that formerly inhabited Tasmania—called also “Tasmanian wolf.”
The female thylacine had a rearward-opening pouch in which two to four young were carried.

thyme

n
/ 'tɪm /
Gk
[has homonym: time] a common garden herb used in seasoning and formerly in medicine.
The chicken recipe called for a teaspoon of dried thyme.

thymiaterion

n
/ .θɪmēə'tɪrēən /
Gk
a vessel used by the ancient Greeks for burning incense.
Cecil found a bronze thymiaterion in an antique shop.

tibia

n
/ 'tɪbēə /
L

the fourth joint counting from the base of the leg of an insect that lies between the femur and tarsus.
A cricket's ear is located on the tibia of its foreleg.

tichorrhine

n
/ 'tɪkə.rɪn /
Gk > L
an extinct two-horned woolly rhinoceros.
The remains of a tichorrhine were found frozen in the ice of Siberia with the flesh and hair well preserved.

tickicidal

adj
/ .tɪkə'sɪdɪl /
E + L + Ecf
destroying or controlling any of several wingless parasitic insects.
The exterminator used a tickicidal agent to eliminate the pests.

tickled

v
/ 'tɪkəld /
E
excited or stirred up agreeably.
The young actor was tickled to be offered the leading role in his next movie.

tightrope

tilak

n
/ 'tɪlək /
Skt
an ornamental spot worn on the forehead chiefly by Hindus as a sectarian mark.
After three months of travel Lana returned home clad in a sari and wearing a tilak.

tilapia

n
/ tə'lɪpēə /
L
any of a genus of African freshwater food fishes that resemble the American sunfishes.
Some American fish farms have been raising tilapia for stocking in ponds and lakes.

tilde

n
/ 'tɪldə /
L > Sp
a mark ~ placed especially over the letter n to denote the /ny/ sound or over vowels to indicate nasality.
Marcia could not find the tilde on the computer keyboard.

tilth

timorous

timorously

adv
/ 'tɪm(ə)rəsli /
L
in a manner showing fear or apprehension.
Pam timorously responded to her name and said that she had not finished her book report.

tinctorial

tincture

n
/ 'tɪŋ(k)ʃə(r) /
L
hue, tint.
The main difference between American and Irish glass is in tincture.

tinnient

adj
/ 'tɪnɪənt /
L
having a clear or ringing quality.
Grandmother's old silver knives made a tinnient sound in the sink as we rinsed them after Thanksgiving dinner.

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tinnitus

n
/ tə'nɪdəs /
L

a ringing, roaring, or hissing in the ears that is purely subjective.

It's hard to understand how annoying tinnitus is unless you have experienced it yourself.

tinselry

tintinnabulation

tirade

n
/ 'tɪrəd /
F

a protracted speech usually marked by abusive language.

The grumpy woman screamed a tirade of protest whenever children made joyful noises outside her window.

tiralee

n
/ .tɪrə'lē /
imit

[has homonym: tearily] a succession of musical notes (as in a bugle call).

Daniel managed a tiralee on the saxophone, but there was no recognizable melody.

titian

n
/ 'tɪʃən /

Ital name
one having hair that is brownish orange.

Mr. Rodman decided that he would be a titian for awhile.

tnesis

toastmaster

n
/ 'təʊst.mastə(r) /
E+L > F > E

one that presides (as at a banquet) and introduces the after-dinner speakers.

Eric will serve as toastmaster at the Golden Lamp banquet.

tobacco

n
/ tə'ba(ɪ)kəʊ /
Taino > Sp

the leaves of a plant of the genus *Nicotiana* prepared and processed for use in smoking or chewing or as snuff.

At an early age, Amy vowed never to use tobacco.

toboggan

n
/ tə'bəgən /
Algonquian

a long flat-bottomed light sled made of thin boards curved up at one end with usually low handrails at the sides and used for coasting on snow or ice.

Bart's new toboggan is the fastest one on the hill.

tobogganer

n
/ tə'bəgənər /
Algonquian > F

one that coasts on a long flat-bottomed light sled.

On hitting the unexpected bump, the tobogganer was thrown off his sled.

tobogganing

toccata

n
/ tə'kædə /
It

a brilliant musical composition usually for pipe organ or harpischord, in free fantasia style, and usually with many equal-timed notes in rapid movement.

Jamila sat down at the church organ and played a fast Bach toccata.

tocsin

n
/ 'təksən /
L > OProv > F

[has homonym: toxin] an alarm bell or the ringing of a bell for the purpose of alarm.

In the event of a natural disaster or a civil alert, the fire stations would set off a tocsin that could be heard for two miles in any direction.

toggery

tome

n
/ 'təʊm /
Gk

a volume forming part of a larger work.

*Fiona bought an old copy of *The Messages of the Presidents* that was missing the first tome.*

tongue

tonitruous

adj
/ tə'nɪtrəwəs /
L + Ecf

thundering, fulminating.

The tonitruous artillery guns had been shelling the enemy positions for several hours.

tonsillectomy

tonsillitis

n
/ .tän(t)sə'lıdəs /
L

inflammation of the tonsils.
Dr. Graham treated Erica's tonsillitis with antibiotics.

tonsillotomy

tonsorial

tonsure

n
/ 'tänʃə(r) /
L > E

the shaven crown or patch worn by monks or various clerics.

The actor who played Brother Cadfael had a hairpiece to cover his tonsure when he was off camera.

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tontine

n
/ 'tän.tēn /
It name > F
a financial arrangement whereby the participants share benefits equally on such terms that when one dies or defaults the others equally share the portion until all but one remains to own the entirety.
In the days before a central bank or common currency, villagers often used a tontine to share ownership of property.

toolach

toothache

n
/ 'tüth.āk /
E
pain in one of the teeth.
Nelson thought an abscess might be the cause of his toothache.

topaz

n
/ 'tō.paz /
Gk > L > F > E
a usually yellow, reddish, or pink transparent mineral used as a gem.
Leslie received a yellow topaz for her birthday.

topiary

n
/ 'tōpē.erē /
Gk > L + Lcf
the practice or art of training, cutting, and trimming trees or shrubs into odd or ornamental shapes.
Edward Scissorhands was skilled in topiary.

topography

n
/ tə'pāgrəfē /
Gk
the art or practice of graphic delineation in detail usually on maps or charts of selected natural and man-made features of a region especially in a way to show their relative positions and elevations.
Identifying the enemy's rocket sites will require an expert in topography.

toreador

n
/ 'tōrē.ədō(ə)r /
L > Sp
bullfighter.
The toreador posed for the crowd in his suit of lights.

toroidal

adj
/ tōr'oidəl /
L
doughnut-shaped.
For the life of her, Bridget couldn't identify the toroidal object she found in her purse.

torpor

torrential

torrentially

adv
/ tō'renchəlē /
L
in a manner resembling a rushing stream of water.
Patricia wept torrentially when she found out about her pet dog's injury.

tortellini

n
/ .tō(r)dʰɪ'ɛnē /
L > It
noodle dough cut in rounds, filled with savory fillings, and boiled.
Vic's favorite Italian meal was tortellini stuffed with meat and cheese.

tortilla

n
/ tō(r)'tē(y)ə /
Sp
a round thin unleavened cake usually eaten hot with a savory topping or filling.
Theron covered his tortilla with beans and cheese.

tortoise

n
/ 'tōrdəs /
F? > E
any of a family of terrestrial turtles.
The park ranger told the children that a tortoise takes five hours to walk just one mile.

tortoni

n
/ tō(r)'tōnē /
It name
an ice cream made of heavy cream, minced almonds, chopped maraschino cherries, or other flavorings.
Tortoni is definitely not the dessert for someone on a low-fat, low-calorie diet.

totality

n
/ tō'talədē /
L
the phase of an eclipse during which it is total : state of total eclipse.
An eerie silence crept over the crowd as the eclipse reached totality.

totemism

n
/ 'tōdə.mizəm /
Ojibwa + Ecf
belief in kinship with or a mystical relationship between a group or individual and an emblematic plant, animal, or other object.
Powerful animals are common objects of totemism.

toucan

tourelle

touristry

tournedos

n
/ .tūrnə'dō /
L > F
a small fillet of beef usually cut from the tip of the tenderloin.
Diane usually prepares a tournedos in wine sauce with mushrooms.

towhee

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toxicosis

n
/ ˈtɒksəˈkɒsəs /
Gk

a pathological condition caused by the action of a poison or toxin.

The chihuahua exhibited no symptoms of toxicosis after eating the soap.

toxophilite

n
/ tɒkˈsɒfəlɪt /
Gk + Gk + Ecf

one fond of or expert at archery.

The legendary toxophilite William Tell successfully shot an apple from the head of his own son.

toxophily

trachea

tracheostomy

n
/ ˌtrækəˈɹɒstəmē /
Gk + Gk

the surgical formation of an opening into the trachea through the skin.

When Chris developed throat cancer, a tracheostomy had to be performed to facilitate his breathing.

tracheotomy

tractable

adj
/ ˈtraktəbəl /
L

capable of being easily led, taught, or controlled.

Maybe Fatima's work would improve if she were more tractable.

tractile

adj
/ ˈtraktl /
L > Ecf

capable of being drawn out in length.

With laboratory equipment, Dr. Abrams was able to extend the tractile material to a great length.

trafficking

v
/ ˈtrɛfɪkɪŋ /
It > F

engaging in commercial activity.

The townspeople were shocked when they learned that Mr. Bailey had been trafficking in drugs.

tragedian

tragedienne

n
/ trəˈdʒɛdēˈen /
F

[Note: Could be confused with tragedian.] an actress who specializes in tragic roles.

On Thursday night, Ms Siddons, the granddaughter of the tragedienne, made her first appearance.

tragedy

trajectory

tralatitious

trammel

tramontana

n
/ ˌtræ(ɪ)mɒnˈtænə /
L > It

the north wind; especially : a dry cold strong northerly wind of the west coast of Italy.

Each winter the tramontana swoops piercingly through the streets of Rome.

transcend

transcendental

adj
/ ˌtræn.senˈdentl /
L

extending or being beyond the limits of ordinary experience.

Edward's transcendental meditation guru also instructs him in yoga.

transducer

n
/ tran(t)sˈd(y)üsə(r) /
L + Ecf

a device actuated by power from one system and supplying power in the same or any other form to a second system.

A common transducer is a microphone, which converts sound waves into electrical signals.

transference

n
/ tranzˈfərən(t)s /
L

an act, process, or instance of carrying or taking something from one person or place to another.

Ralph's dad was in charge of the transference of fish from the fishery to the lake being restocked.

transience

n
/ ˈtranzēənts /
L

[has homonym: transients] the quality or state of passing through or by only briefly.

The photographer is able to capture transience by being ready to click the shutter at the crucial moment.

transient

transit

n
/ ˈtran(t)sət /
L

the passage of a smaller body across the disk of a larger (as of Venus or Mercury across the Sun's disk).

Barrie used sensitive equipment to photograph the transit of Venus.

translucent

transmissible

adj
/ tran(t)ˈsmisəbəl /
L

capable of being sent or conveyed to another person or place.

Poison ivy is transmissible through the air to those who are very sensitive to it.

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transmit

transmogrify

v
/ tran(t)'smägrə.fī /
unknown
change or alter in form, appearance, or structure often with grotesque or humorous effect.
Buford set out to transmogrify the hearse into a hot rod.

trattoria

n
/ .trädə'rēə /
F > It
an eating house : restaurant.
It seems to Fran that any trattoria located next to the golf course fails, regardless of the cuisine.

traulism

trauma

n
/ 'traümə /
Gk
an injury or wound caused by the application of external force or violence.
The football player suffered the trauma of a broken leg.

traumatize

traumatropism

n
/ trə'matrə.pizəm /
Gk
a modification of the orientation of an organ (as a plant root) as a result of wounding.
Traumatropism of the roots does not usually affect plant growth.

traversed

v
/ trə'værst /
L > F > E
moved to and fro over or along.
Zane serenely traversed the frozen pond.

travesty

treacherous

adj
/ 'trech(ə)rəs /
F > E
characterized by usually hidden dangers, hazards, or perils.
Throughout the winter, frigid temperatures and the damp sea air cause treacherous black ice to form on streets.

treachery

treacly

adj
/ 'trēk(ə)lē /
Gk > F > L > E
heavily sweet and cloying.
Sarah's treacly voice warned her mother that a big request was forthcoming.

treadmill

n
/ 'tred.mil /
E + E
a device operated by walking on an endless belt for the purpose of exercise.
Walking on a treadmill in his apartment was convenient, but Sam preferred to get his exercise outside, weather permitting.

treason

n
/ 'trēzən /
L > F > E
the offense of attempting by overt acts to overthrow the government of the state to which the offender owes allegiance or to kill or personally injure the sovereign or the sovereign's family.
All persons involved in the attempted coup were charged with treason.

treasure

treatise

n
/ 'trēdās /
F? > AF > E
a writing that provides in a systematic matter and for an expository or argumentative purpose a methodical discussion of the facts and principles involved and conclusions reached.
Victor's treatise on international relations was well received by his colleagues.

treble

adj
/ 'trebəl /
F > E
threefold.
Whatever might be their motive or motives—whether single, double, or treble—their actions were unjustified.

trefoil

n
/ 'trē.fōil /
L > F > E
any of the common clovers.
The hunter came upon several rabbits feeding on a patch of trefoil.

treillage

trekked

trellis

trellised

tremendous

adj
/ trə'mendəs /
L
astonishing by reason of extreme size, power, greatness, or excellence.
Computers have had a tremendous impact on modern business practices.

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tremulous

adj
/ 'tremjələs /
L

quivering, shaking.
Uncle Edgar's tremulous handwriting is one sign of his Parkinson's disease.

trenchant

trenchantly

adv
/ 'trenchəntlē /
F > E
in a sharply perceptive manner.
The commentator trenchantly analyzed the pros and cons of legalized gambling.

trepidation

trespass

v
/ 'trespəs /
F > E
make an unwarranted or uninvited incursion.
The rock salt from farmer Brown's shotgun taught Wally a painful lesson: Don't trespass.

tressed

trey

n
/ 'trā /
L > F > E
[has homonym: tray] the side of a die or domino that has three spots.
If Ian draws either a trey or an ace from the boneyard, he believes he will win the game of dominoes.

triage

n
/ trē'āzh /
F
the sorting of and allocation of treatment to patients and especially battle and disaster victims according to a system of priorities designed to maximize the number of survivors.
Once the system of triage was implemented, medics were better able to decide which soldiers should receive immediate treatment.

trianon

n
/ 'trēənän /
F architecture
a small elegant villa.
Albert wrote his latest thriller in a rented trianon on the Riviera.

tribunal

n
/ trī'byünəl /
L
a court or forum of justice.
The people have wisely provided, in the constitution itself, a tribunal for settling questions of constitutional law.

tributary

n
/ 'tribjətərē /
L
a stream feeding a larger stream or a lake.
The Ohio River is a tributary of the Mississippi River.

tricenary

adj
/ 'trīs'n.ērē /
L
having or lasting 30 days.
Cameron never can remember which months are tricenary.

tricephalous

adj
/ trī'sefələs /
Gk
having or depicted with three heads.
Orpheus managed to lull the tricephalous watchdog to sleep by playing his lyre.

trichinosis

n
/ .trikə'nōsəs /
Gk
infestation with or disease caused by certain nematode worms contracted by eating raw or undercooked infested food and especially pork.
Madeline cooked the pork chops well so there would be no danger of trichinosis.

trichogenous

adj
/ .trə'kājənəs /
Gk
producing hair.
Trichogenous cells produce the tiny hairs on insect bodies and limbs.

trichotomy

n
/ trī'kädəmē /
Gk
a system divided or divisible into three constituents or elements.
Golda's civics teacher explained how the United States government is a trichotomy, divided into the legislative, judicial, and executive branches.

trickle

trigonometry

n
/ .trigə'nämətrē /
Gk
a branch of mathematics dealing with the relations holding among the sides and angles of triangles and among closely related magnitudes and especially with methods of deducing from given parts other required parts.
Rachel enjoyed her course in trigonometry much more than she enjoys her calculus class.

trihedral

trillion

Trinity

n
/ 'trinədē /
L > F > E
the union of three persons or personified concepts (as the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit) in one godhead so that all the three are one God as to substance but three persons or concepts as to individuality.
The Catholic Church once excommunicated believers in the false Trinity of God, Mary, and Jesus.

tripeleannamine

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tripod

triquetra

n
/ trī'kwētrə /
L

a triangle-shaped figure or decoration.

Murray stenciled a leafy triquetra in each corner of the kitchen ceiling.

triskelion

n
/ trī'skelēən /
Gk

a figure composed of three usually curved or bent branches radiating from a center.

A triskelion has been the emblem of the Isle of Man since the 13th century, when the Vikings were ousted.

triste

adj
/ 'trēst /
L > F > E

sad, dismal, dull, depressing.
A triste quartet could be heard from the window.

triturate

triumph

triumphal

triumvirate

n
/ trī'əmvrət /
L

a group, party, or association of three.

Vince, Steve, and Phil jokingly refer to themselves as the "terrible triumvirate."

trivet

n
/ 'trivət /
L > E

a usually ornamental metal stand with short feet especially for use under a hot dish at a table.

A brass trivet featuring the local college's insignia is the best-selling item in the gift shop.

trochaic

trochanter

n
/ trō'kantə(r) /
Gk > L

the second segment counting from the base of the leg of an insect.
A trochanter is one of the five parts of an insect's leg.

trocheameter

n
/ 'trākē'amədə(r) /
Gk? + Gk > E

an instrument used to count the revolutions of a wheel.

According to the trocheameter attached to one of the wagon wheels, the wagon train had traveled 30 miles.

trochiline

trodden

v
/ 'träd'n /
E

walked or trampled upon something.

The cattle had trodden over the field, flattening the tall grass and weeds.

troglodyte

n
/ 'trəglədīt /
Gk > L

a member of a primitive people dwelling in caves or pits.

While spelunking, Zan and Patrick stumbled on the bones of a troglodyte.

troglodytic

troika

n
/ 'trōikə /
Russ

a group of three.

Astrology, yoga, and poetry are the troika of humanities that most interest Bryce.

trophallaxis

n
/ .träf'ə'ləksəs /
Gk > L

exchange of food between organisms (as the social insects).
Bees, ants, and wasps practice trophallaxis.

tropicopolitan

adj
/ .trəpəkō'pälət'n /
Gk

inhabiting all countries near the equator.

Today the coconut palm is a tropicopolitan species.

trophilous

adj
/ trō'päfələs /
Gk + Gk

thriving in an environment that undergoes marked periodic changes (as in temperature, soil moisture, or available light).

Deciduous trees of the temperate regions are examples of trophilous plants.

trough

n
/ 'trɒf /
E

[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word.] an elongated area of low barometric pressure usually with a minimum pressure at each end and between two areas of higher pressure.

Eric listened to the weather forecaster explain how the local weather was being influenced by the trough that was present.

trousseau

n
/ 'trü(,)sō /
F

[Note: Plural form can be pronounced similarly.] the personal possessions of a bride usually including clothes, accessories, and household linens and wares.

Felicity kept her trousseau in a hope chest at the foot of her bed.

trove

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Frequently

trowel

truculent

adj
/ 'trʌkyələnt /

L
feeling or evincing savage ferocity : fierce.

Hunger makes the tiger a truculent hunter.

trumpet

truncated

adj
/ 'trʌŋ.kəd̩əd /

L
abbreviated by or as if by lopping.
Cindy's cat has a truncated tail.

truncheon

trunnioned

adj
/ 'trʌnyənd /

F
having a pin or pivot usually mounted on bearings for rotating or tilting.

Dave attached a trunnioned compass to the deck of his sailboat.

truttaceous

adj
/ 'trʌ'tʃəshəs /

L
of, relating to, or resembling a trout.
Truttaceous fish are highly esteemed as sport fish because of their spiritedness.

trypanosome

tsetse

tsunami

n
/ (t)sü'nämē /

Jpn
a great sea wave produced by submarine earth movements or volcanic eruption.

The dock workers were alerted in time to evacuate the harbor area before the tsunami hit.

tuberculosis

n
/ tʌbərkyə'lōsəs /

L
a communicable disease caused by the tubercle bacillus and characterized by toxic symptoms or allergic manifestations which in humans primarily affect the lungs.
The antibiotic drug streptomycin has been successfully used to treat tuberculosis.

tufaceous

adj
/ t(y)ü'fāshəs /

Osc-Umbrian > L > It
of or resembling a rock composed of the finer kinds of volcanic debris.

Many buildings in Italy were constructed of tufaceous rock.

tuffet

n
/ 'tʌfət /

Gmc? > F? > E
a low seat : stool.

Katie stood on the tuffet to reach the book on the top shelf.

tularemia

n
/ .tülə'rēmēə /

Calif geog name + Lcf
a bacterial disease of rodents, man, and some domestic animals.

Jerry's temperature reached a dangerously high level during his bout with tularemia.

tulle

tumefaction

tumultuous

adj
/ t(y)ü'məlch(ə)wəs /

L
full of commotion and uproar : boisterous.

As the basketball star entered, he received tumultuous applause from his schoolmates.

tumulus

n
/ 't(y)ümyələs /

L
[has homonym: tumulous] an artificial hillock or mound (as over a grave).

In the center of the cemetery is a large tumulus where one of the town's founders is buried.

tundra

n
/ 'tʌndrə /

Finno-Ugric > Russ
a treeless plain characteristic of arctic and subarctic regions with a permanently frozen subsoil.

Do reindeer graze on the moss of the tundra?

tungsten

n
/ 'tʌŋstən /

Sw
a gray-white high-melting hard metallic element that is used in the pure form chiefly for electrical purposes (as for filaments for incandescent lamps).

The filament in many light bulbs is a thin wire of tungsten.

turban

n
/ 'tʌrbən /

Per > Turk > F
a headdress worn chiefly in countries of the eastern Mediterranean and southern Asia especially by Muslims and made of a cap around which is wound a long cloth.

A camel driver wearing a blue turban asked Rebecca if she would like a short ride.

turbid

turbine

n
/ 'tʌrbən /

L > F
[has homonym: turban] a rotary engine.

The plane could not take off until the damaged turbine was repaired.

turbot

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Frequently

turbulence

n
/ 'tɜrbyələn(t)s /
L

highly irregular atmospheric motion characterized by rapid changes in wind speed and direction and the presence of up and down currents.
The captain warned the plane's passengers to brace themselves for a patch of turbulence.

turgescence

turgescence

turgid

turmoil

n
/ 'tɜr.mɔɪl /
unknown
an utterly confused, extremely agitated, or tumultuous state or condition.

Jacob experienced unrelenting turmoil after his parents informed him that the family might move.

turnstile

n
/ 'tɜrn.sti(ə)l /
E + E

a post with four arms pivoted on the top set in a gateway to regulate or monitor passage.
Contrary to the prominently posted warning sign, Calvin hopped over the turnstile.

turnverein

turophile

n
/ 't(y)urəfil /
Gk

a gourmet of cheese : a cheese fancier.
The turophile warned us not to be beguiled by the low cost of inferior processed cheese.

turpentine

n
/ 'tɜrpən.tɪn /
Gk > L > F > E

any of various oleoresins that are derived from coniferous trees and are obtained in crude form as yellowish viscous exudates of characteristic odor and taste from incisions in the tree trunks and that usually thicken and solidify in the air.
The most common use of turpentine is in paint and lacquer thinners.

turpitude

n
/ 'tɜrpətɪd /
L
inherent baseness or vileness of principle, words, or actions : depravity.
Sean accused Amitab of moral turpitude for teasing the cat.

turret

n
/ 'tɜrət /
F > E
a little tower.
The princess escaped from the turret by sliding down a rope of knotted bedsheets.

turricular

adj
/ .tɜ'rikyələ(r) /
L
shaped like or resembling a tower.
Shauna's birthday cake was turricular and decorated to look like the Leaning Tower of Pisa.

turriferous

tutania

tutelage

n
/ 't(y)üd'liʒ /
L
instruction; especially : individual instruction accompanied by close personal attention and a conscious attempt at guidance.
Evan made astounding progress under the tutelage of his new trumpet teacher.

tutelary

adj
/ 't(y)üd'li.ərē /
L
having the guardianship or charge of protecting a person or a thing.
The young princesses were surrounded by tutelary employees.

tutoyer

tuyere

n
/ tü'ye(ə)r /
F
a nozzle through which an air blast is delivered to a forge.
Dan checked the tuyere for an obstruction.

tweezers

n pl
/ 'twēzə(r)z /
F > E
any of various small pincer-shaped tools used for plucking, holding, or manipulating.
The jeweler used a pair of fine tweezers to extract the broken spring from inside Jeff's pocket watch.

twelfth

twinkle

v
/ 'twɪŋkəl /
E
shine with a flickering, sparkling, or intermittent light.
Atmospheric conditions affect how a star will twinkle in the night sky.

tycoon

tympanum

n
/ 'tɪmpənəm /
Gk > L
a thin tense membrane covering an organ of hearing (as in the leg of an insect).
The tympanum, which is sometimes hidden beneath the base of an insect's wing cover, is activated by the pressure of sound waves.

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typhology

n
/ ti'fläləjē /
Gk

the scientific study of blindness, its causes, effects, and control.
Researchers in typhology have found that certain nutritional deficiencies can result in the clouding and softening of the cornea.

typhoon

n
/ tī'fün /
Gk&Chinese

a tropical cyclone occurring in the region of the Philippines or the China Sea.
A typhoon of unimaginable fury swung across the coastal plains of Bangladesh, swallowing up villages and sweeping away food crops.

typify

v
/ 'tipə.fī /
L + Ecf

embody the essential or salient characteristics of.
Dickens's characters typify the Victorian era.

typhothetae

tyrannical

adj
/ tē'ranəkəl /
Gk

exhibiting imperious and usually oppressive exercise of absolute power : despotic.
Patrick Henry spoke fervently about the urgent need to arrest the tyrannical hands of the British ministry and Parliament.

tyrannize

tyrannous

tyranny

n
/ 'tirənē /
L > F > E

absolute government in which power is vested in a single ruler.
The tyranny of many medieval kingdoms was eventually supplanted by democracy.

ubiquitous

adj
/ yū'bikwədəs /
L

existing or being everywhere at the same time : omnipresent.
The drum is a ubiquitous instrument in world music.

udometer

n
/ yū'dämədə(r) /
L + Gk

an instrument for measuring the quantity of precipitation that falls at a given place and time.
The local television station asked Karen to put a udometer in her backyard.

udomograph

uglify

ulcerous

ullage

ulotrichous

adj
/ yū'lätrəkəs /
Gk + Gk

having woolly or crisp hair.
The ulotrichous aborigines crafted wide-toothed combs for their hair.

ulterior

adj
/ əl'tirēə(r) /
L

not apparent : hidden.
When Sherman volunteered to walk the dog, his ulterior motive was to escape the boring conversation in the house.

ultimacy

ultimatum

n
/ əltə'mädəm /
L

a final proposition, condition, or demand; especially : one whose rejection will end negotiations and cause a resort to force or other direct action.
If the striking workers refused its ultimatum, the company threatened to close the factory permanently.

ultraviolet

adj
/ əltrə'viələt /
L + L > F > E

situated beyond the visible spectrum at the violet end and having a wavelength shorter than visible light and longer than X rays.
Arthur purchased sunglasses that provide some protection against ultraviolet radiation.

ululant

ululation

n
/ əlyə'lāshən /
L

a loud mournful usually protracted and rhythmical sound : howl.
An ululation from deep in the woods gave Jesse goosebumps.

umbilical

adj
/ əm'biləkəl /
L

attached by or as if by a cord arising at the navel that connects a fetus with the placenta.
Important medical research is being done with stem cells obtained from umbilical cords.

umbra

n
/ 'əmbərə /
L

a shaded area : darkness.
Trent saw something flicker in the umbra beneath the side porch.

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umbrage

n
/ 'əmbriːdʒ /
L > F > E

displeasure, resentment,
annoyance.

*Hatred between nations disposes
each more readily to offer insult
and injury and lay hold of slight
causes of umbrage.*

umbrageous

adj
/ .əm'brāʒəs /
L > F > E

providing protection from heat and
light : shady.

*Sherwood Forest was the
umbrageous domain of the
legendary Robin Hood and his
outlaw band.*

umbrella

umlaut

n
/ 'üm.läüt /
G

a diacritical mark composed of two
adjacent dots placed especially over
a German vowel to indicate a
vowel shift.

*Gary never knew how to pronounce
words with an umlaut until he
studied German.*

umpire

n
/ 'əm.pī(ə)r /
L > F > E

one having authority to arbitrate
and make a final decision, as an
official in a sport who rules on the
plays.

*The coach vehemently objected
when the umpire ejected the player
for unsportsmanlike conduct.*

unabridged

unaccompanied

unanimous

adj
/ yü'nänəməs /
L

being of one mind : agreeing in
opinion, design, or determination.
*The advice given the candidate by
those in his confidence was
unanimous.*

unau

n
/ yü'nó /
Tupi > F

a two-toed sloth of Central and
South America.

*The unau seldom descends to the
ground because its slow movements
make it easy prey for jaguars and
other predators.*

unciferous

adj
/ .ən'sif(ə)rəs /
L

bearing a hook or hooklike
structure.

*Weaving and other fiber arts
involve the use of several
unciferous tools.*

uncinate

adj
/ 'ən(t)sənət /
L

bent at the tip like a hook.

*Using a magnifying glass, Chad
was able to examine the insect's
uncinate antennae.*

unconscionable

adj
/ .ən'känch(ə)nəbəl /
Ecf + L + Ecf

not guided or controlled by an
internal sense of right or wrong :
unscrupulous.

*The governor was denounced for
his unconscionable indifference to
the plight of the homeless.*

uncouth

adj
/ .ən'küth /
Ecf + E

lacking in polish and grace.

*Last night we watched a movie
about turning an uncouth high
school student into a princess.*

unctuosity

unctuous

underrate

underread

undisciplinable

undulance

undulate

v
/ 'ənʒə.lāt /
L

form or move in waves.

*Terry stood on the shore and
watched the ocean undulate in the
moonlight.*

undulation

unencrypted

unexceptionable

adj
/ .ənɪk'sepsh(ə)nəbəl /
Ecf + L

not open or liable to objection,
criticism, or reproach :
unimpeachable.

*Mr. Weston was a man of
unexceptionable character, easy
fortune, suitable age, and pleasant
manners.*

unfeigned

unforgettable

unfurl

v
/ .ən'fərl /
Ecf + L > F

release or open out from a rolled-up
state.

*Kendra embroidered her school's
motto on the new flag she will
unfurl during tomorrow's
assembly.*

unguent

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Frequently

unguligrade

adj
/ ˈʊŋɡjələɡrād /
L

walking on hoofs.
Unguligrade mammals include horses, cows, swine, camels, deer, elephants, rhinoceroses, and tapirs.

unhygienic

unicameral

unicorn

n
/ ˈyüənəkörn /
L > F > E

a fabulous animal possibly based on faulty old descriptions of the rhinoceros and generally depicted with the body and head of a horse, the hind legs of a stag, the tail of a lion, and in the middle of the forehead a single long straight horn.
Sarah has a poster of a beautiful white unicorn on her wall.

unilateral

unintelligible

adj
/ ˌʌnənˈteləjəbəl /
Ecf + E + L

difficult to comprehend.
Dave readily admitted that he found the article unintelligible.

unique

adj
/ yüˈnēk /
L

being without a like or equal : single in kind or excellence : unequaled.
The class agreed that Martin Luther King Jr. had a unique impact on civil rights in the 20th century.

unison

adj
/ ˈyünəsən /
L > F

identical in musical pitch.
The choir was well trained in unison singing; every member could hit the same note perfectly.

unisonous

universally

unparalleled

unprecedented

adj
/ ʌnˈpresədəntəd /
Ecf + L + Ecff

new, unexampled.
Last year the city experienced an unprecedented expansion in population and industry.

unpredictable

adj
/ ʌnprēˈdiktəbəl /
Ecf + L

not to be foretold.
The raging forest fire was difficult to contain because of the unpredictable weather patterns of that area.

unprincipled

adj
/ ʌnˈprin(t)səpəld /
E + L

lacking or exhibiting a lack of a moral code of conduct.
The detective described the arsonist as “unprincipled and conscienceless.”

unpronounceable

unrequited

adj
/ ʌnrəˈkwīdəd /
Ecf + L > E

not returned in kind.
Several passages in the novel were devoted to Harriet’s unrequited love for Mr. Elton.

unscrupulous

adj
/ ʌnˈskrüpjələs /
E + L

unprincipled.
Desmond was not so unscrupulous as to betray his comrades.

unsullied

untenantable

adj
/ ʌnˈtenəntəbəl /
Ecf + L + Lcf

[Note: Could be confused with untenable.] incapable of being occupied or lived in.
The hurricane left thousands of homes untenantable.

unveiled

unyielding

adj
/ ʌnˈyēldɪŋ /
Ecf + E

refusing to give way : resolute, obstinate.
Jake’s unyielding opposition to the proposed surprise party is becoming tiresome.

upbraid

upeygan

n
/ üˈpāɡən /
Shona

a black rhinoceros.
The front horn of the upeygan can reach a length of over 30 inches.

upheaval

upholstery

uppity

adj
/ ˈʌpədə /
E + Ecf

marked by airs of superiority.
Nicole forgave Amanda for her uppity behavior at the party.

upright

adj
/ ˈʌp.rɪt /
E

standing up straight on the feet or on one end.
When Mom’s old upright vacuum cleaner finally broke down, she went out and bought a new canister model.

uproarious

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urbanity

n
/ ˌərˈbʌnədē /
L

the quality or state of evincing the polish and suavity characteristic of social life in larger cities.

Melissa's easy urbanity belied her discomfort at the pie-eating contest.

urbiculture

n
/ ˈərbəkəlchər /
L

the practices and problems peculiar to cities.

The congressman proposed a new federal department of urbiculture to deal with the problems of city dwellers.

urceolate

adj
/ ˈərˌsēələt /
L

shaped like an urn.

At the end of the drive stood a pair of urceolate boxwoods.

urchin

urgency

ursine

adj
/ ˈərˌsīn /
L

[has near homonym: hircine] of, relating to, or characteristic of a bear.

Some children are particularly fascinated by ursine hibernation.

urticant

adj
/ ˈərdəkənt /
L

producing itching or stinging.

Strawberry nettles are notorious for their urticant effect on human skin.

usher

n
/ ˈəʃhə(r) /
L > F > E

one who escorts persons to seats at an assemblage (as in a theater, church, or hall).

The usher informed the latecomers that they would not be seated until the end of the first act.

ustion

n
/ ˈəs(h)chən /
L > F

the action of burning.

Finding the paper too thick to tear or cut easily, Richard resorted to ustion to destroy it without a trace.

ustulation

n
/ ˌəs(h)chəlāshən /
L

the action of burning or searing.

By ustulation the metallurgist separated the sulfur from the ore.

usufruct

n
/ ˈyüzəfrəkt /
L

the right to use or enjoy something.

The homeowners in Eleanor's neighborhood have a usufruct to a large fenced park.

usurious

adj
/ yūˈzhürēəs /
L + Ecf

involving or taking illegal or exorbitant interest for the use of money.

The officers of the bank were charged with usurious practices.

usurpative

adj
/ yūˈsərpədɪv /
L

characterized by or constituting the unauthorized arbitrary assumption and exercise of power especially as infringing on others' rights.

The king banished the prince for his traitorous usurpative acts.

usurper

n
/ yūˈsərpər /
L

one that infringes or encroaches upon the rights or property of another.

By the end of his term, the mayor had become known as a usurper of authority.

usury

utensil

utilitarian

adj
/ (ˌ)yü.tiləˈterēən /
L > F > E

characterized by or aiming at usefulness as distinguished from beauty or ornament.

Dean chose a utilitarian briefcase over the fancy leather model.

utility

utilizable

adj
/ ˈyüdˌlīzəbəl /
L > F > E

capable of being made use of.

It took three months, but eventually Leon was able to convert the prototype into a utilizable product.

utterance

n
/ ˈədərən(t)s /
F > E

something that is spoken.

Smoke and clamor accompanied every utterance of the Great Oz.

uxorial

adj
/ əkˈsōrēəl /
L > E

of, relating to, or having the characteristics of a wife.

The new bride's conduct defied Mrs. Ketchum's notions of proper uxorial behavior.

uxorious

vacation

vacationland

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vacatur

n
/ vā'kādər /
L

an order of court making void a legal proceeding.
The court issued a vacatur when it found that the defendant's rights had not been upheld.

vaccary

n
/ 'vakərē /
L

a place where cows or cattle are kept : dairy farm.
The teacher plans to take her students to a vaccary during their study of the dairy food group.

vaccinate

v
/ 'vaksənāt /
L > F

administer a preparation of microorganisms in order to produce or increase immunity to a particular disease.
Doctors no longer vaccinate American children against smallpox, as that disease was eradicated during the 1970s.

vaccine

vaccinoid

vacillate

v
/ 'vasəlāt /
L

waver in mind, will, or feeling : hesitate in choice of opinions or courses.
Theresa must allow more time to choose what she will wear if she cannot stop her tendency to vacillate.

vacuity

vacuous

adj
/ 'vakyəwəs /
L

emptied of or lacking content (as of air or gas).
Vacuous spaces within the meteorite made it easy to split in half.

vacuum

vagabond

adj
/ 'vagəbänd /
L > F > E

moving from place to place without a fixed home.
Orson wanted to buy a motor home and lead a vagabond life, but Eileen refused to sell their house.

vagary

n
/ 'vāgərē /
L

a whimsical, fanciful, or extravagant idea or notion.
George's idea that he would be spending his spring break in Paris was sheer vagary.

vagrancy

n
/ 'vāgrənsē /
L?

the state or offense of being a person who has no established residence and wanders idly from place to place without lawful or visible means of support.
To clear the downtown area of homeless people, the mayor instructed the police to arrest them for vagrancy.

vaguely

vainness

valedictory

n
/ ,valədikt(ə)rē /
L

a speech or farewell usually given at the commencement exercises of a school or college.
Alice's valedictory at graduation brought the entire senior class to its feet.

valet

valetudinarian

n
/ ,valətüd'n'erēən /
L
a person of a weak or sickly constitution; especially : one whose chief concern is his invalidism.
Grandpa hopes that he will never be a valetudinarian.

valiant

valiantly

adv
/ 'valyəntlē /
L > F > E
in a brave or bold manner : courageously.
Deidre tried valiantly to swim the English Channel.

validity

n
/ vəl'idədē /
L

the quality or state of being well grounded or justifiable.
Some people question the validity of Darwin's theory of evolution.

valley

valorous

adj
/ 'valərəs /
L

brave, courageous.
Carrie's valorous behavior during the flood earned her a medal.

valve

vampire

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vandalism

n
/ 'vand^ə.lizəm /
L > E

willful or malicious destruction or defacement of things of beauty or of public or private property.
The boys who knocked over the gravestones were eventually caught and charged with vandalism.

vandalize

v
/ 'vand^ə.līz /
Gk > L > F

destroy or deface property, usually with malicious intent.
The gang planned to vandalize the tombstones at the cemetery with spray paint on Halloween.

vanguard

vanilla

n
/ və'nīlə /
L > Sp

a flavoring extract made by soaking comminuted vanilla pods in a mixture of water and grain alcohol.
The chef specified that real vanilla be used when making the cake.

vanquish

vapidity

vaporetto

vargueno

variable

n
/ 'verēəbəl /
L

[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word.] a star whose brightness changes in more or less regular periods.
Clement spent six months tracking changes in the variable.

variation

n
/ ,verē'āshən /
L

a solo dance in ballet.
Erik choreographed a variation to be performed by the stars of his ballet company.

varicelliform

adj
/ ,varə'selə.fɔrm /
L + L
resembling chicken pox.
A virus was responsible for Lloyd's varicelliform rash.

varicose

adj
/ 'varəkōs /
L
abnormally swollen or dilated.
Extreme cases of varicose veins can require surgical treatment.

variegated

adj
/ 'ver(ē)ə.gā.dəd /
L
marked with different colors or tints in spots, streaks, or stripes.
A shady corner of the garden was brightened by a clump of variegated coleus plants.

variolous

vasodilator

n
/ ,vā(,)zō'dī.lādə(r) /
L
an agent (as a parasympathetic nerve fiber or a drug) that induces or initiates widening of the lumen of blood vessels.
Red wine contains tyramine, a vasodilator that can cause flushing and headaches.

vassal

n
/ 'vasəl /
Celt > L > F > E
a feudal tenant.
The lord of the estate rewarded the vassal for years of faithful service.

vaticinator

vaudeville

n
/ 'vɔd(ə)vəl /
F geog name
a stage entertainment especially popular in the early decades of the 20th century that consisted of various unrelated acts following one another in succession and that might include performing animals, acrobats, comedians, dancers, singers, or magicians.
Some of the stars of vaudeville went on to become movie actors.

vaudevillian

n
/ vɔd'vīlyən /
F geog name&L
a writer or performer of stage entertainments especially popular in theaters in the early decades of the 20th century.
In his days as a vaudevillian, Mr. Kramer was a comedian's sidekick.

vault

vaward

n
/ 'vaü.(w)örd /
F > E
the foremost part : forefront.
The vaward of the column stopped to allow stragglers to catch up.

veal

vealskin

vegetable

vegetarian

adj
/ ,vejə'terēən /
L > E + Ecf
consisting wholly of edible plants.
After spending two years in Japan, Annabelle followed a vegetarian diet.

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Frequently

vehemence

n
/ 'vɛəməŋ(t)s /
L > F
the quality or state of being expressive of strong emotion or conviction.
Norm's impetuosity and vehemence of temper made him his own worst enemy.

vehicle

vein

velitation

n
/ ,velə'tāshən /
L
[Note: Could be confused with vellication.] a dispute or slight contest : skirmish.
Police used every means to keep the velitation from exploding into a riot.

velleity

n
/ və'lɛədɛ /
L
a slight wish : a faint desire.
Mr. and Mrs. Newton found that the hotel staff had anticipated their every velleity.

vellication

n
/ ,velə'kāshən /
L
the act of twitching or of causing to twitch.
While dissecting a frog in biology class, Sam noticed vellication of the legs.

vellum

n
/ 'veləm /
F > E
a thin calfskin specially prepared as a surface for writing.
Sanford carefully turned the rare vellum over to see if there was any writing on the back.

velocious

velocity

n
/ və'lāsədɛ /
L > F
quickness of motion : swiftness, speed.
George estimated the velocity of the wind at 22 miles per hour.

velodrome

n
/ 'vɛlədrōm /
L > F + Gk > F
a building containing a track designed for cycling.
The university's new velodrome was funded by an alumnus who was an ardent bicyclist.

vendaval

n
/ ,vendə'val /
F > Sp
an autumnal thundersquall on the coast of Mexico.
A recent vendaval damaged the banana grove.

vendetta

n
/ ven'dedə /
L > It
a prolonged feud marked by bitter hostility.
Chloe's all-night party exacerbated the vendetta with her neighbor.

veneer

n
/ və'ni(ə)r /
G
a thin sheet of wood cut or sawed from a log and adapted for adherence to a smooth surface (as of wood).
The maple veneer really spruced up the old pine table.

veneniferous

adj
/ ,venə'nif(ə)rəs /
L + Ecf
bearing or transmitting poison and especially a natural venom.
Ellen couldn't believe that anyone would want to work with veneniferous snakes for a living.

venerable

adj
/ 'venər(ə)bəl /
L
deserving to be regarded with profound respect and affection.
The venerable teacher's retirement saddened students who had hoped to benefit from her instruction.

vengeance

n
/ 'venjən(t)s /
L > F > E
infliction of punishment in return for an injury or offense.
The defeated team howled with rage and fury and swore bloody vengeance.

venireman

venison

n
/ 'venəsən /
L > F > E
the flesh of a deer.
Mandy roasted a leg of venison with prunes and chestnuts.

venom

n
/ 'venəm /
L > F > E
poisonous matter normally secreted by some animals (as snakes, scorpions, or bees).
The snake's venom paralyzed its prey.

ventilate

v
/ 'ventɪlət /
L
cause fresh air to circulate through and contaminated air to be simultaneously withdrawn from.
To ventilate her kitchen, Margo set a fan in the doorway and opened the windows.

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ventriloquist

n
/ ven'trɪləkwəst /
L

one who is skilled in the art of speaking in such a manner that the voice appears to come from some source other than the vocal organs of the speaker.

A ventriloquist entertained at Rebecca's birthday party.

venue

n
/ 'ven(ɪ)yü /
L > F

a place designated to be the scene of a gathering, such as for a sports event.

The Georgia Dome in Atlanta was the venue for Super Bowl XXXIV.

veracious

adj
/ və'rāshəs /
L + Ecf

[has homonym: voracious]
observant of the truth : habitually speaking the truth.

It was up to the jury to decide which of the two witnesses was the more veracious.

veracity

n
/ və'rasədē /
L

devotion to the truth : truthfulness.

The prosecutor questioned the veracity of the witness.

verbally

adv
/ 'vərbəlē /
L + Ecff

in a manner involving the use of words rather than action or performance.

Johann couldn't describe the shape verbally, so he drew it.

verbatim

adv
/ və(r)'bādəm /
L

word for word : in the same words.

Marcelle can recite the entire Gettysburg Address verbatim.

verbena

n
/ və(r)'bēnə /
L

any of numerous garden plants that are widely cultivated for their showy spikes of white, pink, red, or blue flowers which are borne in profusion over a long season.

Marcy noticed tiny flower buds on her verbena in early April and anxiously awaited its full bloom.

verbigerate

v
/ (ɪ)vər'bijərāt /
L

repeat a word or sentence endlessly and meaninglessly.

The psychiatrist explained that some schizophrenic patients often verbigerate.

verbomania

n
/ ,vərbə'mānēə /
L + Gk

excessive use of or obsession with words.

Frances was accused of verbomania by her classmates, who didn't understand why she liked to study spelling.

verboten

adj
/ və(r)'bōt'n /
G

forbidden; especially : prohibited by dictate.

Speaking English in the German language-immersion program is verboten.

verdant

verdigris

n
/ 'vərdəgrēs /
L > F > E

a green or greenish blue poisonous pigment obtained by the action of acetic acid on copper.

The verdigris on the church steeple has aged beautifully.

verdolaga

n
/ ,vərdə'lägə /
L > Ar > Sp

an annual herb with fleshy leaves.

Latin American cooks use verdolaga in soups and salads.

verdure

n
/ 'vəɹjər /
F > E

[has homonym: verger] fresh and green growing vegetation.

Joe walked back into the soft thick verdure of the hills and tramped until he was tired.

verglas

n
/ ver'glä /
F

a thin film of ice on rock.

On her way to the stream for some fresh water, Connie slipped on the nearly invisible verglas.

verisimilitude

n
/ ,verəsə'milətüd /
L + L

the quality or state of having the appearance of truth.

The artist's scrupulous attention to detail provided an impressive degree of verisimilitude.

verjuice

n
/ 'vəɹjüs /
F > E

the sour juice of crab apples or other unripe fruit.

Scrooge was the kind of person who looked as though he drank verjuice every morning.

vermeil

vermicelli

n
/ ,vərmə'selē /
L > It

alimentary paste made in long thin solid strings smaller in diameter than spaghetti.

The restaurant's five-way chili started with a base of vermicelli.

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vermiculate

adj
/ və(r)'mikyələt /

L
wormlike in shape.

When Tom's two-year-old brother tried to draw something, he could manage only a few vermiculate lines.

vernacular

adj
/ və(r)'nakyələr /

L
belonging to or being a language or dialect developed in and spoken and used by the people of a particular place, region, or country in a form considered nonstandard.
Mr. Hillis could not understand the vernacular language of the rappers.

vernal

adj
/ 'vərnəl /

L
of, relating to, or characteristic of the spring.
Cherry trees produce some of the prettiest vernal blossoms.

vernissage

verricule

versatile
adj
/ 'vərsədəl /

L
[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word.] marked by a tendency to change : fluctuating readily.
Tricia's versatile temperament made it impossible to predict her reactions.

vertebrate

adj
/ 'vɔrdəbrət /

L
having a spinal column.
Vertebrate animals include fishes, reptiles, birds, and mammals.

vertex

n
/ 'vɔrtɛks /

L
the point on the limb of a celestial body nearest the zenith.
The tiny dark spot near the Moon's vertex is a huge crater.

vertical

adj
/ 'vɔrdəkəl /

L > F
perpendicular to the plane of the horizon or to a primary axis : upright.
Blythe preferred the fabric with broad vertical stripes.

vertiginate

v
/ ,vɔr'tijənāt /

L
whirl dizzily around : twirl.
Young children love to vertiginate until they fall down.

vertiginous

vertigo
n
/ 'vɔrdəgō /

L
a disordered state in which the individual or the individual's surroundings seem to whirl dizzily.
The constant rocking of the boat produced feelings of vertigo and nausea in many of the passengers.

vesicant

n
/ 'vesəkənt /

L + E
an agent (as a drug or a plant substance) that induces blistering.
Brittany wore thick gloves in order to avoid contact with the vesicant.

vespacide

n
/ 'vespəsɪd /

L
one that kills wasps.
Mindy waved the can of vespacide threateningly at the nest of yellow jackets.

vespertilian

vespertine

adj
/ 'vespə(r),tɪn /

L
setting with or just after the Sun.
Venus is the most prominent vespertine planet.

vessel

vestibule
n
/ 'vestəbyül /

L > F
a passage, hall, or chamber between the outer door and the interior of a building.
The elevators were located at the end of the vestibule.

vestige

n
/ 'vestij /

L > F
a remaining bit that constitutes a memorial or trace of something formerly present.
Dmitri thought he detected a vestige of natural gas odor in the kitchen.

veterinary

vexation

vexatious
adj
/ vek'səʃəs /

L
causing or likely to cause mental suffering.
A lame carriage horse threw everything into sad uncertainty and created a situation Emma found most vexatious.

vexillology

viable

vibraphone

vibrato

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Frequently

vicarage

n
/ 'vikəriːdʒ /
L > E

the house of a priest of a parish.
About a quarter of a mile down the road rose the vicarage, an old and not very good house.

vicegerency

vicegerent

n
/ vɪs'ʒɪrənt /
L

an administrative deputy appointed to perform functions of a king or magistrate.
The emperor claimed that he was ruling as God's vicegerent.

vicereine

vichyssoise

n
/ 'vɪʃə'swäz /
F geog name

a soup made of pureed leeks and potatoes and usually served cold.
When vichyssoise is well made, it's heavenly; when it's badly made, it's inedible.

vicinage

viciously

adv
/ 'vɪʃəsli /
L > F > E

in a manner marked by violence or ferocity.
The puppy attempted to shake the old sock viciously.

vicissitude

n
/ vɪ'sɪs.ɪ.təd /
L

an accident of fortune : a shift of luck.
By the vicissitude of winning the lottery, Helen was able to buy the dream house she always wanted.

vicontiel

adj
/ vɪ'kɒntiəl /
F > AF

of or relating to a viscount or sheriff.
Robin Hood was wanted by the vicontiel authorities of several counties.

victorious

viduity

n
/ vɪ'd(y)uːədi /
L

widowhood.
Wendy's first husband was killed in the Gulf War, but her viduity ended when she remarried in 1994.

vigesimal

adj
/ vɪ'ʒen'teniəl /
L

occurring once every 20 years : relating to a 20th anniversary.
The store celebrated its vigesimal anniversary with a big sale.

vigesimal

vigilance

vigilante

n
/ vɪ'ʒə'lant /
L > Sp

a member of a volunteer committee organized to protect an interest, especially to suppress and punish crime.
The cowboy movie was about a rancher who became a vigilante and joined in the search for a criminal.

vigneron

n
/ vɪ'neɪə'rɒn /
F

one who cultivates a vineyard and makes wine from the grapes.
The American vigneron was delighted that the French judges chose his wine as being among the world's best.

vignette

vilayet

vilify

v
/ 'vɪləfi /
L

utter slanderous and abusive statements against : defame.
Wouldn't it be refreshing if the candidates vying for the office did not vilify each other?

vilipend

v
/ 'vɪləpend /
L

speak of slightly or disparagingly : depreciate.
The candidate decided to vilipend her opponent instead of discussing the issues.

villain

n
/ 'vɪlən /
L > F > E

[has homonyms: villein, villan]
one who deliberately plots and does serious harm to others.
The police were seeking the villain who conned several senior citizens out of their savings.

villainous

villainy

vinaceous

adj
/ vɪ'næʃəs /
L

of the color wine red.
The vinaceous liquid in the three-foot-high bottle at the restaurant is not really wine.

vinaigrette

n
/ vɪnə'gret /
F

a sauce made typically of vinegar, oil, onions, parsley, and herbs.
The salad was dressed with a tomato-flavored vinaigrette.

vincible

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Frequently

vinculum

n
/ 'vɪŋkjələm /

L
a unifying bond.
Their mutual love of dolls is the vinculum between Delia and Christine, who are otherwise very different.

vindicate

v
/ 'vɪndəkāt /

L
free from any question of error, dishonor, guilt, or negligence.
Oliver felt the judge's decision would vindicate him completely.

vinegar

n
/ 'vɪnɪgə(r) /

L > F > E
a sour liquid used as a condiment or a preservative that is obtained by acetic fermentation of dilute alcoholic liquids (as fermented cider, malt beer, or wine) and is often seasoned especially with herbs.
Pete used a special aged balsamic vinegar in the salad dressing.

vineyard

n
/ 'vɪnyə(r)d /

E
a field of grapevines.
While touring a Napa Valley winery, Jamie wandered through the vineyard.

vintner

n
/ 'vɪntnə(r) /

L > F > E
a person who sells wine : a wine merchant.
The vintner assured Babette that the wine she was considering would go well with veal.

violated

violin

n
/ ,vɪə'lin /

OProv > It
a bowed stringed instrument having four strings, a shallow body, a fingerboard without frets, and a curved bridge.
Reuben demonstrated his technical virtuosity on the violin when he auditioned for the string ensemble.

violoncello

n
/ ,vɪələn'che(,)lō /

It
the bass member of the violin family that is tuned an octave below the viola and held vertically on the floor between the player's knees while in a sitting position.
The violoncello played plaintively in the prelude to the last act of the opera.

virago

n
/ və'rɪ,gō /

L
[has near homonym: vorago] a loud overbearing woman.
The manager at the Department of Motor Vehicles was, unfortunately, a virago.

viridescent

adj
/ ,vɪrə'desənt /

L
greenish.
Gideon removed the viridescent scum from the bottom of the horse trough and added fresh water.

virtue

virtuoso

n
/ ,vɜrchə'wō(,)sō /

L > It
one who excels in the technique of an art; especially : a musical performer.
The virtuoso took 12 curtain calls, setting a new record for the concert hall.

virulent

adj
/ 'vɪr(y)ələnt /

L
characterized by rapid course, severity, and malignancy—used especially of a disease or infection.
The virulent strain of flu spread rapidly through the community.

visage

visceroptosis

n
/ ,vɪsərəp'tōsəs /

L + Gk
downward displacement of the abdominal organs.
The growth of the tumor had caused visceroptosis.

viscount

n
/ 'vɪ,kɑunt /

L > F > E
a noble ranking below an earl and above a baron.
The viscount had no children and was becoming desperate to have an heir.

viscous

adj
/ 'vɪskəs /

L
[Note: Could be confused with viscose.] having the physical property of a fluid or semifluid that enables it to develop a certain amount of shearing stress dependent upon the velocity of flow and then to offer continued resistance to the flow.
Joe was surprised to learn that glass is viscous, as evidenced by the fact that a windowpane, over time, becomes thicker at its lower edge and thinner at its upper edge.

visibility

n
/ ,vɪzə'bɪlədē /

L
the degree or extent to which something is capable of being seen.
The captain announced that visibility was approximately five miles.

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vitiate

v
/ 'vɪʃiə.ət /
L

make incomplete, faulty, or defective : injure the substance or quality of.

Freddie argued that Clark's poor acting abilities would vitiate the school play.

vitreous

adj
/ 'vɪtr̩əs /
L

of, relating to, derived from, or consisting of glass.

The huge vitreous wall of skyscrapers reflected the mountains and the sunset.

vitrescible

adj
/ və'tresəbəl /
L

of a kind that can be changed into glass or a glassy substance by heat and fusion.

The ceramics shop owner used only the most vitrescible materials in his work.

vitrine

n
/ və'trɪn /
L > F

a glass showcase for display (as of fine wares or specimens).

Allegra has a large vitrine that houses her collection of porcelain figurines.

vitriolic

adj
/ ,vɪtr̩ə'əlɪk /
L > F > E

marked by a caustic biting quality.

Howard had to be reprimanded for his vitriolic outbursts against the referees and opposing players.

vituperative

adj
/ (,)vɪ'tɪpə.rədɪv /
L

containing or characterized by wordy abuse.

Josh's dad gave him a vituperative lecture after the accident.

vivace

adv
/ vɛ'væ(,)tʃə /
L > It

in a brisk spirited manner—used as a direction in music.

To her teacher's frustration, Marcie plays every piece as if it were marked vivace.

vivacity

vixenish

adj
/ 'vɪksənɪʃ /
E

resembling a shrewish ill-tempered woman.

Elena could become vixenish when she felt slighted.

vizierial

vocabulary

vocation

n
/ vɔ'kæʃən /
L

[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word.] a summons from God to an individual to undertake the obligations and perform the duties of a particular task or function in life.

The parents of Thomas Aquinas entreated him to abandon his religious vocation and return home.

vociferate

vociferous

adj
/ vɔ'sɪf(ə)rəs /
L

marked by or given to ready vehement insistent outcry.

A vociferous couple in the back row ruined our evening at the poetry reading.

vogue

volante

volatile

adj
/ 'vɔlədʒl /
L > F

easily passing off by evaporation.

The fact that gasoline is highly volatile produces an advantage in starting engines.

volition

n
/ vɔ'lɪʃən /
L

the act of willing or choosing : the act of deciding.

The notary public asked Nigel to state that he was signing the contract of his own volition.

volubility

n
/ ,vɔlyə'bilədɪ /
L

talkativeness.

The cheerful volubility at Mrs. King's luncheon is largely due to the fact that she is a great hostess.

voracious

vorago

n
/ və'ræ.gə /
L

[has near homonym: virago] an engulfing chasm : abyss.

Before he knew it, Beck had crossed the bridge over the vorago.

vorlage

n
/ 'fɔr.lægə /
G

the position of a skier leaning forward from the ankles usually without lifting the heels from the skis.

The object of the vorlage is to keep the body of the skier perpendicular to the slope.

vorspiel

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vortex

n
/ 'vɔːr.tɛks /
L

a rapidly spinning current of water.
The toy sailboat got caught in the vortex and spun wildly as the bathtub drained.

vowel

voyage

n
/ 'vɔɪ(i)j /
L > E

an act or instance of traveling : excursion, tour.
Bill and Gail went on a sea voyage for their honeymoon.

vulgar

adj
/ 'vʌlɡə(r) /
L

lacking in cultivation, perception, or taste.
Harriet vowed that she would not visit Mr. Martin's wife if he married an ignorant vulgar woman.

vulnerable

adj
/ 'vʌlnərə(ə)bəl /
L

capable of being wounded : defenseless against injury.
Maggie's sensitive nature made her vulnerable to cross remarks.

vulnerary

adj
/ 'vʌlnərəri /
L

promoting the healing of wounds : curative.
There was a section in the old medical book about vulnerary herbs.

vulpine

vulture

n
/ 'vʌlʃə(r) /
L > E

any of various large raptorial birds related to the hawks, eagles, and falcons but having weaker claws and a usually naked head and that subsist chiefly or entirely on the decaying flesh of dead animals.
The turkey vulture rarely gets credit for its help in removing unfortunate opossums and skunks from our roadways.

waffle

n
/ 'wäfəl /
D

a crisp cake made of pancake batter baked in a specialized appliance.
For breakfast, Mary ordered a waffle topped with blueberry compote.

waggish

wagonload

waif

wainscot

n
/ 'wānzəkət /
D > E

the lower three or four feet of an interior wall when finished differently from the remainder of the wall (as with wood panels, tile, or marble slabs).
Michelle chose a striped wallpaper for the wainscot in the dining room.

wainwright

waldmeister

n
/ 'wöld.mīstə(r) /
G + L > G

a small European sweet-scented herb.
The Germans use waldmeister to flavor May wine.

wallaby

n
/ 'wäləbē /

Australian name
any of various small or medium-sized kangaroos.
The wallaby usually feeds in the safety of dusk or darkness.

wallet

walleyed

adj
/ 'wɔːlɪd /
E

having very light gray or whitish eyes.
The Appaloosa foaled a walleyed filly last spring.

wallop

v
/ 'wäləp /
F

gain a decisive victory over : beat by a wide margin : trounce.
Coach Garrett predicts that the Cougars will soundly wallop the Buccaneers.

waltz

n
/ 'wɔlts /
G

a moderately fast dance in three-quarter time with a strong accent on the first beat of the measure and characterized by one step per beat.
When the band started playing a waltz, Marilyn hoped that someone would ask her to dance.

wander

wanderlust

n
/ 'wändə(r).ləst /
G

strong or unconquerable longing for or impulse toward traveling.
Cayte's wanderlust caused her to postpone college so that she could tour Europe.

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wantonness

n
/ 'wɒnt'n(n)əs /
E

the quality or state of being without check or limitation.

The wantonness of comfort Georgetta experienced as a young child caused her to become a spoiled brat.

wapiti

n
/ 'wäpədē /
Algonquian

a North American deer similar to the European red deer but considerably larger.

The older male wapiti is often hunted for its antlers.

warden

n
/ 'wɔrd'n /
Gmc > F > E

an official in charge of the operation of a prison.

The warden recommended that the disruptive prisoner be denied parole.

warehouse

warison

warmonger

warmth

warrior

n
/ 'wɔryər /
E

a human engaged or experienced in warfare and especially in primitive warfare or the close combat typical of ancient or medieval times.

The warrior attended a council before battle in the morning.

wasabi

n
/ 'wäsəbē /
Jpn

an Asiatic herb whose greenish root is grated and eaten with fish or other food.

In Japan, Pam had raw fish seasoned with wasabi, which tasted like horseradish.

washtrough

wasp

n
/ 'wäsp /
E

any of numerous winged hymenopterous insects that have well-developed wings and biting mouthparts, and a more or less formidable sting.

The well-known yellow jacket is a wasp with a hurtful sting.

wasteweir

n
/ 'wäst.wi(ə)r /
L > F > E + E

a notch in a levee or other barrier across a stream for the escape of superfluous water.

A wasteweir was constructed in the dam to prevent flooding along the banks of the stream.

wastrel

n
/ 'wästrəl /
L > F > E

something rejected or discarded as useless or imperfect.

Hardly any item is wastrel to the ardent recycler.

watercress

n
/ 'wɔdə(r).kres /
E

a white-flowered plant growing in water with leaves that are used in salads.

Jesse added some watercress and carrots to the tossed salad.

waxen

wearisome

adj
/ 'wirēsəm /
E

tiresome, tedious.

Gondolph found hearing accounts of other people's dreams wearisome.

weasel

n
/ 'wēzəl /
E

any of various small slender active carnivorous mammals that are mostly reddish brown with white or yellowish underparts and in northern forms turn white in winter.

In the snow the white fur of the weasel camouflages it against attacks by hawks or owls.

weather

webelos

n
/ 'wēbəlɔz /
E acronym

a Cub Scout of the fifth rank who is at least 10½ years old and is preparing for entrance into Boy Scouts.

Noah spent his second year as a webelos working on his fitness, geologist, and handyman activity badges.

weddellite

wedge

weevil

n
/ 'wēvəl /
E

any of numerous snout beetles in which the head is elongated and usually curved downward to form a snout bearing the jaws at the tip.

The boll weevil is a serious pest to the cotton crop in North America.

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Frequently

weigh

v
/ 'wā /
E
[has homonym: way] evaluate : ponder.
Mrs. Avery asked Sam to weigh the potential consequences of his decision.

weir

n
/ 'wi(ə)r /
E
[has homonyms: weer, we're] a fence or enclosure set in a stream to catch fish.
Bored by fishing, the boys set up a weir and went off to play basketball.

weird

adj
/ 'wi(ə)rd /
E
[has homonym: weired] curious in nature or appearance : of strange or extraordinary character.
Most episodes of The X-Files begin with a weird or puzzling event.

welfare

welfarism

n
/ 'wel.fa(a).rizəm /
E + Ecf
the complex of policies, attitudes, and beliefs associated with a welfare state.
Free health care was touted as one of the benefits of welfarism.

welkin

n
/ 'wel.kɪn /
E
the celestial regions as the abode of God or the gods : the heavens.
The hymn that begins "Hark! The herald angels sing" was originally written as "Hark how all the welkin rings."

wellaway

welterweight

wharf

wharfinger

n
/ '(h)wɔ(r)fən.jə(r) /
E
a person or company operating a marine terminal with facilities for the berthing of ships and the loading, unloading, and storage of goods.
The wharfinger keeps a parrot in his office.

wheedle

v
/ 'hwēd'l /
unknown
get or take something from by using soft words or flattery.
Ginger's attempt to wheedle ten dollars out of her father was unsuccessful.

wheelbarrow

wheelwright

n
/ '(h)wēl.rīt /
E
a person whose occupation is to make or repair circular frames of metal, wood, or other hard material.
In the days of the horse and buggy, the wheelwright had an essential job to do.

whelk

whelp

n
/ 'hwelp /
E
one of the young of various carnivorous mammals.
Wendy was delighted when the eyes of the cocker spaniel whelp finally opened.

wherewithal

n
/ '(h)we(ə)rwə.θəl /
E + E + E
financial resources : money.
Everyone was surprised that Jake had the wherewithal to buy a sailboat.

wherry

whetstone

whilom

adj
/ 'hwɪləm /
E
having been at an earlier time : former.
Mother frowned when Edgar said the food was probably too hot to eat, a whilom excuse for being late for lunch.

whimper

v
/ 'hwɪmpə(r) /
imit
make a low whining plaintive or broken sound.
Laura's dog starts to whimper whenever he wants to be fed.

whimsical

adj
/ 'hwɪmzəkəl /
unknown
resulting from or determined by sudden unpredictable impulses.
Ichabod became the object of whimsical persecution to Brom and his gang of rough riders.

whimsicality

whininess

n
/ 'hwɪnənəs /
E
the quality or state of complaining or lamenting with or as if with a prolonged high-pitched sound.
Allen's habitual whininess when asked to do something he didn't like annoyed both his teacher and his classmates.

whinyard

whippersnapper

whippet

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Frequently

whippoorwill

n
/ 'h(w)ɪpə(r)wɪl /
imit
a nocturnal bird of the eastern United States and Canada that is seldom seen although its call is often heard at nightfall or just before dawn.
At camp Nick recorded the call of a whippoorwill.

whirligig

n
/ 'hwɜrlɪgɪg /
E
a child's toy having a whirling or spinning motion.
Sandy bought a whirligig at the dime store.

whirlwind

n
/ 'hwɜrlwɪnd /
Scand > E + E
a small rotating windstorm of limited extent.
A whirlwind is sometimes called a "dust devil."

whisk

n
/ 'hwɪsk /
Scand > E
a small usually wire kitchen implement used for hand beating of food (as eggs, cream, or potatoes).
Rose used a whisk to beat the egg whites into a stiff froth.

whisperer

n
/ 'hwɪspərə(r) /
E
one that speaks softly with the aim of preserving secrecy.
Reverend Loomis scanned the congregation in vain, searching for the whisperer.

whist

n
/ 'hwɪst /
imit E
a four-player card game from which bridge evolved.
In learning to play whist, Carole found it helpful to make a chart of its similarities to bridge.

whistleable

adj
/ 'hwɪsələbəl /
E + Ecf
capable of being whistled.
Rufus could botch up even the most whistleable tune.

whodunit

n
/ hū'dənət /
E
a detective story or a mystery story presented as a novel, a play, or a motion picture.
The whodunit proved to be the most popular play at the summer theater.

wholesale

adv
/ 'hōl.səl /
E
in a manner of, relating to, or engaged in the sale of goods or commodities in quantity for resale.
Juliana purchased several store fixtures wholesale.

wholesome

adj
/ 'hōlsəm /
E
promoting health of body : health-giving.
Ellie sometimes ate junk food rather than the wholesome lunch her mother had made for her.

whorlywort

n
/ 'hwɔ(ə)rli:wɜrt /
E
a tall perennial herb—called also "Culver's root."
Darnell bought a hand-colored engraving of a whorlywort at the auction.

whortleberry

n
/ 'hwɜrt'l.berē /
E
a sweet edible European blueberry.
The unripe whortleberry was too sour for Vernon to eat.

wickiup

n
/ 'wɪkē.əp /
Sac, Fox, & Kickapoo
a hut used by Native Americans that is typically elliptical in form and has a rough frame covered by reed mats or grass.
As they constructed the wickiup, the campers were careful to leave a hole in the top for campfire smoke to escape.

widget

n
/ 'wɪdʒət /
E
an unnamed article considered for purposes of hypothetical example as the typical product of a company.
On Trudy's graph, each star represents one widget.

width

wince

winsome

adj
/ 'wɪn(t)səm /
E
pleasant because of cheer, childlike nature, and open candor.
The little tyke's winsome smile won him many friends.

wintriness

wirrah

wisacre

wisent

n
/ 'vɛ.zent /
G
a European bison.
The advance of European civilization drove the wisent to the brink of extinction; it survived mainly by breeding in zoos.

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Frequently

withernam

n
/ 'wɪðə(r)nəm /
E > F > E

the action of taking by way of reprisal : a second or reciprocal distress of other goods in lieu of goods taken by a first distress.
Jeff discouraged Larry from going through with the planned withernam by saying "Two wrongs don't make a right."

witloof

n
/ 'wɪt.ləʊf /

D
chicory; also : its crown of foliage as a salad green.
Emily decided to vary her salad by using witloof instead of lettuce.

witticism

n
/ 'wɪdʒ.ɪz.ɪz.əm /
E

a clever or amusing expression.
The careful use of a witticism in Kevin's speech helped hold the attention of his listeners.

wizardry

n
/ 'wɪzə(r)drɪ /
E

magic skill : sorcery, witchcraft.
Merlin practiced his wizardry at the court of King Arthur.

wizen

wobulator

n
/ 'wɒbyələdɪə(r) /
G + Ecf

a testing device for radio sets in which the frequency is varied periodically and automatically over a predetermined range.
The primary function of a wobulator is broadcast receiver testing.

woebegone

adj
/ 'wɒb.ə.gɒn /
E

exhibiting a condition of suffering, sorrow, or misery.
The teacher looked up at 20 woebegone faces staring at the essay question.

woebegoneness

wok

n
/ 'wɒk /
Chin
[has near homonym: walk] a bowl-shaped cooking utensil used especially in the preparation of Chinese food.
Lydia received an electric wok as a housewarming gift.

wolveboon

womp

wondrous

worrisome

wraith

n
/ 'rɑːθ /
unknown
an apparition of the exact likeness of a living person seen usually just before that person's death.
The wraith of a person shortly to die is a firm article in the creed of Scottish superstition.

wrangler

wrasse

wreak

wreath

n
/ 'rɛθ /
E
a coronet, band, or fillet of intertwined flowers or leaves worn or bestowed as a mark of honor or victory or symbol of esteem.
The figure on the vase wearing a laurel wreath is identified as Apollo.

wreckage

n
/ 'rɛkɪdʒ /
Scand > AF > E
something that has been reduced to a ruinous state by violence : the remains of a wreck.
Cleaning up the wreckage from the tornado would take money as well as time.

wren

wrestle

v
/ 'rɛsəl /
E
[has near homonym: rustle]
contend by grappling with and striving to trip or throw down an opponent.
Inspired by the championship match they saw on television, Bobby and Alan began to wrestle on the living room floor.

wretched

adj
/ 'rɛtʃəd /
E
squalid, dismal, foul.
After the flood, the whole neighborhood looked wretched.

wriggle

v
/ 'rɪɡəl /
G? > E
move the body or a bodily part to and fro with short writhing motions like a worm.
Zakia was startled when she saw a snake wriggle through the tall grass.

writhe

v
/ 'rɪθ /
E
move or proceed with twists and turns.
Silently, we watched a seven-foot boa constrictor writhe through the trees.

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Frequently

wunderkind

n
/ 'vʌndə(r).kɪnt /

G
a child prodigy : one who succeeds in a competitive or highly difficult field or profession at an early age.
Mozart, a famous wunderkind, wrote complicated sonatas at the age of five.

xanthic

adj
/ 'zæn(t)θɪk /

Gk
of a flower : colored with some tint of yellow.
The forsythia rivals the daffodil for being the loveliest xanthic bloom in Cynthia's garden.

xanthism

xanthoma

n
/ zæn'thɒmə /

Gk
a condition that is marked by the development (as on the eyelids, neck, or back) of irregular yellow patches or nodules.
High cholesterol or triglyceride levels can be factors in causing xanthoma.

xenocentric

xenogamy

n
/ zə'nægəmə /

Gk
fertilization by cross-pollination; especially : cross-pollination between flowers on different plants.
Xenogamy may occur by wind or by bees carrying pollen from plant to plant while feeding on nectar.

xenophobia

xerocolous

adj
/ zə'rækələs /

Gk > L + L + Ecf
thriving in a relatively dry environment.
The xerocolous plants of the desert generally have roots that penetrate deeply into the soil to obtain moisture.

xerosis

n
/ zə'rōsəs /

Gk
abnormal dryness of the skin.
Xerosis can be an indication of an underlying health problem.

xerostomia

n
/ ,zɪrə'stōmēə /

Gk
abnormal dryness of the mouth due to insufficient secretions.
Xerostomia was one of the drug's side effects.

xylem

n
/ 'zɪləm /

Gk
a complex tissue in the vascular system of higher plants.
The xylem of a tree functions chiefly in conduction of sap but also performs a structural and storage role.

xyloglyphy

xylograph

n
/ 'zɪləɡrɑf /

Gk
an engraving on wood.
A Chinese xylograph of a bull decorated the restaurant wall.

xylography

xylophagous

xylophilous

xylophone

n
/ 'zɪləfōn /

Gk + Gk
a musical instrument consisting of a series of wooden bars graduated in length and sounded by striking with two small wooden hammers.
Many African musical instruments are variations of the xylophone.

xylophonist

xylotomy

xystus

yacht

yachtsman

n
/ 'jɑtsmən /

G > D + E
[Note: Plural form is pronounced identically.] a person who owns or sails a boat used for pleasure, as for racing or cruising.
Mike fancied himself a true yachtsman after one week at sea.

yammer

yannigan

Yarborough

n
/ 'jɑr(ə)bərə /

E name
a hand in bridge or whist containing no card higher than a nine.
Gene was not sure how to signal to his bridge partner that he held a Yarborough.

yardage

yarrow

yawl

yearn

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Frequently

yeast

n
/ 'yēst /
E

a substance used in baking and the fermentation of alcoholic beverages : leaven.

The sourdough bread recipe called for two packages of yeast.

yeasty

yenta

n
/ 'yentə /

Yiddish
one that meddles.

Evelyn's children laughingly refer to her as a yenta when she tries to set them up on blind dates.

yeoman

yeomanry

n
/ 'yōmənri /

E
the whole body of small farmers who cultivate their own land; specifically : the body of small landed proprietors of the middle class.

Among the legal privileges of the yeomanry was the right to serve as a juror.

yewberry

yield

v
/ 'yēld /
E

agree to accept or comply with something : exhibit willingness rather than opposition.

Sarah looks forward to the day when she will not have to yield to her parents' wishes.

ylem

yoga

n
/ 'yōgə /
Skt

union of the individual self with the universal spirit.

The teacher explained that through years of mental and physical exercise, she had been able to attain a complete yoga.

yokel

n
/ 'yōkəl /

imit E
an unpolished, naïve, or gullible inhabitant of a rural area or of a small town.

The pool hustler disguised himself as a yokel to lure unsuspecting victims.

yore

n
/ 'yō(ə)r /
E

[has homonym: your] time past and especially long since past.

Adam's favorite books contain stories about knights of yore.

youngster

youthfully

yowl

ytterbium

yttrium

n
/ 'itrēəm /
Sw geog name
a trivalent metallic element usually included among the rare-earth metals.

Yttrium is one of the elements used in making lasers.

yule

yuletide

zaguan

zaibatsu

n pl
/ zī'bät(,)sü /
Jpn

the powerful financial and industrial conglomerates of Japan.

Keiko intended that her electronics company become one of the zaibatsu.

zapateado

n
/ zäpätē'ä(,)dō /
Sp

a rhythmic stamping or tapping step characteristic of Spanish dancing.

Juliana needs practice in zapateado before she can take advanced flamenco classes.

zeal

n
/ 'zēl /
Gk > L > E

impassioned eagerness.

Russell entered into his new job with great zeal.

zealot

zealous

zebra

zeitgeber

n
/ 'tsīt.gäbər /
G

an environmental agent or event that provides the stimulus for setting or resetting the biological clock of an organism.

Frederick used a zeitgeber consisting of his bedroom lamp hooked to a timer prior to his trip and was able to avoid severe jetlag.

zenith

n
/ 'zēnəth /
Ar > Sp > L > F > E

the point of culmination : peak, summit.

Winning the Faculty Award was the zenith of Stephanie's college career.

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Frequently

zephyr

n
/ 'zefə(r) /
Gk

a soft warm breeze from the west.
The gentle zephyr was not sufficient to keep Renee's kite airborne.

zeppelin

n
/ 'zɛp(ə)lən /
G name

a rigid airship.
Olga's dream was to ride in a zeppelin one day.

zeugma

n
/ 'zūgmə /
Gk

the use of a word in the same construction with two adjacent words in the context with only one of which it is appropriate in sense.
The statement "John upset the table and his mother" is, one would hope, a zeugma.

zigzaggedness

n
/ zig'zagədnəs /
G? > F + Ecff

the quality or state of having short sharp turns or angles.
An aerial photograph revealed the zigzaggedness of the mountain road.

zircon

n
/ 'zɜr.kän /
It > F > G

a mineral occurring in brown or grayish square prisms or sometimes in transparent forms which are used as gems.
The zircon in Wendy's ring looks very much like a diamond.

zoanthropy

zodiac

zodiacal

adj
/ zō'diækəl /
Gk

of, relating to, or within the zodiac.
Jessica has a pendant in the shape of Pisces, her zodiacal symbol.

zoning

zoological

zoophilist

n
/ zō'äfələst /
Gk + Gk + Ecff

a lover of animals; especially : a person concerned with the rights of lower animals and their protection from abuse.
The noted zoophilist explained how deforestation is endangering several species of mammals and birds.

zootechny

zucchetto

n
/ zū'ked(ə) /
L > It

a small round skullcap worn by Roman Catholic ecclesiastics in colors that vary according to the rank of the wearer.
In public appearances, the pope usually wears a white cassock and zucchetto.

zucchini

n
/ zū'kēnē /
It

a slender green summer squash.
Tim picked a large zucchini from his garden.

zugzwang

n
/ 'tsük.tsfäj /
G

the necessity of moving in chess when it is to one's disadvantage.
Valerie forced the grandmaster into zugzwang.

zwieback

n
/ 'swē.bak /
G

a usually sweetened bread enriched with eggs that is first prepared and baked and then sliced and toasted until dry and crisp.
Liza placed a slice of zwieback on the baby's tray.

zygosis

zymology

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

aardvark

abactor

abaft

abandon

abandonedly

adv

/ ə'bandən(d)lɪ /

F > E + Ecf

in a manner free from constraint.

It is well to live abandonedly from time to time.

abatement

abatis

abbatial

abducent

abduction

n

/ əb'dəkʃən /

L

the action of carrying (a person) off by force.

The abduction of Helen by Paris led to the Trojan War.

abecedarian

abendmusik

aberrance

aberrancy

aberrational

abetting

abhorred

v

/ əb'hɒ(ə)rɪd /

L

detested extremely : loathed.

In the 60s many young people abhorred the thought of going to war.

abhorrent

abide

v

/ ə'bid /

E

[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word.] atone for : pay for : suffer for.

Dale fears he will have to abide last night's eating binge.

Abidjan

adj

/ 'abə'jæn /

Afr geog name

of or relating to Abidjan, capital of the Ivory Coast from 1934 until 1983.

Nell tuned to CNN to get the latest on the Abidjan protest.

abience

n

/ 'abɪən(t)s /

L

[has near homonym: adience]

tendency to withdraw from a stimulus object or situation.

Claudia's painfully shy brother gave a perfect illustration of abience at the school assembly.

abjoint

ablation

n

/ ə'blæʃən /

L

[has near homonym: oblation]

lowering of a land surface by wind erosion or weathering agents.

Warming of polar seas leads to ablation of the ice caps.

ablaze

adj

/ ə'blæz /

E + E

radiant with light or bright color.

Soren's yard was ablaze with lighted Christmas trees.

ablutions

n pl

/ ə'blʊʃənz /

L > F > E

the washing of one's body or part of it.

Carl nodded to Ivar, who was making his morning ablutions at the pump.

abnegate

abnegation

n

/ ,abnɛ'gæʃən /

L

renunciation or denial.

Monasticism involves the disciplining, limitation, or abnegation of the material aspects of human life.

abnormal

adj

/ əb'nɔrməl /

L

differing from the typical.

In modern society, many people consider it abnormal to live without e-mail.

aboard

adv

/ ə'bɔ(ə)rɪd /

E

on or within a ship, railway car, or passenger vehicle.

Spotting dorsal fins in the distance, Jeff swam back to the sailboat and pulled himself aboard.

abolitionists

n pl

/ ,əbəl'ɪʃənəsts /

L + Ecf

advocates of doing away with completely; specifically : advocates of doing away with slavery.

African captives from the slave ship Amistad, aided by American abolitionists in a two-year legal battle, were eventually freed.

abominate

aborted

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

abbranchiate

adj
/ ă'brʌŋkēət /
Gk
lacking gills.
Salamanders develop into an abbranchiate form as they mature.

abrogate

abrupt

abscission

absentmindedly

adv
/ 'absənt.mɪndədlē /
L > F > E + E + Ecff
in a manner preoccupied to the point of failure to respond to ordinary demands on the attention.
Sal absentmindedly dunked his doughnut in his orange juice.

absolute

absolutely

adv
/ .absə'lütlē /
L
in a manner that is not dependent on anything else.
The tall, rectangular buildings were absolutely plain: Each window and each entrance were exactly like every other.

absolutize

absolve

absorbefacient

absorbent

absorption

abstemiously

abstergent

abstract

abstraction

abstrusity

absurd

abundant

abusive

abusively

abustle

abutment

abyss

abyssal

Abyssinian

adj
/ .abə'sɪniən /
E Afr geog name
of or relating to Ethiopia.
Paul collects Abyssinian tapestry.

academe

n
/ 'akə.dēm /
Gk > L
environment associated with a school especially of higher learning.
Joe is at ease with everyone but prefers the company of those who are familiar with the halls of academe.

academician

n
/ .akədə'mɪʃən /
Gk > L
one (as a professor or student) that is associated with or a member of an institution of learning (as a university).
Dr. Holtzclaw is the oldest academician on campus.

academy

acanthus

n
/ ə'kan(t)θəs /
Gk
[Note: Could be confused with adjective acanthous.] any plant of a genus of prickly herbs of the Mediterranean region whose broad leaves are frequently represented in sculptured architectural ornaments.
The column's capital featured ornamentation representing the leaves of an acanthus.

acarian

adj
/ ə'ka(a)rēən /
Gk > L
of, relating to, caused by, or having the characteristics of a mite or tick.
Acarian parasites have saclike bodies unbroken by segments.

acceded

v
/ ak'sēdəd /
L
[has near homonym: exceeded]
expressed approval or gave consent.
Jan was glad when Mrs. Taft readily acceded to the proposal that the two parties attend the event together.

accent

accentuate

v
/ ak'senchə.wāt /
L
give special attention to : emphasize.
The columns of the Egyptian temple accentuate its height.

acceptable

acceptably

access

acciaccatura

accipitrine

acclaim

acclimated

acclivitous

accommodation

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

accompaniment

n
/ ə'kəmp(ə)nēmənt /
L > F > E

an instrumental or vocal part subordinate to and designed to support, amplify, or complement a principal voice or instrument.
The chant followed a single melodic line with no instrumental accompaniment.

accompany

accomplish

accordance

accordion

accost

accostable

accosted

v
/ ə'kɒstəd /
L

approached and spoke to.
Mr. Weston immediately accosted Emma with questions about her health.

accouchement

n
/ ,akʊʃ'mə /
F
lying-in; especially : parturition : a state attending and consequent to childbirth.
Many insurance companies require that hospitals limit the period of accouchement to 24 hours.

account

accountant

n
/ ə'kaʊntənt /
F
one skilled in the practice of classifying, recording, and summarizing business and financial transactions and analyzing, verifying, and reporting the results.
Every April Rhonda vows to hire an accountant to figure her next year's taxes.

accredited

accretion

accretionary

adj
/ ə'krɛʃhənərē /
L
marked by or involving addition or accumulation.
The accretionary hypothesis states that Earth has gradually grown larger over time because of the influx of meteorites and dust particles from space.

acculturate

acculturation

n
/ ə,kəlchə'rāʃhən /
L + L + Lcf
a process of continuous transmission of traits and elements between diverse peoples, resulting in new and blended patterns.
The Spanish conquest of Mexico was followed by a period of acculturation.

accumbent

adj
/ ə'kʌmbənt /
L
leaning or reclining especially at meals.
Harriet ridiculed her brother's accumbent posture as he ate a TV dinner.

accuracy

accustomed

adj
/ ə'kʌstəmd /
L > F > E
in the habit or custom : established in the practice.
John was becoming quite accustomed to being called "Jack" by his friends.

acedia

acerbic

acetaldehyde

n
/ ,asəd'aldəhīd /
ISV + [Ar > Sp > L + Gk > L > G]
L + L + Gk)
a colorless volatile water-soluble liquid aldehyde of pungent odor used chiefly in the production of organic compounds.
Acetaldehyde is often used in the manufacture of acetic acid.

acetaminophen

n
/ ə'sɛdə'mɪnəfən /
ISV
a crystalline compound used in medicine instead of aspirin to relieve pain and fever.
John took acetaminophen to relieve his headache.

acetic

adj
/ ə'sɛdɪk /
L > F
[Note: One of alternate pronunciations has homonym: ascetic.] relating to or producing a colorless liquid acid with a pungent odor constituting the chief acid of vinegar.
Morris enjoyed teasing his mom by accusing her of putting acetic acid in his food.

acetone

n
/ 'asə.tən /
L > G
a volatile fragrant flammable liquid made by dehydrogenation of isopropyl alcohol or by bacterial fermentation and used chiefly as a solvent.
The simplest ketone is acetone, a pleasant-smelling liquid that is used mainly as a solvent for organic compounds.

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

acharya

n
/ ä'chäryə /
Skt
a Hindu religious teacher : one versed in the sacred writings of the Hindus.
The acharya wrote a book in which he offered some innovative insights into the Bhagavad-Gita.

achieve

achievement

achievements

Achilleian

adj
/ .akə'lēən /
Gk name
[has homonym: achilleine] like Achilles, hero of Homer's Iliad (as in strength, invincibility, or moody and resentful wrath).
Troy's approach in games is so Achilleian that no one wants to play with him.

achromatic

achy

acid

n
/ 'asəd /
L
a compound capable of reacting with a base to form a salt, reddening litmus, and evolving hydrogen on reaction with certain metals (as iron, zinc, tin).
The formula for every inorganic acid contains one or more hydrogen atoms as well as an anionic group.

acidify

acidosis

n
/ .asə'dōsəs /
L + Gk > L
a condition of decreased alkalinity of the blood and tissues.
James was rushed to the emergency room, where he learned that he was suffering from acidosis.

acidulous

aciniform

adj
/ ə'sinəfōrm /
L + Ecf
shaped like a cluster of grapes.
At the top of each column there was a crude, aciniform pattern.

acknowledged

v
/ ik'nälijd /
E
conceded to be real or true : admitted.
"That may be true," he acknowledged, "but it's completely accurate, and as long as the answer is right, who cares if the question is wrong?"

acinal

acne

acoelous

adj
/ ä'sēləs /
Ecf + Gk + Ecf
lacking a true stomach or digestive tract.
It is difficult to think of acoelous creatures like the sponge as being truly living creatures.

acolutic

acotyledon

n
/ .äkäd'lēd'n /
Gk > L > F
a plant without seed leaves.
The fern is a typical acotyledon.

acoustic

acoustical

acquaint

acquainted

acquiesced

v
/ .akwē'est /
L > F
accepted or complied tacitly or passively.
Until recently, Scott acquiesced in most situations involving conflict.

acquire

acrimony

acrobatic

adj
/ .akrə'badik /
Gk > F
performed with body contortions or tossing of one dancer by a partner.
Yasuko and Hiromi easily won the dance contest with their acrobatic version of the tango.

acrocyanosis

n
/ .akrō.sīə'nōsəs /
Gk
a disorder of the arterioles of the exposed parts of the hands and feet intensified by exposure to cold and resulting in bluish mottled skin.
Jane had acute acrocyanosis after being stranded on the snowy hiking trail for hours.

acrolect

n
/ 'akrə.lekt /
Gk + Gk
the most prestigious language variety of a community.
The British acrolect is defined by the speech of the royal family.

acrolectal

acrophobia

n
/ .akrə'fōbēə /
Gk
abnormal fear of being at a great height.
Because of his acrophobia, Murray stayed at the bottom while the rest of his class went to the top of the Empire State Building.

across

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

acrotarsium

acrylics

n pl
/ ə'kriliks /
(L + Gk + Ecf) > ISV
paints in which the vehicle is a glasslike thermoplastic.
Judy enjoys going to the art supply store and shopping for new tubes of acrylics.

actinium

actinotherapy

n
/ .aktə(,)nō'therəpē /
Gk > L
application for therapeutic purposes of the chemically active rays of the spectrum.
Actinotherapy was the treatment of choice for Aletta's malady.

activate

activator

actressy

actuality

n
/ .akchə'walədē /
L
the act or state of existing in fact or reality.
In actuality, the threatening shadows near the house were only trees and shrubs.

actuarial

acuity

acumination

acute

adj
/ ə'kyüt /
L
having a sudden onset, sharp rise, and short course.
Acute appendicitis can be deadly if not diagnosed and treated immediately.

acuteness

adamant

adaptability

adaptable

addax

n
/ 'adaks /
L
a large light-colored antelope of northern Africa, Arabia, and Syria that has long spiraling horns.
The addax has a remarkable ability to find patches of vegetation in desert areas.

addendum

additive

address

addressee

adduce

adductor

adeciduate

adenoiditis

n
/ .ad'n.oi'didās /
Gk
inflammation of the enlarged masses of lymphoid tissue at the back of the pharynx.
The doctor hoped to treat Kyle's adenoiditis without resorting to surgery.

adenoids

adeptly

adherend

n
/ ad'hi.rend /
L
one of the bodies held to another by a bonding substance such as glue.
The instructions on the package said to spread a thin layer of cement on each adherend and clamp them together overnight.

adhesive

adiabatic

adj
/ .adēə'badik /
Gk
occurring without loss or gain of heat by the substance concerned.
Thermos bottles provide temporary adiabatic storage of hot or cold beverages.

adios

interj
/ .ädə'ōs /
L > Sp
—used to express farewell.
Amid cries of "adios" the happy couple departed for their honeymoon trip.

adiposity

adipsia

adjective

adjournment

n
/ ə'jərnmənt /
L > F > E
the act of putting off further proceedings either indefinitely or until a later stated time.
Judge Harcourt refused to grant the defendant's request for an adjournment and ordered the trial to continue.

adjudication

n
/ ə'jüdə'kāshən /
L
a judicial decision or sentence.
The lawyer explained that preventive detention is actually imprisonment without an adjudication of guilt.

adjustable

adjustment

adjutant

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

admeasurement

n
/ ad'meɪzhə(r)mənt /
L > F > E
dimensions, size.
The canal could handle a ship of considerable admeasurement.

administer

administration

admirable

admiralty

admirer

n
/ ad'mɪrə(r) /
L
one that regards with wondering esteem accompanied by pleasure and delight.
Long an admirer of Picasso's art, Beth looked forward to attending an exhibition of his works.

admiringly

adv
/ əd'mɪ(ə)rɪŋli /
L > F + Ecff
with an elevated feeling of pleasure.
Marcia gazed admiringly at her newly purchased oil painting.

admissible

admission

admissive

admittance

admonish

v
/ ad'mənɪʃ /
L > F
express warning or disapproval to about remissness or error.
Mayor Richards hastened to admonish the new clerk for her poor manners on the telephone.

adobe

n
/ ə'dəʊbi /
Copt > Ar > Sp
building material of sun-dried earth and straw.
The hut made of adobe sagged sideways in the middle of the field.

adolesce

adolescent

n
/ ad'les'nt /
L
one that is in the period of life from puberty to maturity terminating legally at the age of majority.
As an adolescent, Mike enjoyed outdoor activities with the Boy Scouts.

adoptable

adopted

adoration

adorment

adrenergic

adj
/ ad're'nɜːrjɪk /
L + Gk
activated by adrenaline.
When her child was threatened, Claire felt adrenergic strength surge through her body.

adroit

adscititious

adsorbent

adulation

adulteration

adust

adustiosis

n
/ ə'dʌstɪ'ɔːsɪs /
L + Gk
a physiological breakdown of the rind of citrus fruit causing a reddish discoloration—called also “red blotch.”
All the oranges in the crisper suffered from one stage or another of adustiosis.

advancement

advantageously

adv
/ ad.van'təʃəsli /
L > F > E
in a manner that is favorable, profitable, beneficial.
The most advantageously located cities are often on the banks of rivers.

advection

n
/ ad'vekʃən /
L
the horizontal movement of a mass of air which causes changes in temperature or in other physical properties of air.
The advection of warm, moist air over a cold surface often causes fog.

advenient

adventitious

adj
/ ad(ɪ)vən'tɪʃəs /
L
coming from another source : added or appended extrinsically and not sharing original, essential, and intrinsic nature.
Researchers have been comparing the carcinogenic risks of naturally occurring and adventitious substances in food.

adverbial

adversarial

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

adversaries

n pl
/ 'advə(r).serēz /
L > F > E

ones that contend with, oppose, or resist.

Cynthia's adversaries in the tennis tournament were not easily defeated.

advisable

advising

aerator

aeroballistics

aerobatics

aerodynamics

aerophobia

aerophone

n
/ 'a(ə)rō.fōn /
Gk

a wind instrument.

A thin plate of birch bark used as an instrument is technically described as an aerophone with a tongue but without a soundboard.

aeroplankton

n
/ 'a(ə)rə.plaŋktən /
Gk + Gk

small airborne organisms (as flying insects).

The backyard barbecue was almost spoiled by pesky aeroplankton.

Aesculapian

adj
/ 'eskyə'lāpēən /
Gk name

of or belonging to Aesculapius, the Greco-Roman god of medicine, or the healing art.

The Aesculapian staff is the official insignia of the American Medical Association.

affection

n
/ 'afek'tāshən /
L

manner of speech or behavior not natural to one's actual personality or capabilities.

Stuart is the sort of man who cultivates his every affection with loving care.

affeer

affenpinscher

n
/ 'afən.pinchə(r) /
G

a small dog having a stiff red, gray, or black coat; pointed ears; and bushy eyebrows, chin tuft, and mustache.

Erica's affenpinscher escaped when she opened the door.

afferent

affination

affix

v
/ ə'fiks /
L

attach physically, as with nails or glue.

Joanne asked the janitor to affix the bulletin board to the wall of her new classroom.

affixed

affliction

n
/ ə'flikshən /
L

a state of pain, distress, or grief.

John Addison wrote that some virtues are seen only in affliction.

affrighted

adj
/ ə'frīdəd /
E

seized with sudden and great fear approaching terror.

The hair of the affrighted cat bristled.

afghan

n
/ 'af.gan /
Pashto

a blanket or shawl of colored wool, knitted or crocheted in strips or squares which are joined by sewing or crocheting.

Mrs. Campbell knitted a striped afghan as a housewarming present for her new neighbors.

afield

aforsaid

afoul

Afrikaans

n
/ 'afrəkän(t)s /
L > D

a language that developed in southern Africa from 17th-century Dutch and is one of the official languages of the Republic of South Africa.

The South African president gave his inaugural address in Afrikaans.

afterglow

n
/ 'aftə(r).glō /
E + E

the light especially in the western sky after sunset.

Pike's Peak stood out majestic and beautiful in the afterglow.

against

agalloch

n
/ ə'galək /
Dravidian > Gk

the soft resinous wood of an East Indian tree that is burnt as a perfume.

A small piece of agalloch smoldered outside the Buddhist temple.

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

agathism

n
/ 'agəˌθɪzəm /
Gk

the doctrine that all things tend toward ultimate good.
Whereas optimism holds that all things are now for the best, agathism maintains that somehow things will be good in the end.

aged

agency

aggrandize

aggrandizing

v
/ ə'græn.dɪzɪŋ /
L > F
making appear great or greater : exalting.
Aggrandizing himself at every opportunity, Seth sees no value in humility.

aggressor

n
/ ə'gresə(r) /
L
one that commits or practices an offensive action or procedure; especially : a nation that commits an unprovoked overt hostile attack.
America is fortunate to be bordered by no nation that desires to be an aggressor.

aggrieved

adj
/ ə'grɛvd /
L > F > E
troubled or distressed in spirit.
When Laurie's father died, she asked her aggrieved mother to come to live with her.

agile

agility

n
/ ə'jɪlədē /
L
quickness and dexterity of movement.
Mrs. Case moved with great agility for such an old woman.

agitation

n
/ əjə'tɪʃən /
L
the persistent and sustained attempt to arouse public feeling or influence public opinion (as by appeals, discussions, or demonstrations).
A long agitation for national independence, not a sudden revolt, severed the country's ties with its motherland.

agnomen

n
/ ag'nōmən /
L
an additional name or epithet.
Richard gets testy when people use the agnomen the Lion-Hearted along with his given name.

agonic

agonize

v
/ 'agə.nɪz /
Gk > L > F
endure torture, pain, or anguish.
Before the new pain medication was available, Alicia would agonize with her migraine headaches for several days at a time.

agora

agравic

agricultural

agriculture

agrorod

agronome

agronomist

n
/ ə'gränəməst /
L + Gk
a specialist in the branch of agriculture that deals with crop production and soil management.
Last summer a Russian agronomist visited Uncle Carl's farm.

ahem

ahimsa

n
/ ə'hɪm.sə /
Skt
the doctrine of refraining from the harming of others or the taking of life.
Mahatma Gandhi went from village to village trying to restore peace, preaching ahimsa.

aiguille

aiguillette

aioli

n
/ 'ɪ.ɔɪ /
L > Prov
a sauce made of crushed garlic, egg yolks, olive oil, and lemon juice and sometimes potato.
In the Mediterranean region, aioli is served with fish and potatoes : garlic mayonnaise.

airsickness

airstream

n
/ 'a(a)ɪ.streɪm /
Gk + E
a current of air : wind; especially : a high-velocity wind at high altitude.
Flying in the same direction as an airstream increases an airplane's airspeed appreciably.

aitch

n
/ 'æh /
L? > F
the letter h.
It is surprising in how many words the aitch is silent.

alarmable

alarmist

alas

alba

album

alcazar

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

alcogel

alcoves

n pl
/ 'alkōvz /
Ar > Sp > L > F
recessed parts (as breakfast nooks) of rooms.
Silvio found that the alcoves in the library were ideal spots for afternoon naps.

aldehyde

n
/ 'aldəhīd /
Ar > Sp > L + Gk > L > G
any of a class of very reactive organic compounds that are intermediate in state of oxidation.
Cinnamic aldehyde is a high molar mass aldehyde that has a pleasant odor and is used in the manufacture of perfumes.

alembic

n
/ ə'lembik /
Gk > Ar > L > F
an apparatus usually made of glass or metal formerly much used in distillation.
The sorcerer used an alembic in concocting the invisibility potion.

alepidote

n
/ ə'lepədōt /
Gk
a fish without scales.
The handsaw fish is a deep-sea alepidote.

aleuronat

algebraic

algebraically

adv
/ .aljə'brāək(ə)lē /
Ar > L + Ecff
in a manner of, relating to, involving, or according to the laws of algebra.
The area of a rectangle is expressed algebraically as "area equals length times width."

Algerian

adj
/ al'jirēən /
African geog name
of, relating to, or characteristic of Algeria, a country in northwest Africa.
The Algerian vineyards that were planted under the French colonial rule have mostly fallen into ruin.

algonometer

alienage

aliphatic

adj
/ .alə'fadik /
Gk
of, relating to, or derived from fat.
Alison's science fair project was a study of the effectiveness of the aliphatic compounds used in soap.

aliveness

alkalify

alkyd

n
/ 'alkəd /
ISV
any of a large group of thermoplastic or thermosetting synthetic resins used chiefly in making protective coatings characterized in general by their gloss, flexibility, and good weathering properties.
Alkyd is an important ingredient in paint manufacturing.

allegation

n
/ .alə'gāshən /
L
the act of asserting positively often before a court.
Patrick's allegation that his neighbor started the forest fire was totally unfounded.

allegeable

allegiant

allegretto

alleviate

alleviation

n
/ ə.lēv'e'āshən /
L
relief, moderation (as of physical or mental suffering).
Pat was ready to follow any recommendation for alleviation of her back pain.

alleyway

allied

adj
/ 'alīd /
L > F
joined by treaty or compact.
The leaders agreed to form an allied army to defend against any attack on their two countries.

allonym

n
/ 'alə.nim /
Gk
a name that is assumed by an author but that actually belongs to another person.
For his first novel, Allen considered using John Grisham as an allonym.

allot

v
/ ə'lot /
(Gmc + L) > F > E
assign as a share or portion to a particular person or thing or for a particular purpose.
When the supervisor made the schedule, she failed to allot each employee time for a morning break.

allotment

allotted

allspice

allure

n
/ ə'lū(ə)r /
L > F + Gmc > F
power of attraction or fascination.
The allure of possible immortality drove the wizard to study the dark side of magic.

alluring

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

allusion

n
/ ə'li:zhən /
L

[has homonym: illusion] an implied indication or indirect reference.

Gwen's essay made much of the author's use of biblical allusion.

allusively

adv
/ ə'ly:svl̩ /
L + Ecf

implicitly, indirectly.

The old parchment mentioned treasure so allusively that it was not clear whether it was referring to something of actual monetary value.

alluvial

alluvium

ally

alogia

aloha

alpestrine

alphabetical

alphanumeric

adj
/ .alfə.n(y)u'merəkəl /
Gk + L + Ecff

consisting of both letters and numbers and often other symbols as well.

Because she used two separate alphanumeric codes, Georgia made many mistakes.

alpine

alternate

alternative

n
/ òl'tərnədɪv /
L

one of a number of things or courses offered for choice.

One alternative to confusion is proper organization.

alternativity

altigraph

n
/ 'altə.graf /
L + Gk

an instrument that measures height and is equipped with a recording mechanism.

Nora stored the readings of the altigraph in a folder in her backpack.

altimeter

altimetry

alto

altocumulus

n
/ .al(ə)tō'kyümyələs /
L + L

a fleecy cloud or cloud formation consisting of large whitish globular cloudlets with shaded portions.

The altocumulus consisted mostly of small, supercold water droplets.

altricial

adj
/ al'trɪʃəl /
L

having the young hatched in a very immature and helpless condition so as to require care for some time.

Parrots are altricial birds, and their mortality rate is often high if breeders do not pay close attention to detail.

alum

aluminotype

aluminous

aluminum

alumnus

alveolar

adj
/ əl'veələ(r) /
L

articulated with the tip of the tongue touching or near the teethridge (as the English consonant sounds \t\, \d\, and \n\).

Constance worked with a speech therapist to improve her pronunciation of alveolar consonants.

always

alyssum

n
/ ə'ly:səm /
Gk > L

a plant of a genus of European and Asiatic herbs having small usually yellow flowers.

Elvira's flagstone walk was bordered with sweet alyssum.

amalgamation

n
/ ə.məlgə'məʃən /
Ar > L > F

the action or process of uniting or combining into a uniform and independent whole.

In the 13th century King Edward I effected the amalgamation of Wales with England.

amandine

adj
/ .ämən'dēn /
Gk > L > F

[Note: Could be confused with almandine and amandin.] prepared or served with almonds.

Gail made salmon with mashed potatoes and green beans amandine for her dinner party.

amantadine

amaranth

n
/ 'amə.rən(t)θ /
Gk

a dark reddish purple.

Justin wanted to buy a green sofa, but his wife preferred to decorate the living room in amaranth and beige.

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amaranthine

amaretto

amateurish

adj
/ ,amə'tərɪʃ /
L > F + Ecf
lacking professional finish.
Sandy refused to pay for the wedding photographer's amateurish work.

amathophobia

Amazon

n
/ 'aməzæn /
Gk
one of a race or nation of female warriors usually associated with Scythia or Asia Minor with whom the ancient Greeks of mythology repeatedly warred.
Penthesilea was an Amazon who fought on the side of the Trojans in the Trojan War and was killed by Achilles.

amazonite

ambassador

ambidexterity

n
/ ,am.bədək'stɛrədə /
L
the quality or state of being capable of using both hands with equal ease.
The quarterback's ambidexterity came in handy on many occasions during yesterday's game.

ambient

ambiguous

ambitious

amble

n
/ 'ambəl /
L
an easygoing or leisurely walking movement.
If you are in a hurry, you had better not go at an amble.

ambrette

n
/ 'ambret /
F
a French dessert pear having a musky odor.
The featured dessert at Le Chateau Rouge was poached ambrette with whipped cream.

ambulance

ameliorable

amenities

n pl
/ ə'menədēz /
L
things that conduce to physical or material comfort or convenience or to a pleasant and agreeable life.
The timeshare resort's maintenance fee nearly doubled with the addition of several amenities.

amenity

amerce

amercement

n
/ ə'mɛrsmənt /
F > AF > E
the infliction of a penalty at the discretion of the court; also : the penalty thus imposed.
For the officer's neglect of duty the court imposed an amercement of two weeks' pay.

amethysts

n pl
/ 'aməθəsts /
Gk > L > F > E
[Note: Could be confused with singular form.] specimens of a clear purple or bluish violet variety of crystallized quartz much used as a jeweler's stone.
The jeweler emptied a small bag of amethysts on a velvet pad, and Anna selected the one she liked best.

amiably

adv
/ 'āmēəblē /
L > F
in a friendly, sociable, and congenial manner.
"Hello, students," Mr. Perry said, and he amiably gave each child a handshake.

amidol

amigo

n
/ ə'mē(,)gō /
L > Sp
friend.
Roger has been John's amigo since grade school.

ammoniacal

adj
/ ,amə'nīəkəl /
Gk > L
of, relating to, containing, or having the properties of ammonia.
A strong ammoniacal odor emanated from the laboratory.

ammunition

amnesty

n
/ 'amnəstē /
Gk
the act of an authority (as a government) by which general pardon of an offense is granted.
The new president granted amnesty to all imprisoned draft evaders.

amontillado

amorphous

adj
/ ə'mɔrfəs /
Gk
being without real or apparent crystalline form.
Glass is an amorphous solid that in some ways is more like a liquid than a solid.

amount

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ampere

n
/ 'am.pī(ə)r /
F name
the practical meter-kilogram-second unit of electric current that is equivalent to a flow of 1 coulomb per second or to the steady current produced by 1 volt applied across a resistance of 1 ohm.
Brian's calculations show that the circuit has a current of 1 ampere.

amphichrome

amphitheater

ample

adj
/ 'ampəl /
L
[has near homonyms: ampul, ampule, ampoule] marked by extensive or more than adequate size.
Wilma enjoyed her walks in the cathedral's ample gardens.

ampliate

adj
/ 'amplēət /
L
widened, enlarged.
Carina prefers the new ampliate sidewalks downtown because there is plenty of room for her wheelchair.

amplifier

amplify

amplitude

n
/ 'amplə.tiəd /
L
the extent of a vibratory movement or of an oscillation.
Titus carefully noted any variations in the amplitude of the sine waves.

amply

amputee

amyelonic

amylaceous

amyotonia

n
/ .ā.mīə'tōnēə /
Gk
deficiency of muscle tone.
The doctor recommended physical therapy for the bedridden patient afflicted with amyotonia.

amyotrophic

anaclastic

anacoluthon

n
/ .anəkə'lü.thän /
Gk
syntactical inconsistency or incoherence within a sentence.
Anacoluthon can make dialogue sound more natural.

anacreontic

n
/ ə.nakrē'äntik /
Gk name
a poem in imitation of or in the manner of Anacreon : a drinking song or light lyric.
Mr. Maclean included an anacreontic in the collection of verse.

anadiplosis

n
/ .anədə'plōsəs /
Gk
repetition of a prominent word, usually the last in a phrase, clause, sentence, or verse, at the beginning of the next phrase, clause, sentence, or verse.
Anne read the second member of the anadiplosis louder than the first for emphasis.

anadromous

adj
/ ə'nadrəməs /
Gk
of fish : ascending rivers from the sea at certain seasons for breeding.
The anadromous salmon is a wonder of nature.

anagram

anallobar

analogous

analysis

analyze

v
/ 'an.ə.līz /
Gk > L + Ecf
weigh or study (various aspects, factors, or elements) in order to arrive at an answer, result, or solution.
Deanne needed more information before she could analyze the lab report.

anamnesis

n
/ anəm'nēsəs /
Gk
a recalling to mind : reminiscence.
The musical comedy was based on an anamnesis of the author's days on a South Pacific island.

Ananias

n
/ .anə'nīəs /
Christian name
liar.
The little boy who cried "Wolf!" is a famous Ananias.

anaphylaxis

n
/ .anəfə'laksəs /
Gk
hypersensitivity (as to foreign proteins or drugs) that is marked by a tendency to intense systemic reaction.
Fortunately, Daphne exhibited no symptoms of anaphylaxis after she was stung by a bee.

anaptyxis

n
/ .an.əp'tiksəs /
Gk
the insertion of an extra vowel in the body of a word.
An example of anaptyxis is the pronunciation of the word athlete as "athalete."

anaqua

anarchic

anathematize

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

anatocism

n
/ ə'nadə.sizəm /
Gk > L
compound interest : the taking of compound interest.
At the seminar the business students discussed simple interest, anatocism, and the basics of investing.

anatomy

n
/ ə'nadəmē /
Gk
a branch of biology that deals with the form and structure of animals.
The two cadavers delivered to the lab were designated for use by Dr. Wheeler's class in anatomy.

ancestral

adj
/ an'sestrəl /
L > F
of or belonging to an ancestor or ancestors.
Carmen visited Romania to explore her ancestral heritage.

ancestry

anchor

n
/ 'aŋkə(r) /
Gk > L > E
something that serves to hold an object firmly.
Because the day was windy, Sarah brought a heavy rock to act as an anchor for the picnic cloth.

anchorage

anchored

ancient

incipital

andiron

andradite

andragogy

n
/ 'andrə.gəjē /
Gk + Gk
the art or science of teaching adults.
Mary Lynn's skill in andragogy was due to her experience as a high school teacher.

androgynism

androgynous

adj
/ an'drəjənəs /
Gk + Gk + Ecf
having the characteristics of both sexes.
This fall's androgynous fashions don't appeal to Sharon.

android

n
/ 'an.drɔid /
Gk
an automaton of human form.
Rolf was cast as an android in the college's spring production.

anechoic

adj
/ .anə'kɔik /
Gk
free from echoes and reverberations.
Stereo speakers are tested in an anechoic chamber designed to absorb all stray sounds.

anemology

n
/ .anə'mäləjē /
Gk + Gk
the study of winds.
In his meteorology class Mike learned how anemology helps to explain the effects of winds on the weather.

anemometry

anemotropism

n
/ .anə'mätrə.pizəm /
Gk + Gk
an involuntary reaction by an insect to a current of air in its environment.
An example of anemotropism is when flies poise for flight facing the wind.

anent

anfractuous

angelfish

anger

angiitis

angina

anglophilia

n
/ .aŋglɔ'filēə /
L + Gk
particular unreasoned admiration of or partiality for England or English ways.
After one trip abroad, Grace was seized by anglophilia and moved to London.

angora

angrily

angstroms

n pl
/ 'aŋztrəmz /
Sw name
units of wavelength, each equal to a 10-billionth of a meter.
Sandy determined that the laser's wavelength measured 5,200 angstroms.

anguished

adj
/ 'aŋgwisht /
L > F > E
produced, affected, or accompanied by excruciating distress.
Charities throughout the country sent aid to the anguished victims of the hurricane.

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angwantibo

n
/ ʌŋ'wɑntəbō /
Efik
a small lemur of western Africa
having a rather long snout and a
rudimentary tail.
*The angwantibo feeds mainly on
caterpillars.*

anhedonia

n
/ ˌanhē'dōnēə /
Gk
incapacity for experiencing
happiness.
*Soren's anhedonia might be the
result of a miserable childhood.*

anhinga

aniconic

animadversion

n
/ ˌanəˈmɑd'vərzhən /
L
criticism that is usually adverse and
prompted by some degree of
hostility.
*The traditionally negative reviewer
had little animadversion in his
column this week.*

animadversions

n pl
/ ˌanəˈmɑd'vərzhənz /
L
censorious remarks or observations.
*The movie received so many
animadversions in preliminary
reviews that the producer decided
to revamp it.*

animate

animus

n
/ ˈanəməs /
L
intention or objective.
*The promise of free land was the
animus that drove many Americans
to move west in the 19th century.*

ankylosaur

n
/ ˈŋkəlōsō(ə)r /
Gk + Gk
any of a suborder of heavily
armored Cretaceous dinosaurs
somewhat resembling immense
horned toads in shape.
*The ankylosaur, a herbivore, fed on
low shrubbery.*

annals

annates

annelid

n
/ ˈanələd /
L > F > L
any of a phylum of usually
elongated segmented invertebrate
animals (as earthworms and
leeches) having a body cavity.
*The earthworm is probably the
most familiar example of an
annelid.*

annexation

n
/ ˌanək'sāshən /
L > F
the act of taking possession or
control of.
*The annexation of Texas by the
United States in 1845 was one of
the causes of the Mexican War.*

announcer

n
/ əˈnaʊn(t)sə(r) /
L > F > E
a person who introduces television
or radio programs, makes
commercial announcements, or
gives station identification.
*The game show contestant waited
nervously for the announcer to
introduce her.*

annoy

annularity

n
/ ˌanyə'larədə /
L > F + Ecf
the state or form of a ring.
*Photographs of the solar eclipse
showed the halo-like annularity of
the Sun's disk.*

anoia

anoint

anorak

anorexic

ansa

n
/ ˈansə /
L
part of a celestial body having the
appearance of a handle (as the
projecting part of Saturn's rings).
*Photographs from Voyager 2
revealed the planet's ansa in
striking detail.*

answerer

antagonist

n
/ an'tagənəst /
Gk + L
the principal opponent or foil of the
main character in a drama or
narrative.
*The Joker proved to be a cunning
but overconfident antagonist for
Batman.*

antebellum

antecedence

antedate

anteing

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

antennae

n pl
/ an'tenē /
L

the paired movable sensory appendages of the head of certain arthropods.

The bug stopped and wiggled both of its antennae.

antepenultimate

adj
/ .antəpə'nəltəmət /
L

coming before the next to last in any series.

The antepenultimate question in the game "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire" is worth \$250,000.

anthem

anthesis

n
/ an'thēsəs /
Gk

the action or period of opening of a flower.

Time-lapse photography can show the complete anthesis of a rose in a few seconds.

anthophorous

adj
/ an'thāfərəs /
Gk

flower-bearing.

Amy selected several anthophorous plants to decorate her office.

anthracite

n
/ 'an(t)thrəsīt /
Gk

a hard glossy coal that burns with a nearly smokeless flame.

Anthracite was created when soft coal was subjected to the intense heat and pressure of Earth's crust.

anthropologist

n
/ .an(ə)tθrə'päləjəst /
Gk

a specialist in the study considering man's physical character, historical and present geographical distribution, racial classification, group relationships, and cultural history.

The anthropologist Margaret Mead spent many years studying Pacific Island societies.

anthropology

n
/ .an(ə)tθrə'päləjē /
Gk

the study considering man's physical character, historical and present geographical distribution, racial classification, group relationships, and cultural history.

Jody created a poster that highlighted Margaret Mead's contributions to anthropology.

anthropomorphic

adj
/ .an(t)θrə.pō'mɔrfik /
Gk

described or thought of as having human form or attributes : ascribing human characteristics to nonhuman things.

Sterling pretends that his cat has anthropomorphic powers and often talks for her in a tiny, squeaky voice.

anthropophagous

adj
/ .an(t)θrə'päfəgəs /
Gk + Gk

[Note: Could be confused with noun anthropophagus.] feeding on human flesh : man-eating : cannibal.

The class was fascinated by the story of Christopher Columbus's encounter with the Caribs, a supposed anthropophagous people.

anthropopsychism

n
/ .an(t)θrə.pō'si.kizəm /
Gk + Gk

ascription of a soul like that of humans to nature or to something that governs natural processes.

A perfect example of anthropopsychism can be found in an old commercial that claimed, "You can't fool Mother Nature."

antibiotic

anticipate

anticipation

anticlimax

n
/ .antē'kli.maks /
L + Gk

an event (as the last of a series) that is strikingly less important than what has preceded it.

After the climactic duel with the villain, the hero's wedding came as an anticlimax.

anticoagulant

n
/ .an(ə)tɪkō'agyələnt /
L

a substance (as a drug) that hinders clotting of blood.

The surgeon administered an anticoagulant after the operation.

antidotal

adj
/ .antə'dɔdəl /
Gk

consisting of, suited for, or acting as a remedy able to counteract the effects of poison.

Vomiting is often the body's antidotal response to the ingestion of spoiled food.

antidote

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

antigen

n
/ 'antəjən /
Gk + Gk

a usually protein or carbohydrate substance that when introduced into the body stimulates the production of an antibody.

Louis Pasteur developed an antigen against the much-feared anthrax bacterium.

antihistamine

n
/ .antɪ'hɪstə.mēn /
L + Gk + ISV

any of various compounds used for treating certain allergic reactions.

Although Rod and Todd are twins, only Rod needs to take an antihistamine during the hay-fever season.

antineoplastic

antinomy

n
/ an'tɪnəmē /
Gk

[Note: Could be confused with antimony.] a statement or sentiment that is seemingly contradictory or opposed to common sense and yet perhaps true in fact : paradox.

The students were asked to write an essay on the following antinomy: The more terrible the prospect of nuclear war becomes, the less likely it is to happen.

antipathies

n pl
/ an'tɪpəθēz /
Gk

settled aversions or dislikes.

George Washington warned of the consequences of having permanent, inveterate antipathies against particular nations.

antipathy

antiphonal

adj
/ an'tɪfənəl /
Gk + Gk

answering or alternating (as in a musical composition sung alternately by divisions of a choir or congregation).

The director seated half the choir in the balcony to make the piece with antiphonal parts even more dramatic.

antiphony

antiquate

antiquated

antiseptics

antithetical

antitussive

anxieties

n pl
/ an'zɪədēz /
L

strong concerns about some imminent developments.

Sally has had enough to worry about without our adding to her anxieties.

anxiolytic

n
/ .anʒēō'lidɪk /
L + Gk

a drug that relieves an abnormal and overwhelming sense of apprehension and of fear.

Amy's doctor prescribed an anxiolytic for her to take when she felt a panic attack.

anxious

anxiously

adv
/ 'an(k)ʃəsli /
L

in an apprehensive, worried manner.

Mary anxiously twisted her hair during the geometry test.

aoristic

aparejo

n
/ .apə'rā(ɪ)ō /
L > Sp

a packsaddle of stuffed leather or canvas.

The aparejo has never been improved upon as a way to protect an animal from injury while holding cargo.

apartment

apiculture

n
/ 'āpəkəlchə(r) /
L

[has near homonym: aviculture] beekeeping, especially when pursued on a large scale.

Even though apiculture has been practiced for many centuries, bees have not been domesticated or tamed.

apiece

apishamore

aplastic

apocalyptic

adj
/ ə.pä.kə'liptɪk /
Gk

predicting or foreboding imminent disaster or final doom.

Apocalyptic prophets are typically hostile to reason and science.

apocryph

apocrypha

n pl
/ ə'päkrəfə /
Gk > L

quasi-scriptural books of doubtful authorship and authority.

The Sunday school teacher shared with her students some stories from the Old Testament apocrypha.

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

Apollonian

adj

/ ˌapəˈlɒniən /

Gk

of, relating to, or resembling the god Apollo, the Greco-Roman god of manly beauty, of poetry and music, and of the wisdom of oracles.

Reggie's Apollonian temperament led him to an admiration of classical art and literature.

Apollyon

n

/ əˈpɒliən /

Biblical name

[Note: Might be confused with Apollonian.] devil.

Like Christian in the book Pilgrim's Progress, everyone eventually faces his or her personal Apollyon.

apologetic

apologize

apolune

apopemptic

adj

/ ˌapəˈpem(p)ɪk /

Gk + Gk

sung or addressed to one departing : valedictory.

At the end of the ceremony the graduates filed out of the auditorium to the strains of an apopemptic hymn.

apophysis

n

/ əˈpɒfəsəs /

Gk + Gk

a part of a bone (as a vertebra) that projects outward.

After Tony's car accident, X rays showed that the apophysis of one of his vertebrae was out of alignment.

apoplectic

apostasy

apostate

n

/ əˈpɒstɑːt /

Gk > L

one who has renounced or forsaken his religious faith or given up his moral allegiance.

The Roman emperor known as "Julian the Apostate" tried to reverse the tide of Christianity in the Roman empire.

apotheosis

n

/ əˈpɒθiːˈɒsəs /

Gk

the raising of a person or thing to divine status.

The emperor Caligula announced his own apotheosis to his terrified subjects.

apotheosize

apotropaic

adj

/ əpɒtrəˈpaɪk /

Gk + Ecf

designed to avert or turn aside evil.

The native costume included a pouch of apotropaic herbs worn around the neck.

appalled

apparent

apparently

appearance

appeasable

adj

/ əˈpiːzəbəl /

L > F + Ecf

capable of being brought to a state of ease or content.

Jeff described his father as being easily excitable, but just as easily appeasable.

appeased

v

/ əˈpiːzd /

L > F > E

caused to subside : allayed.

Carole peeked in Mrs. Hinkle's grade book and appeased her curiosity about the grade distribution.

appellant

appellate

adj

/ əˈpelət /

L

[Note: Could be confused with appellant.] having the power to review and affirm, reverse, or modify the judgment or decision of another tribunal.

The appellate court decided to reverse the lower court's verdict.

appellations

n pl

/ ˌapəˈlæʃənz /

L

[has near homonym:

Appalachians] names or titles by which persons, things, or clans are called and known.

Matt has a reputation for bestowing familiar appellations upon his friends, and for some reason he calls his best friend "Sarge."

appendage

appendicular

adj

/ ˌapənˈdɪkjələ(r) /

L

of or relating to a limb or limbs.

Arthritis limited Joan's appendicular movements.

appendix

appetitost

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

applause

n
/ ə'plɔz /
L
approval publicly expressed (as by clapping hands).
After the applause subsided, the opera continued.

appleblossom

applicant

application

appliquer

appoggiatura

apportioned

apposite

appraise

v
/ ə'prāz /
F > E
[has homonym: upraise] set a value on (as goods or land).
For insurance purposes, Selina had an expert appraise her furniture.

appreciate

apprehend

v
/ ,aprə'hend /
L
take (a person) in legal process : arrest.
The police chief ordered the officers to apprehend the forger.

apprehensible

approximately

appulse

n
/ ə'pəls /
L
the apparent very near approach of one celestial body to another.
Marsha peered through binoculars to see the appulse of Saturn to Jupiter.

apraxia

apron

apse

apterous

apterygote

adj
/ ap'terə,gōt /
Gk
of or relating to a subclass of insects that are presumed never to have developed wings.
Silverfish, firebrats, and bristletails are apterygote insects.

apteryx

n
/ 'aptə(,)riks /
Gk + Gk
a flightless New Zealand bird that is about the size of a domestic chicken.
The eggs of the apteryx, which are as large as one fourth its weight, are incubated by the male.

apyretic

adj
/ ,āpɪ'redɪk /
Gk
without fever.
The pediatrician said that Bobby could return to school as soon as he was apyretic.

aqua

n
/ 'akwə /
L
a variable color averaging a light greenish blue.
The whiteness of the beach's sand made the aqua of the water even more striking.

aquamarine

aquarelle

aquarellist

n
/ ,akwə'reləst /
L > It > F + Ecf
one who draws or paints in watercolor, especially transparent watercolor.
Duncan showed great promise as an aquarellist.

aquiclude

aquosity

n
/ ə'kwāsədē /
L
the quality or state of being moist.
Marlene dutifully checked the aquosity of the soil every day with the test strips the nursery gave her.

arable

arachin

arachnophagous

adj
/ ,arək'näfəgəs /
Gk + Gk
feeding on spiders.
Jill's contribution to the discussion about arachnophagous creatures was that there are not enough of them.

Aramaic

n
/ ,arə'māik /
Gk
a Semitic language of which documents are known from as early as the 9th century B.C.
Aramaic is the mother of many languages in the Middle East and Asia.

araneid

araneiform

araucaria

arbitrariness

n
/ ,ärbə'trerənəs /
L + Ecf
the quality or state of arising from unrestrained exercise of the will, caprice, or personal preference.
The report indicated that the ghetto residents had been subjected to the arbitrariness of the authorities.

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

arbitration

n
/ ˈɑːrbəˈtræʃən /

L
the hearing and determination of a case between parties in controversy by a judge.

They discussed and debated and raved and ranted until they were on the verge of blows, when it was decided to submit the question to arbitration by the princesses.

arbor

arboretum

arbustum

arbutus

n
/ ˈɑːrˈbjuːdəs /

L
a tree of a genus of evergreen shrubs or trees of southern Europe and western North America with white or pink flowers and many-seeded scarlet berries.

Evelyn refers to the arbutus in her backyard as a "strawberry tree."

arc

n
/ ˈɑːrk /

L
a sustained brilliantly luminous glow formed when a break is made in an electric circuit.

The arc that shot from the electrical appliance indicated a problem with its circuitry.

arcade

arcane

adj
/ ɑːrˈkɑːn /

L
known only to a very few : mysterious.

The scroll was written in an arcane script that nobody could identify.

archaically

archaism

archetype

n
/ ˈɑːrkəˌtɪp /

Gk + Gk
the original model, form, or pattern from which something is made or develops.

Diane bragged that her dress design was the archetype that others had merely copied.

archidiaconal

archimage

architect

architectural

adj
/ ˌɑːrkəˈtektʃərəl /

Gk > L
of, resembling, or relating to the art or practice of designing and building structures, especially habitable structures.

King Ludwig's castle in Bavaria is a famous example of architectural extravagance.

architrave

archive

archives

archivist

archivistic

ardoise

arena

Areopagus

n
/ ˌɑːrēˈɒpəɡəs /

Gk
the supreme tribunal of Athens.
The general was commanded to appear before the Areopagus, but he refused.

argali

n
/ ˈɑːrgəleɪ /

Mongolian
a large wild sheep having immense horns and widely distributed in mountainous central and eastern Asia.

The argali may weigh over 300 pounds and stand four feet high at the shoulders.

argent

n
/ ˈɑːrjənt /

L
a metal tincture used in heraldry and conventionally supposed to be represented by silver but in practice represented by either silver or white.

The earl's coat of arms featured a roaring lion on a field of argent.

argonaut

n
/ ˈɑːrgəˌnɒt /

Gk name + Gk
an adventurer or traveler engaged in a particular quest; specifically : one of those who went to California in 1849 in search of gold.

Another name for an argonaut is "forty-niner."

argue

argyria

arid

aridly

arise

aristocracy

n
/ ˌɑːrəˈstɪkrəsi /

Gk + Gk
an upper class usually made up of an hereditary nobility.

In matters of war and peace the king often sought the advice of the aristocracy.

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

aristocrat

n
/ ə'ristəkrət /
Gk + Gk
one who has the bearing and viewpoint typical of a ruling, privileged, or otherwise superior class.
After winning the lottery, Francine started behaving like an aristocrat.

arithmetic

armiger

n
/ 'ärməjər /
L
[has near homonym: armature]
armor-bearer, squire.
The knight summoned his armiger so he could choose a sword.

armigerous

armoire

arnica

n
/ 'ärnika /
L
the dried flower head of an herb used in a tincture for bruises, sprains, and swellings.
The herbalist used arnica to make a paste for healing bumps and bruises.

arolium

n
/ ə'rölēəm /
L
a padlike lobe projecting between the tarsal claws of many insects.
The grasshopper has a small but well-developed arolium on its foot.

aromatic

adj
/ ,arə'madik /
Gk > L > F > E
of, relating to, or characterized by the presence of at least one benzene ring.
Aromatic amines are used mainly in the manufacture of dyes.

arrearage

n
/ ə'ririʒ /
L > F > E + Ecf
an obligation that has not been on time or is unfinished, especially : something that remains unpaid and overdue after previous payment of a part.
Mr. Olson's medical bills remained in arrearage until the insurance claims were settled.

arrears

n pl
/ ə'ri(ə)rɪz /
L > F > E
state of being behind in the discharge of duties, obligations, or responsibilities.
Mark's landlord will evict him because he is one year in arrears with his rent payments.

arriccio

arriero

arrival

arrogate

arsedine

arsine

arson

n
/ 'ärsən /
L > F
the willful and malicious burning of or attempt to burn any building, structure, or property of another or of one's own usually with criminal or fraudulent intent.
The investigators determined that the fire was the result of arson.

arterial

arteriole

artery

Arthropoda

n pl
/ ä'rθrəpədə /
Gk
the largest phylum of invertebrate animals with jointed legs, a segmented body, and an exoskeleton.
Insects comprise the class Insecta, the largest class of the phylum Arthropoda.

articulate

adj
/ ä'r'tikyələt /
L
expressing oneself clearly and effectively.
Articulate even when he was a young child, Jack is a good choice for debate team captain.

artificer

artist

artiste

artistry

arugula

asado

n
/ ə'sä(,)dō /
L > Sp
barbecue.
Tina is sure that La Piñata has the best asado in town.

asarotum

ascending

adj
/ ə'sendɪŋ /
L > E + Ecf
mounting up or sloping upward : rising.
The watercolor depicted a country manor with a gently ascending driveway.

ascensive

ascertain

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

ascetic

adj
/ ə'sedɪk /
Gk
refraining from self-indulgence :
self-denying, self-disciplined,
austere.
*Ricky's lavish lifestyle contrasts
sharply with his brother's ascetic
existence.*

ascot

ascribe

ashamed

askance

adv
/ ə'skɑn(t)s /
unknown
with a side look : sideways,
obliquely.
*Juan's cat has a habit of looking
askance at a toy for a long while
before pouncing on it.*

asocial

aspen

asperge

asperities

n pl
/ ə'spɛrədēz /
L
rough places.
*Only with a microscope could
Michael see asperities on the
seemingly smooth leaf.*

asperous

asperions

aspidistra

aspirant

asportation

assailants

n pl
/ ə'sālənts /
F
ones who encounter or confront in
order to prevail over.
*Roosevelt warned that assailants of
the democratic way of life were on
the march, threatening large and
small nations.*

assault

n
/ ə'sɔlt /
L > F > E
a violent attack with physical
means (as blows or weapons).
*The rock musician was fined \$2000
for his assault on the photographer.*

assemble

v
/ ə'sembəl /
L
join together usually in an orderly
way with logical selection or
sequence.
*Moira helped Simon assemble the
5000-piece puzzle, but it still took
them a week to finish.*

assembly

assertive

assessable

assessed

assign

assimilative

assisi

n
/ ə'sē(,)sē /
It geog name
embroidery with unworked designs
outlined by a solid background of
cross-stitch.
*Elaine purchased an antique
Italian pillowcase decorated with
assisi.*

assist

assistant

assure

assurgent

adj
/ ə'sɜrjənt /
L
ascending, rising.
*In heraldry a human or beast rising
out of the sea is said to be
"assurgent."*

astatine

asterial

adj
/ ə'stɪrēəl /
L or Gk
of or relating to stars.
*The movie theater's ceiling is
dotted with an asterial design.*

asterisk

asthma

asthmogenic

astounding

adj
/ ə'staʊndɪŋ /
E
causing or capable of causing
wonder and surprise in high degree.
*The book was hailed as a
fascinating account of an
astounding epoch.*

astragal

astragalomancy

n
/ ə'strəgəlō.mɑn(t)sē /
Gk + Gk
divination by means of small bones
or dice.
*The committee decided to have a
booth devoted to astragalomancy
rather than the usual palm
readings at the fair.*

astringent

adj
/ ə'strɪnjənt /
L > F
having the property of drawing
together the soft organic tissues.
*Lorelei applied an astringent lotion
to her face every night before
bedtime.*

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

astrolabe

n
/ 'astrə.lāb /
Gk > L&F > E
a compact instrument for observing the positions of the celestial bodies.
Before the sextant was developed, the astrolabe was used for navigation.

astronaut

astrophysicist

n
/ .astrə'fizəsəst /
Gk
a specialist in the branch of astronomy dealing principally with the physical and chemical natures of the heavenly bodies and their origin and evolution.
Martha plans to be an astrophysicist and work for NASA.

astuciously

adv
/ ə'st(y)üşhəslē /
L > F
shrewdly, cleverly.
The movie details the methods of the detective who astuciously solves the murder mystery.

astucity

asunder

adv
/ ə'səndə(r) /
E
into parts : into different pieces.
The wind was so violent that Justin feared his tent would be torn asunder.

asymmetric

adj
/ .āsə'metrik /
Gk
not characterized by due or balanced proportions.
Devon challenged his audience by intentionally making the sculpture asymmetric.

asymptote

n
/ 'asəm(p).tōt /
Gk
a straight line associated with a curve such that as a point P moves out along the curve, the distance from the point P to the line approaches zero.
The graph clearly showed an asymptote to the hyperbola.

asyndeton

n
/ ə'sində'tän /
Gk
omission of the conjunctions that ordinarily join words or clauses.
Anyone who has taken Latin should know the famous asyndeton in Caesar's words, "I came, I saw, I conquered."

atavistic

adj
/ .adə'vistik /
L
marked by recurrence in an organism or in any of its parts of a trait typical of ancestors more remote than the parents.
Even though Marie considered herself a city girl, visiting her great-grandparents' farm ignited an atavistic desire to dig in the dirt.

atheist

athetize

athodyd

Atlantic

adj
/ ə'tlantik /
Gk
of, relating to, or found in, on, or near the Atlantic Ocean.
The hurricane ravaged the Atlantic coast of Florida.

atoll

n
/ 'atōl /
Maldivé Islands name
a coral reef appearing above the sea as a low ring-shaped coral island or as a chain of closely spaced coral islets around a shallow lagoon.
The atoll was formed by a process started millions of years ago by an undersea volcano.

atrament

n
/ 'atrəmənt /
L
a very dark substance—usually used of liquids.
The puff of atrament hid the octopus from a nearby predator.

atresia

attaboy

interj
/ 'adə'bōi /
E
—used to express encouragement, approval, or admiration.
"Attaboy!" cried Uncle Felix as Ted crossed the finish line.

attachable

adj
/ ə'tachəbəl /
Gmc + Lcf
capable of being fastened to something.
Linda's new cape has an attachable hood for use in the rain.

attacked

attain

attempt

attending

atticism

n
/ 'adə'sizəm /
Gk
a favoring of or attachment to the Athenians.
Jacques's writing was noted for its pronounced atticism.

attorney

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

attorneys

n pl
/ ə'tɜrnēz /
F

legal agents qualified to act for suitors and defendants in legal proceedings.

Under the law, the hospital had to turn over all relevant documents to the attorneys for the plaintiff.

attraction

n
/ ə'trækshən /
L

[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word.] a force acting between oppositely electrified bodies or oppositely magnetized bodies that tends to draw them together and resist their separation.

Mr. Lee showed the pupils a simple compass and explained that it worked because of the attraction between the compass needle and Earth's magnetic poles.

atwitter

auburn

adj
/ 'ɒbə(r)n /
L > F

of a moderate brown color that is redder, lighter, and slightly stronger than chestnut brown.

Rita Hayworth and Greer Garson were famous actresses who had auburn hair.

auction

v
/ 'ɒkshən /
L

sell to the highest bidder at a public sale of property.

Georgia wanted to auction all of the furniture.

audace

adj
/ au'dä.chā /
L > It

bold, spirited—used as a direction in music.

Angela sang the audace passage with remarkable verve, and the audience murmured their appreciation.

audible

audio

audiometer

n
/ .ɒdē'äməd-ə(r) /
L + Ecf + Gk > Ecf
an instrument used in measuring the acuity of hearing in the individual ear for sounds of various frequencies.

At the local schools, students' hearing is tested annually by a specialist using an audiometer.

audit

v
/ 'ɒdət /
L

attend (a course especially in a college or university) without working for or expecting to receive formal credit.

Senior citizens are allowed to audit classes free of charge at the local community college.

auditor

auditorium

n
/ .ɒdə'tɔrēəm /
L

a room, hall, or entire building specially designed for stage and film presentations, concerts, lectures, and audio-visual features and activities.

A new curtain for the stage of the auditorium was purchased with money raised by the students.

augmented

v
/ ɔg'mentəd /
L

increased.

Cheating at Tim's school has actually augmented under the new honor code.

Augustan

adj
/ ɔ'gəstən /
L name
of, relating to, or characteristic of the Roman emperor Augustus Caesar or his age.
Vergil's Aeneid is the pinnacle of Augustan literature.

aulic

aunt

aurify

v
/ 'ɔrə.fī /
L

turn into gold.

Alchemists of long ago tried to aurify stone.

auroral

aurulent

auscultate

auspicate

auspicious

austausch

n
/ 'äus.taush /
G

an effect of turbulent motion that is manifested by an exchange of air and water vapor molecules from one layer to another.

The meteorologist ran a computer simulation to show atmospheric austausch.

austerity

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

Australian

adj
/ ɒ'strālyən /

L
of or relating to the commonwealth of Australia.

The longest fence in the world keeps Australian wild dogs from marauding the sheep herds of Southeast Australia.

Australopithecus

n
/ ɒ.strā(,)lɒ'pithikəs /
L + Gk

a genus of extinct generalized anthropoid apes known chiefly from skulls from the middle Pleistocene deposits of southern Africa.

Justine's heart skipped a beat as she unearthed the skull of an Australopithecus.

autecology

auteur

n
/ ɔ'tər /
F

[has homonym: hauteur] a film director who is the primary creative force in a motion picture.

The auteur was not very receptive to the actors' suggestions.

authoritarianism

n
/ ɒ.thä'rə'terē.nizəm /
L + Ecff

a political system that concentrates power in the hands of a leader or a small autocratic elite not constitutionally responsible to the people.

Sergei said that despite all its democratic rhetoric, the system was authoritarianism, pure and simple.

authorship

autistic

adj
/ ɒ'tistik /
Gk

of, relating to, or marked by absorption in self-centered subjective mental activity.

Ulrike's autistic behavior includes fantasies, hallucinations, and delusions.

autochthon

autograph

automation

n
/ ɒdə'māshən /
Gk

the state of being operated with a self-regulating mechanism that performs a required act at a predetermined point in an operation.

Automation of the assembly line increased productivity at the plant.

automobile

autonomously

autopilot

auxilian

avalvular

avenge

avenue

aversion

avert

v
/ ə'veɪt /
L

[has near homonym: evert] prevent the occurrence or unfortunate, dangerous, and dire effects of.

It is hoped that the peace mission will avert war.

avgolemono

n
/ ävgɒ'lemə(,)nɒ /
Gk

a soup or sauce made of chicken stock, egg yolks, and lemon juice.

Alex ate three bowls of his grandmother's avgolemono after his soccer game.

aviary

avid

adj
/ 'ävəd /
L

craving eagerly : desirous to the point of greed.

Behind Mr. Jenkins's superficial concern was a gleam of avid curiosity.

avidity

avifauna

avocation

avogram

n
/ 'ävə.gram /

It name + Gk > ISV

a unit of mass and weight equal to one gram divided by the Avogadro number.

Mr. Lufkin explained to the class that an avogram of any element is equal to the weight of one atom.

avoid

awesome

awful

awkward

adj
/ 'ɒkwə(r)d /
ON > E + E

lacking ease, grace, or deftness of movement.

Something troubled and awkward in Melinda's manner made Mary stare very hard at her.

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

axel

n
/ 'aksəl /
name

[has homonyms: axil, axle] a jump from the outer forward edge of one skate with 1½ turns taken in the air and a return to the outer backward edge of the other skate.
Melanie performed a flawless triple axel in practice but fell on the landing during the tryouts for the ice show.

axiomatic

adj
/ .aksə'madik /

Gk
of or relating to a proposition, principle, or rule that has found general acceptance.
"Everyone has to die and pay taxes" is Mrs. Badger's favorite axiomatic saying.

axle

n
/ 'aksəl /
E

a spindle that enables a wheel or pair of wheels to revolve.
Mike called a tow truck after the rear axle on his car was damaged in a collision.

axolotl

azalea

n
/ ə'zālyə /
Gk

any plant of a genus of shrubs or trees with deciduous leaves and funnel-shaped flowers now usually considered a subgenus of Rhododendron.
Anna grew a magnificent azalea on her balcony.

baalize

v
/ 'bā(ə).līz /
Heb

convert to or influence toward the worship of Baal or to some other form of idolatry.
The minister gave a sermon lambasting Wall Street and the bull market for trying to baalize investors to the worship of mammon.

babouche

n
/ bə'būsh /
Per > Ar > F

a chiefly oriental slipper made without heel or quarters.
The babouche on display had a maroon silk upper and colorful beadwork.

babuina

bacillary

adj
/ 'basə.lerē /
L

shaped like a rod : consisting of small rods or rodlike bodies.
Roger did not know which bacillary parasite he was viewing under the microscope.

backlight

backspace

backstage

n
/ 'bak'stāj /
E + L > F > E

the whole or any part of the area of a stage that is behind the proscenium; specifically : the dressing rooms of a theater.
The drama class members were delighted to be asked if they wanted to tour the backstage.

backstroke

backwoods

bacon

bacteria

bactericidal

bactericide

n
/ bak'tirəs'id /
Gk + L

something that destroys bacteria.
Maggie cleans the bathroom with a product that contains a bactericide.

bacterin

bacteriology

n
/ (i)bak.tirē'äləjē /
Gk

a science that deals with the study of bacteria and with their relations to medicine, industry, and agriculture.
Mrs. Murry has doctorial degrees in both biology and bacteriology.

bacteriophagic

adj
/ bak.tirēə'fajik /
Gk

of, relating to, or being viruses that infect and destroy bacteria.
Around 1910 Frederick Twort discovered bacteriophagic viruses, thus laying the foundation for modern virology.

bacteriosis

bacterium

baculiform

adj
/ 'bakyələ'förm /
L

shaped like a rod.
The baculiform chromosomes looked huge under the electron microscope.

badgers

n pl
/ 'bajə(r)z /
AF? > E + Ecf

any of certain strong sturdily built carnivorous mammals.
Ivar always said that the badgers had cleaner houses than people, and that when he hired a housekeeper her name would be Mrs. Badger.

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bafflement

baffling

adj
/ 'baf(ə)liŋ /

E
perplexing, confusing.
Liam tried to explain the problem with baffling wordy sentences.

baggy

bail

bailey

n
/ 'bāle /
F > E

[has homonyms: bailee, bailie] the outer wall of a medieval castle or any of the several walls surrounding the keep.
When the enemy attacked the castle, they first tried to scale the bailey with crudely made ladders.

bakery

bakeware

balance

n
/ 'balən(t)s /
L > F

[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word.] a controlled state in dancing of maintaining an erect posture.
Barbara kept her balance perfectly as she spun around and around.

balderdash

baleen

baleful

balkanize

v
/ 'bɒlkənīz /
geog name + Ecf
break up (as a region) into smaller ineffectual and frequently conflicting units.
The candidate charged her opponent with attempting to balkanize society by emphasizing ethnic tensions.

ballad

balladist

balloonist

n
/ bə'li:nəst /
Gmc > It + Ecf
one that ascends in a balloon (as for exhibition purposes).
The aerial photograph of Leadville was taken by a balloonist more than a hundred years ago.

ballot

ballotade

balmy

balneotherapy

n
/ ,bɒlnē'θerəpē /
L + Gk
the treatment of disease by baths.
In the early 1900s a small town in Tennessee was known as the ultimate place for balneotherapy.

balsamiferous

balthazar

bamboche

banal

banally

adv
/ 'bān'le /
F
in a trite, uninteresting manner.
After many weeks of campaigning, the tired senator was speaking banally and rather robotically.

banderilla

n
/ ,bændə're(y)ə /
Gmc > Sp
a decorated barbed dart that is thrust into the neck or shoulder of the bull in a bullfight.
The animal rights protesters displayed a bloodstained banderilla.

banderillero

bandersnatch

bandstand

bandwagon

bangboard

bangtail

banished

v
/ 'banisht /
Gmc > F > E
required (a person) by authority to leave especially his own country or the country in which he was staying.
It has been that way since Rhyme and Reason were banished.

bankroll

bankrupt

banner

banns

n pl
/ 'banz /
E
[has homonym and near homonym: bans and bands] notice of a proposed marriage proclaimed in a church or other place prescribed by law in order that any person may announce a known impediment to the union.
Lord Bainbridge hoped that the three days required between the posting of the banns and the wedding would be long enough for his son to reconsider his decision to marry the cobbler's daughter.

bantam

adj
/ 'bantəm /
Javanese geog name
small : easily handled.
Accustomed to bantam automobiles in Europe, Jacqui regards American cars as too large and unwieldy.

bantamweight

banter

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

banzai

baptize

barathrum

n
/ 'barəθrəm /
Gk > L

a bottomless pit or abyss : a place or state of misery or torment.
The motivational speaker said that her early life was a barathrum which she was fortunate to have survived.

barbarian

barbel

barbershop

barbet

barbicel

Barbizon

adj
/ 'bərbəzän /
F geog name
depicting landscape and rural genre subjects from direct observation of nature and with much attention to the expression of light and atmosphere.
The exhibit featured works of three prominent artists of the Barbizon school of painting.

bardolatry

bareback

barefisted

bariatrics

barium

barley

barleycorns

n pl
/ 'bärlē.kó(ə)rnz /
E
[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word.] old units of length, each equal to the average length of a grain of barley : the third part of an inch.
Matthew decided to annoy his teacher by measuring his project results in barleycorns.

barnyard

barometry

baroness

baroquely

baroscope

n
/ 'barəskōp /
Gk + Gk
an apparatus for showing that the loss of weight of an object in air equals the weight of the air displaced by it.
Stanley put the baroscope beside the air pump before starting his experiment.

barrabora

barrette

barretter

barring

barrister

n
/ 'barəstə(r) /
E
a counsel admitted to plead at the bar and undertake the public trial of causes in an English superior court.
Tim's role of barrister in the school play requires that he don a powdered wig and speak with a British accent.

baryon

bascart

baseless

basicity

basistroal

basket

basketball

bass

bassoonist

baste

v
/ 'bāst /
Gmc > F > E
[has homonym: based] sew by hand or machine with long loose stitches in order to hold in place during fittings or for final stitching.
Lorna's sister showed her how to baste the hem of the dress before she tried it on.

bathyal

adj
/ 'bathēəl /
Gk
of or relating to the deeper parts of the ocean, especially those parts between 100 and 1000 fathoms : deep-sea.
In the bathyal zone photosynthesis cannot occur because light doesn't penetrate that deep.

bathybic

adj
/ bə'thɪbɪk /
Gk > L
of, relating to, or living in the deepest parts of the sea.
The ichthyologist spent his career studying bathybic fish indigenous to the Cayman Trench.

bathyseism

n
/ 'bathəsɪzəm /
Gk + Gk
an earthquake of deep origin recordable the world over.
In Carleen's story, tidal waves caused by a bathyseism destroyed everything within 20 miles of coastlines.

bathysmal

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

bathysphere

battement

n
/ bătămäⁿ /
F
an extension of the free foot in any direction followed by a beat against the supporting foot.
Baryshnikov executed a quick battement as he entered the stage.

batten

v
/ 'batⁿ /
ON
fasten by or as if by means of a reinforcing strip.
The captain ordered the crew to batten down the hatches when the waves grew higher.

batterie

n
/ 'badərə /
F
[has homonym: battery] a ballet movement consisting of beating together the feet or calves of the legs during a leap.
Jason injured his ankle attempting a batterie.

battery

battle

battledore

n
/ 'bad^l.dō(ə)r /
L > OProv? > E
a light flat bat or racket that is used in striking a shuttlecock.
Alfonso dusted off the old battledore and went to the badminton court.

battlesome

batture

n
/ ba'tú(ə)r /
F
the alluvial land between a river at low-water stage and a levee—used especially of such land along the lower Mississippi River.
The government decreed that the batture could be used only for farmland because it was prone to seasonal flooding.

baud

Bauhaus

adj
/ 'bau.haus /
G
of, relating to, or influenced by a school of design in Weimar in 1919.
The area's newest ski lodge is a mixture of Bauhaus and Danish modern.

beadle

n
/ 'bēd^l /
E
[has homonym: beetle] a herald or messenger especially in the service of a law court.
The bailiff knows that his job is important, even though the townsfolk refer to him as a beadle.

beadledom

beagle

beard

bearded

beast

beatific

adj
/ .bēə'tifik /
L
marked by an appearance of complete bliss or utter benignity.
The hockey player appeared beatific as he related how he made the winning goal.

beatnik

beautify

beaverette

beckon

becloud

v
/ bə'klaud /
E + E
cover over with a cloud : obscure, mask.
The meteorologists expect this front to becloud the mountains for several days.

bedaub

bedizen

v
/ bə'dizⁿ /
D
dress or adorn with gaudy and showy vulgarity.
Angelina decided to bedizen herself with jewelry and scarves and go to the costume party as a fortuneteller.

bedrock

beechnut

beeline

beelzebub

n
/ bē'elzə.bəb /
Heb
a devil.
When the police appeared, the thieves left all their loot behind and ran as though a beelzebub were after them.

beeper

Beethovenian

adj
/ .bā.tō'vēnēən /
G name + Ecf
of, relating to, or characteristic of Ludwig van Beethoven or his musical style or works.
The opening movement of Hubert's new symphony is clearly Beethovenian in style.

begaud

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

beginning

behalf

beignet

n
/ bān'yā /

F
[Note: Could be confused with one pronunciation of plural beignets.]
fritter.

As each beignet was dropped in hot oil, there was a loud sizzle and pop.

belabor

belaud

belfry

belladonna

bellicosely

adv
/ 'belə.kōslē /

L + Ecf
in a warlike, aggressive, combative manner.

Vinny reacts bellicosely to conflict and has been suspended several times for fighting.

bellyache

beloid

adj
/ 'bē.lōid /

Gk + Ecf
having a shape like that of an arrow.

Whenever the cursor on the computer screen reached a significant word or icon, it became beloid.

beneath

benefactor

beneficial

beneficiary

n
/ .benə'fishē.ērē /

L
the person named (as in an insurance or annuity policy) as the one who is to receive proceeds or benefits accruing.

Cora named her son as her beneficiary in her life insurance policy.

beneficiate

v
/ .benə'fishē.āt /

L > Sp
process (as a raw material) so as to improve the physical and chemical properties.

To prepare clay for ceramic uses, it is first necessary to beneficiate it by crushing and separating out impurities such as sand and mica.

benefit

n
/ 'benə.fīt /

L > F > E
something that guards, aids, or promotes well-being : advantage.
Advances in genetic engineering could enhance the nutritional benefit of crops.

benign

adj
/ bə'nīn /

L > F > E
tending to promote or indicative of happiness, goodness, or favorable outcome : wholesome.

Gretchen's new circle of friends is not a benign influence on her.

benignly

benthos

benthoscope

benzolize

bequeathed

v
/ bə'kwēthd /

E
gave or left by formal declaration so that the thing given passes into the ownership of the recipient after the death of the donor.

The childless couple bequeathed their property to their favorite charity.

berate

Berber

n
/ 'bərbər /

Ar
[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word.] a branch of the Afro-Asiatic language family comprising languages spoken by minorities in North Africa and the Sahara.

Alex speaks enough Berber to ask directions in rural Morocco.

bereaved

berok

n
/ bə'rək /

unknown
a monkey of southeastern Asia having a short slender tail which is held in the shape of the letter S when the animal is excited.

The botanist trained the berok to collect specimens from tall trees.

berserker

beryllium

beseech

v
/ bə'sēch /

E
address oneself earnestly to.
Margaret put on her most dejected look to beseech her father to give her the car keys.

besiege

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besieged

v
/ bə'sējd /
L > F > E
surrounded closely : crowded upon or around.
Of the numerous fans who besieged the athlete, Michelle was the only one to get his autograph.

besmirch

besotted

adj
/ bə'sätəd /
E
characterized by a condition of blind dotting affection.
The Air Force pilot was besotted with the movie star.

bestiary

n
/ 'beschē.ərē /
L
a medieval often illustrated work in verse or prose describing with an allegorical moralizing commentary the appearance and habits of real and fabled animals.
At the Metropolitan Museum, Eli lingered in front of a case containing a French bestiary that told a story about a unicorn and a dragon.

bestsellerdom

bethesda

n
/ bə'thezdə /
Gk biblical geog name
a hallowed place : chapel.
Dorcinda attended services at the bethesda.

betrayal

betrothal

n
/ bə'trōthəl /
E
the act of promising in marriage.
The king announced the betrothal of his daughter to the duke.

betwixt

prep
/ bə'twɪkst /
E
between.
The fly landed right betwixt Peter's eyes.

bevue

bewail

bewildering

adj
/ bə'wɪld(ə)rɪŋ /
E + E
causing to lose one's bearings.
The town's maze of streets was bewildering even to its own inhabitants.

bey

bezique

n
/ bə'zēk /
F
a card game similar to pinochle that is played with a pack of 64 cards and in which the points are made chiefly by winning tricks.
Clyde claimed he was playing bezique with friends the night his business partner's house was robbed.

bhabar

bhalu

n
/ 'bä.lü /
Skt > Hindi
a common bear of India and Sri Lanka that has long black hair and very large claws, a white V-shaped mark on the breast, a long snout, and a very mobile tongue and lips.
The bhalu is also called a sloth bear because of its slow-moving habits.

bialy

n
/ bē'alē /
Yiddish
a flat roll that has a depressed center and is usually covered with onion flakes.
A bialy is dense and chewy, somewhat like a bagel.

biathlon

n
/ bī'ath.län /
L > Gk
a composite athletic contest consisting of cross-country skiing and rifle sharpshooting.
Justine placed second in the biathlon at the Olympic trials.

bibliognost

bibliotaphic

adj
/ ,bɪblēə'tafɪk /
Gk > F
characteristic of one who hides away or hoards books.
Hazel devotes her entire basement to the accommodation of her bibliotaphic desires.

bibulous

adj
/ 'bɪbyələs /
L
inclined to drink especially intoxicating beverages.
W. C. Fields made a career out of playing bibulous characters.

bicker

bickering

bicuspid

bicycle

bidialectalist

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

biennially

adv
/ bī'enēəlē /
L

every two years.
The air force base biennially hosts an air show of new and old aircraft.

bierstube

bifara

bifocal

bigamy

n
/ 'bigəmē /
Gk > L

the statutory offense of entering into a ceremonial marriage with one person while still legally married to another.
Belief that one's first marriage was illegal is not acceptable as a valid defense of bigamy.

bigbloom

bighorn

bigot

bigotry

n
/ 'bigətrē /
F > E

obstinate and unreasoning attachment to one's own belief and opinions with intolerance of beliefs opposed to them.
The school's International Relations Club strives to increase awareness of the prevalence of bigotry.

bilberry

bilboquet

bildungsroman

n
/ 'bil.dũŋ(k)srō.män /
G

a novel about the usually early development or spiritual education of the main character.
Wilson called the bildungsroman an experiment in living for the hero.

bile

bilious

adj
/ 'bilyəs /
L

appearing as though affected by a liver disorder.
The green of the marble reflecting on their faces made them look bilious.

biliousness

bilirubin

n
/ bilə'rübən /
L > F + L + ISV

a reddish yellow crystalline pigment occurring in bile, blood, urine, and gallstones.
If a newborn is jaundiced because of a high level of bilirubin, phototherapy is the common treatment.

billboard

billet

billingsgate

n
/ 'bilingz.gāt /
E landmark
condemnatory language marked by the coarse or offensive and scornfully abusive or contentious.
The billingsgate in the film was excessive and unnecessary, serving only to give it an R rating.

billowy

adj
/ 'biləwē /
ON?

characterized by rolling or swelling surges.
The warm sun and billowy breezes dried them as they went.

binding

n
/ 'bīndiŋ /
E
the fastening of the sections of a book.
Despite the great age of the book, its binding was still intact.

binturong

n
/ bin'tü.rõŋ /
Malay
an Asian prehensile-tailed catlike carnivorous mammal.
The muscular prehensile tail of the binturong is used to grasp branches while its forelimbs pull fruiting branches to its mouth.

biodegradable

bioengineering

biological

biology

biophagous

biospeleology

biplane

birch

birchbark

birdie

n
/ 'bærdē /
E
[has homonym: birdy] a golf score of one stroke less than par on a hole.
Eleanor putted well on the 18th hole and got a birdie.

birthright

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

biscotti

n pl
/ bə'skädē /
L > It

crisp cookies of Italian origin
flavored usually with anise and
filberts or almonds.

*Angela usually has several biscotti
with her morning coffee.*

biserial

bishopric

n
/ 'bɪʃə(,)prɪk /
Gk

the administrative area under the
jurisdiction of a clergyman of the
highest order in Christian churches
usually charged with a function
such as the supervision of a
diocese.

*Priests throughout the bishopric
were required to attend the
meeting.*

bismarck

n
/ 'bɪz.märk /
G name

a raised doughnut shaped like a ball
with filling usually of jelly.

*Jelly squirted out the end of the
bismarck when Carrie bit into it.*

bismuth

bistoury

bitingly

bitt

bitumastic

bituminous

adj
/ bɪ't(y)ümənəs /
Celt? > L > E

impregnated with, infiltrated by, or
containing soft coal.

*While doing research for her report
on the Industrial Revolution,
Hayley learned of the many uses
for bituminous coal.*

blabber

blackbird

blackboard

blackthorn

blamable

blameful

blanching

blandish

blanquillo

n
/ blän'kē(,)yō /
Sp

any of several important marine
food fishes (as the ocean whitefish
and the tilefish).

*It took Hans only ten minutes to
land a three-foot blanquillo.*

blatancy

blatherer

blazer

blazonry

bleachable

bleachers

bleakness

blende

blepharism

blepharospasm

n
/ 'blefə(,)rō.spazəm /
Gk

spasmodic winking from the
involuntary contraction of the
orbicular muscle of the eyelids.
*Blepharospasm can usually be
relieved by injecting small doses of
botulinum toxin directly into the
muscles involved.*

blew

blighter

blinder

blinker

n
/ 'blɪŋkə(r) /
E

a device consisting essentially of a
light that can be flashed on and off
regularly as a warning (as at a
railway crossing).

*Because of the low afternoon sun,
Jemmy couldn't tell if the
Cadillac's left-turn blinker was on
or not.*

blintzes

blitheful

blithely

bloat

blob

blockade

blockbuster

blolly

blondism

bloodcurdling

bloodshed

blooper

n
/ 'blüpə(r) /
imit

an embarrassing public blunder.
*The director shouted "Enough!"
when the actor's blooper evoked
laughter.*

blouson

n
/ 'blau.zän /
F

a garment (as a dress or blouse)
having a close waistband with
material falling over it in loose
folds.

*Serena wore a white blouson and
long black skirt to the audition for
Hedda Gabler.*

blowtorch

bluegill

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

blundering

adj
/ 'blʌndə(r)ɪŋ /
E

characterized by or given to moving unsteadily, confusedly, or blindly : floundering.

The blundering bird flew into the picture window.

blurred

adj
/ 'blɜrd /
E?

smearred with or as if with ink.

The signature was blurred and couldn't be read.

blurry

blustering

blustery

adj
/ 'blʌst(ə)rē /
G? > E

blowing boisterously : stormy.

The blustery weather forced NASA to divert the returning space shuttle to a new landing site.

blutwurst

boardroom

boastful

bodice

boding

v
/ 'bɔdɪŋ /
E

[has near homonym: boating] giving advance warning of.

The winds and dark clouds are boding a heavy storm.

bodkin

n
/ 'bɔdkɪn /
E

a small slender instrument with a sharp point for making holes in cloth and leather and for picking out bastings.

The church spire seemed from a great distance like a bodkin.

boeotian

adj
/ bē'ōshən /
Gk

marked by stupidity and philistinism : crudely obtuse : loutish.

John's father adhered to the boeotian mentality that only self-indulgent idlers go to college.

boglet

bogus

bohemian

boing

bollard

n
/ 'bɔlə(r)d /
(ON > E + Gmc > F > E)?

a single or double post of metal or wood fixed on a pier or wharf and around which mooring lines are thrown.

Kyle fastened the boat's line to the bollard and stepped out onto the pier.

bolus

bombard

bombardment

bombardon

bombastic

adj
/ bəm'bastɪk /
Per? > Gk > L > F + Ecf
marked by or given to a pretentious inflated style of speech or writing.
The candidate's bombastic speeches did little to gain votes.

bombycine

bonbon

bondieuserie

boned

bonification

n
/ .bänəfə'kāshən /
L

betterment of housing conditions and farming practices in a particular area.

The Peace Corps engages in bonification in almost every underdeveloped country in the world.

bonus

n
/ 'bɔnəs /
L

something given or received that is over and above what is expected.

Tom is off enjoying her year-end bonus, a week on a Caribbean island.

bookkeeping

booklore

bookmaker

n
/ 'bʊk.mākə(r) /
E + E

a printer, binder, or designer of books.

Wendell was no run-of-the-mill bookmaker but an accomplished artist whose works sold for thousands of dollars.

booth

bordereau

n
/ 'bɔrdə.rō /
F

[Note: Plural form can be pronounced identically.] a detailed note or memorandum of account.

The insurance clerk spent half the night before the audit trying to find the missing bordereau.

boregat

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

borough

n
/ 'bɔr(ɪ)ɔ /
E

one of the five constituent political divisions of New York City.

Many visitors are surprised to see farmland in the borough of Staten Island.

boroughreeve

borrowed

Borsalino

n
/ .bɔrsə'lɛ(ɪ)nɔ /

It name

a wide-brimmed soft felt hat for men.

Roberto tilted back his Borsalino and scratched his forehead, frowning at the shopkeeper.

boson

n
/ 'bɔsən /

Indian name + E

[Note: Could be confused with boatswain.] a particle (as a photon, meson, or alpha particle) having zero spin or an integral number of quantum units of spin and conforming to the Bose-Einstein statistics.

Researchers in elementary particle physics are searching for a particle known as the Higgs boson, which is connected with the weak nuclear force.

bosselated

boswellize

v
/ 'bɔzwəlɪz /
Scot + Ecf

write of in the manner of one who writes with love for and intimate knowledge of any subject.

It would be difficult for anyone to boswellize America's favorite pastime better than Ken Burns did in his documentary Baseball.

botryoidal

adj
/ .bɔtrɛ'ɔɪdɪl /
Gk

having the form of a bunch of grapes.

Minerals presenting an aggregation of large sections of small globes are called "botryoidal."

bottine

n
/ bə'tɛn /
F

a woman's light boot.

Marguerite waited while the cobbler put a new heel on her bottine.

botulism

bouchon

n
/ bʊ'shän /
F

a bushing pressed into a bridge or plate of a timepiece.

The only thing wrong with Adam's pocket watch was a broken bouchon.

bouffancy

bouffant

bouilli

bouncily

adv
/ 'bɔun(t)sɔlə /
imit E + Ecf

with verve : jauntily, springily.

Joyce skipped bouncily through the park on her way home from school.

bourgade

boutade

n
/ bʊ'täd /
F

an outbreak or burst especially of temper.

When the general received news of his losses, he reacted with a violent boutade.

boutique

bowered

v
/ 'bɔu(ə)rd /
E

formed a shelter or covered place in a garden with branches of trees or vines twined together.

Bougainvillea bowered the front porch of the old house.

boxwood

bozzetto

bracemate

brachiation

brachiator

brachiosaur

n
/ 'brakɛɔ.sə(ə)r /
Gk

a dinosaur of the genus Brachiosaurus of the Upper Jurassic having longer forelegs than hind legs.

The 110-million-year-old fossil is believed to be part of a rib of a gigantic herbivorous brachiosaur.

bracket

bracteose

adj
/ 'braktɛ.ɔs /
L

having numerous or conspicuous modified leaves from which a flower rises.

Of all bracteose plants, the poinsettia is probably the most familiar.

bradenhead

braggart

n
/ 'bragə(r)t /
E

a loud or arrogant boaster.

The braggart exaggerated his fishing stories so much that no one would believe him.

braggartism

bragget

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

Brahmsian

adj
/ 'brämzēən /
G name

of or relating to Johannes Brahms or his musical compositions.
Ulla thought she knew the whole Brahmsian oeuvre, but she could not recognize the piece that Mirga played.

braid

braille

braillist

brainchild

brake

brandishing

v
/ 'brandishiŋ /
Gmc > F > E
shaking or waving (a weapon) menacingly.
"That's why I drove him off," cried the Humbug, fiercely brandishing his cane.

brandtite

brashly

bratling

bravado

n
/ brə'vä(,)dō /
Sp
showy or demonstrative conduct or action often characterized by bluster and swagger.
Much of Leo's arrogance is based on bravado and cannot be supported by competence.

brawl

n
/ 'brōl /
E
a loud, angry, or disorderly quarrel.
Vincent couldn't resist joining in the playground brawl.

breadth

n
/ 'bredth /
E
distance from side to side.
The breadth of the church's transept is 54 feet.

breadwinner

break

bream

breaststroke

breathe

breathing

breathlessly

adv
/ 'breθlɪslē /
E + Ecff
in a manner bringing about or marked by being out of breath because of fear, suspense, awe, or other strong emotion.
Ken breathlessly opened the door to the attic to find that a cat was responsible for the yowling sounds.

brecciated

adj
/ 'brechē.äd.əd /
It
marked by sharp fragments of rock embedded in a fine-grained matrix of clay or sand.
The countertop was made of a beautifully polished slab of brecciated stone.

brecciation

breechloader

breezeway

brethren

n pl
/ 'breθ(ə)rən /
E
ones related or linked by some common tie or interest (as of shared rank, profession, membership in a society, suffering, or labor).
People at the ecumenical service agree that they are brethren of the same principle.

breton

n
/ 'brɛt'n /
L > F
a woman's hat made on a basic pattern of round crown and wide even brim that is curved upward all around.
Before putting on her breton, Emily trimmed it with a bright red peony.

breviary

n
/ 'brēv(y)ərē /
L
an ecclesiastical book containing the daily public or canonical prayers for the canonical hours.
Kristin opened her breviary to read the prayer for vespers.

brewery

brickkiln

n
/ 'brɪk.kɪl(n) /
E
a kiln in which bricks are baked or burned.
Ethan spent the summer operating the brickkiln in the colonial village.

bricklayer

brief

brigandage

brilliance

brilliantine

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

brindisi

n
/ 'brɪndə(,)zē /
G > It

a drinking or toasting song.
The bride and groom were wished good health and happiness in a traditional brindisi.

brindle

brisance

brisket

bristle

bristly

adj
/ 'brɪs(ə)lē /
E

consisting of or like short stiff coarse hair.
Trudy pictured her uncle with a bristly brown mustache, even after he had shaved it off.

brittle

broccoli

brogan

n
/ 'brɔːgən /
IrGael

a heavy shoe; especially : a coarse leather work shoe reaching to the ankle.
Just after getting out of bed, Cal tripped over a brogan and fell on the sleeping dog.

broguing

brokerage

bromine

bronchospasm

n
/ 'bræŋ(,)kɔːspəzəm /
Gk

constriction of the air passages of the lung by spasmodic contraction of the bronchial muscles (as in asthma).
In many asthmatics, exercise can provoke bronchospasm.

brontophobia

n
/ brəntə'fɒbēə /
Gk

abnormal fear of thunder.
As he got older, Xavier gradually overcame his brontophobia.

broth

n
/ brɒθ /
E

liquid in which meat, fish, cereal grains, or vegetables have been cooked.
Mother made two quarts of broth from the leftover chicken.

brownie

brunizem

n
/ brūnə'zɛm /
L + Russ

a soil of the prairies developed from loess and occurring extensively in Iowa.
Corn usually thrives in the rich brunizem of Iowa.

brunneous

adj
/ 'brʌnēəs /
Gmc > L + Ecf
dark brown—used chiefly scientifically.
Hatchery officials were worried about brunneous spots on the fish eggs.

brusquely

brusqueness

bryophyte

n
/ 'brɪəˌfɪt /
Gk + Gk
a plant of a division of nonflowering plants comprising the mosses and liverworts.
The botanist said that the earliest land plant was probably a bryophyte.

bubbly

adj
/ 'bʌb(ə)lē /
E

exhibiting almost unrestrainable enthusiasm or happy emotion : effervescent.
The bubbly tourists spent the evening rehashing the day's sightseeing trip.

bubonic

buccal

buccinators

n pl
/ 'bʌksə.nāˌdə(r)z /
L
thin broad muscles forming the walls of the cheeks.
As the trumpeter played, his buccinators rhythmically expanded and contracted.

budget

buffa

n
/ 'bʊfə /
It
a woman singer of comic roles in opera.
*Lorelei admired the beautiful voice of the buffa in the Metropolitan Opera production of *Così fan Tutte*.*

buffet

buffeting

n
/ 'bʌfəˌdɪŋ /
F
repeated alteration of the aerodynamic forces acting on any part of an airplane in flight.
Chuck Yeager's plane was subject to severe buffeting as it approached the sound barrier.

bufflehorn

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

Bugaku

n
/ bŭ'gä(,)kü /
Jpn
a stately classical Japanese dance originally introduced from China.
The visiting dance troupe performed a Bugaku in the emperor's honor.

bugia

n
/ 'b(y)üj(ē)ə /
Algerian geog name > L
a low candlestick with a short handle.
Marlo keeps a bugia on her bedside table.

bugle

bulbously

bulimic

bulk

bulldozer

bulliform

bullpen

bulwark

bulwarks

n pl
/ 'bŭlwə(r)ks /
G > D > E
imposing safeguards.
Elizabeth fought tirelessly to counter the opposition of those entrenched behind the bulwarks of custom and authority.

bumblebee

n
/ 'bəmbəl.bē /
E
any of numerous large robust hairy yellow-and-black social bees of the genus *Bombus*.
The nest of the bumblebee is usually underground.

bumpkins

n pl
/ 'bəm(p)kənz /
D > Flemish?
typically awkward blockish and utterly unsophisticated rustics.
With the girls as an audience, the boys were acting like bumpkins.

bungle

bunion

bunker

n
/ 'bŏŋkə(r) /
E? > Sc
a sand trap or embankment with soil exposed constituting a hazard on a golf course.
Ronnie's first shot off the tee flew 150 yards directly into a bunker.

bunkhouse

bunting

Bunyanesque

adj
/ .bənyə'nesk /
Amer name
of or befitting the tales of Paul Bunyan; especially : of fantastically large size.
No amount of food can satisfy Raymond's Bunyanesque appetite.

buoy

burden

burdensome

adj
/ 'bərd'nsəm /
E + Ecf
difficult or distressing to carry or to bear.
Tia found running the snack bar a burdensome responsibility.

bureau

bureaucrat

burelage

burgeoned

burglar

burglarious

adj
/ .bər'glä(a)rēəs /
Gmc > L > AF
of or suitable for the use of one who breaks into a building illegally especially with intent to steal.
The prosecutor asked the defendant to explain why he had burglarious tools in his automobile.

burglary

n
/ 'bərglərē /
Gmc > L > AF
the act of breaking into a building illegally especially with intent to steal.
More than once Blake committed burglary to get money to pay his gambling debts.

burgonet

n
/ 'bərgənət /
F geog name
a light 16th-century helmet having cheekpieces and sometimes a nosepiece.
The French commander checked to see that every footsoldier was carrying a pike and was wearing a burgonet.

burgundy

n
/ 'bərgəndē /
F geog name
a variable color averaging a dark grayish reddish brown that is redder and duller than mahogany.
The students at the new high school voted for burgundy and gray as their school colors.

burial

burinist

burladero

burlap

burlesquing

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

burro

n
/ 'bʊr(ɪ)ɔ̄ /
L > Sp
[has homonyms: borough, burrow]
donkey.
The easy pace and sure step of the burro make it a good pack animal.

bushido

bushy

adj
/ 'bʊʃhē /
E + Ecf
resembling a shrub : thick and spreading.
There was one part of the wall where the creeping dark green leaves were more bushy than elsewhere.

buskin

n
/ 'bʊskən /
Sp
a strong thick-soled laced foot covering with a legging reaching halfway or more to the knee.
Emma found her kitten sound asleep inside her fur-lined buskin.

bustle

bustling

adj
/ 'bʊs(ə)liŋ /
ON > E + Ecf
given to or full of noisy or energetic activity.
As they strolled along the bustling and busy avenue, he began.

butane

butterflies

n pl
/ 'bʊdə(r).flīz /
E
any of several slender-bodied diurnal insects that have very large broad wings which are often strikingly colored and patterned.
The formerly quiet field erupted with beautiful red butterflies.

buttermilk

butylene

n
/ 'byüdə'lēn /
ISV
any of three isomeric hydrocarbons of the ethylene series obtained usually by cracking petroleum.
Because butylene is highly flammable, it is hazardous to work with.

Byronic

adj
/ bī'rānik /
E name
of, relating to, or having the characteristics of the poet Byron or his writings, usually involving hatred of mankind or distrust of human nature.
His attitude and his smile were Byronic, at once world-weary and contemptuous.

byssus

cabal

cabaletta

n
/ ,kabə'ledə /
L > OProv > It
the lively conclusion of an aria or duet.
The tenor ended the cabaletta on a high C, inspiring the audience to respond with a standing ovation.

cabalist

cabalistic

caballero

n
/ ,kabə'le(ə)(.ɪ)rō /
L > Sp
knight, cavalier.
For Halloween Kenny dressed as a Spanish caballero and rode his pony from house to house.

cabasa

cabecera

n
/ ,kabə'serə /
Sp
the chief city of a province or district in a Spanish-speaking country.
The town of Santiago de Compostela has been the cabecera of Galicia since medieval times.

cabinetry

cablegram

cabotinage

n
/ 'kabətə'nāzh /
F name + Fcf
behavior befitting a second-rate actor : theatricality.
To fit the tone of a 19th-century melodrama, the actors indulged in a good deal of deliberate cabotinage.

cabretta

cabriolet

cachepot

cacoepy

cactus

cadenza

cadge

caffeinic

adj
/ ka'fēnik /
Turk > F > G
of or containing caffeine.
Cindy relied on the caffeinic effects of coffee to energize her in the morning.

cahoots

n pl
/ kə'hütz /
F
collusion, connivance.
Thelma suspected her brothers were in cahoots against her, but she had no proof.

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

cajoled

v
/ kə'jöld /
F
obtained (an object or favor) from someone by persuading with deliberate flattery : wheedled.
Sally raves about the time she cajoled a lock of hair from the football team captain.

cakewalk

n
/ 'kāk.wòk /
ON > E > E
a stage dance developed from walking steps, especially a high-stepping prance with a backward tilt.
The cakewalk was originally performed in competitions where the prize was a cake.

calamitous

calamondin

calando

calceiform

adj
/ 'kalsēə.fòrm /
L
shaped like a slipper.
Fictional detective Nero Wolfe cultivated certain orchids for the calceiform lip in their flowers.

calceus

n
/ 'kalsēəs /
L
an ancient Roman ankle-length shoe usually of leather.
The calceus was the preferred shoe of Roman city dwellers.

caldera

n
/ kal'derə /
L > Sp
a crater much greater in diameter than the vent of the volcano with which it is associated.
The volcano's eruption was so violent that it blew away the cone, leaving a vast caldera.

calefaction

calefactory

caliga

n
/ 'kaləgə /
L
a heavy-soled Roman military shoe or sandal worn by all ranks up to and including centurions.
The emperor Caligula was named after the caliga, which he was fond of wearing as a boy.

callee

calligraphy

calliopean

calomel

n
/ 'kaləməl /
Gk > L
a white tasteless salt used as a cathartic, fungicide, and insecticide.
Years ago calomel was an ingredient in medicine, but now it is found mostly in insecticides and fungicides.

calorimeter

n
/ ,kalə'rimədə(r) /
L + Gk > Ecf
any of several apparatuses for measuring quantities of absorbed or evolved heat or for determining specific heats.
The calorimeter is designed to minimize heat loss during measurement.

calumniate

calvary

calyx

n
/ 'kālīks /
Gk
the outer set of floral leaves making up the external part of the flower.
Once the flower's petals fell, the green calyx seemed much more attractive.

Cambodian

n
/ kam'bōdēən /
Asian geog name
the language of the Cambodians, which is of Mon-Khmer origin.
Sunita surprised her boss when she volunteered to learn Cambodian for his research.

cambric

cameist

camellia

Camembert

n
/ 'kaməm.be(ə)r /
F geog name
a soft unpressed cheese having a characteristic odor and flavor produced by the presence of a blue mold and usually covered with a feltlike rind inside which the cheese softens progressively toward the center.
Brenda served a ripe Camembert after the dessert course.

cameral

cameraman

n
/ 'kam(ə)rə.man /
L + E
[Note: An alternate pronunciation can be confused with plural form of word.] an operator of a motion-picture or television camera.
The cameraman said he was willing to travel anywhere to cover breaking news stories.

camorra

campaign

campanologist

n
/ ,kampə'näləjəst /
L + Gk
maker of bells.
The campanologist beamed with pride every time he heard the cathedral carillon.

campanology

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

campesino

n
/ ˌkɑmpəˈsē(ɪ)nō /
L > Sp
a native of a Latin-American rural area; especially : a Latin-American Indian farmer or farm laborer.
The elderly campesino was the village's historian, weather forecaster, and mediator.

campestral

camphoric

campimeter

n
/ kɑmˈpimədə(r) /
(L + Gk) > ISV
an instrument for testing indirect or peripheral visual perception of form and color.
When Mrs. Dunn developed cataracts, her doctor used a campimeter to measure vision impairment.

Canaan

n
/ ˈkɑnən /
Heb > Gk
a promised land : place of rest, reward, or fulfillment.
Mrs. Gruber, who will be 100 years old on her next birthday, talks often of seeing her loved ones again in Canaan.

canal

cancel

cancellation

cancelli

n pl
/ kɑnˈsɛ.lɪ /
L
screens or rails typically of latticework or stone grating used to enclose or separate a part of a church.
From the style of the church's cancelli, the church was built in the 16th century.

cancer

n
/ ˈkɑn(t)sə(r) /
L > E
a malignant tumor of potentially unlimited growth.
Chemotherapy proved quite effective in treating Kristin's cancer.

candidate

candidly

adv
/ ˈkɑndədlē /
F&L
in a disinterested, fair, or just manner.
Fiona candidly admitted to having taken the money but refused to admit she had acted wrongfully.

candle

candlelight

n
/ ˈkɑndl.lɪt /
L > E + E
the light of a candle.
C. J. sat by candlelight in his study and thought about the last eight years of his life.

canepin

canister

cannibals

cannonball

canonicity

canorous

cantabank

n
/ ˈkɑntəbɑŋk /
Gmc > L > It
a singer from benches or platforms : a ballad singer.
The cantabank strolling through the streets of the amusement park was not an employee, though he gave that impression to his onlookers.

cantabile

adv
/ kɑnˈtəbəl.ɪə /
L > It
in a singing manner : melodiously—often used as a direction in music.
The second movement's most memorable theme was appropriately played cantabile.

canticle

n
/ ˈkɑntəkəl /
L
song, poem, hymn.
Scott left church humming the canticle "Nunc Dimittis."

cantillate

v
/ ˈkɑntl.ət /
L
recite with musical usually improvised tones (as in synagogues and highly liturgical churches) : chant.
The congregation knelt as the choir began to cantillate the 23rd Psalm.

cantina

n
/ kɑnˈtɛnə /
It > Sp
a small barroom : saloon.
In the very first Star Wars movie, a scene set in a cantina features many interesting aliens.

cantle

n
/ ˈkɑntl /
F > E
[has near homonym: candle] the upwardly projecting rear part of a saddle.
Only the cantle prevented the rider from falling out of the saddle when the warhorse reared.

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canton

n
/ 'kant^ən /
L > Prov > F

[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word.] any one of the spaces in the four corners of a heraldic field.
Each canton of the coat of arms was a different color.

caparisoned

capeador

n
/ kápaá'thòr /
Sp
a bullfighter's aide who uses a cape to distract or excite the bull.
As the capeador teased the bull at the other end of the stadium, Manuela had time to recover from her fall.

caper

n
/ 'kápa(r) /
L > It
a capricious or madcap escapade : prank, antic.
Roberto's little caper resulted in a three-day suspension from school.

capered

capitol

capitulation

n
/ kə'pichə'lāshən /
L
the act or agreement of one that surrenders to an enemy upon stipulated terms.
The capitulation of the army took place on the battlefield at noon.

capitulum

capote

n
/ kə'pōt /
F
a small Victorian bonnet with tie strings and varied trimmings.
Martha trimmed her capote with colorful embroideries for festive occasions.

capriccio

n
/ kə'prē(,)chō /
It
an instrumental piece in free form usually lively in tempo and brilliant in style.
When feeling depressed, Kate plays a recording of a capriccio to lift her spirits.

caprices

n pl
/ kə'prēsəz /
L > It > F
sudden impulsive apparently unmotivated changes of mind.
Ms. Lawrence understands the caprices of children and thus has a high tolerance for their whims.

capriole

capsheaf

n
/ 'kap,shēf /
L > E + E
the crowning point : acme, climax.
Ingrid thought the stranger's insult to his benefactor was the capsheaf of folly.

captain

caption

captious

capture

carambola

n
/ karəm'bōlə /
Marathi > Pg
[Note: Could be confused with carambole.] a green to yellow usually somewhat acid fruit that is much used in Chinese cookery : star fruit.
The slices of carambola on the fruit tray disappeared rapidly as the guests passed by the food table.

carapace

n
/ 'karə,pās /
Sp > F
a bony or chitinous case or shield covering the back or part of the back of an animal (as the upper shell of a turtle, the shell of an armadillo, or the shell of a crab).
Glenda saw an armadillo carapace for the first time when her family went to Florida on vacation.

caravel

carbine

carbon

carbuncle

n
/ 'kär,bəŋkəl /
L > F > E
a painful local inflammation of the skin and deeper tissues, usually accompanied by fever.
Dr. Morton applied a topical antibiotic to the carbuncle on Jason's neck.

carcajou

n
/ 'kärkə,jü /
Alqonquian > F
a northern North American carnivorous mammal that is blackish with a light brown band on each side of the body and that is noted especially for its strength : wolverine.
Over soft, deep snow the large feet of the carcajou enable it to catch its reindeer prey.

carcinogenic

adj
/ ,kärs^ən(,)ō'jenik /
Gk + Gk
producing or tending to produce cancer.
Thorald pointed out to his daughter Sam that thousands of naturally occurring chemicals have carcinogenic effects.

cardiogram

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

carditis

n
/ kār'dīdītis /
L
inflammation of the heart muscle.
Carditis is one of the manifestations of rheumatic fever.

careen

v
/ kə'rēn /
L > It > F
cause (a boat) to lean over on one side (as on a beach) making the other side accessible for repairs below the waterline.
The crew decided to haul the boat onto the beach and careen it so that they could repair the hull.

career

carefree

adj
/ 'ke(ə)rifrē /
E + E
having no worries : happy.
Grandpa reminisced about the days of his youth, when he was playful and carefree.

careless

caress

caret

cargador

n
/ 'kārgədó(ə)r /
Sp
one who works at or who is responsible for the loading or unloading of a ship in port.
Tina had her picture taken with a burly cargador at the wharf.

Caribbean

adj
/ kə'ribēən /
Arawak > Sp + Ecf
of, relating to, or characteristic of the eastern and southern West Indies.
Whenever Ellie thinks about Caribbean music, she hears in her head the brilliant sound of steel drums.

caribe

caricatured

v
/ 'karəkəchū(ə)rd /
L > It
represented in exaggeration by means of deliberate simplification and often ludicrous distortion of parts or characteristics.
Those who inaugurated the movement for women's enfranchisement were initially censured and caricatured by the press.

caries

n pl
/ 'ka(ə)rēz /
L
[has homonym: carries] tooth decay.
Daily flossing and brushing help keep caries at bay.

carination

n
/ ,karə'nāshən /
L
the quality or state of being shaped like the keel or prow of a ship.
The architect created a whimsical seaside building with a definite carination at the front.

carioca

n
/ ,karē'ōkə /
Tupi > Pg
[has near homonym: karaoke] the samba adapted to ballroom dancing.
The carioca is a very lively dance that originated in Brazil.

cariogenic

adj
/ ,ka(a)rēō'jenik /
L > Gk
conducive to the development of tooth decay.
The combination of saliva with food is the first step in digestion; unfortunately, it is also very cariogenic.

caritative

adj
/ 'karətādīv /
L
charitable in nature or tendency.
After the fire, the caritative impulses of utter strangers restored Josh's faith in humanity.

carmagnole

n
/ ,kärmə'n'yōl /
It geog name > F
a street dance in a meandering course to the tune of a lively song popular at the time of the first French Revolution.
Christine and Jean-Paul danced the carmagnole at the street fair in Marseilles.

carmine

n
/ 'kär,mīn /
(L + Ar) > L > F
a vivid red pigment used as a biological stain and as a coloring in foods, drugs, and cosmetics.
Yolanda's father snidely remarked that her lipstick contained a little too much carmine.

carnauba

carol

Carolingian

adj
/ ,karə'linj(ē)ən /
Gk > G > L
of or relating to a Frankish family that was founded about A.D. 613 and including among its members the rulers of France from 751 to 987, of Italy from 774 to 961, and of Germany from 752 to 911.
Charles the Fat, a Carolingian monarch, ruled in Italy until A.D. 887.

carom

carpentry

carpet

carpetbagger

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carrosserie

n
/ kārōsrē /
L > It > F
the carriage body of an automobile.
A display in the transportation museum showed how the carrosserie of an early Model T Ford was made.

cartographers

n pl
/ kār'tāgrəfərz /
Gk > L
individuals who make maps.
The package contains several brochures and a city map, which was carefully drawn by master cartographers and is current.

cartridge

cartwheel

cartwright

casein

n
/ 'kāsēn /
L > F
[Note: Could be confused with casing.] the principal protein of cheese.
Arlene saved the company thousands of dollars by lowering the proportion of casein used in its mozzarella.

cashmerette

casket

casque

n
/ 'kask /
Sp&F
[has homonym: cask] a piece of armor for the head : a helmet or military headpiece of any kind.
The museum acquired a 15th-century casque for its medieval armor display.

cassation

cassette

cassideous

Cassiopeian

adj
/ kasēə'pē(y)ən /
Gk name > L + Ecf
of or relating to the constellation Cassiopeia.
Dr. Giddings insisted that he had never heard of a Cassiopeian meteor shower.

cassock

n
/ 'kasək /
Per > F
a long close-fitting garment reaching to the feet that is worn by the clergy of certain churches often during divine service and by choristers and vergers.
The acolyte's mother gasped as her eyes traveled from her child's cassock to his basketball shoes.

cassollette

castellan

n
/ 'kastələn /
L > F > E
a governor or warden of a castle or fort.
Richard played the part of the castellan during the medieval fair.

castellate

castellated

castle

cataclasm

catacombs

n pl
/ 'kadə.kōmz /
Gk > L > It > F
a subterranean cemetery consisting of galleries or passages with side recesses for tombs.
Our visit to Rome included a tour of the catacombs.

catafalque

n
/ 'kadə'falk /
L > It
an ornamental sometimes very elaborate structure used in many churches in solemn funerals for the lying in state of the body.
Many mourners stood in line to walk by and touch the velvet-draped catafalque.

catalineta

n
/ .kad'lə'nədə /
Gk > L > Sp
any of several angelfishes.
A catalineta can grow up to two feet in length.

catalysis

n
/ kə'taləsəs /
Gk
the change in the rate of a chemical reaction brought about by often small amounts of a substance that is unchanged chemically at the end of the reaction.
Enzymes speed up many chemical reactions in the body through catalysis.

catamnesis

n
/ .kadəm'nēsəs /
Gk
the follow-up medical history of a patient.
Once the patient's catamnesis was complete, the records were placed in long-term file storage.

cataplexy

catarrhal

catastrophic

catbird

catchpenny

catchword

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

catechistic

adj

/ˌkədəˈkɪstɪk/

Gk > L

of or relating to a teacher of moral and religious doctrine or to the material taught by such a teacher.

After a period of catechistic instruction, Greg was ready to be received as a full member of the church.

catena

n

/kəˈtɛnə/

L

a connected series of related things.

While at camp, Lorna and Beatrice made up a catena of funny songs about their bunkmates.

catheter

caulicle

n

/ˈkɒləkəl/

L

a rudimentary stem; specifically : the stem of an embryo or young seedling.

After planting the corn seed, the biology class eventually was able to observe the development of the caulicle, from which the first roots grew.

caulicolous

adj

/kəˈlɪkələs/

L

growing on the stems of other plants.

During our hike Mom pointed out the caulicolous fungi on the trees.

cauliflorous

caulome

causable

causative

cautious

cavity

caxon

cayenne

n

/kiˈɛn/

French Guiana geog name

a very hot and pungent powder made by drying and grinding the whole fruits or the seeds of several hot peppers.

Paolo's chili was too mild, so he sprinkled some cayenne on it.

ceaselessly

cebell

cedar

celebrate

v

/ˈsɛləbræt/

L

demonstrate grateful and happy satisfaction in (as an anniversary or event) by engaging in festivities, merrymaking, or other similar deviation from accustomed routine.

About 100 friends and relatives attended the party to celebrate Mom and Dad's 50th wedding anniversary.

celebratory

adj

/ˈsɛləbrətōrē/

L

used or intended for use in celebrating a solemn or festive occasion.

The champions were feted at a celebratory dinner at which the trophies were presented.

celerity

celesta

n

/səˈlestə/

L > F

[Note: Could be confused with celeste.] a keyboard instrument having an action like that of a piano with hammers that strike steel plates suspended above wooden resonance boxes and producing a tone similar to that of a glockenspiel.

For the talent competition Trish performed a medley of Gershwin tunes on the celesta.

celestina

cellar

cellblock

celluloid

n

/ˈsɛlyəˌlɔɪd/

trademark

motion-picture film.

The celluloid used for the movie weighed about 300 pounds.

Celsius

adj

/ˈsɛlsɪəs/

Sw name

relating to, conforming to, or having the international thermometric scale on which 0 is the freezing point and 100 is the boiling point of water.

Normal human body temperature is 37 degrees Celsius.

cembalist

cementitious

cenote

n

/səˈnɒdē/

Maya > Sp

a deep sinkhole especially in Central America and the Yucatán peninsula having a pool at the bottom fed by the water table; especially : such a natural well into which sacrificial offerings were thrown in Mayan ceremonies.

Kirsty went cavern diving in a cenote during her vacation on the Yucatán peninsula.

censer

n

/ˈsɛn(t)sə(r)/

L > F > E

a vessel for burning incense.

The bell rings, the censer swings, and chants fill the air in the chapel on Sunday.

ensorship

censure

centrally

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centuple

centurion

n
/ sen't(y)ūrēən /

L
an officer commanding 100 men.
Divisions called "cohorts" in the ancient Roman army were subdivided into groups of 100 soldiers, each of which was commanded by a centurion.

cephalic

adj
/ sə'falik /

Gk
of or relating to the head.
The cephalic veins in the arm are so called because it was once believed that they were related to certain ailments of the head.

Cerberean

adj
/ sə(r)'birēən /

Gk name > L
of, relating to, or like a watchdog.
Dobie is the best Cerberean creature one could hope to have.

cerberus

n
/ 'sərb(ə)rəs /

Gk > L
watchdog, gatekeeper, custodian.
As school treasurer, Tony refers to himself as the cerberus of the school's coffers.

cerci

n pl
/ 'sər.sī /

Gk > L
paired appendages believed to be sensory situated at the tip of the abdomen in many insects.
The cerci on some insects are also modified limbs.

cerebellum

n
/ ,serə'beləm /

L
a large lower back part of the brain that is concerned especially with the coordination of muscles and the maintenance of equilibrium.
Sheila's vertigo results from damage to her cerebellum.

cerebral

cerebrate

v
/ 'serə.brāt /

L + Ecf
use the mind : think.
Sharon went to the library so that she could cerebrate without interruptions from her brothers.

cerebriform

ceremonious

ceremoniously

adv
/ ,serə'mōnēəslē /

Etruscan? > L
in an elaborate or punctilious manner.
Paul reached inside his coat pocket, drew out a small velvet box, and handed it ceremoniously to his girlfriend.

ceremony

ceriman

certain

certificate

certitude

cervine

cession

cetacean

n
/ sē'tāshən /

Gk > L
any of an order of aquatic mostly marine mammals including the whales, dolphins, porpoises, and related forms that have a tapered nearly hairless body, paddle-shaped forelimbs, no hind limbs, and a flattened tail.
Moby Dick is the most famous cetacean in American literature.

chablis

chafe

chairborne

adj
/ 'che(ə)r.bó(ə)rən /

Gk > L > F > E + E
assigned to a desk job : not serving in the field or in combat—used originally and especially of military officers.

After three years of being chairborne, Sandy decided to resign from the Marines.

chaise

chalcedony

chaldron

n
/ 'chöldrən /

F
a unit of measure for coal equal to 36 bushels or 25½ hundredweight.
Before 1963 in Great Britain, people were accustomed to ordering coal by the chaldron.

chalet

chalkography

challenging

chamade

chameleon

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

chameleonic

adj
/ kə.mə'lē'ānik /
Gk > L > F > E
like a chameleon in changeability; assuming varying hues.
The military hopes to develop chameleonic suits so soldiers can blend in with different backgrounds.

champion

adj
/'champēən /
Gmc > L > F > E
acknowledged as supreme over contestants or rivals.
Scott is the champion golfer in his age group at his country club.

chanceman

chancery

n
/'chan(t)s(ə)rē /
L > F > E
a record office for the collection, arrangement, and safekeeping of public archives and ecclesiastical, legal, or diplomatic proceedings.
The diocese requires that each pastor submit a financial report to the chancery at least once a year.

chandler

chandlery

n
/'chandlerē /
L > F > E + Ecf
a place where candles are kept.
The altar boy spent the afternoon reorganizing the chandlery.

changa

n
/'changə /
Sp
a large brown mole cricket.
The changa is a destructive pest to crops.

changer

chanoyu

n
/ chānō'yū /
Jpn
an elaborate Japanese tea ceremony.
Mariko performed the chanoyu for her guests with serene grace.

chaperonage

chapiter

chaplain

chapter

characin

charade

charades

n pl
/ shə'rādz /
Prov > F
a game in which a group is divided into two sides each alternately devising words represented in riddling verse or by pictures or dramatic action to be guessed by the other.
The dinner party was complemented by a most animated evening of charades.

charcuterie

n
/ (ˌ)shär.küdə'rē /
L > F
a delicatessen in France specializing in dressed meats and meat dishes (as cold cuts and sausages).
Lorraine stopped at the charcuterie and bought a smoked chicken for supper.

chard

chardonnay

charisma

n
/ kə'rizmə /
Gk
a personal magic of leadership arousing special popular loyalty or enthusiasm for a public figure.
John F. Kennedy is often named as a leader with charisma.

charismatic

adj
/ ,kärəz'madik /
Gk
of or relating to the religious movement that emphasizes the extraordinary power (as of healing) given a Christian by the Holy Spirit.
The charismatic movement in American religion began in the early 1960s, when a California minister announced to his congregation that he had been given the gift of tongues.

charitable

charitarian

Charleston

n
/'chärłztən /
US geog name
a ballroom dance in which the knees are twisted in and out and the heels are swung sharply outward on each step.
Jana has an old photograph of her great-grandmother doing the Charleston.

Charybdis

n
/ kə'ribdäs /
Gk > L
a destructive peril—usually used as the alternative to Scylla.
Whether to tell the truth or to lie is sometimes a choice between Scylla and Charybdis.

chasten

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chastise

v
/ 'chɑ:stɪz /
L > F > E

censure severely in an attempt to correct or improve.

Ms. Stanton protested a form of government that she believed gave a man the power to chastise and imprison his wife.

chastisement

n
/ chɑ:'stɪzmənt /
L > F > E

punishment.

Hazel's mother required her to spend an hour in her room as chastisement for disobeying.

chatelaine

n
/ 'ʃɑ:dəl.ən /
L > F

[has homonym: chatelain] an ornamental chain or clasp usually worn at a woman's waist to which trinkets, keys, a purse, or other articles are attached.

Melissa has an antique chatelaine that her great-grandmother used to hold her needle case, magnifying glass, and a small pair of scissors.

chaton

chatterbox

n
/ 'tʃɑ:də(r).bɑ:ks /
E

one who talks incessantly and idly.
Before the party, Alex had no idea that Serena was such a chatterbox.

chattering

v
/ 'tʃɑ:də(r)ɪŋ /
imit > E

uttering rapidly succeeding sounds somewhat like language but inarticulate and indistinct.

The squirrel was chattering furiously at the magpies who had stolen its food.

chauffeuse

chechia

n
/ 'ʃə:ʃɪ.jə /

Per geog name > Maghribi > F
a cylindrical brimless cap of Arab origin often having a tassel on the crown.

When Gordon arrived in Morocco, he was greeted by a tour guide wearing a red chechia.

checkered

cheddar

cheerful

adj
/ 'tʃɪr.fəl /
G? > L? > F > E
full of good spirits arising from a carefree attitude and a bright lively disposition.

Linda appeared relaxed and cheerful as she began skating for the judges.

chef

n
/ 'ʃef /
L > F > E

one skilled in food preparation who has charge of the kitchen and kitchen personnel in a large establishment (as a hotel or restaurant).

Before he became a famous television personality, Emeril Lagasse was a chef at several fine restaurants.

cheka

n
/ 'tʃɑ:(.)kə /
Russ

secret police (as of the former U.S.S.R.) having virtually unrestrained power over life and death.

The dissidents were detained and tortured for months by the cheka.

chela

n
/ 'kɛlə /
Gk

a pincerlike organ or claw borne by certain of the limbs of Crustacea and Arachnida.

Rush cracked open the lobster's chela and feasted on the meat inside.

chemical

chemise

chemisette

n
/ ,ʃemɛ'zɛt /
F
a woman's vestlike outer garment or undergarment.
For his wife's birthday present, Ted bought a silk chemisette embroidered with roses.

chemosphere

chemurgy

cherries

cherubic

chervil

chest

n
/ 'tʃɛst /
E

the part of the body enclosed by the ribs and breastbone.

Herman has a mole right in the middle of his chest.

chevalet

chevaline

chevon

n
/ 'ʃevən /
F + F > E

the flesh of the goat used as food.
To many inhabitants of the tropics, chevon is as palatable as mutton.

chevron

chewy

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chiack

chiaroscuro

n
/ .kɪərə'sk(y)ūrəst /
L > It
an artist who uses the arrangement or treatment of the light and dark parts in a pictorial work of art.
The chiaroscuroist deftly conveyed the mood in black and white.

chiaroscuro

chiasmus

n
/ kɪ'azməs /
Gk
the inversion of the order of syntactical elements in the second of two juxtaposed and syntactically parallel phrases or clauses.
Chiasmus is frequent in Greek and Latin poetry.

chic

chickaree

chief

chifforobe

chilblain

childishly

chiliast

chiliastic

adj
/ .kɪlɪ'astɪk /
Gk + Ecff
relating to belief in the millennium of Christian prophecy.
Leonard listened with interest to the fiery chiliastic sermon of the street preacher.

chinoiserie

n
/ .ʃɛn.wəz(ə)'rɛ /
F
a style in art (as in decoration) reflecting or felt to reflect Chinese artistic motifs.
Chinoiserie was popular in 18th-century English furniture design.

chippendale

adj
/ 'tʃɪpən.dāl /
E name
relating to a style of 18th century furniture.
Mrs. Davis planned to bid on the chippendale chair at the auction.

chipper

adj
/ 'tʃɪpə(r) /
E
being in high spirits : cheerful, sprightly.
Kyle has good reason to be chipper: His real estate business is thriving.

chirognomy

n
/ kɪ'rægnəmɛ /
Gk
the art or practice of reading a person's character or aptitudes and especially his past and possible future from the general character and shape of his hands and fingers and the lines, Mounts, and marks on the palms.
Heather read a pamphlet on chirognomy in preparation for her role as a palm reader at the fall festival.

chiromancer

chiromegaly

n
/ .kɪrə'megəlɛ /
Gk
abnormal increase in the size of the hands.
The distraught parents called the pediatrician with the claim that their daughter had a case of chiromegaly.

chiroplasty

n
/ 'kɪrəplastɛ /
Gk > L
plastic surgery of the hand.
Zeke was not looking forward to undergoing chiroplasty.

chiropody

n
/ kə'rɒpədə /
Gk
the care and treatment of the human foot in health and disease.
Dr. Griffin was the only practitioner of chiropody in the town.

chiropractor

n
/ 'kɪrəpraktər /
Gk + Gk + Ecff
a practitioner of a system of healing based upon the theory that disease results from a lack of normal nerve function and employing treatment by scientific manipulation and specific adjustment of body structures (as the spinal column).
Joanne scheduled a visit to the chiropractor after a flare-up of her back pain.

chirp

chirr

chistka

chitin

n
/ 'kɪtɪn /
Gk > F
[has homonym: chiton] a tough horny substance that makes up the bulk of the insect cuticle.
Chitin serves as a protection for an insect.

chloasma

n
/ klə'azmə /
Gk
a skin discoloration marked by yellowish brown pigmented patches or spots—called also “liver spots.”
Because conforming is important to small children, they have trouble ignoring things like chloasma.

chlore

chlorinator

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

chloroform

n
/ 'klɔrəfɔrm /
(Gk + L) > F
a colorless volatile heavy toxic liquid of ethereal odor and sweetish taste used chiefly as a solvent and especially formerly as a general anesthetic.
The comedian explained that his new perfume was made from a secret mixture of lanolin and chloroform.

chlorosis

n
/ klə'rɔsəs /
Gk
a diseased condition in chlorophyll-bearing plants manifested as the yellowing or blanching of the normally green parts due to causes other than the absence of light (as attacks of parasites or mineral deficiencies).
The philodendron in Cathy's kitchen exhibits an advanced stage of chlorosis.

chocolaty

adj
/ 'chəklədeɪ /
Nahuatl > Sp + Ecf
made of or like chocolate.
Simon enjoys the chocolaty flavor of his chicken mole.

chogset

choice

cholangitis

chondral

chopine

n
/ chɔ'pɛn /
Sp > F
a woman's shoe of the 16th and 17th centuries having a high often stiltlike sole to increase stature and protect the feet from mud and dirt.
While the chopine elevated a lady's stature, it often led to her downfall.

chord

chore

choreograph

v
/ 'kɔrɛəgrɑf /
Gk > F
compose dance movements and patterns (as for a ballet).
The famous dancer asked Balanchine to choreograph a special ballet for her.

choreutic

adj
/ kə'rɪdɪk /
Gk
of or belonging to a chorus.
There are many choreutic parts in the ballet The Nutcracker.

choriamb

chorine

n
/ 'kɔrɛn /
Gk
a young woman who sings or dances in the chorus of a theatrical production.
Lisa has the part of a chorine in the musical Funny Girl.

chose

chouette

n
/ shü'et /
F
a method of scoring by which more than two persons can participate in a two-handed game (as backgammon), one player accepting the bets of all other players on the result of a game between himself or herself and one other active player.
Bob and Jill used a chouette to include Carla and James in their game.

chrismatory

n
/ 'krɪzmə'tɔrɛ /
Gk > L > E
a vessel or a place in which consecrated oil is kept.
The museum's collection of religious relics included a 500-year-old chrismatory.

chromatin

n
/ 'krɔmətɪn /
Gk > ISV > G
the part of a cell nucleus that stains intensely with basic dyes.
The microbiologist stained the bacteria cells with various dyes to show the chromatin.

chromatosis

n
/ ,krɔmə'tɔsəs /
Gk
pigmentation; specifically : deposit of pigment in a normally unpigmented area or excessive pigmentation in a normally pigmented area.
The condition called "liver spots" is one kind of chromatosis.

chrome

chromometer

n
/ krɔ'mämədə(r) /
Gk
an apparatus for comparing the color of a substance with a standard especially to determine the degree of purity or percentage of a constituent.
The chromometer indicated that the gold was not pure enough for use in electronics.

chromophobe

chromosphere

n
/ 'krɔmə'sfi(ə)r /
Gk + Gk
the lower part of the atmosphere of the Sun that is thousands of miles thick and is composed predominantly of hydrogen gas.
The Sun's rosy color is a manifestation of the chromosphere.

chronicler

chronograph

n
/ 'kränəgrɑf /
Gk
an instrument for measuring time.
The chronograph in Dr. Jekyll's lab needs calibrating.

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

chronologize

v
/ krə'nälə,jīz /
Gk

arrange (as events or documents) in order of time.

As a history assignment, Mrs.

Griffin had the students

chronologize the events leading up to the Revolutionary War.

chrysoberyl

chrysochlorous

adj
/ .krīśə'klōrəs /
Gk

[has near homonym:

Chrysochloris] of the color golden green.

The chrysochlorous case suspended from the twig is the pupal stage of the monarch butterfly.

chrysography

chub

chubby

chuckle

chulo

chummage

chumming

chylocaulous

adj
/ .kīlə'kōləs /
Gk > G + Ecf

having fleshy or succulent stems.

Many desert plants are chylocaulous.

cicatrize

cichlid

ciconine

cilia

n pl
/ 'silēə /
L

[has near homonyms: coelia and sillier] hairlike processes found on many cells that are capable of vibratory movement and that serve as organs of locomotion.

The bacterium's cilia fluttered as it came into view under the microscope.

ciliary

adj
/ 'silē.ērē /
L + Ecf

of or relating to minute hairlike processes found on many cells.

Careful inspection revealed the microbe's movement was ciliary, not flagellary, in nature.

cimetidine

Cimmerian

adj
/ sə'mirēən /
Gk

[has near homonym: Sumerian] marked by intensity of darkness or gloom : stygian.

Gina's parents became concerned when she wanted her room to have a Cimmerian appearance.

cinctured

v
/ 'sɪŋ(k)chə(r)d /
L

girded, encircled.

The valley, cinctured with mountains, is home to about 25 families who lead a lifestyle reminiscent of yesteryear.

cinderella

n
/ .sɪndə'relə /
fairy tale name
one suddenly lifted often fortuitously from obscurity and neglect to honor and significance.
After its football team won the state championship in a huge upset, Fremont High became the school district's cinderella.

cinematheque

n
/ .sɪnəmə'tek /
Gk > F

[Note: Could be confused with cinematic.] a small movie theater specializing in avant-garde films.

The local cinematheque was showing a new French film last week.

cinophile

n
/ 'sɪnə'fɪl /
Gk > F

[has homonym: sinophile] a devotee of motion pictures.

The cinophile had mixed reactions to the latest Star Wars movie.

cinquain

cinque

n
/ 'sɪŋk /
L > F > E

[has homonym: sink] five; especially : the number five in dice or cards.

The highest card that Lou held was only a cinque of diamonds.

circa

prep
/ 'sɜrkə /
L

about, around.

The children enjoyed seeing the photographs of their grandparents taken circa 1940.

circline

circumflex

circumlunar

adj
/ .sɜrkəm'lünə(r) /
L + L

revolving about or surrounding the Moon.

Sailors say a circumlunar halo foretells rainy weather.

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

circumnavigate

v
/ ˌsɜrkəmˈnavəɡāt /
L

go or travel completely around (as the Earth) especially by water.
Magellan was the first explorer to circumnavigate the globe.

circus

circusiana

n pl
/ ˌsɜrkəsēˈānə /
L

materials or objects relating to circuses or circus life.
Maya's collection of circusiana fetched a surprisingly high price at auction.

cirque

n
/ ˈsɜrk /
L > F
a deep steep-walled basin high on a mountain usually shaped like half a bowl and often containing a small lake, caused especially by glacial erosion, and usually forming the blunt head of a valley.
Justine climbed down the cirque and set up camp.

cirrocumulus

cirrus

cispontine

cissoid

civics

n pl
/ ˈsiviks /
L
study of the workings of the national and local government especially as the subject of a secondary school course suited as training for citizenship.
Advanced students in Tim's school usually select the course in civics to fulfill the ninth grade history requirement.

civil

civilian

civility

n
/ səˈvilədē /
L > F > E
the state of being advanced in social culture.
Jubril's civility in accepting the policeman's apology for mistakenly tackling him was remarkable.

clairaudient

clairsentience

n
/ ˌkla(a)rˈsench(ē)ən(t)s /
L > F > E
perception of what is not normally perceptible.
Gert attributed her uncanny ability to tell when her mother was coming home to clairsentience.

clambake

n
/ ˈklam.bāk /
E + E
a social gathering where food is prepared and eaten outdoors; specifically : a seashore outing where edible mollusks and fish are cooked by dry heat (as on heated rocks covered by seaweed).
The children liked vacationing at the seashore, where they swam every day and had a clambake every night.

clamber

v
/ ˈklam(b)ə(r) /
E
move by or as if by catching hold with the hands and feet.
Simone watched her brother clamber up an incline as a warthog chased him.

clammy

clamorous

clamp

n
/ ˈklamp /
D? > E
any of various instruments or appliances having parts brought together as by a screw for holding or compressing something.
The toymaker used a clamp to hold the two halves of the yo-yo together while the glue dried.

clandestinely

adv
/ klanˈdestənlē /
L
in a manner marked by, held in, or conducted with secrecy and concealment.
The outlawed political group had to meet clandestinely in members' houses to avoid detection by the secret police.

clangorous

clapboard

clarain

clarification

n
/ ˌklarəfəˈkāshən /
L
the act or process of explaining clearly.
Bill's request for clarification of the test instructions was a familiar stalling tactic.

clarity

n
/ ˈklarədē /
L
the distinctness of shape, outline, or sound.
The voice had the warmth of a woodwind, the clarity of a trumpet, and the mystery of an English horn.

clarkeite

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

classicist

n
/ 'klasısəst /
L

one learned in the works of literature of ancient Greece or Rome : a classical scholar.
During the interview the publisher asked Kathy if she were a classicist.

classicistic

classification

n
/ .klasəfə'kāshən /
L > F

a system for the arrangement of books or other literary material according to subject or form.
The librarian used a chart to illustrate the decimal classification of books to the third-grade students.

clavecin

n
/ 'klavəsən /
L > F
harpsichord.

One of Henry's jobs at the historical museum is to play period pieces on a clavecin that belonged to Thomas Jefferson.

clavilux

clavis

claymore

cleanser

cleat

cleavability

clergy

n
/ 'klərjē /
F > E

a body of religious officials prepared and authorized to conduct religious services and attend to other religious duties.
Abby sought comfort and counsel from a member of the clergy.

clergyman

n
/ 'klərjəmən /
F > E + E

a member of those duly ordained to the service of God in the Christian church.
Sabrina resented the fact that she was often called a clergyman.

clerical

clerihew

n
/ 'klerəhyü /
E name

a light verse quatrain in lines usually of varying length, rhyming aabb, and making a statement usually concerning a person whose name typically supplies the initial rhyme.
The disc jockey composed a humorous clerihew for each of the presidential candidates.

client

climactic

climb

climber

clinical

clinometer

cliometrics

clipboard

clipping

cliquism

cllobber

clochard

clockwork

cloddiness

cloddish

cloth

clothes

cloudburst

n
/ 'klaüd.bərst /
E + E

a sudden copious rainfall as if a whole cloud had been precipitated at once.
Following the spectacular cloudburst, the stream overflowed and flooded the roadway.

cloven

adj
/ 'klōvən /
E

divided or split especially to a certain depth.
According to folklore, the devil cannot appear without his cloven feet.

clover

cloverleaf

n
/ 'klōvə(r).lēf /
E + E

an interchange between two major highways that allows traffic to change from one to the other without requiring any left turns or crossings.
The construction of the cloverleaf at I-295 and Cooper Road is scheduled for completion in August.

cloying

cloze

adj
/ 'klōz /
L > F > E
[has homonyms: clothes, close] of, relating to, or being a test of reading comprehension that involves having the person being tested supply words which have been systematically deleted from the text.
Madame DeFarge told the first-year French class that their final exam would consist mainly of cloze exercises.

coadunate

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

coagulability

n
/ kōagyələ'bilədē /

L
the quality or state of being capable of gathering together or forming into a mass or group.

Increased viscosity of the blood coupled with increased coagulability multiplies the risk of a stroke.

coagulum

coaptation

coarse

adj
/ 'kō(ə)rs /

E
[has homonym: course] roughly or crudely formed.

Modern coarse imitations lack the original fineness of authentic Navajo rugs.

coarsely

coati

n
/ kə'wädē /

Tupi > Pg
a mammal of tropical America that is related to the raccoon but with a longer body and tail and a long flexible snout.

When foraging, the coati often climbs trees for fruit.

coaxation

cobalt

n
/ 'kō.bōlt /

L > G
a hard magnetic silver-white metallic element.

Cobalt is essential as a trace element in animal and plant nutrition.

cobbler

n
/ 'käblə(r) /

E
a repairer or maker of shoes.
Milt's great-grandfather was a cobbler in Bavaria.

cobblestone

cocainize

cochlea

cockpit

cockroach

n
/ 'kä.krōch /

Sp
any of an order (Blattaria) of insects with long antennae and a flat, soft body.

The cockroach is one example of a highly adaptable insect which can be found all over the world.

cocksure

coctile

coda

coden

codger

codify

coefficient

coercible
adj
/ kō'ərsəbəl /

L + Ecf
capable of being restrained, controlled, or dominated.

Previously coercible, James has learned to ignore the threats of the class bullies.

coffeepot

coffer

cogency

cognosce

cognoscenti

coiffure

coincide

cokery

colander

colcannon

n
/ kəl'kanən /

IrGael
potatoes and cabbage or other greens boiled and mashed together.
Deirdre's mother serves a different meat every night of the week, but the side dish is always colcannon.

colectivo

coleopterist

coleopterous

adj
/ .kōlē'äptərəs /

Gk + Ecf
of or relating to a beetle.
Coleopterous insects usually have biting mouthparts and hard front wings that cover the membranous hind wings.

coleslaw

colicky

collaborate

collapse

collar

collarbone

collards

collation

collectanea

collector

collegiate

adj
/ kəl'ēj(ē)ət /

L
relevant to the life of college students often on the nonacademic side.

Students who participate in major collegiate sports usually have been outstanding high school athletes.

colliculate

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

collide

colligate

v
/ 'kälə,gāt /
L
[has near homonym: collocate]
bind, unite, or group together often according to a subsuming principle.
The lawyer attempted to colligate instances of the employer's unfair treatment of the workers.

colligation

collimate

collocate

v
/ 'kälə,kāt /
L
[has near homonym: colligate] set or arrange in a place or position; especially : set side by side.
The plan is to collocate the two satellite signal receivers to make data analysis easier.

colloquialism

colloquium

n
/ kə'lŏkwēəm /
L
a conference; specifically : a seminar that several lecturers take turns in leading.
Professor Dunnock participated in a colloquium on "The Role of the Mass Media in a Democratic Society."

collunarium

n
/ kälə'nə(a)rēəm /
L
a medicated solution for instillation into the nostrils as a wash or spray or as drops.
Steve knew that the collunarium would aid his stuffy nose, yet he refused to use it.

collutorium

n
/ kälə'tŏrēəm /
L
mouthwash.
Every few minutes the dental hygienist offered her patient a collutorium.

colobus

n
/ 'käləbəs /
Gk > L
any of a genus of slender long-tailed African monkeys.
In the colobus the thumb is either absent or greatly reduced in size.

colonial

colonnaded

adj
/ kälə'nādəd /
L > It > F
having a series of columns placed at regular intervals.
The colonnaded royal palace was the city's shining architectural jewel.

colony

n
/ 'kälənē /
L > F > E
a group of persons united by a common characteristic or interest living in a limited section surrounded by others not so united.
Members of the colony occasionally left the compound to purchase food, medicine, and fuel.

colored

colorfast

colorimeter

n
/ kälə'rīmədə(r) /
L + Gk
an instrument for determining and specifying colors by reference to other colors and giving results not independent of abnormalities in the observer's color vision.
A colorimeter and a spectrophotometer are actually quite different, although they both measure colors.

coloristic

colorless

adj
/ 'kələ(r)ləs /
L + Ecf
transparent and not distinguished by any hue.
Gary was able to list several colorless gases without much thought: nitrogen, carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide, and oxygen.

colossally

colossus

colt

colugo

n
/ kə'lügō /
Malay?
either of two arboreal nocturnal mammals that are about the size of a cat and that have a broad fold of skin extending from the neck to the tail on each side that forms a parachute used in making long sailing leaps.
The colugo lives in the rain forest and feeds on the leaves, buds, shoots, and flowers of trees.

comandancia

n
/ kāmən'danch(ē)ə /
Sp
a province or district under military control.
Soldiers patrolled the streets enforcing the curfew in the comandancia.

combination

combust

v
/ kəm'bəst /
L
cause to undergo any chemical process accompanied by the evolution of light and heat, being typically a vigorous union of substances with oxygen.
Sue's assignment was to combust hydrogen and estimate the resulting change in enthalpy.

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

combustible

comedian

n
/ kə'mēdēən /
Gk > F
[has homonym: comedienne] an actor who plays in dramas of light or amusing character and typically with a happy ending.
The comedian in the movie was played by an actor who was better known for his dramatic roles.

comedy

comestibles

n pl
/ kə'mestəbəlz /
L
items suitable to be eaten.
A wide variety of comestibles was on display at the gourmet shop.

comic

comity

commandeer

commemoration

n
/ kə.memə'rāshən /
L
something that calls to remembrance (as by speech, statue, or ceremony).
The city council voted to have a parade in commemoration of the city's 150th anniversary.

commemorative

commensal

adj
/ 'kə'men(t)səl /
L
of or relating to those who habitually eat together.
Having pizza on Friday night is a commensal tradition among Carrie and her friends.

comminatory

comminution

n
/ ,kämə'n(y)üshən /
L
gradual lessening by the removal of small particles at a time : wearing away.
Frost promotes the comminution of stone to small particles.

commiserative

commissariat

commissioner

n
/ kə'mish(ə)nə(r) /
L
the officer in charge of a department or bureau of the public service.
The police commissioner awarded the officer a medal for his heroic rescue of a child.

commissure

commit

committal

n
/ kə'mid·l /
L
the consignment or sentencing to confinement (as in a prison or mental hospital).
After hearing all the testimony, the judge decided that committal to a psychiatric hospital would be appropriate for the defendant.

committee

commodiously

commodities

commodity

commodore

communard

n
/ 'kämyə.närd /
F
an adherent of a principle or system of organization in which the major social or political units are local self-governing communities.
A communard is an individual who wishes for an extreme development of local government.

communiqué

commutator

comoid

compact

adj
/ kəm'pakt /
L > E
suggesting firmness, soundness, and a degree of strength.
The bulldog's compact frame contrasts sharply with the greyhound's lanky build.

companionship

company

n
/ 'kəmp(ə)nē /
L > F > E
an organization of performers.
The Dance Theater of Harlem is a famous modern dance company.

comparability

comparison

compass

compathy

compensation

compensatory

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

competitive

adj
/ kəm'pedədɪv /
L
of or relating to a contest between rivals.
The competitive spirit of the two musicians rings loud and clear when they play the tune "Dueling Banjos."

complacency

complaint

n
/ kəm'plānt /
F > E
the act or action of expressing protest, censure, or resentment.
The employees' major complaint was that their work hours were not flexible enough.

complaisant

complementary

adj
/ ,kæmplə'mentərē /
L
[has homonym: complimentary]
supplementing and being supplemented in return.
Susan and Stuart's complementary talents of artistry and business acumen made their boutique a success.

complex

adj
/ kām'pleks /
L
having many varied interrelated parts, patterns, or elements and consequently hard to understand.
Caroline brought an unbelievably complex camera on the trip and was forever changing lenses.

complexus

compliance

complicated

adj
/ 'kæmpləkəd /
L + Ecf
complex : not simple to fabricate or comprehend.
Mary's piano teacher assigned her a complicated piece and asked her to master the first page before the next lesson.

complicity

n
/ kəm'plɪsəd /
L
association or participation in or as if in guilt.
The complicity between the two thieves goes back to their early shoplifting escapades.

compliment

comply

composite

composition

compost

composure

compotator

compound

n
/ 'kæmpaʊnd /
L > F > E
a large fenced or walled-in area (as in a prison or detention camp).
POWs wandered around the compound, hoping and praying for rescue.

comprehensive

compressed

adj
/ kəm'prest /
L > E + Ecf
condensed : reduced in volume by pressure.
Carolyn filled her scuba tanks with compressed air.

comprimario

compromise

compulsion

n
/ kəm'pʊlʃən /
L
a driving by force, power, pressure, or necessity.
Jake was acting under compulsion, not on his own free will.

computable

concealment

conceited

adj
/ kən'sēdəd /
E + Ecf
entertaining an excessively or unjustifiably high opinion of oneself.
Dennis is so conceited that he would rather have stones thrown at him than not be noticed.

conceitedness

n
/ kən'sēdəd'nəs /
E
the quality or state of entertaining an excessively or unjustifiably high opinion of oneself.
The diva had trouble with her fellow singers because of her boundless conceitedness.

conceive

v
/ kən'sēv /
L > F > E
form in the mind.
Alec tried to conceive a solution to his problem but couldn't think of anything.

concentus

conceptual

conceptualize

v
/ kən'sepchə(wə).lɪz /
L
form a thought, idea, or notion of.
Nowadays it is difficult to conceptualize a world without telephones.

concert

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

conchetto

conche

conchoidal

conchology

concise

conclave

n
/ 'kän.kläv /
L > F > E

the body of cardinals especially when considered in respect to their electoral function.

A puff of white smoke signified that the conclave had elected the new pope.

conclude

v
/ kən'klüd /
L > E

reach a final determination or judgment about.

The numbers forced Nina to conclude that she should close up shop.

concur

condensation

n
/ .kän.den'sāshən /
L

transition of a substance from the vapor to the liquid phase.

Raindrops are formed by the condensation of water vapor onto specks of dust.

condense

v
/ kən'den(t)s /
L

undergo transition from the vapor to the liquid phase.

When molecules condense, they lose some of their kinetic energy.

condensed

condescendent

condolences

n pl
/ kən'dōlən(t)s /
L > F

expressions of sympathy with another in sorrow or grief.

At the funeral, Rafael offered his condolences to the Martinez family.

condominium

conduct

conelrad

confectioner

confer

conference

conferred

v
/ kən'fərd /
L

held conversation on important, difficult, or complex matters : consulted, deliberated.

The referees conferred for a few minutes and then rendered a decision that was unpopular with the home team.

confess

v
/ kən'fes /
L > F > E

acknowledge (one's sins) especially to God or a priest in order to receive forgiveness.

In the Hitchcock movie I Confess, a frightened murderer is moved to confess his sin to a priest, who cannot break the sanctity of the confessional.

confession

confide

confidence

n
/ 'känfədən(t)s /
L

a relation or state of trust between persons who confide in each other.

When the entire class knew of her crush on Wes, Emily regretted having taken Jane into her confidence.

confident

configure

confined

confirmable

confiscatory

conflict

confrere

n
/ kō'fr(ə)r /
L > F > E

colleague : a fellow worker (as in a profession or in a field of study).

Fran's study is so specialized that the nearest confrere in her field is halfway across the country.

congelation

n
/ .kän.jə'lāshən /
L

the action or process of alteration (as by freezing) from a fluid to a solid or semisolid state.

Ice is the result of the congelation of water.

congelative

congelifract

congeniality

n
/ kən.jēnē'alədē /
L

affinity of spirit or temperament : mutual agreeableness.

Captain Schreiner fostered a spirit of congeniality between the officers and the enlisted men.

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

congestion

n
/ kən'jes(h)chən /
L > F
clogging.

Byron decided to be tested for allergies after years of suffering with nasal congestion.

conglutinant

adj
/ kən'glüt'nənt /
L
causing to adhere.

Used chewing gum was the conglutinant substance that held the papers together.

congratulations

n pl
/ kən.grachə'lāshənz /
L
expressions of sympathetic pleasure.

In a 1783 address to Congress, General George Washington offered his congratulations on the departure of British troops from American soil.

congregation

n
/ kəŋgrə'gāshən /
L > F > E
an assembly of persons : gathering; especially : an assembly of persons met for the worship of God and for religious instruction.
The pastor asked the congregation to support the upcoming blood drive.

conical

conjecture

v
/ kən'jekchə(r) /
L > F > E
form opinions concerning on grounds confessedly insufficient for certain conclusions.
His fellow workers would often conjecture playfully about the cause of Lou's frequent tardiness.

conjugate

adj
/ 'känjəgət /
L
yoked or joined together especially in pairs : acting as if joined.
In mathematics and physics, problems usually have conjugate solutions.

conjugation

conjunction
n
/ kən'jəŋ(k)shən /
L
a configuration in which two celestial bodies have their least apparent separation.
Some New Age doomsayers predict a calamity when Earth and Mars come into conjunction.

conjunctivitis

n
/ kən.jəŋ(k)tə'vidəs /
L
inflammation of the mucous membrane that lines the inner surface of the eyelids.
In common parlance, conjunctivitis is known as "pinkeye."

conjure

v
/ 'känjər /
L
invent, contrive.
Tony will rely on Jason to conjure up a reason for both of them to leave class early.

conjury

connective

adj
/ kə'nektiv /
L
tending to join, fasten, or link together, usually by means of something intervening.
Ducks have a connective membrane on their feet that enables them to swim very quickly.

conniption

n
/ kə'nipshən /
unknown
a fit of rage, hysteria, or alarm.
Dad had a conniption when he discovered that someone had stolen the radio from his car.

connive

connotations

n pl
/ .känə'tāshənz /
L
things implied or suggested by a word or sometimes by a thing : implications.
Calling Carl's behavior juvenile had negative connotations for him.

consanguineous

adj
/ .känsaŋ'gwinēəs /
L
descended from the same person (as a father) or the same ancestor.
Although Ron and Bill have different mothers, they have the same father, and are therefore consanguineous.

consent

n
/ kən'sent /
L
compliance or approval especially of what is done or proposed by another : permission.
The group assembled to protest against a form of government existing without the consent of the governed.

consequently

adv
/ 'kän(t)sə'kwentlē /
L
as a result.
The verbs founder and flounder are often confused and consequently misused.

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

consider

v
/ kən'sidə(r) /
L > F > E
think about with a degree of care or caution.

Had Vince taken time to consider the consequences of his behavior, he would have acted differently.

consideration

consigned

consilient

adj
/ kən'silyənt /
L
in accord with a set of inductive laws of distinct derivation.
The biologist Edward O. Wilson argues that natural sciences and social sciences are consilient in the study of human evolution.

consist

consistency

consolation

consolatory

adj
/ kən'sɒlə.tɔːrē /
L
designed or intended to bring comfort and solace.
The fireman offered a few consolatory remarks before rescuing Ann's kitten from the tree.

consolidate

consolidator

consonant

consort

n
/ 'kən.sɔːrt /
L
one that shares the company of another, as a wife or husband.
The queen attended the festival with her consort, Prince Reginald.

conspirator

conspirators

consternation

n
/ kənz'tɛ(r)'nāshən /
L
grievous exasperation or distraction.
The two, father and son, stared at each other in consternation, and neither knew what to do.

constituency

n
/ kənz'tichəwənsē /
L > F
a body of citizens or voters that is entitled to elect a representative to a legislature or other public body.
The representative asked his constituency for opinions on the issue.

constrictor

consul

consume

contagion

n
/ kən'tājən /
L
the process by which disease is transmitted from one person to another by direct or indirect means.
Frequent hand washing has been found to be effective in disrupting the contagion of the common cold.

contagiosity

containing

contaminant

contemplated

contemporary

contemptuous

contemptuously

contention

contentious

context

continent

contingency

continual

contortion

n
/ kən'tɔːrshən /
L
a twisting into abnormal or grotesque shape.
When the demon appeared on stage, the hero assumed a position of painful contortion.

contradict

contradictory

contrapposto

contrecoup

contrive

v
/ kən'trɪv /
L > F > E
devise, plan, plot.
Nona tried to contrive a valid excuse for her absence but finally admitted she had overslept.

controlled

controversial

contumelious

contumely

n
/ kən't(y)üməlē /
L > F > E
the suffering of insult : humiliation.
Dan's ability to ignore insults gave him an endless capacity for bearing contumely.

conundrum

convalesce

v
/ kənvə'les /
L
recover health and strength gradually after sickness or weakness.
Mrs. Davis is going to convalesce at her son's house.

conventionally

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

converge

convince

convoluted

adj

/ kənvə'li:dəd /

L

complicated and involved.

Stuart's convoluted blackjack system is so difficult as to be useless.

convulsively

adv

/ kən'vʌlsəvlē /

L

in a manner producing or accompanied by an unnatural, violent, and involuntary contraction or series of contractions of the muscles.

As Edna listened to the details of her son's accident, she dropped into a chair and sobbed convulsively.

coolant

cooper

n

/ 'küpə(r) /

D or G > E

a maker or repairer of wooden casks or tubs.

Ned watched a cooper making barrels at Sturbridge Village.

coparcener

n

/ kō'pɑrsənər /

L + L > F

a joint heir.

In accordance with the will, each coparcener is to receive an equal amount from the sale of the parents' property.

copolymer

coppice

copyist

n

/ 'kəpēəst /

L > F

one who is employed to make copies.

Four hundred years ago, one might have had to hire a copyist in order to obtain sheet music.

coquettish

coquillage

coquille

n

/ kō'kil /

F

a shell-like dish in which food is served.

Emily baked the scallops in a coquille.

coral

adj

/ 'kōrəl /

Gk > L > F > E

[has homonym: choral] of a strong pink color that has a hint of dark yellow.

The seashell, coral when wet, was almost white after it dried.

coralene

cordage

cordate

cordial

cordovan

n

/ 'kō(r)dəvən /

Sp geog name

a variable color averaging a dark grayish red.

The cordovan of Kathy's purse does not match the cordovan of her penny loafers.

coreopsis

n

/ .kōrē'äpsəs /

Gk + Gk

a plant of a genus of herbs which have showy flower heads with bracts in two distinct series of eight each.

The name coreopsis means "bug-appearance" and refers to the bug-like shape of the plant's seed.

cornerstone

cornhusking

corolla

corona

n

/ kə'rōnə /

L

something suggesting a crown.

Perhaps the lampshade's gold color and frilly edges made Roald imagine that it was a corona.

coronal

adj

/ kə'rōnəl /

L

[has homonym: coronel] of or relating to a corona or crown.

The king had to swear a coronal oath which required his assent to the laws passed in parliament.

coronation

n

/ .kōrə'nāshən /

L

the ceremony of investing a sovereign or consort with the royal crown.

The prince and his consort rode to their coronation in a gilded carriage.

corporal

corporeity

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

corps

n
/ 'kɔ(ə)r /
L

[has homonyms: cor, core, kor] the ensemble or chorus of a ballet company as distinguished from soloists and principals.

Even the most famous ballerinas have spent some time as members of the corps.

corpuscles

corrade

correct

correlate

correlation

correspondence

corrigendum

corroboration

n
/ kəˈrəbəˈrəʃən /
L

evidence that confirms the truth of something.

Two witnesses provided corroboration of the suspect's alibi.

corrode

v
/ kəˈrɒd /
L

undergo a gradual wearing away or alteration by a chemical or electrochemical essentially oxidizing process.

The picture of a harbor in Sandy's book was accompanied by an explanation of how ship hulls corrode.

corrodible

adj
/ kəˈrɒdəbəl /
L + Ecf

capable of being worn away or converted into an easily disintegrated substance.

Lemon juice should not be stored in a corrodible container.

corrosive

corte

cortege

n
/ kɔrˈteʒ /
L > It > F

a procession of mourners at a funeral.

Representatives of various charities the princess had supported made up her official cortege.

corticoid

coruscated

v
/ ˈkɔr.əskətəd /
L

gleamed with intermittent flashes : glittered, sparkled.

The leaves shimmered and the grass coruscated in the early morning sunlight.

corydora

cosmetic

cosmetologist

n
/ ˌkɔzməˈtɒləjəst /
Gk

one who gives beauty treatments (as to skin and hair).

Mrs. Shelton worked for 22 years as a cosmetologist at Belk's Department Store.

cosmic

adj
/ ˈkɔzmik /
Gk

of, from, or relating to the extraterrestrial vastness in contrast to Earth alone.

In his spare time Steven likes to read science fiction tales of cosmic exploration.

cosmozoic

cossette

n
/ kəˈset /
F

[has homonyms: cassette, cosset] a strip or slice (as of sugar beet or potato) : chip.

Each cossette was dropped in very hot fat for browning and then moved to a lower temperature for final cooking.

costliness

costume

n
/ ˈkɔ.st(y)üm /
L > It > F

the distinctive dress of a particular period, locality, or occupation worn in the drama or for festivals.

During the intermission the tenor had to change into another costume.

costumery

cotehardie

cottage

cottonseed

couac

couchette

coulomb

n
/ ˈkü.läm /
F name

the practical meter-kilogram-second unit of electric charge equal to the quantity of electricity transferred by a current of 1 ampere in 1 second.

Jenna found that 1 coulomb of electricity changed the potential between two plates of a capacitor by 1 volt.

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

coulombs

n pl
/ 'kü.lämz /
F name
units of electric charge equal to the quantity of electricity transferred by a current of one ampere in one second.
An ordinary flashlight battery delivers a current that provides a total charge flow of approximately 5,000 coulombs.

council

counselee

counterfeiter

n
/ 'kaüntə(r).fidə(r) /
L > F > E
one that forges or makes fraudulent imitations of current money.
Special paper, ink, and watermarks are used for making currency to foil the counterfeiter.

counterinsurgency

counterpoise

counterspy

country

countryfolk

coupe

coupling

courage

n
/ 'kərij /
L > F > E
mental or moral strength enabling one to venture, persevere, and withstand danger, fear, or difficulty firmly and resolutely.
The boys argued about whether the crocodile hunter showed true courage or just foolhardiness.

courageous

courser

n
/ 'kōrsər /
F > E
[has homonym: coarser] a swift or spirited horse : war-horse.
The foaming courser threw his rider headlong to the ground.

courtesy

courtier

n
/ 'kōrdēər /
F > E
a gentleman attendant of a sovereign's residence or establishment.
Travis will perform the part of the king's courtier in the play.

courtliness

courtly

adj
/ 'kōrtlē /
L > F > E
marked by highbred polish, stateliness, and ceremony.
Lord Darnley removed his feathered hat and addressed the queen with a courtly bow.

coutil

couturier

couturiere

n
/ kü'türē.e(ə)r /
F
[Note: Could be confused with unisex couturier.] a female proprietor of or designer for an establishment engaged in designing, making, and selling fashionable expensive custom-made women's clothing.
The couturiere Coco Chanel is considered by many to be the 20th century's single most important arbiter of fashion.

couvade

coverlet

n
/ 'kəvə(r)lēt /
L > F > E
a bedspread sometimes quilted or of heavy material.
Kasey drew the coverlet up to her neck to seek relief in the drafty room.

covert

covet

covetous

covinous

cowardly

cowed

v
/ 'kaüd /
E
intimidated with threats, show of strength, or impressiveness : spirited into inactivity or submission.
The cowed convicts did not dare to antagonize the vengeful guards.

cowhide

cowl

n
/ 'kaül /
Celt? > L > E
a hood especially of a monk.
At the monastery Sheila was greeted by a man wearing the long brown robe and cowl of a friar.

cowling

cozen

cozening

crabby

adj
/ 'krabē /
E
cross, churlish, ill-natured.
The crabby driver did not allow any talking on the school bus.

crackleware

cracknel

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

cradled

craftiness

craftsman

crag

n
/ 'krag /
Celt > E

a rough broken cliff or projecting point of rock.

A favorite children's movie begins and ends with the king of beasts standing on a crag, overlooking his kingdom.

crambo

cranberry

cranially

cranoscopy

n
/ .krānē'āskəpē /
Gk > L + Gk > L
observations on or examination of the human skull.
The team's physician advised a cranoscopy for the batter who had been beamed by a wild pitch.

cranium

n
/ 'krānēəm /
Gk > L
the part of the skull that encloses the brain.
The carelessly tossed book encountered Zelda's cranium with a thud.

crassitude

crater

n
/ 'krādə(r) /
Gk
any of thousands of formations on the lunar surface ranging in size from small pocks less than a mile in diameter to walled plains nearly 150 miles across.
Buzz set down the lunar lander just beyond the rim of a huge crater.

cratered

cravat

n
/ krə'vat /
G or Serbo-Croatian > F
a band or scarf of fine cloth worn around the neck : necktie.
The flamboyant poet showed up for the interview wearing a cravat over a tie-dyed T-shirt.

crayon

creaking

creamery

credence

creditable

creditor

credo

n
/ 'krē(,)dō /
L
a confession of faith said or sung in Christian liturgies.
Bach's B Minor Mass contains a famous credo.

creedmore

creepage

n
/ 'krēpij /
E
the slow spreading or movement of a substance.
The creepage of rust across the bumper betrayed the car's age.

crenature

crepitate

crept

v
/ 'krept /
E
entered stealthily and secretly.
Mary crept softly across the room to look.

crestfallen

adj
/ 'krest.fələn /
L > F > E + E
marked by a sense of personal defeat : dispirited, dejected.
Margaret was crestfallen when she got only a C on her essay.

cretify

cretin

crevice

n
/ 'krevəs /
L > F > E
a narrow opening of some depth caused especially by a split.
The hiker's compass fell into a crevice in the rock and will probably never be seen again.

crew

cricket

n
/ 'krikət /
F imit
any of certain leaping insects that are also noted for the chirping notes produced by the males.
The male cricket produces sound by rubbing together parts of the fore wings.

crickety

criminal

criminologist

n
/ .krimə'näləjəst /
L
one that specializes in the scientific study of crime as a social phenomenon, of criminal investigation, of criminals, and of penal treatment.
Nicole asked her guidance counselor if she needed an advanced degree to be a criminologist.

crinal

crinet

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

cringing

adj
/ 'krinjɪŋ /
E

that shrinks in fear or servility.
Cringing at the sight of the bear in the distance, the children gathered their courage and backed slowly toward their car.

crinkle

crinkly

criollo

n
/ krē'ōl(y)ō /
Sp

[Note: Could be confused with feminine form criolla.] a person of pure Spanish descent born in Spanish America.
The anthropologist noted in her report that only one criollo answered her genealogical survey.

crispation

n
/ kri'spāshən /
L + Ecf

the act or process of curling : the state of being curled.
Al pointed out the crispation of the leaves on the infested plant.

crisscross

criterion

crith

n
/ 'krɪθ /
Gk
the weight of a liter of hydrogen at 0 degrees Celsius and 760 millimeters pressure (0.08987 gram).
As a unit of mass, the crith was a precursor to the mole.

crocheted

crocheter

crocodile

crocodilian

adj
/ ,kräkə'dilēən /
Gk > L
false, insincere.
Claire's crocodilian grief over the death of her brother's pet snake did not fool anyone.

crocuses

n pl
/ 'krōkəsəz /
Semitic > Gk > L
bulbs, plants, or flowers of the genus *Crocus*.
Crocuses were peeking through the snow in the Goulds' yard.

crooked

croquembouche

n
/ krōkə'būsh /
F
a cone-shaped stack of cream puffs coated with caramelized sugar.
A croquembouche is a traditional type of French wedding cake.

crossbow

n
/ 'krɒs.bɔ /
E
a weapon having a short bow mounted crosswise that fires an arrow lying in a groove in the stock.
The crossbow was a particular favorite of the weaponsmaster.

crosswind

n
/ 'krɒs.wɪnd /
ON or Old Ir > E + E
a wind blowing in any direction not parallel to a course.
A strong crosswind made it difficult for Carla to land her Cessna 150.

crotalic

crotalid

adj
/ 'krɒd'ɪləd /
Gk > L
typical of a pit viper.
Crotalid venom, while not usually fatal, can cause severe discomfort.

croupon

crowd

n
/ 'kraʊd /
E
a large number of persons especially when collected into a somewhat compact body without order : throng.
The crowd on the football field chanted, "We're number one!"

crucially

cruciform

adj
/ 'krʊsəfɔrm /
L + Ecf
forming or arranged in a cross.
The cruciform blossom of the dogwood has inspired a well-known legend.

cruciverbalist

n
/ krʊsəvərbələst /
L
a person skillful in creating or solving crossword puzzles.
Angela was named Cruciverbalist of the Month by her crossword club.

cruel

adj
/ 'krʊəl /
L > F > E
[has homonym: crewel] stern, rigorous, and grim.
The cruel reality is that Justin will be expelled for his wrongdoing regardless of how remorseful he is.

cruelly

cruise

crumpet

n
/ 'kræmpət /
E?
a small round cake made of rich unsweetened batter cooked on a griddle and usually served split and toasted.
Pierre thinks no English crumpet can hold a candle to a delicious French croissant.

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

crushable

crutch

cryogenics

cryonics

n pl
/ krī'āniks /
Gk

the practice of freezing a dead diseased human being in hopes of restoring life at some future time when a cure for the disease has been developed.

The premise of Rudolph's movie script involved an experiment in cryonics gone awry.

crypt

cryptanalysis

n
/ .kriptə'naləsəs /
Gk

the theory of solving writing that is in cipher or code : the art of devising methods for such solving.
Through cryptanalysis the Allies were able to decode the enemy's secret messages.

cryptogenic

cryptophyte

crystallize

ctetology

cub

n
/ 'kəb /
unknown

a young person; especially : an awkward or ill-mannered boy.
Mr. Downes called every student that passed through his classroom a "young cub."

cubature

cubit

n
/ 'kyübət /
L

any of various ancient units of length based on the length of the forearm from the elbow to the tip of the middle finger and usually equal to about 18 inches.
Helen couldn't understand why more things weren't measured by the cubit, since it was a readily available measure.

cubomancy

cucumber

cuerva

n
/ 'kwɜrdə /
Gk > L > Sp
a Puerto Rican unit of land measure equal to 0.97 acre.
Raul farmed a small patch of land—less than a cuerva—during the off season.

cuisine

n
/ kwə'zēn /
L > F
manner of preparing food : style of cooking.
Jackie traveled to Lyons to take a two-week course in French cuisine.

culicide

n
/ 'kyüləsīd /
L

a substance that destroys mosquitoes.
The town's inhabitants were advised to stay indoors for two hours after the culicide was sprayed.

culicidologist

culottes

n pl
/ 'k(y)ü.läts /
F
a garment having a divided skirt.
When bell-bottom jeans came back into style, Janine was afraid that culottes would, too.

culpability

culver

culvert

n
/ 'kəlvə(r)t /
unknown
a transverse waterway (as under a road, railroad, or canal).
Gina's cat ran from the dog and hid in the culvert for several hours.

culvertage

cumulocirrus

n
/ .kyümüə(,)lō'sirəs /
L
a small billowy cloud form found at high altitudes and characterized by a white delicacy.
Denny's plane flew through a cumulocirrus that looked just like cotton candy.

cuneate

adj
/ 'kyünē.āt /
L
shaped like a wedge : narrowly triangular with the acute angle toward the base.
The forest floor was a strange mix of pine needles and cuneate leaves.

cunette

cunning

cupcake

cupola

curarize

curassow

curette

curia

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

curie

n
/ 'kyūrē /
F name
a unit of radioactivity equal to 37 billion disintegrations per second.
While studying nuclear engineering, Melissa learned to use the curie to quantify radioactive decay.

curiosity

n
/ ,kyūrē'āsədē /
L
a desire to know.
The locked box aroused immense curiosity in Maxine.

curmudgeonly

curricule

cursorial

adj
/ ,kər'sōrēəl /
L
having limbs adapted to running.
Horses, zebras, and other members of the genus Equus are cursorial mammals.

curtail

v
/ ,kər'tāl /
L > F > E
shorten in duration or scope :
abridge, reduce.
The students were warned their grades would be affected if they didn't curtail their extracurricular activities.

cushioned

v
/ 'kūshənd /
L > F > E
provided or equipped with a pad or pads.
Gil and Terry cushioned the hard wooden train seats with their coats.

cuticolor

cutigeral

adj
/ kyū'tijərəl /
L + L
bearing skin.
Starbuck was limping because of the infection in the cutigeral cavity of his left front hoof.

cutlery

cyanide

n
/ 'sīənīd /
Gk + ISVcf
a compound of cyanogen usually with a more electropositive element or radical.
Ions of cyanide are extremely toxic because they bind almost irreversibly with cytochrome oxidase, a key enzyme in metabolic processes.

cyanophilous

cyclamate

cyclometer

n
/ sī'klāmədə(r) /
Gk + Gk
a contrivance for recording the revolutions of a wheel and often used for registering distance traversed by a wheeled vehicle.
Just for fun, Chris attached a cyclometer to his daughter's tricycle.

cyclorama

n
/ ,sīklə'rāmə /
Gk + Gk
a curved curtain or wall used as a background of a stage set to suggest unlimited space.
The cyclorama provided the illusion of being in a huge ballroom.

cyclothymia

cymbal

n
/ 'sɪmbəl /
Gk > L > F > E
[has homonym: symbol] a large concave brass plate producing a brilliant clashing tone of indefinite pitch.
The percussionist grimaced after he struck the cymbal at the wrong time.

cymbalist

cymbiform

adj
/ 'sɪmbəfɔrm /
Gk > L + Lcf
boat-shaped.
While discussing the skeletal system, Mr. Gray called the students' attention to a small cymbiform bone in the wrist.

cynical

cynicism

n
/ 'sɪnəsɪzəm /
Gk
the quality or state of being prone to faultfinding.
Tom's cynicism has become tiresome to all his friends.

cynodont

cyrillic

adj
/ sə'rɪlɪk /
Slavic name
constituting or written in the alphabet used for Russian and many other Slavic languages.
Sven puzzled over the cyrillic writing on the Moscow subway station sign.

cytologist

cytolysis

n
/ sɪ'tələsəs /
Gk
the dissolution or disintegration of cells.
The researchers experimented with various chemicals to bring about the cytolysis of tumor cells.

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cytoplasm

dabbing

dabblingly

dactyl

dactylic

adj
/ dak'tilik /
Gk

of or consisting of a metrical foot of three syllables, the first being stressed and the last two being unstressed.

Homer's two epics are written in dactylic meter.

dactylon

n
/ dak'tilēän /
Gk

the tip of the middle finger.

As Ruth was restitching a seam, she ran the sewing machine needle through the dactylon of her left hand.

daft

dagger

daguerreotypes

n pl
/ də'gerətīps /
F name + Gk > F

photographs produced on a silver plate or silver-covered copper plate.

Ike treasured the daguerreotypes of his great grandparents.

dailiness

dainty

dairy

Dallas

adj
/ 'daləs /

Am geog name
of or from the city of Dallas, Texas.
Sue could not find a winter parka in any of the Dallas stores.

Daltonism

n
/ 'dɒlt'nɪzəm /
E name

red-green color blindness, named after John Dalton, who first detailed a description of color blindness from which he and his brother suffered.

Danny's parents didn't realize that he suffered from Daltonism until he attended pre-school.

damascened

adj
/ 'daməsēnd /

Syrian geog name > Gk > L
decorated with inlaid work of precious metals.

Francine admired the delicate scrollwork on the damascened chest in the Museum of Decorative Arts.

dampproof

damson

danceable

adj
/ 'dan(t)səbəl /
L? > F > E + Ecf
suitable for dancing.

When a danceable song began playing, Lars asked Anita if she knew how to waltz.

dandruff

dandruffy

dank

dansant

n
/ də'sänt /
L? > F

an informal or small dance.

Sally's friends held a dansant in her honor before her departure for China.

Daphnean

adj
/ 'dɒfnēən /
Gk

shy, bashful.

Sally's Daphnean personality causes her to look away from the camera whenever her picture is being taken.

dapperling

darcy

n
/ 'därsē /
F name

a unit of porous permeability in physics.

Geologists use the darcy as a measure of how easily water will permeate a given type of rock.

daresay

Darjeeling

n
/ dār'jēliŋ /
Beng geog name

high quality tea grown especially in northern India.

Anthony's mother always purchased her Darjeeling from an importer in Chicago.

darken

darkle

v
/ 'därkəl /
E

grow dark : fade into darkness.

Agnes watched the last bright-colored daylight darkle slowly against the hills.

darkness

n
/ 'därknəs /
E

the absence in whole or in part of light.

Mia fumbled in the darkness of the cave to replace the failing flashlight batteries with new ones.

darnel

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

dasyure

n
/ 'dasē.yü(ə)r /
Gk > L

an arboreal carnivorous marsupial of Australia and Tasmania that somewhat resembles a weasel.
The spotted-tailed dasyure is commonly known in Australia as the tiger cat.

dative

adj
/ 'dādiv /
L

of chemical bonds : formed by contribution of a pair of electrons by one atom.
Although the properties of a dative bond do not differ from those of a normal covalent bond, in which each atom contributes an electron, the distinction is useful for keeping track of valence electrons.

daubster

daughter

daven

v
/ 'dävən /
Yiddish

recite the prescribed prayers in the daily and festival Jewish liturgies.
Shmuel watched his father daven and tried to copy him exactly.

davenport

davit

dawn

v
/ 'dön /
E

begin to grow light in the morning.
Every night Delia thanked God for her good fortune and prayed that she be able to watch the next day dawn.

dawned

daze

dazzlement

n
/ 'dazəlmənt /
ON > E

the action of impressing or exciting admiration by being brilliant and splendid.
The dazzlement of the Paris fashion show left Suzette speechless and wide-eyed.

deadline

deaceration

n
/ .dēa(ə)'rāshən /
L + Gk > L

the act or process of removing air or gas (as oxygen) from something.
The packaging company reduces the volume of powders by deaceration before they are put into bags.

dealkalize

deathin

deathwatch

debauch

debellation

n
/ .dābə'lād.ē.ō /
L

complete subjugation of a belligerent nation usually involving loss of sovereignty.
The Punic Wars ended with the Roman debellatio of Carthage.

debellation

debilitate

debilitated

v
/ dā'bīlə.tād.ād /
L

impaired the strength of : weakened, enfeebled.
Disease had so debilitated Kate's sister that she required constant care in a nursing home.

debouchure

debt

debtor

deburr

decadal

decadence

n
/ 'dekədən(t)s /
L

[has homonym: decadents] the quality or state of being marked by decay or decline (as from an earlier condition of excellence or vitality).
The family mansion's decadence is an embarrassment to Clarissa.

decahydrate

decalage

decalcomania

n
/ (.)dē.kalkə'mānēə /
L > F + Gk > L > F

the art or process of transferring pictures and designs typically from specially prepared paper to china, glass, or marble and permanently fixing them thereto.

Most tourist centers use decalcomania to turn cheap china and glass into expensive souvenirs.

decamerous

adj
/ dā'kamərəs /
Gk + Gk

having ten parts or divisions—usually used of a flower.

Nelson chose only decamerous flowers for his girlfriend's bouquet.

decapitation

decathlon

n
/ dā'kath.län /
Gk

a ten-event athletic contest.

The motivational speaker Bruce Jenner is famous for having won a gold medal in the 1976 Olympic Games decathlon.

deceased

decency

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

decennary

n
/ də'senərē /

L
period of ten years.
Peace was finally restored after a decennary of unrest.

decent

deciare

deciliter

n
/ 'desə.lēdər /
L > F + Gk > L > F
a metric unit of capacity equal to 1/10 liter.
At fashionable Paris boutiques, some brands of perfume are sold by the deciliter.

deciphering

decision

declarative

declare

declination

n
/ .deklə'nāshən /
L
angular distance from the celestial equator measured along a great circle passing through the celestial poles.
Declination and right ascension together define the position of an object in the sky.

declivity

decolletage

decorate

decorative

decorum

decrease

decrement

n
/ 'dekrəmənt /
L
the act or process of gradually becoming less : decrease.
The game warden explained that a deer herd suffers no decrement if the legal hunting take is not permitted to exceed 20 percent of the total herd.

decrepit

decrepitude
n
/ də'krepət(y)üd /
L > F
a state of decay, ruin, or dilapidation.
Far from falling into decrepitude, the town was on a spree of building construction.

decryptograph

decubital

decubitus

decumary

decumbent

dedicate

dedimus
n
/ 'dedēməs /
L
a writ giving a private person permission to act as a judge.
In the course of her legal studies, Anna found only five instances of the issuance of a dedimus.

deduce

v
/ də'd(y)üs /
L
derive by logical process.
From the tracks and the spoor, Tule was able to deduce that the elephants left the watering hole when the lions arrived.

deducible

deem

v
/ 'dēm /
E
[has homonym: deme] come to view, judge, or classify after some consideration.
Robert was frustrated that his trainer did not deem him ready for the fight.

deerstalker

n
/ 'di(ə)r.støkə(r) /
E + E
a close-fitting cap with a visor at the front and the back and with earflaps that may be tied up or down.
Sherlock Holmes without his deerstalker and pipe? Seems sacrilegious, doesn't it?

deet

defalcation

n
/ (i)dē.fal'kāshən /
L
misappropriation of money in one's keeping.
The treasurer was charged with defalcation when it was learned that he was diverting funds for his personal use.

defamation

n
/ .defə'māshən /
L > F
the act of harming another's reputation by any slanderous communication.
The corporation sued the journalist for defamation, claiming lost business as a result of his article.

defective

defensible

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

deference

n
/ 'def(ə)rən(t)s /
L
a yielding of judgment or preference out of respect for the position, wish, or known opinion of another.
Special hunting and fishing rights are given to Alaskan natives in deference to their tribal traditions.

defiantly

adv
/ də'fiəntlē /
L > F
in a bold, insolent, or unafraid manner.
Though she had been grounded, Vera defiantly rode to the bowling alley on her bicycle.

deflagrate

deflationary

deflead

deflocculate

defoliant

defunct

adj
/ də'fʌŋ(k)t /
L
having finished the course of life or existence : dead, deceased, extinct.
The advent of the pocket calculator made the mechanical adding machine defunct.

degerminate

deglaciation

n
/ .dē.glās(h)ē'āshən /
L
the process whereby a glacier or ice sheet shrinks to disappearance.
The deglaciation period at the end of the Ice Age lasted for several years.

degrade

degustator

dehumidify

dehydration

deixis

n
/ 'dīksəs /
Gk
the specifying action of some words (as definite articles and demonstrative pronouns).
An example of deixis is the word there in the sentence "I left the car over there."

dejectedly

adv
/ də'jektədlē /
L
in a depressed manner : sadly.
"It seems to me that almost everything is a waste of time," he remarked one day as he walked dejectedly home from school.

delaine

n
/ də'lān /
L > F
a lightweight dress fabric of wool or wool and cotton.
Sarah chose to make her sundress out of a floral print delaine.

delator

deliberate

v
/ də'libərət /
L
ponder or think about with measured careful consideration.
Speed chess rewards the player who needs little time to deliberate.

delicate

delineation

n
/ də'linē'āshən /
L
accurate and precise graphic representation as distinguished from that which is careless or sketchy as to details.
The architect presented Ruth and Bob with a delineation of the house plan.

deliquesces

delirium

deltahedron

deluginous

delusory

delved

v
/ 'delvd /
E
dug into : explored by or as if by digging.
As an amateur archaeologist, Vernon delved into many creek beds for artifacts.

demagogy

demantoid

demarche

n
/ də'mārsh /
F
course of action : maneuver.
With his approval ratings plummeting, the leader wondered what demarche would be the most effective.

demerit

demesmerize

demiurge

n
/ 'demē.ərj /
Gk > L
something (as an institution, idea, or individual) conceived as an autonomous creative force or decisive power.
It is surprising how many people tend to regard a computer as a demiurge.

demonstration

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

demotic

adj
/ də'mädik /
Gk

of, belonging to, or connected with the form of Modern Greek that is based on colloquial use.
Everyone in Callista's ancestral village spoke demotic Greek except the priest, who usually spoke a more classical form of the language.

demure

adj
/ də'myü(ə)r /
F? > E

marked by quiet modesty, sedate reserve, restraint, or sobriety : retiring, shy.
Sondra's classmates mistook her demure conduct for standoffishness.

dendrochronology

n
/ den(,)drökrə'näləjē /
Gk

the science of dating events, intervals of time, and variations in environment in former periods by study of the sequence of and differences between rings of growth in trees and aged wood.
Jennifer's biology class attempted to use dendrochronology to chart climactic changes.

dendrologist

n
/ den'dräləjəst /
Gk

a specialist in the study of trees.
The dendrologist decried the continuing deforestation of the rain forests.

denier

n
/ də'ni(ə)r /
L > F > E

a unit of fineness for silk, rayon, or nylon yarn equal to the fineness of a yarn weighing 0.05 gram for each 450 meters of length.
Silk is usually quite strong, resisting breakage even when subjected to weights of about 4 grams per denier.

denigration

n
/ denə'grāshən /
L

a sully of reputation or character.
The candidate's denigration of her opponent backfired in the election.

denigratory

denim

denticulate

adj
/ den'tikyələt /
L

having small teeth : covered with small pointed projections.
The archaeologist unearthed a denticulate tool that early humans used for shredding food.

dentist

n
/ 'dentəst /
L > F

one whose profession it is to treat diseases of the teeth and associated tissues.
Mrs. Caleb asked the dentist to remove her sweet tooth.

denunciate

deodorant

adj
/ də'ödərənt /
L + L + Ecf

destroying or masking offensive smells.
Penny used a deodorant carpet cleaner to get rid of the dog smell in the apartment.

depauperate

depiction

depilant

deplensh

deplorable

deposit

depot

depravity

n
/ də'pravədē /
L > F > E

the quality or state of being marked by debasement, corruption, perversion, or deterioration.
The young man spent his college years making a concentrated study of depravity.

depreciate

depredation

depressant

depression

n
/ də'presshən /
L
a region of low barometric pressure surrounded by higher pressures.
The size of a depression can vary from a few hundred feet in a tornado to several hundred miles in a tropical cyclone.

deprivation

n
/ .deprə'vāshən /
L

the act of taking away.
Earl suffered some brain damage as a result of oxygen deprivation.

depth

deputize

derby

n
/ 'dərbē /

E name
a stiff felt hat with a dome-shaped crown and a rather narrow somewhat rolled brim—called also “bowler.”
Alfred wore his new suit and high-crowned derby to the horse race.

derisible

adj
/ də'rızəbəl /
L

worthy of ridicule, mockery, or scorn.
Fans were appalled at the boxer's derisible behavior in the ring.

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derisively

derivation

dermabrasion

dermal

adj
/ 'dɜrməl /
Gk

of or relating to skin, especially to the dermis : cutaneous.

Various reptiles have small bones or concretions within their skin called "dermal ossicles."

dermatoglyphics

dermatology

n
/ .dɜrmə'täləjē /
Gk + Gk

a branch of science that is concerned with the skin, its structure, functions, and diseases.
The cosmetics company employed only individuals knowledgeable in dermatology to assist in its laboratory.

dermatophyte

n
/ (,)dɜr'madə'fīt /
Gk + Gk

a fungus parasitic upon the skin or skin derivatives (as hair or nails) of humans or lower animals.

The skin disease ringworm is caused by a dermatophyte.

derogation

n
/ .dɜrə'gāshən /
L

disparagement : detriment.

While the word childlike is usually used in a favorable sense, the word childish is usually used in derogation.

derogative

dervish

n
/ 'dɜrvɪʃ /
Per > Turk

a Muslim monk who performs certain devotional exercises such as concerted movements leading to a trance or ecstasy.

The dancing dervish moved from side to side as he chanted his prayers.

desacralize

v
/ dɛ'sākɹə'līz /
L

divest ceremonially of supernatural qualities or a taboo and render nonsacred.

The reformers wanted to desacralize much of the church's traditional liturgy.

descending

adj
/ .dɛ'sendɪŋ /
L + L + Ecf

moving or directed downward.

The principal listed the amounts contributed by the classes in descending order.

descriptive

descrip

deseccration

n
/ .dɛsə'krāshən /
L

the act or an instance of violating the sanctity of something by diverting from sacred purpose, by contaminating, or by defiling.

Congress debated a bill to ban the deseccration of the American flag.

desert

desertification

n
/ dɛ.zɜrdə'fə'kāshən /
L

the process of becoming arid land or desert.

Environmentalists warn that significant portions of the United States could undergo desertification if there is a marked climate change.

desiccant

n
/ 'dɛsəkənt /
L

a drying agent (as sulfuric acid, silica gel).

The desiccant packed with Vern's camera lens bears the warning "Do Not Eat."

desideratum

n
/ dɛ.sɪdə'rādəm /
L

something that is sought for or aimed at.

A traditional Roman desideratum was "a sound mind in a sound body."

designate

desinence

desipient

desirous

desperately

adv
/ 'dɛsp(ə)rətlē /
L

with an intensified or all-out last-ditch effort in refusing to give up a struggle or purpose.

Firefighters tried desperately to rescue every person in the burning house.

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despondent

adj
/ də'spɒndənt /
L
discouraged, dejected, or depressed.
Elizabeth tried earnestly to keep her ailing brother from becoming despondent.

despondently

adv
/ də'spɒndəntli /
L
in an extremely discouraged, dejected, or depressed manner.
After he was laid off, Larry despondently searched the "Help Wanted" section of the classified ads.

despot

despotic

dessert

dessertspoonful

n
/ dɛzərt.spʊnfʊl /
L > F + E
a unit of measure equal to about 2½ fluidrams.
Paige's secret recipe calls for a dessertspoonful of almond extract.

destination

n
/ destə'nāshən /
L
a place which is set for the end of a journey or to which something is sent.
The newest game show gives amateur travelers an itinerary every day but no sense of their final destination.

destitute

adj
/ 'destə.ti:t /
L
lacking possessions and resources; especially : lacking the necessities of life.
The tornado left many families absolutely destitute.

destitution

desultor

detach

détente

deteriorable

determinant

determine

v
/ dɛ'tɜ:mən /
L > F > E
come to a decision about by investigation or reasoning.
Ross's attempts to determine who his parents are were stymied by a fire that burned all the records.

deters

v
/ dɛ'tɜ:z /
L
turns aside, discourages, or prevents from acting by fear or consideration of dangerous circumstances.
Nothing deters a good man from doing what is honorable.

detestable

adj
/ dɛ'testəbəl /
L
very odious : deserving abhorrence.
Manners that are passable in youth are detestable in later age.

detract

detrimental

adj
/ .detrə'mentl /
L + Ecf
harmful, damaging.
There is little doubt that smoking is detrimental to one's health.

deuterogamy

n
/ .d(y)üdə'rægəmē /
Gk
a legal second marriage after the termination of a first marriage.
After Gordon's wife passed away, he expressed his opinion that a deuterogamy was out of the question.

devastavit

developer

devious

devise

v
/ dɛ'vi:z /
L > F > E
formulate by thought : contrive, invent.
It is possible to devise motors much smaller than the head of a pin with microtechnology.

devoid

devoir

devour

devouring

v
/ dɛ'vaü(ə)riŋ /
L > F > E
eating up with greediness : consuming ravenously.
The squirrels are devouring the seeds meant for the birds.

dewdrop

n
/ 'd(y)ü.dräp /
E + E
a drop of moisture condensed upon a cool surface, especially at night.
The bird put his tiny head on one side and looked up at him with his soft bright eye which was like a black dewdrop.

dewfall

n
/ 'd(y)ü.föl /
E + E
the amount of moisture deposited as dew during one period.
The dewfall quickly evaporated as the Sun rose.

dextral

adj
/ 'dekstrəl /
L
right-handed.
Little Lucas kept trying to use dextral scissors with his left hand but was always frustrated.

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diabolical

diacritic

diacritical

diadromous

diagnosis

n
/ ˌdīəgˈnōsəs /
Gk

investigation or analysis of the cause or nature of a condition, situation, or problem.
After the doctor's grim diagnosis, Harvey's family went looking for a second opinion.

diagrammatic

adj
/ ˌdīəgrəˈmɑːk /
Gk

being or relating to a drawing that shows arrangement and relations (as of parts to a whole, origins and development, chronological fluctuations).
A family tree is a diagrammatic representation of the various relationships in a family.

dialectic

dialectician

diamond

dianoia

diapasons

diaper

diaphoresis

n
/ ˌdīəfəˈrēsəs /
Gk

perspiration.
Dr. Grady explained that Simon's diaphoresis was one of the symptoms of his high blood pressure.

diastole

diastrophe

n
/ dīˈastrəfē /
Gk

a deformation of Earth's crust.
Part of Anita's master's thesis in geology deals with the different causes of diastrophe.

diatessaron

n
/ dīəˈtesərən /
Gk

the interval of a fourth in ancient Greek music.
While practicing with her high school choir for the Classics Festival, Louise had problems singing the diatessaron in her solo correctly.

diathermy

diatom

n
/ dīəˈtām /
Gk

any of the unicellular or colonial algae having a silicified cell wall that persists as a skeleton after death and forming a large part of the plankton of both fresh and salt water.
Griff examined the diatom through the microscope and drew a quick sketch of it in his lab notebook.

diatomaceous

diatonic

diazepam

n
/ dīˈazəpəm /
ISV + unknown

a synthetic tranquilizer used especially to relieve anxiety and tension and as a muscle relaxant.
The patient's seizure subsided after treatment with diazepam.

dicey

dichondra

n
/ dīˈkändrə /
Gk

a chiefly tropical perennial herb with tiny leaves and flowers that is commonly used as a ground cover in the southern United States.
Mr. Dupree doesn't like to mow, so he planted his yard with dichondra instead of grass.

dichotomous

Dickensian

adj
/ dīˈkɛn(t)sēən /
E name

characteristic of or having the qualities of the writings of Charles Dickens with respect to humor and pathos in the portrayal of character types.
The Dickensian slums of London were perfectly portrayed in the television movie.

dictator

diction

dictum

dieffenbachia

diener

dieseling

dieter

difference

differentiable

differentials

differentiate

v
/ ˌdɪfəˈrɛnʃēˌiːt /
L

express the specific difference of.
The order of red and yellow stripes helps differentiate deadly coral snakes from benign species.

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diffraction

n
/ dā'frakshən /
L

a modification which light undergoes in passing by the edges of opaque bodies or through narrow slits in which the rays appear to be deflected and produce fringes of parallel light and dark or colored bands.

One consequence of diffraction is that sharp shadows are not produced.

diffractometer

n
/ .di.frak'tämədə(r) /
L + Ecf + Gk

an instrument for measuring the diameters of small particles in a microscope field by means of the diffraction rings which appear to surround them.

Lance used a diffractometer to measure particles collected in the air filter.

diffuser

n
/ dā'fyüzə(r) /
L

a device to distribute the light from a concentrated source uniformly.

To replace the burnt-out bulb, Adam had to remove the diffuser from the light.

diffusion

n
/ dā'fyūzhən /
L

spreading, dispersion.

Dr. Packman is investigating the effect of temperature on the diffusion of light in various crystals.

digest

v
/ di'jest /
L

[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word.]
appropriate or assimilate mentally.
The teacher told James that she found it difficult to digest the main idea of his recent essay.

digit

diglossia

dignified

digoneutic

digression

n
/ di'greshən /
L

the act of turning aside from the main subject of attention in a discourse or literary work.

Lou felt that they were wandering from the point, and that in digression Alexandra might unnerve him.

dihedral

adj
/ di'hēdrəl /
Gk + Gk

having or formed by two plane faces.

The dihedral angles in a cube measure 90 degrees.

dijudicate

v
/ di'jüdəkāt /
L

make a judicial decision.

Judge Flanders will dijudicate in the civil case between Victoria and her insurance company.

dilatancy

dilate

dilated

v
/ 'di.lādəd /
L

expanded or became wide.

Slowly the pupils of Joan's eyes dilated until they were back to normal.

dilatorily

diluvial

dimmer

n
/ 'dimə(r) /
E

a device for causing an electric light to burn less brightly.

Sara turned the dimmer down and lit the candles in the dining room.

dimorphism

n
/ di'mór.fizəm /
Gk

difference (as of form, color, size) between two individuals or kinds of individuals that might be expected to be similar or identical.

Screech owls exhibit color dimorphism, being either gray or reddish.

dined

dingbat

dingo

n
/ 'diŋ(,)gō /

Australian name

a wild dog of Australia.

Many Australian farmers erect high fences to protect their sheep against the dingo.

dingy

adj
/ 'diŋjē /
unknown

dirty, soiled, discolored.

The bird flapped its dingy wings and flew off in a cascade of dust and dirt and fuzz.

diocesan

dioscuric

adj
/ diə'skyürik /
Gk

twin.

The dioscuric children greatly enjoyed switching identities to annoy their teachers.

diphthongize

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diphyllous

adj
/ dɪˈfɪləs /
Gk
having two leaves.
In her description of the flower, the botanist noted that its calyx was diphyllous.

diploe

diploid

diplomacy

dipper

dipsas

dipsomaniac

dipteral

diptote

dire

director

n
/ dɪˈrɛktə(r) /
L
one that supervises the production of a show (as for stage or screen) with responsibility for action, lighting, music, and rehearsals.
While the producer is responsible for the finances and publicity of a show, the director is responsible for the show itself.

dirge

dirk

disadvantage

disagreeable

adj
/ ˌdɪsəˈgrɛəbəl /
L > E + F > E + Lcf > Ecf
causing discomfort, displeasure, or repugnance.
Mary was so disagreeable that after the first day or two nobody would play with her.

disappear

disappearance

n
/ dɪsəˈpɪrən(t)s /
L
removal from sight : vanishing.
With the disappearance of the snow, the sleds and skates were replaced with bicycles.

disappoint

disapprobation

disarray

disaster

n
/ dɪˈzɑstə(r) /
Gk > L
a sudden and unfortunate event that causes much damage : calamity.
The violent hail storm was the disaster that ruined the wheat crop.

disavowed

v
/ dɪsəˈvaʊd /
L > F > E
denied responsibility for, approval of, or validity of : disowned.
Although the manager disavowed the illegal actions of his subordinates, he was held responsible and was fired.

disbursement

n
/ dɪsˈbɜːsmənt /
L > F + Gk > L > F + Ecf
the act of expending, especially from a public fund : paying out.
The officer in charge of disbursement gave the builders the final payment.

discept

discernible

dischargeable

discigerous

disciple

discombobulate

v
/ dɪskəmˈbɒb(y)ələt /
L + unknown
upset, confuse, or disconcert.
Changing the rules just before the game was bound to discombobulate the team.

disconsolate

adj
/ dɪˈskɒn(t)s(ə)lət /
L
hopelessly sad : being beyond comfort.
After she received her report card, Gretchen was disconsolate for the rest of the day.

discordancies

n pl
/ dɪˈskɔːrdən(t)sēz /
L
disagreements.
Emma insisted to Mr. Knightley that their discordancies always arose from her being in the wrong.

discountenance

discourage

discrete

adj
/ dɪˈskrɛt /
L
[has homonym: discreet] possessed of definite identity or individuality : separate.
As a member of a large family, Emily sometimes finds it difficult to establish a discrete identity at school.

discriminant

discrimination

n
/ dɪˌskrɪməˈnāʃən /
L
the act, practice, or an instance of differentiating categorically rather than individually.
Several women waged lifelong campaigns to end discrimination against females.

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discursively

adv
/ də'skɜːrsəvli /

L
in a manner passing from one topic to another.

In her book on modern art Rosalind discusses the various movements discursively.

discuss

discussion

n
/ dɪ'skʌʃən /

L
a consideration of a question in open usually informal debate.
A lively discussion followed Ms. Poole's speech.

disease

disematism

disembark

v
/ dɪzəm'bɑːk /

F
go ashore out of a ship or boat : leave a ship.
"Please hold the railing as you disembark," Simi cautioned the passengers.

disgruntle

disgusting

disheartening

adj
/ dɪs'hɑːtənɪŋ /
Lcf > Ecf + E + Ecff
inducing discouragement or dejection.
Wally's attempts to learn ice-skating were disheartening.

dishevel

dishonest

disillusion

v
/ dɪsə'ljuːʒən /

L
deprive of hopes previously held : disenchant.

If you believe that you'll win the lottery, why should I disillusion you?

disinherit

disinterred

v
/ dɪsɪn'tɜː(r)d /

L
dug out of the ground : taken out of a place of burial.

The body of the victim was disinterred after a long legal battle with the next of kin.

dismayed

v
/ dɪz'maɪd /
(L + Gmc) > F > E

upset, perturbed, alarmed.
Many veteran teachers were dismayed to learn that they had to pass a test in order to continue to teach in public schools.

dispel

v
/ dɪ'spel /

L
clear away : cause to disperse or disappear.

Dr. McKellar's explanation of the surgical procedure did not dispel his patient's fear.

dispensary

disperse

dispersed

v
/ dɪ'spɜːst /

L
caused to break up and go in different ways.
The high wind dispersed the seeds in the milkweed pods throughout the neighborhood.

disposed

disquietude

n
/ dɪs'kwɪətɪd /

L > Ecf + L + L > Ecf
lack of peace or tranquillity : anxiety.

Groans and disquietude followed Mr. Collins's announcement of a pop quiz.

disrupt

dissect

dissecting

v
/ dɪ'sektɪŋ /

L
cutting into parts or sections.
The science kit was equipped with a knife for dissecting.

dissension

dissentious

disservice

disseverance

dissevered

v
/ dɪ'sevə(r)d /

L
disunited.
If the group dissevered, it could not hope to win the campaign.

dissidence

n
/ 'dɪsɪdən(t)s /

L
[has homonym: dissidents]
difference of opinion : disagreement.
The tyrannical dictator did not tolerate any political dissidence.

dissimulate

v
/ dɪ'sɪmɪəleɪt /

L
hide under a false appearance with intent to deceive.
In the preface to his autobiography, the author said that he refused to dissimulate the facts of his life.

dissipate

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dissipative

dissociate

dissolute

adj
/ 'disə'lüt /
L
unrestrained or lawless in conduct.
The board deplored the dissolute behavior of one of its members.

dissolution

n
/ .disə'lüshən /
L
[has near homonym: disillusion]
termination or destruction by breaking down, disrupting, or dispersing.
King Henry VIII ordered the dissolution of the monasteries in England primarily to obtain their wealth.

dissonance

dissonantly

adv
/ 'disənəntl̩ /
L
in a manner marked by a mingling of discordant sounds.
When the table was overturned, the plates and silverware crashed dissonantly to the floor.

dissuasion

distal

adj
/ 'distəl /
L
located away from the center of the body.
The professor asked the students to identify the distal and proximal ends of several bones.

distemper

n
/ dəs'tempə(r) /
L
a highly contagious virus disease of some animals.
The sick animals had distemper and were given medicine by the veterinarian.

distichous

adj
/ 'distəkəs /
Gk
divided into two distinct segments.
The entomology student was puzzled over insects with distichous antennae.

distilland

distillery

distinct

adj
/ də'stɪŋ(k)t /
L > F > E
capable of being easily perceived.
As the dense fog lifted, the mountains again became distinct.

distinctive

adj
/ də'stɪŋ(k)tɪv /
L
characteristic, peculiar : special.
The distinctive odor of natural gas comes from an additive designed to make leaks easier to detect.

distinctly

distingue

distinguishable

adj
/ də'stɪŋwɪʃəbəl /
L
recognizable as separate : discernible.
King snakes and coral snakes are distinguishable by the order of their red, yellow, and black stripes.

distractible

adj
/ də'straktəbəl /
L
having one's attention readily diverted.
The highly distractible student was diagnosed as having attention deficit disorder.

distraught

adj
/ də'strɔt /
L > E
beset with doubt or mental conflict : deeply troubled.
For four days distraught friends and relatives waited for news of the lost skiers.

distressing

v
/ də'stresɪŋ /
L > F > E
subjecting to great strain or difficulties.
Ulrich had a distressing day at the office.

distributary

disturbance

disturbed

adj
/ də'stɜrbd /
L > F > E
deprived of mental or emotional peace : upset, agitated.
The movie's villain was a brilliant but emotionally disturbed scientist.

disunify

ditch

dithering

dittography

diurnation

diuturnal

adj
/ .dɪyü'tɜrnəl /
L
of long continuance : lasting.
In geologic time, the Paleozoic Era was relatively diuturnal.

divan

divergence

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

divers

pron pl
/ 'dīvə(r)z /
L

[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word. In addition, word has near homonym: diverse.] an indefinite number more than one (as of persons or objects).
Divers of the enemy were captured.

diversion

diverticulum

n
/ .dīvə(r)'tikyələm /
L

an abnormal pouch or sac opening from a hollow organ (as the intestines or bladder).
The examination began rather casually, but at the first sight of a diverticulum the doctor became much more serious.

divertimento

n
/ dā.vərdə'men(,)tō /
L > F > It

an instrumental musical composition having from four to ten movements that is written as a chamber work.
The conductor chose a divertimento by Mozart for the evening's performance.

diverting

v
/ dā'vərdɪŋ /
L + Ecf

turning or drawing (as the mind or attention) from one concern to another : distracting.
The program on television was diverting Vera's attention from her homework.

divide

dividend

divination

divvy

dizzily

doab

doable

docible

docile

docket

dockization

doctorate

doctrine

dodderer

doddery

dodecarchy

n
/ 'dōdə.kärkē /
Gk
a ruling body of 12.
The rebels overthrew the dodecarchy and established an independent kingdom.

dodecuplet

dodgery

doeskin

doffed
v
/ 'däft /
E

lifted the hat.
When he reached the car, the figure doffed his cap.

dogged

doily

doldrum

doldrums
n pl
/ 'dōldrəmz /
E?

a spell of listlessness or despondency : blues.
Siobhan, who lives in Alaska, explained that she often experiences the doldrums in the winter.

dolefully

dollarwise

dollhouse

dolmen

n
/ 'dōlmən /
L > Bret > F
[has homonym: dolman] a prehistoric monument consisting of two or more upright stones supporting a horizontal stone slab found especially in Britain and France and thought to be a tomb.
Connor made a model of a dolmen enclosed by a stone circle as part of his English history project.

dolomite

n
/ 'dōlə.mīt /
F name
a limestone or marble rich in magnesium carbonate.
Geologists suspected a deposit of dolomite lay just beneath the next rock layer.

doloroso

dolt

domesticate

dominate

dominigene

dominion

donation

donee

donkey

donnybook

doohickey

doombook

doorjamb

doornail

dopester

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dormer

dormice

dormitory

dormouse

dorsal

adj
/ 'dɔrsəl /

L
belonging to or situated near or on the back of an animal.

From the scar near the salmon's dorsal fin, Ako knew it had been attacked by a lamprey.

dorsiferous

dote

dottiness

doublet

n
/ 'dəblət /
L > F > E

a quilted undergarment reinforced by rings of mail and worn under armor.

The knight's life was saved by the doublet he had reluctantly worn.

doubletone

doubloon

doubloons

n pl
/ .də'blünz /
L > Sp

old gold coins of Spain and Spanish America worth 16 pieces of eight.

"Hang it, Pew, we've got the doubloons!" grumbled one pirate to the other.

dough

doughtily

adv
/ daüdə'lē /
E

in a manner marked by fearless resolution and by stoutness in contest or struggle.

The district attorney doughtily persevered in his efforts to bring the crime bosses to justice.

dour

adj
/ 'daü(ə)r /
L

[has homonyms: doer, dower]
marked by gloomy silence or ill humor : sullen.

The usually dour senator was advised to smile more if he wanted to get reelected.

dourness

dovetail

n
/ 'dəv.täl /
E + E

something (as a flaring tenon, tongue, or machine part) felt to resemble a dove's tail in shape; especially : dovetail joint.

The cabinetmaker taught his apprentice to use a dovetail to join the pieces of wood.

dovetailed

adj
/ 'dəv.täld /
E + E

joined with or as if with a flaring tenon or tongue.

Norm Abram showed the TV audience the carefully dovetailed joints on the sideboard.

dowdily

downcast

adj
/ 'daün.kast /
E + ON > E

low in spirit : depressed, dejected.

After striking out, the downcast batter returned to the bench.

downdraft

n
/ 'daün.draft /
E + E

a downward current of air.
A strong downdraft sent the airplane into a sudden steep descent.

downpour

n
/ 'daün.pō(ə)r /
E + E

a pouring or streaming downward; especially : a heavy rain.

The town's sewage system was unable to handle the tremendous downpour.

downright

downtrodden

doze

dragonfly

dragoon

v
/ drə'gün /
F

compel or attempt to compel into submission by violent measures : harass, persecute.

Gerald's so-called friends tried to dragoon him into quitting school, but he would have none of it.

drakelet

dramatize

v
/ 'dramə.tīz /
Gk

exhibit graphically in such a manner as to show forth qualities, attributes, or aspects likely to be overlooked.

To dramatize the plight of Third World children, the charity executives decided to film their commercial in a squalid back alley.

dramaturge

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drams

n pl
/ 'dramz /
Gk > L&F > E
avoirdupois units, each equal to 27.343 grains.
The doctor prescribed 2 drams of the medicine to be taken three times a day.

drapery

drastically

drawer

drawl

drawloom

drearily

drippage

drizzle

n
/ 'drizəl /
E
a fine misty rain; specifically : a light rain of very small drops.
The rain increased suddenly, pounding hollowly against the umbrella, then just as suddenly faded back to a drizzle.

drogher

droll

adj
/ 'drɔl /
D > F
having a whimsical, humorous, or odd character.
Steve says things so droll his parents can't respond for laughing.

drolly

dromic

adj
/ 'drämik /
Gk
of, relating to, or in the form of a racecourse.
Many Eastern churches exhibit the dromic form.

dromond

Drosophila

n
/ drō'säfələ /
Gk > L
a genus of small two-winged flies that have been used extensively in experiments to study basic mechanisms of inheritance.
The fruit fly is of the genus Drosophila.

drown

drowsily

adv
/ 'draüzələ /
E? + Ecf
in a sleepy manner.
Ali drowsily took the message for his roommate but forgot to give it to him.

druid

n
/ 'drüəd /
Gaulish > L
a member of a priesthood in ancient Gaul, Britain, and Ireland whose members are said to have studied the natural sciences and later appeared in legends as magicians and wizards.
The tour guide speculated that Stonehenge had been built by a lone druid seeking immortality.

druidism

drumlin

n
/ 'drəmlən /
IrGael + E
an elongate or oval hill of glacial drift.
Last summer the cousins built a bonfire atop the drumlin on Granddad's farm.

drunkard

dryad

n
/ 'drīəd /
Gk > L
one of the minor divinities of nature in Greek and Roman mythology that are represented as beautiful maidens dwelling in the forests.
Sally likes to sit in her tree house and pretend that she is a dryad.

dryness

dual

adj
/ 'd(y)üəl /
L
[has homonym: duel] consisting of two parts or elements : twofold.
Mark practiced whistling until he was able to consistently produce a dual tone.

dualistic

dubious

dubiously

adv
/ 'd(y)übēəsli /
L + Ecf
in a manner expressive of doubt, hesitation, or suspicion.
"Are you sure the shot won't hurt?" Sarah dubiously asked the doctor.

dubonnet

ducal

adj
/ 'd(y)ükəl /
L > F
of, belonging to, or befitting a duke or dukedom.
The ducal palace stood in the middle of a beautiful garden.

ductility

n
/ .dək'tilədē /
L > F
the quality or state of being capable of being drawn out into wire.
The ductility of platinum is such that it has been drawn into a wire less than two thousandths of an inch in diameter.

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duenna

n
/ d(y)ü'ənə /
L > Sp
an elderly woman serving as
a governess and companion to the
younger ladies in a Spanish or a
Portuguese family.
*The governor's daughter was never
allowed to leave the house without
her duenna.*

dugong

n
/ 'dü.gəŋ /
Malay&Tagalog > L
an aquatic herbivorous mammal
that has a two-lobed tail and in the
male upper incisors altered into
short tusks, is related to the
manatee, and inhabits warm coastal
regions.
*The dugong grazes on green algae
and sea grasses and is able to
remain submerged for up to 10
minutes.*

dulcimer

dulcinea

n
/ .dəlsə'nēə /
L > Sp name
sweetheart.
*Wesley called his girlfriend his
"dulcinea" because it sounded
more romantic.*

dulosis

n
/ d(y)ü'lōsəs /
Gk > L
enslavement by an insect that
captures and rears the larvae or
pupae of another species.
*Some ants practice dulosis in order
to enlarge their army of workers.*

duly

duncical

adj
/ 'dən(t)səkəl /
Scottish name + Ecff
stupid.
*Warren's patience ran out when he
had to walk his neighbor's duncical
dog.*

dunderfunk

dundrearies

n pl
/ .dən'drɪrɪz /
E name
long flowing side whiskers.
*Dundrearies were a popular
adornment of men in the latter half
of the 19th century.*

duodenary

adj
/ d(y)üə'denərē /
L
containing 12.
*The radical new government
planned to hold its elections on a
duodenary cycle of years.*

duologue

duopsony

dupes

n pl
/ 'd(y)üps /
F
puppets or tools especially of a
powerful person or idea.
*In his "Four Freedoms" speech,
Franklin D. Roosevelt warned
about the presence of secret agents
and their dupes.*

duplicate

adj
/ 'd(y)üpləkət /
L
[Note: The definition provided is
not the one most commonly
associated with this word.] of,
relating to, or being a card game in
which all players play identical
hands in order to allow a
comparison of scores.
*Joe and Lisa spent the weekend at
a duplicate bridge tournament.*

duplicator

dusky

adj
/ 'dəskē /
E
somewhat dark in color.
*Dustin described the bird's
plumage as a dusky brown tinged
with yellow.*

dutiful

duumvirate

n
/ d(y)ü'əmvrət /
L
two people associated in high
office or position.
*The rebellion's leader and the
army colonel formed a powerful
duumvirate that controlled all
traffic to and from the capital.*

dwindled

v
/ 'dwɪndld /
E
became steadily less : diminished
in size, amount, or quality.
*Above them the trees of the
mountain dwindled, and then
vegetation ceased entirely.*

dyeing

dynamic

adj
/ dī'namik /
Gk
forceful, energetic.
*The soccer team praised their
dynamic coach for his untiring
efforts.*

dynamo

n
/ 'dɪnə.mō /
Gk
a direct-current generator.
*The old car had a dynamo powered
by the front tire.*

dyne

n
/ 'dɪn /
Gk > F
[has homonym: dine] the unit of
force in the centimeter-gram-
second system equal to the force
that would give a free mass of 1
gram an acceleration of 1
centimeter per second per second.
*Mr. Hill tried to give examples
illustrating the force of 1 dyne, but
the students were still confused.*

dysarthria

dyscrasia

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dysesthesia

dysgraphia

dyslexiac

dysphagia

n
/ də'sfāj(ē)ə /
Gk + Gk

difficulty in swallowing.
Doug experienced dry mouth and dysphagia as adverse reactions to the medication he was taking.

dysprosium

dystrophy

n
/ 'distrəfē /
Gk

any of several neuromuscular disorders.
Shayna was diagnosed with muscular dystrophy the summer before she began elementary school.

eagerness

earnestly

adv
/ 'ɛrnəstlē /
E

with intent and serious manner.
Gerald performed his job so earnestly that his co-workers teased him by asking if he thought he was saving the world.

earring

ease

easel

easelback

easily

adv
/ 'ēz(ə)lē /
E

without difficulty, discomfort, or reluctance : readily.
Thomas easily solved the first set of math problems, but the second set required great effort.

easterly

eavesdropper

Ebenezer

n
/ .ebə'nēzə(r) /
Heb

a commemoration of divine assistance.
The city swimming pool is a millionaire's Ebenezer, celebrating his recovery from a childhood bout of polio.

eburnean

adj
/ ə'bɜrnēən /
L

resembling ivory in color.
Charlie pleaded with his dentist to improve the appearance of his eburnean teeth.

ecce

interj
/ 'e(.)chā /
L

interjection used to call attention often to one persecuted unjustly.
At the end of his speech the defense attorney screamed "Ecce" and pointed at his client.

eccyclema

ecdysis

ecdysone

n
/ 'ekdəsōn /
Gk

any of several arthropod hormones that in insects trigger molting and metamorphosis.
The insecticide Mary uses in her garden inhibits ecdysone, the hormone that enables some insects to metamorphose.

echard

n
/ 'e.kärd /
Gk

the soil water that is unavailable to plant organisms.
The echard forms a part of the total moisture content of the soil.

echelette

n
/ .eshə'let /
L > F

a reflection grating made by ruling parallel V-shaped grooves in a polished metal plate so that light is reflected from the corresponding faces of successive grooves.
If cut properly, an echelette can reflect almost as much light as a mirror.

echeveria

echidna

n
/ ə'kɪdnə /
Gk

a spiny-coated toothless burrowing egg-laying mammal of Australia having a tapering snout and long tongue for eating ants.
To frustrate its enemies, an echidna may roll itself into a ball and dig straight down in loose soil.

echinacea

n
/ .ekə'nāshēə /
Gk

the dried rhizome, roots, or other parts of any of three composite herbs used in folk medicine and some patent medicines especially for a supposed beneficial effect on the immune system.
Some people take echinacea to prevent colds and flu.

echinate

adj
/ ə'kɪnət /
Gk > L

[Note: Could be confused with noun echinite.] densely covered with stiff bristles or spines : prickly like a hedgehog.
Not many animals interfere with the echinate porcupine.

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echinus

n
/ ə'kīnəs /
Gk
the rounded molding forming the bell of the Greek Doric capital of a column.
The tour guide pointed out the echinus of the capital to Nancy's group.

echo

echolocation

n
/ e(,)kōlō'kāshən /
Gk + L
a process of animal orientation and navigation that involves emission of high-frequency sounds that are reflected back from environing surfaces and thus indicate the relative distance and direction of such surfaces.
Contrary to popular fiction, Erin learned that bats never get tangled in people's hair because their system of echolocation is so accurate.

echoppe

n
/ ə'shāp /
L > F
an engraver's needle beveled to an oval facet at the end and used to reopen previously incised lines.
Kermit carefully worked the echoppe through the broad strokes of the engraving.

ecize

eclair

ecliptical

ecocide

economic

economy

ecstasiate

ecstatically

ectocranial

ectoparasite

n
/ 'ektō.parə.sīt /
Gk
a parasite that lives on the exterior of its host.
The flea is a common ectoparasite on dogs and cats.

eczema

edaphic

adj
/ ə'dafik /
Gk
of or relating to the soil.
Kate's research project on the effects of local edaphic variations on agriculture won a silver medal in the state science fair.

eddy

eddying

v
/ 'edēɪŋ /
ON? > E
causing to move contrary to the main current.
Yolanda let her fly drift into the eddying water at the edge of the stream.

edger

edgily

edibility

edition

editor

educand

education

educer

cellike

eeriness

n
/ 'īrēnəs /
E
the quality or state of being unusual or unnatural to such a degree as to inspire fear.
The abandoned mansion's eeriness sent a shiver down Joachim's spine.

effective

effectuality

effervescence

effervescently

effervescent

efficient

effigial

effortless

eggnog

eglantine

n
/ 'eglən.tīn /
L > F > E + Ecf
an Old World rose with stout recurved prickles and white to deep rosy pink single flowers.
The eglantine, noted for its fragrant foliage, can grow to a height of six feet.

ego

egotistical

adj
/ ægə'tistəkəl /
L + Eeff
boastful or arrogant : referring unduly to oneself.
Paul wrote an egotistical letter to the editor of the newspaper.

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Egyptian

adj
/ ə'jɪpshən /
Gk > L

of or relating to Egypt, its inhabitants, or its language.
The pyramids at Giza are huge spectacular monuments of Egyptian Old Kingdom architecture.

eigenvalue

n
/ 'iɡən.vəlyü /
G + L > F > E

any of the permissible values of a parameter in the solution of a differential equation satisfying specified conditions.
Nina spent an hour finding the final eigenvalue that satisfied the assigned physics problem.

eighth

einkanter

n
/ 'ɪn.käntə(r) /
G

a stone with a single sharp edge worn by wind-driven sand.
Joseph cut his knee on a large einkanter at the beach.

eisegesis

n
/ ɪsə'jēsəs /
Gk

the interpretation of a text (as of the Bible) by reading into it one's own ideas.
The biblical scholar noted that eisegesis is often unavoidable because our lives have a strong impact on how we learn.

elaborative

adj
/ ə'labə.rədɪv /
L

tending to expand something in detail.
Each topical heading was followed by elaborative paragraphs giving details.

eland

n
/ 'ɛlənd /
Lithuanian > G > D > Afrikaans
either of two large African antelopes of which both male and female have short spirally twisted horns.
In some areas of Africa the eland has been domesticated for use as a draft animal on farms.

elaphine

elapse

elastique

elated

adj
/ ə'lədəd /
L
elevated in spirit : excited especially with pride.
The scientist was elated on hearing that he would be awarded the Nobel Prize.

elaterid

n
/ ə'lədərəd /
Gk > L
click beetle.
Sandy was surprised to hear a clicking noise when the elaterid flipped itself to an upright position.

elbowroom

elder

elderly

adj
/ 'eldə(r)lɪ /
E + Ecf
rather advanced in years.
An elderly lady lived in a huge old house on the edge of town and never came out except for food and church.

electioneer

electorate

n
/ ə'lekt(ə)rət /
L
a body of people entitled to vote.
The electorate favored allowing the independent candidate to participate in the presidential debates.

electrify

electroencephalograph

n
/ ə.lektrəʊn'sefələgrəf /
Gk > L
an apparatus for detecting and recording brain waves.
The technicians installed the new electroencephalograph at the hospital.

electroluminescence

n
/ ə.lek.trəʊ'lümə'nesʰn(t)s /
Gk + L + Lcf
an emission of light resulting from a high-frequency discharge through a gas or from application of an alternating current to a layer of phosphor.
Stan was surprised to find that his friend knew what electroluminescence is.

electrolyte

n
/ ə'lektərəlɪt /
Gk
a substance (as an acid, base, or salt) that when dissolved in a suitable solvent (as water) or when fused becomes an ionic conductor.
The veterinarian recommended that Mo use the product Pedialyte to get an electrolyte or two into Daisy, his sick chimp.

electron

electroretinograph

n
/ ə.lektrə'ret'nəgrəf /
Gk + L + Gk
an instrument for recording electrical activity in the retina.
The security device in the sci-fi film involved an electroretinograph, but the details were vague.

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elegance

elegiac

adj
/ .elə'jīæk /

Gk
consisting of two dactylic hexameter lines the second of which is often felt to be pentameter.
Gonda could not figure out how to scan the elegiac couplet.

elegy

n
/ 'eləjē /
Gk > L

a poem expressing sorrow or lamentation.
The English poet Thomas Gray wrote perhaps the most famous elegy.

element

elenchus

elevation

n
/ .elə'vāshən /

L
the angular distance of a celestial object above the horizon.
Simon measured the Moon's elevation with a protractor, a straw, a string, and a washer.

elevator

elvon

elicit

elicitation

elicitor

eligibility

elocutionary

eloge

n
/ ā'lōzh /
Gk > L > F

a panegyric funeral oration.
Mourners wept at the rabbi's moving eloge.

elongate

eloquent

adj
/ 'eləkwənt /

L
adept at skilled easy pleasing communication of a thought, idea, or feeling.
A gifted toastmaster is not only eloquent but also entertaining.

eloquently

elucubrate

elude

elusive

eluvium

n
/ ē'lüvēəm /
L

rock debris produced by weathering.
After many years the wind and water made eluvium of the limestone.

elysium

n
/ ə'liz(h)ēəm /
Gk > L

the dwelling place of happy souls after death as conceived by the ancient Greeks and Romans.
Greek tales about the afterlife seem to focus more on Hades than on elysium.

elytra

n pl
/ 'elə.trə /
Gk > L

the thickened sclerotized anterior wings in beetles and some other insects that protect and cover the posterior wings.
At least 250,000 species of insects have hardened wing covers called "elytra."

emaciation

n
/ ə.māshē'āshən /
L

the state of being made lean by impairment (as from hunger).
Disease was the major cause of the emaciation of the children in the African village.

email

n
/ ā'mī /
F

a moderate bluish green to greenish blue.
Email, also called "bleu Louise," is a common color of enamel used in cloisonné.

emanatory

emancipatory

embarrassing

embergoose

n
/ 'embə(r).gi:s /
Norw&E + E
common loon.

The embergoose is a large fish-eating aquatic bird that spends most of its time in open water.

embezzled

v
/ əm'bezəld /
F > AF > E

appropriated fraudulently to one's own use (as property entrusted to one's care).
The bank employee embezzled hundreds of thousands of dollars before the authorities discovered the crime.

emblema

emboss

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embosser

n
/ əm'basə(r) /
F

a punch used for striking metal on the reverse side to raise the relief.
Mandy used an embosser to form a design on a thin piece of copper sheeting.

embracing

v
/ əm'brāsiŋ /
F

encircling, enclosing, encompassing.
Calvin flung his arms out wide, as though he were embracing Meg and her mother—the whole house.

embroidered

v
/ əm'brɔɪdə(r)d /
F > E + Ecf

ornamented with needlework.
Grandma embroidered the tablecloth with a floral motif.

embryogenesis

n
/ ɛmbrɪ'ɔːjənəsəs /
Gk + Gk

the formation and development of the animal organism in the early stages of growth and differentiation.
During early embryogenesis cells differentiate to form various types of tissue.

emersal

eminence

emit

v
/ ɛ'mit /
L

throw or give off or out (as light, heat, gases, or charged particles).
“Neon” signs are actually made with neon, krypton, and argon, which emit different colors of light.

emmetropia

n
/ ɛmə'trɒpɪə /
Gk > NL

the normal refractive condition of the eye in which with accommodation relaxed parallel rays of light are brought accurately to a focus upon the retina.
There are new kinds of laser surgery that bring the eyes of nearsighted people back to a state of emmetropia.

emotion

emperor

emphasize

empiricism

employed

emptiness

empyreal

emulator

emulsify

v
/ ə'mɛlsəfi /
L

convert into a mixture of two incompletely miscible liquids.
Monika used a hand mixer to emulsify the eggs and oil for her special salad dressing.

enamelware

enatic

adj
/ ɛ'nadɪk /
L + Ecf
descended from the same mother : related on the mother's side.
George and Isabel are enatic cousins.

encaustic

n
/ ən'kɔstɪk /
Gk

a paint mixed with melted beeswax and after application fixed by heat.
Encaustic gave Gerard's painting an appealing texture.

enceinte

n
/ ä'sant /
L > F

a line of fortification enclosing a castle or town.
The attacking army used artillery to breach the town's enceinte.

encephalon

n
/ ən'sefələn /
Gk

the vertebrate brain.
The encephalon is divided into the hindbrain, the midbrain, and the forebrain.

enchanted

v
/ ən'chantəd /
L > F > E

influenced by or as if by charms and incantation : bewitched.
The dominant spirit that has haunted and enchanted this region is a figure on horseback.

encincture

encipherment

encoignure

encolure

encomiastic

adj
/ ən.kɔmɛ'astɪk /
Gk

of, belonging to, or bestowing praise.
The opera's composer wrote an encomiastic letter to the conductor commending his performance.

encompass

encourage

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encouraged

encroaching

v
/ ʔn'krōchiŋ /
Scand > F > E + Ecf
entering by gradual steps or by stealth into the possessions or rights of another.
Mr. Bickett's garden was encroaching on his neighbor's lawn year by year.

enculturate

v
/ ʔn'kəlchərāt /
L
modify or condition by the process by which an individual learns the traditional content of a culture and assimilates its practices and values.
The Romans intended to enculturate the vanquished people as quickly as possible.

endear

endearment

endive

endocardial

adj
/ ˌendō'kɑrdēəl /
Gk + Gk
situated within the heart.
With a stethoscope the physician listened for endocardial murmurs.

endocrinopathy

endogenous

adj
/ en'däjənəs /
Gk + Gk
arising from internal structural or functional causes.
Rhythmic biological behavior governed by an endogenous clock is widespread in the animal kingdom.

endoradiosonde

n
/ ˌen.dō'rādēō.sänd /
Gk + L + F
a microelectronic device introduced into the body to record physiological data.
Dr. Lennon warned Tonya not to use a portable telephone while her endoradiosonde was in place.

endotracheal

adj
/ ˌendō'trākēəl /
Gk
placed within or passed inside of the windpipe.
The physician had to insert an endotracheal tube to help the patient breathe.

endurance

n
/ ʔn'd(y)ürən(t)s /
L > F
an instance of long-suffering (as hardship or tribulation).
On his sad face was an expression of suffering and endurance.

enemy

energumen

enforceable

adj
/ ʔn'fō(ə)rsəbəl /
F > E
capable of being enforced.
A law must be enforceable if it is to have any effect.

enfranchise

engagement

engagingly

engine

engorge

engross

enjoin

enjoyable

enkindle

v
/ ʔn'kindl /
L + ON > E
set on fire.
Light concentrated by a magnifying glass will enkindle dry grass or paper.

enlivened

v
/ ʔn'līvənd /
L > F > E + E
made sprightly, gay, or cheerful.
The dancers were immediately enlivened by the swing music.

ennoble

v
/ ʔnōbəl /
L > F > E
elevate in degree or excellence.
That is living proof that spending time with virtuous people can ennoble those of lesser character.

enoptromancy

enormous

adj
/ ʔnō(r)məs /
L + Ecf
[Note: Speller should not confuse with obsolete form enormous.]
marked by extraordinarily great size, amount, number, degree, scope, intensity, or significance.
The documentary depicted the enormous task of building the Panama Canal.

enraptured

v
/ ʔn'rapchə(r)d /
L
filled with delight : gratified completely.
As Timmy entered the room, he was enraptured by the sight of the tree and the many presents.

enshroud

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ensteel

v
/ ɛnz'tē(ə)l /
E

make hard and strong.
Mr. Simpson explained that one step in making silver jewelry is to hammer the metal well to ensteel it.

ensuant

entelechy

enthalpy

n
/ ˈen.thəlpi /
Gk

a thermodynamic quantity that is the sum of the internal energy of a body and the product of its volume multiplied by the pressure—called also “heat content.”

To help determine the change in enthalpy, Gruen carefully specified the physical states of all the reactants and products.

enthusiasm

enthusiast

enthusiastic

adj
/ ɛn.th(y)üzē'astik /
Gk

having an ardent, receptive, responsive temperament.
Myron's enthusiastic nature infected the rest of the students.

enticement

entirely

entirety

entomb

entrammel

entrapment

n
/ ɛn'trapmənt /
F

the luring by an officer of the law of a person into the commission of a crime in order that the person may be prosecuted for the offense.
The jury felt that the evidence indicated police entrapment, so they acquitted the defendant.

entrechat

n
/ ɛntrə'shɑ /
L > It > F

a leap during which a ballet dancer repeatedly crosses the legs.
The audience watched in fascination as Nureyev performed a seemingly effortless entrechat.

entrée

entrepreneurial

entresol

entropy

n
/ ˈentrəpi /
Gk

the ultimate state reached in the degradation of the matter and energy of the universe.
The laws of physics state that all things tend toward entropy.

enumerated

v
/ ɛn(y)ümə'rādəd /
L

related one after another : listed.
When the waiter had enumerated the dessert choices, making a single selection was difficult.

enunciatively

envious

environ

environment

envision

v
/ ɛn'vizhən /
L + L

have a mental picture of especially in advance of realization.
When she was a child, Calinda would often envision her life as a famous writer or painter.

envoy

n
/ ˈen.voi /
F

any person delegated to represent one sovereign or government in its relations with another.
The Enterprise conveyed the envoy to the peace conference without incident.

eohippus

n
/ ˌeə'hipəs /
Gk + Gk

an animal or fossil of a genus of small primitive 4-toed horses of the Lower Eocene of the western United States.
Modern horses are descended from the eohippus.

colith

epaxial

adj
/ e'paksēəl /
Gk

located above or on the dorsal side of a straight line with respect to which a body, figure, or system of points is either radially or bilaterally symmetrical.
The epaxial muscles along the human spine are relatively large.

epenthesis

n
/ ɛ'pen(t)thəsəs /
Gk

the insertion of a letter in a word to make the spelling conform to the pronunciation.
The word nymel became nimble by epenthesis.

epergne

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epexegetis

n
/ ˌɛ.pɛksəˈjɛsəs /
Gk + Gk

an explanation following a word or larger part of a text that limits its application or clarifies its meaning.
An epexegetis is often set off from the rest of a sentence by commas or parentheses.

ephelis

ephemerally

ephemerid

n
/ əˈfɛm(ə)rəd /
Gk

a mayfly.
An ephemerid has membranous wings that fold flat over the back.

epibiont

epic

adj
/ ˈɛpɪk /
Gk
[has near homonym: epoch]
extending beyond the usual or ordinary especially in size or scope.
The movie's epic scale succeeded brilliantly according to most critics.

epicardia

n
/ ˌɛpəˈkɑrdɪə /
Gk

the short part of the esophagus extending from the diaphragm to the stomach.
The medical student was asked to identify the patient's epicardia during surgery.

epicenter

n
/ ˈɛpəsɛntə(r) /
Gk > L
the part of Earth's surface directly above the focus of an earthquake.
An earthquake whose epicenter is on the ocean floor may cause a tsunami.

epidemiologist

n
/ ˌɛpəˌdɛmɪˈɒləjəst /
Gk

a specialist in the science that deals with the incidence, distribution, and control of disease in a population.
The epidemiologist strongly recommended that all children be inoculated with the chicken pox vaccine.

epiglottis

n
/ ˌɛpəˈglɑdɪs /
Gk

the fold of tissue that covers the airway during the act of swallowing.
Breathing opens the epiglottis and allows free passage of air to the lungs.

epiglottitis

epigonism

n
/ əˈpɪɡəˌnɪzəm /
Gk + Ecf
artistic, literary, or intellectual imitation especially by a later generation.
The Pre-Raphaelite movement in the mid-19th century arose from epigonism of the artistic principles of the 14th century.

epigrammatic

epigraph

epilithic

adj
/ ˌɛpəˈlɪθɪk /
Gk + Gk
growing on stone or stonelike material.
Some species of snails feed on epilithic lichen.

epinephrine

epipelagic

adj
/ ˌɛpəˈpələjɪk /
Gk
of or relating to the part of the oceanic zone into which enough light for photosynthesis penetrates.
Creatures living below the epipelagic zone are often blind.

epiphanic

adj
/ ˌɛpəˈfʌnɪk /
Gk
of or having the character of a sudden manifestation or perception of the essential nature or meaning of something.
Oliver had the epiphanic realization that his cat had gained weight because she was about to have kittens.

epiphora

n
/ əˈpɪfərə /
Gk + Gk
a watering of the eyes due to excessive secretion of tears or to obstruction of the lacrimal passages.
Blocked tear ducts were determined to be the cause of the patient's epiphora.

epiphyte

n
/ ˈɛpəˈfɪt /
Gk
a plant that derives its moisture and nutrients from the air and rain and grows usually on another plant.
Spanish moss is a ubiquitous epiphyte on trees in the South.

epistaxis

n
/ ˌɛpəˈstʌksəs /
Gk
nosebleed.
During his illness, Henri had frequent bouts of epistaxis, so he learned to keep a box of tissues handy at all times.

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epistemic

adj

/ ˌepəˈstēmik /

Gk

of, having the character of, or relating to knowledge or knowing as a type of experience.

Sol thought the self-evidence of it all was epistemic justification enough for his belief that the world existed.

epistolography

n

/ ˌɒpɪstəˈlɑːgrəfi /

Gk

the art or practice of writing epistles : letter writing.

The widespread use of e-mail has revived a form of epistolography.

epithelium

n

/ ˌepəˈθiːliəm /

Gk + Gk

a cellular animal tissue consisting of one or more layers of cells that serves to enclose and protect the other parts of the body.

Humans have about 26 million sensory cells per square inch of olfactory epithelium.

epollicate

epopt

n

/ ˈe.pɒpt /

Gk

one instructed in a secret system.

Because Ivan was an inexperienced investor, he treated his stockbroker like an epopt.

epos

n

/ ˈe.pəs /

Gk

a body of poetry expressing the tradition of a people.

The ancient epos survived in later literature.

epsilon

equalize

equatable

equational

equerry

n

/ ˈɛkwəri /

L&F

an officer of princes or nobles charged with the care of their horses.

The royal equerry had his men prepare the horses for the fox hunt.

equestrian

adj

/ ˌɛkwɛstriən /

L + Ecf

[has near homonym: equestrienne]

of, relating to, or featuring horseback riding.

The artist was best known for his equestrian paintings.

equidistant

adj

/ ˌɛkwəˈdɪstənt /

L

being of the same measure apart.

The neighborhood grocery and video stores are equidistant from Josh's home.

equipollence

n

/ ˌɛkwəˈpɒləns /

L + L

the quality or state of being equal in force, power, or validity.

One form of paradox consists in the apparent equipollence of two propositions, one of which is the negation of the other.

equipollent

equitation

equivocal

equivocation

n

/ ˌɛkwɪvəˈkæʃən /

L

the act or an instance of making a statement that deviates from or misconstrues the truth.

Felicity knew that equivocation about the matter would keep her out of trouble, but she was forthright in her response.

eraser

erosion

eremic

adj

/ ˌɛrēmɪk /

Gk

of or relating to deserts or sandy regions.

Georgia O'Keeffe painted several famous eremic landscapes.

eremitic

erg

n

/ ˈɜːrɡ /

Gk

an absolute centimeter-gram-second unit of work representing the work done by a force of 1 dyne acting through a displacement of 1 centimeter in the direction of the force.

Dr. Young planned to introduce the erg in his next physics lesson.

ergonomist

n

/ (ˌ)ɜːrˈɡänəmɪst /

Gk

a specialist in biotechnology.

David ordered a desk chair specially designed by an ergonomist to prevent discomfort from prolonged sitting.

ergophobia

erimeter

eristic

adj

/ ˌɛrɪstɪk /

Gk

characterized by disputatious often subtle and specious reasoning.

The debater used eristic double-talk to impress the judges.

erode

erose

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erosion

n
/ əˈrɒʒhən /
L

land destruction and simultaneous removal of particles (as of soil) by running water, waves and currents, moving ice, or wind.

In some hilly areas terraces are built to protect soils from erosion.

errant

erroneously

adv
/ əˈrɒnəʊsl̩ /
L > E

in a manner deviating from what is true, correct, right, or wise.

The noun phenomena is sometimes used erroneously with a singular verb.

error

eruciform

adj
/ əˈrʊsəfɔrm /
L

of an insect larva : having a soft cylindrical body with a distinct head and usually short thoracic legs : caterpillarlike.

Fred knew that the eruciform larva would spin a cocoon from which a butterfly would emerge.

erythema

n
/ ɛrəˈθɛmə /
Gk > L

abnormal redness of the skin due to capillary congestion (as in inflammation).

A small area of erythema on the back of Hillary's hand demarcated the burn.

erythrocyte

erythrophobia

n
/ əˈrɪθrəˈfɒbiə /
Gk

fear of blushing.

Marvin's erythrophobia is so severe that speaking in public is torture for him.

erythroptisia

n
/ ɛrəˈθrɒpsɪə /
Gk

a visual disturbance in which all objects appear reddish.

Cyrus erroneously thought that the expression "seeing the world through rose-colored glasses" had something to do with erythroptisia.

escabeche

n
/ ɛskəˈbɑːtʃə /
Ar > Sp

fish or chicken fried in oil then marinated in a spicy sauce and served cold.

Elena's recipe for escabeche came from her mother's favorite Spanish cookbook.

escalate

escapade

escapement

n
/ əˈskæpmənt /
L > F

the device in a timepiece which controls the motion of the train of wheelwork.

The use of an escapement in clocks dates back to the 14th century.

escarole

n
/ ɛskəˈrɒl /
L > It > F

an annual or biennial herb widely cultivated as a salad plant.

Helga tossed a salad of escarole, mushrooms, and tomatoes.

escharotic

eschatological

eschatology

n
/ ɛskəˈtɒlədʒi /
Gk

a study or science dealing with the ultimate destiny or purpose of humanity and the world.

Min's doctoral thesis in philosophy addresses the development of eschatology among Asian cultures.

escheator

esclavage

escolar

esculent

escutcheon

esne

n
/ ˈɛzn̩ /
E

a laborer or man of the lower classes among the Anglo-Saxons.

While working in the fields, the esne dreamed of marrying the master's daughter and living in the manor house.

espousal

n
/ əˈspəʊzəl /
L > F > E

a taking up or adopting as a cause or belief.

The senator's espousal of a national health program has not wavered during his three terms.

esquamulose

esquisse

essay

essayist

n
/ ˈɛsəɪst /
L > F

a writer of analytic, interpretative, or critical literary compositions.

As an essayist, Emerson can hardly be surpassed.

essential

estafette

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estate

n
/ ɛ'stāt /
F > E
the aggregate of property or liabilities of all kinds that a person leaves for disposal at his or her death.
The estate of the deceased billionaire has been tied up in lawsuits for over 12 years.

estimate

v
/ 'estə.māt /
L
judge the value of.
Arthur asked a real estate appraiser to estimate the house.

estrangle

etching

ethereal

ethics

ethnocentric

ethylene

n
/ 'ethə.lēn /
Gk > ISV
a colorless flammable gas found in coal gas or obtained from petroleum hydrocarbons and used to ripen fruits or as an anesthetic.
When ethylene is polymerized, the product is polyethylene, a plastic material used for making containers.

etymological

adj
/ .edəmə'lājəkəl /
Gk
belonging to, based on, or in accord with the history often including the prehistory of a linguistic form (as a word or morpheme).
The etymological meaning of the word hippopotamus is "river horse."

etymologicon

Eucharist

n
/ 'yūk(ə)rəst /
Gk
a central rite in many Christian churches in which bread and wine are consecrated by the officiating member of the clergy and consumed as symbols for the realization of a spiritual union between Christ and communicant or as the body and blood of Christ.
The Eucharist is considered by most Christian churches to be the central act of the worship service.

eucharistic

adj
/ .yūkə'ristik /
Gk > L
manifesting or expressing praise and thanksgiving.
Bianca composed a eucharistic poem for the festival.

eucrasia

n
/ yū'krāzh(ē)ə /
Gk + Gk
a normal state of health : physical well-being.
To the ancient Greeks, eucrasia resulted from the appropriate balance of the four humors: blood, yellow bile, black bile, and phlegm.

audiometer

n
/ .yüdē'āmədə(r) /
Gk
an instrument for the volumetric measurement and analysis of gases that involves the explosion of one of the components of the mixture by the passage of an electric spark.
Rodney managed to set the chemistry lab on fire because he did not understand how to use the audiometer.

eugenics

n pl
/ yū'jeniks /
Gk + Gk
a science that deals with the improvement of hereditary qualities in a series of generations of a race or breed.
Using eugenics to create a super20race of human beings is a common theme in science fiction.

eulogistic

euonym

euphemize

euphenics

n pl
/ yū'feniks /
Gk + Gk
a science that deals with the biological improvement of human beings after birth.
Many people believe that euphenics will be as common as dentistry in the next century.

euphonious

adj
/ yū'fōnēəs /
Gk
[Note: Could be confused with euphonous.] pleasing in sound.
Allison is noted for her euphonious voice and clear enunciation.

euphonium

n
/ yū'fōnēəm /
Gk + Ecf
a tenor tuba similar in shape, pitch, and range to the baritone but with a larger bore, a mellower tone quality, and often a double bell.
Rocky's mom made him practice his euphonium in the barn.

euphony

euphoria

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euphuism

n
/ 'yüfyəwizəm /
Gk > E name
[has near homonym: euphemism]
artificial and excessive elegance of
language : high-flown diction.
*Eli's penchant for euphuism is kept
in check by his English teacher, Dr.
Holquist.*

eupraxia

Euripidean

adj
/ yə'ripə'dēən /
Gk name
of, relating to, or characteristic of
the Greek playwright Euripides or
his tragedies.
*In Euripidean tragedy, the chorus
provides charming interludes of
song and dance.*

European

adj
/ ,yürə'pēən /
Gk
of, relating to, or belonging to
Europe or its inhabitants.
*Since John, an Englishman, has a
European Union passport, he is
allowed to work in France.*

euryphagous

eustachian

adj
/ yü'stāshən /
It name
of or relating to the bony and
cartilaginous tube connecting the
cavity of the middle ear with the
nasopharynx.
*As he began his dive, John pinched
his nose, closed his mouth, and
attempted to blow out to allow his
eustachian tubes to equalize the
pressure in his ears.*

eutely

evacuate

evadable

evanesce

evangel

n
/ ə'vanjəl /
Gk
a doctrine regarded as having
special grace, sanction, or efficacy.
*Elizabeth Cady Stanton called for a
new evangel of womanhood to exalt
purity, virtue, and morality.*

evangelist

evaporation

n
/ ə,vapə'rāshən /
L
the change by which any substance
is converted from a liquid state into
and carried off in vapor.
*The Mediterranean Sea loses much
water through evaporation, leaving
behind extra-salty water that sinks
to the bottom.*

evection

n
/ ə'vekshən /
L
perturbation of the Moon's motion
in its orbit due to the attraction of
the Sun.
*Herman's tidal calculations didn't
account for evection; as a result, he
was left high and dry.*

evenhanded

evermore

evidence

n
/ 'evədən(t)s /
L
something legally submitted to a
competent tribunal as a means of
ascertaining the truth of any alleged
matter of fact under investigation
before it.
*The suspect's fingerprints on the
murder weapon were sufficient
evidence for his arrest.*

evil

evolution

evolvable

evulsion

ewe

ewer

exacerbation

n
/ ig,zasə(r)'bāshən /
L
the act of making more violent,
bitter, or severe.
*Vigorous exercise can lead to acute
exacerbation of asthmatic
symptoms.*

exaggeration

n
/ ig,zajə'rāshən /
L
the act of enlarging beyond bounds
or the truth : overstatement.
*Uncle Joe's description of the fish
he caught was a gross
exaggeration.*

examen

n
/ ig'zāmən /
L
a critical study (as of a writer or a
phenomenon).
*Vera's research was a sound,
brilliant examen of the most
powerful English poet of this
century.*

examination

examine

v
/ ig'zamən /
L > F > E
inquire into the state of especially
by introspective processes.
*Shumin's father told her to examine
her conscience first and then
consider how her action might look
to other people.*

exanthematic

adj
/ eg,zan(t)thə'madik /
Gk
of or relating to an eruptive
disease—used especially of those
attended with fever (as in measles,
smallpox, and scarlatina).
*Mrs. Hu decided that Wilson's rash
was not exanthematic, so she let
him go out to play.*

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

exasperate

exasperated

adj
/ ɪg'zaspə.rədəd /

L
irritated or annoyed especially to the point of injudicious action.
The movie star became so exasperated with the photographers that he hurled his shoe at them.

excavation

excavator

n
/ 'ɛkskə.vədə(r) /

L
a worker who digs out material or digs cavities (as in quarrying or for building construction).
The excavator gasped when the side of the pit gave way to reveal a dark chamber.

exceed

v
/ ɪk'sēd /
L > F > E

[Note: Alternate pron has near homonym: accede.] go beyond a limit set by (as an authority or privilege).
Drivers who exceed the speed limit in the construction zone will be fined a minimum of 200 dollars.

excel

exception

n
/ ɪk'sepʃən /

L
the act of excluding or omitting.
The librarian made an exception and permitted Sandy to take a reference book out of the library.

excerpt

excipient

exclusive

adj
/ ɪk'sklüsiv /
L

barring from participation : snobbishly aloof.
The exclusive dog show allowed only registered dogs to participate.

excogitate

v
/ ɛk'skəjət /
L

examine mentally with thoroughness and care so as to obtain thorough grasp and comprehension of.
Lindsay tried to excogitate the topic thoroughly and outline his thoughts.

excrecency

excrescential

excruciating

adj
/ ɪk'skrūʃē.ətɪŋ /
L

very intense : extreme.
An excruciating toothache kept Marcel from enjoying the camping trip.

execrable

adj
/ 'ɛksəkrəbəl /
L

deserving to be declared evil or detestable.
For his execrable cruelty to the victim, the assailant was given the maximum prison sentence.

executive

exegeis

exegetical

adj
/ ɛksə'jedəkəl /
Gk

relating to critical interpretation of a text or portion of Scripture.
The theologian was praised for his exegetical commentaries on the Old Testament.

exemplify

exemplum

exempt

exequies

n pl
/ 'ɛksəkweɪz /
L > F > E
funeral rites or ceremonies.
The late king's exequies were solemnized with great pomp.

exergue

exfoliative

adj
/ ɛk'sfɒlē.ədɪv /
L
causing or characterized by the peeling of the outer layer of the skin.
Phil's rash was diagnosed as exfoliative dermatitis.

exhalation

n
/ ɛks(h)ə'lāʃən /
L > F > E
something that is given off or that rises in the form of gas, fumes, or steam.
The wind carried a foul exhalation from the nearby marsh to the Ackrill's house.

exhaust

n
/ ɪg'zɔst /
L
an arrangement (as of fans) for withdrawing undesirable fumes, dusts, or odors from an enclosure (as a factory room or a kitchen).
The safety inspector told Sharon that the greasy residue on the kitchen exhaust was a fire hazard.

exhausting

adj
/ ɪg'zɔstɪŋ /
L
depriving wholly of strength, patience, or resources.
Robert's exhausting exercise routine left him not only very tired but also very hungry.

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

exhibited

v
/ ɪg'zɪbədəd /
L

presented to view : showed, displayed.
Elizabeth Ellen brought her decorated cake into the room and exhibited it quite proudly.

exhilarated

v
/ ɪg'zɪləreɪdəd /
L

made cheerful : enlivened.
The sailor felt exhilarated as his boat headed into the wind.

exhume

v
/ ɪg'zɪm /
L

dig out of the ground : take out of a place of burial.
No matter where the bone is buried, the dog will be able to exhume it.

exigencies

n pl
/ ˈɛksɪjənsɪz /
L

requirements in a particular situation.
The Supreme Court supported the theory of presidential power to meet national exigencies.

existence

exogenous

adj
/ ɛk'sɪjənəs /
Gk + Gk
originating from or due to external causes.
The politician argued that the labor strife in his city was exogenous in nature.

exonumia

exorcism

exostosis

n
/ ɛk.sə'stōsəs /
Gk

a spur or bony outgrowth from a bone or the root of a tooth.
The exostosis on Bertha's big toe had to be surgically removed.

expectant

adj
/ ɪk'spektənt /
L

characterized by anticipation : waiting.
The expectant crowd outside the palace gates had been in place since before dawn.

expedient

expediently

adv
/ ɪk'spɛdɪəntli /
L

in a manner characterized by suitability, practicality, and efficiency.
It is the responsibility of the customer service representative to handle all complaints expediently.

expedite

expel

experiential

adj
/ ɪk.sɪrɪ'ɛnʃəl /
L
derived from, based on, or relating to experience : empirical.
Although based on experiential procedures and findings, many great scientific discoveries involve a degree of intuition and luck.

experiment

expertise

n
/ ɛk.sɪpər'tɪz /
L

specialized skill or technical knowledge in a particular field.
Jonathan's expertise in database management netted him an excellent job.

expiration

n
/ ɛkspə'rɪʃən /
L > E

the action or process of releasing air through the nose or the mouth.
Mrs. Burnet's expiration was strained after her operation.

expired

explanation

explement

expletive

explicit

explore

v
/ ɪk'splɔ(ə)r /
L

search through or into.
"Dr. Craven had indeed begun to wonder if it might not be wise to send some one out to explore the garden paths."

explorable

exponentially

adv
/ ɛkspə'nɛnʃəli /
L

in a manner indicating variation in which one variable factor depends upon another variable factor, characterized by an extremely rapid increase (as in size or extent).
For the past decade, sales of video games have been growing exponentially.

expound

v
/ ɪk'spaʊnd /
L > F > E

make a statement : present a view : comment.
The interviewer asked Shana to expound on the new park proposal.

expression

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

expropriate

v
/ ek'sprɒprē.āt /

L
take out of the possession of another : transfer (the property of another) to one's own possession.
Roy was startled to find that the government had the right to expropriate his land if he didn't pay taxes.

expurgate

v
/ 'ekspə(r).gāt /

L
cleanse of something morally harmful, offensive, or erroneous.
Before publishing the manuscript the editors will expurgate it of any slanderous material.

expurgatory

excise

extension

n
/ ik'stenchən /

L
a dance movement in which the leg is extended at an angle to the body.
Lily's teacher told her she would have to work on her extension until it was perfect.

extent

extenuate

v
/ ik'stenyə.wāt /

L
lessen or try to lessen the real or apparent seriousness of (as a crime, offense, or fault) or extent of by making partial excuses.
No excuse can extenuate Kevin's trying to pass off Adam's work as his own.

extenuations

n pl
/ ik.stenyə'wāshənz /

L
acts of partial justification.
Jason's letter of apology conveyed many extenuations that were comforting to Julia.

exterminated

v
/ ik'stərmənādəd /

L
gotten rid of.
The Grubbes have exterminated the rats in the cellar with rat poison.

extirpation

n
/ .ekstə(r)'pāshən /

L
the act of destroying totally : extermination.
Expanding settlements have resulted in the extirpation of vast forests.

extortion

n
/ ik'stò(ə)rshən /

L
[has homonym: extortion] the act or practice of obtaining something from an unwilling or reluctant person by physical force, intimidation, or the abuse of legal or official authority.
The gang leaders were arrested for their extortion of money from local merchants.

extra

n
/ 'ekstrə /

L
an additional worker hired for a motion picture or stage production to augment the number of people in a crowd or group scene.
When he was in China, Mark was an extra in a film requiring a crowd of Western Europeans.

extradition

n
/ .ekstrə'dishən /

F + L
the surrender of an alleged criminal usually under the provisions of a treaty or statute by one authority (as a state) to another having jurisdiction to try the charge.
Mrs. Thorpe was arrested in Arkansas but is fighting extradition to Missouri, where she allegedly assaulted a sales manager.

extrados

extraordinaire

adj
/ ik.strò(r)d'n'e(ə)r /

L > F
markedly exceptional.
The Iowa Department of Education honored Mrs. Ledgerwood, a math teacher extraordinaire.

extrasensory

adj
/ .ekstrə'sen(t)s(ə)rē /

L
residing beyond or outside the ordinary senses.
Reading someone else's thoughts is an example of extrasensory perception.

extremity

n
/ ik'stremədē /

L > F > E
an outlying or terminal part, section, or point.
The state's westernmost extremity is nothing but flat open prairie.

extrinsic

adj
/ ek'strinzik /

L
of or relating to the outside of.
The nondescript extrinsic appearance of the old building belied the architectural wonders within.

extrorse

adj
/ 'ek.stròrs /

L
turned away from the axis of growth.
When the anther of a flower turns away from the pistils and toward the petals, it is said to be "extrorse."

exude

v
/ ig'züd /

L
undergo diffusion : emanate.
Sweet odors exude from the shrubs around Myra's patio.

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

exultant

adj
/ ig'zʌltənt /
L

filled with extreme joy.
The racer was exultant when she crossed the finish line first.

exultantly

adv
/ ig'zʌltəntli /
L

in a manner filled with extreme joy.
She laughed exultantly when her practical joke worked and her brother was covered in paint.

exuviate

v
/ ig'zʌviət /
L

molt.
When a snake begins to exuviate, it rolls over several times to loosen the skin covering its head.

eyebrow

eyewitness

n
/ ɪ'wiʔnəs /
E + E

one that sees or has seen an occurrence or an object with his or her own eyes and so is able to give a firsthand report on it.
An eyewitness gave the detective a helpful description of the robber.

fabaceous

fable

fabric

fabulist

n
/ 'fabyələst /
L

[Note: Could be confused with fabulous.] a creator or writer of fables, especially those that carry a moral lesson.
Aesop is frequently called "history's greatest fabulist."

facetiously

factor

factual

faculty

facundity
n
/ fa'kʌndədē /
L

[Note: Could be confused with fecundity.] eloquence.
Lincoln's Gettysburg Address is a shining example of facundity.

fadeaway

faena

n
/ fä'änə /
L > Catal > Sp
the series of final passes by the matador with sword and muleta leading to the kill.
Many members of the audience left the bullfight hastily when the matador began the faena.

failure

n
/ 'fälyə(r) /
F
lack of satisfactory performance or effect.
The candidate's failure to address the people's complaints resulted in his losing the election.

fain

adv
/ 'fän /
E
[has homonym: feign] happily, joyfully : with glad preference.
The feisty cat would fain have chased the dog from his yard.

fainness

fainthearted

faintly
adv
/ 'fäntlē /
F > E

slightly, indistinctly.
There was a low fire glowing faintly on the hearth.

fairground

fairway

faja

n
/ 'fä(,)hä /
L > Catal > Sp
a wide bright sash worn around the waist.
Don Roberto wore his lucky faja every time he ran with the bulls.

falciform

adj
/ 'falsəförm /
L
having the shape of a scythe or sickle.
Roderick drew a somber night scene dominated by a falciform moon.

falconry

n
/ 'falkənri /
Gmc? > L > F > E
the art of training falcons to pursue and to attack wild fowl or game.
The king's oldest servant was a master of falconry.

falling

falsifier

falter

v
/ 'föltə(r) /
Scand? > E
[has homonym: faultier] speak brokenly or weakly : hesitate, stammer.
Stefan recited seven verses of the poem before he began to falter.

familiarity

familiarization

famine

fanciest

fanciness

fancywork

fanfare

fanged

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

fanglement

fantasque

fantasticity

fantastically

adv

/ fan'tastək(ə)lē /

Gk > L > F > E + Ecff

unbelievably, extremely.

Lillian wore her fantastically expensive diamond necklace to the governor's ball.

farce

farcicality

fare

farfetched

farina

n

/ fə'rēnə /

L

the coarsely ground bolted endosperm of wheats other than durum, free from fine flour or bran.

Before rice cereal for babies became widely available, cereal made from farina was often used.

farrier

farriery

fascicular

fascination

fascinator

n

/ 'fas'nādə(r) /

L

a woman's light head scarf usually of crochet or lace.

Doris appeared at the door wearing a long cloak and a candy-striped fascinator over her dark hair.

fascist

adj

/ 'fashəst /

L > It

of or relating to any program for setting up a centralized autocratic national regime with severely nationalistic policies, exercising regimentation of industry, commerce, and finance, rigid censorship, and forcible suppression of opposition.

Fascist ideology shares with liberalism an opposition to big business, trade unions, and the socialist state.

fascistization

fasten

v

/ 'fas'n /

E

cause parts which are separate to hold together : make fast and secure.

The kindergarten teacher spent two weeks teaching the children how to fasten their clothing.

fastener

fastidiously

adv

/ fa'stidēəslē /

L + Ecf

in a manner that reflects a meticulous, sensitive, or demanding attitude.

Vera's insistence on dressing fastidiously for every occasion precluded her going anywhere on short notice.

fastigate

fastuous

fatally

fate

n

/ 'fāt /

L

[has homonym: fete] ultimate lot or disposition : final outcome.

Hans Van Ripper now began to feel some uneasiness about the fate of poor Ichabod.

fatuously

adv

/ 'fachəwəslē /

L

in a foolish, stupid, absurd, or silly manner.

The clown performed fatuously to the children's delight.

faultless

faulty

faun

faustian

fauve

fear

v

/ 'fi(ə)r /

E

be afraid of.

Only after she saw its teeth and claws did Severine begin to fear the cute little raccoon.

fearsome

adj

/ 'fi(ə)rsəm /

E

arousing or likely to arouse fear, fright, or terror.

Kim spent a fearsome night in the woods.

feast

n

/ 'fēst /

L > F > E

an elaborate meal.

Susan had packed a basket which held a regular feast this morning.

feathery

febrile

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

February

n
/ 'febrə,werē /

L
the second month of the Gregorian calendar.
Kevin's car quit for good in February.

feculent

federation

feeble

fei

felicitations

feline

felinity

feloniously

adv
/ fə'lɒnēəslē /

L > F > E
in a manner having the nature of or involving a grave crime.
Garcia was feloniously relieved of his boombox by a couple of hoodlums.

felony

n
/ 'felənē /

F
a serious crime usually punishable by a sentence heavier than that for a misdemeanor.
Filing a false income tax return is a felony punishable by imprisonment and a fine.

femerell

feminie

feminize

femur

fenster

n
/ 'fenztə(r) /

L > G
an erosional opening down through overthrust rock exposing the underlying rock.
Gabe took a long hike in the national park to find the large fenster mentioned in his guidebook.

feodary

ferity

n
/ 'ferədē /

L
[has homonym: ferrety] the state of being undomesticated : wildness.
Even after several years in a zoo, the lion occasionally displayed its ferity.

ferment

fermiere

adj
/ fermyeer /

F
of a food : prepared in plain country style.
The signature dish at the quiet country inn was pot roast fermiere.

fernbrake

ferny

feroce

ferociously

adv
/ fə'rōshəslē /

L + Ecff
in a manner characterized by wild or extreme rapacity, cruelty, acrimony, or destructiveness.
A large cat ferociously snarled at Beth's puppy.

ferocity

ferried

ferriferous

adj
/ fə'rɪf(ə)rəs /

L
containing iron.
Hematite and magnetite are ferriferous minerals.

ferrotype

n
/ 'ferətɪp /

L + Gk
a positive photograph made by a collodion process on a thin iron plate and having a darkened surface.
A 19th-century ferrotype depicting Supreme Court Justice Levi Woodbury sold at auction for \$24,000.

ferrumination

ferry

ferryboat

fertile

fervently

fervor

festinate

adj
/ 'festənāt /

L
hasty.
Jeremy had a hard time keeping up with Noah's festinate gait as the two boys neared the movie theater.

festival

festoonery

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

festschrift

n
/ 'fest.shrift /
G

a usually miscellaneous volume of writings from several hands for a celebration; especially : one of learned essays contributed by admirers to honor a scholar on a special anniversary.

The retiring Dr. Mayer was presented with a festschrift that included a piece by a former student who had won a Pulitzer Prize.

feta

fete
v
/ 'fāt /
F

[has homonyms: fait, fate] honor (a person) or commemorate (an event) with a festive celebration.
Mr. Armstrong's employees voted to fete him with a black-tie dinner.

fetid

fetidness
n
/ 'fedəd'nəs /
L + Ecf

the state or condition of having an offensive smell.
For some people, Limburger cheese's fetidness is directly proportional to its tastiness.

fetter

v
/ 'fedər /
E

bind (a thing or person) to another as if with a chain.
The young mother had to fetter her active three-year-old with a child harness to take him shopping.

fettucelle

feudal

feuilleton

feverish

feverishly

adv
/ 'fēv(ə)riʃlē /
L > E + Ecff

in an agitated manner.
Jay lay sleepless and feverishly went over the day's events.

fiador

fiat

fibrated

fibrillogenic

fibrinogen

n
/ fī'brinəjən /
L + ISV + Gk
a globulin that is produced in the liver and is converted into a protein during clotting of blood.
Proteins in the blood include albumin, hemoglobin, and fibrinogen.

fibula

n
/ 'fībyələ /
L
the outer and usually the smaller of the two bones between the knee and ankle in most birds and many mammals including humans.
After breaking his fibula while sliding into second base, Roderick knew his season was over.

fictional

fiddle

fidget

fidgeted

v
/ 'fijətəd /
E + Ecf
moved uneasily one way and another.
The longer the speech went on, the more Kevin fidgeted.

fidgetiness

fidgeting

v
/ 'fijətɪŋ /
E?
moving uneasily one way and the other.
The teacher told Caleb to either stop his fidgeting or go do his work at a desk outside the classroom door.

fidgety

field

fielder

n
/ 'fēldə(r) /
E
a player positioned in the outer portion of the playing area (as in baseball or cricket).
The fielder moved all the way back to the warning track to catch the fly ball.

fiends

n pl
/ 'fēn(d)z /
E
infernal beings : demons.
The fiends portrayed in the painting represented greed and ambition.

fiercely

adv
/ 'fi(ə)rslē /
L > F > E
in a manner without mercy.
The hurricane fiercely hit the coastal town, leaving many beach cottages and business establishments in ruin.

fife

fifer

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

fight

v
/ 'fit /
E
contend physically for victory with vigor, fierceness, and determination.
Soldiers continued to fight on the ridge until nightfall.

figment

figurable

figure

v
/ 'figyə(r) /
L > F > E
compute, reckon.
Erwin tried to figure his grocery bill in his head, but he kept losing track of the numbers.

figurine

filamentary

adj
/ .filə'mentərə /
L > F
having the characteristics of a long thin flexible object.
The filamentary leg probably had belonged to a camel cricket or a daddy longlegs.

filar

filbert

filiality

n
/ .filē'alədə /
L
the relation or attitude of a child to a parent.
Although Tom and his father often disagreed, the bonds of filiality always held firm.

filiopietistic

filipendulous

adj
/ .filə'penjələs /
L
suspended by or strung upon a thread.
The glittering filipendulous stars were very effective when the ballroom lights were dimmed.

filly

filmography

n
/ .fil'mägrəfē /
E + Gk
a list of motion pictures featuring the work of a prominent motion picture figure (as an actor or director) or relating to a particular topic.
The biography of the director provided a complete filmography.

filmwright

filthily

fimbriate

fimbriation

n
/ .fimb're'āshən /
L
a narrow border to a heraldic design.
The family's coat of arms depicted a griffon within a blue fimbriation.

fimbrillate

adj
/ 'fimb'rə.lāt /
L
[Note: Could be confused with fibrillate.] bordered with a minute fringe.
Deb examined the fimbrillate petals under the microscope.

finale

finally

financial

finespun

finial

Finlandization

n
/ .finləndə'zāshən /
geog name
a foreign policy of neutrality.
Finlandization has its roots in the neutrality policy of Finland.

fipple

firearm

firebreak

firefly

n
/ 'fi(ə)r.flī /
E + E
a winged nocturnal insect usually producing a bright soft intermittent light.
When the light of the captured firefly started to dim, Nell decided it was time to set the bug free.

fishery

fishmonger

fishplate

fissionable

fissiped

adj
/ 'fisəped /
L
having the toes separated to the base :
cloven-footed.
Goats and pigs are some of the most common fissionable mammals.

fistful

fistiana

n
/ .fistē'anə /
E + Ecf
the world of boxing.
Muhammad Ali set fistiana on its ear when he defeated George Foreman in Zaire.

fistmele

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

fixedly

adv
/ 'fiksədɪlē /
E + Ecff
in a stationary or immovable manner.
Barry stared fixedly at the hail damage to his car.

fizgig

fizzwater

fjeld

flabbergast

flabellum

flagellate

flagellatory

adj
/ 'flajələ.tōrē /
L
relating to the act of flogging or beating.
The sailors were warned that disruptive behavior would result in flagellatory punishment.

flagrant

adj
/ 'flāgrənt /
L
extremely, flauntingly, or purposefully conspicuous usually because of uncommon evil, unworthiness, unpleasantness, or truculence.
Horace's flagrant disregard of the club rule about wearing cowboy hats got him kicked out peremptorily.

failing

v
/ 'flāliŋ /
E
moving, swinging, or beating as though wielding a threshing implement.
The novice skier tumbled down the hill, his arms failing desperately in the air.

flamboyant

flamethrower

flaming

adj
/ 'flāmiŋ /
L > F > E + Ecf
blazing.
The flaming crackling fire could be seen throughout the valley.

flannelmouth

flapdoodle

flareless

flary

adj
/ 'fla(a)rē /
unknown + Ecf
showy and bright.
Pam's orange dress seemed too flary compared to the attire of the others at the funeral.

flashcube

n
/ 'flaʃ.kyüb /
imit E + Gk > L > F
a plastic cube containing four flashbulbs that fits into the top of a camera and revolves after each shot.
Franklin forgot to bring a flashcube, so he couldn't take any pictures at the party.

flask

n
/ 'flaʃ /
Gmc > L > Sp > F
[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word.] a unit of weight for mercury equal to 76 pounds.
Marcie explained that the amount of mercury in a thermometer was a tiny fraction of a flask.

flatcar

flattery

flaunt

flavescent

flavid

flavorless

fleabag

fleece

fletching

n
/ 'flechiŋ /
F > E
the feathers on an arrow.
An arrow will not fly straight if the fletching is crooked.

fleuron

flexible

flicker

flight

flippancy

flipper

n
/ 'flipə(r) /
imit
a broad flat usually rubber shoe with the front expanded into a paddle used in skin diving and other aquatic sports.
Doug got his flipper snagged in the coral and had to leave it behind.

flivver

floccose

floeberg

floey

floraison

floral

adj
/ 'flōrəl /
L
of, relating to, or associated with a flower.
The floral emblem of the state of Tennessee is the iris.

floribunda

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

florigen

n
/ 'flōrəjən /
L + Gk
a hormone that induces flowering.
The horticulture expert explained how pinching back dead blossoms stimulated the production of florigen.

florin

n
/ 'flōrən /
L > It > F > E
an old gold coin first struck at Florence in 1252 weighing about 54 grains and noted for the purity of its gold.
The pride of Valentine's coin collection is a florin supposedly once the property of Christopher Columbus.

floristry

flounder

flourishes

n pl
/ 'flərishəz /
L > F > E
ostentations in the performance of something often intended to call forth or fix attention or admiration.
Todd stood up after his piano recital and, with many bows and flourishes, slowly left the stage.

flowage

n
/ 'flōij /
E
an overflowing (as of a stream or impoundment) onto adjacent land.
The flowage from a nearby creek into Mr. Goog's basement ruined his stamp collection.

fluffy

fluke

flump

fluorine

fluoroscope

flurries

n pl
/ 'flərēz /
imit?
sudden showers or snowfalls with a gust of wind.
The forecast was for intermittent flurries with no measurable accumulation.

flurry

fluster

fluttering

v
/ 'flʌdə(r)ɪŋ /
E + Ecf
moving with quick vibrations or undulations.
With his clothes bagging and fluttering about him on a windy day, he might be mistaken for some scarecrow escaped from a cornfield.

fluviate

fluviology

n
/ 'flüvē'äləjē /
L
a science dealing with watercourses.
Oliver needs one course in fluviology in order to get his professional civil engineering license.

flysch

n
/ 'flɪʃ /
G
a thick and extensive deposit largely of sandstone that is formed in a geosyncline adjacent to a rising mountain belt and is especially common in the Alpine region of Europe.
The geologist analyzed samples of the flysch to determine when the rock was formed.

foaming

focusable

fodient

adj
/ 'fōdēənt /
L
fitted for digging or burrowing.
The aardvark is a well-known fodient animal in South Africa.

foil

n
/ 'fōil /
L > F > E
[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word.] a fencing weapon that resembles an épée but has a flat guard and a lighter, more flexible blade that tapers to a blunt point.
The instructor showed Bella how to back her opponent into a corner with a few quick movements of her foil.

foldout

foliation

folio

folkloric

adj
/ 'fōk.lōrɪk /
E + E
of, resembling, or characteristic of traditional customs, beliefs, dances, songs, tales, or sayings preserved among a people or group.
The Slovakian dance troupe performed a folkloric dance wearing colorful costumes.

folklorist

folletto

n
/ fə'led(ɪ)ō /
F > It
imp, goblin, fairy; especially : a supernatural being who is a survival in popular form of an ancient Etruscan or Roman deity.
Nancy jokingly blamed her actions on an imaginary friend, a folletto who sat on her shoulder and gave her advice.

follicle

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

foment

fomites

Fomorian

n
/ fō'môrēən /
IrGael
one of a race of sea robbers in Celtic legend who were probably originally gods representing the powers of evil and darkness.
Caitlin wrote a fable about a Fomorian who emerged periodically from the sea off the coast of Ireland.

fondant

fondue

n
/ fän'd(y)ü /
F
[has homonym: fondue] a lowering or sinking down of the body in ballet dancing by bending the knee of the supporting leg.
Fondue was a difficult movement for Orson before his knee surgery.

foolhardily

foolhardiness

foolhardy

adj
/ 'fül.härdē /
F > E
daring but lacking judgment : foolishly adventurous and bold.
The high dive from the cliffs looked foolhardy, but Ellen knew that the water beneath was deep and clear.

footage

n
/ 'fūd.ij /
E
the total number of running feet of motion-picture film used for a complete story or for one or more scenes or for any subject.
The director told the film editors that they would have to cut out enough footage to keep the movie under 2 hours.

footman

n
/ 'füt.mən /
E
a servant in attendance upon the passengers in a carriage.
Mary saw that it was a stylish carriage and that it was a stylish footman who helped her into the carriage.

foozled

foppery

n
/ 'föp(ə)rē /
E
folly, absurdity.
There was an air of foppery and nonsense in Mr. Churchill's action of which Emma could not approve.

forb

forbiddance

forbivorous

forcible

forcibly

forcipiform

forearm

foreground

n
/ 'fō(ə)r.graünd /
Ecf + E
the part of a scene that is nearest to and in front of the spectator.
Although there were many actors in the scene, the main action was taking place in the foreground.

foreign

foreigner

n
/ 'fōrənə(r) /
E
a person belonging to or owing allegiance to another land : alien.
Everyone in New Prague liked the foreigner who moved into the Simpsons' old house.

foreknowledge

foresee

foresightedly

adv
/ 'fōr.sīd.ädlē /
E
with a view toward the future.
The state foresightedly created state parks and reservations along the seashore so as to preserve its natural beauty.

forest

forestall

v
/ fōr'stöl /
E
[has near homonym: forestal] exclude, hinder, or prevent by prior occupation or by measures taken in advance.
By traveling to his vacation spot incognito, the film star hoped to forestall rumors of his arrival.

forester

n
/ 'fōrəstə(r) /
F > E
a person who supervises the development, care, and management of timberland.
The forester showed the class his list of sightings of endangered wildlife species.

foreyard

forciform

adj
/ fōr'fisə.förm /
L
shaped like a scissors.
The jeweler's forciform tweezers gave her a better grip on the tiny watch parts.

forgeability

n
/ .fō(ə)rjə'bilədē /
L > E
suitability for being formed by heating and hammering.
Some alloys exhibit greater forgeability than others.

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

forgetfulness	foully	fragrance
forgettable	fountain	n / 'frāgrən(t)s / L > F a pleasant odor. <i>The fragrance of mulled cider wafted down the hallway.</i>
formalization	fourberie	frail
formally	fourfold	n / 'frāl / F > E [Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word.] the quantity (as 32, 56, or 75 pounds) of raisins contained in a shipping basket. <i>While working in the agricultural records office, Wanda learned that a frail is used to measure raisins.</i>
formatore	fourplex	framboise
formicarium	fowl	franchisal
formicine	frabjous	Franciscan
formula	adj / 'frəbjəs / unknown wonderful. <i>Vonda thought happily that her graduation party was the final event of a simply frabjous day.</i>	adj / fran'siskən / It name of or relating to the various religious foundations established by St. Francis of Assisi. <i>The Franciscan church in Basel, Switzerland, was used for a long time as a warehouse for salt.</i>
formulate	fractal	Francoist
v / 'fɔrmjə'lāt / L + Ecf plan out in an orderly fashion. <i>The board decided to call in a consultant to help formulate plans for the new factory.</i>	n / 'fraktl / L any of various extremely irregular curves or shapes that repeat themselves at any scale on which they are examined and that are assigned fractional dimensions. <i>Julia's science project demonstrated that the shape of a snowflake is a fractal.</i>	n / 'fræŋkɔəst / Sp name an advocate of or adherent to the political or social policies of the Spanish dictator Francisco Franco. <i>The Francoist claimed that if they had waited any longer to rise against the Republic, a Bolshevik revolution would have broken out.</i>
formulator	fractionally	Franconian
fortississimo	fractious	adj / fraŋ'kɔnɪən / G geog name of or relating to the West Germanic dialects of the Franks. <i>The earliest Franconian written documents belong to the late 8th or early 9th century.</i>
fortitudinous	fractography	
fortress	fracturable	
n / 'fɔtrɪs / L > F > E a fortified place : stronghold. <i>The refugees began to feel safe once they were deep within the fortress.</i>	fracture	
fortuitously	n / 'frakchə(r) / L the breaking of hard tissue (as bone). <i>Mike's fall off the ladder resulted in the fracture of his thighbone.</i>	
forum	fragility	
forward	fragmentary	
foster	fragmentize	
fother		
n / 'fəθə(r) / E [has homonym: father] a modern unit of weight for lead equal to 19½ hundredweight. <i>Scott celebrated when his new company recovered its first fother of refined lead from recycled scrap.</i>		

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frangibility

n
/ˌfrɑnjəˈbɪlədē /
L + Ecff

the quality or state of being breakable.

Winnie appreciates the beauty of glass ornaments so much that their frangibility does not discourage her from buying them.

Franglais

n
/fræˈŋɡlɑ /
F

French marked by a considerable number of borrowings from English.

Even after three years of French lessons and a year as an exchange student in Cannes, Peter still speaks Franglais.

frappe

fraternity

frazil

frazzle

freesia

n
/ˈfrēzh(ē)ə /
G name + Lcf
any plant of a genus of sweet-scented herbs with narrow tubular red, white, or yellow flowers.
The most colorful flower in Davida's bouquet was the freesia.

freestyle

freezing

adj
/ˈfrēziŋ /
E
very cold.

After the first freezing night of the season, Greg unhappily discovered that his car battery had died.

freighter

freiyo

frenular

adj
/ˈfrɛnyələ(r) /
L

of or relating to a connecting fold of membrane serving to support or restrain.

After Gary took his classmate's dare and licked the frozen pump handle, the frenular tissue under his tongue hurt for a week.

frenzied

frequency

frequently

freshet

fretful

fretum

fribble

v
/ˈfrɪbəl /
unknown
act in a trifling or foolish manner.
Mr. Atkinson told the students not to fribble during study hall but to read and write quietly.

friction

n
/ˈfrɪkʃən /
L
resistance to the relative motion of one body sliding, rolling, or flowing over another with which it is in contact.

The friction of the large door against its frame kept Janice tugging on it for several long seconds.

friezing

frighten

v
/ˈfrɪtʰn /
E + Ecf
markedly disturb with fear.
Gary did not realize how much his Halloween mask would frighten his little brother.

frightened

adj
/ˈfrɪtʰnd /
E

made afraid : scared.

The frightened child was calmed by his mother's embrace.

frightening

frightful

frigid

adj
/ˈfrɪjəd /
L
markedly lacking heat or warmth : very cold.
The mountain climbers wore extra layers of clothing to combat the frigid conditions.

frigidarium

frijoles

friseur

n
/frēˈzər /
F
[Note: Could be confused with freezer.] hairdresser.
Fernando plans to name his beauty shop "Fernando the Fantastic Friseur."

fritter

n
/ˈfrɪdə(r) /
L > F > E
a small quantity of batter often containing fruit or meat and fried in deep fat or sautéed.
Eddie and George each ate a large apple fritter at the carnival.

frond

frons

n
/ˈfränz /
L
[has near homonym: fronds] the upper or the anterior part of the head capsule of an insect : the forehead of the insect head.
Simple eyes of an insect are usually located on the frons.

frontier

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

frontolysis

frostbitten

adj
/ 'frɒst.bi'tɪn /
E + E

injured, nipped, or withered by the process of freezing.
The skier's mask saved him from getting a frostbitten nose.

frostbow

fructose

n
/ 'frʌk.tʊs /
L

a sugar that occurs especially in fruit juices and honey.
Fructose is a common ingredient in many baked goods found in stores.

frugivorous

adj
/ frʉ'jɪvərəs /
L + L

feeding on fruit.
Monkeys and apes are among the best-known frugivorous mammals.

frumentaceous

adj
/ frʉmən'tæʃəs /
L

made of or resembling wheat or other grain.
The seeds of many frumentaceous plants such as corn and oats can be ground into meal.

fuchsias

n pl
/ 'fyʊʃɪəz /
G name

any of numerous decorative shrubs with pendulous tetramerous flowers often cultivated as potted plants.
Grandma lined her windowsill with fuchsias.

fuel

fugacity

n
/ fyü'gæsədē /
L

lack of enduring qualities : transience.
The movie star soon experienced the fugacity of public adoration.

fugitives

n pl
/ 'fyüjədɪvz /
L

individuals who run away from a master or employer or from uncongenial surroundings.
Sojourner Truth, one of the many fugitives from slavery, became as famous for advocating women's rights as she was for denouncing human bondage.

fulgent

adj
/ 'fʉljənt /
L

dazzlingly bright : radiant.
Sophia's diamond earrings were fulgent in the sunlight.

fulgurous

fulmar

fulminating
adj
/ 'fʉlmə.nātiŋ /
L > E

coming on suddenly and with great severity : characterized by a rapid and severe course.
Dr. Lane dreaded telling his patient the diagnosis of pancreatic cancer, a fulminating disease.

fumblingly

adv
/ 'fəmbliŋlē /
Scand? + Eeff

in a manner marked by groping or clumsiness.
Katie fumblingly related her excuse to her father.

fumigation

n
/ .fyümə'gāʃən /
L > F > E

the act or process of treating with a gas in order to disinfect or destroy pests.
When Deedee saw a cockroach, she called the exterminator and arranged for the fumigation of her new apartment.

fumulus

n
/ 'fyümyələs /
L

a thin cloud resembling a veil and forming at any level.
The sky was clear except for a fumulus over the distant mountains.

function

functional

fundamental

fundamentally

funerary

fungible

adj
/ 'fənjəbəl /
L

of such a kind that one specimen or part may be used in place of another specimen or equal part to satisfy an obligation—used of things that can be counted, weighed, or measured and are consumed or alienated by use (as food, coal, oil, lumber).
When fungible goods of different countries of origin are mixed together, it is not practical to identify the origin of one sample of the product.

funipendulous

adj
/ .fyünə'penjələs /
L

suspended by a rope or cord.
Daniel jokingly called his tire swing a "funipendulous recreational facility."

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funnel

n
/ 'fʌnəl /
L > OProv > E
a utensil that has typically a hollow cone with a tube extending from the point and is designed to catch and direct the flow of a liquid or other substance.
Mary Ann used a funnel to direct the oil into the bottle.

furbelow

n
/ 'fərbə.ləʊ /
F > E
ruffle; specifically : a flounce on women's clothing.
Delia sewed a furbelow to the hem of her skirt.

furcate

adj
/ 'fər.kæt /
L
branching like a fork.
The toddler held the furcate twig up to his mom and whispered the letter y.

furioso

furiously

adv
/ 'fyūrē.əsli /
L > F > E + Ecf
in an impassioned manner : angrily.
The soldiers furiously pursued the raiders but could not catch them.

furl

furlong

n
/ 'fər.lɒŋ /
E
a unit of distance equal to 1/8 statute mile.
The horses named "Katie's Delight" and "Going for Gold" were neck and neck through the entire last furlong of the race.

furlongs

n pl
/ 'fər.lɒŋz /
E
units of distance, each being equal to 220 yards.
The second race, for fillies only, is six furlongs.

furnace

furrows

v
/ 'fər(,)ɔz /
E
shapes into alternate ridges and grooves; specifically : makes wrinkles in (the brow).
When Mr. Burns furrows his brow in puzzlement, he reminds his students of a shar-pei.

furuncle

n
/ 'fyū.rəŋkəl /
L
a localized inflammatory swelling of the skin and underlying tissues that is caused by infection by a bacterium in a hair follicle or skin gland and that discharges pus and a central core of dead tissue.
A painful furuncle developed inside Amy's elbow.

fury

n
/ 'fyūr /
L
violent anger : rage.
George's sadness changed to fury, and he stalked about the room feeling as if he would explode.

fustigate

v
/ 'fəstə.gāt /
L
criticize severely.
Many restaurants withdrew their advertising when the newspaper's food critic began to fustigate them.

fusuma

futon

n
/ 'fju.tən /
Jpn
a mattress filled usually with cotton that is placed on the floor or in a raised frame for use as a bed.
Many people whose living and sleeping quarters are in the same room find that a futon meets their needs nicely.

futurama

fuzzy

gabarit

gabby

gabelle

gabfest

gable

gadarene

adj
/ 'gadə.rən /
Palestinian geog name
rushing precipitously forward : engaged in headlong flight.
As the department store opened, a crazed gadarene horde of shoppers rushed headlong to the sales tables.

gadgetry

n
/ 'gædʒətri /
unknown
usually small and often novel mechanical or electronic devices or contrivances.
Anyone who loves gadgetry would have enjoyed the recent Inventor's Expo.

Gaelic

adj
/ 'gālik /
ScGael & IrGael
of, relating to, or characteristic of the language of the Gaels or especially of the Celtic Highlanders of Scotland.
Steve struggled through the Gaelic program for the Highland Games before he discovered the English translation.

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gaffer

n
/ 'gafə(r) /
E?

an electrician in charge of the lighting of motion-picture or television sets.

The gaffer tried various lighting techniques to see which would be most consistent with the mood of the scene.

gaillardia

gaiters

n pl
/ 'gædə(r)z /
Gmc > F

[has homonym: gators] cloth or leather leg coverings reaching from the instep to ankle, mid-calf, or knee, usually fastened by buttons or buckles, and held by a strap under the shank of the shoe.

The bishop was hard at work fastening the lower buttons of his gaiters as the service was ready to begin.

galactose

galah

Galahad

n
/ 'galəhəd /
E name

a man marked by unusual purity and self-sacrificing devotion to a noble cause.

A true Galahad, Jim has spent his entire life trying to find solutions to the problem of poverty.

galanterie

galantine

galaxies

n pl
/ 'galəksēz /
Gk

large systems of stars that make up the universe.

The Milky Way is just one of the universe's countless galaxies.

galbulus

n
/ 'galbyələs /
L

a spherical closed fleshy cone of thickened or fleshy peltate scales (as in the cypress).

As we moved through the swamp, an occasional galbulus fell into our canoe.

gale

n
/ 'gāl /
unknown

[has homonym: Gael] a strong current of air; specifically : a wind having a speed from 32 to 63 miles per hour.

Despite the fierce gale and high seas, the Coast Guard set out to rescue the shipwreck survivors.

galena

n
/ gə'leənə /
Gk

a mineral consisting of native lead sulfide occurring in cubic or octahedral crystals, bluish gray in color with metallic luster.

Paul gave his brother a near-perfect cube of galena for his mineral collection.

galenical

n
/ gə'lenəkəl /
Gk name

a standard medicinal preparation (as extract, tincture) containing usually one or more active constituents of a plant and made by a process that leaves the inert and other undesirable constituents of the plant undissolved.

A galenical was a common type of medicine in the Middle Ages.

Galilean

adj
/ ,galə'lāən /
Ital name

of or relating to Galileo Galilei, founder of experimental physics and astronomy.

Opera glasses are a modified version of the Galilean telescope.

galimatias

gallant

adj
/ 'galənt /
Gmc > F > E

marked by a blend of the high-spirited, brave, dashing, and chivalrous.

The press conference featured speeches in praise of the gallant adventurers who had rescued the lost hikers.

galley

Gallinazo

adj
/ ,gä(y)ē'nä()sō /
L > Sp

of or relating to an ancient culture of northern Peru characterized especially by negative-painted pottery, irrigation, and textiles.

Patty applied for a grant to study Gallinazo pottery at an excavation in Peru.

Gallionic

adj
/ ,galē'änik /
L

marked by indifference or easygoing carelessness or irresponsibility.

Randall's Latin teacher told him that his Gallionic attitude toward homework would negatively affect his grade.

galvanic

adj
/ gal'vanik /
It name

of, relating to, or producing direct electric current by chemical action.

Myra constructed a galvanic cell using a bar of zinc, a bar of copper, two beakers, a U-shaped tube, and solutions of zinc and copper sulfate and potassium chloride.

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galvanometer

n
 / ˌgalvəˈnämədə(r) /
 It name > F + Ecf + Gk
 an instrument for detecting or measuring a small electric current by movements of a magnetic needle or of a coil in a magnetic field.
The lie detector's galvanometer indicated that the subject was lying.

gambrel

gamester

gamier

adj
 / ˈgāmēə(r) /
 E + Eeff
 more malodorous.
The smell in the hut was gamier than Maria could tolerate.

gamin

gammon

ganancial

ganglionitis

gangly

gangrenous

gangway

gannet

gape

gaping

adj
 / ˈgāpiŋ /
 ON > E
 wide open.
The giant raised his hand toward his gaping mouth, and the Humbug shut his eyes tightly and clasped both hands over his head.

garbage

garbologist

garbure

garganey

gargoyle

garibaldi

n
 / ˌgarəˈböldē /
 It name
 a woman's blouse copied from the red shirt worn by the Italian patriot Garibaldi.
Antonio followed his mother through the crowded market, keeping a sharp eye on her bright garibaldi.

garlicky

garment

garner

garnet

n
 / ˈgärnət /
 F > E
 a brittle mineral usually red in color and occurring mainly in crystals and used as a semiprecious stone and as an abrasive.
Alice asked the jeweler to suggest a setting for the garnet she inherited from her great aunt.

garnish

v
 / ˈgärnish /
 Gmc > F > E
 add decorative or savory touches to.
Rita used fresh dill to garnish the platter of smoked salmon.

garniture

n
 / ˈgärnəchə(r) /
 F
 the material in fireworks that produces stars, fiery rain, or other display after explosion.
Lin Yu calculated how much garniture would be needed to create the special fireworks for the Independence Day celebration.

gasket

gaslight

gasohol

gasp

n
 / ˈgasp /
 E
 catch the breath convulsively and audibly.
Mary caught her breath in a short gasp and felt herself turn pale.

gasped

gastrostomy

n
 / gaˈsträstəmē /
 Gk
 the surgical formation of an opening through the abdominal wall into the stomach to serve for the introduction of food.
The doctor recommends a gastrostomy as the best solution to keeping Alice alive during her coma.

gateado

n
 / ˌgädēˈä(,)dō /
 L > Sp
 a tropical American timber tree that yields a hard dense black-streaked wood used to make furniture.
The antique library table was made from gateado.

gatepost

gatherum

n
 / ˈgathərəm /
 E + Ecf
 a collection of miscellaneous items.
Alan referred to his assortment of beach glass and driftwood as a "gatherum," but his mother called it "Alan's junk."

gaud

n
 / ˈgòd /
 L > F > E
 [has homonym: god] ornament; especially : a showy or flashy bit of jewelry or finery.
The blackbird was attracted by the red glass gaud pinned to the shirt of the scarecrow.

gaudery

gaudify

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gaudy

gaullist

gaunt

adj

/ 'gɒnt /

Scand? > E

thin and angular.

On a high podium in front stood the conductor—a tall, gaunt man with dark deep-set eyes.

gauzy

gavage

n

/ gə'væzh /

F

introduction of material (as nutrients) into the stomach by means of a stomach tube.

Gavage is a common method of feeding babies who are unable to swallow enough for good nutrition.

gavel

gawkiness

gbo

gear

geisha

geishas

gelid

adj

/ 'jelɪd /

L

extremely cold : icy.

When Frank was in Finland, he took a memorable swim in gelid water.

gelignite

n

/ 'jelɪg.nɪt /

L

a gelatin dynamite in which the adsorbent base is largely potassium nitrate or a similar nitrate usually with some wood pulp.

Gelignite was used to blast a passage through the rocks for a roadway.

gemination

Gemini

gemmary

n

/ 'jemərē /

L

the science of precious or sometimes semiprecious stones cut and polished for ornament.

Perry has written many articles on gemmary for jewelers' trade magazines.

genealogical

adj

/ 'jēnə'lɔːjəkəl /

Gk

of or relating to an enumeration of ancestors and their descendants in the natural order of succession.

A family tree is a representation of genealogical relationships.

generalize

generator

n

/ 'jenə.rəd-ə(r) /

L

a machine by which mechanical energy is changed into electrical energy.

The generator at the cabin ran on gasoline.

genes

genetic

genialize

v

/ 'jēnyəlɪz /

L + Ecf

cause to be marked by sympathetic cheerfulness, warmth, and friendliness.

Kim's goal as president is to genialize club members and thus minimize their cliquish behavior.

genius

n

/ 'jēnyəs /

L

[has near homonym: genus] a strongly marked capacity or aptitude : notable talent.

Although he always means well, Cedric has a positive genius for getting into embarrassing situations.

genotype

n

/ 'jənə.tɪp /

Gk + Gk

the totality of specific transmitters of hereditary characters possessed by an individual or group.

Because Richard's blood type is O, he knows that his genotype is recessive.

gentlest

genuine

genus

n

/ 'jēnəs /

L

a class, kind, or group marked by one or more common characteristics.

*The housefly belongs to the genus *Musca*.*

geocentric

adj

/ 'jēɔ'sentrik /

Gk + Gk + Ecf

taking or based on Earth as the center of perspective and evaluation.

The most highly developed geocentric system was that of Ptolemy of Alexandria.

geographical

geologist

n

/ 'jē'æləjəst /

L

a specialist in the history of Earth and its life especially as recorded in rocks.

The geologist conducted a survey of the rock masses and mineral resources of the area.

geology

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

geometrically

adv
/ jĕə'metrək(ə)lē /
Gk

in a manner relating to or according to the principles of geometry.

The art gallery is displaying a collection of geometrically based abstractions.

geophagy

n
/ jĕ'äfəjĕ /
Gk + Gk

the practice of eating earthy substances (as clay) in an attempt to supply elements lacking in an unbalanced diet.

Research in geophagy reveals that some who practice it are protecting themselves against plant toxins and others are trying to meet an increased need for minerals.

geostrophic

adj
/ jĕə'sträfik /
Gk

of or relating to deflective force due to the rotation of Earth.

Geostrophic winds in the upper troposphere often reach high velocities.

gerenuk

n
/ 'gerə.nük /
Somali

a long-necked antelope native to eastern Africa.

The film showed a gerenuk gracefully rising on its hind legs to reach the leaves it feeds on.

geriatrician

n
/ ,jerĕə'trishən /
Gk

a specialist in a branch of medicine that deals with the problems and diseases of old age and aging people.

A geriatrician was consulted to find out how to treat Grandpa's grumpiness and loss of appetite.

germicide

germinate

v
/ 'jərmə.nāt /
L

begin to grow : sprout—used especially of a spore or seed.

The beans were allowed to germinate in the greenhouse before being transferred to outdoor soil.

germproof

gerontology

n
/ 'jerən'täləjĕ /
Gk

a scientific study of the phenomena of aging and of the problems of the aged.

Kathy's research in gerontology was complemented by weekly visits with retirement center residents.

gerrymandered

gestation

n
/ je'stāshən /
L

the carrying of young usually in the uterus from conception to delivery : pregnancy.

The Indian elephant's period of gestation can be as long as 22 months.

geta

n pl
/ 'ge()tä /
Jpn

Japanese wooden clogs for outdoor wear.

Yukio wore his clunky geta to the public baths.

getaway

gethsemane

geusioleptic

adj
/ ,gyüzĕə'leptik /
Gk

having or characterized by pleasant flavor.

Drug companies have put much effort into producing geusioleptic medicines for children.

geyser

geyserite

n
/ 'gĕzərĭt /

ON > Icelandic
a hydrous silica that constitutes one variety of opal and is deposited around some hot springs and geysers in white or grayish concretions.

While at Yellowstone National Park, Kyle took several pictures of the gray mounds of geyserite.

gherkin

ghost

ghostly

adj
/ 'gōstlē /
E

of or relating to a mark or visible sign left by something dead, lost, or no longer present.

The fog gave commonplace objects a ghostly appearance.

giantess

gibbet

n
/ 'jĭbət /
F > E

a frame usually of two upright posts and a crossbeam from which is suspended the rope with which criminals are executed by hanging.
Only through the queen's mercy was the pirate able to escape the gibbet.

gibbon

n
/ 'gĭbən /
F

any of a genus of tailless apes of southeastern Asia that are the smallest of the arboreal anthropoid apes.

Its powerful upper limbs enable the gibbon to swing from tree to tree through the forest canopy.

gibbosity

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

Gibraltar

n
/ jə'brɒltə(r) /
Iberian geog name
an impregnable stronghold.
Louis viewed his private club as a Gibraltar of civility.

gibus

n
/ 'jɪbəs /
F name
a man's collapsible top hat—called also "opera hat."
In the 19th century, men often wore a gibus to formal occasions.

giddily

giddiness

n
/ 'gɪdɪnəs /
E
the quality or state of being exuberant, impulsive, or thoughtless.
The soccer team's giddiness resulted from winning the match.

gigabyte

gigahertz

n
/ 'gɪgəhɜrts /
Gk > ISV + G name
a unit of frequency equal to 1 billion cycles per second.
A radio signal with a frequency of 1 gigahertz lies in the microwave range.

gigantean

giggle

v
/ 'gɪgəl /
imit
laugh in an affected or silly manner.
Although she could not see the boys, Mrs. Rowe heard them giggle behind the sofa.

gigue

n
/ 'zhɛg /
F
[Note: Could be confused with jig.] a lively dance movement having compound triple rhythm and consisting of two sections, each of which is repeated.
The gigue is a major part of several European folk dances.

gilded

adj
/ 'gɪldəd /
E
covered or tinged with gold or a golden color.
The gilded icons in the church's transepts were ruined by vandals last weekend.

gimbal

n
/ 'gɪmbəl /
L > F > E
[has homonym: gimble] a contrivance that permits a body to incline freely in any direction or suspends something so that it will remain level when its support is tipped.
A rusty gimbal caused the compass to remain fixed while the boat listed.

ginger

adj
/ 'dʒɪŋjə(r) /
Skt? > Gk > L > E
having the reddish brown color of the spice ginger.
Mrs. Collins would die if anyone knew that her ginger hair is actually gray.

girder

gisarme

gist

gitano

n
/ hē'tä(ɪ)nō /
Gk geog name > L > Sp
a Spanish male gypsy.
A strolling gitano played folk songs on his violin for the restaurant patrons.

giusto

glaciarium

gladdened

v
/ 'glədʰnd /
E
made happy or cheerful.
The aging king was gladdened by the birth of an heir.

gland

glandular

glare

v
/ 'glə(a)(ə)r /
E
shine especially by reflection with a harsh uncomfortably brilliant light.
Late afternoon sun tends o glare off the windows across from Joan's apartment.

glary

adj
/ 'glə(a)rē /
E
shining with or reflecting a harsh uncomfortably bright light.
Jeremy had a difficult time driving east in the glary early morning hours.

gleam

v
/ 'glēm /
E
shine with subdued emitted or reflected light.
Captain Cook watched the moon gleam on the water in the harbor.

glean

gleanings

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

gleefully

glengarry

n
/ glen'garē /
Scot geog name
a woolen cap of Scottish origin typically having a crease in the crown from front to back and edges bound with ribbon that ends in the back in two small streamers.
Each bagpiper was wearing a glengarry, a kilt, a sporran, and spats.

glessite

glint

v
/ 'glint /
E
shine usually by reflection : sparkle.
Some rhinestones glint almost as brightly as diamonds.

glitch

glittering

adj
/ 'glidəriŋ /
ON > E
resplendent, brilliant.
Maxine's glittering Mardi Gras mask was the hit of the party.

gloaming

n
/ 'glōmiŋ /
E
twilight, dusk.
Bart heard the robins singing in the gloaming.

globalization

n
/ ˌglɔbələ'zāshən /
L + Ecff
the act of making something worldwide in scope or application.
One of the nation's goals is the globalization of democracy.

gloom

n
/ 'glüm /
E
an appearance or atmosphere of melancholy and despondency.
The overhanging trees cast a gloom over the dilapidated house.

glossolalia

n
/ ˌgläsə'lälēə /
Gk + Gk
ecstatic speech that is usually unintelligible to hearers and is uttered in worship services of various contemporary religious groups laying great stress on religious excitation and emotional fervor.
Both glossolalia and healing by the laying on of hands were commonplace at the tent revival.

glossopathy

glottalize

Gloucester

n
/ 'glästə(r) /
E geog name
a hard cheese resembling derby.
Garrett topped his ham sandwich with a slice of Gloucester.

glummiest

adj
/ 'gləməst /
E
most dismal, dreary, or gloomy.
At his glummiest, Terry could still crack a joke.

glut

gluten

glutinous

adj
/ 'glüt(ə)nəs /
L
having the physical properties of glue.
When Matthew's mother told him to eat his stewed okra, he dropped his fork in the glutinous mass and burst into tears.

glutton

glyceride

glycerinated

v
/ 'glis(ə)rənādəd /
Gk + F + Ecf
treated with or preserved in glycerin.
The ointment contained gelatin that had been glycerinated.

glycogenolysis

n
/ ˌglīkəjə'näləsəs /
Gk
the breakdown of animal starch especially to glucose in the animal body.
Low blood sugar triggers glycogenolysis in the liver, which produces the needed glucose.

glycolytic

adj
/ ˌglīkə'lidɪk /
Gk
of, relating to, or inducing the enzymatic breakdown of glucose and other carbohydrates, with the release of energy.
Athletes often eat foods like pasta to counter glycolytic effects.

glyph

glyptic

n
/ 'gliptik /
Gk
the art or process of carving or engraving especially on gems.
The amber was enhanced by a beautiful example of glyptic.

gnarled

gnarly

gnash

gnat

gnatcatcher

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

gnathic

adj
/ 'nathik /
Gk
of or relating to the jaw.
The zoology students compared the gnathic features of various animals.

gnathonic

gnawed

gneiss

n
/ 'nīs /
G
[has homonym: nice] a laminated or foliated metamorphic rock corresponding in composition to granite.
The geologist easily identified the rock sample as a form of gneiss.

gnomonics

n pl
/ nō'māniks /
Gk
the art of using or making dials, especially sundials.
Gnomonics had its beginning when the ancient Egyptians started using shadows for measuring time.

gnostic

adj
/ 'nāstik /
Gk
of or relating to knowledge or cognition : intellectual.
Georgina's teacher said that her gnostic abilities were far greater than her grades indicated.

gnu

n
/ 'n(y)ü /
Bushman
[has homonym: new] any of several large African antelopes with a head like that of an ox, short mane, long tail, and horns that curve downward and outward and then up.
The brindled gnu, sometimes called a wildebeest, is one of the fastest animals in southern Africa.

goad

goateed

adj
/ (.)gō'tēd /
E
having a small trim pointed or tufted beard on the chin.
The portly, goateed restaurant owner stopped by each table to ask how everything was.

goatherd

goblet

goblins

n pl
/ 'gäblənz /
Gk > L > F > E
ugly or grotesque sprites.
Remembering all the stories of ghosts and goblins influenced his imagination to run wild.

gobo

n
/ 'gō(.)bō /
unknown
a portable black cloth-covered screen used to shield a camera from unwanted light.
Flora adjusted the gobo before the next take.

goddess

n
/ 'gädəs /
E
a female god.
The Hindu goddess Devi was the subject of a recent exhibit at the Smithsonian.

godsend

goggles

goldenfleece

goldfinch

Goldwynism

n
/ 'gōldwə'nizəm /
US name
a phrase or expression (as include me out) involving a grotesque use of a word.
One well-known Goldwynism is the saying "A verbal contract isn't worth the paper it's printed on."

golgotha

n
/ gäl'gäthə /
Heb > Aram > Gk > L
a place of burial : cemetery.
A chill ran down Henrietta's spine as she walked through the old golgotha.

gomphosis

goneness

goner

gonitis

goodies

gooney

googolplex

gopher

n
/ 'gōfə(r) /
unknown
any of several burrowing rodents.
"The old man was as spry as a gopher," said his grandson.

goracco

gorge

gorgio

gorgon

goshenite

gossoon

gouache

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

Gouda

n
/ 'güdə /
Netherlands geog name
a whole-milk mild-flavored cheese shaped in flattened spheres and usually covered by a red protective coating.
The Gouda and grapes were a hit at Marcy's party.

gourmand

government

governor

grabble

v
/ 'grabəl /
D
move the hand (as in searching) in a groping fashion.
Every morning Tiffany has to grabble for her glasses.

gracefully

adv
/ 'grāsfulē /
L + Ecff
in a manner marked by fitness and proportion of line or movement.
Fred Astaire danced gracefully up the wall and across the ceiling.

gracilis

n
/ 'grasələs /
L
the most superficial muscle of the inside of the thigh.
At the bodybuilding contest the judges were so critical that they insisted on seeing if every muscle, including the gracilis, was developed.

gracioso

gradeability

graduate

adj
/ 'graj(ə)wət /
L
of, relating to, or engaged in studies that go beyond the first or bachelor's degree and are usually specialized or professional.
Although he is only a junior in college, Cecil is taking several courses on the graduate level.

gradus

Grail

n
/ 'grāl /
L > F > E
the cup or platter which according to medieval legend was used by Christ at the Last Supper, was brought to Britain, and thereafter became the object of knightly quests.

The Holy Grail is sometimes referred to as "the silver chalice."

grainy

graminivorous

grammatical

grampus

n
/ 'grampəs /
L > F > E
a cetacean of temperate and tropical seas having a blunt snout and teeth in the lower jaw only.
Squid and octopus are the main foods of the grampus.

granary

grandee

grandeeship

grandiloquent

adj
/ gran'diləkwənt /
L
marked by a lofty, extravagantly colorful, pompous, or bombastic style, manner, or quality especially in language.
The senator dedicated the monument with an entertainingly grandiloquent speech.

Grandisonian

adj
/ ,grandə'sōnēən /
E name
of, relating to, or befitting a model gentleman of the 18th century.
In a wig and knee britches, Jonathan played the part of the Grandisonian earl perfectly.

grandomania

granitic

adj
/ gra'nidɪk /
L > It + Ecf
resembling an igneous crystalline rock formation in austere inflexibility.
Rowan's boss has a terrifying granitic personality.

granivorous

adj
/ grə'niv(ə)rəs /
L
feeding on seeds or grain.
Ursula reinforced the silo to protect it from granivorous pests.

granular

granulation

n
/ ,granyə'lāshən /
L
the act or process of forming or crystallizing into grains or small masses.
The granulation of sugar is an important development in the history of food.

grapefruit

graphic

adj
/ 'grafɪk /
Gk
written, drawn, or engraved.
The graphic symbols of Linear A, a Cretan script, have not yet been deciphered.

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

graphologist

n
/ gra'fäləjəst /
Gk

a specialist in the study of handwriting especially for the purpose of character analysis.
When Claire signed the form, she was not told that a graphologist would be analyzing her signature.

graphorrhea

grasp

v
/ 'grasp /
E

comprehend : understand.
Victor was able to grasp the new concept the first time it was presented.

grasshopper

grateful

graticulation

gratis

adv
/ 'gradəs /
L
without charge or recompense.
Some restaurants no longer provide water gratis.

gratitude

n
/ 'gradətüd /
L
thankfulness.
Tim's parents make many sacrifices so that he can train for the Olympics, but he shows them little gratitude.

grattoir

gratuitously

adv
/ grətüədəsle /
L
without involving a return benefit, compensation, or consideration.
The travel agency gratuitously provided the family with transportation to and from the airport.

graustark

Graustarkian

adj
/ grau'stärkēn /
fictional name
of or relating to an imaginary place of high romance.
Dr. Furter's castle was far from the Graustarkian ideal.

grave

adj
/ 'grāv /
L > F
having a serious, sedate, and dignified appearance or demeanor.
The judge appeared grave and impassive as she pronounced sentence on the convicted felon.

gravid

adj
/ 'gravəd /
L
pregnant.
The gravid mare seemed to give a sigh of relief as her rider dismounted.

gravimetry

n
/ grə'vimətrē /
L + Gk + Ecf
the measurement of weight or density.
Arleen's physics book has a chapter devoted to the study of gravimetry.

gravitational

adj
/ ,gravətāshənəl /
L
of or relating to a force manifested by acceleration towards each other of two free material particles or bodies.
If the gravitational force of Earth were turned off momentarily, we would all get a free ride into space.

gravity

gravure

gravy

n
/ 'grāvē /
F > E
any of several thickened sauces served especially with meat or potatoes.
The so-called "red-eye" gravy often served with ham and biscuits is usually made with strong coffee or cola.

graywacke

graze

great

greave

n
/ 'grēv /
E
[has homonym: grieve] armor for the leg below the knee.
Memnon removed the soldier's greave, exposing the wound underneath.

grebe

Grecian

adj
/ 'grēshən /
Gk > L
of, relating to, or characteristic of Greeks.
Grecian cuisine famously includes octopus and squid.

grecize

v
/ 'grēsīz /
Gk > L > F
make Greek or Hellenistic in quality, traits, or cultural characteristics.
The locals wouldn't allow invaders to grecize their culture.

greedy

greenbrier

greengage

greenhouse

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

greenness

n
/ 'grēnnəs /
E

the quality or state of being green.
The clear little stream ran quite merrily along on its narrow way through the luscious damp greenness.

gremlin

grenade

grenadierial

grenadine

griddle

n
/ 'gridl /
L > F > E

a flat surface on which food is placed to be cooked by dry heat.
Dad makes buttermilk pancakes on the griddle every Sunday morning.

gridiron

n
/ 'gri.dī(ə)m /
(L > F > E) + E
[Note: Although the definition provided is the original sense, it is not the one most commonly associated with this word.] a grated metal frame for grilling food over coals.
Sara's hot dog rolled off the gridiron and fell on the ground.

grievances

n pl
/ 'grēvən(t)səz /
F > E

causes of uneasiness or distress felt to afford rightful reason for reproach, complaint, or resistance.
During his new-employee orientation, Stan was briefed on the procedure for filing grievances.

griffonage

n
/ grifə'nāzh /
F

[Note: Could be confused with griffinage.] careless handwriting : a crude or illegible scrawl.
The pharmacist assured us that what looked like griffonage was simply a string of Latin abbreviations.

grimy

grip

n
/ 'grip /
E

[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word. In addition, word has homonym: grippe.] a worker who moves the scenes in a theater.
Til worked as a grip at the Country Dinner Playhouse.

grippe

grisard

griseofulvin

grissino

n
/ grə'sē(.)nō /
It
a long slender crusty breadstick usually of Italian style or origin.
For a mid-afternoon snack, a grissino was all that Amelia needed.

grivoiserie

grobianism

grok

v
/ 'gräk /
US literary name
understand profoundly and intuitively : establish deep compassionate rapport with.
Robert Heinlein's most popular books are about a character who could grok his friends in a profound way.

grope

v
/ 'grōp /
E

search about blindly or uncertainly.
The daydreaming student had to grope for an answer when the teacher asked him a question.

gross

n
/ 'grōs /
L > F > E

[has near homonym: grows] an aggregate of 12 dozen things; specifically : a lot made up of 12 dozen usually relatively small and substantially identical commercial objects.
Mrs. Lin ordered a gross of gel pens to use for special rewards.

grotesqueness

n
/ grō'tesknəs /
F&It
the quality or state of being comically incongruous or ridiculously ugly.
Each horror movie seems to be trying to outdo the others in grotesqueness.

grotto

grottoed

adj
/ 'grädōd /
L > It
enclosed in or made into a natural covered opening in the earth.
The gangsters fled to their grottoed hideaway.

grouchiness

groundless

groundsel

n
/ 'graün(d)səl /
E
an herb of the genus Senecio sometimes used for medicinal purposes.
Groundsel is found in swamps and meadows from Newfoundland to Ontario.

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

grouper

grouse

grout

n
/ 'graüt /
E

thin mortar fluid enough to be poured and used for filling in spaces as in the joints of masonry or brickwork.
Randy carefully spread new grout and set the tiles into the counter top.

growthy

grubstake

grudgingness

n
/ 'grəjɪnəs /
Gmc > F > E

the quality or state of being unwilling, reluctant, or ungenerous.
With some grudgingness, Ron came to accept Sam as his daughter's fiancé.

gruine

gryllus

gryposis

n
/ grə'pōsəs /
Gk

abnormal curvature especially of the fingernail.
When one of Sarah's fingernails exhibited gryposis, her doctor removed it surgically.

guarantee

guaranteed

v
/ ,garən'tēd /
Gmc > F

given or furnished security to.
Results are not guaranteed, but if not perfectly satisfied, your wasted time will be refunded.

gudgeon

n
/ 'gəjən /
L > F > E

an iron pin for fastening together blocks of stone.
The stoneworker selected a heavy gauge of iron for the gudgeon that would hold together the parts of the granite park bench.

guenon

n
/ gə'nōn /
F

any of various long-tailed chiefly arboreal African monkeys.
The guenon is a favorite zoo monkey because of its bright markings, good nature, and its habit of grimacing at observers.

guest

guichet

guidance

guilelessness

n
/ 'gī(ə)lləsnəs /
Gmc > F > E + Ecff
the quality or state of being innocent, naïve, and unsophisticated.

Mrs. Waldron said that she loved teaching young children because of their natural guilelessness.

guiltsick

guilty

guinea

Guinean

adj
/ 'gīnēən /
African geog name
of, relating to, or characteristic of the region of Guinea, West Africa.
Guinea pigs are paradoxically not Guinean animals: They originate in South America.

guise

guitarist

gulag

n
/ 'gü.läg /
Russ acronym
the penal system of the former Soviet Union consisting of a network of labor camps.
Stalin chose a 15th-century monastery as the site for the first labor camp of the gulag.

gules

n
/ 'gyülz /
F > E

the heraldic color red.
One is never allowed to change a coat of arms, since even the use of gules has a certain meaning.

gulp

n
/ 'gəlp /
D or G > E
the amount taken in a single large swallow.
Soot took the entire half of a buttered crumpet and decided to swallow it all joyfully in one gulp.

gumdrop

gunpowder

gunrunning

guppy

gurgitation

gurry

n
/ 'gərē /
unknown
[has homonym: ghurry] the refuse from cutting up a whale and extracting the oil.
The captain ordered the younger crewmen to clear the deck of gurry.

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

gusset

n
/ 'gʊsət /
F > E
a usually triangular or diamond-shaped insert (as of cloth or leather) placed in a seam to give ease or expansibility.
Eileen sewed a gusset into the waistband of her hiking pants.

guttate

adj
/ 'gʊd.ət /
L
resembling a drop or having spots that resemble drops.
Symptoms of Janet's illness included a high fever and guttate skin lesions.

guyot

gyascutus

gymnast

gymnure

n
/ 'jɪm.n(y)ü(ə)r /
Gk
a small whitish insectivorous mammal of southeastern Asia having a long snout and a long naked tail.
The gymnure, also called the moonrat, is usually black with whitish head, but some individuals are all white.

gynecocentric

adj
/ .gɪnəkō'sentrik /
Gk
dominated by or emphasizing feminine interests or point of view.
Lucy enjoyed the movie mostly for its gynecocentric plot.

gynecocracy

gynecology

gyration

gyrocompass

gyromancy

n
/ 'jɪrəmən(t)sē /
Gk + Gk
divination in which one walking in or around a circle falls from dizziness and prognosticates from the place of the fall.
In one form of gyromancy, a circle is marked with the alphabet so that words may be formed as the diviner falls on the letters.

habit

n
/ 'hæbət /
L > F > E
a behavior pattern acquired by frequent repetition.
It is a Yorkshire habit to say what you think with blunt frankness, and old Ben Weatherstaff was a Yorkshire moor man.

habitable

habituated

adj
/ hə'bɪchə.wādəd /
L
made familiar through use or experience : accustomed.
Although now habituated to a comfortable life, Edna never forgot the pain of her poverty-stricken childhood.

habitué

haddock

hafnium

haggardly

hagiographer

n
/ .hægə'ægrəfə(r) /
Gk
one who writes about the life of a saint.
Most biographies of the saints are anonymous, but some are attributed to a particular hagiographer.

hagiolith

hailstones

n pl
/ 'hæl.stōnz /
E + E
balls or lumps of ice falling from a cloud.
The hailstones damaged the finish of many cars in the neighborhood.

haircut

hairdo

hairiest

adj
/ 'ha(a)rēəst /
E
the most covered with or as if with hair.
"That's the hairiest baby I've ever seen!" exclaimed Mr. Feeney.

halfback

hallucinations

hallucinatory

hallux

n
/ 'hæləks /
L
the innermost digit (as the big toe) of the hind limb : big toe.
The football player became afflicted with an arthritic hallux that affected his mobility.

halogen

n
/ 'hæləjən /
Gk
any of the five elements fluorine, chlorine, bromine, iodine, and astatine forming group VII A of the periodic table.
A halogen normally appears in the free state as a diatomic molecule.

halter

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

hambo

n
/ 'häm(,)bü /
Sw geog name
a Swedish round danced to various melodies in triple time.
Joel learned to dance the hambo when he visited relatives in Sweden.

hammer

hamotzi

hamper

hamster

handbill

handicap

n
/ 'handē.kap /
E
an advantage given a weaker contestant or a disadvantage imposed upon a stronger contestant in order to equalize chances of winning.
Mr. Shore's golf handicap has remained unchanged after six years of play.

handicapper

handiwork

handkerchief

n
/ 'hæŋkə(r)chəf /
E + F > E
a piece of cloth that is used for various personal purposes or as a costume accessory.
Mr. Van Deventer bought a matching tie and handkerchief off the bargain rack.

handsome

hangar

hangdog

adj
/ 'hæŋ.dɒg /
E + E
dejected, cowed, pitiful.
When asked why he had such a hangdog look, the little boy replied that he couldn't find his puppy.

hangul

n
/ 'hæŋgəl /
Kashmiri
a deer of Kashmir closely related to the red deer of Europe.
The deer hunter pointed out his most recent trophy — the mounted head of a hangul.

haori

hapchance

haphazardry

happenstance

n
/ 'hæpən(z)tan(t)s /
E + L
a circumstance regarded as being due to chance.
By happenstance, Gloria found herself in the position of being a witness to a robbery.

haptic

adj
/ 'hæp.tɪk /
Gk
relating to or based on the sense of touch.
The human body's haptic sensor is the skin.

harassment

n
/ hə'ræsmənt /
F
the act or an instance of vexing, troubling, or annoying continually or chronically.
The employee sued the company for harassment that occurred over a period of two years.

hardihood

hardscrabble

hariolation

harmfully

harmless

adj
/ 'hɑ:mləs /
E
lacking capacity or intent to injure.
The snake was a harmless little thing that would not hurt anyone and seemed in a hurry to get out of the room.

harmony

harpy

n
/ 'hɑ:pē /
Gk > L
a predatory monster in chiefly classical mythology represented as having a woman's head and body and claws of a vulture and as being an instrument of divine vengeance.
Mrs. Byrd did not realize that the harpy Jill drew to illustrate Roman mythology had personal significance.

harras

harried

v
/ 'hɑ:rēd /
E
kept under constant attack or threat of attack : harassed.
A mosquito harried Charlie as he tried to sleep.

harrow

harrowing

adj
/ 'hɑ:(,)rɔ:ɪŋ /
E
acutely distressing or painful : agonizing.
Laura worried that a trip to the South Dakota badlands would be a trip through miles of harrowing and hazardous countryside.

harvester

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

hastate

adj
/ 'hɑ.stāt /
L
shaped like a spear or the head of a spear.
Michael has a letter opener with a hastate blade that looks like a Neolithic weapon.

hastener

hastilude

hastily

adv
/ 'hɑ.stəlē /
F > E
hurriedly.
The hastily executed maneuver saved the ship from the rocks.

hatched

haul

haunches

n pl
/ 'hɒn.tʃəs /
Gmc > F > E
hips : hindquarters.
The guard dog sat on his haunches and growled a warning to all who came near.

hausfrau

Havarti

n
/ hə'vɑrtē /
Danish geog name
a semisoft Danish cheese with a mild to sharp flavor.
Rivka served raw vegetables and mild Havarti with crackers to her party guests.

Hawaiian

adj
/ hə'wɑyən /
Hawaiian
of or relating to the island, state, or Territory of Hawaii, the Hawaiian islands, or the inhabitants of Hawaii.
Maureen won a Hawaiian vacation on a game show.

hawk

hawker

n
/ 'hɒkə(r) /
G&E
one that sells wares especially in the streets : peddler.
Sabrina tried to ignore the hawker as he extolled the virtues of beef jerky.

hawse

hawser

n
/ 'hɒzə(r) /
L > F > E
[Note: Could be confused with Hausa, houser.] a large rope for towing or mooring a ship or securing it at a dock.
Jody passed the hawser around the mooring post and disembarked from the boat.

hawthorn

hayloft

n
/ 'hɑ.lɒft /
E + ON > E
a loft or scaffold for hay.
Uncle Albert forbade the children from playing in the hayloft.

hazard

haziness

hazing

headpiece

headset

hearse

heartburn

heartthrob

heathenness

heaven

heavyweight

hebdomadal

hebephrenia

n
/ .hɛbə'frɛnēə /
Gk
a form of schizophrenia that is characterized by silliness, delusions, hallucinations, and regression and that has an early insidious onset.
The prognosis for hebephrenia, which presents itself initially during youth, is unfavorable.

hebetudinous

hecatomb

n
/ 'hek.ətɒm /
Gk
a large number or quantity.
The hecatomb of soldiers slain in the War Between the States makes this war the deadliest conflict in our country's history.

heckle

hector

v
/ 'hek.tə(r) /
Gk name
harass, intimidate, bully, or domineer by bluster, scolding, or personal pressure.
Some seniors like to hector underclassmen on the first day of school.

hedebo

hedge

hedghopper

hedgerow

n
/ 'hej.rɒ /
E
a row of shrubs or trees enclosing or separating fields.
The property belonging to the estate extended from the hedgerow at the left of the house to the stone pillar one mile down the road.

hedonic

heedful

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

heedless

hefty

adj
/ 'heftē /
E

impressively large.
Little Jolene sat on several hefty books in order to reach the desktop.

heiferette

heighten

heist

heliacal

adj
/ hə'liækəl /
Gk

relating to or near the Sun—used especially of the last setting of a star before and its first rising after invisibility due to conjunction with the Sun.
The Egyptian rural year was determined by the heliacal rising of Sirius.

helical

heliciform

adj
/ hə'lisə.fɔrm /
Gk + Ecf
spiral.

Emmett picked up several small heliciform shells while playing on the beach.

helicline

heliocentric

adj
/ 'hɛləɔ.sɛntrɪk /
Gk

having or relating to the Sun as the center.
Copernicus proposed in the 16th century a heliocentric theory of planetary arrangement.

heliophyte

n
/ 'hɛləɔ.fɪt /
Gk + Gk
a plant thriving in or tolerating full sunlight.
The cactus is a good example of a heliophyte.

heliosis

n
/ .hɛlə'ɔsəs /
Gk
sunstroke.
Ben stayed indoors for a week following his bout with heliosis on the rafting trip.

heliport

helix

n
/ 'hɛlɪks /
Gk > L
something spiral in form.
Each tendril of a grape vine forms a helix.

hellebore

helmet

n
/ 'hɛlmət /
Gmc > F
any of various protective head coverings usually made of a hard material to resist impact.
The steel helmet protected the soldier from shrapnel.

helminthoid

adj
/ hɛl'mɪnθɔɪd /
Gk
resembling a parasitic worm (as a roundworm, tapeworm, or leech).
The calves' emaciation and stunted growth were found to be a result of infestation by helminthoid organisms.

helpful

hemera

n
/ 'hemərə /
Gk
a stratigraphic zone comprising the time range of a particular fossil species.
Work on the excavation stopped when the workers accidentally unearthed a wide, rich hemera.

hemic

adj
/ 'hɛmɪk /
Gk
of or relating to blood.
Hemic problems caused Ron's breathing difficulty.

hemiplegia

hemiplegic

adj
/ .hɛmə'plɛjɪk /
Gk
marked by paralysis of one lateral half of the body or part of it resulting from injury to the motor centers of the brain.
Marc's automobile accident left him in a hemiplegic condition.

hemlock

hemochromatosis

n
/ .hɛmɔ.krɔmə'tɔsəs /
Gk
a disease characterized by widespread deposition of iron-containing pigments in the tissues resulting in bronzing of the skin, associated with cirrhosis of the liver and pancreas.
"Bronze diabetes" is the common name for hemochromatosis.

hemodialysis

n
/ .hɛmɔdɪ'aləsəs /
Gk + Gk + Gk
the process of removing blood from an artery (as of a kidney patient), purifying it, adding vital substances, and returning it to a vein.
Mr. Barnes is glad that his hemodialysis can be done at home instead of at the hospital.

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hemolymph

n
/ 'hēməlim(p)f /
Gk > L > E
the circulatory fluid of various invertebrate animals that is functionally comparable to the blood and lymph of vertebrates.
The hemolymph of insects is usually green, yellow, or colorless.

hemophilic

hemostat

n
/ 'hēməstat /
Gk
an instrument for compressing a bleeding vessel.
A hemostat is an indispensable tool in surgery.

hennery

n
/ 'henərē /
E + Ecf
[has near homonym: henry] an enclosure or house for poultry.
Bill painted the small hennery and put fresh straw inside it for the chickens.

heortology

n
/ ,hē.ó(r)'täləjē /
Gk + Gk
a study of religious calendars; especially : a study of the history and the meaning of the seasons and festivals of the church year.
Barbara's thesis on medieval Italian heortology was published last year to modest critical acclaim.

hepatectomy

hepatomegaly

n
/ ,hepədō'megəlē /
Gk + Gk
enlargement of the liver.
An accumulation of glycogen in the liver can result in hepatomegaly.

heptachord

heptagonal

heptastich

herald

heraldry

n
/ 'herəldrē /
Gmc > F > E
a branch of knowledge that deals with the history and practice of bearing and displaying armorial ensigns and with the art of describing them.
When she began studying heraldry, Jenny realized that she would have to learn a dictionary full of specialized terms.

herb

herbal

herbicide

herbivore

herbivorous

adj
/ ,(h)ər'bivərəs /
L
feeding on plants.
Most insects are herbivorous and feed on virtually every part of a plant, from the flower to the root.

herbs

n pl
/ '(h)ərbz /
L > F > E
plants or plant parts valued for their medicinal, savory, or aromatic qualities.
Karl guarded carefully the secret of which herbs he put in his barbecue sauce.

hereafter

hereinbelow

heresimach

n
/ hə'rēzə'mak /
Gk
an active opponent of heresy and heretics.
During the Inquisition, Torquemada was Spain's most zealous heresimach.

heretofore

heritably

hermetic

hero

heroism

heron

herpetofauna

hesitate

hessian

hesychast

n
/ 'hesəkast /
Gk
one of a set of Eastern Orthodox monastics practicing a solitary meditative form of prayer.
A monk who is a hesychast seeks inner stillness through prayer.

heterodyned

v
/ 'hedərədɪnd /
Gk
combined (a radio frequency) with a different frequency so that a beat is produced.
The incoming radio signals had to be heterodyned down to 150 kilohertz for recording with a tape recorder.

heterogeneity

n
/ ,hedərəjə'nēədē /
Gk + Lcf
the quality or state of differing in kind.
Sherman was amazed at the heterogeneity of the fraternity members.

heteronomy

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

heteronym

n
/ 'hedərənɪm /
Gk
one of two or more words spelled alike that differ in pronunciation and meaning.
Each of the words spelled b-a-s-s in the following sentence is a heteronym: The fisherman in his bass voice cried out that he had caught a bass.

heterotrichosis

n
/ .hedərōtrə'kōsəs /
Gk
a condition of having hair of variegated color.
When Granny saw rainbow-colored hair for the first time, she wondered if she were seeing a freakish case of heterotrichosis.

heterozygote

n
/ .hedərō'zīgōt /
Gk
an animal or plant that contains genes for both members of at least one pair of alternative Mendelian characters such as whether or not one can roll one's tongue.
Certain genetic disorders are asymptomatic in the heterozygote.

hew

v
/ 'hyü /
E
[has homonym: hue] shape, form, create, or bring into being with or as if with hard rough blows or efforts.
Dr. King told his listeners that with faith they would be able to "hew out of the mountain of despair a stone of hope."

hewgag

hewn

adj
/ 'hyün /
E
felled, cut, or shaped by hewing (as with an ax).
From the hewn stump in the front yard new shoots began to sprout.

hexafoos

hexagonal

adj
/ hek'sagənəl /
Gk + Ecf
having six angles and six sides : six-sided.
A cell of a honeycomb is one of many hexagonal forms in nature.

hexameter

n
/ hek'samədə(r) /
Gk
a line of six metrical feet.
Gil read the difficult hexameter without pause or problem, to the astonishment of Professor Winterbottom.

hexerei

hideaway

hideosity

hidrosis

highbinding

highlight

highroad

n
/ 'hī.rōd /
E + E
the best approach : an easy way.
The highroad to the lodge was very scenic.

hilarity

hinder

hindquarter

hindrance

hindsight

hintingly

Hippocratic

adj
/ .hipə'kradɪk /
Gk name
of or relating to Hippocrates or to the school of medicine that took his name.
Dr. Owens takes the Hippocratic oath literally.

hippocrepiform

hirsuteness

hirsutism

n
/ 'hær.süt.izəm /
L
excessive growth of hair of normal or abnormal distribution.
Hirsutism is often the result of a hormonal imbalance in the body.

histogenesis

histogeny

n
/ hi'stājənē /
Gk
the formation and differentiation of tissues.
The 19th-century physiologist Theodor Schwann was renowned for his pioneering study of histogeny.

historian

historicize

Hitchcockian

adj
/ hich'kākēən /
American name
of, relating to, or suggestive of the cinematic style or technique of Alfred Hitchcock.
One Hitchcockian mark was to put himself in the background of a scene in the film, usually when the audience would least expect to see the director.

hither

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hitherto

adv
/ 'hiθə(r)ti /

E

up to this time.

Frieda discovered an opening to a hitherto unknown cave.

Hitlerian

adj
/ hit'li:riən /

G name

of, relating to, or suggestive of dictator Adolf Hitler or his regime in Germany.

The regime's Hitlerian disregard of human life and human rights repulsed and disgusted the commission.

hittable

adj
/ 'hidəbəl /
ON > E + L

capable of being struck.

The batter cursed himself for missing a perfectly hittable ball.

hobbyist

hobgoblin

hobnail

hobnob

hodad

hoedown

n
/ 'hō.daʊn /
E + E

a lively old-time dance.

Pamela enjoyed the hoedown tremendously.

hoggish

hogshead

n
/ 'hɔgz.hed /
E + E

a U.S. unit of capacity equal to 63 gallons.

We grew enough apples in our backyard this year to yield 1 hogshead of cider.

hogwash

hokum

holcodont

holdall

holiday

holistic

Hollerith

n
/ 'hæləriθ /

name

a code for representing alphanumeric information on punch cards.

Billy started programming back when mainframe computers still had special readers for Hollerith.

hollygrape

holography

holometabolous

adj
/ həlō.mə'təbələs /
Gk > L + Ecf

of an insect : characterized by development with complete metamorphosis.

Most beetles, butterflies, and moths are holometabolous insects.

holophrasis

holophrastic

adj
/ hələ'frastik /
Gk + Gk

expressing a complex of ideas in a single word.

Holophrastic utterances are one of the first stages in children's acquisition of speech.

holozoic

holster

homage

n
/ '(h)ämij /
L > F > E

reverential regard : respect, deference.

The Lord Chancellor demanded homage wherever he went.

hombre

n
/ 'äm(,)brā /
L > Sp

[has homonym: ombre] man, fellow, guy.

Tex was too fast to let that hombre get the drop on him.

homebound

homeopathy

Homeric

adj
/ hō'merik /
Gk name

of or relating to the Greek poet Homer, his age, or his writings.

The Homeric portrayal of death is pessimistic and offers no unambiguously attractive hope of a reward for a good life.

homestretch

homiletic

hominivorous

hominoid

n
/ 'hämə.nɔid /
L + Ecf

resembling the family of mammals to which humans and their ancestors belong.

Chewbacca has markedly hominoid features.

homogeneous

adj
/ 'hōmə.jēnēəs /
Gk

relating to, occurring in, or being a system that contains no internal physical boundaries.

Roger's lecture was about the homogeneous catalytic role that chlorine plays in the depletion of the ozone layer.

homonymous

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homophone

n
/ 'häməfōn /
Gk
one of two or more words pronounced alike but different in meaning or derivation or spelling.
When Andrew's mom was in school, a homophone was called a "homonym."

homuncular

adj
/ .hō'məŋkyələr /
L
resembling or characteristic of a little man, specifically one artificially produced by an alchemist.
The three-dimensional gingerbread man that Jana baked had a homuncular quality.

honcho

hone

honestly

honestone

honeycomb

n
/ 'hənē.kōm /
E
a mass of hexagonal prismatic wax cells built by bees as a nest and store of food.
A swarm of bees covered the large honeycomb.

honeypot

honeysuckle

honor

honorarium

n
/ .änə'rerēəm /
L
an honorary payment or reward usually given as compensation for services.
Dr. Ferraro donated the honorarium she received for her speech at the Rotary Club to a local animal shelter.

hoodlum

n
/ 'hüdləm /
unknown
a criminal usually belonging to a gang : thug.
The young hoodlum was arrested for vandalism.

hooley

hooper

hoorosh

hooves

hopper

hopperdozer

horizontalize

hornpipe

n
/ 'hō(ə)n.pīp /
E
a lively folk dance of the British Isles.
A musical instrument called "the hornpipe" gave its name to a popular sailors' dance.

horologist

n
/ hə'räləjəst /
L
a maker of clocks or watches.
After working as a watch repairman for seven years, Matt decided to become a full-fledged horologist.

horoscope

horoscopic

horrible

adj
/ 'hōrəbəl /
L
likely to arouse fear, dread, or abhorrence.
A horrible sound came from inside the fall festival's haunted house.

horrid

horrifically

adv
/ hō'rifək(ə)lē /
L
in a manner inspiring horror or fear.
The real consequences of a nuclear war could be horrifically worse than previously imagined.

horrified

horrify

horsehair

horst

horticultural

hostile

adj
/ 'häst'l /
L
[has homonym: hostel] offering an unpleasant or forbidding environment.
The snow and ice-covered mountains presented a hostile picture of the next segment of the journey.

hostilely

hovel

howbeit

howled

v
/ 'hauld /
E
uttered or emitted a loud sustained doleful sound or outcry characteristic of dogs and wolves.
The wind howled cruelly in an effort to tear them loose.

hox

hoydenish

adj
/ 'höid'nish /
D? + Ecf
lively, tomboyish, unladylike.
Mrs. Taylor remarked that even a die-hard feminist would consider Zoe's behavior hoydenish.

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hubristic

adj
/ hyü'bristik /
Gk
insolent, vain, arrogant.
Without question, Rick was the most hubristic intern Dr. Hallberg had ever encountered.

huckaback

huckster

hue

n
/ 'hyü /
E
gradation of color.
An inspired painter reveals mood through the use of hue and shade.

hueless

hula

v
/ 'hülə /
Hawaiian
perform a sinuous mimetic Polynesian dance of traditional form and topical adaptation, usually accompanied by chants and rhythmic drumming.
Leilani was invited to hula for the guests at the luau.

hulking

adj
/ 'həlkiŋ /
Gk > L > E + Ecf
of great size or powerful build.
One look at the hulking guard would cause anyone to think twice about making him angry.

humaniora

n pl
/ (h)yü.manē'örə /
L
the branches of learning regarded as having primarily a cultural character and usually including languages, literature, history, mathematics, and philosophy.
Mateo received his degree in general studies or, as he likes to call it, "humaniora."

humanitarian

n
/ (i)hyü.manə'terēən /
L + Ecf
a person who is actively concerned in promoting human welfare and especially social reform.
Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. will always be remembered as a great humanitarian.

humbly

adv
/ 'həmblē /
E
in a modest or meek manner.
Anita humbly protested that her work did not deserve to hang on the museum's walls.

humdinger

humid

humidity

n
/ hyü'midədē /
L
a moderate degree of wetness especially of the atmosphere.
In addition to the heat and humidity, the hikers had to deal with pesky mosquitoes.

humiliate

humility

n
/ hyü'milədē /
L
the quality or state of being humble in spirit : freedom from pride or arrogance.
We all need humility in the face of what we do not understand.

humiture

n
/ 'hyümə.chü(ə)r /
L&L
an integer average of temperature and humidity.
When the temperature is 85 degrees Fahrenheit and the relative humidity is 90, the humiture is 88.

hummingbird

hummocky

humstrum

humus

n
/ '(h)yüməs /
L
[Note: Could be confused with adjective humorous. Also, has near homonym: hummus.] the organic portion of soil.
Mario's compost heap provides an annual supply of humus for his garden.

hunching

v
/ 'hənchiŋ /
unknown
assuming a bent or crooked posture.
After hours of hunching in the car, Huey was glad for an opportunity to stretch at the rest stop.

hundred

hundredweight

n
/ 'həndrəd.wāt /
E + E
a unit of weight equal to 100 pounds—called also "short hundredweight."
Ronnie may be teased for only being a hundredweight, but he is respected for his quickness.

Hungarian

n
/ .həŋ'gə(a)rēən /
European geog name
a native or inhabitant of Hungary, a country in central Europe.
Many a Hungarian has settled happily in the United States.

hungry

hurdle

n
/ 'hərdl /
E
an artificial barrier over which horses leap in a race.
Gordon's mount cleared the last hurdle with ease and won the race.

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hure

n
/ 'hyù(ə)r /
F > E

[has homonym: hewer] a close-fitting cap.
The 15th-century painting depicted a peasant wearing a gray hure.

hurling

v
/ 'hərliŋ /
imit? E

impelling with great vigor.
For lack of something better to do, Simon spent the afternoon hurling stones into the creek.

hurriedly

adv
/ 'hərədlē /
E? + Ecff

quickly, hastily.
Jennifer dressed hurriedly in the cold room.

husbandry

n
/ 'həzbəndrē /
ON > E

the cultivation or production of plants and animals : agriculture, farming.
The barn was well stocked with tools of husbandry.

husky

hustings

n pl
/ 'həstiŋz /
ON > E

an election platform : stump.
After the political conventions, the election heated up as each party's nominee took to the hustings with renewed zeal.

hustle

v
/ 'həsəl /
D

move or act with vigorous speed.
"You'd better hustle if you want to make your train!" Betty shouted.

hydra

n
/ 'hīdrə /
Gk > L

a many-sided problem or obstacle that presents new difficulties each time one aspect of it is solved or overcome.
The problem was a hydra of immense proportion.

hydroacoustic

adj
/ .hī(,)drə'küstik /
Gk

of or relating to the transmission of sound in water.
Whales use a form of hydroacoustic communication.

hydrocortisone

n
/ .hī(,)drə'kò(r)ḑə.sōn /
Gk + L

a crystalline hormone that is used in the treatment of certain allergic diseases.
At one time available only in compounds prescribed by doctors, hydrocortisone is now found in many over-the-counter medications.

hydrological

adj
/ .hīdrə'lājəkəl /
Gk

of or relating to the study of water on the surface of the land, in the soil and underlying rocks, and in the atmosphere.
The hydrological cycle includes the evaporation of oceanic water into the atmosphere and its eventual return as precipitation.

hydropathy

hydrophobia

n
/ .hīdrə'fōbēə /
Gk

an acute viral disease of the nervous system of warm-blooded animals that is fatal when untreated and is transmitted with infected saliva usually through the bite of an animal : rabies.
In recent years many raccoons have succumbed to hydrophobia.

hydroponics

n pl
/ .hīdrə'päniks /
Gk

the growing of plants in nutrient solutions with or without sand, gravel, or other inert medium to provide mechanical support.
Hydroponics is invaluable in regions having poor or no soil.

hydroxyzine

hyetometer

n
/ .hī'täməd-ə(r) /
Gk

rain gage.
Ambrose set up a hyetometer in the front yard as part of his science fair project.

hygeian

adj
/ hī'jēən /
Gk name

[Note: Could be confused with hygiene.] of or relating to health or medical practice.
Janice does not know which hygeian career she will pursue, but she is currently very interested in nutrition.

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

hygienic

adj
/ .hɪjē'ɛnɪk /
Gk

of, relating to, or conducive to health or the science which deals with the establishment and maintenance of health in the individual and the group.
The minister reported that better hygienic conditions had reduced infant mortality significantly over the past ten years.

hygienically

hygrometer

n
/ hɪ'grämədə(r) /
Gk

any of several instruments for measuring the humidity of the atmosphere.
Eileen wondered what would happen if she took the hygrometer into the shower with her.

hygroscope

hyoid

n
/ 'hɪ.ɔɪd /
Gk

a bone or complex of bones situated at the base of the tongue, supporting the tongue and its muscles.
X rays showed damage to the patient's larynx and hyoid.

hypallage

n
/ hɪ'palə(ɹ)jē /
Gk

the interchange in syntactic relationship between two terms.
The sentence "you are become dead to the law" is hypallage for "the law has become dead to you."

hyperborean

adj
/ .hɪpə(r)'bɔrēən /
Gk

of, relating to, or inhabiting an extreme northern region : frigid.
Polar bears are among the few animals that can survive in hyperborean regions.

hyperkalemia

hyperopia

n
/ .hɪpə'rɔpēə /
Gk

a condition in which visual images come to a focus behind the retina and vision is better for distant than for near objects : farsightedness.
Mom attributed her difficulty in reading fine print to hyperopia.

hypertonic

hyphenic

hypnosis

hypocaust

n
/ 'hɪpɔ.kɔst /
Gk

a central heating system of an ancient Roman building consisting of an underground furnace or fire chamber and a series of tile flues for distribution of the heat.
Jessamyn pointed out the remains of the hypocaust that had heated the public baths.

hypochlorite

n
/ .hɪ(ɹ)'pɔ'klɔr.ɪt /
Gk

a salt or ester of a weak acid used chiefly as an oxidizing agent, bleaching agent, disinfectant, and chlorinating agent.
Sodium hypochlorite is the primary ingredient in commercial laundry bleaches.

hypocrite

hypopharynx

n
/ .hɪ(ɹ)'pɔ'færɪŋ(k)s /
Gk

a thickened fold on the floor of the mouth of many insects that resembles a tongue.
In a chewing insect the hypopharynx secretes digestive juices.

hypotactic

adj
/ .hɪpə'taktɪk /
Gk

of, relating to, or exhibiting syntactic subordination (as by conjunction).
Yun loved the complicated hypotactic prose of academic German.

Hypotheria

n pl
/ .hɪpɔ'thɪrēə /
Gk

a hypothetical order including the as yet undiscovered ancestors of the mammals.
Speculation about the ancestors of the mammals will remain just that until a member of the order Hypotheria is discovered.

hypothermia

hypothesize

v
/ hɪ'pəθə.sɪz /
Gk

make an assumption in order to draw out its logical or empirical consequences.
We can hypothesize that every statement is true, but then we will have to accept contradictions as truth.

hypoxemia

hypozeuxis

hypsonometer

n
/ hɪp'sämədə(r) /
Gk + Gk

any of various instruments used to determine the height of trees by triangulation.
Being a forester, Steve was an expert at using a hypsonometer.

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hyrax

n
/ 'hɪraks /
Gk > L
any of a family of small thickset mammals with short legs and ears, feet with soft pads and broad nails, and a rudimentary tail.
The hyrax feeds on a wide variety of plants and can digest fiber very efficiently.

hysterics

hysterogenic

ibex

n
/ 'ɪbeks /
L
one of several wild goats living chiefly in high mountain areas and having large recurved horns.
While on a ski trip in the Swiss Alps, Pierre spotted an ibex.

ibidem

ibuprofen

n
/ ɪbyu'prɒfən /
ISV
a nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug used to relieve pain and fever.
Because aspirin upsets her stomach, Angela takes ibuprofen to relieve minor pains.

iceberg

icebound

adj
/ 'ɪs.baʊnd /
E + E
surrounded with ice so as to be incapable of advancing.
The harbor was icebound during much of the winter.

ichor

ichorous

adj
/ 'ɪkərəs /
Gk
[has near homonym: Icarus] thin, watery.
In severe psoriasis the skin becomes hard and then cracks, and from the cracks there is an ichorous discharge.

ichthyic

ichthyism

ichthyologist

ichthyosaur

n
/ 'ɪkθɪsɔːs(ə)r /
Gk + Gk
any of an order of extinct fishlike reptiles of the Mesozoic era having a long snout and a large caudal fin.
Its streamlined body and paddle-like limbs enabled the ichthyosaur to move swiftly through the water.

ickiness

iconoclasm

iconoduly

iconographer

n
/ ɪkə'nɒgrəfə(r) /
G
a maker or designer of figures or drawings especially of a conventional or mechanical type.
The congregation was quite pleased with the inspirational scene depicted by the iconographer.

icotype

icteric

adj
/ 'ɪk.terɪk /
Gk > L
of, relating to, or affected with jaundice.
Hepatitis A is one common disease that has an icteric stage lasting from days to weeks.

ictus

idealist

idealize

v
/ ɪ'diə(ə)lɪz /
Gk
make into a perfect example.
Greer tends to idealize her friends.

ideate

v
/ ɪ'diə.ət /
Gk + Ecf
remember, imagine, or think of when not in the presence of.
Painters often rely on their ability to ideate a landscape or a face.

ideological

idiasm

n
/ ɪ'di.əzəm /
Gk
an individual mannerism (as in literary style).
James Joyce's main idiasm was his penchant for writing in stream of consciousness.

idiom

idiomatic

idiomatically

adv
/ ɪ'diə'madək(ə)li /
Gk
in a manner conforming to the language peculiar to a people or to a district, community, or class.
The immigrant student quickly learned to speak English idiomatically.

idiopathic

adj
/ ɪ'diə'pathɪk /
Gk
arising spontaneously or from an obscure or unknown cause.
After carefully examining Leila, the doctor announced that her sudden hearing loss was idiopathic and might disappear with time.

idiophone

idiosyncrasies

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

idiosyncrasy

idle

adj
/ ɪdəl /
E
[has homonyms: idol, idyl, idyll]
given to rest or ease.
Not one to be idle, Ben assists others whenever he completes his assigned tasks.

idol

idolization

n
/ ɪdˈɒləˈzɑːʃən /
Gk > L > F > E
the act of loving or revering to excess, or the state of being revered to excess.
The public's idolization of celebrities inevitably causes them to change the nature of their public contacts.

idunit

n
/ ɪˈdʌnət /
E
an autobiographical or confessional account usually of a sensational character.
Everyone expected the colorful Wall Street broker to write an idunit after his conviction for embezzlement.

ignescence

ignition

ignore

illaudable

illeist

illfare

illimitable

adj
/ i(l)'lɪmɪdəbəl /
L
not capable of being restricted or bounded.
The capacity of human beings to absorb what they wish to absorb and to ignore the rest seems to be illimitable.

illiteracy

n
/ i(l)'lɪdərəsē /
L
inability to read or write.
The administration promised to launch a campaign against illiteracy.

illogical

illogicality

n
/ (i)lɪˈlɒdʒɪkəlɪti /
Gk + Ecff
the quality or state of reasoning unsoundly through ignorance or negligence of logic.
The English teacher pointed out the illogicality in saying "My cup is fuller than yours."

illuminable

illuminometer

n
/ ɪˌlʌmɪnəˈmɛtə(r) /
L + Ecf + Gk
a photometer for measuring the illumination of surfaces.
Houston and Kennelly called their invention an illuminometer.

illustrious

adj
/ ɪˈlɛstrɪəs /
L + Ecf
notably or brilliantly outstanding.
The ambassador's illustrious achievements are known throughout the land.

imagine

v
/ ɪˈmɑːʒən /
L > F > E
form an idea of.
Louis became dizzy when he tried to imagine himself sky-diving or hang-gliding.

imago

n
/ ɪˈmɑː(ɪ)ɡō /
L
an insect in its final adult mature usually winged state.
A butterfly has a caterpillar stage and a chrysalis stage before it emerges as an imago, or butterfly.

imbibition

imbroglio

imitate

immanent

adj
/ ɪˈmənənt /
L
remaining or operating within the subject considered : indwelling.
Stefan told a story about a forest god immanent in the large redwood near our camping spot.

immaterial

immeasurable

immeasurably

adv
/ ɪ(m)'mezh(ə)rəbl̩ /
L > Ecf + L + L > F > E
in a manner that is incapable of being measured.
A two-volume index adds immeasurably to the usefulness of the encyclopedia.

immediacy

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

immemorial

adj
/ i(m)mə'mōrēəl /
L > F

not within the reach of memory, record, or tradition : indefinitely ancient.

Daring teenagers have been climbing Devil's Rock since time immemorial.

immerge

immigrant

immiscibility

n
/ i(m)'misə'bilədē /
L

inability to mix or become homogeneous.

Rain falling on an oil slick demonstrates the immiscibility of the two liquids.

immitigable

immittance

immobile

immobilize

v
/ i(m)'mōbəlīz /
L > F

interfere with or prevent freedom of movement or effective use of.

The general planned to use his secret weapon to immobilize enemy forces.

immortelle

immund

immune

adj
/ ə'myün /
L

protected, guarded.

Wearing her heavy parka made Judith immune to the cold wind.

immunity

immunize

immunology

impartiality

n
/ im.pärshē'alədē /
L

freedom from bias or favoritism.

Justice is often personified with a blindfold and scales to represent impartiality.

impartible

impassionate

impatient

impeach

impeachment

n
/ əm'pēchmənt /
F > E

conviction of misconduct and usually removal from office.

Faced with almost certain impeachment, Richard Nixon became the first United States president to resign from office.

impel

v
/ əm'pel /
L

urge or drive by force or constraint.

Contrary to the best calculations of policy, the nation will impel its government to war.

impenitently

impercipient

adj
/ .impə(r)'sɪpēənt /
L

lacking intuitive recognition or insight.

The critic complained that the novel's characters were so impercipient that no one could possibly care about them.

imperfect

imperil

v
/ əm'perəl /
L > F > E

expose to danger of imminent harm or loss.

The investigation into fund-raising efforts could imperil the candidate's political future.

imperilment

imperious

imperiously

impermeable

impertinent

impetrated

v
/ 'ɪmpə.trədəd /
L

obtained by request or entreaty : procured.

Lisa impetrated a bottle of Dijon mustard from the couple at the next table and spread some on her sandwich.

impetuous

impignorate

impingement

impious

impish

adj
/ 'ɪpɪʃ /
E

relating to a person who behaves mischievously.

Troy's impish behavior was not tolerated at his new school.

impishness

implicate

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

implosion

n
/ əm'plōzhən /

L
the action of bursting inward.
Judd's chemistry experiment created a small implosion after the oxygen was consumed.

impluvium

impof

impolite

adj
/ ɪmpə'līt /

L
lacking in politeness, in etiquette, or in consideration of others.
"All I meant was that perhaps it isn't too important," Milo repeated, trying not to be impolite.

imponderable

importunate

adj
/ əm'pɔrchənət /

L
troublesomely urgent : overly persistent in request or demand.
Peter's importunate requests for assistance cause people to ignore and also avoid him.

importune

v
/ ɪmpər'ti:n /

L&F
press or urge with frequent or unreasonable requests or troublesome persistence.
The political organization was asked not to importune shoppers to sign petitions in front of the store.

imposing

adj
/ əm'pōziŋ /

L > F + Ecf
impressive because of size, scope, bearing, dignity, or grandeur.
The imposing statues at the temple's entrance awed the visitors.

imprecate

v
/ ɪmprə'kāt /

L
invoke evil upon : curse.
The defendant's attorney expects that the angry plaintiff may imprecate her during cross-examination.

imprecatory

impreg

impregnable

adj
/ ɪm'pregnəbəl /

L > F > E
incapable of being taken by assault.
Three feet of densely packed snow enveloping Dieter's fort rendered it impregnable.

impressive

adj
/ əm'presiv /

L + Ecf
tending to arouse the strong interest or admiration of another.
The singer's vocal range is very impressive.

improvement

improvident

improving

improvisation

n
/ (ˌ)ɪm.prəvə'zāshən /

L > F
the act of creating an extemporaneous composition (as of music or poetry).
Joel found he had a real gift for improvisation on his saxophone.

improvisational

adj
/ ɪm.prəvə'zāshənəl /

L
composed extemporaneously.
Patrick enjoys improvisational dancing but not ballroom dancing.

impudent

adj
/ ɪmpyədənt /

L
disrespectful, insolent.
The bully stood before the principal with an impudent and haughty look in his eye.

impugnable

adj
/ əm'pyünəbəl /

L
capable of being called into question.
Although the senator's loyalty was never doubted, his judgment was certainly impugnable.

impugnant

impuissant

imu

inability

inaccessible
adj

/ ɪnɪk'sesəbəl /
L
not capable of being reached, entered, or approached.
Damian remodeled his store's entrance because it was inaccessible to people in wheelchairs.

inadequacy

n
/ ɪn'adəkweɪ /

L
the state of being not fully sufficient for a specified or implied requirement.
The psychologist spoke about the feelings of failure, powerlessness, and inadequacy that overwhelm people in a society obsessed with success.

inadvertently

adv
/ ɪnəd'vɛrtəntlē /

Ecf + L + Ecf
unintentionally.
Grace inadvertently locked her keys in the trunk of her car.

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inamissible

inappetence

inaudible

inaugurate

inaugurator

n
/ ɪˈnɔːɡjəˌrɑːdət(r) /
L

a person who begins or brings about the beginning of something.
Geoffrey of Monmouth is credited as the inaugurator of the legends of King Arthur.

incandescent

incandescence

incantations

n pl
/ ɪnˌkənˈtæʃənz /
L

uses of spells or verbal charms spoken or sung as part of ritual or magic.
The priest pronounced barely audible incantations over the sick man.

incarnadine

incavation

incentive

inched

incinerated

v
/ ɪnˈsɪnəˌreɪtəd /
L

caused to burn to ashes.
Janna incinerated her love letters in the wood stove.

incipiently

incise

incision

incisive

adj
/ ɪnˈsɪsɪv /
L
having a cutting edge or piercing point.
Mr. Cunningham's wit was as incisive as the stroke of a fang.

incisor

incite

v
/ ɪnˈsaɪt /
L
[has near homonym: insight] move to a course of action : stir up : urge on.
Patrick Henry's goal was to incite his listeners to rebel.

inclemency

inclinometer

inclusion

incogitant

incognita
n
/ ɪnˌkɑːɡɪˈnɛdə /
L

[has near homonym: incognito] a woman in disguise; especially : one concealing her real quality or state under some unobtrusive appearance.
Though her employers knew her as Jane Swanson, the incognita was really a dangerous terrorist named Carmen Leblanc.

incoherently

adv
/ ɪnˌkɑːhɪˈrɛntl̩ /
L
in a manner lacking orderly continuity or relevance.
The distraught woman explained rather incoherently that she couldn't find her three-year-old daughter.

incommensurate

adj
/ ɪnkəˈmen(t)s(ə)rət /
L
not equal in measure or extent.
Stephanie's expenditures are incommensurate with her salary, so she is looking for a higher-paying position.

incommoding

v
/ ɪnkəˈmɑːdɪŋ /
L
giving inconvenience or distress to.
Mr. Elton offered to take the drawing to London, and Emma did her best to pack it as to ensure its safety without much incommoding him.

incommunicado

incompatible

adj
/ ɪnkəmˈpədəbəl /
L
incapable of harmonious combination.
Marriage would not do for Emma; it would be incompatible with what she owed to her father.

incompletable

incomplete

inconcinnity

n
/ ɪnˌkənˈsɪnədə /
L
lack of suitability or congruity : awkward or unsuitable form or character.
There was an obvious inconcinnity between the lawyer's offense and the penalty imposed by the judge.

incongruent

inconsolable

adj
/ ɪnkənˈsɒləbəl /
L
incapable of being consoled : grieved beyond comfort.
A friend advised the inconsolable widow to consider going to live with her daughter for a while.

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

inconvenient

adj
/ ɪnkən'vɛnyənt /

L
giving trouble, uneasiness, or annoyance.

Rachel's mom complains that the location of the kitchen in relation to their garage is terribly inconvenient.

incorporeal

incorporeity

n
/ ɪn.kɔ(r)pə'rɛədē /

L
the quality or state of having no material body or form.

The students in the introductory physics class were puzzled by the incorporeity of the photon.

incorruptible

adj
/ ɪnkə'rəptəbəl /

L
incapable of being bribed or changed from good to bad in morals, manners, or actions.

The local police force prided itself on being incorruptible.

incrassate

incredulous

incremental

adj
/ ɪŋkrə'mentl /

L > E
of, relating to, constituting, or resulting from slight or imperceptible augmentations.

Though Nathan's day-to-day growth was incremental, he grew eight inches in a year's time.

incriminate

incroyable

incunabula

incur

incurrable

adj
/ ɪn'kərəbəl /

L
[has near homonym: incurable] liable to be brought down upon oneself.

When laws are violated, penalties are incurrable.

indecisively

adv
/ ɪndə'sɪsəvlē /

L + Ecf
indistinctly, vaguely.

Tim's answer was given indecisively.

indefectible

indehiscent

indelibly

index

indexically

indignant

adj
/ ɪn'dɪgnənt /

L
filled with or marked by intense resentment.

Mrs. Calloway was indignant over the committee's decision.

indignity

n
/ ɪn'dɪgnədē /

L
something humiliating or injurious to one's self-esteem : insult, outrage.

The prisoners were forced to suffer one indignity after another.

indirect

indirectly

indirubin

indiscreet

indispensable

indisputable

adj
/ ɪndə'spyüdəbəl /

L
that is beyond argument : unquestionable.

Geraldo considered the result of his experiment indisputable.

indistinguishable

adj
/ ɪndə'stɪŋwɪʃəbəl /

L
incapable of being perceived as being separate or different.

Mom could not be conned into believing that margarine is indistinguishable from butter.

individual

individuality

individually

indivisible

adj
/ ɪndə'vɪzəbəl /

L
not separable into parts.
Democritus postulated the existence of the atom, which he thought was the smallest indivisible unit of matter.

inducible

industry

inebriacy

inebriety

n
/ ɪnə'brɪədē /

L
drunkenness.
Arthur saw very little humor in the comedian's feigned inebriety.

inedita

ineffaceable

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

inefficient

adj
/ inə'fɪʃənt /
Ecf + L
wasteful of time or energy in performing work.
Measuring once and cutting twice is more inefficient than measuring twice and cutting once.

ineligibility

ineligible

adj
/ in'eləjəbəl /
L
not qualified to be chosen.
According to the rules, last year's champion is ineligible to compete this year.

inerrant

adj
/ in'erənt /
L
free from error or mistake.
The minister expressed staunch commitment to the inerrant authority of Scripture.

inescapable

inesculet

adj
/ in'eskyələnt /
L
not suitable for use as food especially for human beings : inedible.
Gary was sick for several days after eating an inesculet mushroom.

inessential

adj
/ inə'senchəl /
L
not necessary : dispensable.
The soldier claims that enforcement of inessential regulations is petty harassment of the weak by the strong.

inestimable

adj
/ in'estəməbəl /
L
too valuable or excellent to be measured or appreciated.
The soldier died in battle, unaware of the inestimable service he had performed for his country.

inevitability

n
/ (i)nevədə'bilədē /
L
the quality or state of being incapable of being avoided or evaded.
The character rages throughout the play at the unfairness of life and the inevitability of death.

inexcusable

inexcusably

adv
/ inik'skyüzəblē /
L + Ecf
not justifiably, not apologetically.
Toby is inexcusably late for his violin lesson.

inexhaustible

adj
/ inig'zöstəbəl /
L
incapable of being used up : unending.
After her visit to Third World countries, Jody realized that she lived in a land that had an inexhaustible wealth in agriculture.

inexpensiveness

infallibility

infamous

infanticide

n
/ ən'fantəsɪd /
L
a killing of a newly or recently born child.
In ancient Rome the head of the family had the right to commit infanticide.

infantry

infatuate

infatuated

adj
/ ən'fætəwādəd /
L
possessed with or marked by a strong attachment or foolish or unreasoning love.
The young man, infatuated with his first love, was blind to her faults.

infer

v
/ ən'fər /
L
derive by reasoning or implication.
The reader was left to infer what Jojo's crime was.

inference

inferential

infidel

n
/ 'infədel /
L > F
an unbeliever in respect to a particular religion.
Ann's favorite painting in the museum is a 17th-century portrait entitled Conversion of the Infidel.

infiltration

infirmary

infirmity

n
/ ən'fərm(ə)rē /
L
a hospital or place where the sick are lodged for treatment.
The camp nurse confined Jason to the infirmary after he fainted.

infirmity

n
/ ən'fərmədē /
L
feebleness, frailty.
Fortunately Grandpa Edgar's infirmity of body is not accompanied by mental infirmity.

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inflammable

adj
/ ɒn'flaməbəl /
L

capable of being easily set on fire.
Inflammable hair products carry a warning label.

inflexible

adj
/ in'fleksəbəl /
L > E

rigid.
Nature's laws are more inflexible than iron.

inflorescence

influence

influenceable

influential

infralittoral

infrared

adj
/ ɪnfrə'red /
L + E
lying outside the visible spectrum at its red end.
The sun's infrared radiation is responsible for the warmth felt in direct sunlight.

infrastructure

n
/ ɪnfrə'strækʃə(r) /
L
the underlying foundation or basic framework (as of an organization or a system).
Martin's economics project required him to set up a city government, complete with infrastructure.

infrigidate

infundibular

infuriated

v
/ ɒn'fyūrē.ātəd /
L
enraged, maddened.
The traffic jam infuriated those drivers with little or no patience.

ingenuity

ingots

ingravescence

ingredient

n
/ ɒn'grēdēənt /
L
something that enters into a compound or is a component part of any combination or mixture.
Grandma refuses to reveal the secret ingredient that makes her chocolate cake so delicious.

ingress

ingurgitate

v
/ ɒn'gərjət /
L
swallow, devour, or drink greedily or in large quantity.
Even if Fran's dog has recently been fed, he will ingurgitate anything that is put in front of him.

inhaust

inherent

inhospitable

adj
/ ɪnhə'spɪdəbəl /
L
providing no shelter or sustenance.
Deserts seem to be inhospitable to frogs, yet 23 species live in Australia's arid regions.

inhumanness

inion

n
/ ɪnē.än /
Gk
the external occipital protuberance of the skull.
The coroner determined that the cause of the hitchhiker's death was a blow to the inion.

irritability

initiate

inject

injudiciously

inkblot

inlier

innate

innavigable

adj
/ i(n)'navəgəbəl /
L
not deep enough or wide enough to afford passage to ships.
Since the dam was built, the Green River has been innavigable.

innocuously

innoxious

innuendo

inoculum

v
/ ɒ'näkjələm /
L
material (as spores, bacteria, or contaminated fluids) used or suitable for use as an immunity-inducing agent.
Dr. Srinivasan administered the diphtheria inoculum quickly and placed a small bandage over the spot.

inordinate

adj
/ ɒ'n(ɔ)rɪd'neɪt /
L
exceeding in amount, quantity, force, intensity, or scope the ordinary, reasonable, or prescribed limits.
Andrew thought Amanda was taking an inordinate amount of time getting ready for her date.

inosculate

v
/ ɒn'ɒskjələɪt /
L
unite or join so as to become or make as if one : blend.
Through surgery Dr. Manning will inosculate the torn tissues.

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

insatiate

adj
/ in'sāsh(ē)āt /
L

not satisfied.
The pirates were fierce fighters, hardy seamen, and insatiate plunderers.

inscription

inseam

insecticolous

insectival

insectivorous

adj
/ in.sek'tiv(ə)rəs /
L + Ecf
feeding on insects : depending on insects as food.
Some birds and spiders are insectivorous.

inselberg

n
/ 'in(t)səl.bərg /
G
an isolated mountain partly buried by the debris derived from and overlapping its slopes.
The bare, rounded inselberg of rock stands like an island in a sea of vegetation.

insensate

adj
/ in'sen.sāt /
L
unfeeling : cruel, harsh.
Brian despised and protested the insensate strategy of the war.

insensitive

adj
/ in'sen(t)sədɪv /
L > F > E
lacking feeling.
Only a thoroughly insensitive person would not respond to a child's cry for help.

inseparably

adv
/ in'sepərəblē /
L
in a manner so as not to be separated or disjoined.
The city of Las Vegas is inseparably associated with gambling.

insignificant

adj
/ in.sig'nifəkənt /
L
of little size or importance.
Marcella told her brother not to let an insignificant quarrel with his best friend spoil the friendship.

insincerity

n
/ in.sən'serədē /
L
the quality or state in which one is not what one appears to be or does not express what one appears to express.
George's apology oozed with insincerity.

insinuator

insinuating

insistence

insolation
n
/ in(t)(.)sō'lāshən /
L
[has near homonym: insulation]
solar radiation that has been received (as by Earth).
Insolation can cause a lake's temperature to rise by several degrees in a matter of hours.

insoluble

inspection

inspector

inspissate

installation

instantaneity

instantly

instep

instigator

n
/ 'inztəgādə(r) /
L
one that provokes or incites.
The substitute teacher named Verne as the instigator of the disruption.

instinct

instinctively

adv
/ inz'tɪŋ(k)təvlē /
L + Ecff
in a manner determined by natural impulse or propensity.
Instinctively Josey knew that he had taken a wrong turn at the corner.

institute

instructed

instructible

instrument

insufferable

insufflator

insular

insulate

v
/ 'in(t)sə.lāt /
L
separate or shield from conducting bodies by means of nonconductors so as to prevent transfer of electricity, heat, or sound.
The material used to insulate the music department's practice rooms was ineffective.

insuperable

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

insuppressible

adj
/ insə'presəbəl /
L > Ecf + L + L > Ecf
impossible to put down or out of existence.
The crowd's anger proved insuppressible, and the police had to be called.

insurgency

n
/ ən'sərjənsē /
L + Ecf
a condition of revolt against a recognized government that does not reach the proportions of an organized revolutionary government and is not recognized as belligerency.
Installation of a puppet government resulted in widespread insurgency.

insurgents

n pl
/ ən'sərjən(t)s /
L
[has homonym: insurgence]
persons who rise in revolt against civil authority or an established government.
To strengthen, perpetuate, and extend slavery was the object for which the insurgents would rend the Union even by war.

integer

integral

adj
/ 'intəgrəl /
L
of, relating to, or serving to form a whole.
Political and economic independence are integral to one another.

integrand

integrity

intellectualism

intellectualize

v
/ int'lekchə(wə)liz /
L + Ecf
give rational form or content to.
Sometimes Marie tries so hard to intellectualize her problems that she loses track of what she really feels.

intelligentsia

intemperance

intenerate

v
/ ən'tenə.rāt /
L
make sympathetic or sensitive : soften.
The captive's pleas served to intenerate the victor's heart.

intense

adj
/ ən'ten(t)s /
L
existing in a strained or extreme degree.
Mr. Siberell's slight twitch was a sign of intense anxiety.

intensification

intensively

adv
/ in'ten(t)səvvlē /
L
zealously, eagerly.
This summer Jeremy is studying intensively for the Utah bar exam.

intercut

interested

interferant

interfere

interference

n
/ intə(r)'firən(t)s /
L
the act of meddling in or hampering an activity or process.
Rachel's contribution to the group project turned out to be interference, not help.

interfering

v
/ intə(r)'fi(ə)riŋ /
L + Ecf
entering into or taking a part in the concerns of others.
Gladden thought his older brother was interfering in his decision to attend Ohio University.

interferon

interfluve

intergalactic

interim

interject

v
/ intə(r)'jekt /
L
interpose, interpolate.
Jared tried without success to interject a comment at the meeting.

interlace

v
/ intə(r)'lās /
F > E
unite by or as if by weaving or twining together.
The counselor showed the campers how to interlace leather cords to make a lanyard.

interloper

intermediate

intermission

n
/ intə(r)'mishən /
L
a planned interruption in a program.
During the intermission the lobby was filled with patrons discussing the first act.

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

internecion

n
/ .intər'neshən /
L

[Note: Could be confused with internecine.] mutual destruction : massacre.

The Civil War Battle of Antietam is the bloodiest single-day battle in American history, an internecion that claimed more than 23,000 lives.

interosseous

adj
/ .intə(r)'äsēəs /
L

situated between bones; especially : lying between the bones of the leg or forearm.

When Kate fell, she damaged the interosseous membrane of her right forearm.

interpretant

interpretation

interrogate

v
/ ən'terəgāt /
L

question typically with formality, command, and thoroughness for full information and circumstantial detail.

Ms. Chapin called Darina to the office to interrogate her about the missing bicycle.

interstices

interstitial

intertrigo

n
/ .intə(r)'tri(.)gō /
L

inflammation produced by chafing of adjacent areas of skin.

The shirtless runner developed intertrigo along his sides from pumping his arms while running.

interval

interveinal

interwrought

intestate

intimidated

v
/ ən'timədədād /
L

made timid or fearful : frightened.
Jerry's dog is intimidated by loud noises and hides under the bed during thunderstorms.

intimidator

intolerant

intonaco

intonation

n
/ .intə'nāshən /
L

a pitch phenomenon in speech that makes a syntactical or emotional distinction.

Molly judged from Luke's intonation that he was more disappointed than he would admit.

intradós

n
/ 'intrədās /
L + F

the interior curve of an arch.

Maryanne believed that the arched doorway of her new home needed some decoration, so she stenciled the intrados.

intramontane

intraneous

intravasation

intricacy

intrigingly

introspect

v
/ 'intrəspekt /
L

look within (as one's own mind).
Bokeem likes to sit on the edge of the pond in his aunt's backyard and introspect.

introuvable

intrude

intruder

intuition

intuitive

intussusception

inunction

inunctum

invadable

invariably

adv
/ in'verēəblē /
L > F

without exception or change : always, consistently.

He invariably leaped before he looked and never cared where he was going as long as he knew why he shouldn't have gone to where he'd been.

invasion

invention

inverness

inversion

n
/ ən'vərzhən /
L

a reversal of normal atmospheric temperature gradient : increase of temperature of the air with increasing altitude.

Rapid cooling of Earth's surface causes an inversion wherein the lower levels of air are colder than the higher levels.

invertebrate

n
/ in'verdəbrāt /
L

an animal having no backbone or internal skeleton.

Carla's example of an invertebrate was the jellyfish that she found on the beach last summer.

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

inverted

adj
/ ɪn'vɜrdəd /
L

turned upside down or inside out.
The blood rushed to his head as he zoomed across the field in inverted flight.

investiture

n
/ ɪn'vestə.chù(ə)r /
L

the ceremonial conferral of symbols of office or honor.
The new archbishop arrived at his investiture with a letter of appointment from the pope, then donned his miter and offered a homily.

invigorating

inviscate

v
/ ɪn'vɪ.skāt /
L

encase in a sticky substance : make viscid.
When Lauren learned that some hunters smear birdlime on branches to inviscate birds, she became enraged.

invisible

adj
/ ɪn'vɪzəbəl /
L

of such small size as to be hardly noticeable.
Isaiah felt invisible sitting in the back of the lecture hall.

invite

involute

n
/ ɪnvə.lükə(r) /
L

a rosette of bracts surrounding a composite flower head.
The florist pointed out the involucre around the daisy's flower head.

involuntary

involute

adj
/ ɪnvə.lüt /
L

curled spirally.
Seashells are generally either involute or orbicular.

involve

iodopsin

n
/ ɪə'däpsɪn /
Gk

a photosensitive violet pigment in the retinal cones of most animals that is important in daylight vision.
The cone cells in the human eye contain three types of iodopsin that respond to red, blue, and green.

iridaceous

adj
/ ɪrə'dāshəs /
Gk > L
resembling an iris.
The showy iridaceous flowers were the hit of the exhibit.

iridesce

v
/ ɪrə'des /
Gk
show colors like those of the rainbow especially in shifting patterns of hues and shades that vary with a change of light or point of view.
Fini sat on the dock watching the gasoline spill iridesce on the water.

iridescence

iridescently

iridium

iridize

v
/ ɪrədɪz /
L + Ecf
make to show colors like those of the rainbow.
Mohandas proceeded to iridize the polished metal surface by applying heat to it.

irksome

adj
/ ɪrksəm /
E

causing annoyance or vexation : irritating.
Gary found the speaker's nasal voice irksome.

iroko

n
/ ɪ'rō(,)kō /
Yoruba
a very large timber tree of tropical western Africa with strong durable streaky lustrous brown wood that is extremely resistant to termite attack and often used as a substitute for teak.
Logs of iroko were shipped to Mystic Seaport from Ghana for the building of the Amistad replica.

ironclad

ironically

ironworker

irony

irrebuttable

adj
/ ɪrə'bədəbəl /
Ecf + F > F + Ecf
impossible to refute or contradict.
The researchers were convinced that their findings were irrebuttable.

irrefutable

irremeable

irremediable

irremovable

irreproachable

adj
/ ɪrə'pröchəbəl /
L + F > E
blameless, faultless, impeccable.
The Seeing Eye dog's behavior during the airplane flight was irreproachable.

irreption

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

irresponsible

irretrievable

adj
/ ɪrə'trɪvəbəl /
Ecf + F > E + Ecf
impossible to recoup, repair, or overcome.
By not going to college when he had the opportunity, Jack suffered an irretrievable loss.

irreverent

adj
/ ɪ'rev(ə),rɛnt /
L
not proceeding from or expressing honor or respect.
Mother considers it irreverent to leave church before the service is over.

irrision

n
/ ə'rɪzhən /
L
a laughing at a person or thing.
When Mrs. Scott's hat blew off, the class broke out in irrision.

irritable

adj
/ ɪ'rɪdəbəl /
L
likely to become impatient, angry, or disturbed.
Caleb is especially irritable when he is tired.

irritator

n
/ ɪ'rɪ.tədə(r) /
L
one that aggravates or incites displeasure.
Calvin is the class irritator and likes to make the teacher shout at him.

isarithm

n
/ ɪsə'rɪθm /
Gk
[has homonym: isorhythm] a line drawn on a chart or map to connect points having equal numerical values (as of temperature, elevation, or density of population).
Noelle traced the elevation isarithm from the topographical map onto her hiking map.

iscariotic

ischium

isentropic

adj
/ ɪs'n'trəpɪk /
Gk
taking place without change of the amount of energy in a system not available for doing work.
If steam could be expanded in a turbine with no friction or other losses, expansion would be isentropic.

island

islay

isobar

n
/ ɪ'səbär /
Gk > ISV
an imaginary line on a map connecting places on the surface of Earth with equal barometric pressure.
Ned noted that the weather map's isobar passed directly through his hometown.

isochronal

adj
/ ɪ'säkrənəl /
Gk
uniform in time : recurring at regular intervals.
Even early humans realized that sunrise was isochronal and not randomly recurring.

isochronous

isocracy

isogenous

isogloss

n
/ ɪsə,gläs /
Gk
a boundary line between places or regions that differ in a particular linguistic feature.
The shape of the isogloss confirmed Matilda's theory about regional dialects.

isolate

isolation

isolationist

adj
/ ɪsə'lāsh(ə)nəst /
L > It > F + Ecff
of, characterized by, or favoring a policy directed towards keeping a nation apart from other nations by a deliberate abstention from alliances and other international and economic relations.
Isolationist sentiment has often been strong in the United States.

isometric

isometrics

n pl
/ ɪsə'metriks /
Gk + Gk
exercise or a system of exercises involving contraction of the muscles against resistance.
On January first, Maggie began an ambitious program of isometrics.

isonomy

isothermal

Israelite

n
/ ɪzrēəl.ɪt /
Heb > Gk
a member of one of the ten Hebrew tribes anciently inhabiting the northern part of Palestine.
On his trip through the valley Jacob met an Israelite tending a small flock of sheep.

issuance

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

issue

italicize

ivied

adj
/ 'ivēd /
E

covered with ivy.
The ivied ruins attested to the magnificence of the original cathedral.

iwan

jabber

jackboot

n
/ 'jak.büt /
nickname + E
a laceless military boot reaching to the calf.
The jackboot has come to symbolize cruel military oppression.

jackdaw

jackhammer

jackrabbit

jackroller

Jacksonian

adj
/ jak'sŏnēən /
American name
of or relating to Andrew Jackson, his views or policies, or his era.
The politician preached his brand of Jacksonian politics in all the town squares through which he passed.

Jacobin

n
/ 'jakəbən /
L
member of an extremist political group advocating equalitarian democracy and famous for its terrorist policies during the French Revolution of 1789.
The Bostonian Federalists grew up under the impression that a Jacobin was a repulsive creature.

jacopever

jacqueminot

jaded

jagged

jailbird

jangling

v
/ 'janɡliŋ /
Gmc > F > E
sounding harshly or discordantly.
Though Hector's alarm clock was jangling, he remained fast asleep.

japonaiserie

n
/ zhə.pŏnez(ə)'rē /
F
a style of art reflecting Japanese qualities or motifs.
The restaurant's ambience was enhanced by the use of japonaiserie.

jarana

n
/ hə'rənə /
Sp
a couple dance of Yucatan that is performed with waltz and zapateado steps.
In Cancun one still sees couples dancing the jarana.

jasm

jasminewood

jaywalk

jazz

jealous

jeans

jejunely

adv
/ jə'jünlē /
L
in an immature or juvenile manner.
Although the colors of the painting were unusual and bold, Sam guessed that the brushstrokes had been executed jejunely.

jejunum

jellify

jeopardous

jersey

jessamine

jessamy

jetbead

jettisonable

jetty

jewel

jewels

n pl
/ 'jüəlz /
F > E
ornaments of precious metal often set with gems.
"The last rays of sun were falling through a glade of the wood and were shining bright as jewels on the flowery mantle of the wreck," Sam read aloud.

jimmies

n pl
/ 'jimēz /
unknown
tiny rod-shaped bits of variously flavored candy often sprinkled on ice cream and pastry.
Carol order vanilla ice cream with chocolate jimmies.

jingle

jingly

jingoish

adj
/ 'jin(,)gōish /
proper name? + Ecf
marked by arrogant nationalism.
Senator Clark's jingoish foreign policy recommendations were roundly denounced by his colleagues.

jitney

jockey

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

jodhpurs

jogger

join

jollity

jordanon

n
/ 'jò(r)dʰn.än /
F name + Gkcf
a small usually localized population slightly but effectively differentiated from related forms.
The Himalayan blackberry plant is a very aggressive jordanon that can spread over a radius of 10 feet in a year.

joropo

jorum

jounce

journalese

n
/ .jərn'ɪɛz /
L > F > E + L > Pg&It
a style of writing held to be characteristic of newspapers.
The word transpired is considered journalese because it rarely occurs outside of newspapers.

journalist

jovially

adv
/ 'jövɛəlɛ /
L
in a jolly, good-humored manner.
Mr. Edwards jovially donned the Santa Claus suit and took a seat near the children.

Jovian

adj
/ 'jövɛən /
L
relating to the planet Jupiter.
The Jovian magnetic field is much stronger than Earth's.

jowly

joyfully

adv
/ 'jòif(ə)lɛ /
E
in a happy or jubilant manner.
At the age of six Malachy joyfully began school.

joyous

adj
/ 'jòias /
L > F > E + Ecf
happy, joyful.
Jeremy was utterly joyous as he revealed his latest work of art.

joyride

judge

v
/ 'jəj /
L > F > E
form an authoritative opinion about.
An experienced editor can judge the quality of a manuscript from a few sample pages.

judgmental

judicature

juggins

jughead

juicily

julep

junco

Jungian

adj
/ 'yüŋɛən /
Swiss name
of, relating to, or having the characteristics of the psychological doctrines of Carl G. Jung.
Becky showed how the novel Mists of Avalon made extensive use of Jungian archetypes.

juration

juratory

jurimetrics

juror

jury

justified

justify

jut

jute

kale

Kallikak

n
/ 'kaləkək /
Gk > US literary name
a stupid person.
Andrea's brother teased her by calling her a Kallikak.

kalon

kamelaukion

n
/ .kämə'laük.yòn /
Gk
a tall brimless hat worn by priests and monks in some Eastern rites.
When Kathy visited Crete, a bearded priest in a tall black kamelaukion asked her if she was from Chicago.

kamik

n
/ 'kämik /
Esk
[has homonym: comic] an Eskimo sealskin boot.
Among Alaskan natives, the homemade kamik is still the most common footwear.

kanji

n
/ 'kän(ɔ)jɛ /
Jpn
a Japanese system of writing based on the Chinese one and composed principally of characters borrowed or adapted from Chinese.
Evan was awarded the university linguistics prize for his paper on the history of kanji.

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Kantian

adj
/ 'kantēən /

G name

of or relating to the German philosopher Immanuel Kant.

Professor Smith's lectures betrayed a strong bias toward Kantian metaphysics.

kaolinic

kaolinize

karma

n
/ 'kärmə /

Sk

in Hinduism and Buddhism, the sum total of the ethical consequences of a person's good or bad actions comprising thoughts, words, and deeds.

In Buddhism, harming another being is believed to contribute to bad karma.

karyogamy

karyology

karyotin

karyotype

n
/ 'karēə'tīp /

Gk + Gk

the sum of the specific characteristics of a cell nucleus including chromosome number, form, size, and points of spindle-fiber attachment.

Most male children are of the 46-XY karyotype, which means they have 46 chromosomes including one XY pair.

kathak

n
/ kə'tāk /

Sk > Beng

an intricate dance of northern India that includes passages of narrative pantomime.

The kathak Simon saw in Delhi told the story of an emperor disguised as a poor beggar.

kathakali

n
/ ,kädə'kälē /

Sk > Malayalan

a spectacular lyric dance drama of southern India performed with acrobatic energy and highly stylized pantomime.

The dancers in the kathakali had painted faces and stylized costumes and headwear.

Katmandu

adj
/ ,kat.man'dü /

Nepalese geog name

of or from Katmandu, the capital of Nepal.

Marisa has a Katmandu prayer rug hanging on her wall.

Keatsian

adj
/ 'kētsēən /

E name

of, relating to, or characteristic of the English poet John Keats.

Mr. Gardner criticized the poet's excessive use of Keatsian allusions.

keelage

keenly

adv
/ 'kēnlē /

E

in a manner characterized by intense interest.

The cat watched keenly as the nuthatches came and went from the birdfeeder.

keenness

keitloa

n
/ 'kītlowə /

Sechuana

a black rhinoceros that has a posterior horn and which has been considered to constitute a distinct species.

While on safari, Roger and Sandy saw a rare keitloa.

kelpfish

Kelvin

adj
/ 'kelvən /

E name

relating to, conforming to, or having a thermometric scale on which the unit of measurement equals the Celsius degree and according to which absolute zero is 0 degrees Kelvin.

The Kelvin scale has been adopted as the international standard for scientific temperature measurement.

kemancha

n
/ kə'mänchə /

Per > Ar

an Arabian violin that has usually a single string and a gourd resonator and is held vertically when played.

When his mother was transferred to the Middle East for her job, Michael took up the kemancha.

kench

kentledge

kerchoo

kernelly

adj
/ 'kərnəlē /

E

[has near homonym: carnally] having or containing whole grains or seeds.

Jeffrey is quite fond of a certain kind of kernelly bread.

ketone

n
/ 'kē.tōn /

G

any of a class of organic compounds (as acetone) that are characterized by a carbonyl group attached to two carbon atoms.

Certain diseases in humans are marked by the presence of excessive amounts of ketone in the circulatory system.

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kettle

n
/ 'ked·l /
ON > E
a cooking utensil with a bail handle.
A soup kettle hung from a hook in the castle kitchen's enormous fireplace.

kewpie

keyhole

n
/ 'kē.hōl /
E + E
a hole or aperture for receiving a key.
In the dark, Demmie could not find the keyhole.

Keynesian

adj
/ 'kānzēən /
E name
of or relating to the advocacy of monetary and fiscal programs by government to increase employment.
Professor Rabin is a proponent of Keynesian economics.

keystone

khatun

khedive

kibbutz

n
/ ki'bùts /
Heb
a collective farm or settlement in Israel.
Meredith's pen pal lives on a kibbutz.

kibbutznik

kibe

kick

v
/ 'kik /
E
give impetus to something with a usually fast blow with the foot, generally with the intention of scoring or gaining ground.
Julio could kick the football 75 yards but was uninterested in trying out for the team.

kicksorter

kidney

n
/ 'kidnē /
E
one of a pair of vertebrate organs situated in the body cavity near the spinal cavity that serve to excrete waste products.
In an effort to save his daughter's life, the prisoner sued the state to be allowed to give her his only kidney.

kidskin

kiekie

kier

kilderkin

n
/ 'kildə(r)kən /
(L + D) > E
a cask about half the size of a common barrel and sometimes smaller.
By a 16th-century English statute a kilderkin for beer had to contain 18 gallons; one for ale, 16 gallons.

killarney

n
/ kə'lärnē /
Ir geog name
a moderate yellowish green to green that is stronger than Gretna green.
Seamus said that all the fuss about the difference between killarney and Gretna green was nonsense.

killcrop

killjoy

kiloliter

kilometer

n
/ kə'lāmədə(r) /
Gk > F
a metric unit of length equal to 1,000 meters.
Bob knew he was out of shape when he couldn't run a kilometer without gasping for air.

kilowatts

Kilroy

n
/ 'kil.rōi /
Amer name
an inveterate traveler.
Most of Lyra's postcard collection comes from her uncle Thor, who is quite a Kilroy.

kindhearted

kindred

kingfisher

kinless

kinship

kinsman

kipper

kirimon

kirsch

kirtle

n
/ 'kərd·l /
E
[has homonyms: curdle, curtal] a garment resembling a tunic or coat usually reaching to the knees and worn by men often as the principal body garment until the 16th century.
Ethelred's kirtle snagged as he mounted his steed.

kiteflying

kitten

klavern

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

kleptomania

klezmerim

klipspringer

n
/ 'klip.sprɪŋə(r) /
Afrikaans
a small agile African antelope inhabiting mountainous regions. *Because of its specially adapted hooves, the klipspringer can traverse the mountain crags.*

klister

n
/ 'klistə(r) /
G > Norw
[has homonym: clyster] a soft wax used on skis especially for corn snow or crust. *Wary of the spring skiing conditions, Maria applied some klister to her skis.*

klompen

klutz

klystron

knack

knavish

kneeboard

knell

knelt

knickknack

knife

knifelike

adj
/ 'nɪf.lɪk /
ON? > E + E
resembling an instrument with a sharp edge. *The tops of the trees created a knifelike silhouette on the horizon.*

knitwear

knot

n
/ 'nɑt /
E
[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word. In addition, word has homonyms: naught, not.] 1 nautical mile per hour—used as a unit of measurement in expressing the rate of speed of airplanes and seagoing ships. *Lester had trouble explaining the difference between a ship moving at 1 knot and a car moving at 1 mile per hour.*

knothole

knottiness

known

knucklesome

kobold

koftgari

n
/ 'kɔftgə(,)rē /
Per > Hindi
Indian damascene work in which steel is inlaid with gold. *While on vacation in India, Tyler saw many types of koftgari for sale.*

koinonia

n
/ .kɔɪnə'nɛə /
Gk
intimate spiritual communion and participative sharing in a common religious commitment and spiritual community. *Karl's book details how koinonia developed among the 12 apostles.*

komatik

koshare

n
/ kɔ'sha(a)(ə)r /
Keres
a Pueblo Indian clown society whose members imitate ancestral spirits in ceremonies invoking rain. *While visiting a Pueblo Indian historical site Alan learned about the tribe's different societies, including the koshare.*

koto

kouros

kraft

kraken

n
/ 'krækən /
Norw
a fabulous Scandinavian sea monster perhaps imagined on the basis of chance sightings of giant squids. *Granddad has an engraving that depicts a kraken in a fjord.*

krakowiak

n
/ krə'kɔvɛ.ak /
Pol
a Polish group folk dance that combines elements of the ancient round, the more recent square, and the modern polka. *The krakowiak is a lively dance named for the area of Poland where it originated.*

krill

n
/ 'krɪl /
Norw
[has near homonym: creel]
planktonic crustaceans and larvae that constitute the principal food of whalebone whales. *Researchers are studying ways to process protein-rich krill into human food.*

krone

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

kugel

n
/ 'kügəl /
G > Yiddish
a baked pudding (as of potatoes, noodles, bread, or cabbage) served as a side dish or dessert.
Natalie often makes a noodle kugel to accompany a roast chicken.

kulak

n
/ kü'lak /
Turkish > Russ
a prosperous or wealthy peasant farmer in 19th-century Russia.
The kulak was a member of the middle class in pre-revolutionary Russia.

kundalini

n
/ .künd'l'ēnē /
Skt
the yogic life-force that is held to lie at the base of the spine until it is sent to the head to trigger enlightenment.
The ultimate goal of a yogi is to awaken the kundalini.

kuru

n
/ 'kü(,)rū /
Fore
a rare progressive fatal disease of the brain that is caused by a slow virus and occurs among tribespeople in eastern New Guinea.
People who have kuru have symptoms similar to those of Alzheimer's disease.

kvetch

kyoodle

v
/ kī'(y)üd'l /
imit
make loud useless noises : holler, yap.
Rover began to kyoodle from the backyard whenever the letter carrier approached the house.

labile

adj
/ 'lābəl /
L
[has homonym: label] readily or continually undergoing chemical or physical or biological change or breakdown.
The problem at the end of the chapter was to explain how a substance can be thermodynamically stable but still labile.

labiovelar

laborer

laburnum

n
/ lə'bərnəm /
L
any plant of a small genus of poisonous shrubs and trees having pendulous racemes of bright yellow flowers.
The laburnum, also known as "golden rain," is often cultivated for Easter decoration.

lacertilian

adj
/ .lasə(r)'tilēən /
L
of or relating to a lizard.
The zoo's exhibit included serpentine and lacertilian reptiles.

lacery

lacework

laches

lackluster

laconism

lacquer

lacquering

lactoprene

lacustrine

ladybug

lagging

laguna

n
/ lə'günə /
L > Sp
[Note: The pronunciation of this word is close to that of lagoon, which can also be spelled l-a-g-u-n-e.] lagoon, lake, pond.
Water at the bottom of a tropical laguna is almost always foul.

laicize

lakefront

lalopathy

lamentations

n pl
/ .lamən'tāshənz /
L
vocal expressions of sorrow : complaints.
The chorus in the Greek tragedy uttered wild lamentations for the fallen hero.

lamina

laminectomy

lampistry

n
/ 'lampəstrē /
Gk > L > F
the work of a maker or tender of light-giving devices.
Tonia recently completed an apprenticeship in lampistry.

lance

n
/ 'lan(t)s /
L > F > E
a weapon consisting of a long shaft with a sharp steel head.
The joustler settled the lance firmly under his arm and charged at the target.

landlubber

landowner

landwehr

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

langley

n
/ 'lɑŋlə /
Am name
a unit of solar radiation equivalent to 1 gram calorie per square centimeter of irradiated surface.
Like many other measurement terms, the langley was named after a prominent scientist.

languidly

languish

v
/ 'lɑŋwɪʃ /
L > F
lose strength or animation : lose force or vividness : fade.
Watching her plants languish in the drought was difficult for the gardener.

lank

adj
/ 'lɑŋk /
E
slender and thin.
Abe Lincoln was tall and exceedingly lank with long arms and legs.

lansquenet

n
/ ,lɑn(t)skə'net /
G > F
a card game similar to faro played in central Europe since the 15th century or before.
Unknown to the duke, the duchess was in deep debt from long nights spent playing lansquenet.

lanthanum

laparoscopy

n
/ ,lɑpə'ræskəpē /
Gk + Gk
visual examination of the interior of the abdomen by using a long slender optical instrument inserted through the abdominal wall.
Modern-day surgeons are well trained in the techniques of laparoscopy.

laparotomy

n
/ ,lɑpə'rædəmē /
Gk + Gk
surgical cutting of the abdominal wall.
Kevin's appendix was removed via a laparotomy.

lapidarian

adj
/ ,lɑpə'da(a)rēən /
L + E
of, relating to, or inscribed on stone.
Janice enjoyed reading the lapidarian epitaphs in the old cemetery.

lapidicolous

adj
/ ,lɑpə'dɪkələs /
L + L
living under a stone—used especially of an insect.
As Jake overturned the large stone, he saw hundreds of lapidicolous beetles scurrying about.

lapse

lapwing

n
/ 'lɑpwiŋ /
E
an abundant crested plover that is noted for its slow irregular flapping flight and its shrill wailing cry.
Some species of lapwing have wing spurs for use in fighting.

largamente

larghissimo

adv
/ lɑr'gēsəmō /
L > It
in as slow a manner as possible—used as a direction in music.
During the dream scene the orchestra was told to play larghissimo.

larkspur

larnax

n
/ 'lɑrnaks /
Gk
a chest usually of terra cotta and often ornamented that was used in ancient Greece especially as a sepulchral chest.
Francis saw a larnax in Greece that was said to contain the remains of a general in Alexander the Great's army.

larvarium

lase

v
/ 'lāz /
E back-formation
emit coherent light.
When excited by an electric current, the rube crystal began to lase.

lasque

latch

latchet

n
/ 'lɑchət /
L > F > E
a narrow strap especially of leather by which a shoe or sandal is fastened upon the foot.
Nora used a nylon shoelace to replace her sandal's leather latchet.

latent

laterite

latifundia

latke

n
/ 'lɑtkə /
Gk > Russ > Yiddish
griddle cake; especially : one made from grated raw potato.
Mary preferred her latke without onion.

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latterly

adv
/ 'lɑdə(r)lē /
E + Ecf

coming after something else : later.
Margo was a fishing guide for a while and latterly a mechanic.

latticed

adj
/ 'lɑd̩st /
Gmc? > F > E

furnished with a framework made by crossing laths or other thin strips so as to form a network.
Cyrus fashioned a latticed roof for his tree house.

latticework

latticinio

lauan

n
/ lə'wän /
Tag

any of various Philippine timbers that are moderately close-grained and rather stringy and of moderate strength and durability.
The contractor told Mrs. Zemeckis that hollow-core doors with a veneer of lauan were the most economical choice for her new home.

laudanum

laugh

laundry

laureate

laureateship

n
/ 'lɔrēət.ship /
L + E

the office of poet laureate.
In Britain, the poet laureateship is awarded by the sovereign on the recommendation of the prime minister.

lavabo

n
/ lə'vɑ(ɪ)bō /
L

a washbasin and a tank with a spigot that are both fastened to a wall.
Alessandra purchased an antique lavabo shaped like a lion's head and installed it in her garden.

lavish

lavishly

lawyer

laziness

lazuline

leaflet

leakage

lean

leapfrog

n
/ 'lēpfrog /
E + E

a game in which one player bends down on all fours and another places his hands on the first player's shoulders or back and leaps over him.
Only children under the age of 13 were allowed to enter the leapfrog races.

learnable

leash

n
/ 'lēsh /
F > E

[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word.] a set of three animals (as greyhounds, foxes, bucks, or hares).
A leash of borzois was on the trail of a wolf.

lebbek

lebensraum

leberwurst

lecture

lecturer

ledge

ledger

leech

leewardly

adj
/ 'liə(r)dlē /
E + E + Ecf
tending to fall off away from the wind.
She was such a leewardly vessel that the captain was more than once forced to anchor on a lee shore.

lefse

legal

legalese

legatee

legato

adv
/ lə'gɑ(ɪ)tō /
L > It
in a manner that is smooth and connected between successive tones.
The opposite of legato in musical direction is staccato.

legendary

leggings

legionary

legitimately

adv
/ lə'jɪdəmətlē /
L

according to law or rules.
Mabel legitimately owned the automobile, even though she couldn't locate her title or registration.

legroom

lekvar

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

lemma

lengthwise

adv

/ 'leŋ(k)th.wīz /

E + E

in the direction of the length.

The subway passenger opened his paper and expertly folded it lengthwise.

lepidote

adj

/ 'lepədōt /

Gk

covered with flakes or scurfy scales.

Lepidote rhododendrons have tiny scales on the undersides of their leaves.

leporid

lepper

leprechaun

leprosarium

lerot

lesions

letterhead

leucocholy

leukergy

lever

levitate

lexical

lexigraphy

liar

libation

liberal

libertarian

n

/ .libə(r)'terēən /

L > F > E + Ecff

one who upholds the principles of individual freedom of thought and action.

A libertarian would cut down constitutional authority to the smallest proportions, while an authoritarian leaves but little scope for private judgment.

liberty

libration

n

/ lī'brāshən /

L

an oscillation in the apparent aspect of a secondary body (as a planet or a satellite) as seen from the primary object around which it revolves.

The latitudinal libration of the Moon occurs because its axis is tilted slightly.

libri

n pl

/ 'lī.brī /

L

books of records (as of deeds or wills).

Working among the old, dusty libri all day gave Curtis a sinus headache.

licentious

licitation

lido

lieblich

lierre

lifeguard

lifemanship

ligation

lightfastness

n

/ 'lit.fastnəs /

E + E + Ecff

resistance to fading or change of color by light.

Oleanna was satisfied with the lightfastness of the dyes.

lighthouse

n

/ 'lit.haüs /

E + E

a tower or other building equipped to guide navigators by means of a powerful light.

The damage done to the lighthouse was repaired as soon as possible after the storm.

lighttight

adj

/ 'lit.tīt /

E + Scand > E

impenetrable by light.

Brother Stephen made sure that the room was lighttight.

lignite

likelihood

likely

likewise

lilies

lilt

limacine

limbless

limbo

n

/ 'lim.bō /

L > E

a West Indian acrobatic dance that involves bending over backward and passing under a horizontal pole which is lowered slightly for each successive pass.

The limbo is often enjoyed at informal backyard parties.

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

limeade

n
/ 'li.mād /
Ar > F > E
a drink made with lime juice, sugar, and water.
Gertrude served chilled limeade and sugar cookies.

limelight

n
/ 'lim.lit /
E + E
the white light produced by a stage lighting instrument in which an oxyhydrogen flame is directed on a cylinder of lime.
The limelight followed the actor as he paced back and forth across the stage.

limen

limequat

limicolous

limited

limned

Limoges

n
/ lē'mōzh /
F geog name
a superior variety of china.
On Thanksgiving Mother set the table with Limoges.

linden

lineage

n
/ 'linēij /
F > E
a group of persons (as a family or clan) tracing descent from a common ancestor who is regarded as its founder.
Marcel can trace his lineage to two passengers on the Mayflower.

lineaments

n pl
/ 'linēəmənts /
L
[has near homonym: liniments] the distinguishing or characteristic features of something immaterial.
Frieda decided to entitle her thesis "The Lineaments of Democracy."

linearity

n
/ .linē'arədē /
L + Ecf
the quality or state of involving measurement in one dimension only.
When he graphed the data, Gus was pleased with the linearity.

lineolate

lingual

linguipotence

linguistics

n pl
/ lin'gwistiks /
L
the study of human speech in its various aspects (as the structure of a language including such factors as phonetics, accent, syntax, semantics, grammar, and the relation between writing and speech).
The professor of linguistics spent more time in class on word formation than he had originally allocated.

linkage

linnet

linsang

n
/ 'lin.səŋ /
Malay
either of two nocturnal chiefly forest-dwelling Asian mammals that are related to the mongooses, civets, and genets.
The linsang has a yellowish coat with dark spots in one species and dark bands in another species.

lintel

n
/ 'lintəl /
L > F > E
a horizontal architectural member spanning and usually carrying the load above an opening.
The lintel over the front door of the sea captain's house was decorated with a carving of a pineapple.

lioness

lionized

v
/ 'liənīzd /
Gk > L > F > E + Ecf
treated or regarded as a celebrity or object of interest.
The Olympic gold medalist was lionized by her proud hometown.

lipogenous

adj
/ lə'pājənəs /
Gk
producing or tending to produce fat.
The veterinarian advised Beth to feed Fluffy a less lipogenous diet.

lipogram

n
/ 'lipə.gram /
Gk
a writing composed of words not having a certain letter.
Samantha used the search function of her word processing program to ensure that her lipogram was accurately constructed.

lipogrammatism

n
/ .lipə'gram.ətizəm /
Gk
the practice of writing something composed of words not having a certain letter.
As an exercise in lipogrammatism, the writer wrote a novel without once using a word with an e in it.

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lipolytic

adj
/ .lɪpəˈlɪdɪk /
Gk + Gk

of, relating to, causing, or resulting from the hydrolysis of fat.

The taste of rancid butter is caused by the action of lipolytic microorganisms.

liquation

liquefacient

liquefy

liquor

listener

literacy

n
/ 'lɪdərəsē /
L+ Ecf

the quality or state of being able to read and write.

Barbara and Laura Bush are both very active in promoting literacy in our country.

literatim

lithe

lithely

lithoglyph

lithophane

lithophyte

n
/ 'lɪθəˌfɪt /
Gk + Gk
a plant or a plantlike organism that grows on the surface of rocks.
Lichen is a very common type of lithophyte.

litigate

litigious

litigiously

litter

n
/ 'lɪdə(r) /
L > F > E

[has near homonym: *ladder*] the offspring at one birth of a multiparous animal.

All the pups except one in Daisy's litter are black and white.

littlish

liturate

liturgiologist

livelong

livery

n
/ 'lɪv(ə)rē /
F > E

distinctive dress (as of an organization, profession, occupation).

The hotel doorman's spotless livery was green with gold braid.

livestock

lizard

llanero

n
/ lə'ne(,)rō /
Sp
a cowboy or herdsman in Spanish America.

The llanero stared curiously as the revolutionary army sped past.

llano

loathe

v
/ lōth /
E

[Note: Adjective can be spelled *loath*, *loth*, *loathe*.] feel strong aversion for : detest, abhor.

Practically all the students at Ridgeview Middle School loathe the vice-principal.

lobbyist

n
/ 'lɒbēst /
Gmc > L + Ecf

a person who conducts activities with the objective of influencing public officials and especially members of a legislative body.

The firm employed an experienced lobbyist to make their case to the legislators.

lobster

localitis

locoweed

n
/ 'lɒkō.wēd /
Sp + E

any of several wild larkspurs of western North America that are poisonous to livestock.

A cow that has eaten locoweed behaves very strangely.

locution

lodge

loftily

loge

logopedics

n pl
/ .lɒgə'pēdɪks /
Gk

the scientific study and treatment of speech defects.

Many children with speech defects have been successfully treated at the center for logopedics.

logrolling

loitering

v
/ 'lɔɪdə(r)ɪŋ /
D > E

frittering away time in the course of doing something or proceeding somewhere.

Amanda would have been ready to meet the bus if she hadn't been loitering in front of the TV.

loneliest

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

longeron

longirostrine

longitude

loose

loquat

lorcha

lord

lotic

lotion

lottery

louche

adj
/ 'lʊʃ /
L > F

[has near homonym: luge] devious, perverse, sinister.

After she caught the boys who had teased her poodle, Miss Vorrell told them she had never seen such "louche behavior."

louse

n
/ 'laʊs /
E

[has homonym: Laos] any of various small wingless usually flattened insects that are parasitic on warm-blooded animals.
The sucking louse has piercing and sucking mouthparts and lives on blood and tissue fluids of mammals as an external parasite.

lousicide

lousy

louvar

lovelorn

lucarne

n
/ lü'kärn /
OFrk > F
dormer window.

Violette waved to her father before closing the lucarne.

luciform

adj
/ 'lʊsəfɔrm /
L

of, relating to, or having the characteristics of light.
Some Platonists held that the soul is luciform.

lucifugous

adj
/ lü'sifyəgəs /
L

avoiding light.
Owls and bats are lucifugous creatures of the night.

lucigen

n
/ 'lʊsəjən /
L + Gk

a lamp or torch giving a bright light by burning a mixture of oil mixed with hot air.

Mr. Hannay of Glasgow invented the lucigen, which can be used to light large, open spaces.

lucre

n
/ 'lʊkə(r) /
L

[has near homonym: (trademark word) luger] monetary gain : profit, reward.

Sarah was eager to be a runner for the investment firm because of the contacts she could make, not for the lucre the job would bring.

luff

luggage

lugubriously

lulled

v
/ 'lʊld /
E imit?

made quiet.

The sound of Debby crooning to him usually lulled Roger to sleep quickly.

lumbago

n
/ .ləm'bā.gō /
L

muscular rheumatism involving the muscles of the lower back and usually accompanied by pain.
Because of his father's lumbago, Tim had to do all the snow shoveling.

lumberjack

lumbriciform

adj
/ .ləm'brɪsəfɔrm /
L + L

resembling an earthworm.

The anteater, with its elongated snout and lumbriciform tongue, is well adapted to licking up insects.

lumbricoid

luminance

n
/ 'lʊmənən(t)s /
L + Ecf

the quality or state of emitting a steady suffused light from within.
The luminance of the 25-watt bulb was not great enough for reading the map.

luminarism

n
/ 'lʊmənə.rɪzəm /
L > F + Ecf

the concern with or skill in the portrayal of effects of light and shade in painting.

The painter Joseph Turner was a pioneer of luminarism.

luminoscope

n
/ 'lʊmənə.skɔp /
L + Gk

an instrument used for detecting rare metals in the soil by means of ultraviolet light.

The survey team used a luminoscope and other devices to determine the composition of various soils.

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lumpen

adj
/ 'lʌmpən /
G

of, relating to, or being an amorphous group of dispossessed and uprooted individuals set off by their inferior station from the economic and social class with which they are identified.
Though he was a member of the Communist Party, Jerome considered himself an intellectual, not one of the lumpen proletariat.

lumpkin

lunar

adj
/ 'lʌnə(r) /
L

of, taking place on, or relating to the Moon.
The Babylonian calendar was based on the lunar cycle.

lunation

lunette

n
/ lʌ'net /
L > F
the figure or shape of a crescent moon.
The wiper formed a lunette of visibility on the rain-speckled windshield.

lupine

adj
/ 'lʌ.pɪn /
L > E
of, relating to, or resembling a wolf.
The stray dog had a lupine look to it.

lurid

adj
/ 'lʌrəd /
L
wan and ghastly pale in appearance.
Jessie was frightened by the lurid figures at Madame Tussaud's wax museum, especially that of Jack the Ripper.

lurking

v
/ 'lɜːkɪŋ /
E

lying in ambush : prowling.
Patrick's runaway imagination pictured a monster lurking under his bed or in his closet.

lusciously

adv
/ 'lʊʃəsli /
E
in a manner that is richly luxurious or highly appealing to the senses.
The colors of the silk carpet glowed lusciously in the firelight.

lutaceous

adj
/ lʌ'tʌʃəs /
L + Ecf
formed from or having the fine texture of mud : clayey—used of conglomerate rock.
Nina dug a fossil shell out of the lutaceous river bluff.

luteovirescent

Lutz

n
/ 'lʊts /
Swiss name
a figure-skating jump in which the skater takes off from the back outside edge of one skate, rotates counterclockwise, and lands on the back outside edge of the other skate.
Nancy Kerrigan demonstrated a perfect Lutz in the instructional skating video.

luxuriate

lyddite

lying

lymphocyte

n
/ 'lɪm(p)fə.sɪt /
Gk
a colorless weakly motile cell that is produced in lymphoid tissue.
When a lymphocyte recognizes a virus in a cell, it will attempt to kill that cell.

lyncine

lyophilize

lyrebird

lyric

adj
/ 'lɪrɪk /
Gk
characterized by or expressive of direct usually intense personal emotion.
The lyric quality of Sue-Lynn's poetry is tremendously powerful.

lyrical

lyricism

lyricist

lysis

n
/ 'lɪsɪs /
Gk
the gradual decline of a disease process.
The lysis of Hugh's fever was swifter than Dr. Quinley expected.

lyssa

maar

n
/ 'mɑːr /
G
a more or less circular volcanic crater that is produced by explosion.
Jenny had always pictured a volcano as a conical mountain topped by a maar, but while visiting Hawaii she learned that there are several other shapes.

mabe

macaroons

n pl
/ .makə'ruːnz /
It > F
small cakes composed chiefly of egg whites, sugar, and ground almonds or coconut.
Joel serves tea and macaroons to the hotel guests at three o'clock every afternoon.

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

mace

machinate

v
/ 'makə.nāt /
Gk > L
scheme or contrive to bring (something undesirable) about : plot.
Robert feared that one of his coworkers would machinate to have the entire accounting department replaced.

machinery

machismo

n
/ mä'chēz(ə)mō /
Sp
a strong sense of masculine pride : an exaggerated masculinity.
The Olympic boxer raised his fist to the crowd in a display of machismo.

machtropolitik

macilency

n
/ 'masələnsē /
L
leanness of body : emaciation.
It seems that now, as in the early '60s, macilency is important to fashion models.

mackereler

maco

macrodont

adj
/ 'makrō.dänt /
Gk
having large teeth.
Little Red Riding Hood found it strange that her grandmother had become a macrodont creature since their last visit.

macron

macrophagous

adj
/ mə'kräfəgəs /
Gk + Gk
[Note: Could be confused with microphagous.] feeding on relatively large particulate matter.
The textbook described the macrophagous tissue cell.

macroscopic

macrotia

macrotous

macrurous

maculacy

macumba

n
/ mə'kümbə /
Pg
a Brazilian ritual or cult that is largely of African origin and combines sorcery with dancing, drumming, and chanting.
The tourists were invited to see an exhibition of macumba in Rio de Janeiro.

madras

maduro

mage

n
/ 'māj /
Gk > L > E
magician.
The mage muttered a few words, waved his hand, and disappeared.

magical

magician

n
/ mə'jishən /
Gk > L > F > E
one who entertains an audience by tricks of illusion and sleight of hand.
The magician specialized in card tricks.

magma

magnate

n
/ 'mag.nāt /
L > E
[Note: Alternate pronunciation has homonym: magnet.] a person prominent in the management of a large industry or enterprise.
The oil magnate bequeathed his fortune to the local university.

magnesium

magnificence

magnificently

adv
/ mag'nifəsəntlē /
L + Ecf
grandly, impressively.
At her coronation the queen was magnificently dressed in a robe of purple velvet and ermine.

magnify

magniloquent

magnitude

n
/ 'magnətüd /
L > E
greatness of size or extent : vastness.
The magnitude of the shift from previous policies left all members of the organization unsure of their roles.

magnum

maguey

mahimahi

n
/ 'mähē'mähē /
Marquesan, Tahitian, & Hawaiian
a spiny-finned fish which is widely distributed in tropical and temperate seas and is esteemed as food.
Today's special is mahimahi marinated in a soy-ginger sauce.

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

maieutic

adj
/ mā'yü:dik /
Gk

of or relating to the dialectic method practiced by Socrates in order to elicit and clarify ideas of others.

Instead of giving lectures, Professor Ewing used maieutic dialogs to get students to think for themselves.

maim

Mainer

n
/ 'mānə(r) /

American geog name
a native or resident of Maine.
The old Mainer tried his hand at raising buffalo.

mainprise

majestic

majorette

makeshift

adj
/ 'māk.shift /
E

serving as a temporary expedient.
Until he could afford something better, Mr. Gray made makeshift bookshelves out of boards and milk crates.

malacology

maladroitly

adv
/ .malə'drɔitl̩ /
F + Ecf

in a manner marked by a lack of dexterity or skill : clumsily.
The driving instructor reached for the wheel when his student maladroitly steered the car onto the shoulder.

malapert

malar

malarial

malcontent

maledictory

maleficence

malevolently

malfeasance

malfunction

malicious

malignancy

malison

n
/ 'maləsən /
L > F > E

malediction, curse.
Jared muttered one malison after another when he took a look at his algebra test grade.

malleation

Malthusian

adj
/ mal'th(y)üzhən /
E name + Ecf

of or relating to doctrines holding that population tends to increase at a faster rate than its means of subsistence, resulting in poverty and degradation unless the population is checked by moral restraint, disease, or war.
The candidate's Malthusian suggestion that the epidemic was a blessing in disguise was poorly received by voters.

maltreat

mamba

mamelon

mammalian

mammon

n
/ 'mamən /
Aram > Gk > L

material wealth or possessions especially having an evil power or debasing influence : wealth, money.

After becoming a millionaire, Mr. Wei renounced mammon and entered a monastery.

mammonism

mana

manacles

n pl
/ 'manəkəlz /
L > F > E

something used as a restraint.
Dr. King's "I Have a Dream" speech delineated how many lives were still "sadly crippled by the manacles of segregation and the chains of discrimination."

manageability

n
/ .manijə'bilədē /
L > It + Ecff

the quality or state of being capable of being managed or controlled.
After shampooing her hair, Milly applied a conditioner for manageability.

mancinism

mandala

n
/ 'mændələ /
Skt

a graphic mystic symbol of the universe that is typically in the form of a circle enclosing a square and often bearing symmetrically arranged representations of deities and is used chiefly in Hinduism and Buddhism as an aid to meditation.
The lama took three days to construct an elaborate mandala from colored sand and then destroyed it.

mandibular

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

mandir

n
/ 'mən.dɪr /
Skt > Hindi
a Hindu temple.
The 900-year-old mandir at Angkor Wat is the object of a massive restoration project that has lasted several decades.

mandlen

mandorla

n
/ 'mændɔr.lə /
L > It
a panel or contour in the shape of an almond.
At the top of the altarpiece Christ is depicted seated within a mandorla full-face and holding a book.

mane

manes

n pl
/ 'mæn.ɪz /
L
the spirits of the dead and gods of the lower world in ancient Roman belief.
Roman household members were expected to call on the manes of their ancestors for comfort and guidance in their daily lives.

mania

n
/ 'māniə /
Gk
excessive or unreasonable enthusiasm.
During half time at the Super Bowl, one sportscaster reported on the mania of many of the fans.

maniac

maniacally

manicurist

manifold

adj
/ 'manəfɔld /
E
marked by diversity or variety : numerous and varied.
Andrew is intrigued by the manifold opportunities in the field of engineering.

manipuri

n
/ .manə'pʊrɪ /
Indian geog name
a dance form associated with the Manipur region of northern India and characterized by a gentle lyrical style.
Rajiv is writing his thesis on the history of the manipuri.

mankind

manometer

n
/ mə'nämədə(r) /
Gk + Gk
an instrument for measuring the pressure of gases and vapors.
Mr. Glazebrook used a manometer to measure the densities of the currents on either side of the partition.

manor

n
/ 'manə(r) /
L > F > E
[has homonym: manner] the house or hall of an estate : mansion.
The lord of the manor was a gracious man, giving the servants good food and plenty of time off.

manse

mantilla

n
/ man'tē(y)ə /
Sp
a light scarf often of black lace worn over the head and shoulders especially by Spanish and Latin American women.
Before leaving for church, Angela covered her long black hair with a lacy mantilla.

mantissa

manual

manually

manufacture

manzanilla

manzanita

n
/ .manzə'nɛdə /
L > Sp
an evergreen tree or shrub of the Pacific coast of North America that has a smooth bark, thick shiny leaves, and edible red berries.
Steven took many photographs of the large manzanita standing alone on the windswept cliff.

mapped

maquette

marathon

n
/ 'marəθæn /
Gk geog name
a footrace usually 26 miles 385 yards in length.
Ernie's goal is to become a successful long-distance runner and win at least one big marathon.

marathoner

marcasite

marcottage

n
/ 'mär.kədɪj /
L? > F
a form of plant propagation in which the rooting medium is bound to the plant rather than enclosed in a pot or other container.
Philip's nursery is widely known for its successful marcottage using sphagnum.

maremma

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

marginalia

n pl
/ .mā'jə'nālēə /
L

notes written in the border of a page.

Gordon was excited to find some historically interesting marginalia in his great-grandfather's law books.

marginality

mariculture

marigold

marigolds

n pl
/ 'marə'gōldz /
E name + E

any of numerous yellow-flowered plants.

Paul planted a border of marigolds around his vegetable garden.

marimba

marinade

n
/ 'marənād /
L > It

a brine or pickle usually containing vinegar or wine, oil, spices, and herbs in which a food (as meat or fish) is soaked to enrich its flavor.

Elise added chili oil to the marinade.

marinara

marinate

v
/ 'marənāt /
L > It?

[Note: Could be confused with marinade.] season (as meat or fish) by steeping in a brine usually containing vinegar or wine, oil, spices, and herbs.

Becky will marinate the pork in Italian dressing overnight for a spicy effect.

marionettes

marital

marlin

marmoraceous

marmorate

marmoration

n
/ .mārmə'rāshən /
L

variegation resembling that of marble : marbling.

The interior decorator showed Jonathan how to use two colors of paint, a sponge, and a feather to create marmoration.

marmot

n
/ 'mārmət /
F

a stout-bodied short-legged rodent that has coarse fur, a short bushy tail and very small ears, lives in burrows, and hibernates in winter.

When sensing danger, the marmot sits upright and gives an alarm whistle.

maroon

marque

n
/ 'märk /
It > F

a brand or make of a product—used especially of sports cars.

The car salesman made a face when Derek drove up in a coupe of a competing marque.

marten

n
/ 'mārt'n /
Gmc > F > E

[has homonym: martin] any of several slender semiarboreal carnivorous mammals chiefly of the Northern Hemisphere that are larger than the related weasels.

The marten is an opportunistic hunter, thriving on mice, squirrels, rabbits, and grouse.

Martian

adj
/ 'mārshən /
L

of or relating to the planet Mars or its hypothetical inhabitants.

The Martian year is approximately 687 Earth days.

martin

n
/ 'mārt'n /
F name

[has homonym: marten] a small European swallow.

Although a martin is a small bird, it is often the terror of hawks, crows, and eagles.

martyrolatry

martyrs

n pl
/ 'mārdərz /
Gk > L > E

those who sacrifice their life, station, or what is of great value for the sake of principle.

Many early Christians became martyrs in the Roman Coliseum.

Marxist

adj
/ 'märksəst /
G name

of, relating to, or having the characteristics of Karl Marx's doctrine based on the definition of all value as being created by labor.

Lenin was influenced by Marxist thought when he developed his communist theory of government.

mascot

masochistic

adj
/ .masə'kistik /
G name + Ecf

relating to, marked by, or given to taking pleasure in physical or mental suffering inflicted on one by oneself or by another.

Runners have long endured derisive comments from nonrunners about their apparently masochistic tendencies.

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

massive

adj

/ 'masiv /

L > F > E

weighty, heavy.

The Neanderthal's massive, sturdy limbs were much stronger than the Cro-Magnon's.

massotherapy

masthead

matchbook

materfamilias

materialist

materialize

v

/ mə'tirēə.līz /

L + Ecf

come into actual existence :

develop into something tangible.

The skill of the artist was evident as the portrait began to materialize.

materially

maternal

matriculate

v

/ mə'trikyə.lāt /

L

become admitted to membership in a body, society, or institution (as a college or university) and have one's name officially registered after having previously met entrance requirements.

Meredith received a letter inviting her to matriculate at MIT.

matrifocal

adj

/ .matrə'fōkəl /

L + L

gravitating toward or centered upon the mother.

A matrifocal culture, for example, is one where a newlywed couple is expected to move to the bride's mother's village.

matripotestal

adj

/ .matrē.pō'testəl /

L

of, relating to, or being the power exercised by a matriarch.

Even the queen's matripotestal authority was not enough to save the prince's marriage.

mature

maud

maunder

v

/ 'mōndə(r) /

L > F > E

move or progress slowly and uncertainly without definite aim or course.

Ken and Barb maunder down the boulevard every Sunday.

maxillae

n pl

/ mak'silē /

L

the mouthparts posterior to the mandibles in insects.

In most insects the pair of maxillae is used to manipulate the food.

maxillary

maxixe

n

/ mə'shēsh(ə) /

Pg

a ballroom dance of Brazilian origin roughly like the two-step.

The maxixe became a popular dance in Europe and the United States in 1914.

mazer

meadowwink

meagerness

n

/ 'mēgə(r)nəs /

L > F > E + Ecf

the quality or state of being small, thin, or inadequate.

The meagerness of supporting evidence rendered the politician's book and speeches unconvincing to Albert.

meaningful

meanness

meant

meantime

meanwhile

measure

v

/ 'mezʰə(r) /

L

ascertain a unit quantity.

The class spent an entire hour trying to measure the Dawson twins to see who was taller.

mechanic

medalet

medevac

n

/ 'medə(,)vak /

L + L

emergency evacuation of the sick or wounded (as from a combat area).

During the simulated battle the lieutenant called for medevac of his platoon's wounded soldiers.

mediastinum

mediator

medicaster

medicate

mediocrity

meditate

v

/ 'medətāt /

L

dwell in thought; especially : practice religious contemplation.

Eileen likes to meditate in the chapel every morning before breakfast.

medius

medley

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

medusa

n
/ məd(y)ūsə /
Gk

[Note: Could be confused with medusan.] a small hydrozoan jellyfish.

The medusa propels itself through the water by contracting its bell-shaped body and ejecting water from under the bell.

meekness

meeting

megalopolitan

megathere

n
/ 'megəθi(ə)r /
Gk + Gk

a member of the genus Megatherium of ground sloths of the Pliocene and Pleistocene epochs.

The movie Jurassic Park would have been much less exciting if the scientists had cloned a megathere rather than giant reptiles.

megaton

n
/ 'megətən /
Gk + E

an explosive force equivalent to that of a million tons of TNT.
The latest military creation is a bomb that will deliver 1 megaton of explosive force directly to the target specified without any error whatsoever.

megrims

n pl
/ 'mēgrəmz /
F > E

low spirits : the blues.
Whenever Ben got the megrims, he would play a recording of the William Tell Overture to revive his spirits.

meiobars

n pl
/ 'mīəbärz /
Gk

regions of low barometric pressure.
On most weather maps, meiobars are indicated by the letter L.

meiosis

Meistersinger

n
/ 'mīstə(r),sɪŋə(r) /
G

a member of a German guild in the 15th and 16th centuries formed for the cultivation of poetry and music.
Mr. Heinz can trace his family tree back to a Bavarian Meistersinger born in 1498.

melange

melanocamous

melanoma

n
/ .melə'nōmə /
Gk > L

a malignant skin tumor that starts as a black mole and metastasizes rapidly.
People who have black moles are encouraged to check them regularly for signs of a melanoma.

meld

n
/ 'meld /
G

[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word.] a card or combination of cards that has scoring value in a game.
After drawing a seventh ace in canasta, Lauren could hardly suppress her smile as she laid the meld down on the table.

melichrous

meliorate

melis

melismatic

adj
/ .meləz'madɪk /
Gk

relating to or having melodic embellishment or ornamentation.
The chorus embroidered the anthem with melismatic lines.

melittologist

n
/ .melə'täləjəst /
Gk

an entomologist specializing in the study of bees.
It was a big breakthrough for the melittologist who discovered how bees communicate with each other.

melleous

adj
/ 'melēəs /
L

resembling or containing honey.
The beekeeper cut a melleous chunk of honeycomb from the hive and put it in a jar.

melody

melon

membranate

membrane

membranous

adj
/ 'membrənəs /
L > F

thin, pliable, and often somewhat transparent.
The dragonfly's membranous wings seemed very delicate.

memoirs

memorize

v
/ 'memə.rīz /
L

learn something in a manner that can be remembered.
Camille used flashcards to memorize the multiplication tables.

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menaced

v
/ 'menəst /
F > E

made a show of intention to harm :
made a threatening gesture,
statement, or act against.

*Rosemary watched as a blue jay
and a stray cat menaced and
threatened each other in her back
yard.*

menacing

menald

Menckenesese

n
/ .menkə'nēz /

Amer name
the peculiarly vigorous racy
flamboyant and often caustic style
characteristic of the journalist H.L.
Mencken.

*It is difficult to read through a
daily paper without finding a
feature writer who employs
Menckenesese.*

menckonian

mendelevium

menhaden

mensch

mental

mentalist

menticide

mephitic

mercantile

mercantilist

adj
/ 'mər.kən.tēlist /
L > It > F

of or relating to the theory or
practice of an economic system
intended to increase a nation's
power and especially monetary
wealth by a strict governmental
regulation of the entire national
economy.

*In pursuit of a "favorable balance
of trade," the mercantilist policy
put strict limits on imports of
foreign goods.*

mercaptan

n
/ mər'kaptən /
L > D > G

any of a class of compounds that
are analogous to the alcohols and
phenols but contain sulfur instead
of oxygen and have very
disagreeable odors.

*A mercaptan is added to odorless
natural gas so that leaks can be
detected.*

mercerize

v
/ 'mərsə.rīz /
E name + Ecf

give (cotton yarn or cloth) luster,
strength, and receptiveness to dyes
by treatment under tension with
caustic soda.

*English cloth manufacturers began
to mercerize cotton in the 1860s.*

mercifully

mercury

meretricious

merfolk

meridienne

merino

n
/ mə'reɪ.nō /
Sp

[Note: Could be confused with
marina.] a fine wool and cotton
yarn used for knitwear.

*Darcy decided to use the leftover
skein of merino to knit a pair of
mittens.*

merit

meritable

meritorious

meropia

mesa

n
/ 'māsə /
L > Sp

a usually isolated hill or mountain
having abrupt or steeply sloping
sides and a level top.

*The hikers planned to have their
picnic on top of the faraway mesa.*

mesentery

n
/ 'mes'n.terē /
Gk

a membranous tissue or one of the
membranes that envelop and
support visceral organs (as the
intestines).

*The mesentery attaches parts of the
small intestine to the posterior wall
of the abdomen.*

mesmerized

v
/ 'mezmə.rīzd /

Austrian name + Ecf
spellbound : hypnotized.

*Tracy gazed at the screen saver,
mesmerized by the changing
patterns.*

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

mesomorph

n
/ 'mezō.mōrf /
Gk

an intermediate or average type of human body.

Students classified the mummy as a mesomorph.

Mesopotamian

adj
/ .mesəpə'tāmēən /
Gk

of, relating to, or characteristic of Mesopotamia, a region between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers.

The Code of Hammurabi and

Gilgamesh are famous

Mesopotamian literary documents.

mesotherm

Mesozoic

adj
/ .mezə'zōik /
Gk

of or relating to a division of geological history that includes the time between the Permian and the Tertiary periods.

Dinosaurs and evergreen trees arose during the Mesozoic era.

messaline

messenger

mestizo

n
/ me'stē(,)zō /
L > Sp

a person whose ancestors belonged to two or more races.

The tour guide, a mestizo himself, spoke at length about the culture of his South American ancestors.

metabolize

v
/ mə'tabə.līz /
Gk

subject to the processes by which a particular substance is handled in the living body.

Tooth decay results from the lactic acid produced when bacteria metabolize sugar.

metacarpal

adj
/ medə'kärpəl /
Gk + Gk

of or relating to the part of the hand or forefoot between the wrist and the digits or fingers.

When the car door slammed shut on her hand, Sara suffered an injury to one of her metacarpal bones.

metage

n
/ 'mēdij /
E
the official measuring of contents or weight (as of coal or grain).
Arrangements must be made with respect to the metage of grain in the port of London.

metallurgy

n
/ 'med^əl.ərjē /
Gk > L
a science and technology that deals with the extraction of metals from their ores, refining them, and preparing them for use and includes processes and the study of the structure and properties of metals.
Several experts in metallurgy testified in the lawsuit regarding the failure of welds at the steam plant.

metalworking

metamorphose

v
/ .medə'mōr.fōz /
Gk > F?
change into a different physical form.
The witch had a potion which could metamorphose a man into a mouse.

metanoia

n
/ .medə'nōi(y)ə /
Gk
a fundamental transformation of mind or character; specifically : a spiritual conversion.
After years of dissolute living, Augustine experienced a metanoia and became a leading ecclesiastical figure.

meteor

n
/ 'mēdēə(r) /
Gk

[has homonym: meatier] a streak of light in the night sky produced by the passage through Earth's atmosphere of one of the countless small particles of solid matter in the solar system.

Hans accidentally captured a meteor on film as he was trying to take pictures of lightning.

meteorologist

n
/ .mēdēə'räləjəst /
Gk
a specialist in a science that deals with the atmosphere and its phenomena.
Most television stations employ a meteorologist to deliver weather forecasts.

metheglin

n
/ mə'theglîn /
W
a beverage usually made of fermented honey and water and often spiced or medicated.
When Mr. Galen lost his voice, Glynnis said that a cup of her metheglin might be just what he needed.

methuselah

meticulously

metrical

metrology

n
/ mə'träləjē /
Gk
the science of weights and measures.
Nobody as a child really plans a career in metrology; like lexicography, it comes into one's life by chance.

metropolis

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

metropolitan

adj

/ .metrə'pälət'n /

Gk

of, relating to, or characteristic of an important city.

One advantage of living in a metropolitan area is the abundance of cultural offerings.

miasmic

micaceous

adj

/ mī'kāshəs /

L

consisting of or containing any of a group of minerals that crystallize in monoclinic forms readily separating into very thin leaves.

The class divided into small groups to examine the micaceous minerals under the microscope.

Micawberish

adj

/ mə'kób(ə)rish /

E name

being habitually expectant of an upturn in one's fortunes.

True to his Micawberish nature, Buddy spent his last dollar on a lottery ticket.

Michigander

n

/ .mishə'gandə(r) /

Algonquian + E

a native or resident of Michigan.

Jack called himself a

"Michigander" with a note of pride in his voice.

microbial

microburst

n

/ 'mīkrō.bərst /

Gk + E

a violent short-lived localized downdraft that creates extreme wind shears at low altitudes that is usually associated with thunderstorms.

A microburst causes a condition known as "wind shear," a quick change in the wind's speed or direction.

microcircuitry

microfilm

microhmmeter

n

/ 'mī.krōm.mēdə(r) /

Gk + G name + Gk

a sensitive ohmmeter for measuring very small resistances.

In the physics lab Mr. McGurk demonstrated the use of a microhmmeter to ascertain minute electrical resistances.

micrometer

microns

n pl

/ 'mī.kränz /

Gk

units of length, each equal to 0.001 millimeter or about 0.000039 inch.

A human hair is about 100 microns thick.

microphakia

n

/ .mīkrō'fākēə /

Gk

abnormal smallness of the lens of the eye.

Mr. Hurst's vision is somewhat impaired by his microphakia.

microphone

n

/ 'mīkrə.fōn /

Gk + Gk

an instrument whereby sound waves are caused to generate or modulate an electric current usually for the purpose of transmitting or recording sound (as speech or music).

Each of the principal singers has a cordless microphone attached to his or her costume.

microscopic

adj

/ .mīkrə'skăpik /

Gk + Gk + Ecf

invisible without the use of a magnification device.

The crime lab technician found microscopic traces of blood on Wolfgang's shoelaces.

midday

n

/ 'mid.dā /

E

noon.

The clocktower bells chime every midday.

midget

mightily

adv

/ 'mīd'lē /

E

in a powerful manner.

The rebels triumphed mightily over the dictator's military forces.

mighty

adj

/ 'mīdē /

E

having or wielding great power or authority.

Will fancied himself one of the more mighty and well-heeled men in town.

migrate

v

/ 'mī.grāt /

L

pass periodically from one region or climate to another for feeding or breeding.

Some birds migrate south to find warmer weather during winter.

migratory

adj

/ 'mīgrə.tōrē /

L

marked by periodic movement from one region or climate to another.

The migratory monarch butterflies travel long distances southward in the fall, and those that survive return in the spring.

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

mihrab

n
/ 'mērəb /

Ar
a niche or chamber in a mosque indicating the direction of Mecca and usually containing a copy of the Koran.

A rich mosaic decorates the mihrab of the mosque that Mahmoud attends.

mileage

milieu

milinch

militarize

miljee

milkman

milliampere

millibars

n pl
/ 'milə,bärz /
L > ISV + Gk > ISV

units of atmospheric pressure, each equal to 0.001 bar or 1,000 dynes per square centimeter.

A record low pressure of 870 millibars was measured in the eye of a typhoon near Guam in October 1979.

millicurie

milline

Miltonic

adj
/ mil'tänik /

E name
characteristic of or relating to the English poet John Milton or his work.

A reading of those critics who have attempted an analysis of the Miltonic simile reveals a complete and far-reaching difference of opinion.

mimetic

adj
/ mə'medik /

Gk
characterized by or exhibiting a superficial resemblance to other organisms or to natural objects and thereby securing concealment, protection, or some other advantage.

A butterfly's mimetic coloration protects it against many predators.

mimetically

mimicked

mimotype

minareted

adj
/ .minə'redəd /
Ar > Turk > F

having or characterized by a slender lofty tower such as that attached to a mosque.

The outline of a large minareted palace appeared as the train approached Istanbul.

minefield

miniaceous

minim

n
/ 'minəm /
L

a U.S. unit of liquid capacity equivalent to 0.003759 cubic inch.

Ms. Brock told us to add a minim of reactant to our acid solution, but she didn't tell us how to measure it out.

minimum

minion

n
/ 'minyən /
Celt? > F

[has homonym and near homonym: minyan and mignon] an obsequious or servile dependent.

The candidate's most devoted minion has high hopes of being offered a prominent cabinet post.

minister

minium

minnow

minstrels

n pl
/ 'min(t)strəlz /
L > F > E

professional musical entertainers of a kind originating in medieval times.

Off to one side a group of minstrels sang songs that delighted both the young and old.

minute

n
/ 'minət /
L

a unit of time equal to the 60th part of an hour and containing 60 seconds.

Mary believes she could have finished all the exam questions if she had had one more minute to work.

minyan

n
/ 'minyən /
Heb

[Word has homonym: minion. Also, word might be confused with mignon.] the number of participants necessary for conducting Jewish public worship, defined by the rules of Mishnah as not fewer than ten males above the age of 13.

Until Mr. Green arrived at the synagogue, not enough people were present to constitute a minyan.

miombo

n
/ mī'äm(,)bō /
E Afr name

a sparse open deciduous woodland characteristic of dry parts of eastern Africa.

The Oyondi family lived near a small grove in the miombo, where there was some shade from the hot sunshine.

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mirages

n pl
/ mə'razhəz /
L > F

optical phenomena that are often observed on still days over deserts or hot pavements and that have the mirrorlike appearance of a quiet lake or pool in which distant objects are seen inverted by reflection though usually distorted.
Janet explained that mirages are illusions, which are not real.

mirth

mirthful

adj
/ 'mərthfəl /
E + Ecf

full of gladness or gaiety.
The stand-up comedian quickly put his audience in a mirthful mood.

miscegenation

misconception

n
/ miskən'sepshən /
E + L

a wrong or inaccurate thought, idea, or notion.
That a cactus plant never needs water is a misconception.

misconstrued

miscreants

miser

miserabilism

misery

mishap

misinterpreted

misogamist

n
/ mə'sägəməst /
Gk

one who hates marriage.
Ben explained that although he enjoys being a bachelor, he is not a misogynist.

missal

Mississippian

n
/ .misə'sipēən /
E name

a native or resident of Mississippi.
As a native Mississippian, Drew thought he had an obligation to defend his state.

misspell

misspelling

n
/ mi(s)'speliŋ /
E + Gmc > F > E + Ecf

an incorrect sequence of letters composing a word.
Mr. Sommerstein was willing to overlook the occasional misspelling or silly mistake, but he could not tolerate comma splices.

misstatement

n
/ mi(s)'stātəmənt /
Ecf + L > F > E + Ecf
a false or incorrect declaration or remark.
Jessie stands by her claim that her misstatement was unintentional.

misstep

n
/ 'misstep /
E
a wrong step.
Higher and higher they climbed up frightful crumbling cliffs and along desperately narrow ledges where a single misstep meant only "good-bye."

mistiness

n
/ 'mistēnəs /
E
the quality or state of being obscured by or covered with water in the form of particles suspended in the atmosphere.
A heavy mistiness hung in the valley and obscured the mountains.

mitomycin

mitosis

mixture

mizzenmast

mnemonically

adv
/ nē'mänək(ə)lē /
Gk + Ecf
in a manner assisting or intended to assist memory.
The word homes is often used mnemonically to name the Great Lakes.

mobile

moccasin

moch

modern

modernization

modify

modulation

modulo

prep
/ 'mäjələ /
L
with respect to a number that divides the difference of two other numbers without leaving a remainder.
Betsy's date calculation program uses modulo seven arithmetic.

moist

molar

adj
/ 'mōlə(r) /
L
[has homonym: moler] containing 6.023×10 to the 23rd power molecules of solute in one liter of solution.
To make 3.40 molar potassium nitrate, Eileen put 3.40 moles of potassium nitrate into one liter of the solution.

molehill

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

moline

adj

/ 'mōlən /

L > F > AF

(of a cross) having the end of each arm forked and recurved.

There are twelve families of millers who bear crosses moline on their family crests.

mollycoddle

moloch

molybdenite

momentary

monandry

monarchically

monastic

adj

/ mə'nastik /

Gk > L

secluded from earthly concerns and devoted to religion.

Though many people enjoy a period of retreat from materialism and worldliness, real commitment to a monastic life is rare.

monaural

adj

/ män'ōrəl /

L

of, relating to, affecting, or designed for use with one ear.

Tom's doctor referred him to a specialist to have his monaural and binaural hearing tested.

moneyless

moniliform

monition

monitory

adj

/ 'män.ə.tōrē /

L

giving a friendly reproof, warning, or reminder.

Randall spoke gently to his nephew, but the monitory tone was unmistakable.

monoceros

monochromat

monofilament

monogram

monolater

monolithic

monophagous

monoplegia

monopolization

n

/ mə.nə.pə.lə'zāshən /

Gk

the quality or state of having or getting exclusive ownership or control through legal privilege, command of supply, or group action.

The corporation was prosecuted for participating in a conspiracy for the purposes of restraint of trade and monopolization.

monoprint

monorail

monostich

monosyllable

monsieur

monster

monte

n

/ 'mäntē /

L > It > Sp

a card game in which players select any two of four cards faced in a layout and bet that one of them will be matched before the other as cards are dealt one at a time from the pack.

On the long bus trip Olivia taught her little sister how to play monte.

Montessorian

adj

/ .mäntə'sōrēən /

It name

of, following, or relating to a system for training young children emphasizing free physical activity, informal and individual instruction, early development of writing and reading, and extended sensory motor training.

The Montessorian learning environment contains materials for all levels of children's readiness.

monticle

monture

n

/ 'mänchə(r) /

F

a frame or setting especially for a jewel.

The diamond's monture was platinum, but the band was gold.

monument

monumental

adj

/ .mänyə'mentl /

L

having impressive bulk or size.

The entrance to the library was flanked by monumental statues of lions.

moonlet

n

/ 'münlət /

E

[has near homonym: moonlit] a small natural or artificial satellite of Earth or of another celestial body.

Each particle in the rings of Saturn is a moonlet.

mooring

moquette

moral

morale

morcellation

mordant

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

morganite

Mormon

adj
/ 'mɔrmən /
name of a book
of or relating to members of the
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-
day Saints.
*Mormon houses often have enough
preserved food in them to feed an
army.*

Mornay

n
/ .mɔr'nā /
F name?
[has homonym: morné] a cheese-
flavored cream sauce.
*Mornay can be served with seafood
or vegetables.*

morpheme

n
/ 'mɔr:fēm /
Gk > F
a meaningful linguistic unit that
contains no smaller meaningful
parts.
*One morpheme that carries
meaning but does not stand on its
own is the plural ending -s.*

mortadella

n
/ .mɔ(r)də'delə /
L > It
a smoked sausage made of chopped
beef, pork, and pork fat and
seasoned with pepper and garlic.
*Barbara made a sandwich of
Italian bread, provolone cheese,
and sliced mortadella.*

mortally

mortiferous

adj
/ mɔ(r)'tɪf(ə)rəs /
L + L
deadly, fatal.
*In the 14th century the mortiferous
black death wiped out about a third
of the population of Europe.*

mortification

n
/ .mɔ(r)dəfə'kæʃən /
L
a sense of humiliation and shame
caused by something that wounds
one's pride or self-respect.
*Sandy's low test score filled him
with mortification.*

mosaicism

moselle

moss

moth

motherly

motif

motile

motitation
n
/ .mɔdət'æʃən /
L
a quivering movement.
*Laurie could tell by the motitation
of her brother's lower lip that he
was about to start sobbing.*

motivate

motive

motto
n
/ 'mäd(ɪ)ɔ /
L > It
a short suggestive expression of a
guiding principle.
*Elaine's personal motto is
"Fortune favors the bold."*

moue

mountebankery

mourning
v
/ 'mɔ(ə)rniŋ /
E
[has homonym: morning] feeling
sorrow or grief for.
*Jacob was mourning the loss of his
turtle until a neighbor found it and
returned it to him.*

movie

movimento

moxie

Mozarabic

adj
/ mɔ'zɑrəbɪk /
Ar > Sp
of, relating to, or used by Spanish
Christians in the period of Muslim
domination of Spain.
*The talk on Mozarabic poetry at
seven o'clock interfered with
Mica's dinner plans.*

muckraking

n
/ 'mæk.rækiŋ /
E
the action or practice of
investigating with the purpose of
digging up scandal.
*Uncle Woody accused the
candidate for mayor of engaging in
muckraking as a substitute for
proposing an intelligent policy.*

mucronate

muddledom

muishond

n
/ 'mɪs.hənt /
D > Afrikaans
either of two southern African
weasels that emit a fetid odor when
disturbed.
*Within two yards of his foot, Jerry
saw a striped muishond with its two
front feet firmly planted on a black
cobra.*

mule

n
/ 'myül /
L > F
[Note: The definition provided is
not the one most commonly
associated with this word. In
addition, word has homonym:
mewl.] a shoe or house slipper
without quarter and often with a
low heel.
*As Dorothy was about to thrust her
foot into the velvet mule, she
noticed a tear in her stocking.*

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multiloquence

multiphyletic

multiple

multiply

v
/ 'mʌltəplī /
L

increase in number especially greatly or in multiples.
Before the printing press there was no way to multiply an original manuscript except by handwritten copies.

multivious

mummify

v
/ 'mʌməfī /
Per > L > E + Ecf
make into or like a mummy.
Ancient Egyptian embalmers used resin and linen strips to mummify their subjects.

mundane

mundungus

n
/ .mʌn'dʌŋgəs /
Sp
tobacco having an offensive smell.
Hank preferred his own blend of mundungus and refused to try any other.

munificent

murder

murderer

n
/ 'mɜrdərər /
E
one who commits the crime of unlawfully killing a person especially with malice aforethought.
The convicted murderer continued to claim that he acted in self-defense.

murmuration

Muses

n pl
/ 'myüzəz /
Gk > L > F > E
[has homonym: meuses] the nine sister goddesses associated with the Graces in Greek mythology and regarded as presiding over learning and the creative arts (as poetry and music).
The Muses gave the poet his song and sang it through his lips.

musette

musket

musketeer

muskrat

n
/ 'məskrat /
Algonquian?
an abundant aquatic rodent found throughout the United States and Canada living in holes in the banks of ponds or streams.
Gloria shrieked as the muskrat sank its teeth into her ankle.

mustang

n
/ 'məstʌŋ /
L > Sp
the small hardy naturalized horse of the western plains directly descended from horses brought in by the Spaniards.
Veronica's father explained that a wild mustang would not be a good house pet.

Mustelidae

n pl
/ .mə'stelə.dē /
L
a large family of rather small lithe active carnivorous mammals including many important furbearers and some destructive predators and varying greatly from the weasel to the wolverine.
Karen thinks that of all the Mustelidae, the otter is the most fascinating to watch.

musteline

mustiness

n
/ 'məstēnəs /
F + Ecff
the quality or state of smelling of damp and decay.
Todd found the basement's mustiness too much to bear.

mutagenic

mutagenicity

n
/ .myüdəjə'nisədē /
L + Gk
the capacity to induce mutations.
The newly developed artificial sweetener was studied for evidence of mutagenicity.

mutation

n
/ myü'tāshən /
L > F > E
an often abrupt major change.
The appearance of spots marked a mutation in the plant species.

mutely

adv
/ 'myütlē /
L > F > E + Ecf
in a manner characterized by the inability to speak.
Nino sat by mutely as we conversed in the parlor.

mutineer

n
/ .myüt'n'īə(r) /
L > F
one that refuses to obey or observe authority.
The sailors protested that the very person who was accusing them was the ringleader and chief mutineer.

mutiny

n
/ 'myüt(°)nē /
L > F
insurrection against or willful refusal to obey constituted, recognized, or traditional authority.
Captain Bligh, unable to suppress the mutiny, was set adrift in a rowboat.

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muzzle

n
/ 'mʌzəl /
L > F > E
the projecting jaws and nose of an animal : snout.
Sam's dog was always poking its muzzle into everything.

mycetismus

n
/ .mīə'tizməs /
Gk
mushroom poisoning.
In the Babar series of children's books, Babar succeeds the King of the Elephants, who has died from a case of mycetismus.

mycophile

mydriatic

myeloma

n
/ .mīə'lōmə /
Gk
a primary tumor of the bone marrow.
A combination of radiation and drugs is being used to treat Carla's myeloma.

myosin

myotonia

n
/ .mīə'tōnēə /
Gk
tonic spasm of one or more muscles; also : a condition characterized by such spasms.
The crash victim will be kept in the emergency room until the doctors know what is causing the myotonia.

myriacanthous

adj
/ .mīrē'kan(t)thəs /
Gk
having numerous spines or prickles.
The prickly pear is Tina's favorite myriacanthous plant.

myriad

myringa

myrmidons

myrtle

mystic

adj
/ 'mistik /
Gk
baffling or incomprehensible to the understanding.
Reason cannot traverse the mystic gulf between god and man.

mystify

mytacism

myth

n
/ 'mith /
Gk
a traditional story that is usually of unknown origin and that serves to explain some practice, belief, institution, or natural phenomenon.
The Greek myth about Persephone explains the coming of winter weather.

mythopoeia

mythopoeic

adj
/ .mithə'pēik /
Gk + Ecf
creating or tending to create myth or myths.
Mythopoeic humans attempted to explain natural phenomena, such as the rising and setting of the sun.

myths

myxomatosis

n
/ mik.sōmə'tōsəs /
Gk
a severe virus disease of rabbits that is marked by fever and subcutaneous tumors, is transmitted by mosquitoes, and has been used in biological control of rabbits in plague areas.
The warren of rabbits was decimated by an outbreak of myxomatosis.

myxovirus

n
/ .miksə'vīrəs /
Gk + L
any of a group of rather large RNA-containing viruses that includes the influenza viruses.
Upon returning from the pediatrician's office, Kelly frightened her father by announcing that she had a myxovirus.

nadiral

nagging

nahcolite

naillike

naivete

nanization

nanogram

naphtha

n
/ 'nafthə /
Iranian > Gk
any of various volatile often flammable liquid hydrocarbon mixtures used chiefly as solvents and diluents and as raw materials for conversion to gasoline.
On the fractionation column used for separating the components of crude oil, naphtha lies between gasoline and kerosene.

naphthalated

adj
/ 'nafthə.lādəd /
Iranian > Gk > L
cleaned with solvents to preserve strength and resiliency.
Peggy had her wool coat naphthalated for the coming winter season.

naphthalene

naphthalenic

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naphthene

n
/ 'naf.thēn /
Iranian > Gk + ISV
any of a series of saturated cyclic hydrocarbons that occur in various kinds of petroleum, in shale, and in tar oil.
Naphthene is an important part of all liquid refinery products.

napkin

napoleon

n
/ nə'pōlyən /
F name
a man's high boot worn especially in the 19th century.
The artist asked the huntsman to wear a black napoleon as his boot for the painting.

naprapath

narcissism

n
/ 'nārsə.sizəm /
Gk name > L
overevaluation of one's own attributes or achievements or of those of one's own group.
The once successful politician fell victim to narcissism and eventually became less effective.

narcissist

narcohypnia

narial

adj
/ 'na(a)rēəl /
L
of or relating to the nostrils.
There are several different sorts of septa, but perhaps the best known is the narial septum.

naris

n
/ 'na(a)rəs /
L
the opening of the nose or nasal cavity of a vertebrate.
The biology book had an illustration showing how a naris is connected to the throat by a passageway.

narrator

nasaump

nasute

adj
/ nā'süt /
L
having a well-developed proboscis.
For Halloween, Emma wore a nasute rubber mask and large ears made of gray felt.

national

nativistic

adj
/ .nād-ə'vistik /
L > F > E + Ecff
of, being, or having the characteristics of a movement advocating the perpetuation of native cultural traits and a removal of foreign culture elements.
The group's nativistic efforts included the renunciation of the use of electricity and fossil fuels.

natte

naturally

naught

naughty

naumachia

n
/ nō'mākēə /
Gk
an ancient Roman spectacle representing a naval battle.
To celebrate the naval victory the emperor ordered an elaborate naumachia.

nauseously

navel

n
/ 'nāvəl /
E
[has homonym: naval] a mark or depression in the middle of the abdomen, marking the point of attachment of the umbilical cord.
John asked his religion teacher whether Adam had a navel.

navicella

navicular

adj
/ nə'vikyələ(r) /
L + EcF
[Note: Could be confused with navicula.] resembling or having the shape of a boat.
While discussing the skeletal system, Mr. Gray called the students' attention to a small navicular bone in the wrist.

navigate

navigator

naysay

neap

Neapolitan

adj
/ .nēə'pälət'n /
Gk > L
of, relating to, or characteristic of Naples, Italy, or its residents.
Merri enjoys going to an Italian restaurant where the waiters sing Neapolitan folk songs.

nebbish

nebulosity

n
/ .nebyə'lāsədə /
L
the quality or state of being unclear, hazy, or indistinct.
The author's nebulosity invited several different interpretations of his work.

necessitous

necessity

nectarivorous

adj
/ .nektə'riv(ə)rəs /
Gk > L + L
feeding on nectar.
Samantha's colorful flower garden attracts many nectarivorous birds and insects.

needlecraft

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nefandous

nefariously

negligence

negotiability

n
/ nəˈɡɔʃ(ē)əˈbɪlədē /
L

the quality or state of being successfully traversed or otherwise successfully managed.
Department of Transportation officials explained that road design, negotiability of curves, and other factors determine speed limits.

neighborly

neither

neoclassicist

neodymium

neonatal

neoned

adj
/ ˈnē.ænd /
Gk + Ecf
of, equipped with, or lighted by neon lamps.
The museum installation was neoned, which produced an eery bluish-white glow.

neophilic

n
/ .nē.ɔˈfɪl.ɪk /
Gk
one who has a love of or enthusiasm for what is new or novel.
A true neophilic, Vince visits trade shows at every opportunity.

neoprene

n
/ ˈnē.ə.prēn /
Gk + ISV
a synthetic rubber characterized by resistance to the elements.
To waterski on the chilly lake, Susan and Ed wore wetsuits made of neoprene.

neoterism

n
/ nēˈɑd.ə.rɪzəm /
Gk
a newly invented word or phrase.
Cineplex is a neoterism recently added to the dictionary.

nephritic

adj
/ nəˈfrɪdɪk /
Gk
arising from, originating in, or affecting the kidneys.
Al's nephritic inflammation alarmed the doctor.

nephritis

nephrolith

n
/ ˈnefrə.lɪθ /
Gk + Gk
a kidney stone.
Physicians can now disintegrate a nephrolith by shock waves.

nephrolithotomy

n
/ .nefrəˈlɪθ.ə.tə.mē /
Gk + Gk + Gk
the surgical operation of removing a solid concretion from the kidney.
Mr. Case regrets that a nephrolithotomy rather than shock-wave therapy is the necessary treatment for his kidney stones.

neptunium

Nereid

n
/ ˈnɪrēəd /
Gk name
an often malevolent nymph of Greek folklore dwelling in springs or trees as well as in the sea.
In the adventure movie set in Atlantis, one Nereid after another swam by as the film began.

neritic

adj
/ nəˈrɪdɪk /
Gk > L > ISV
of, relating to, or constituting the belt or region of shallow water adjoining the seacoast and usually considered to extend from low-tide mark to a depth of 100 fathoms.
The neritic zone is home to a large number of species such as corals, oysters, and algae.

Neronian

adj
/ nəˈrɒnēən /
L name
of or relating to the Roman emperor Nero or his times.
Neronian rule was marked by tyranny.

nervy

nestle

netherworld

netsuke

n
/ ˈnetskē /
Jpn
a small object carved in wood or ivory or wrought in metal, pierced with holes, and used by the Japanese as a toggle to fasten a small pouch or purse to the kimono sash.
Hiroko cherished her grandmother's ivory netsuke.

neurasthenia

neurergic

neuritis

neuroticism

n
/ n(y)üˈräd.ə.sɪzəm /
Gk > L
a condition, character, or trait related to nervous dysfunction.
The critic observed that narcissism and neuroticism are the trademarks of many TV sitcoms.

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neurotogenic

adj
/ n(y)ü.rädə'jenik /
Gk + Gk
tending to produce a functional disorder of the central nervous system usually manifested by anxiety, phobias, obsessions, or compulsions.
Abby is being treated for neurotogenic problems resulting from interpersonal conflicts.

neutrino

n
/ n(y)ü'trē(,)nō /
L > It
an uncharged elementary particle that comes in two forms associated respectively with the electron and the muon.
The neutrino is the most penetrating of the subatomic particles.

newfangled

newlywed

newscaster

newsworthy

newton

n
/ 'n(y)üt'n /
E name
the unit of force in the meter-kilogram-second system of physical units that is of such size that under its influence a body whose mass is 1 kilogram would experience an acceleration of 1 meter per second per second.
Monica learned that 1 newton equals 100,000 dynes.

Newtonian

adj
/ n(y)ü'tōnēən /
E name
of, relating to, or following Sir Isaac Newton, his discoveries, or doctrines.
Perhaps the best known Newtonian discovery is his theory of gravitation.

nibble

v
/ 'nibəl /
unknown
bite lightly.
Deer nibble on the leaves of plants.

nibbling

niccolite

nickel

nickname

nicotine

nidulation

n
/ .nijə'lāshən /
L
nest-building.
Carla is writing a book on varieties of nidulation among small mammals.

nighttime

nihilistic

nimble

nimbostratus

n
/ .nim(,)bō'strādəs /
L
a low dark gray rainy cloud layer.
The day was dreary with the nimbostratus blocking the rays of the Sun completely.

nimbus

n
/ 'nimbəs /
L
a luminous vapor, cloud, or atmosphere about a god or goddess when on Earth.
Detecting a nimbus about the stranger, Sir Sidney treated her with extraordinary deference.

nineteen

adj
/ nin'tēn /
E
being one more than 18 in number.
Nineteen years is a long life for a cat.

ninnyish

ninth

niobium

n
/ nī'ōbēəm /
Gk name > L
a platinum-gray ductile metallic element that occurs combined in various rare minerals but almost always is associated with tantalum and that is used in alloys to inhibit corrosion.
Niobium is a hypoallergenic metal used in many items such as artificial joints, dental implants, and the posts of pierced earrings.

nirvana

n
/ nir'vānə /
Skt
a place or state of rest, harmony, or pleasure.
Fiona's idea of nirvana is a weekend at her lakeside cabin.

nitrogation

nitrogenous

adj
/ nī'trājənəs /
Gk > L > F
of, relating to, or containing nitrogen in combined form (as in nitrates or proteins).
Every year farmers add nitrogenous fertilizers to the soil for better crop production.

noblest

noctambulous

noctilucent

adj
/ .näktə'lüs'nt /
L
visible or glowing at night.
Noctilucent clouds are thin sheets of ice crystals that form so high that the Sun can illuminate them at night when it is well below the horizon.

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noctilucous

adj
/ ˌnɒktəˈluːkəs /
L

shining at night : phosphorescent.
The noctilucous algae turned the stream into a shining path through the trees.

noctovision

nodular

noisette

noisy

nomadic

nominalism

nominate

nomocracy

n
/ nɒˈmɑːkrəsi /
Gk
government in accordance with a system of law.
Several Middle Eastern countries are governed according to Muslim nomocracy.

nomographer

n
/ nɒˈmɑːgrəfə(r) /
Gk
a writer of laws.
During his term as a state senator, Wilbur became an experienced nomographer.

nonchalantly

adv
/ ˌnɒnʃəˈlɑːntli /
L > F
with an air of jaunty unconcern or indifference.
Ron's cat lay nonchalantly in the most highly trafficked area of his house.

nonchitinous

noncombatant

adj
/ ˌnɒnkəmˈbɑːnt /
L
not usually engaged in or assigned to duties that directly forward conflict or controversy.
The red cross on the side of the panel truck signaled that it was a noncombatant vehicle.

nonentity

n
/ ˌnɒnˈentədē /
L
a person who is totally undistinguished or unimpressive in mind, character, or achievement : one of small or mediocre talents.
For years treated as a nonentity by recording companies, the singer now has a hit single and is well on the road to fame.

nonexistent

adj
/ ˌnɒnɪɡˈzɪstənt /
L
not having the state common to physical objects, living beings, objects of thought, and anything else.
The map is so old that some of the indicated landmarks are now nonexistent.

nonfeasance

nonnative

adj
/ ˌnɒnˈnɑːdɪv /
L
not born in the place or region to which reference is had.
Metropolitan areas typically have relatively large proportions of nonnative population.

nonnuclear

adj
/ ˌnɒnˈn(y)ʊklɛə(r) /
Ecf + L > F
not involving the use of atom bombs : conventional.
General Williams believes that the worst kind of nonnuclear war is preferable to the mildest nuclear war.

nonrepatriable

nonvolatile

adj
/ ˌnɒnˈvɒlədʒl /
L > F > E
not readily becoming a vapor at a relatively low temperature.
Meteoric matter provides much information about the abundance of nonvolatile elements in space.

noodledom

noosphere

n
/ ˈnəʊ.sfi(ə)r /
Gk
the realm of human consciousness and mental activity especially in regard to its influence on the biosphere and in relation to evolution.
Professor Morrison gave his theoretical biology class a timeline of the history of the noosphere.

Nordic

adj
/ ˈnɔːrdɪk /
F
of or relating to the Germanic peoples of northern Europe.
The Nordic languages, especially Old Norse, borrowed important words from Anglo-Saxon.

normal

Norwegian

adj
/ nɔː(r)ˈwɛjən /
L geog name
of, relating to, or characteristic of Norway.
Paul bought a pound of Norwegian smoked salmon.

nosegay

n
/ ˈnəʊz.gɑː /
E + E
a small bunch of flowers suitable to be worn on the person.
As the princess entered the theater, a small child in a colorful peasant costume offered her a nosegay.

nosography

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Nostradamus

n
/ .nästrə'dāməs /
F name
one professing to foretell future events.

Wally consulted the local Nostradamus for football predictions.

notacanthous

adj
/ .nōd-ə'kan(t)thes /
Gk
having spines on the back.
Paleontologists have found evidence that some dinosaurs were notacanthous.

notch

noticeable

adj
/ 'nōd-əsəbəl /
L + E + Cff
likely to attract attention : conspicuous.
The bank teller reported that the only really noticeable thing about the robber was his tiny mustache.

notify

notochordal

notornis

notturmo

nougatine

nourishing

adj
/ 'nərishɪŋ /
L > F > E + Ecf
nutritious.
Fresh fruits and vegetables are thought to be more nourishing than canned fruits and vegetables.

nourishment

nouveau

novachord

novelese

novelist

n
/ 'nävəlɪst /
L
a writer of prose narratives of considerable length and a certain complexity that deal imaginatively with human experience through a connected sequence of events involving a group of persons in a specific setting.
As a novelist, Margaret specializes in science-fiction stories.

novelistic

adj
/ .nävəl'istik /
L > F > E + E + Cff
of, relating to, or characteristic of a long prose narrative that usually portrays imaginative characters and events.
Sandy preferred reading novelistic fiction over the short-story form.

novena

novenary

adj
/ 'nävənərē /
L
of or relating to the number nine : based on the number nine.
Mischievous Buttons did not attain the novenary life expectation associated with her species.

novillero

n
/ .nōvē'ye(ə)(r)ō /
Sp
a bullfighter aspiring to become a matador.
All summer the novillero practiced in the pasture with young bulls.

nowhere

nozzle

nuances

nucleolus

n
/ n(y)ü'klēələs /
L
a spherical body in a cell nucleus that is associated with a specific part of a chromosome and contains much ribosomal RNA.
The nucleolus is that part of the cell in which protein-producing ribosomes are formed.

nucleus

nudicaulous

adj
/ .n(y)üdə'köləs /
L
having leafless stems.
Nudicaulous glassworts are plants common in tidal marshes.

nullify

numen

numerical

numismatics

n pl
/ .n(y)üməz'madɪks /
Gk > F > L
the study of coins, tokens, medals, paper money, and objects closely resembling them in form or purpose.
An individual well known in the field of numismatics gave a lecture on wampum to the class in Native American history.

nuptial

nuque

nursery

nurturance

n
/ 'nərçərən(t)s /
L
affectionate care and attention.
Children who receive adequate nurturance often are friendly and outgoing.

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nutate

v
/ 'n(y)ütāt /
L

wobble so as to cause a small irregularity in the precession of the equinoxes.

The plane of the Moon's orbit around Earth is tilted by about 5 degrees, causing Earth to nutate.

nutcracker

nuthatch

n
/ 'nət.hach /
E

a small bird that creeps over the trunk and branches of trees and has habits similar to those of the titmouse and creeper.

The tiny bird crawling headfirst down the tree is probably a nuthatch.

nutmeg

nutria

n
/ 'n(y)ütrēə /
L > Sp

the fur of an aquatic water rodent that is treated to resemble beaver.

While windowshopping Lorene stopped to look at a set of earmuffs made from nutria.

nutritious

nyctinasty

nylon

oafish

oafishly

oath

n
/ 'oθ /
E

a usually formal affirmation made solemn by being coupled with the invocation of something viewed as sacred.

Deirdre made Tom take an oath of silence before telling him her secret.

obduced

v
/ äb'd(y)üst /
L

covered : enveloped.

Melanie saw that the cells were obduced by a thin membrane.

obduracy

obedience

obediential

obeliscal

obelus

obey

obituarist

n
/ ð'bichə.werəst /
L + Ecf

the writer of a record or notice of a person's death.

The obituarist composed a balanced assessment of the artist's achievements.

objectivity

objurgate

oblast

n
/ 'ä.bläst /
OSlav > Russ

a governmental subdivision of the former USSR corresponding to an autonomous province or state.

Krasnoyarsk Province is a large oblast in central Russia.

oblation

obliged

adj
/ ə'blɪjd /
L > F > E

constrained by physical, moral, or legal force.

Calvin will feel obliged to behave ethically even if he does not sign the honor code.

obliterable

adj
/ ə'blidərəbəl /
L

capable of being removed from existence or destroyed.

Fortunately, the actor's flubbed lines were obliterable from the videotape.

oblivescence

oblivionize

v
/ ə'blivēənɪz /
L > E

relegate to a state of being forgotten.

Larry wondered if hypnosis might help him oblivionize his feelings for his former girlfriend.

oblong

obnoxiously

obnubilate

v
/ äb'n(y)übəlāt /
L

cover or obscure by or as if by clouds : becloud.

Strong emotions can often obnubilate sound reasoning.

oboe

n
/ 'öbō /
F

a wooden double-reed wind instrument.

Tommy introduced his mother to his friend who played the oboe in the orchestra.

obscure

adj
/ əbz'kyü(ə)r /
L > F > E

not readily understood.

The idea the paragraph was trying to convey was expressed in an unnecessarily obscure way.

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obsequy

n
/ əb'sekwədə /
L

the quality or state of being compliant to excess.
The server waited on the diners with great obsequy.

obsequy

observatory

n
/ əb'zərvətōrē /
L

a building or place given over to or equipped for observation of natural phenomena.
Slowly, the roof of the observatory opened to afford a clear view for the great reflecting telescope within.

obsessional

obsidional

obtestation

obtrude

obtruncate

v
/ əb'trən.kāt /
L

cut the head or top from.
George's decision to obtruncate the pin oak might be bad for the tree in the long run.

obturator

n
/ 'əbt(y)ə.rādə(r) /
L

a device for preventing the escape of gas through the breech mechanism of a breech-loading gun.
A faulty obturator was the cause of the backfire from the Civil War reenactor's gun.

obtuse

obtusely

obvolute

obvelation

n
/ äbvə'lāshən /
L

[Note: Could be confused with obligation.] an act or instance of covering with or as if with a veil : concealment.
A prophecy is often an obvelation as well as a revelation.

Occident

n
/ 'äksədənt /
L

regions or countries lying to the west of a specified or implied point of orientation.
Jane knows where "the Orient" is, but she has not heard the term Occident.

occupancy

n
/ 'äkyəpənsē /
L > F

the condition of residing in a building as an owner or tenant.
The contractor promised the owners that their house would be ready for occupancy in two more weeks.

occupation

occupied

oceanfront

oceanodromous

oceanography

n
/ օshə'nägrəfē /
Gk
a science that deals with the whole body of salt water that covers nearly three-fourths of the surface of the globe.
Recent advances in oceanography include the use of electronic echo sounders to monitor the structure and movement of currents.

ochlocracy

ochronosis

octagon

octahedron

n
/ äktə'hēdrən /
Gk

a solid bounded by eight plane faces.
Tanya bought a music box in the form of an octahedron for her new grandson.

octameter

octarchy

octogenary

octopodous

oddtity

odiferous

adj
/ օ'dif(ə)rəs /
L > E
having a strong gamy often acrid smell.
Mahmud stood in a doorway as the long odiferous line of camels passed by.

odontalgic

odori

n
/ օ'dōr.ē /
Jpn
any lively Japanese folk or theater dance characterized by rapid footwork.
The dancers in the odori were extraordinarily light on their feet.

odoriferous

adj
/ օdə'rif(ə)rəs /
L
bearing or yielding an odor.
Perfumes are composed of solvents, fixatives, and odoriferous elements.

odorless

oenomel

oenophilist

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oersted

n
/ ˈɔːr.stəd /
Dan name
the centimeter-gram-second electromagnetic unit of magnetic intensity equal to the intensity of a magnetic field in a vacuum in which a unit magnetic pole experiences a mechanical force of 1 dyne in the direction of the field.
The oersted is used to measure magnetic induction.

offal

offensive

adj
/ əˈfɛn(t)sɪv /
L
making attack : relating to or characterized by attack.
The offensive team is the one in possession of the ball.

offertory

n
/ ˈɒfə(r).tɔːrɪ /
L
an antiphon, anthem, or other musical selection sung or played during a religious service in which monetary gifts are received from the congregation.
Linda and Mike sang a duet for the offertory during last week's church service.

officiate

officially

officious

adj
/ əˈfɪʃəs /
L
volunteering one's services where they are neither asked nor needed : meddlesome.
The officious busybodies offered help just to satisfy their curiosity.

often

ogival

Ogygian

adj
/ ˈɔːjɪjən /
Gk name
ancient, primeval.
The sailors found the uncharted island in an Ogygian state of wilderness.

ohmmeter

n
/ ˈɒ(m).mɛdɪə(r) /
G name + Gk
an instrument for indicating directly electric resistance.
Brent showed Aru how to use an ohmmeter to test the resistance of a circuit.

oily

olecranon

n
/ ɔːˈlekrənən /
Gk > L
the large process of the ulna that projects behind the elbow joint and forms the bony prominence of the elbow—called also “funny bone.”
When the arm is extended, the olecranon fits into a depression in the humerus.

oleiferous

adj
/ ɔːlɪˈɪf(ə)rəs /
L + L
producing oil.
The oleiferous castor beans are the source of castor oil.

olfactometry

n
/ ɔːl.fakˈtämətɪ /
L + Gk + Ecf
the testing and measurement of the sensitivity of the sense of smell.
When Godfrey couldn't smell any aromas from foods, his doctor recommended that he undergo olfactometry.

olfactorily

olid

adj
/ ˈɒlɪd /
L
having a strong disagreeable smell.
An olid sticky liquid was seeping from under the door of the cloakroom.

oligemia

adj
/ ˌɒlɪˈgɛmɪə /
Gk > L
a condition in which the total volume of the blood is reduced.
One of the health seminar sessions explores the relationship between oligemia and migraine headaches.

oligophagous

adj
/ ˌɒlɪˈgəfəgəs /
Gk
eating only a few specific kinds of food—used especially of an insect.
Oligophagous insects feed upon only a limited number of usually related plants.

oligophrenic

oligopoly

oligopsony

n
/ ˌɒlɪˈgəpsənɪ /
Gk
a market situation in which each of a limited number of buyers is strong enough to influence the market but not strong enough to ignore the reaction to such influence by his competitors.
Buyers of expensive printing presses constitute an oligopsony, since there are only a few dozen in the whole world.

olivaceous

adj
/ ˌɒlɪˈvæʃəs /
Gk > L > F > E + L + Ecf
of the color olive or olive green.
While walking through the salt marsh, Janice came upon a laughing gull's nest of three olivaceous eggs.

olive

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olpe

ombrology

ombrophobe

n
/ ˈɒmbɹəˌfəʊb /
Gk + Gk

a plant incapable of withstanding long-continued rain.

Excessive rain can cause the leaves of an ombrophobe to decay and fall.

omen

omens

n pl
/ ˈɒmənz /
L

occurrences believed to portend or show the character of a future event.

Losing his lucky coin and spilling the salt were omens that pointed to a bad day ahead for Nick.

ominously

omniphibious

omphaloskepsis

onegite

oneiromancy

oneness

onomastic

adj
/ ˈɒnəˌmæstɪk /
Gk

[Note: Could be confused with onomastics.] of, relating to, or consisting of a name or names.
Pape's onomastic lexicon is immeasurably useful to students of ancient Greece.

ontological

onychophagia

n
/ ɒnəkəˈfʌj(ə) /
Gk
nail-biting.

Resa applied a bitter substance to her nails in hopes of curing her onychophagia.

onymous

oolite

oolong

oomycete

n
/ ˌoʊmɪˌsɛt /
Gk + Gk
a fungus of a subclass of parasitic or saprophytic fungi that includes water molds, white rusts, and downy mildews.

A new fungicide has been developed to combat the oomycete causing root rot in many crops.

ooporphyrin

n
/ ˌoʊpɔː(r)fərən /
Gk + Gk
a pale brown pigment in eggshells (as of the domestic hen).
Julia explained to her young daughter that the ooporphyrin in brown-shelled eggs in no way alters their quality.

ooze

n
/ ˈuːz /
E
a stretch or piece of muddy ground.
Without a moment's hesitation they started through a puddle of sticky ooze, which quickly became ankle-deep.

opacate

v
/ ɒˈpɑːkət /
L
make impervious to the rays of visible light.
Because even a small amount of daylight awakens Scott, he uses special shades that opacate his windows.

opal

opaleye

opaquely

openness

opera

operable

operant

operate

operetta

operose

operoseness

n
/ ˌɒpəˈrɔːsnəs /
L + Ecf
the quality of requiring or involving effort or labor.
The diplomat was not discouraged by the operoseness and slowness of the negotiations.

ophidian

adj
/ ɒˈfɪdiən /
Gk
of, relating to, or resembling that of snakes : snakelike.
Medusa's ophidian hairdo is a tidbit from mythology that many students never forget.

ophiophagous

opinionator

opisometer

opium

opponent

opportunistic

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oppress

v
/ ə'pres /
L

burden spiritually or mentally as if by pressure : weigh heavily upon.
Feelings of failure oppress Candice from time to time.

oppressive

adj
/ ə'presiv /
L

overpowering or depressing to the spirit or senses.
The troops battled the oppressive heat by drinking large amounts of water.

opsimath

n
/ 'apsə.math /
Gk

a person who begins to learn late in life.
The opsimath earned his high school diploma at 77 and his college degree at 80.

optician

n
/ ɒp'tiʃən /
Gk > L > F

one that grinds spectacle lenses to prescription and dispenses spectacles.
The new optician in town is offering a special price on prescription sunglasses.

optics

n pl
/ 'ɒptiks /
Gk

a science that deals with light.
In the antiquarian shop, Liza found a 125-year-old book on optics.

optimum

optometer

oracular

adj
/ ɔ'rakyələ(r) /
L

resembling an authoritative or wise expression especially in solemnity of delivery.
Oz's oracular pronouncement impressed Dorothy and her friends.

oracy

orangelo

oration

oratorio
n
/ ɔ'rə'tɔriə.ɔ /
L > It

a musical composition having a libretto based usually on a scriptural subject and consisting typically of recitatives, arias, choruses, orchestral interludes and accompaniment, and sometimes spoken dialogue but having no action, scenery, or costume.
Handel's oratorio Messiah is performed annually at the cathedral.

oratory

orbicularity
n
/ ɔ(r).bikyə'larədə /
L

the quality or state of resembling or having the form of an orb or globe.
The geologist noted the stone's highly unusual orbicularity.

orbiculate

orchestrate

orchestrelle

ordain

ordered

ordinable

ordinal

n
/ 'ɔrd(ə)nəl /
L

a number designating the place (as first, second, third) occupied by any item in an ordered sequence.
The ordinal for the number one is first.

ordinance

orenda
n
/ ɔ'rendə /

Wyandot
extraordinary invisible power.
The medicine man relied on his orenda to control others.

orexis

n
/ ɔ'reksəs /
Gk > L

the feeling and striving aspect of mind as contrasted with the intellectual.
Anyone who has watched a baby learn to walk knows that the human orexis is innately strong.

organic

adj
/ ɔ(r)'ganik /
Gk

being, containing, or relating to carbon compounds.
Fadela's science fiction novel starts with the discovery of organic compounds on Jupiter.

organization

organophyly

organza

organzine

orguINETTE

oriental

originated

orinasal

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orismology

n
/ ˈɔːrəz'mäləjē /
Gk + Gk
the science of defining technical terms.
At the conference of botanists, problems relating to orismology were discussed with reference especially to terms used in plant pathology.

ornithoid

adj
/ ˈɔː(r)nəˌθɔɪd /
Gk
birdlike.
The ornithoid statue in Walcott Park is always covered with pigeons.

ornithology

ornithoscopy

orography

orthic

orthoepist

orthophoria

orthopterology

n
/ (ˌ)ɔː(r)θəptə'räləjē /
Gk > L
the study of insects with mouthparts fitted for chewing, two pairs of wings or none, and an incomplete metamorphosis.
The study of crickets and grasshoppers, cockroaches, mantises, and stick insects is included in orthopterology.

ortolan

ortstein

n
/ ˈɔːrt.stɪn /
G
a cemented or compacted and often clayey layer in soil that hampers root penetration and may be caused by repeated plowing to the same depth.
The local soil contains so much clay that the farmers have had to use special techniques to avoid turning their fields to ortstein.

oryzivorous

oscillate

oscillometer

n
/ ˌäsə'lämədə(r) /
L + Gk
an instrument for measuring the changes in pulsations in the arteries.
Some blood pressure instruments are equipped with an oscillometer to measure the pressure fluctuations within the bag.

oscitancy

n
/ ˈäsədənsē /
L
drowsiness usually demonstrated by yawns.
By the third day of testimony on blood types, oscitancy had swept the courtroom.

osier

n
/ ˈɔːzhə(r) /
L > F > E
any of various willows whose pliable twigs are used for furniture and basketry.
The children wove many small baskets with the twigs of the osier.

Osirian

adj
/ ˈɔːsɪriən /
Egyptian name
of or relating to Osiris, ancient Egyptian god of the underworld.
Thanks to Plutarch, the Osirian legend was recorded for posterity.

osmoscope

n
/ ˈäzməskɔp /
Gk
an instrument for detecting and measuring odors.
The inspector used an osmoscope to find the gas leak in the basement.

osseous

adj
/ ˈäsēəs /
L
[has near homonym: Aussies]
composed of or resembling bone : bony.
The oyster is protected by its osseous shell.

ossificatory

adj
/ ə'sɪfəkətɔri /
L
of or involving the process of bone formation.
A poor diet can easily interfere with the ossificatory process.

ossify

osteogenesis

osteomyelitis

osteopath

n
/ ˈästēəˌpəθ /
Gk
a practitioner of a system of medical practice based on the theory that diseases are due chiefly to a loss of structural integrity in the tissues.
If Dr. Fletcher can't cure Reba's headaches, she plans to consult an osteopath.

osteopathy

osteophyte

n
/ ˈästēəˌfɪt /
Gk
a small pathological bony outgrowth.
George's back pain was caused by an osteophyte on one of his vertebrae.

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osteoplasty

osteotomy

ostium

n
/ 'ästēəm /
L

one of the lateral slits in the heart of an arthropod by which the blood enters from the pericardium.
The ostium allows blood to reenter the insect's heart from the insect's one blood vessel, which runs dorsally the length of its body.

otherworldly

otiose

adj
/ 'öshē.ōs /
L

being at leisure or at ease : idle, unemployed.
The otiose travelers slept until nearly noon.

otioseness

otiosity

n
/ öshē'äsədə /
L > F

the quality or state of lacking use, effect, or function.
Mr. Simmons advised that complaining about the power outage would be an exercise in otiosity, because nothing could be done about it.

otorhinolaryngology

n
/ ödərɪnɔ.larən'gäləjē /
Gk

a branch of medicine that deals with the ear, nose, and throat and their diseases and disorders.
The Cleveland Clinic's department of otorhinolaryngology examined a rock group and found that all its members suffered from laryngitis.

otoscope

n
/ 'ödə.sköp /
Gk + Gk
an instrument fitted with lighting and magnifying lens systems and used to facilitate visual inspection of the auditory canal and ear drum.
Dr. Jamison peered through the otoscope into Kayla's ear.

ounce

n
/ 'aün(t)s /
L > F > E
a unit of weight equal to 1/16 avoirdupois pound.

To understand why gold is sold by the ounce and silver is sold by the pound, check the prices.

oust

v
/ 'aüst /
L > F > AF
put out of possession : eject, dispossess from, or deprive of an inheritance.
The rebels met in secret and voted to oust the king by force if necessary.

outbreak

outdoorsy

outmoded

outrance

outsert

outvote

ouvert

adj
/ ü've(ə)r /
F
having an open stance or movement in ballet.
The prima ballerina demonstrated an ouvert plié to the class.

ovality

ovary

ovenware

overcapitalize

overindulgent

oversight

overwhelm

v
/ övə(r)'(h)welm /
E
overthrow and bury beneath : engulf completely.
Mudslides can overwhelm entire communities in a matter of minutes.

overwrought

adj
/ övə(r)'röt /
E
suffering from or revealing nervous strain : agitated.
Randy's parents are overwrought by his desire to get a tattoo.

ovibos

n
/ 'övəbäs /
L
a heavyset shaggy-coated wild ox now confined to Greenland and the barren northern lands of North America—called also “musk ox.”
The horns of the ovibos grow sideways from the skull, curving downward at the sides of the head and then upwards at the ends.

ovine

adj
/ 'övɪn /
L
of, being, or relating to sheep.
Selena wrote a paper on infectious ovine diseases for the veterinary journal.

ovularian

owlet

oxblood

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

oxford

n
/ 'äksfə(r)d /
E geog name
a low-cut usually laced shoe coming to the instep.
The salesclerk suggested a saddle oxford as a comfortable everyday shoe.

oxidization

n
/ 'äksədə'zāshən /
Gk > F
the act or process of chemically adding oxygen to.
Oxidization is part of the process of releasing energy during the metabolism of carbohydrates.

ozone

n
/ 'ō,zōn /
Gk > G
an allotropic triatomic form of oxygen that is normally a faintly blue irritating gas with a characteristic pungent odor.
While browsing through the magazine, Ken learned that ozone is formed in the atmosphere by a process involving diatomic oxygen and solar radiation.

ozostomia

pacemaker

pachisi

pachymeter

n
/ pə'kimədə(r) /
Gk
an instrument for measuring thickness (as of paper).
The paper mill's superintendent of quality control finally ordered an electronic pachymeter.

pachysandra

pacifism

packet

pact

paddle

padlock

padre

n
/ 'pä(,)drā /
L > Sp or It or Pg
a military chaplain.
*Father Mulcahey, the base chaplain on the television series M*A*S*H, was often referred to as "the padre."*

paduasoy

n
/ 'pajəwəsōi /
It geog name + F
a rich heavy corded silk fabric for clothing and upholstery.
The Venetian prince wore a tunic of embroidered paduasoy.

paganism

paginate

pahoehoe

n
/ pə'hōē.hōē /
Hawaiian
cooled hard lava marked by a smooth often billowy shiny surface.
The geologist showed the class samples of different types of lava, including pahoehoe.

paillard

pair

palatalize

v
/ 'paləd'li:z /
L + Ecf
pronounce with the front of the tongue near or touching the hard roof of the mouth.
English speakers palatalize the first n in the word onion.

paleface

paleography

n
/ ,pālē'ägräfē /
Gk
the study of ancient modes of writing including inscriptions.
The museum turned over the mysterious stone tablets to a specialist in paleography.

Paleozoic

adj
/ ,pālēə'zōik /
Gk
of or relating to a division of geological history from the beginning of the Cambrian to the close of the Permian periods.
Seed-bearing plants and amphibians first appeared in the Paleozoic era.

pales

n pl
/ 'pālz /
L
[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word. In addition, word has homonym: pails.] slats fastened to a rail at top and bottom for fencing : pickets.
They now walked on together quietly till within view of the vicarage pales.

palette

palfrey

n
/ 'pɒlfrē /
(Gk + Gaulish > L) > F > E
a saddle horse other than a war-horse having a light, easy gait.
With his war-horse lame, the knight had no other choice but to ride a palfrey.

palingenesis

n
/ ,palən'jenəsəs /
Gk
renewal by or as if by rebirth, as the doctrine of reincarnation.
The discussion of palingenesis started with the illustration of an oak tree producing acorns, which, in turn, produce oak trees.

palisade

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

palisado

n
/ ,palə'sādō /
L > OProv > Sp
a fence of stakes used especially for defense.
Irwin's group walked along the fort's entire palisado while the tour guide talked endlessly.

palladian

adj
/ pə'lādēən /
Gk > L
of or relating to wisdom or learning.
Ike tries to strike a balance between palladian pursuits and recreational activities.

palliase

palliatory

pallid

adj
/ 'paləd /
L
lacking in brightness or intensity : pale—used of a color or a colored object.
Today's pallid sky contrasts sharply with yesterday's brilliant blue one.

pally

palmery

palmetto

palmistry

palpably

palpus

n
/ 'pal.pəs /
L
a segmented process attached to a mouthpart of an arthropod, usually having a tasting or feeling function.
Jack found a species of grasshopper with an unusually large palpus.

palter

paludicolous

adj
/ ,palyə'dikələs /
L
living or thriving in a marshy environment.
The campers were not used to the nightly cacophony of the nearby paludicolous frogs.

palynological

adj
/ ,palənə'lājəkəl /
Gk
concerned with pollen or pollen grains.
Dr. Wickes hopes that her palynological research will some day help many who suffer from allergies.

pampas

n pl
/ 'pampəz /
Quechua&Aymara > Sp
extensive generally grass-covered plains of temperate South America east of the Andes.
Morrie dreams of being a gaucho on the Argentine pampas.

pamper

pampero

n
/ pam'perō /
AmerSp
a strong cold wind from the west or southwest that sweeps over the pampas of South America from the Andes.
The cattle were huddled together with their backs turned into the pampero.

pamphletize

panachage

n
/ ,panə'shāzh /
F
a variation of the list system that allows a voter to redistribute names from several party lists into a list having names in an order of his or her own choice.
Harry proposed panachage as an alternative to the old procedure.

panached

adj
/ pə'nasht /
F
variegated with stripes of color.
Donna planted a bed of red and white panached tulips.

panama

n
/ 'panə.mä /
Tupi > Central American geog name
a fine lightweight hat of natural-colored straw hand-plaited of narrow strips from the young leaves of the jipijapa.
While on a tropical vacation, Mr. Pease bought a white, hand-woven panama to shade his head.

panchreston

n
/ pan'krestən /
Gk
a broadly inclusive and often oversimplified thesis that is intended to cover all possible variations within an area of concern.
Michael's doctoral advisor gently explained that his thesis was a panchreston and needed to be more focused.

panchromatic

pancosmism

pancreas

pandowdy

n
/ pan'daüdē /
unknown
a deep-dish apple dessert that is spiced; sweetened with sugar, molasses, or maple syrup; and covered with a rich biscuit crust and baked.
Mother serves pandowdy, our favorite dessert, whenever visitors stay for dinner.

panegyrical

panegyrist

panforte

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

Panglossian

adj
/ pan'gläsēən /
(Gk + Gk) > F literary name marked by the view that "all is for the best in this best of possible worlds."

The coach's Panglossian attitude lifted his team's sagging spirits.

pangolin

n
/ 'pangəlɪn /
Malay
any of a family of Asian and African toothless mammals having the body covered with large overlapping horny scales and feeding chiefly on ants.

Because of its overlapping scales, the pangolin is sometimes called a walking artichoke.

panhandle

panicky

panjandrum

panophobia

n
/ ,panə'fɒbēə /
L + Gk
a condition of vague nonspecific anxiety : generalized fear.
For several days after the earthquake, Rachel experienced a mild panophobia.

panoplied

panoply

n
/ 'panəplē /
Gk
a magnificent or impressive array.
The panoply of wildflowers in the meadow took away Carla's breath.

panorama

Pansil

n
/ 'pan(t)səl /
Skt > Pali > Singhalese
[Note: Could be confused with pencil.] the rite in Hinayana Buddhism of undertaking ceremonially a set of five precepts of morality.
Pansil is taken individually before a Buddhist shrine or collectively at the beginning of a Buddhist meeting of any kind.

pansit

n
/ 'pän(t)sət /
Tag
a Chinese noodle dish of the Philippines.
As more and more ethnic restaurants open, Americans are becoming familiar with dishes such as pansit.

pantaloony

pantheon

n
/ 'pan(t)thē.än /
Gk
a temple dedicated to all the gods.
The pantheon in Rome has survived remarkably intact since ancient times.

pantometer

n
/ pan'tämədə(r) /
Gk > F
a device for measuring all angles.
The pantometer can be used to measure all sorts of angles, lengths, and heights.

panzer

panzootic

papagallo

papal

paparchical

papaverine

papered

papillote

n
/ 'papəlɒt /
L > F
a greased paper wrapper in which food is cooked and served.
Harvey carefully peeled the colored papillote from his chocolate cupcake.

papyraceous

parabola

n
/ pə'rabolə /
Gk + Gk
a plane curve generated in such a manner that it is equal to a conic section formed by the intersection of a cone with a plane parallel to an element of the cone.
The high fly ball described a parabola in the air.

parachronism

paradigms

paradoxical

paragoge

n
/ 'parəgōjē /
Gk
the addition of a sound or syllable to the end of a word.
By paragoge, the word golden was formed from the word gold.

paragon

paralogism

n
/ pə'raləjizəm /
Gk
a reasoning contrary to logical rules or formulas.
The debate team was defeated once its paralogism was exposed.

paralyze

paranee

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

parapetless

adj
/ˈpærəpətɫəs/
L > It + Ecf

not having a wall, rampart or elevation designed to protect soldiers.

The castle was parapetless, the two towers having been destroyed by cannon fire a century earlier.

paraphrase

paraphrasia

parapraxia

n
/ˌpærəˈpraksɪə/
Gk

a faulty act (as a slip of the tongue or of memory) : blunder, lapse.

One parapraxia after another caused Mr. Aiken to wonder if he was in the early stages of senility.

parapsychology

n
/ˌpærəˈsɪkələʒi/
Gk

a science concerned with the investigation especially by experimental means of events that are considered to be evidence of mental telepathy, clairvoyance, and psychokinesis.

Those claiming to be experts in parapsychology find it easy to gain attention in the tabloid press.

paraquat

n
/ˈpærək.wät/
Gk + L

an herbicide that is used especially as a weed killer.

The DEA officials sprayed paraquat on the marijuana fields.

parasoled

paratactic

adj
/ˌpærəˈtæktɪk/
Gk

of, relating to, or exhibiting coordinate ranging of clauses, phrases, or words one after another without coordinating connectives.

Herodotus was cited as an example of an author who used a paratactic style.

parazonium

parchment

pardon

paregoric

parentage

n
/ˈpær(ə)rɛntɪj/
L > F + Ecf

descent from ancestors : lineage.

The earl asked his valet, "Can you tell me anything of the parentage of the lady in this photo?"

parental

parenthesis

parenthetic

pargetry

n
/ˈpærjɛtrē/
E

ornamental plaster or stucco relief work applied to a flat surface.

The corridors of the mansion were ornamented with a variety of pargetry.

pariahism

parish

n
/ˈpærɪʃ/
Gk > L > F > E

[has near homonym: perish] the ecclesiastical unit of area committed to one pastor; collectively : the residents of such area or the members of one church.
Father Johnson bought a car so he could visit everyone in his parish.

parka

parliamentary

adj
/ˌpærləˈmentərē/
F > E

of, relating to, or having the nature of a supreme legislative body of a usually major political unit.

Members of the Senate were asked not to delay parliamentary business with lengthy speeches.

parlous

parmesan

n
/ˈpærməˌzæn/
It geog name

a very hard dry cheese with a sharp flavor that is cured for several years and used grated to season other foods (as spaghetti and sauces).

Clem sprinkled a mound of parmesan atop his vermicelli.

parolee

n
/pəˈroʊlē/
Gk > L

one granted a conditional and revocable release from prison.

Vanessa hoped that giving the parolee a job would help to keep him from becoming a repeat offender.

paronomasia

n
/ˌpærənəˈmāzɪ(ə)ə/
Gk > L

a play upon words in which the same word is used in different senses or words similar in sound are set in opposition : pun.

Harold is usually quite clever with his puns, but this time his paronomasia was purely silly.

paronymous

parquetry

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

parricide

n
/ 'parəsɪd /
L
[has near homonym: parasite] one that murders his or her father, mother, or a close relative.
The judge ordered a psychiatric evaluation of the accused parricide.

parried

v
/ 'parəd /
L > Prov > F
warded off a weapon or blow by means of a defensive action.
Neither fencer scored as they parried for several minutes.

parrot

parrotlet

parsimonious

parsley

partage

partan

partial

partiality

participation

participle

particular

adj
/ pə(r)'tɪkyələr /
L
distinctive among others of the same kind : out of the ordinary : worthy of notice.
Was there a particular reason that you overslept today?

parure

parvanimity

parvitude

paseo

n
/ pä'səʊ /
Sp
a leisurely stroll : promenade.
Florrie and Georgia took an afternoon paseo down the boulevard.

paskha

n
/ 'päske /
Gk > Russ
a molded Russian dessert made of cheese, cream, raisins, candied fruit, and nuts and traditionally served at Easter.
Basking in the admiration of her family, Tatiana proudly brought the paskha to the table.

passably

passade

passgang

passim

passimeter

passionately

adv
/ 'pash(ə)nətlē /
L + EcF
with great feeling : enthusiastically.
"Now let me see," Mrs. Whatsit pondered. "I'm passionately fond of Russian caviar."

pastel

adj
/ pa'stel /
L > It > F
pale and light in color : lacking in brilliance and intensity.
Mrs. Cooper selected bold rather than pastel colors for her new baby's bedroom decor.

pastime

pastor

pastoral

pastoralism

patas

patchy

patently

adv
/ 'patəntlē /
L
clearly, obviously, plainly.
The marketing company was sued because some parts of its infomercial were patently untrue.

paterfamilias

n
/ ,padə(r)fə'milēəs /
L
the male head of a household.
Kevin declared himself paterfamilias for the day and took his younger siblings to the baseball game.

pathetic

adj
/ pə'thedɪk /
Gk > L
evoking tenderness, pity, sympathy, or sorrow : affecting, pitiable.
The pathetic man, whose clothes were worn and tattered, had once been a prominent community leader.

pathology

n
/ pə'thäləjē /
Gk
the study of diseases; their essential nature, causes, and development; and the structural and functional changes produced by them.
Carla, a second-year medical student, was considering choosing pathology as her specialty.

pathways

n pl
/ 'path.wāz /
E + E
tracks specially constructed for a particular use (as walking).
Another open green door revealed bushes and pathways between beds containing winter vegetables.

patina

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

patio

n
/ 'padēō /
L > OProv? > Sp
a recreation area adjoining a dwelling, often paved, and adapted especially to outdoor dining.
Rachel's birthday party was held on the sunny patio.

patioed

patisserie

patriliny

patronize

patroons

n pl
/ pə'trūnz /
L > F
the proprietors of the tracts of land granted to members of the Dutch West India Company.
Most of present-day New York and New Jersey was once owned by patroons.

patten

n
/ 'pat'n /
L > F > E
[has homonym: paten] a clog, sandal, or overshoe often with a wooden sole or metal device to elevate the foot and increase the wearer's height or aid in walking in mud.
Jack kicked aside the muddied patten that Marsha had left on the porch.

pattern

paulopost

paunch

paunchy

pauper

pauperize

v
/ 'pōpə'rīz /
L + Ecf
reduce to abject poverty.
Afraid that another market dip would pauperize him, Soren sold his shares in dot-com companies.

pawned

payable

payola

n
/ pə'ōlə /
L > F > E + E?
an undercover or indirect payment for a commercial favor.
The disc jockey was fired when it became known that he received payola from a record company.

payroll

peabody

n
/ 'pē.bādē /
E name
a fast ballroom dance in open position.
The Lowensteins surprised everyone at the Opera Ball when they danced the peabody.

peacetime

peacock

peameal

pearl

pebbled

peccancy

n
/ 'pekənsē /
L
the quality or state of being guilty of a moral offense.
The stockholders decided to overlook the CEO's peccancy and reelected him to another term.

peccavi

n
/ pe'kă(,)vē /
L
a humble acknowledgment of sin or error : confession.
The leader stood in front of his followers and uttered a tearful peccavi, hoping that they would forgive and forget.

pecksniffian

adj
/ pek'snifēən /
fictional E name + Ecf
unctuously hypocritical : selfish and corrupt behind a display of seeming benevolence.
The pecksniffian humbug in charge of the charity event took on the job merely as a public relations stunt.

pectoral

adj
/ 'pekt(ə)rəl /
L
of, related to, situated or occurring in or on, or worn on the chest.
Turning a so-called "painted" turtle over reveals beautiful orange and green patterns on its pectoral plates.

peculiarities

n pl
/ pə'kyül'yarədēz /
L
qualities or states belonging exclusively or especially to a person or group.
Among her less endearing peculiarities is a penchant for always arriving late.

peculiarly

adv
/ pə'kyülyə(r)lē /
L > E
particularly, unusually.
Lucille was peculiarly grumpy during lunch.

pedagogy

peddle

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

pedestal

n
/ 'pedəstəl /
It > F
the base of an upright structure (as a statue, vase, or lamp).
Because tourists did so much damage to the statue in the town square, it was moved to a much higher pedestal.

pediculosis

n
/ pə'dikyə'lōsəs /
L
infestation with lice.
The school nurse explained that about five percent of elementary school children are affected with pediculosis.

pedigerous

adj
/ pə'dijərəs /
L
having feet : footed.
The insect had three pedigerous segments.

pedigreed

pediment

pedodontics

peerage

n
/ 'pirij /
L > F > E
the rank or dignity of nobility.
The war hero's name was submitted to the king for a peerage.

peevisish

adj
/ 'pēvish /
E
marked by ill temper.
The nurse showed great patience and forbearance toward her peevisish patient.

pegasus

n
/ 'pegəsəs /
Gk name
a fabulous winged horse; especially : the winged steed thought of as bearing a poet in flights of fancy.
Monique drew a picture of Mother Goose riding on a pegasus instead of a goose.

peignoir

n
/ pān'wä(r) /
L > F
a woman's loose negligee or dressing gown.
Betty's black peignoir fluttered as she walked past the air conditioner.

Pekingology

n
/ ,pē(,)kiŋ'äləjē /
Chinese geog name
the study of the policies and practices of Communist China.
Professor Chen was an expert in Pekingology.

pelean

adj
/ pə'lēən /
Martinique geog name
of, relating to, or resembling volcanic eruptions characterized by violent expulsion of clouds or blasts of incandescent volcanic ash.
The pelean eruption of Mount St. Helens filled the Toutle River with many tons of ash.

pelelith

pelerine

pellet

pellucidity

n
/ ,pelyə'sidədə /
L
the quality or state of permitting one to see through to a remarkable degree.
The pellucidity of the water in the bay attracted many scuba divers.

pellucidly

pelmatogram

n
/ pel'madə,grəm /
Gk + Gk
an impression of the sole of the foot.
Joan picked up the bronzed pelmatogram and reminisced about the time when her son was a baby.

pelorus

pelota

peloton

n
/ 'pel.ə.tən /
F
a European ornamental glass.
There was a large display of peloton in the window of the antique shop.

penalize

pendentive

pendicle

pending

adj
/ 'pendiŋ /
L + Ecf
not yet decided : in continuance.
Most of the cases pending before the honor council deal with cheating.

pendulosity

penitent

n
/ 'penədənt /
L
a person regretful of sin : one sorrowful because of his transgressions.
St. Francis of Assisi spent several years as a penitent at the beginning of his conversion.

penny

penologist

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

penology

n
/ pē'näləjē /
Gk + Gk
a branch of criminology dealing with prison management and the treatment of offenders especially with regard to their rehabilitation.
In his course in penology, Jake studied the procedures for probation and parole.

pensionnat

pentacle

n
/ 'pentəkəl /
L > It
a five-pointed star producible by one continuous line.
The man who came to the door wore a necklace with a bronze pentacle on it.

pentagonal

pentastich

n
/ 'pentə.stɪk /
Gk + Gk
a unit, stanza, or poem consisting of five lines.
Eric recited a limerick as an example of a pentastich.

Pentateuchal

adj
/ ,pentə'tükəl /
Gk
of or relating to the first five books of the Old Testament.
The synagogue's guest lecturer was a world-famous Pentateuchal scholar.

penthouse

n
/ 'pent.haüs /
L > E
a dwelling built on a roof.
Lyla lives in the penthouse of a chic new apartment building.

penultimate

adj
/ pə'nältəmät /
L
next to the last.
In the word ammunition, the stress falls on the penultimate syllable.

peonage

peppermint

peppery

adj
/ 'pep(ə)rē /
E
hot, pungent, piquant.
The peppery smell coming from the wok almost made Josh choke when he entered the kitchen.

peradventure

n
/ ,pərəd'venchə(r) /
L > F > E
an opinion based on guesswork : surmise.
Thinking that Phil's favorite color is red just because he purchased a red car is a peradventure.

percale

percaline

perceived

v
/ pə(r)'sēvd /
L > F > E
became aware of through the senses.
Through the mist, Steve perceived the shape of a house.

perceptibly

adv
/ pə(r)'septəblē /
L
in a manner so as to be perceived.
When Laura entered the supermarket, the air was perceptibly cooler.

perch

percheron

perciatelli

n
/ ,perchə'te(l)lē /
It
long tubular pasta slightly thicker than spaghetti.
The specialty at Antonio's restaurant was perciatelli with meatballs.

percolator

perdition

n
/ pə(r)'dɪʃən /
L
the place of eternal punishment in the future state.
Overly remorseful for his minor wrongdoing, Bryce felt sure that a place in perdition was reserved for him.

perdure

peregrination

n
/ ,perəgrə'nāʃən /
L
an excursion especially on foot or to a foreign country : journey.
Julie's peregrination to Italy opened her eyes to the splendors of Renaissance art.

peremptorily

perennially

perfectibilism

perfidiously

adv
/ pə(r)'fɪdēəsli /
L
in a dishonest or disloyal manner.
Paul has a reputation for behaving perfidiously and should not be given confidential information.

perfunctory

adj
/ pə(r)'fʌŋ(k)t(ə)rē /
L
characterized by routine or superficiality : cursory.
The bureaucrat gave the teenager a perfunctory smile and continued to ignore her.

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pergola

pericardium

n
/ .perə'kɑrdēəm /
Gk > L
the conical sac of serous membrane that encloses the heart.
The bullet wound narrowly missed piercing Officer Callahan's pericardium.

pericope

perigloea

periglottis

perilous

adj
/ 'perələs /
L > F > E
full of, attended with, or involving danger.
Karen covered her eyes frequently during the movie, unable to watch her favorite actor face one perilous pitfall after another.

periodic

periodontal

adj
/ .perēō'dāntəl /
Gk
of or affecting the tissues or regions surrounding a tooth.
The closeup photographs of advanced periodontal disease made Kara want to floss her teeth.

periosteal

adj
/ .perē'āstēəl /
Gk
situated around bone or produced external to existing bone.
The bone scan revealed periosteal inflammations around the tibia in both legs.

periphyton

n
/ pə'rɪfə'tān /
Gk
organisms that live attached to underwater surfaces.
Periphyton, such as certain algae, live on submerged plant stems and leaves.

peripteral

adj
/ pə'ript(ə)rəl /
Gk
having a row of columns on all sides.
The Parthenon in Athens is a peripteral temple, and most of its columns are still standing.

periscope

perished

adj
/ 'perɪʃt /
L > F > E + Ecf
deadened or weakened by exposure.
The perished cotton crop was a result of the severe hail storm during the night.

peristyle

peritonitis

n
/ .perətə'nɪdəs /
Gk
inflammation of the membrane that lines the cavity of the abdomen of a mammal.
The cause of Beth's abdominal pain was bacterial peritonitis.

peritus

n
/ pə'rēdəs /
L
an expert who acts as an adviser at a Vatican council.
When the council reached an impasse, the peritus was called upon for advice.

periwig

n
/ 'perə.wɪɡ /
F
one of several wigs popularly worn from the 17th century to the early 19th century.
The museum exhibited an imposing portrait of King Louis XIV wearing an elaborate periwig.

permafrost

permanent

permeability

n
/ .pərmēə'bɪlədē /
L + Ecf
the quality or state of being passable, penetrable, or pervious—used especially of a substance that allows the passage of fluids.
The permeability of Larry's tent to the rain resulted in a wet evening for the campers.

permissible

permit

n
/ 'pə.rɪt /
Sp > E
[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word.] a large up to three feet long blue and silver pompano found especially off the West Indies and Florida.
The game warden wouldn't allow Vince to catch a permit without a fishing license.

permitted

perpend

v
/ pə(r)'pend /
L
weigh carefully in the mind.
He retired to the inn to write notes and perpend his situation.

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

perpendicularly

adv
/ ˌpɜrˈpɛnˈdɪkɪələrli /
L

exactly vertical or upright.
Because he was so frightened, Paul could not sit perpendicularly upon the horse.

perpension

perpetrator

n
/ ˈpɜrpəˈtrɛdə(r) /
L

one that commits an offense or crime.
The perpetrator was apprehended after a high-speed car chase by police.

perpetuity

perplex

perplexed

persistent

personage

n
/ ˈpɜrs(ə)niːj /
L > F > E
an eminent man or woman; especially : one distinguished for presence and personal power.
Winston Churchill, a personage most widely known for his leadership during and after World War II, was also an accomplished artist.

personalia

personify

v
/ pə(r)ˈsɒnəfaɪ /
Etruscan > L > F
be the embodiment of.
Zoltan strove to personify the perfect Boy Scout.

perspective

n
/ pə(r)ˈspektɪv /
L
the appearance to the eye of objects in respect to their relative distance and positions.
Perspective made the long rows of machines seem almost to meet.

perspicacity

perspiry

adj
/ pə(r)ˈspɪrē /
L > F + EcF
sweaty.
In the muggy weather Kendall wears lightweight clothing so as not to become perspiry.

perstringe

v
/ pə(r)ˈstrɪnj /
L
find fault with : censure, criticize.
“Why must you perstringe everything I do?” cried Emma.

persuasion

persuasively

adv
/ pə(r)ˈswāsəvli /
L + EcFf
in a manner influencing the mind by arguments or reasons.
The puppy looked longingly at the boy’s cookie and wagged its tail persuasively.

pertaining

perturb

v
/ pɜrˈtɜrb /
L
[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word.] cause (a planet or other celestial body) to deviate from a theoretically regular orbital motion usually as a result of extraordinary gravitational pull.
The black hole’s great density caused it to perturb a nearby star.

pertussis

n
/ pə(r)ˈtʊsəs /
L
whooping cough.
In the United States, babies are routinely immunized against pertussis.

pesade

n
/ pəˈsɑd /
L > It > F
a dressage maneuver in which a horse is made to raise his forequarters while keeping his hind feet on the ground without advancing.
The pesade is the first lesson taught a horse in order to bring him to curvets.

pessimism

pessimistic

adj
/ ˌpɛsəˈmɪstɪk /
L > F
marked by disbelief, distrust, or a lack of confidence, hope, or joy.
The senator was pessimistic about the passage of any tax-cutting bills this year.

pestiferous

petard

petechial

adj
/ pəˈtɛkiəl /
L > It
marked by minute reddish or purplish spots containing blood that appear in skin or mucous membranes especially in some infectious diseases.
Dr. Owens told Boris to let him know if the petechial rash on his hand did not disappear in a couple of days.

petite

adj
/ pəˈtɛt /
F
small and trim of figure : little.
For such a petite woman, Alana has a surprisingly resonant voice.

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petition

n
/ pə'tiʃən /
L

the act or action of formally asking or humbly requesting.
The students, through their right of petition, have helped bring about changes in the school cafeteria's menu.

petitioner

petrel

petronella

n
/ .petrə'nelə /
name?

a Scottish country dance of the 19th century.
Fiona and Brian learned the petronella on the Isle of Skye.

petticoat

pettifog

v
/ 'pedɪ.fäg /

G name
quibble over insignificant details.
You can expect Aunt Dana and Aunt Elizabeth to pettifog over every family story they can remember.

pettish

pewter

pfeffernuss

n
/ 'feʃə(r).nüs /

G
a small hard highly spiced cookie made traditionally for the Christmas holidays.
The aroma of pfeffernuss in the oven brought back memories of Christmas to the old man.

phaeochrous

adj
/ fe'ækɾəs /

Gk
dusky.
A phaeochrous cloud hovered over the city for several hours following the earthquake.

phalangeal

adj
/ fə'lanʒeəl /
Gk > L

of or relating to the digital bones of the hand or foot of a vertebrate.
Gert's phalangeal joints were swollen with rheumatism.

phalarope

phantasmagoria

phantom

pharmaceuticals

n pl
/ färmə'südəkəlz /
Gk > L

medicinal drugs.
Congress reviewed the laws governing the importation of experimental pharmaceuticals.

pharmaceutics

n pl
/ färmə'südiks /
Gk

the science of preparing, using, or dispensing medicines.
A degree in pharmaceutics is one of the requirements for a job in the drug research laboratory.

pharmacist

pharmacology

n
/ färmə'käləʒi /
Gk > L

the study of drugs, their composition, effects, and use in medicine.
Having done well in both biology and chemistry courses, Phyllis decided to pursue a degree in pharmacology.

pharmacy

pharyngeal

pharyngology

phasic

phatic

phenol

phenomenally

philamot

adj
/ 'filəmät /
F

of the color of a dead leaf or brownish orange.
When Ken called Vicky's coat a lovely shade of philamot, she had no idea his remark was an insult.

philanderer

philanthropist

philanthropy

n
/ fə'lan(t)θrəpē /
Gk

goodwill expressed through active efforts to promote human welfare : humanitarianism.
A few individuals with a well-developed sense of philanthropy can do wonders for society.

Philomel

n
/ 'filəmel /

Gk name
nightingale.
The Philomel usually sings at night.

philosophize

v
/ fə'läsə.fiz /
Gk + Ecf

seek a rational basis for fact and experience : reflect, theorize.
Jermain's chemistry teacher encouraged him to philosophize about the nature of the elements.

phobia

phobic

adj
/ 'föbik /
Gk

of, relating to, characterized by, or arising from an exaggerated and often disabling fear usually inexplicable to the subject.
A phobic person's fear serves to protect the ego from anxiety arising from unexpressed aggressive impulses.

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phonation

phoneme

phonetic

adj
/ fō'nedik /

Gk > L
of or relating to spoken language or speech sounds.

Carmen asked me to write the phonetic spellings next to the difficult words.

phonics

phosgene

phosphorescent

adj
/ fäsfə'res'nt /

Gk + Lcf
exhibiting or characterized by luminescence.

The phosphorescent glow of decaying wood lit up the forest.

phosphoric

phosphorus

n
/ 'fäsfərəs /

Gk > L
a nonmetallic element of the nitrogen family that occurs widely in combined form especially as inorganic phosphates in minerals, soils, natural waters, bones, and teeth and as organic phosphates in all living cells.

Photographers used to burn powdered phosphorus to create a flash.

phosvitin

photic

adj
/ 'fōdik /

Gk + Ecf
of, pertaining to, or caused by light.

When a clam is placed on its side, it will tightly close its valve in response to both tactile and photic receptors.

photobiology

n
/ fōd(,)ō.bī'äləjē /
Gk > ISV

a branch of biology that deals with the effects on living beings of light and other forms of radiant energy.

Part of Prof. Sanford's grant was to study the photobiology of aquatic plants.

photochromic

adj
/ fōdə'krōmik /

Gk
capable of changing color on exposure to radiant energy (as light).

Gail doesn't need sunglasses anymore because her new prescription lenses are photochromic.

photocopy

photoelectric

adj
/ fōd(,)ō.ə'lektrik /

Gk > ISV
relating to or utilizing any of various electrical effects due to the interaction of light and other radiation with matter.

Prof. Minchin showed by experiment the photoelectric current set up by a beam of light falling on a sheet immersed in a solution of acid carbonate of calcium.

photoflood

n
/ 'fōd(,)ō.fləd /

Gk + E
an electric lamp using excess voltage to give intense sustained illumination for taking photographs.
The photoflood blew the fuse in the old house.

photoing

v
/ 'fōd(,)ōɪŋ /

Gk + Ecf
obtaining an image with a camera.
While she was photoing, Darcy bound her hair back with a barrette.

photometeor

n
/ 'fōd(,)ō.mēdēə(r) /
Gk > ISV

a temporary luminous phenomenon in the sky.

Many UFO sightings can be explained as some sort of naturally occurring photometeor.

photometer

n
/ fō'tämədə(r) /

Gk + Gk
an instrument for measuring luminous intensity by comparison of two unequal lights from different sources.

Astronomer Edward Charles Pickering invented a photometer to measure the brightness of stars.

photomicroscope

n
/ fōd(,)ō'mīkrō.skōp /

Gk
a combined microscope, camera, and suitable light source.

Florio set up a photomicroscope to take pictures of the protozoa he found in the pond.

photomontage

photon

n
/ 'fō.tän /

Gk
a massless elementary particle with one quantum unit of spin that is the carrier of radiant energy (as light or X rays).

The concept of the photon originated in Einstein's explanation of the photoelectric effect.

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photovoltaic

adj
/ ˌfɒdʊvəl'taɪk /
(Gk + It name + E) > ISV
of, utilizing, or relating to the generation of an electromotive force when radiant energy falls on the boundary between certain dissimilar substances in close contact.
A photovoltaic effect can be produced with cuprous oxide and copper or with an electrode and an electrolyte.

phrase

phreatic

adj
/ frē'adɪk /
Gk
of or relating to a well—used of underground waters reachable by drilling.
Kathryn's data indicate that there is a large phreatic source of water six miles northeast of the city.

phrenic

adj
/ 'frenɪk /
Gk
of or relating to the mind.
Julia was more concerned with her son's phrenic development than with his physical skills.

phrenicectomy

phrontistery

n
/ 'frɒntə.sterē /
Gk
a place for thinking or study.
On warm spring afternoons the backyard gazebo was Grandfather's favorite phrontistery.

Phrygian

adj
/ 'frɪjēən /
Gk geog name
of, relating to, or characteristic of the ancient country of Phrygia.
In Rome the Phrygian cap was worn by emancipated slaves as a symbol of their freedom.

phugoid

adj
/ 'fyü.gɔɪd /
Gk
of, relating to, or representing variations in the longitudinal motion or course of the center of mass of an airplane in flight.
Glider designers study phugoid theory to develop stable aircraft.

phylic

phyllomancy

phyllotaxy

phylogeny

n
/ fi'lājənē /
Gk
the history or course of the development of an immaterial thing.
It would be difficult for phylogeny to explain the emergence of so many different world philosophies.

phylum

n
/ 'fɪləm /
Gk > L
one of the usually primary divisions of the animal kingdom.
Insects belong to the phylum Arthropoda.

physical

physiology

phytopathogen

n
/ ˌfɪd(,)ɔ'pəθəjən /
Gk + Gk + Gk
an organism parasitic on a plant host.
Biochemists have developed antibiotic compounds to eradicate the bacterial phytopathogen.

phytoplankton

n
/ ˌfɪdə'plʌŋktən /
Gk
the floating plant life of a body of water consisting largely of minute plants (as diatoms and blue-green algae).
Phytoplankton are at the bottom of the ocean's food chain, which means that they are vital to all marine animals.

piaffe

piano

picador

pickerel

Pickwickian

adj
/ pik'wɪkēən /
E name + Ecf
marked by simplicity and generosity of character or by an appearance and manner suggesting these qualities.
Matilda wishes that her principal were more like the Pickwickian headmaster of Tom's school.

picnic

picotee

picry

pictograph

picudo

n
/ pə'kü(,)dō /
AmerSp
a boll weevil.
After the picudo ravaged cotton crops in 1916, many cotton farmers diversified and raised peanut crops.

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piebald

adj

/ 'piːbɔld /

L > F > E + E

spotted or blotched with black and white.

Young blue herons acquiring adult plumage have a piebald appearance.

pie

adj

/ 'piːd /

L > F > E

variegated; also : wearing or having a parti-colored coat.

Jenna's favorite story is about the pied piper who took revenge when the townspeople failed to pay him for ridding their town of rats.

piedmont

adj

/ 'piːd.mənt /

It geog name

lying or formed at the base of mountains.

Alma thinks that North Carolina's piedmont region is heaven on Earth.

pierced

Pierian

adj

/ piː'riːən /

Gk geog name

of or relating to learning or poetry.

Once a month the local Pierian society sponsors a poetry reading.

pierrrot

n

/ 'piːrɔː /

F name

a standard comic character of old French pantomime usually with a whitened face and loose white clothes.

Hanna studied the painting of the pierrot to get an idea for her pantomime costume.

piezometer

piffling

pigeonhole

pigeonwing

pigment

pigmentation

pigpen

pigsty

pilcrow

pileum

n

/ 'piːləm /

L

the top of the head of a bird from the bill to the nape.

The woodpecker's pileum was a brilliant red crest and looked to be two inches high.

pilfer

pilfery

pilgrim

pillage

v

/ 'pɪlɪdʒ /

L > F > E

strip of valuables : loot.

After the battle, opportunists came from outside the city to pillage its neighborhoods.

pilosity

pilot

n

/ 'piːlət /

Gk > It > F

one who flies or is qualified to fly an airplane.

Hugh is the pilot of a huge transport plane.

pilpul

pimpernel

n

/ 'pɪmpər.nəl /

L > E name

a common herb having scarlet, white, or purplish flowers that close at the approach of rainy or cloudy weather.

One variety of pimpernel is also known as "poor man's weatherglass."

pinched

pincushion

pincushions

n pl

/ 'pɪn.kʊʃənz /

E + L > F > E

small cushions in which pins may be stuck ready for use.

Kathryn has several pincushions in her sewing cabinet.

pinkeye

pinnate

adj

/ 'piː.nət /

L

resembling a feather especially in having similar parts arranged on opposite sides of an axis like the barbs on the spine of a feather.

The chick-pea plant bears pinnate leaves.

pinyin

n

/ 'piːn.yɪn /

Chinese

a system for romanizing Chinese ideograms in which tones are indicated by diacritics and unaspirated consonants are transcribed as voiced.

Our newspapers adopted pinyin for spelling the names of Chinese officials.

pipable

piping

pipit

piquant

pique

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piquette

pirarucu

Pisces

n
/ 'pī(,)sēz /
L

the 12th sign of the zodiac.
Pisces falls between Aquarius and Aries.

piscivorous

pisco

pisiform

adj
/ 'pīsəfōrm /
L
resembling a pea in size or shape.
Johan purchased three cubic yards of pisiform gravel for his new driveway.

pistil

n
/ 'pistl /
L
[has homonym: pistol] the ovule-bearing organ of a seed plant.
The lily has but one pistil; the daffodil has several.

pistilloid

pitch

v
/ 'pich /
E
toss so as to cause to fall at or near a particular mark.
On warm summer evenings Dad likes to pitch horseshoes in the backyard.

pitchblende

n
/ 'pich.blend /
G
a brown to black mineral that has a distinctive luster, contains radium, and is the chief ore-mineral source of uranium.
A German chemist discovered uranium in pitchblende in 1789.

pitchfork

pithecan

adj
/ pə'thēkən /
Gk
of, relating to, or resembling apes, especially the anthropoid apes.
The unearthed skull exhibited many pithecan characteristics.

pithos

pitiful

pitiless

adj
/ 'pidēləs /
E
devoid of or unmoved by compassion.
The pitiless tornado bore onward, ripping up everything in its path.

placards

n pl
/ 'plakārdz /
F > E
posters, signs.
The demonstrators carried placards protesting the use of animals for pharmaceutical testing.

placate

v
/ 'plākāt /
L
soothe or mollify especially by making concessions : appease.
The labor relations team worked hard to placate the factory workers to avoid a strike.

placeholder

placement

placid

placidly

adv
/ 'plāsədlē /
L
calmly, serenely.
The once-violent river now flows placidly along.

plafond

plage

plagiarist

plague

n
/ 'plāg /
L > F > E
[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word.] a destructively numerous influx or multiplication of a noxious animal.
Although only a foolish optimist could deny the dark realities of our country in 1941, we were stricken by no plague of locusts.

plaguing

plaid

plaidoyer

plainsong

n
/ 'plānsŏŋ /
L > F > E + E
the ancient nonmetrical monophonic chant of the church service.
The psalm was chanted in plainsong.

plainspoken

plaintful

adj
/ 'plāntfəl /
L > F > E
mournful.
Plaintful over the loss of her pet rabbit, Jennifer decided not to get another pet.

plaintive

plaintively

adv
/ 'plāntəvlē /
F > E
in a manner expressive of grief or sadness.
Three-year-old Jamie asked plaintively for his lost teddy bear.

planeload

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plangency

n
/ 'planjənsē /
L

an expressive especially plaintive quality.
Regret and grief were expressed in the plangency of the singer's voice.

plangent

plangorous

planish

plantain

n
/ 'plant˚n /
L > F > E
the starchy fruit of the plantain tree that is distinguished from the ordinary banana by its angular shape and green color.
Fried chips of plantain are a common snack in the Caribbean.

plantigrade

adj
/ 'plantəgrād /
L

walking on the sole with the heel touching the ground.
Most primates are not plantigrade.

plaque

n
/ pla'ket /
D > F
a metal stamping die that is cut in relief and used to decorate the sides of leather bookbindings.
Lars was required to make his own plaque to earn a merit badge for bookbinding.

plasma

n
/ 'plazmə /
Gk > L > G
an ionized gas (as in the atmosphere of stars) containing about equal numbers of positive ions and electrons and differing from an ordinary gas in being a good conductor of electricity and in being affected by a magnetic field.
"The thing that looks like a blue donut on your handout is an illustration of how magnetic rings are used in confinement of plasma," said Professor Rooki.

plastron

plateau

n
/ pla'tō /
F
land area having a relatively level surface raised sharply above adjacent land on at least one side.
The Columbia lava plateau is located in eastern Washington and Oregon.

platform

n
/ 'plat.fōrm /
F
a shoe having a usually thick layer (as of cork or wood) between the inner sole and outer sole.
In the '70s, the platform was the shoe associated with bell-bottoms and long skirts.

platina

adj
/ plə'tēnə /
Sp
of the color platinum—used especially of pale bluish gray furs.
The platina fur coat was the most expensive garment in the store.

platitude

platitudinal

adj
/ ,pladə'tüd(˚)nəl /
F
having the characteristics of a thought or remark that is stale, dull, trite, or weak.
The old pastor's homilies were usually portentously platitudinal.

platitudinize

v
/ ,pladə'tüd˚n.īz /
F + Lcf > Fcf + Ecff
utter remarks that are flat, dull, trite, or weak.
The politician's tendency to platitudinize belies the fact that he has innovative ideas.

Platonic

adj
/ plə'tānik /
Gk name
being in accordance with or in the manner of the Greek philosopher Plato and his works.
Iris Murdoch has written modern Platonic dialogues.

platoon

platycrania

platypodia

n
/ ,pladē'pōdēə /
Gk
flat-footedness.
Platypodia no longer disqualifies an applicant from joining the army.

platysma

n
/ plə'tizmə /
Gk > L
a broad thin layer of muscle on each side of the neck.
Cory's training for his massage therapy license included learning the names of the muscles of the neck and back, including the platysma, the trapezius, and the intracostal.

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plausibility

n
/ˌpləʊzəˈbɪlədɪ /
L

the quality or state of being superficially worthy of belief.
Half-truths, because of their plausibility, are frequently more dangerous than outright lies.

plausibly

pleasurable

plebeian

plebiscitary

plebiscite

plectrum

pledge

pleiotropic

adj
/ˌpliəˈtrɒpɪk /
Gk + Gk
producing more than one effect—used of a gene.
The subject of David's research is a pleiotropic gene that induces shortening of the ear and reduces general body size in the mouse.

plenipotent

pleodont

pleuropneumonia

n
/ˌplʊrən(y)üˈmɒnyə /
Gk
inflammation of the lungs and their membranous sacs.
Parasitic microorganisms can cause pleuropneumonia in sheep and goats.

pliable

plicatile

plight

plotless

ploy

plumbery

n
/ˈplʌməri /
L
the business or work of one who installs, repairs, and maintains piping, fittings, and fixtures involved in the distribution and use of water in a building.
While Paul was in vocational school, he demonstrated a strong aptitude for plumbery.

plummeted

v
/ˈplʌmədəd /
L > F > E
dropped sharply and abruptly.
The San Francisco street plummeted down toward the bay.

plumose

adj
/ˈplʊ.məs /
L
having feathers or plumes : feathered.
Emily's plumose mask was a hit at the Mardi Gras party.

plunder

plunderbund

n
/ˈplʌndə(r).bʌnd /
G + G
a league of commercial, political, or financial interests that exploits the public.
Some people think the Internet has become nothing more than a glorified plunderbund.

plundered

pluperfect

pluricellular

plutocratic

adj
/ˈplʊdəˈkrɑːdɪk /
Gk
of, relating to, or characterized by rule or dominion of wealth or of the rich.
The suburb had clean air, good schools, and a plutocratic city government.

plutonium

pluviosity

n
/ˌplʊvɪˈæsɪdɪ /
L
the quality of being marked by or regularly receiving heavy rainfall.
High pluviosity is a characteristic of most places along the equator.

plywood

pneumectomy

n
/n(y)üˈmektəm /
Gk
the surgical removal of lung tissue.
The surgeon happily announced that the pneumectomy was completely successful.

pneumococci

n pl
/ˌn(y)üməˈkɑːkɪ /
Gk + Gk
bacteria that cause acute pneumonia involving one or more lobes of the lung.
Penicillin-resistant pneumococci are also usually resistant to erythromycin and tetracycline.

pneumococcus

pneumonia

pneumonic

adj
/n(y)üˈmɑːnɪk /
Gk
of or relating to the lungs.
Pneumonic diseases like asthma and bronchitis are more prevalent in heavily polluted areas.

pneumothorax

n
/ˌn(y)üməˈθɔːrɑːks /
Gk
a state in which air or other gas is present in the pleural cavity.
The paramedic acted quickly to prevent a potentially debilitating pneumothorax in the accident victim.

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pochette

n
/ pō'shet /
F

kit : handbag.

Tanya carried her money and keys in a small silk pochette that matched her evening dress.

pochismo

n
/ pō'chēz(,)mō /
Sp

a term of U.S. origin borrowed into Mexican Spanish.

Juan believes that not a single pochismo adds to the beauty of the Spanish language.

pocketbook

pocketing

pockmark

podagra

n
/ pō'dagrə /
Gk

a painful condition of the big toe caused by gout.

George's podiatrist recommended changes in his diet to relieve his podagra before resorting to medication.

podium

pogamoggan

pogonotomy

pogrom

poi

poignancy

poimenics

n pl
/ pōi'meniks /
Gk

the study or application of pastoral theology.

Rather than compete with traditional theology programs, the university has started a graduate program in poimenics.

pointe

n
/ 'pwä't /
L > F

the extreme tip of the toe.

The teacher told the students to stand on pointe while she evaluated their form.

poises

n pl
/ 'pwäzəz /
F name

centimeter-gram-second absolute units of viscosity, each equal to 1 dyne-second per square centimeter.

After melting and conditioning, glass is delivered to a forming machine in a manageable shape at a viscosity of approximately 10,000 poises.

poison

pokal

polarimeter

n
/ .pōlə'rīmədə(r) /
L + Gk

an instrument for determining the amount of polarization of light.

Cagney required a very accurate polarimeter for his experiments.

polariscopic

polarizable

pole

policeman

policy

poliorcetics

polished

v
/ 'pälišt /
L > F > E

made smooth and glossy by a mechanical process usually by friction.

The wizard polished a small object vigorously on his robe.

polissoir

politely

political

politician

politicization

politicize

politico

politics

poll

pollards

n pl
/ 'pälə(r)dz /
G > E

trees that have been cut back to the trunk to promote the growth of a dense head of foliage.

Emma's frequent walks along Vicarage Lane soon acquainted her with the hedges, gates, pools, and pollards of that part of Highbury.

polling

adj
/ 'pōlɪŋ /
E

of or relating to the registering or casting of votes.

Harry got off work early to vote on polling day.

polychotomous

polycyclic

polygrapher

n
/ pə'ligrəfər /
Gk

one skilled in the use of an instrument for making a graphic record of the changes in blood pressure and pulse and respiration rate of someone being questioned under or as if under suspicion of guilt.

The law holds that the opinions of a polygrapher regarding the veracity of a person are not admissible evidence.

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

polymer

n
/ 'päləmə(r) /
Gk

a natural or synthetic chemical compound or mixture of compounds consisting essentially of repeating structural units.
Fascinated by the polymer they had created, the students tossed it from one side of the lab to the other.

polymerize

polyonymous

polypropylene

n
/ ,pälē'prōpəlēn /
Gk + ISV

a polymer of propylene; especially : such a polymer used chiefly in making fibers, films, and molded and extruded products.
Much of today's indoor-outdoor carpeting is made of woven polypropylene.

polyptych

n
/ 'päləptik /
Gk

an arrangement of four or more panels (as of a painting) usually hinged and folding together.
Pauline used an antique polyptych as a room divider.

polystyrene

n
/ ,pälē'stī.rēn /
Gk

a rigid transparent thermoplastic that has good physical and electrical insulating properties and is used chiefly in making containers and other molded products and sheet materials.
Some restaurants have stopped using polystyrene cups because they are not biodegradable.

polysyndeton

n
/ ,pälē'sindətən /
Gk

repetition of conjunctions in close succession.
"We have our passports and our money and our tickets and our luggage, and the tank is full of gas," said Mother Gazda in unconscious polysyndeton.

polyvinyl

pomeridian

adj
/ ,pōmə'ridēən /
L

blossoming after noon.
A common pomeridian garden plant is the four-o'clock that blossoms late in the afternoon.

pomiferous

pompeii

n
/ pām'pā /
It geog name
a moderate to deep reddish brown.
Nancy's favorite earth tone is pompeii.

pomposity

n
/ pām'päsədə /
L
a self-important demeanor, speech, or action.
Though he had much power, the leader exhibited no trace of pomposity.

ponceau

n
/ pän'sō /
L > F
a strong red to reddish orange.
The artificial poppies worn on Veterans' Day are of the distinct color ponceau.

poncelet

n
/ 'pän(t)slət /
F name
a unit of power in physics equal to the amount of power obtained from an output of 100 kilogram-meters per second.
Kristin's advanced physics class spent an entire week learning about units of measurement such as the poncelet, the rankine, and the barn.

poncho

ponderal

ponderance

ponderosity

ponderously

adv
/ 'pänd(ə)rəslē /
L > F > E + Ecf
in an oppressively heavy manner.
A statue of Zeus sits ponderously atop the small pavilion.

ponerology

n
/ ,pänə'räləjē /
Gk
a branch of theology dealing with the doctrine of evil.
Ponerology still made a lot of sense to Damian despite everything he had been taught about genetics and the influence of environment.

ponor

n
/ 'pō.nó(ə)r /
Serbo-Croatian
a steep-sided sinkhole.
Ms. Ventura cautioned the Scouts to avoid the ponor at the edge of the old quarry.

pontal

pontifical

pontoon

poolroom

popinjay

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

poplar

popular

populate

population

pore

poroscopy

porous

porphyous

portable

portent

n
/ 'pɔː.tənt /
L

something that foreshadows a coming event : omen.
The seer viewed the blood-red moon as a portent of evil.

portfolio

n
/ pɔːt'fɒli.ə /
L > It

a flat portable case for carrying papers or drawings.
Mr. Barnstone set his portfolio behind the door as he entered the house.

portico

n
/ 'pɔːd.ə.kə /
L > It

a colonnade or covered walkway.
The pair entered the shaded portico for a private conversation.

portion

portulaca

n
/ ,pɔːtʃə'lakə /
L

any plant of a genus of mainly tropical succulent herbs having usually yellow, pink, red, white, or purple ephemeral flowers with four to six petals.
A hanging pot by Linda's front door contained a portulaca with yellow flowers.

posit

positron

post

n
/ 'pɔːst /
E

[has near homonym: posed] a piece of timber or other solid substance (as metal) fixed or intended to be fixed firmly in an upright position especially as a stay or support.

The first step in constructing a fence is to dig a hole for each post.

postmortem

n
/ pɔːs(t)'mɔːrtəm /
L + L

an examination of a body after death to determine the cause of death or the character and extent of changes produced by disease.
The postmortem revealed that the cause of death was asphyxiation.

postnuptial

adj
/ pɔːst'nʌpʃəl /
L

made or happening after marriage.
The bride and groom posed for postnuptial photographs.

postponable

postulancy

potamologist

n
/ ,pɔːd.ə'mæləjəst /
Gk

a specialist in the study of rivers.
Fran, who knew many rivers like the back of her hand, was a potamologist.

potash

n
/ 'pɔː.əʃ /
D

potassium carbonate.
In colonial days potash was used to make soap.

potency

adj
/ 'pɔːtənsē /
L

force, power, authority.
Massed action and individual effort each has its own potency.

potentiality

potentially

adv
/ pə'tenʃəle /
L + Ecf

in a possible state or condition : with a possibility or capacity of becoming actual.
The rash on Henrietta's arm could potentially spread if not treated.

potentiometer

potiche

potoroo

n
/ ,pɔːd.ə'ru /
Australian name
any of various small Australian and Tasmanian kangaroos that are no larger than a rabbit.
The rabbit-sized potoroo forages at night for grass, tubers, and underground fungi, which it digs up with its forepaws.

potsherd

pounce

v
/ 'paʊn(t)s /
E

suddenly seize, grab, attack.
Stanley watched the owl pounce on the rat.

pour

powdery

power

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

powwows

n pl
/ 'paũ.waũz /
Algonquian
meetings or conferences for discussion : sessions.
The team holds daily powwows before practice.

practical

practitioner

pragmatic

adj
/ prag'madik /
Gk > L
practical, matter-of-fact.
Edmund took a pragmatic stance on most things in his life, especially his finances.

pragmatically

prairie

n
/ 'prerē /
L > F
a meadow or tract of grassland.
The prairie stretched out broad and flat to the horizon in every direction.

prairillon

n
/ prā'rilyən /
F
a small meadow or tract of grassland.
Baron Munchausen's ranch turned out to be a two-room shack and a weed-covered prairillon.

prais

pralltriller

prancer

prankster

prase

prate

prattle

n
/ ,prad'ɪ /
G
trifling or empty talk or chatter.
The endless prattle on the bus ride annoyed Mr. Danton.

preaudit

precarious

precariously
adv
/ prē'ka(a)rēəslē /
L
in a manner characterized by a lack of security or stability.
Teddy balanced precariously on the chair as he attempted to extract the last Oreo from the cookie jar.

precede

precedes
v
/ prē'sēdz /
L
[has near homonym: proceeds]
goes before in order of time : occurs before with relation to something.
A certain stillness precedes a tempest.

precentor

preceptor

precession
n
/ prē'seshən /
L
[has near homonym: procession] a comparatively slow gyration of the rotation axis of a spinning body.
Precession of Earth's axis will make Vega our North Star in about 13,000 years.

precessional

preciosities

precious

precipitancy

precipitant

precipitate

v
/ prē'sipətāt /
L
cause a substance to separate from a solution in a concrete state as a result of a chemical or physical change.
Calcium and magnesium ions in hard water can precipitate calcium and magnesium carbonate, often a problem in domestic water pipes.

precipitated

v
/ prē'sipətādəd /
L
caused to move or act very rapidly.
The completion of the railroad precipitated the demise of waterborne transport.

precipitation

n
/ (,)prē.sipət'āshən /
L
a deposit on Earth of hail, mist, rain, sleet, or snow; also : the quantity of water deposited.
Low-pressure areas normally bring clouds and precipitation.

precise

adj
/ prē'sīs /
L > F
devoid of anything vague, equivocal, or uncertain.
Mr. Rouse is quite precise about everything, and he has never been known to joke with a student.

preclude

v
/ ,prē'klüd /
L
prevent or hinder by necessary consequence or implication.
Being a movie star did not preclude Ronald Reagan from having a successful political career.

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

preconditioned

v
/ ,prēkən'dishənd /
L + L + Ecf
put in proper or desired condition in advance of some intended treatment.
Before new wood is painted it should be preconditioned with a primer.

predecease

predicament

n
/ prē'dikəmənt /
L
a difficult, perplexing, or trying situation.
Miss Bates, though having much public favor, stood in the very worst predicament in the world: She was neither young, handsome, rich, nor married.

preemptive

adj
/ prē'em(p)tiv /
L
being or related to a first military strike made to gain an advantage when a strike by the enemy is believed imminent.
The ability to launch a preemptive strike against a possible aggressor is a major factor in the theory of nuclear deterrence.

preemptory

prefabricate

prefabrication

preface

preferred

prehensibility

prehistory

n
/ prē'hist(ə)rē /
Lcf + Gk
an account comprising a chronological record of the preceding circumstances of an event or situation.
The prehistory of the tension between the boss and his employees includes some family issues.

prelapsarian

adj
/ ,prē.lap'sa(a)rēən /
L + Ecf
characteristic of or belonging to the time before the fall of man.
The painting depicted Adam and Eve in prelapsarian paradise.

prelude

n
/ 'prā.lüd /
L
a musical section or movement introducing the theme or chief subject.
Tycho arrived at the concert after the prelude was over.

premature

prematurely

adv
/ ,prēmə'tü(ə)rlē /
L + Ecf
before the proper time : too soon.
Not wanting to tire prematurely, the rowing crew began the race by pulling easily.

prenuptial

prepaid

prepare

preparations

n pl
/ ,prepə'rāshənz /
L
actions or processes of making something ready for use or service.
Tina's preparations for the party included decorating the room and baking the cookies.

preponderance

preposition

prepossessing

adj
/ ,prēpə'zesiŋ /
L
tending to please or arouse confidence : creating a favorable impression.
With her impeccable carriage and her prematurely white hair, Lydia was a prepossessing figure at the political convention.

preprandial

adj
/ prē'prandēəl /
L
of, relating to, or suitable for the time immediately before dinner.
Before the main course, Benito served a preprandial soup.

prerequisite

n
/ prē'rekwəzət /
L
something that is mandatory beforehand.
A Juris Doctor degree is a prerequisite for the practice of law.

presbyopia

Presbyterian

adj
/ ,prezbə'tirēən /
Gk
of, relating to, or constituting a Protestant church that is governed by a graded system of representative ecclesiastical bodies and is traditionally Calvinistic in doctrine.
While in college, William grew interested in becoming a Presbyterian minister.

prescribe

prescriptive

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

preserve

v
/ prē'zərv /
L

can, pickle, or similarly prepare (as fruits or vegetables) for future use.
Beverly hurried to preserve her bumper crop of peaches before they became overripe.

pressurization

prestigious

presumptuous

presylvian

pretender

preterient

preterlabent

adj
/ ,prēd-ə(r)'lābənt /
L

flowing beside or by.
Mr. Ross pumped water from a preterlabent stream to irrigate his vegetable garden.

prettier

pretzel

n
/ 'pretsəl /
L > G

a glazed usually salted bakery product made of a rope of dough typically twisted into a form resembling the letter B.
Brian munched on a large pretzel as he watched his favorite television program.

prevail

v
/ prē'vāl /
L

be or become effective or effectual : be successful.
The attorney was confident that justice would prevail in the case.

prevailing

prevaricator

previous

prevocalic

prey

v
/ 'prā /
L > F > E

make raids for the sake of booty.
Pirates prey on the coastal shipping off Somalia's coast.

prickle

priggish

primacy

primatial

primatologist

n
/ ,prīmə'täləjəst /
L + Gk

a specialist in the study of members of the order Primates especially other than recent humans.
Jane Goodall's many years of studying chimpanzees has made her the world's most famous primatologist.

primero

primeval

primogeniture

n
/ ,prīmō'jenə.chù(ə)r /
L

the state of being the firstborn of the children of the same parents.
In British law, male primogeniture is used to determine inheritance of real estate and titles.

princely

principle

prionodont

priority

priory

priscan

adj
/ 'priskən /
L + Ecf

dealing with or existing in ancient times.
Professor McCowan is an expert on druidism and other priscan religions of Britain.

prism

n
/ 'prizəm /
Gk > L

a transparent body that is bounded in part by two nonparallel plane faces and is used to refract or disperse a beam of light.
The prism cast an array of colors on the tablecloth.

prisoner

n
/ 'priz(ə)nə(r) /
L > F > E

a person held under arrest or in prison.
For good behavior at the penitentiary, the prisoner was released after serving one-third of his sentence.

privet

n
/ 'privət /
unknown

an ornamental Eurasian and northern African shrub that is used extensively for hedges and has half-evergreen leaves and small white flowers.
Oliver planted privet along the edge of his front yard.

privileged

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

privileges

n pl
/ 'priv(ə)lijəz /
L

various fundamental rights considered as peculiarly guaranteed and secured to all persons (as the enjoyment of life and liberty and the right to pursue happiness).
Patrick Henry was convinced that the colonists must fight if they wished to preserve inviolate the privileges for which they had been contending.

privy

adj
/ 'privē /
L > F > E

privately aware as one participating secretly.
Although she was not privy to their secrets, Alice could guess what her sisters were up to.

probability

probation

n
/ prō'bāshən /
L

the action of suspending the sentence of a convicted offender and giving the offender freedom during good behavior under the supervision of a probation officer.
Because of the extenuating circumstances, the judge decided on probation instead of a prison sentence.

probationer

probity

n
/ 'prōbədē /
L

uprightness, rectitude.
Mr. C. Z. Armand is a man of indisputable probity.

procacious

procacity

procathedral

processus

proclaim

procrastination

procrypsis

prodigy

prodromal

adj
/ prō'drōməl /
Gk

precursory; especially : of, relating to, or marked by warning symptoms of a disease.
Half of the people who have heart attacks have had prodromal symptoms ranging from nausea and dizziness to chest pressure.

production

profert

professional

professor

professorial

adj
/ ,prōfə'sōrēəl /
L
didactic, learned.

The eminently professorial volume on verb tenses in English was impractical for those learning English as a foreign language.

proffer

proficient

adj
/ prə'fishənt /
L
[has near homonym: perficient]
well advanced in an art, occupation, skill, or a branch of knowledge.

Many educators feel that it is imperative for grade school children to become proficient in more than one language.

profile

profligate

adj
/ 'prāfləgət /
L

completely given up to wild extravagance or excess.
Lord Kensington's profligate spending was the reason for the meeting with his banker.

progenitors

n pl
/ prō'jenədə(r)z /
L

ancestors in the direct line : forefathers.
The land had been in the hands of Mr. Williamson and his progenitors for several generations.

prohibit

projectile

n
/ prə'jektl /
L

a self-propelling weapon (as a rocket, torpedo, or guided missile).
The sensing device will detect any projectile larger than a football.

projicient

prolepsis

n
/ prō'lepsəs /
Gk

a figure in which a matter is set forth in summary before being stated in detail.
Putnam begins with a prolepsis, but that does nothing to ruin the suspense as the plot unfolds.

proliferate

v
/ prō'lifə.rāt /
L > F

grow by rapid or repeated production of new parts or of buds or offspring.
Blackberry vines will proliferate very quickly if they are not cut back.

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

prolocutor

n
/ prŏ'lŏkyədə(r) /
L

one who speaks, pleads, or interprets for another.
The prolocutor for the department of public works explained that the bridge would be under repair for the next several weeks.

prolong

Promethean

adj
/ prŏ'mēthēən /
Gk > L

daringly original.
Daryl's success as an inventor is largely the result of his Promethean approach to problem solving.

promising

promissory

promotion

prompter

n
/ 'präm.(p)tə(r) /
L > E

one who reminds another of the words to be spoken next; specifically : one responsible for reminding actors during performance.
The prompter was surprised that none of the actors required a cue during the performance.

prone

adj
/ 'prŏn /
L > E
having the face, chest, or abdomen turned toward the ground, floor, or other supporting surface.
The paramedics turned the prone victim over so that they could administer CPR.

pronoun

pronouncement

n
/ prŏ'naun(t)smənt /
L > F > E

a usually formal declaration of opinion or judgment.
The whole town anxiously awaited Judge Milburn's pronouncement.

propellable

prophecy

prophesy

prophet

n
/ 'präfət /
Gk
[has homonym: profit] one who speaks for God or a deity : a divinely inspired revealer, interpreter, or spokesperson.
Abraham is considered a great prophet by several different religions.

propitiatory

propound

proprietary

proprieties

n pl
/ prŏ'prīədēz /
L > F > E
the customs and manners of polite society : conventionally correct behavior.
Not one to bother with proprieties, Luke is considered by most people to be downright rude.

propriety

proprioceptive

adj
/ .prŏprēə'septiv /
L + L
activated by, relating to, or being stimuli produced within the organism.
Daniel's study tested whether blindfolded subjects could use proprioceptive feedback to move one arm a prescribed distance.

propylene

n
/ 'prŏpələn /
Gk > ISV
a flammable gaseous hydrocarbon obtained by cracking petroleum hydrocarbons and used chiefly in organic synthesis.
Propylene is an important constituent of automobile antifreeze.

prorate

prosaic

proscription

n
/ prŏ'skripshən /
L
an imposed restraint or restriction : prohibition.
Judith's consulting contract includes a six-month proscription against working for a competing firm.

prosecutor

n
/ 'präsə.küdə(r) /
L
an attorney who conducts proceedings especially of a criminal nature in a court on behalf of the government.
The prosecutor asked the judge for permission to approach the bench.

proselytize

proselytizer

prosopography

prosperous

prostaglandin

n
/ .prästə'gländən /
L > E + L > E + Ecf
any of various oxygenated unsaturated cyclic fatty acids of animals that perform a variety of hormonelike actions (as in controlling blood pressure or smooth muscle contraction).
All aspirinlike analgesics inhibit synthesis and release of prostaglandin.

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

prosthesis

n
/ präs'thēsās /
Gk

an artificial device to replace a missing part of the body.
After losing his right foot in an accident, Stan had to learn to walk again with a prosthesis.

prostrate

adj
/ 'prä:strät /
L

extended in a horizontal position.
Jeremy lay prostrate on the dock and watched the fishes in the water.

prostration

n
/ prä'strāshən /
L

complete physical or mental exhaustion.
When Chris came down with the flu, she suffered from chills, fever, and prostration.

protégé

Proterozoic

adj
/ 'prädərə'zōik /
Gk

of or relating to a division of geological time from the beginning of the Huronian to the close of the Keweenawan.
Annelid worms and blue-green and brown algae lived during the Proterozoic era.

protervity

proton

protoplasm

n
/ 'prōdəplazəm /
(Gk + Gk) > G
organized living matter : the more or less fluid colloidal complex making up each cell.
Under a microscope protoplasm exhibits a variety of appearances.

protostar

protractor

proven

provender

provenience

providence

providential

adj
/ 'prävə'denchəl /
L
of, relating to, or determined by divine guidance.
Arthur's arrival in the nick of time seemed providential.

providing

province

provolone

prowl

v
/ 'praül /
E
move about or wander stealthily in the manner of a wild beast seeking prey.
Captain Andrews and his submariners were ordered to prowl the North Atlantic.

prudence

prudently

adv
/ 'prüd'ntlē /
L > F > E
in a wise or judicious manner.
Hakim prudently put suntan lotion on his ears.

pruner

pruritus

n
/ prü'rüdəs /
L
localized or generalized itching due to irritation of sensory nerve endings.
Alie applied an ointment on the rash to relieve the pruritus.

psalmist

psalterer

psammite

psammon

psammophile

pschent

n
/ '(p)skent /
Egypt > Gk
the headdress of the later Egyptian pharaohs formed of the two crowns worn by the respective pharaohs of Upper Egypt and Lower Egypt before the union of the country under one rule.
The pharaoh's statue stood 66 feet high from the feet to the pschent covering his head.

psephology

n
/ sē'fäləjē /
Gk
the scientific study of elections.
The pollster claims that prudent psephology indicates that Liberals may lose a few seats in the next election.

pseudodoxy

n
/ 'südō,däksē /
Gk
an erroneous belief; also : the holding of erroneous beliefs.
The pseudodoxy that walking under a ladder will bring bad luck is still held by many reasonable people.

pseudonym

pseudonymity

n
/ ,süd'n'imədə /
Gk + Ecf
the fact or state of being signed (as a book or other writing) with a fictitious name.
To avoid becoming a celebrity, Professor Stanton hid his science-fiction writings under the cloak of pseudonymity.

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pseudoptics

n pl
/süd'äptiks /
Gk + Gk

the study of optical illusions.
The aspiring magician was very much interested in the field of pseudoptics.

pseudosyllogism

psittacism

n
/ 'sid.ə.sizəm /
Gk > L

automatic speech without thought of the meaning of the words spoken.
Daniela was alarmed that her pledge of allegiance to the flag had become mere psittacism.

psittacosis

n
/ .sid.ə'kōsəs /
Gk > L

an infectious disease of birds that is transmissible to man.
Vincent's doctor has had him under observation since his macaw was diagnosed with psittacosis.

psychagogy

psychalgia

psychoanalysis

psychology

psychotogenic

psyllium

n
/ 'silēəm /
Gk

[has homonym: cilium] an Old World plantain having seeds that swell and become gelatinous when moist and that are used as a mild laxative.
When a laxative is needed, health professionals recommend products that contain psyllium, a natural fiber.

pteric

adj
/ 'terik /
Gk

resembling a wing.
Hundreds of pteric maple seeds were wafting through the air in George's backyard.

Ptolemaic

adj
/ 'tälə'māik /
Gk

of or relating to Ptolemy, the geographer and astronomer.
Galileo got into big trouble by challenging the Ptolemaic view of the universe.

ptyalin

n
/ 'tīələn /
Gk > ISV

an enzyme found in the saliva of many animals including humans but not in that of horses, dogs, or cats.
Ptyalin helps in the digestion of starches.

publicist

n
/ 'pəbləsəst /
L > F

an agent employed by an individual, organization, or group to establish and maintain good public relations.
The author of the tell-all book once worked as a publicist for several rock stars.

puccon

pueblo

n
/ 'pwe(,)blō /
L > Sp

a type of town founded by Mexican Spanish settlers in the southwestern United States.
Sadly, the ancient pueblo has been abandoned by residents who have chosen to move to larger cities.

puffin

pugnacity

pulchritudinous

adj
/ 'pəlkrətüd'nəs /
L

beautiful.
The hallway in the Fall Creek Theatre is lined with posters of pulchritudinous movie stars.

pulka

n
/ 'pəlke /
Finn&Lapp

a one-person Lapp sledge shaped like half a canoe and resting on a broad board or several runners.
Timmy tried in vain to harness the St. Bernard to the pulka.

pulley

pullulation

pulpiteering

pulpitry

n
/ 'pəl.pitrē /
L

preaching.
Jack is reading a book on the art of pulpitry.

pulque

pulsate

pulsebeat

pulverized

v
/ 'pəlvə.rīzd /
L > F

destroyed by or as if by smashing into fragments : disintegrated, demolished.
The nightly news began with footage of beach homes pulverized by Hurricane Fran.

pumicite

n
/ 'pəm.əsīt /
L

a type of volcanic dust used for abrasive purposes.
The instructions recommended using pumicite to smooth the metal.

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

pumpkin

puncheon

punctiliar

puncture

pundonor

punish

punster

puny

adj

/ 'pyünē /

F

slight or inferior in size.

No one would ever guess that the strong and stocky wrestler was puny as a child.

pupa

n

/ 'pyüpə /

L

an insect in an intermediate form that is between the larval and the imaginal stages.

The pupa inside the beautiful jade shell with golden dots will soon transform into a monarch butterfly.

pupillometer

puppeteer

purblind

adj

/ 'pær.blɪnd /

L > F > E + E

lacking in vision, insight, or understanding.

Tom was despotic and purblind to the feelings of his wife and children.

purchase

purga

Purim

n

/ 'pürəm /

Heb

a Jewish festival celebrated on the 14th of Adar in commemoration of the deliverance of the Jews from the massacre plotted by Haman.

Purim has its roots in the book of Esther.

puritanical

adj

/ ,pyürə'tanəkəl /

L + Ecff

morally rigorous, strict.

Mrs. Langley is a puritanical woman who tolerates no nonsense from her students.

purl

v

/ 'pərl /

unknown

do knitting in a stitch that creates a swirling appearance.

Claire's mom will teach her to purl now that Claire has mastered the basic knitting stitch.

purplish

purport

purported

adj

/ pər'pɔ̃(ə)rdəd /

L > F > AF

suspected of being : rumored.

The purported spies were held in custody without being provided legal assistance.

purslane

n

/ 'pərslən /

L > F > E

an annual herb widely distributed in both hemispheres whose fleshy succulent leaves are used in cooking and salads.

At the vegetarian café, Roberta ordered a delicious salad of purslane and other greens.

pursuant

pursuantly

adv

/ pə(r)'süəntlē /

L > F + Ecff

consequently.

Laura put all her effort into her writing classes; pursuantly, she won the Metzger Prize for best student journalist, but nearly failed calculus.

pursue

pursuing

pursuit

n

/ pə(r)'süt /

F > AF > E

a chasing with haste.

One of the others who was nearest the door leaped up and started in pursuit.

pursuivant

n

/ 'pərs(w)əvənt /

F > E

the lowest rank of one learning the profession of heraldry.

After studying for a year, James earned the right to be called a pursuivant.

purview

putative

adj

/ 'pyüdədɪv /

L

commonly accepted or supposed.

The putative owner of the vicious dog claimed to have never seen the animal before.

putrefaction

putrilage

n

/ 'pyütrəlɪj /

L

matter that is rotting.

The pile of putrilage squirmed with maggots and insects.

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

puzzle

v
/ 'pʌzəl /
unknown
bewilder mentally.
Mark told Mary to stop trying to puzzle his sad brains.

pyelitis

pyramidoidal

pyrexia

n
/ pɪ'reksɪə /
Gk
elevation of body temperature to an abnormal level : fever.
The veterinarian was concerned about the dog's pyrexia because it could be an indication of distemper.

pyrography

n
/ pɪ'rɒgrəfi /
Gk
the art or process of producing designs or pictures by burning or scorching with hot instruments.
Bone and ivory form good grounds for fine pyrography.

pyrolatry

pyrometer

n
/ pɪ'rɒmɛdə(r) /
Gk
an instrument for measuring temperatures.
The pyrometer is often used to measure temperatures beyond the range of a mercurial thermometer.

pyrophile

n
/ 'pɪrɒfɪl /
Gk + Gk
one who is enthusiastic over fire or fireworks.
Being a pyrophile, Brian eagerly awaited the Fourth of July fireworks display.

Pythagorean

adj
/ pə'thagə'reən /
Gk name
of or relating to the Greek philosopher Pythagorus or his philosophy.
The Pythagorean theorem states that in a right triangle, the square of the hypotenuse is equal to the sum of the squares of the other two sides.

Pythian

n
/ 'pɪθiən /
Gk
of or relating to the ancient Greek god Apollo especially as patron deity of Delphi.
The museum at Delphi contains many Pythian statues from the temple of Apollo.

pythonist

quadragenary

quadratic

quadrigamist

quadrillion

quadroon

quadrumana

quadrumvirate

quadruped

adj
/ 'kwɒdrə'ped /
L
having four feet : using four limbs when walking.
Sally's apartment lease restricts the weight of any quadruped pets.

quaff

quaffingly

quaintness

quake

qualify

qualmish

quantal

quantimeter

quantitate

quarterback

n
/ 'kwɔːdər'bæk /
L > F > E + E
a backfield player in football who usually lines up behind the center, calls the signals, and directs the offensive play of his team.
The Denver Broncos quarterback John Elway led his team to a Super Bowl championship in 1998.

quarterdeck

quarterly

quartile

quartzite

quasiquicentennial

n
/ 'kwɒskwɛ'sɛn'tɛnɪəl /
L
a 125th anniversary.
The city of Corner Brook, founded in 1873, is hosting a large celebration for its quasiquicentennial this summer.

quattrocento

n
/ 'kwɒtrɔ'ʃɛn(ɪ)tɔ /
L > It
the 15th century; specifically : the 15th-century period in Italian literature and art.
Lorenzo De Medici was one of the chief supporters of Italian art during the quattrocento.

quaver

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

quavers

n pl
/ 'kwāvə(r)z /
E

tremulous uncertainties of tone (as in the voice due to emotion).

The quavers in Leslie's voice increased as she related the accident.

quavery

quayage

queensware

quemadero

querencia

querist

quesadilla

n
/ ,kāsə'dēyə /
L > Sp

a turnover made usually with a cheese filling.

Joyce usually eats a quesadilla as an afternoon snack.

questionable

queued

quiaquia

n
/ 'kēə,kēə /
Sp

a small fusiform carangid fish of the western Atlantic related to and often included among the mackerel scads.

The quiaquia is a food fish frequently caught in the Caribbean.

quibbling

quicksand

quicksilver

quiddities

quiescently

adv
/ kwī'es⁰ntlē /
L

in a manner marked by inactivity or repose.

The virus insinuates itself into selected cells, where it may reside quiescently for prolonged periods of time.

quiet

quila

n
/ 'kēlə /
Araucan > Sp

a grass of the southern part of South America that resembles bamboo, is used as forage, and has a fiber used in making paper.

Josefina knows how to make paper from quila.

quilt

quince

quindene

quinquevir

n
/ 'kwinkwə.vi(ə)r /
L

one of a commission, council, or ruling body of five (as in ancient Rome).

When Karen was a quinquevir of her school's Student Council, she learned firsthand that too many cooks can spoil the stew.

quintal

n
/ 'kwintəl /
Ar > L > F > E
a metric unit equal to 100 kilograms.

It always makes Fred feel better to say that he weighs only 1 quintal.

quintuplet

quixote

n
/ 'kwiksōt /
Sp name

an idealistic and utterly impractical person marked by rash lofty romantic ideas or chivalrous action doomed to fail.

Because of his grandiose but unrealistic plan to eliminate poverty, the dictator has been called a "quixote."

quixotically

quixotism

quiz

quizmaster

quoddy

n
/ 'kwädē /
American geog name

an open sloop-rigged sailboat once used especially for fishing along the Maine coast.

Julia runs a business in Bar Harbor, taking tourists fishing in her quoddy.

quoit

rabanna

n
/ rə'banə /
Malagasy
a coarse matting handwoven from raffia fibers in Madagascar.
The village woman sat on a mat of rabanna and watched the children playing.

rabbinical

rabble

rabboni

rabies

racetrack

rachitogenic

racial

rackettail

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

radiation

radiator

radically

radicolous

radiesthesia

radiogoniometer

radiology

radiometer

n
/ ˌrædēˈämədə(r) /
L + Gk

an instrument for detecting and measuring the intensity of electromagnetic or acoustic radiation.

The Crookes radiometer in the form of a rotating toy survives in jewelers' windows as a supposed perpetual motion device.

radiosonde

n
/ ˌrædēˈsänd /
L + L > F > E

a miniature radio transmitter that is carried aloft (as by an unmanned balloon) with instruments for broadcasting the humidity, temperature, and pressure.

The National Weather Service uses thin neoprene balloons to raise the radiosonde to great heights.

radish

radome

radon

radzimir

raffle

rafter

raggedy

ragwort

n
/ ˈræg.wò(ə)rt /
E

any of several herbs with heads composed of flowers.
Ragwort can grow in very poor soil.

railbed

rainbow

adj
/ ˈrān.bō /
E

having the colors of the spectrum.
The chorus wore glittering robes and shiny, rainbow wings for the Christmas pageant.

rainspout

rainstorm

n
/ ˈrān.stò(ə)rm /
E + E

a storm of or with rain.
The sudden rainstorm caused flooding at many of the city's intersections.

rainy

adj
/ ˈrānē /
E

wet, showery.
After a long dry spell, the rainy weather was welcomed by everyone.

raisin

raj

rale

rallentando

rambunctiously

adv
/ ˌræmˈbʊŋ(k)ʃəs.lē /
L? > E

in an excessively exuberant manner.
The children were warned that if they behaved rambunctiously in the restaurant, they would not be allowed to have dessert.

ramentum

ramify

rampart

n
/ ˈræmpärt /
L > Prov > F

a broad embankment raised as a fortification.

With the army in retreat, the invaders surged over the rampart and into the village.

ramuscle

ranche

randomize

ranine

adj
/ ˈrā.nīn /
L

of or relating to frogs.
The ceaseless ranine chirping from the pond kept Marcus awake all night.

ranunculus

n
/ ˌrənʊŋkjələs /
L

any plant of a large and widely distributed genus of herbs that have simple or variously lobed leaves and mostly yellow flowers.
Patsy planted a ranunculus in a pot beside the kitchen door.

rapacity

n
/ ˌrəˈpəsədə /
L

the quality or state of being urgently eager for food.
Despite his rapacity, the freed prisoner limited his food intake so as not to endanger his life.

rapidity

rappee

rappel

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

rarefaction

n
/ ra(a)rə'fakshən /
L

the act or process of making rare, thin, porous, or less dense.
The rarefaction of air can be accomplished with a vacuum pump, but it is very difficult to achieve a true vacuum.

rarefy

rareripe

rariora

n pl
/ ra(a)rē'ōrə /
L

unusual collectors' items.
The old man's study contained a whimsical mixture of rariora.

rasbora

rascal

n
/ 'raskəl /
F? > E
a mean, unprincipled, or dishonest person.
The children cheered during the movie when the rascal fell to his doom.

rasher

rasorite

raspingly

adv
/ 'raspinlē /
F
in a grating harsh manner.
"Don't try me," he said in a raspingly mean voice.

ratel

n
/ 'rād'ɪ /
D > Afrikaans
any of several powerful nocturnal carnivorous mammals resembling the badger and having the pelt ash gray above and black beneath.
The ratel uses its strong claws for breaking open beehives to get its favorite food, honey.

rationalize

v
/ 'rashən'līz /
L > E
give an explanation of that conforms with reason.
Chauvinists try to rationalize racial prejudice.

rattail

rattletrap

raucity

n
/ 'rōsədē /
L
the quality or state of being disagreeably harsh or strident.
Fed up with the raucity of urban street life, the Hamiltons moved to a quiet suburb.

raucously

raunchy

raven

adj
/ 'rāvən /
E
[has homonym: ravin] of the color or sheen of the raven, a large glossy-black bird.
Callie's little sister had her heart set on the doll with raven curls.

rawhide

razor

reactionary

readily

readjourn

v
/ rēə'jərn /
L > F > E
put off further proceedings of again.
When the court reconvened at two o'clock, the defense attorney immediately asked the judge if she would readjourn the trial until the next day.

reagent

n
/ rē'ājənt /
L
a substance used for various purposes (as in detecting, examining, or measuring other substances, in preparing material, in developing photographs) because it takes part in one or more chemical reactions or biological processes.
Stuart explained that the substance used up first in the experiment is called a "limiting reagent."

realgar

realia

reamer

reassurance

n
/ rēə'shūrən(t)s /
L > Ecf + L > F > E
the action of inspiring or tending to inspire confidence again.
The coach's reassurance was all the encouragement Debbie needed to feel confident.

Reaumur

adj
/ 'rāō.myū(ə)r /
F name
relating or conforming to a thermometric scale on which under standard atmospheric pressure the boiling point of water is at 80 degrees above the 0 of the scale and the freezing point is at 0.
Cecelia converted Celsius degrees into Reaumur degrees by multiplying by four and dividing by five.

rebidable

reblochon

rebuff

rebuke

recalcitration

recamier

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

recant

v
/ rə'kant /
L
withdraw or repudiate (a statement or belief) formally and publicly.
The witness decided to recant her testimony when she was shown the photograph of the suspect at the scene of the crime.

recede

v
/ rə'sēd /
L
move back or away.
Buck watched the water recede as the tide went out.

receivable

recency

reception

recession

recessional

recessive

reclamation

reclusive

adj
/ rə'klusiv /
L
marked by seclusion or retirement : solitary.
The reclusive movie star had not given an interview for years, but the media camped out in her driveway nonetheless.

recollective

recommend

recommended

v
/ rekə'mendəd /
L
advised, counseled.
The doctor recommended that Robert get more sleep.

recommitment

n
/ rēkə'mitmənt /
L + Ecf
the act of pledging again to give support to some policy or cause.
The president urged a recommitment of the United Nations to the basic principles of human welfare.

recompensable

reconcilable

recoup

v
/ rē'küp /
F
compensate (as oneself) for something (as expenses, losses).
Dorene did not expect to recoup her day-trading losses immediately.

recrement

n
/ rekrəmənt /
L
superfluous matter separated from that which is useful.
Slag is the recrement produced in smelting iron ore.

recriminate

v
/ rə'krimənāt /
L
make a counter accusation : charge back a fault or crime against an accuser.
Though she believed her accuser to be the guilty party, Chelsea refused to recriminate.

recriminatory

adj
/ rə'krimənətōrē /
L
having the character or nature of a counter accusation.
When charged with insubordination, the soldier filed recriminatory charges against his commanding officer.

recruit

rectification

n
/ rektəfə'kāshən /
L
the act or process of making or setting right (as by correcting an error or amending a fault).
Todd called the newspaper's editor to seek rectification of the erroneous article.

rectifier

n
/ 'rektəfī(ə)r /
L
a device for converting alternating current to direct current.
A vacuum tube can act as a rectifier in electronic machinery.

rectirostral

adj
/ rektə'rästrəl /
L + L
having a straight beak.
Dowitchers are rectirostral shore birds that feed in mud or shallow water.

rectitude

n
/ 'rektätüd /
L
strict observance of standards of integrity and honesty.
Abraham Lincoln was renowned for his moral rectitude.

rectitudinous

recumbent

adj
/ rə'kəmbənt /
L
lying down.
Several sheep, recumbent in the field, were roused and herded into their pen for the night.

recumbentibus

n
/ rekəm'bentəbəs /
L
a knockdown blow.
The little old lady gave the purse snatcher a recumbentibus that stunned witnesses and made her a folk hero.

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recuperation

n
/ rə'k(y)ü.pə'rāshən /
L

restoration to health or strength.
The doctor told Ernesto that his recuperation after the skiing accident would take about two months.

recurs

v
/ rə'kərz /
L

happens or takes place again.
Nikki has made great progress in stopping her nail biting, but it is a problem that recurs now and then.

recyclable

adj
/ rē'sik(ə)ləbəl /
L + Gk + Lcf
capable of being processed in order to regain material for human use.
Each office in the building has its own receptacle for recyclable paper.

redaction

n
/ rə'dakshən /
L
an act or instance of putting into a different written form.
Cindy did not realize that the musical was a redaction of an 18th-century novel.

redeeming

redemption

redivivus

redolence

redouble

redound

redowa

n
/ 'redəwə /
Czech > F > F
either of two popular Bohemian ballroom dances of the 19th century.
To Erica's complete surprise, Ronald danced the redowa very skillfully.

reduce

redundant

adj
/ rə'dəndənt /
L
exceeding what is necessary or normal : superfluous.
The newspaper article proved to be more redundant than informative, stating the same facts in several different ways.

reek

v
/ 'rēk /
E
give off a strong, often offensive odor.
Antiperspirant ads create the impression that the human body will reek with sweat if the advertised product is not used.

reeled

reenactment

n
/ rēə'nak(t)mənt /
E
the process of performing again.
The evening performance featured a reenactment of the role the actor had made famous.

refectory

n
/ rə'fekt(ə)rē /
L
a dining hall in a monastery, convent, or religious college.
Brother Neil returned to the refectory for dinner.

refer

referendum

n
/ .refə'rendəm /
L
a popular vote on a measure passed upon or proposed by a legislative body or by popular initiative.
A referendum in Clay County raised the minimum age for purchasing alcohol to 21.

referral

referred

reflect

v
/ rə'flekt /
L
think quietly and calmly.
Jimmy took time to reflect on his life goals.

reflector

reflorescence

reflorescent

refractor

n
/ rə'fraktə(r) /
L
a telescope in which the principal focusing element is a lens that is usually an achromat with crown glass and flint glass components.
The world's largest refractor has an aperture of 40 inches.

refrain

refrigerate

refringent

refugee

refugeeism

refund

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refurbish

v
/ rē'fərbish /
L > F > E + Gmc > F > E
brighten or freshen up : renovate.
Jeanne decided to refurbish her bedroom with handmade curtains and a new coat of paint.

refusal

refute

v
/ rə'fyüt /
L
overthrow by argument, evidence, or proof.
Try as he might, Richie could not refute his parents' decision that he could not attend the party.

regaled

regelation

regiminal

regisseur

n
/ rāzhē'sər /
L > F
director : one that supervises the production of a show with responsibility for action, lighting, music, rehearsals, and generally for giving substance to the conception of the author.
The regisseur met with the lighting manager to discuss various ways of using light to convey the mood of the scene.

register

registered

registration

reglementary

regnant

regressive

regular

rehabilitant

reify

v
/ rēə'fī /
L
regard an abstraction or mental construction as a thing : convert mentally into something concrete or objective.
Success in advanced mathematics may depend on the ability to reify abstract concepts.

reign

reimbursable

adj
/ rēəm'bərsəbəl /
L
subject to repayment.
Agatha's medical insurance company did not consider a face-lift a reimbursable expense.

reins

n pl
/ 'rānz /
L > F > E
[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word. In addition, word has homonyms: rains, reigns.] position of command.
For some who have held the reins for so long, it is difficult to give up power.

rejoinder

rejuvenescent

relative

relaxed

relentlessly

adv
/ rə'lentləslē /
E
in a mercilessly hard or harsh manner.
Frank relentlessly teased his sister.

relevant

relieve

religion

relinquished

v
/ rə'liŋwɪshd /
L > F > E + Ecf
let go of physically : stopped holding : released.
When the sled came to a stop, Bowser relinquished his hold on Brian's snow jacket.

relinquishing

reliquiae

n pl
/ rə'likwəē /
L
remains of the dead : organic remains : relics.
Years after the war in Vietnam, reliquiae are still being sent back to the United States.

reliquian

reluctantly

adv
/ rə'ləktəntlē /
L
unwillingly, grudgingly.
Elena reluctantly shared her candy bar with her little brother.

rem

n
/ 'rem /
acronym
the dosage of any ionizing radiation that will cause the same amount of biological injury to human tissue as 1 roentgen of X-ray or gamma-ray dosage.
The rem takes into account the relative biologic effectiveness of ionizing radiation.

remanence

rembrandt

n
/ 'rem.brənt /
D name
a dark grayish brown that is slightly less strong than average chocolate brown.
The color rembrandt is similar to the dark backgrounds of paintings by the artist of the same name.

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remediless

adj
/ 'remədəlēləs /
L + Ecf
having no relief or cure :
irreparable.
*Maria's whining can make the
slightest difficulty seem remediless.*

remember

v
/ rə'membə(r) /
L > F > E
bring to mind again : think of
again.
*Lonny could not remember the time
of his haircut appointment.*

remigrant

reminder

remittent

remittent

remittitur

remnant

remonstrance

remonstrate

remontant

adj
/ rə'mänt'nt /
F
flowering again.
*Gretchen bought several remontant
roses for her garden.*

remora

n
/ 'remərə /
L
any of a family of marine fishes
that have the front upper fin
modified into a suctional disk by
means of which they cling
especially to other fishes.
*While receiving a free ride on the
shark, the remora rid it of the
parasites on its skin.*

remorseless

adj
/ rə'mó(ə)rsləs /
L > F > E + Ecf
having no distress arising from
guilt for past wrongs.
*The vandals seemed to be
remorseless, for they laughed when
the judge sentenced them.*

remote

remuda

n
/ rə'müdə /
L > Sp
the herd of saddle horses from
which are chosen those to be used
for the day by the ranch hands : a
relay of remounts.
*The foreman told Jorge to go to the
corral and choose another horse
from the remuda.*

remunerate

remunerative

adj
/ rə'myünə.rədɪv /
L
serving to pay an equivalent for a
service, loss, or expense.
*The governor instituted a new
program to help welfare recipients
into remunerative employment.*

renal

adj
/ 'rēnəl /
L
of, relating to, or involving the
kidneys.
*Renal arteries divide into four or
five branches and enter the hilum
of the kidney.*

renascent

rend

v
/ 'rend /
E
divide (as a nation) into parties.
*The dispute over the need for a new
educational wing will probably
rend the church's congregation
permanently.*

rendition

renegade

n
/ 'renə.gād /
L > Sp
an individual who rejects the
restraints of law or convention.
*Shana wanted people to think she
was a renegade, so she dyed her
hair purple.*

renewal

reniform

adj
/ 'renə.fɔrm /
L
resembling a mammalian kidney in
shape;
specifically : bean-shaped in
outline.
*Highest on the preschool teacher's
wish list was a reniform table.*

renovate

renowned

adj
/ rə'naund /
E
celebrated.
*Lake Geneva is a renowned inland
sea.*

renunciant

renunciatory

reparative

repartimiento

repatriate

repatriation

repeal

repeater

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

repentant

adj
/ rə'pentənt /
L

experiencing contrition for one's sins together with the dedication of oneself to the abandonment of unworthy purposes and values and to the amendment of one's life.
When Scarlett O'Hara finally understood what Rhett Butler meant to her, she was repentant for the many wrongs she had done him.

repercuss

repercussion

n
/ rɛpə(r)'kæʃən /
L

an impact, action, or effect given or exerted in return : a reciprocal action or effect.
Danny kicked Raul out of the club without fear of repercussion.

repetend

repetiteur

n
/ rɛ.pədə'tɔː /
L > F

a singing coach; especially : one who coaches singers in operatic roles.
As part of her comeback strategy, the diva hired a famous repetiteur.

replete

adj
/ rɛ'plɛt /
L

fully or abundantly provided : well supplied.
The test preparation booklet is replete with examples of various types of questions.

replicate

v
/ 'rɛpləkāt /
L

duplicate, repeat.
For an experiment to be considered valid, scientists must be able to replicate it independently.

repose

n
/ rɛ'pōz /
L

a state of rest.
Caleb headed for the hammock, hoping he could enjoy a few hours of much-needed repose.

representative

n
/ .rɛprə'zɛntədɪv /
L > F > E
one that serves a constituency as a member of a governing body.
Brady felt honored when he was elected to be his homeroom's representative to student council.

reproachable

repugnant

repugnatorial

repulsion

reputable

reputation

n
/ .rɛpyə'tāʃən /
L
a particular character in popular estimation or ascription.
The old dilapidated house had a reputation for being haunted.

reputed

adj
/ rɛ'pyüdəd /
L
held in estimation.
Frans hails from one of the most reputed law firms in the state.

requesting

requisition

n
/ .rɛkwə'zɪʃən /
L
a written request for something (as materials, supplies, or personnel) authorized but not made available automatically.
The teacher filled out a requisition for the supplies to be requested on a purchase order.

requital

reredos

resupper

rescissible

rescission

n
/ rɛ'sɪʒən /
L
an act of annulling or of cancelling.
Bob's comment about his mom's rescission of his restrictions is wishful thinking.

rescissory

reservoirs

resignation

resiliently

resolutive

resolvancy

resolve

v
/ rɛ'zɔlv /
L
find an answer to, clear up, or successfully deal with.
Blair's role as a professional mediator is to resolve disputes between two or more parties.

resonant

adj
/ 'rɛz(ə)nənt /
L
continuing or capable of continuing to sound.
Rory marveled at the resonant tone of the church bells.

resorcinol

n
/ rɛz'ɔrsə.nəl /
(L + It? + Lcf + L?) > ISV
a soluble crystalline acidic compound obtained from various resins or artificially and used especially in making dyes, pharmaceuticals, and resins.
Resorcinol is now commonly used in making adhesives for wood.

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

resort

resourcefulness

n
/ rē'sō(ə)rsfəlnəs /
L > F + Ecff
fertility in devising ways and means.

Ingmarie's resourcefulness made up for her lack of artistic experience.

respectable

respirometer

n
/ .respə'rämədə(r) /
L + Gk
an instrument for studying the character and extent of the consumption of oxygen.
Eggs and seeds have been studied using a respirometer.

resplendent

responsible

restaurant

n
/ 're.strənt /
L > F
an establishment where refreshments or meals may be procured by the public : a public eating house.
Health inspectors visited Nellie's restaurant three times before they would allow it to reopen.

resurgency

resurrect

v
/ .rezə'rekt /
L > E
raise from the dead : restore to life.
Emily hopes to resurrect the plans for the Junior-Senior Banquet.

resurrected

v
/ .rezə'rekdəd /
L
brought to view, attention, or use again.
Martha made a dessert from a resurrected recipe in a newspaper clipping from the 19th century.

resuscitable

adj
/ rə'səsədəbəl /
L
capable of being revived from apparent death or from unconsciousness.
The rescued swimmer was unconscious but considered resuscitable.

retainer

retaliate

retaliator

retaliatory

reticent

retinitis

retorts

n pl
/ rə'tò(ə)rts /
L
quick sharp witty cutting or severe replies.
Alison's retorts quickly got on Mrs. Turner's nerves.

retributive

retrieval

retrocede

v
/ .retro'sēd /
L
give back (a territory or jurisdiction) usually by treaty.
In 1783 Great Britain agreed to retrocede to Spain all the territory that Spain had turned over to Great Britain in 1763.

retrograde

adj
/ 'retro'grād /
L
moving, directed, or tending in a backward direction.
The soldiers fought a retrograde action.

retroussage

revehent

revelatory

adj
/ rə'velə.tōrē /
L
serving to disclose something (as character or conditions).
Revelatory interviews with gang members brought to light their goals, routines, and mentality.

revelrous

revelry

n
/ 'revəlrē /
E
boisterous merrymaking.
The revelry at campaign headquarters began after the arrival of the winning candidate.

revendicate

v
/ rə'vendəkāt /
L > F
recover by a formal demand for restoration.
After German reunification, many who had emigrated to the West during the Cold War attempted to revendicate their former homes.

reverberance

review

v
/ rē'vyü /
F
[has homonym: revue] study anew.
Isidora did not have time to review her lecture notes before the exam.

revision

revisory

revivalist

revivifier

revolution

n
/ .revə'lüshən /
L
completion by a celestial body of an orbit or elliptic course.
The year is defined as the time it takes for Earth to make one revolution around the Sun.

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

revolver

revolving

revuist

revulsion

reward

rhabdoid

adj

/ 'rab.dòid /

Gk + Gk > Ecf

shaped like a rod.

Tests indicated that Jeremy had a rhabdoid tumor in his kidney.

rhadamanthine

adj

/ .radə'man(t)thèn /

Gk name

rigorously just.

Though the students did not always like Mrs. Moss's decisions, they respected her rhadamanthine judgment.

rhagadiform

rhapsodic

adj

/ rap'sädik /

Gk

extravagantly emotional :

rapturous.

The singer grew rhapsodic as he sang of the virtues of his beloved.

rhapsodize

rhapsody

rhathymia

rheostatic

rhesus

n

/ 'rēsəs /

Gk > L

a pale brown Asian monkey often used in medical research.

A rhesus was the first monkey to be rocketed into the stratosphere.

rhetorical

rhetorically

adv

/ rə'tòrək(ə)lē /

Gk + Ecf

in a manner using the art of expressive speech or discourse.

Susan threw up her hands and asked rhetorically what would happen to her next.

rheum

n

/ 'rüm /

Gk

[has homonym: room] a watery discharge from the mucous membranes especially of the eyes or nose.

Catarths and colds are marked by rheum as well as other symptoms.

rhinal

adj

/ 'rín¹l /

Gk

of or relating to the nose.

The rhinal cavity lies between the cranium and the roof of the mouth and extends from the nostrils to the pharynx.

rhinencephalon

n

/ .rín.ən'sefəlän /

Gk

the anterior inferior part of the forebrain that is chiefly concerned with the sense of smell.

An electrode was inserted into the rhinencephalon during the experiment.

rhinologic

rhinoplasty

rhinorrhagia

n

/ .rínə'rāj(ē)ə /

Gk > L

nosebleed.

After the fifth round the boxer had to be treated for rhinorrhagia.

rhinoscopy

rhinotracheitis

rhizomatous

adj

/ rī'zāmədəs /

Gk > L

having the characteristics of or resembling a somewhat elongate usually horizontal subterranean plant stem.

Canna, certain types of iris, and the calla lily are all rhizomatous.

rhizome

rhodopsin

n

/ rō'däpsən /

Gk + Gk

a red photosensitive pigment in the retinal rods of marine fishes and most higher vertebrates that is important for vision in dim light.

A deficiency of vitamin A results in a loss of rhodopsin and could lead to night blindness.

rhonchus

n

/ 'ränkəs /

Gk > L

a whistling or snoring sound heard on auscultation of the chest when the air channels are partly obstructed.

When the doctor detected a rhonchus with his stethoscope, he suspected pneumonia.

rhyparography

rhythmic

adj

/ 'rīthmik /

Gk

marked by pronounced rhythm : regularly recurrent.

The rhythmic movements of the waltz were very soothing to Laurie after dancing the mashed potato.

rhythmical

rhytidome

rhyton

ria

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

riant

adj
/ 'riənt /
L

pleasingly mirthful.
The riant hostess spread good cheer from guest to guest throughout the evening.

ribaldry

ribbon

ricketiness

rickey

riddle

riddling

ridiculousity

ridiculously

adv
/ rə'di:kjələslē /
L > F
in an absurd, laughable, or preposterous manner.
The professor was ridiculously absent-minded and became the butt of many jokes.

rifamycin

riffraff

righteousness

rightfully

rigidify

rimosely

rimulose

adj
/ 'rimyə,lōs /
L
having small chinks or fissures.
With a magnifying glass the rimulose structure of the lichen became apparent.

rimy

rinseau

rind

rinderpest

ringent

ringleader

rinse

riot

rioter

riotous

rippling

adj
/ 'rip(ə)liŋ /
Flemish?
having a fretted or highly ruffled surface.
The rippling stream held plenty of trout, beaver, and crayfish.

ripsnorter

riptide

risibles

risorgimento

n
/ (,)rē.sò(r)jə'men(,)tō /
L > It
a time of renewal or renaissance : revival.
During the Victorian Age the English novel experienced a risorgimento.

ritardando

adv
/ .rē.tār'dän(,)dō /
L > It
with a gradual slackening in tempo.
"Again! You must play that passage ritardando," the conductor exhorted.

ritual

n
/ 'rich(ə)wəl /
L
the forms of conducting a devotional service especially as established by tradition : the prescribed order and words of a religious ceremony.
The Passover seder is filled with spoken ritual and symbolic foods.

ritualistic

ritzy

rivalless

adj
/ 'rival(l)əs /
L + Ecf
being without a competitive equal.
The young Russian couple was considered rivalless in the world of ice dancing.

riverbank

rivet

n
/ 'rivət /
F > E
a headed pin or bolt of some malleable material used for uniting two or more pieces.
Mr. Churchill placed a rivet in Mrs. Bates's spectacles, which have never been at fault since.

riviera

n
/ .rivē'erə /
L > F > Mediterranean geog name
a coastline much frequented as a resort area and usually having a mild climate.
Students flocked to the Florida riviera during spring break.

roadster

robbery

n
/ 'rāb(ə)rē /
F > E
the act of stealing by violence or threat of violence.
The FBI was called in to help solve the armored car robbery.

robust

rocketry

roguery

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

roguish

adj
/ 'rɔ̃gish /
unknown
dishonest, unprincipled.
The roguish salesman tried to convince Barbara that the car was in perfect condition.

roguishly

roister

rollicking

romaine

romantic

romeo

n
/ 'rɔ̃mē.ō /
Shakespearean name
a man's slipper or shoe with a high backing quarter, high front, and usually U-shaped elastic gores at the sides.
The romeo on display was made of one piece of black felt.

rondeau

n
/ 'rān(.)dō /
F
[has homonym: rondo] a fixed form of verse usually of 15 lines.
Shona sat up half the night polishing the rondeau she would read the next day aloud to the class.

rookery

n
/ 'rùkərē /
F > E
a breeding ground or common haunt of gregarious birds or animals (as rooks, herons, penguins, or seals); also : a colony of such birds or animals.
Construction of the factory will jeopardize the rookery.

roque

n
/ 'rɔ̃k /
F
croquet played on a hard-surfaced court having a raised border used as a cushion in bank shots.
The city athletic club allows members to play roque on the roof.

rorqual

n
/ 'rɔ̃rkwəl /
ON > Norw > F
any of a family of large baleen whales (as a blue whale or humpback whale) having the skin of the throat marked with deep longitudinal furrows.
A rorqual filters its food out of the water by means of baleen plates growing down from the roof of its mouth.

rosaceous

adj
/ rɔ̃'zāshəs /
L
of, relating to, or resembling a rose, especially in having a five-petaled regular corolla.
Apple, pear, peach, and cherry trees have rosaceous blossoms.

roseate

adj
/ 'rɔ̃zēət /
L
overly optimistic or pleasing.
The commentator seemed roseate as he predicted a quick end to the strike.

roseleaf

roseroot

n
/ 'rɔ̃z.rüt /
Gk > L > E + ON > E
a perennial fleshy herb whose subterranean parts have a floral odor.
Lorna planted roseroot along the sidewalk.

rosette

rosinante

rosorial

rotatable

rote

rottweiler

n
/ 'rät.wī.lə(r) /
G geog name
a dog of the breed of tall vigorous black cattle dogs having short hair, tan or brown markings, a short tail, and small drooping ears.
Sam's rottweiler was an imposing guard dog.

rotunda

roturier

rouleau

n
/ rü'lō /
F
[Note: Plural form can be pronounced identically.] a roll of coins put up in paper.
Rhea counted her dimes and found that she had enough for a rouleau.

rounce

roundabout

adj
/ 'raundə.baüt /
E + E
deviating from a straight line or course.
The storm forced the pilot to take a roundabout path.

roundlet

n
/ 'raundlät /
F > E
a 15th-century hat for men with a round padded edge and loose drapery forming the crown and hanging over the edge.
Fashionable men in the mid-15th century wore pleated, fur-trimmed tunics, fitted hose, and on their heads, the roundlet.

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roundsters

n pl
/ 'raʊn(d)ztə(r)z /
E + Ecff
the privilege in marbles of shooting from any point on the ring line.
If your shooter goes outside the ring line, you may take roundsters.

rouse

v
/ 'raʊz /
E
kindle to intensity : excite, inflame.
The producer of the documentary on poverty hopes to rouse passion among many viewers for the long term.

rousing

roussette

rout

route

routine

n
/ rʉ' tēn /
F
a standardized piece of entertainment or showmanship; specifically : a theatrical number.
An emcee introduced each routine in the variety show.

routinely

routinize

roux

n
/ 'rʉ /
F
[has homonyms: roo, rue] a mixture of flour and fat cooked sometimes until the flour browns and used to thicken soups and sauces.
After deglazing the pan with white wine, Graham added a roux made of flour and butter.

rowdyism

royale

royalty

rubble

n
/ 'rəbəl /
E
broken fragments of stone and other matter resulting from the decay or destruction of a building.
The unkempt man sitting on a pile of rubble is a reporter who is doing a feature story on the homeless.

rube

rubescence

rubicelle

Rubicon

n
/ 'rʉbəkən /
L
a bounding or limiting line; especially : one that when crossed commits a person to an irrevocable change or decision.
Alta put off choosing a college major because she felt that to do so would be crossing the Rubicon.

rubify

rubricated

v
/ 'rʉbrəkədəd /
L
provided with a heading distinguished by being done in a color (as red) different from the rest of the text or by some other device.
Mr. Byas was certain that the rubricated manuscript was written by Celia, an especially creative student.

rubrofugal

ruction

n
/ 'rəkʃən /
L?
a noisy rough-and-tumble fight.
A fierce ruction broke out in the angry crowd, and the police had to intervene.

ruddy

adj
/ 'rədə /
E
having or marked by a reddish color associated with the glow of good health or a suffusion of blood (as from exercise, excitement, exposure).
Working in the sugarcane fields has given Caleb a ruddy complexion.

rudenture

rudiments

n pl
/ 'rʉdəmənts /
L
fundamental skills taught or learned (as in an elementary school).
Reading, writing, and arithmetic are the rudiments of elementary school education.

rued

v
/ 'rʉd /
E
[has homonyms: rood, rude] felt regret for.
How many a man has committed himself on a short acquaintance and rued it all the rest of his life!
rueful
adj
/ 'rʉfəl /
E
feeling or expressing sorrow or pity : mournful.
Grandpa grew a bit rueful as he recalled the missed opportunities of his life.

rufescent

adj
/ rʉ'fesənt /
L
reddish.
Minga decided to apply more sunscreen to her shoulders when she saw how rufescent they looked.

ruffianize

ruffianly

ruffled

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

rugged

adj
/ 'rʌgəd /
Scand > E
harsh, ungentle.
The welder's rugged demeanor belied his warm heart.

rumfustian

runic

adj
/ 'rʌnik /
ON&E + Ecf
relating to an alphabet of angular characters used for inscriptions and magic signs by the Germanic peoples from about the 3rd to the 13th centuries and especially by the Scandinavians and Anglo-Saxons.
Runic research in the '30s and '40s was so tainted by Nazi ideology that the information from this period is considered useless to any serious student of Teutonic lore.

rupicolous

adj
/ rʌ'pɪkələs /
L + L
living among, inhabiting, or growing on rocks.
The crayfish is a rupicolous crustacean.

rustication

rustling

n
/ 'rʌs(ə)lɪŋ /
E
[has near homonym: wrestling] the stealing of cattle.
When the sheriff was informed about the rustling, he assembled a posse to round up the thieves.

rutherford

n
/ 'rʌθə(r)fə(r)d /
E name
a unit strength of a radioactive source corresponding to 1 million disintegrations per second.
Avery could easily calculate radioactive strength to the nearest rutherford, but it was difficult for him to conceive just how fast 1 million disintegrations per second really was.

ruthful

ruthless

adj
/ 'rʌθlʌs /
E
merciless, pitiless.
Thomas was ruthless in the honesty with which he declared his opinions.

rutile

rutted

adj
/ 'rʌtəd /
F?
having or marked by tracks worn by a wheel or by habitual passage of anything.
He guided them along one of five narrow ledges, all of which led to a grooved and rutted plateau.

rye

sabin

n
/ 'sābən /
Am name
[Note: Alternate pronunciation has homonym: sabine.] a unit of acoustic absorption equivalent to the absorption by 1 square foot of a perfect absorber (as an open window).
In sound absorption, calculations measured by the sabin, reverberation time, and volume of the room are critical factors.

sabot

n
/ sa'bō /
F
a wooden work shoe worn in various European countries.
An ill-fitting sabot can cause painful blisters.

saccharimeter

saccharine

saccharinity

n
/ ,səkə'rinədə /
Skt > Pali > Gk > L+ Ecf
the quality or state of being sweet : sweetness.
Amy said that she couldn't finish her chocolate dessert because its saccharinity was too much for her taste.

saccharoid

sackbut

sackcloth

sacrament

sacred

adj
/ 'sākɹəd /
L
devoted exclusively to the service or use (as of a particular person, purpose, or group).
The fund organizers promised that all the monies collected would be sacred to charity.

sacrilegious

sacristan

n
/ 'sākɹəstən /
L
an officer of a church in charge of the room where the sacred utensils and vestments are kept.
The sacristan counted the communion plates at the end of the service and stacked them on a shelf.

sadiron

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sadistic

safeguard

n
/ 'sɑ:f.gɑ:rd /
F > E

a means of protection against something undesirable.
The police wore bulletproof vests as a safeguard against terrorist attacks.

saffian

saga

n
/ 'sɑ:gə /
ON

an episodic story centering about a usually heroic figure of earlier ages.
Rubin traced the motif to a 13th century Icelandic saga.

sagely

adv
/ 'sɑ:jlē /
L > F > E

in a wise or prudent manner.
Vera invested her savings sagely.

saiga

n
/ 'sɑ:gə /

Jagatai > Russ
a sheeplike antelope of Siberia and eastern Russia having ringed horns and tufts of long hair beneath the eyes and ears.
The most outstanding feature of the saiga is its swollen snout with downward-directed nostrils.

sailboat

sala

salariat

salary

n
/ 'sal(ə)rē /
L

fixed compensation paid regularly for services.
When Henrik switched over to a salary, he earned less than when he was paid by the hour.

saliferous

adj
/ sə'lif(ə)rəs /
L

producing, impregnated with, or containing salt.
The tour guide recommended that the tourists resist the urge to taste the saliferous formations in the mine.

sallow

adj
/ 'sa(,)lə /
E

of a grayish greenish yellow color suggesting sickliness—usually used of the skin or complexion.
Neil's lethargy and sallow skin alarmed his mother.

saloon

saltatory

adj
/ 'saltə.tōrē /
L

of or relating to dancing.
Tiffany, dressed in her new leotard, took a few saltatory steps around the living room.

saltcellar

saltimbocca

n
/ ,sɔltim'bä(k)kə /

It
scallops of veal prepared with sage, slices of ham, and sometimes cheese and served with a wine sauce.
Connor took a second serving of saltimbocca from the buffet.

saltire

salubrious

salutatorian

n
/ sə.lüdətōrēən /
L + Ecf

the graduating student who is usually second highest in rank and who in some institutions delivers the salutatory oration.
No one was more surprised than Sharonne when she was named salutatorian of her class.

salute

salvageable

adj
/ 'sɔlvijəbəl /
L > F + Ecf

capable of being rescued or saved especially from wreckage or ruin.
After the tornado hit their neighborhood, the residents returned to look for anything salvageable.

samara

sameness

sanative

sanatory

sanctimony

sanctuary

sandbar

sandhi

sane

sanglier

sangria

sanicle

n
/ 'sanəkəl /
L > F > E

[has near homonyms: cenacle, cynical] any of several plants reputed to have healing powers.
A sanicle by the name of "black snakeroot" yields a drug that is used to treat St. Vitus's dance.

sanity

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

Santeria

n
/ ,sante'rēə /
AmerSp

a religion practiced originally in Cuba.
Santeria identifies Yoruba deities with Roman Catholic saints.

sapajou

n
/ 'sapə,jü /
Tupi > F

a long-tailed South American monkey with the hair on its crown resembling a monk's cowl—called also “capuchin.”
Some zoologists believe that the sapajou is the most intelligent of the New World monkeys.

sapient

sapling

saponify

v
/ sə'pänəfī /
L > F

convert (as a fat or fatty acid) into soap.
The chart indicated that 12 ounces of lye would completely saponify an ounce of the fat in question.

saponin

n
/ 'sapənən /
L > F

any of numerous glycosides that occur in many plants (as soapbark, soapwort) that are characterized by their properties of foaming in water.
The hiker found some soapbark, pounded it underwater with a rock to release the saponin, and used the resulting suds for a satisfying bath.

sapphirine

sappy

sapremia

saprogenic

saprophytic

sarcastic

sarcolysis

n
/ sär'käləsəs /
Gk
the disintegration or dissolution of muscular tissue.
Examination of the patient's heart revealed areas of advanced sarcolysis.

sarcoma

n
/ sär'kōmə /
Gk
a malignant tumor arising in connective tissue and especially in bone, cartilage, or striated muscle.
The sarcoma in Pat's arm was treated early enough to prevent serious impairment.

sarcophilous

sardonically

adv
/ sär'dänək(ə)lē /
Gk > F
in a manner characterized by derision or scorn : with an attitude disdainfully or skeptically humorous.
Nancy remarked sardonically that the best economic situation for the country would be a major war.

Sardoodledom

n
/ sär'dü'dlədəm /
F name
mechanically contrived plot structure and stereotyped or unrealistic characterization in drama : melodrama.
Excellent acting and directing masked the play's Sardoodledom.

sarrusophone

sashimi

n
/ 'säshəmə /
Jpn
raw fish served as an appetizer and usually accompanied by a condiment.
At the reception, waiters in black tie passed trays of sashimi and other hors d'oeuvres.

Sasquatch

n
/ 'sas.kwäch /
Halkomelem
a large hairy humanlike creature that is reported to exist in the northwestern United States and western Canada—called also “bigfoot.”
Periodically, someone reports that they have seen Sasquatch.

satisfactorily

satisfy

satori

n
/ sə'tōrē /
Jpn
sudden enlightenment and a state of consciousness attained by intuitive illumination representing the spiritual goal of Zen Buddhism.
The primary method of achieving satori is through the use of koans—riddles that enhance meditation.

saturator

Saturnian

n
/ sə'tərnēən /
L
a hypothetical inhabitant of the planet Saturn.
A Saturnian was the villain in Margaret's story about life in space.

saturnism

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

sault

n
/ 'sü /
L > F > E
[has homonyms: Sioux, sou, sue] a fall or rapid in a river.
The canoeists, taken by surprise, barely made it through the sault.

sauna

sauntered

v
/ 'söntə(r)d /
E
walked about idly and in a leisurely manner.
Count von Saurau sauntered along the shore with not a care in the world.

saurophagous

sauterelle

savagely

adv
/ 'savijlē /
E
in a ferocious manner.
Nora struck her father savagely with her little fists.

savant

sawdust

sawyer

saxifrage

n
/ 'saksəfrɪj /
L
a member of a genus of plants with showy five-part flowers and usually with leaves growing in tufts close to the ground.
Many types of saxifrage grow well in rocky alpine soil.

saxifragous

scabbling

scabrid

scaffolding

scagliola

n
/ skal'yōlə /
Gmc > It
an imitation of ornamental marble used for floors, columns, and other ornamental interior work.
After a few years the scagliola in the hotel lobby began to look shabby.

scalable

scalare

scalariform

scald

v
/ 'sköld /
L > F > E
bring (a liquid) to a temperature just below the boiling point.
To make perfect cocoa, first scald the milk.

scalded

scalepan

scallion

scalper

scanty

scapegoat

scarabaeiform

adj
/ .skarə'bēə.fōrm /
L + E
resembling a family of stout-bodied beetles of subsocial habits (as the tumblebugs).
One or more scarabaeiform beetles were regarded by the ancient Egyptians as symbolic of resurrection and immortality.

scarcely

scatheless

adj
/ 'skāthləs /
ON > E
[Note: Speller might confuse first component with scath.] being without injury or damage : unharmed.
Fortunately, the Wagner family survived the earthquake scatheless.

scattered

scavenger

scenarist

scene

scenery

schapping

schedule

schematic

schematically

schloss

n
/ 'shlɒs /
G
a German castle or manor house.
Gretchen and Anders returned to the schloss after a hard day of skiing.

schnauzer

schneider

n
/ 'shnɪdə(r) /
G
failure of the loser of a game of gin rummy to score any point.
If the loser has failed to score, the game is a shutout, or schneider, and the winner's total score is doubled.

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

scholar

n
/ 'skälə(r) /
Gk
[has near homonym: sculler] one who has engaged in advanced study and acquired the minutiae of knowledge in some special field along with accuracy and skill in investigation and powers of critical analysis in interpretation of such knowledge.
Darlene's goal is to be a renowned Shakespeare scholar.

scholarship

scholastic

scholium

school

n
/ 'skül /
Gk > L > E
[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word.] a large number of one kind of fish or other aquatic animals swimming or feeding together.
A school of dolphins surfaced alongside the yacht and accompanied it for about five minutes.

schuyt

scissel

scissile

sclerodermatous

adj
/ ,sklirō'dərmədəs /
Gk + Gk
having a hard external covering (as of bony plates or horny scales).
The armadillo is a good example of a sclerodermatous animal.

scobiform

scoff

scopolamine

n
/ skə'pälə.mēn /
It name + G > ISV
an alkaloid occurring in certain plants that is used in the prevention of motion sickness.
Cindy took scopolamine before the long car trip.

scorched

scordatura

scorekeeper

scornfully

adv
/ 'skò(ə)rnfələ /
Gmc > F > E + Ecff
contemptuously, disdainfully.
When Ken complained that he was too tired to continue playing, the others scornfully called him a "baby."

scorpion

scotoma

scoundrelly

scourged

v
/ 'skərjd /
L > F > E
subjected to severe criticism or satire.
Even Tom's friends found his campaign speech, which scourged the school administration, inappropriate.

scramasax

scrape

n
/ 'skrāp /
ON > E
[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word.] a bare place or hollow made by scratching or digging.
Carrie watched in awe as a doe and four baby rabbits emerged from a scrape.

scraper

scrapie

scrawl

scree

n
/ 'skrē /
Scand
a heap of stones or rocky debris lying on a slope or at the base of a cliff.
The climbing instructor cleared the slope of scree before allowing the novices to begin their ascent.

screwdriver

scribbleative

scribbled

scribe

scrimpy

adj
/ 'skrimpē /
Scand
small or barely sufficient in size or quantity.
The living room was too scrimpy for a couch.

scripophily

n
/ skri'päfələ /
L + Gk
a collection of old stock and bond certificates.
The rarest item in Jill's scripophily is a General Motors stock certificate from 1918.

scripture

scrivenery

scrobiculate

adj
/ skrō'bikyələt /
L
having numerous shallow grooves or depressions : pitted.
A golf ball is scrobiculate.

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

scrofulous

adj
/ 'skrɒfjələs /
L

having a diseased run-down appearance.

The mayoral candidate promised to rehabilitate the city's scrofulous neighborhoods.

scrounge

scrubbing

scrumptiously

scruple

scrutable

scrutiny

n
/ 'skrüt(ə)nē /
L

a searching study or inquiry : investigation.

Close scrutiny revealed that the new edition of the textbook was not significantly different from the old edition.

scuba

scudded

v
/ 'skədəd /
Scand?

moved or ran swiftly especially as if driven forward.

Behind the trees, clouds scudded frantically across the sky.

scullion

n
/ 'skəlyən /
L > F > E

a kitchen helper.

Dru's first job was working as a scullion in a local restaurant.

scumble

v
/ 'skəmbəl /
D > E

soften the lines or colors of (a drawing) by rubbing lightly (as with a finger).

The art teacher showed her students how to scumble an area of canvas to achieve a softer effect.

scurried

scurviness

scutage

n
/ 'skyü:dij /
L

a tax or fine levied against one who does not render required military service.

The young man resolved to pay the scutage rather than join the duke's army.

scuttle

Scylla

n
/ 'silə /
Gk name

a destructive peril—usually used as the alternative to Charybdis.

With no good outcome possible, Chester found himself caught between Scylla and Charybdis.

scythestone

n
/ 'sɪθ.stōn /
E + E

a whetstone for sharpening a scythe.

The scythestone was cut from a fine-grained porous sandstone.

seagirt

searingly

adv
/ 'siəriŋlē /
E + Ecf

in a manner causing withering or drying.

The noonday sun blazed searingly on the withered corn.

seaweed

seaworthiness

secant

secesh

secluded

seclusive

secrecy

n
/ 'sekɾəsē /
L > E

the habit or practice of maintaining privacy or concealment.

Secrecy seems to be inherent in government administration.

secret

secretary

secrete

secretory

secretum

sect

n
/ 'sekt /
L

a group within an organized religion whose adherents recognize a special set of teachings or practices.

The Dead Sea Scrolls were written by a Jewish sect that split from the mainstream over matters of sacrifices and ritual purity.

sectator

secular

secured

sedan

sedate

sedative

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

sederunt

n
/ sə'dirənt /
L

a prolonged sitting (as for relaxation, reading, or discussion).
The seat under the vine trellis is Mark and Linda's favorite place for an evening sederunt.

seemingly

seepage

segetal

segment

segmentate

adj
/ 'segmən.tāt /
L

composed of constituent parts into which a body is or may be divided : section, division.
The segmentate abdomen of an insect may have as many as 11 divisions.

segno

segregable

segregate

seidel

seigneur

n
/ sēn'yər /
L > F

[has near homonyms: saner, senior, senor] a lord or gentleman.
Phillip's expensive clothes and imposing personality gave him the air of a grand seigneur.

seismic

seize

seized

sejunction

selenium

n
/ sə'lēnēəm /
Gk

a nonmetallic toxic element that is related to sulfur and tellurium and resembles them chemically.
Selenium is used chiefly as a pigment and in photoelectric cells, rectifiers, and other electronic devices.

selfish

selfless

adj
/ 'selfləs /
E

having no concern for self.
Gail's selfless actions during the flood earned her the gratitude of all her neighbors.

semainier

n
/ sə'men(,)yā /
L > F

a tall chest with seven drawers for use in a bedroom or dressing room.
Sylvia purchased an antique semainier and used it for storing her hosiery and undergarments.

semantic

semanticist

semantics

n pl
/ sə'mantiks /
Gk > F

the study dealing with the relations between signs and what they refer to, the relations between the signs of a system, and human behavior in reaction to signs.
A student survey revealed that the topic of body language was the most interesting aspect of the course in semantics.

semblance

semicircle

seminar

n
/ 'semənär /
L

a group of advanced students studying a subject under a professor, each doing some original research, and all exchanging results by informal lectures, reports, and discussions.
Competition for acceptance in the spy novel seminar was intense.

semiotics

n pl
/ ,se.mē'ädiks /
Gk

a general philosophical theory of signs and symbols that deals especially with their function in both artificially constructed and natural languages.
Dr. Perry's paper on semiotics was well received at the linguistics seminar.

semitropical

adj
/ ,semē'tröpəkəl /
L + Gk > L + Ecf

of, relating to, or being the regions bordering on the tropical zone.
The Conways are planning to spend their retirement years in semitropical Florida.

sempiternal

semplice

senatorial

senescing

senility

n
/ sə'nیلədē /
L

the loss of mental faculties associated with old age.
Grandpa Wilson's confused mental state and lapses of memory were taken to be signs of encroaching senility.

senium

sensation

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

sensational

sensile

sensitometer

sensorium

sensuous

sentimentality

separability

n
/ ,sep(ə)rə'bilədē /

L
the quality or state of being capable of being detached or disassociated.
One of the most widely held religious beliefs is the separability of the soul from the body.

separation

separatory

sepiment

septennate

septic

adj
/ 'septik /

Gk
characterized by or producing bacterial decomposition.
Septic action takes place at the bottom of a septic tank.

septicennial

septifragal

Septuagint

n
/ sep't(y)üəjənt /

L
a Greek translation of the Jewish Scriptures prepared in the third and second centuries B.C. by about 70 Jewish scholars.
The Septuagint was intended to satisfy the needs of the Greek-speaking Jews of Egypt whose knowledge of Hebrew was inadequate.

septum

n
/ 'septəm /

L
the bony and cartilaginous partition between the nasal passages.
Morris complained of a sharp pain in his septum.

sequitur

n
/ 'sekwədə(r) /

L
an inference that follows from a premise.
Given that there is no water on Mars, a sequitur that can be drawn is that on Mars there is no life as we know it.

sequoia

serendipity

n
/ ,serən'dipədē /

Ar geog name
an assumed gift for finding valuable or agreeable things not sought for.
In the movie Paris When it Sizzles, Audrey Hepburn's character defines serendipity as "waking up in the morning and seeing there's a whole new day and going absolutely ape."

serenely

adv
/ sə'renlē /

L + Ecf
in a calm or peaceful manner.
The balloon ride was serenely smooth.

serenity

n
/ sə'renədē /

L
the quality or state of being calm or peaceful.
Nothing ruffled the serenity of her expression.

serial

n
/ 'sirēəl /

L
[has homonym: cereal] a motion picture or radio or television play presented in a number of successive installments or continued indefinitely.
Mom has for years been a devotee of the serial Days of Our Lives.

sericulture

n
/ 'serəkəlchə(r) /

L + E
the production of raw silk by raising silkworms.
About A.D. 550 two Persian monks smuggled silkworms out of China in their hollow bamboo canes, and sericulture was begun in Constantinople.

serious

adj
/ 'sirēəs /

L > F
[has homonyms: cereous, Cereus] grave in disposition, appearance, or manner.
Even the perennially serious clergyman showed some lightheartedness at the church picnic.

seriously

serotonin

n
/ ,sirə'tōnən /

L + L
a brain chemical that serves as a neurotransmitter, the lack of which may cause depression.
In animal studies, scientists discovered that low serotonin levels may be associated with impulsive or risky behavior.

serpentarium

serpentine

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

serpentine

adj
/ 'sɜrpən.tēn /

L
winding or turning one way and another.
All the tourists love to drive down the steep serpentine street.

sertulum

n
/ 'sɜrchələm /

L
a collection of scientifically studied plants.
The health food experts designed a sertulum of all cruciferous vegetables.

serval

n
/ 'sɜrvəl /

L > Pg > F
[has homonym: servile] a long-legged African wildcat having large ears and a tawny black-spotted coat.
The serval is a nocturnal hunter, preying on birds, rodents, and hares.

servant

service

n
/ 'sɜrvəs /

L > F > E
[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word.] the act of putting the ball in play in any of various net or court games (as tennis).
Serena foot-faulted twice during the service.

servitor

servomotor

n
/ 'sɜr(ɪ)vō.mōdər /

L
a power-driven mechanism that supplements a primary control operated by a comparatively feeble force.
The servomotor that powers Sassan's toy robot burns out frequently.

sesame

sesamoid

adj
/ 'sesə.mōid /

Gk
of, relating to, or being a nodular mass of bone or cartilage in a tendon especially where the tendon passes over a joint or some bony prominence.
The doctor decided that the sesamoid mass was not impairing the use of Maria's elbow and did not need to be surgically removed.

sesquilateral

sessile

adj
/ 'sesəl /

L
permanently attached : not free to move about.
Sea anemones are sessile and must wait for their food to come to them.

seston

n
/ 'se.stən /

Gk > G
minute material moving in water and including both living organisms (as plankton and nekton) and nonliving matter (as plant debris or suspended soil particles).
The high concentration of seston in the lagoon gave it a cloudy appearance.

seta

n
/ 'sedə /

L
any of numerous slender typically rigid or bristly and springy parts of animals or plants.
The microscope made each seta on the body of the caterpillar stand out.

setaceous

setigerous

setscrew

settee

settleable

settlement

settlers

n pl
/ 'sed'lə(r)z /

E
those who first move into a new region : colonists.
The settlers sat about on the wooden sidewalks in the little town and complained about the land and the weather.

several

adj
/ 'sev(ə)rəl /

L > F > E
consisting of an indefinite number more than two and fewer than many usually of the same class or group.
The grade distribution on the final exam was two A's, several B's, and one C.

severe

adj
/ sə'vi(ə)r /

L
strict or uncompromising in judgment, discipline, or government.
Archibald's temper was severe and arbitrary.

sevillana

n
/ ,sävē(l)'yänə /

Sp
the seguidilla as played or danced in Seville.
As a child, Margarita learned to dance the sevillana.

sexagenarian

sextant

n
/ 'seksənt /

L
an instrument for measuring altitudes of celestial bodies from a moving ship.
Chaucer was an expert in the use of the sextant.

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

sfumato

n
/ sfü'mä()tō /
L > It

the definition of form without abrupt outline by delicate gradation from light to shadow.

The museum guide pointed out Leonardo's use of sfumato.

shabbiness

shadowy

adj
/ 'shadəwē /

E
fleeting, imaginary, unsubstantial.
Rob awoke to see a shadowy figure recede into his closet.

shaggy

shaky

shaman

n
/ 'shämən /
Russ or Tungus
a priest-doctor who uses magic to cure the sick, to divine the hidden, and to control events that affect the welfare of the people.
The modern-day shaman is a community healer.

shamateurism

shameful

shapely

shavetail

Shavian

adj
/ 'shävēən /
Latinized E
of, relating to, or characteristic of the British writer George Bernard Shaw or his writings.
Lucinda's acting in the role of a Shavian heroine amazed her parents.

sheath

sheathing

sheepishly

sheldrake

shellacking

shepherd

shiatsu
n
/ shē'ät()sü /
Jpn

a massage with the fingers applied to those specific areas of the body used in acupuncture.

Ramona's acupuncturist recommended regular sessions of shiatsu to keep her neck muscles relaxed.

shield

shimmery

shine

v
/ 'shīn /
E
emit rays of light.
In the mountains the stars shine brighter than they ever do in the city.

Shinto

n
/ 'shin.tō /
Jpn
the indigenous religion of Japan characterized by the reverence of deified nature spirits and sprits of ancestors and its great antiquity but lack of an historical founder or organized teachings.
The sun goddess is regarded as the chief deity of Shinto.

shipmate

shipyard

shirr

shirring
n
/ 'shərɪŋ /
unknown
a decorative gathering of material as at the top of a drapery.
Rachel was happy to see that her new sewing machine had an attachment for creating shirring.

shoaly

shoddiness

shoddy

adj
/ 'shädē /
unknown
employing, consisting of, or made by hasty or unsound methods.
The nuclear reactor will be put on line despite rumors of shoddy construction.

shogi

n
/ 'shōgē /
Jpn
Japanese chess played on a board of 81 squares with 40 pieces to the set.
Alexander's grandparents like to play shogi on the handmade set they bought in Kyoto.

shogunate

shoji

n
/ 'shōjē /
Jpn
a paper screen serving as a wall, partition, or sliding door.
Teruko bought a beautifully painted shoji for her mother.

shoofly

shoplifter

shortsighted

shovel

shovellike

showery

adj
/ 'shäu(ə)rē /
E
abounding with frequent showers of rain.
November turned out to be a dismally cold and showery month.

shredder

shrewd

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

shrewish

adj
/ 'shrüish /
E

resembling or having the characteristics of an ill-tempered, scolding woman.

Because Della is naturally ill-tempered, she had no difficulty acting the part of the shrewish neighbor.

shrillness

shroff

shroud

shrubbery

n
/ 'shrəb(ə)rē /
E

a growth of low usually several-stemmed woody plants : hedge.
When the child had passed through the gate in the shrubbery, she found herself in great gardens.

shuttle

shuttlecock

n
/ 'shədʰl.käk /
E + E

a feathered object with a rounded base that is volleyed back and forth with rackets in badminton.
With a quick flick of her wrist, Jenna sent the shuttlecock flying across the net.

shyster

sialic

sialoid

adj
/ 'sīə.lóid /
Gk > L

resembling saliva.
The many snails in the garden have left a map of sialoid trails across the walkway.

siamang

n
/ 'sēəmɑŋ /
Malay

a black gibbon of Sumatra that is the largest of the gibbons and has the second and third toes partially united by a web.

A remarkable feature of the siamang is its expandable throat sac that is used to produce a resonant, booming call.

siderography

sidewalk

sierra

n
/ .sē'erə /
L > Sp

a mountainous region.
Mountain goats constitute the largest animal population in the high sierra.

sieve

sigh

n
/ 'sī /
E

[has homonym: psi] a deep and prolonged audible inspiration and expiration of air especially when involuntary and expressing some emotion or feeling (as grief, yearning, weariness, or relief).
The teacher's deep sigh was a sign that she would tolerate no more nonsense.

sighingly

sight

sigillate

sigillation

sigillography

sigmatism

sigmoid

adj
/ 'sig.móid /
Gk

curved like the letter c.
The flower had a round sigmoid stem.

significance

Sikhism

n
/ 'sē.kizəm /
Skt > Hindi

a monotheistic religion of India founded about A.D. 1500 and marked by rejection of idolatry and caste.

The last month of the world religion class was devoted to Sikhism.

silo

silverite

silvicolous

simian

simianity

similiter

similitude

n
/ sə'milə.tüd /
L

a visible likeness : image, semblance.
Federal law prohibits anyone from making a copy or document that is a similitude of U.S. currency.

simoniacal

simony

n
/ 'sīmənē /

Biblical name
the buying or selling of a church office or ecclesiastical preferment.
In the late 11th century, church reformers railed against the practice of simony.

simperer

simplicity

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

simulate

v
/ 'sɪmyələt /

L
give the appearance or effect of : imitate.

Pegs in oak flooring simulate pioneer construction.

sincerely

sinewy

sinfonietta

n
/ ,sɪnfən'yedə /

It
an orchestral musical composition of less than standard length or for fewer instruments.

While the audience was returning to their seats we encouraged them with a brief sinfonia.

singe

v
/ 'sɪnj /

E
burn (something) superficially or lightly as to remove the hair or down from (an animal or fowl) by passing over a flame.

Kate's grandmother recalled the days when her job was to singe chickens after they had been plucked.

singultus

sinister

sinistroular

sinkhole

sinologist

siphonapterology

n
/ ,sɪfənaptə'räləjē /
Gk > L + Ecf

a branch of entomology that is concerned with fleas.
Siphonapterology has discovered that the rabbit flea and the shrew flea limit their infestation to only the one particular host species.

sippet

siren

sirenian

n
/ sɪ'rɛnɪən /

L
[has homonyms: cyrenaean, cyrenian] any of an order of aquatic herbivorous mammals including the manatee, dugong, and Steller's sea cow.

The future of the sirenian in Florida is in doubt because of the increasing boat traffic.

sish

sitcom

site

situated

sitzmark

sixsome

n
/ 'sɪks.səm /

E + E
a group of six persons.
The sixsome performed an interesting roundelay of medieval origin.

skandhas

skating

skeet

skeeter

skein

skeiner

sketch

n
/ 'skech /
It > D

a slight theatrical piece having a single scene; especially : a comic often burlesque variety act typically developed around a mishap and involving a small cast or a single performer.
The most hilarious sketch in the show was the one on a driving lesson.

skeuomorph

n
/ 'skyüə.mɔrf /

Gk
an ornament or design representing a utensil or implement.

Eve's favorite pin has a skeuomorph of a garden spade and rake.

skiagram

n
/ 'skɪə.gram /

Gk
a shadowgraph made by X rays : an X-ray photograph.

The breaks in Jody's left tibia and fibula showed up clearly in the skiagram.

skiagraphy

skiffling

skimpy

skinnery

skipjack

skirreh

skull

skycap

n
/ 'skɪ.kap /
ON > E + L > E

one who is employed to carry hand luggage at an airport.
Furley called for a skycap after he had retrieved his suitcase.

skylight

n
/ 'skɪ.lɪt /
ON > E + E

the general background of illumination of the nighttime sky that includes light from both natural and artificial forces.
The skylight was too intense in the city to see many stars.

skyscraper

slapdashery

slatterly

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

slaughter

slaughterous

adj
/ 'slɔːdərəs /
Scand > E
of, relating to, or characterized by mass killing and bloodshed.
After the slaughterous battle the remaining invaders retreated to their ships.

slavery

slavish

adj
/ 'slævɪʃ /
Slav > Gk > L > F > E
requiring hard work : laborious.
"A slavish concern for the composition of words is the sign of a bankrupt intellect," roared the Humbug.

sleeve

sleeveless

sleigh

slender

adj
/ 'slendə(r) /
E
not fleshy or large of bone.
Because Waldo had such a slender build, he never tried on anything but the slim sizes when he went clothes shopping.

slenderize

v
/ 'slendə.rɪz /
E + Ecf
make narrow in circumference or width in proportion to the length or height.
Peter used a lathe to slenderize the candlestick.

slentando

slide

slimy

adj
/ 'slɪmē /
E
of, relating to, resembling, or being slime : viscous, glutinous.
Many people mistakenly think that snakes have slimy skin.

slingshot

slippery

slithery

slope

sluggard

smalto

smaragdine

adj
/ smə'ɹægdən /
L
of or relating to emerald : yellowish green in color like an emerald.
Legend has it that Alexander the Great found a smaragdine tablet containing 13 sentences considered to be basic principles in Greek alchemy.

smarmy

smelt

smirky

smitham

smithereens

n pl
/ ,smɪθə'rɛnz /
IrGael
bits, fragments.
Elden's mother refuses to allow him to play video games in which people or things are blown to smithereens.

smock

smooth

smother

v
/ 'smʌθə(r) /
E
destroy the life of by depriving of air.
The firefighter warned that the toxic smoke in the building would smother anyone in a matter of seconds.

smudgily

smuggle

snappish

snatch

snazziness

sneakiness

sneeze

v
/ 'snēz /
E
make a sudden spasmodic expiration of breath through the nose.
Kaye refused to read magazines containing scented ads for perfumes because the strong fragrances made her sneeze.

sneezeweed

snidery

sniffle

snippet

snobbery

snooperscope

snooperly

snoove

snore

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

snort

v
/ 'snò(ə)rt /
E
force air violently through the nose with a rough harsh sound.
As many cartoons depict, the bull really does snort and paw the ground when he is angry.

snouch

snowbound

snowdrift

n
/ 'snō.drɪft /
E + E
a bank of drifted snow.
The snowdrift completely covered the fire hydrant.

snowstorm

n
/ 'snō.stò(ə)rm /
E + E
a storm of falling snow.
The overnight snowstorm caused a two-hour delay of the school's opening.

snubbed

snuffle

v
/ 'snəfəl /
E
draw in forcibly through the nostrils especially audibly and repeatedly.
A hungry dog will sometimes snuffle and gulp vigorously when fed, seeming to inhale its food.

soakage

soapbox

n
/ 'sōp.bäks /
E + Gk > L > E
an improvised platform used by a self-appointed, spontaneous, or informal orator.
Ned needed no encouragement to leap upon his soapbox and hold forth on any subject.

soapstone

soave

soberingly

sobriety

n
/ sə'brīədē /
L
the quality or state of being free from the influence of intoxicating beverages.
At times the drunkard wished he could lead a life of sobriety.

socialite

societal

adj
/ sə'sīəd'ɪl /
L > F + Ecf
of or relating to a community with common interests.
Both candidates promised to cure the most vexatious societal woes.

society

sociocracy

n
/ .sōs(h)ē'ākɹəsē /
L + Gk
the application of scientifically determined principles promoting the interests of society as a whole.
Graham insisted that sociocracy was the answer to most of modern society's problems, while Melissa argued that increased philanthropy would accomplish more faster.

sociocrat

sociogenesis

sociologist

n
/ .sōsē'äləjəst /
L + Gk
a specialist in the science of society, social institutions, and social relationships.
The pioneering sociologist Emile Durkheim was born in France in 1858.

sociology

Socratic

adj
/ sə'kradɪk /
Gk name
of or relating to the philosopher Socrates or his philosophy or his followers.
The Socratic method of instruction, simply put, enables the learner to express what he already knows.

sodden

sodium

soilure

soily

soiree

n
/ swä'rā /
L > F
an evening party or reception.
When the band's new album was released, the record company sponsored a soiree to celebrate the occasion.

sojourn

solar

adj
/ 'sōlər /
L
[has homonym: soler] of, derived from, or relating to the Sun and its effects especially on Earth and other celestial bodies.
A solar diagonal is an attachment for a telescope which permits observation of the Sun by discarding most of the unwanted heat and light.

solarium

sole

soleiform

soleil

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

solemn

adj
/ 'säləm /
L

marked by full realization and acceptance of all that is involved.
Donald looked solemn as he apologized to the class.

solemnly

solenoglyph

solenoid

n
/ 'sölənóid /
Gk

a coil of wire commonly in the form of a long cylinder that carries a current.
It took a long time to trace the power failure to a faulty solenoid.

soleprint

solfeggio

solicit

solicitude

n
/ sə'lisə.tüd /
L

uneasiness of mind due to fear.
Having few wants, he had little cause for solicitude.

solipsist

n
/ 'söləpsəst /
L + L

an adherent or advocate of an extreme version of subjective idealism.
To Traci, the sculptor was nothing more than an affected solipsist, pawning off junk as art.

solitary

adj
/ 'sälə.terē /
L

single, individual, sole.
The road raced ahead in a series of gentle curves that began to look familiar, and off in the distance a solitary tollbooth appeared.

solmizate

v
/ 'sälmə.zāt /
L > F

sing using a set of syllables to denote the tones of a musical scale.
In the musical The Sound of Music, Maria composes a song called "Do Re Mi" to teach her young pupils to solmizate.

soloist

n
/ 'söləwəst /
L > It + Ecf

one who performs with no partner or associate.
Charles is an occasional soloist in his school's modern dance performances.

Solomonic

adj
/ 'sälə'mänik /

Heb name
marked by notable wisdom, reasonableness, or discretion especially under trying circumstances.
Naeem's Solomonic solution to a workplace disagreement earned him a reputation as a peacemaker.

solution

solve

v
/ 'sälv /
L > E

find an answer, solution, or explanation for.
The algebra teacher asked her class to solve five word problems, but only one student got a perfect score.

solvency

n
/ 'sälvənsē /
L

the quality or state of being able to pay all legal debts.
After Jack's financial setbacks, he determinedly struggled back to solvency.

somatotonic

adj
/ sə'madə.tīp /
Gk

exhibiting a pattern of aggressiveness, love of physical activity, vigor, and alertness.
With his somatotonic personality, Brian gets more done before nine in the morning than most people get done all day.

somatotype

n
/ 'sömədə.tīp /
Gk

body type : physique.
Considering Phil's thin, slight build, the physician classified his somatotype as ectomorphic.

sombra

n
/ 'sämbərə /
L > Sp

the shady side or section of a bullfight arena.
Richard was glad he had a seat in the sombra.

sommelier

n
/ .sóməl'yā /
L > Prov > F

a waiter in a restaurant who has charge of wines and their service.
The sommelier at L'Escoffier is famous for his knowledge of rare and unusual European wines.

somniferous

adj
/ säm'nif(ə)rəs /
L

tending to induce sleep.
For most of July the city baked in somniferous heat.

somniphath

n
/ säm'nipəthē /
L

abnormal or disordered sleep (as in a hypnotic state).
Sleeping with open eyes is normal for Aaron, not some sort of somniphath.

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

somnolent

adj
/ 'sæmnələnt /
L
tending to induce drowsiness or sleepiness.
Jeff could feel his eyelids getting heavier as he listened to the somnolent sermon.

sonable

sonata

sonnet

n
/ 'sänət /
L > OP
a fixed verse form of Italian origin consisting of 14 lines.
Thomas remembered memorizing in high school a sonnet about Triton and a wreathed horn.

sonobuoy

n
/ 'sänəbüi /
L + Gmc > F > E
a float equipped with a hydrophone for detecting underwater sounds and an automatic radio transmitter for transmitting the sounds.
The airman dropped a sonobuoy over the submarine's last known location.

sontag

sophomoric

adj
/ .säf(ə)'mōrik /
Gk
exhibiting a firm and often aggressive conviction of knowledge and wisdom and being unaware of limitations and lack of maturity.
Cora's sophomoric analysis irritated the other board members.

sorbefacient

sorbitol

sordid

sorehead

sorely

adv
/ 'sō(ə)rɪlē /
E
severely, violently.
Mongo was sorely vexed when faced with criticism.

soricine

sororal

adj
/ sə'rōrəl /
L + Ecf
of, relating to, or being in the relationship of a sister.
Due to their strong sororal bond, Melanie and Lynette are aware of each other's emotions, even though they live in different parts of the country.

sororate

sorrow

sorrowful

adj
/ 'sārōfəl /
E
full of or characterized by uneasiness or anguish due to loss (as of something loved or familiar).
The author described his mother as a sorrowful, pathetic soul, plagued by bad luck.

sortilege

soterial

adj
/ sō'tirēəl /
Gk
of or relating to salvation.
After the offertory the choir sang a soterial hymn.

soul

soundproof

soupcon

source

sourly

adv
/ 'sau(ə)rɪlē /
E
in an unpleasant distasteful manner.
Lee sourly puckered up his mouth and walked away.

sovereign

sowback

soybean

sozzle

spaceport

spadiceous

adj
/ spā'dishəs /
Gk > L
of a bright clear brown or a chestnut color.
Madeline found a spadiceous feather, which she thought was from a hawk.

spanspek

spar

spareribs

n pl
/ 'spa(a)(r).ribz /
G > E
a cut of pork ribs and breastbone separated from the bacon strip.
Today's featured items in the cafeteria are spareribs and peach pie.

sparkler

sparring

sparrow

spasm

spasmolysis

spasmolytic

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

spasms

n pl
/ 'spazəmz /
Gk > L > F > E
sudden violent and temporary activities : bursts.
The spasms of pain Terry is experiencing are caused by a spinal injury.

spasticity

spathe

spatiography

spearhead

n
/ 'spi(ə)r.hed /
E + E
the sharp, pointed tip of a long, thin hurling weapon.
Ada found an ancient spearhead near the riverbank.

specialize

specie

specific

adj
/ spə'sifik /
L
[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word.] being any of various arbitrary physical constants and especially one relating a quantitative attribute to unit mass, volume, or area.
Specific gravity is defined as the ratio between the weight of a substance and the weight of an equal volume of water at 4 degrees Celsius.

specificity

n
/ ,spesə'fisədē /
L + Ecff
the quality or state of being free from ambiguity.
Mr. Spence values specificity in his students' essays.

speciosity

speckled

spectacles

n pl
/ 'spektəkəls /
L
glasses that are supported by the ears.
The pair of spectacles in the antique shop were very small with round lenses and gold frames.

spectacular

adj
/ spek'takyələr /
L
of, relating to, or constituting a remarkable or noteworthy sight.
The fireworks launched from the river barge displayed a spectacular scene for the thousands watching.

spectrometer

n
/ spek'trämədə(r) /
L + Gk
an instrument designed for the examination and measurement of chemical compounds.
The mass spectrometer is used to sort atoms and molecules according to their atomic masses.

spectroscope

speculate

v
/ 'spekyəlāt /
L
ponder a subject in its different aspects, relations, and implications.
Despite all his efforts to speculate as to the outcome of his venture, Art was not at all prepared for what happened.

speculative

specus

speiss

speleology

n
/ ,spēlē'äləjē /
Gk + gk
the scientific study or systematic exploration of caves.
Dale's research in speleology takes him to spectacular natural features around the world.

spellbinder

spencer

n
/ 'spen(t)sə(r) /
E name
a woman's fitted jacket of waist length or shorter.
Miss Bates got her bonnet and spencer on and was ready to come outside.

Spencerian

adj
/ 'spen'sirēən /
American name
of, relating to, or characteristic of a form of slanting handwriting developed by American calligrapher Platt Rogers Spencer.
The documents in the attic trunk were written in Spencerian script.

spendthrift

n
/ 'spen(d)θrɪft /
E + ON > E
one that spends or uses wastefully or improvidently.
The legislator resented being called a spendthrift at the public trough.

sphere

sphericity

n
/ sfə'risədē /
Gk
the quality or state of being spherical : roundness; especially : the degree of perfection of the surface of a sphere.
By circumnavigating Earth, Magellan confirmed Earth's sphericity.

spherometer

n
/ sfə'rämədə(r) /
Gk
an instrument for measuring the curvature of a spherical object.
The invention of the spherometer substituted the sense of sight for that of touch in the measurement of curved objects.

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sphingine

adj
/ 'sfɪn.jɪn /
Gk

resembling a sphinx.
The writer described the Mona Lisa's enigmatic look as "sphingine."

sphragistic

adj
/ sfrə'jɪstɪk /
Gk

relating to seals and signets.
The author discussed and illustrated the successive styles of English sphragistic art.

sphygmic

adj
/ 'sfɪgmɪk /
Gk

of or relating to the circulatory pulse.
An instrument measured the patient's sphygmic changes during the operation.

sphygmomanometer

n
/ ,sfɪɡ(ɪ)mɒmə'næməðə(r) /
Gk

an instrument for measuring blood pressure and especially arterial blood pressure.
The nurse-practitioner checked Siggie's blood pressure with a sphygmomanometer.

spiccato

adj
/ spə'kɑːd(ɪ)ɔ /
It

performed with springing bow—used as a direction in music for stringed instruments.
The cellist excelled in playing the spiccato passages of the movement.

spiculiferous

adj
/ ,spɪkə'lɪf(ə)rəs /
L + L + L

bearing small fleshy points or appendages.
The shape of the sponge is maintained by its spiculiferous skeleton.

spidery

adj
/ 'spɪdəre /
E

resembling or suggesting a spider web; especially : composed of fine threads or lines in a weblike arrangement.
The spidery lines on Joan's leg are broken capillaries.

spikiness

spinose

adj
/ 'spɪ.nəʊs /
L

full of spines : armed with spines.
The spinose porcupine has little to fear from most predators.

spintherism

spirit

spiograph

n
/ 'spɪrə.ɡrɑf /
L + Gk

an instrument for recording respiratory movements commonly consisting of a spirometer together with a suitable recording device.
Dr. Martinez scanned the spiograph for any irregularities before making his diagnosis.

spirogyra

n
/ ,spɪrə'jɪrə /
L > Gk > L

any plant of a genus of freshwater green algae forming slimy masses in still water and slow streams.
The shallow pool was completely covered with spirogyra.

spirulate

spite

spiteful

spittoon

spitz

splanchnic

splanchnology

n
/ splʌŋk'næləʒe /
Gk

a branch of anatomy concerned with the internal organs of the body.
Professor Adams supplemented his lectures in splanchnology with graphic slides of the spleen, liver, and intestines.

splendiferous

splenomegaly

n
/ ,splɛnə'megəle /
Gk

enlargement of the spleen.
Patients affected with malaria generally exhibit splenomegaly.

splice

v
/ 'splɪs /
D

unite two ropes or two parts of one rope by sticking or tucking the strands of one rope or part between or around each other.
Barton knew how to splice the old rope to the new one so skillfully that the join could hardly be seen.

splintered

plotchy

spoiler

spondean

adj
/ spæn'deən /
Gk + Ecf

having, consisting of, or characterized by metrical feet of two long or stressed syllables.
Poets occasionally use spondean feet to break or slow down the predominant rhythm of a poem.

spondylitic

adj
/ ,spændə'lɪdɪk /
Gk

affected with inflammation of the vertebrae.
The spondylitic patient was treated with anti-inflammatory drugs.

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sponge

sponsor

spoof

spoofery

sporadic

adj
/ spə'radɪk /
Gk

occurring occasionally, singly, or in scattered instances.

Mr. Gifford warned Katie that completing her homework could not be a sporadic activity if she wanted to pass the class.

sporadicity

sprawling

v
/ 'sprɔːlɪŋ /
E
lying or sitting with arms and legs stretched out carelessly or awkwardly.

The bucking of the horse sent the cowboy sprawling on the ground.

sprightly

sprinkling

n
/ 'sprɪŋk(ə)lɪŋ /
E
a limited quantity or amount : a slight portion : modicum.
Portia complained that she had received only a sprinkling of outstanding instruction in her first year of college.

spritzer

spruce

n
/ 'sprʊs /
F > E
a variable color averaging a dark grayish green.
Mrs. Kim says that for her Christmas dinner tablecloth, the perfect shade of green to go with red napkins is spruce.

spunky

spurrier

spy

squabash

squabble

squally

adj
/ 'skwɒlə /
Scand?
marked by sudden violent winds often accompanied by rain or snow.
When the weather became squally, the fishing boats headed back to port.

squalor

squamaceous

squamulose

adj
/ 'skwamyələs /
L
covered with minute scales.
Squamulose lichens cover the seaside rocks.

squandermania

n
/ ,skwändə(r)'mānēə /
unknown + Gk > L
the practice of spending money extravagantly especially by a government.
The mayoral candidate promised to halt the city's squandermania if elected.

squawker

squawking

squdge

v
/ 'skwəj /
imit?
ooze.
Stacia drove slowly along the muddy road, worried that the mud would squdge into every crevice of the car.

squeaker

n
/ 'skwēkə(r) /
E
a contest won by a narrow margin.
The Raiders triumphed over the Rams in a 7-6 squeaker.

squealer

squeeze

squeg

squelcher

squibbery

n
/ 'skwɪbərə /
unknown
the utterance or composition of short, humorous, satiric, or lampooning writing or speech.
The opponents exchanged squibbery as if throwing darts at each other.

squidgy

squiggle

n
/ 'skwɪgəl /
(imit? + E) > E
a short wavy twist or line : curl.
David made a long squiggle on his paper while he daydreamed.

squire

n
/ 'skwɪ(ə)r /
L > F > E
a shield bearer or armor bearer of a knight.
During a lull in the battle, each knight's squire came forward with food, water, and replacement weapons.

squirm

stabilization

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

stade

n
/ 'stād /
Gk > L > E
[has homonyms: staid, stayed] any of various ancient Greek units of length equal to 600 Greek feet.
The footrace in the ancient Olympic Games at Olympia was exactly a stade in length.

stadimeter

stadium

n
/ 'stādēəm /
Gk > L > F > E
a large usually unroofed structure with tiers of seats for spectators and enclosing a field usually for sports events.
The new sports stadium will be named after a large corporation thanks to a big contribution to cover construction costs.

stadthouse

stagecraft

n
/ 'stāj.kraft /
L > F > E + E
the art or practice of effective management of theatrical devices or techniques.
The critic praised the opera not only for the singing but also for its effective stagecraft.

stagehand

n
/ 'stāj.hand /
L > F > E + E
a stage worker who handles scenery and properties.
The stagehand tripped and fell with a loud thud during the performance.

stagestruck

staggered

stagnicolous

stagnum

staid

adj
/ 'stād /
L > F > E
[has homonyms: stade, stayed] sober, grave, sedate.
Scrooge was a stingy, staid curmudgeon.

staircase

stakemaster

stalemate

n
/ 'stāl.māt /
F > AF > E + F > E
a drawing position in chess in which only the king can move and although not in check can move only into check.
Sasha and Vanya played to a stalemate in the Moscow city chess championship.

staleness

n
/ 'stāl.nēs /
E
the quality or state of being altered in quality through the action of natural processes.
The bread's staleness did not stop hungry Herbie from eating it.

stallion

n
/ 'stalyən /
Gmc > F > E
a mature male of any equine mammal.
The zoo has one zebra stallion and three mares.

staminiferous

stammeringly

standardization

standpatter

stannary

staphylococcus

staphyloma

n
/ ,stafə'lōmə /
Gk
a protrusion of the cornea or sclera of the mammalian eye.
The ophthalmologist surgically removed the staphyloma in Stella's left eye.

starboard

n
/ 'stərbərd /
E
the right side of a ship or airplane looking forward.
The tour guide pointed to starboard when porpoises began leaping in the water.

stargazer

starry

adj
/ 'stärē /
E
abounding with stars.
Noel marveled at how much more starry the sky appeared when he was away from the city.

startle

v
/ 'stārd·l /
E
move or jump suddenly as in surprise, fear, or alarm.
Some babies startle easily.

starvation

static

stationarily

statuary

n
/ 'stachə.werē /
L
a branch of sculpture dealing with three-dimensional figures.
In her study of ancient Greek statuary, Hillary was surprised to learn that figures had often been brightly painted.

statue

statute

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statutorily

staurolatry

n
/ stō'rälətrē /

Gk
worship of the cross or crucifix.
After the missionaries left, many natives turned what they had learned into a primitive form of staurolatry.

staypak

stealthily

stealthy

steamroller

n
/ 'stēm.rōlə(r) /

E
a steam-driven road roller.
The cartoon character was flattened by a huge steamroller.

steed

n
/ 'stēd /

E
horse.
The slow-moving steed could not be coaxed or forced to move any faster.

steepchase

n
/ 'stēpəl.chās /

E + L > F > E
a horse race across country and over barriers ridden by a number of participants.
Bonnie won the steepchase handily.

steerage

steeved

stein

stench

n
/ 'stench /

E
a malodorous smell.
Georgette attributed her nausea to the stench emanating from the chemical factory.

stencilization

steneacious

stentorian

adj
/ sten'tōrēən /
Gk name + Ecf
extremely loud : capable of powerful utterance or sound.
Herman's stentorian boom box annoyed everyone on the bus.

stephanotis

n
/ .stefə'nōdās /
Gk
any plant of a genus of Old World tropical woody vines with fragrant white flowers.
Madagascar jasmine is a stephanotis that is used as an ornamental in warm regions and in greenhouses.

stereophonic

adj
/ .sterēə'fānik /
Gk + Gk
giving, relating to, or constituting a three-dimensional effect of perspective attained or experienced through hearing.
Most television sets now are equipped with stereophonic speakers.

stereotomist

n
/ .sterē'äd-əmāst /
Gk
a practitioner of the art of stonecutting.
A stereotomist will carve a gargoyle for the new library.

stereotomy

sterilant

n
/ 'sterələnt /
L
a sterilizing agent; especially : an herbicide designed to completely eliminate a kind of plant and to have a rather persistent residual effect in the soil.
A sterilant was sprayed on the brick walk to prevent the growth of weeds.

sterlet

stern

adj
/ 'stərn /
E
having a serious and strict manner.
Darryl always looks more stern when he wears glasses.

sternocostal

sternutatory

stet

v
/ 'stet /
L
annotate with the word stet or otherwise mark to nullify a previous order to delete or omit.
Every time Harry tried to get rid of part of a dictionary entry, the chief editor would stet the deletion.

steward

stichic

adj
/ 'stikik /
Gk
of, relating to, or consisting of lines that are rhythmic units : arranged or divided by lines : serial in succession or recurrence.
Ancient Greek dramatists used stichic form for spoken dialogues.

stichometry

stickum

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

stifling

adj
/ 'stɪf(ə)lɪŋ /
F > E
producing suffocation or repression.
The stifling smell of cigar smoke killed Ashley's appetite.

stigmatism

stigmatization

stile

n
/ 'stɪ(ə)l /
E
steps or rungs to assist a person over a fence while remaining a barrier for livestock.
Gigi had trouble getting over the stile into the field.

stillatitious

stimulogenous

stingy

stipiform

stipule

stirpiculture

stoat

n
/ 'stɔt /
E
ermine; broadly : any of various weasels that have a black-tipped tail—used especially of the animal when in the brown summer coat.
The stoat was closing in on the rabbit, which seemed unaware of the danger.

stochastically

adv
/ stə'kæstək(ə)l̩ /
Gk
in a random manner.
The company's quality control involved testing its products stochastically.

stockade

n
/ stä'kād /
(Gmc + L) > Sp
an enclosure usually surrounded by barbed wire in which prisoners are kept.
The insubordinate soldier was sent to the stockade for the rest of his enlistment.

stockholders

stodgily

stoic

stolidity

stomach

stomacher

n
/ 'stəmækə(r) /
Gk
the center front section of a waist or underwaist or a usually heavily embroidered or jeweled separate piece for the center front of a bodice.
If Jane but sends her aunt the pattern of a stomacher or knits a pair of garters for her grandmother, one hears of nothing else for a month.

stomatology

stoneware

stooge

n
/ 'stuj /
unknown
a subordinate participant in a comic act or dialogue whose function is to carry on repartee in such manner as to enable a principal comedian to make humorous remarks or appear in a humorous light.
In the western, Smiley played the sheriff's naïve stooge.

storage

n
/ 'stɔrɪj /
L > F > E
space for collecting as a reserved supply.
When we designed the new garage, extra space was allotted for general storage.

storyless

stowaway

straight

straightedge

strategize

v
/ 'strədə,jɪz /
Gk
devise a plan.
The board met to strategize for expanding the company's foreign markets.

strategy

n
/ 'strədə,jē /
Gk
a careful plan or method.
At halftime the coach outlined a new defensive strategy.

stratificate

stratification

stratified

v
/ 'strədə,fɪd /
L
formed, deposited, or arranged in layers.
Mike pointed out the stratified sedimentary rock formations revealed by erosion.

stratocracy

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

stratocumulus

n
/ˌstrədʊˈkyʊmyələs/
L

stratified cumulus consisting of large balls or rolls of dark cloud which often cover the whole sky especially in winter.
The satellite picture revealed a large deck of stratocumulus off the coast of California.

stratose

adj
/ˈstrɑːtəʊs/
L

arranged in layers.
The stratose limestone was quite visible where the hillside had been cut during highway construction.

stratosphere

streamline

stremmatograph

strengthen

strenuosity

strenuous

adj
/ˈstrenyəwəs/
L

arduous, rigorous.
Paul relaxed after a strenuous day's work.

stretch

v
/ˈstretʃ/
E

extend in length.
Sam got up to stretch his legs and get a snack.

stretchy

strewn

v
/ˈstriːn/
E

spread by scattering.
Yellow seed-cucumbers were strewn about the dry garden patch.

striated

adj
/ˈstriːədɪd/
L

marked with threadlike lines or narrow bands.
Marcus found an interesting striated rock lying in the dry creekbed.

stridulated

v
/ˈstrijələˈdeɪd/
L

made a shrill often vibrating noise.
The locusts stridulated so loudly that the campers could hardly hear each other without raising their voices.

stridulatory

adj
/ˈstrijələˈtɔːrē/
L + Ecff

used in the act of producing a shrill often vibrating noise.
Most crickets tune up their stridulatory organs at about twilight and keep them going all night.

strisciando

strobe

stromuhr

strongylosis

n
/ˌstrɒnjəˈlɔːsəs/
Gk

infestation with or disease caused by any of a family of parasitic roundworms.
An outbreak of strongylosis caused the deaths of thousands of game birds.

strontium

struck

structure

struggle

struggling

strychninism

stubble

n
/ˈstʌbəl/
L > F > E

a short growth of beard.
The unusual appearance of stubble on Bob's face must mean he's trying to grow a beard.

stubbornly

stuccoed

student

n
/ˈst(y)üdənt/
L

one devoted to learning, as one enrolled in a class or course in a school, college, or university.
No student at Andrew's school had 100 percent attendance last year.

stulm

stumble

stupa

n
/ˈst(y)üpə/
Skt

a hemispherical or cylindrical mound or tower artificially constructed of earth, brick, or stone, surmounted by a spire or umbrella, and containing a relic chamber.
The stupa was said to contain a relic of the Buddha.

stupulose

sturnine

style

stymie

v
/ˈstɪmē/
E

block, check, thwart.
Brock's negative attitude will stymie his ability to maximize his potential.

stymied

stypticity

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

styrene

suave

adj
/ 'swäv /

L
smoothly affable or polite though often without deep interest or sincerity.
José had a suave way of treating his guests.

subclavate

subclavian

adj
/ .səb'klāvēən /

L
located under the collarbone.
Leonard has a small subclavian scar from a long-ago skateboard accident.

subimago

n
/ .səbə'mā(,)gō /

L
a stage in the development of some insects between the nymph and the adult in which the insect is able to fly but becomes mature only after a further molt.
The mayfly subimago flies from the surface of the water to some sheltered resting place nearby, where it will shed its skin and emerge as an adult.

subito

adv
/ 'sübēd(,)ō /

L > It
immediately, suddenly—used as a direction in music.
It was the desire of the composer—not the director—to play the passage subito forte.

subjectable

sublimation

n
/ .səblə'māshən /

L
the action or process of passing from the solid to the vapor state by the action of heat.
Steamy dry ice is an excellent example of the process of sublimation.

sublime

v
/ sə'blīm /

L > F > E
pass directly from the solid to the vapor state.
Causing naphthalene to sublime rids it of impurities.

subliminal

sublittoral

submarine

submit

subordinate

adj
/ sə'börd(ə)nət /

L
holding a lower or inferior position.
The soldier was ordered to spend three hours digging a ditch to help him learn that he was subordinate to the leader.

subornation

n
/ (,)sə.bō(r)'nāshən /

L
the crime of procuring a person to commit perjury.
The mobster was arrested and charged with subornation of a key witness.

subrogate

v
/ 'səbrō.gāt /

L
put in the place of another : substitute.
In an act of financial selflessness, Louis decided to subrogate his assets for his brother's debt.

subsattellite

subsequent

adj
/ 'səbsəkʷənt /

L > E
following in time : coming or being later than something else.
The earthquake and subsequent aftershocks devastated the city.

subservience

n
/ (,)səb'sərvēən(t)s /

L
[Note: Could be confused with plural noun subservients.]
excessive willingness to submit to the control or demands of another.
The columnist chided the Congressmen for their subservience to wealthy and well-organized lobbies.

subsided

v
/ səb'sīdəd /

L
let oneself settle down : eased, sank.
After barking at the stranger for several minutes, the dog subsided next to Julio.

subsidiaries

subsidize

v
/ 'səbsə.dīz /

L > E + Ecf
aid or promote (as a private enterprise) with public money.
The fact that taxpayers subsidize some tobacco growers continues to irritate many nonsmokers.

subsidy

subsonic

substantiable

substantial

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

substantiate

v
/ səbz'tanchē.āt /
L
prove, confirm, verify.
The suspect was unable to substantiate his whereabouts at the time of the crime.

substitution

subterre

subtlety

suburb

subversion

succade

succedaneum

n
/ .səksə'dānē.əm /
L
one that comes next after or replaces another in an office, position, or role.
If the president and the vice-president of the United States die while in office, the Speaker of the House of Representatives is their succedaneum.

succeed

succeeding

v
/ sək'sēdɪŋ /
L + Ecf
following after another especially in a natural, prescribed, or necessary order.
The senior class built a trail on the mountain behind the school to enable succeeding students to appreciate the flora.

success

succinctly

adv
/ sək'sɪŋ(k)tɪē /
L + Ecf
with concise and precise brevity.
The English teacher stressed the importance of expressing ideas clearly and succinctly.

succor

succory

succussatory

adj
/ sə'kəsə.tōrē /
L > E
characterized by up-and-down vibrations of short amplitude—used of an earthquake.
Fortunately, the earthquake's succussatory movements caused only minor damage to the buildings.

succussion

suction

n
/ 'səksʰən /
L
the act or process of exerting a force upon a body by means of reduced air pressure over part of its surface.
To demonstrate suction, Alan used a drinking straw to lift a piece of paper.

suffragette

n
/ .səfrə'jet /
L + F > Ecf
a woman who militantly advocates giving women the right to vote.
Sheldon's great-aunt was a famous English suffragette who was finally able to vote at the age of seventy-two.

suffusive

suicidology

suint

suitcase

suitor

sullen

adj
/ 'sələn /
L > F > E
ill-humoredly unsociable : gloomily or resentfully silent.
When her name was called, Judy looked up in sullen resentment.

sultana

Sumatran

adj
/ sə'mätrən /
geog name
of, relating to, or characteristic of the island of Sumatra.
The Sumatran rhinoceros is becoming rare in Malaysia.

sumi

summa

sunbow

n
/ 'sən.bō /
E + E
an arch resembling a rainbow.
A sunbow was clearly visible through the mist at Niagara Falls.

sunglo

n
/ 'süŋ'lō /
Chin geog name
[has near homonym: sunglow] a green Chinese tea characterized by large loosely rolled leaves.
The monks offered their visitor a cup of sunglo.

sunshiny

adj
/ 'sən.shɪnē /
E + E
bright with or as if with the rays of the Sun.
Because Saturday was such a sunshiny day, Mom spent most of her time gardening.

superb

adj
/ sü'pərb /
L
stately, lordly.
The statue of the king conveyed his superb demeanor well.

supercentrifuge

supercilium

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supererogation

n
/ .süpə.rerə'gāshən /

L
the act or process or an instance of performing more than necessary to complete an undertaking.
The teacher asked for a three-page essay on insects, but in a burst of supererogation, Duane wrote six pages.

superfluity

superjacent

superlative

adj
/ sə'pərlədɪv /

L
most eminent of its kind : having no peers.
Austin's superlative skill as a violinist makes him the clear choice for concertmaster.

supernaculum

supernal

adj
/ sü'pərnəl /

L
of a heavenly or spiritual character.
Fran's essay defends her belief that humankind will never penetrate the supernal wisdom by which God governs the universe.

supernova

n
/ .süpə(r)'nōvə /

L
one of the rarely observed nova outbursts in which the maximum intrinsic luminosity may reach 100 million times that of the Sun.
The supernova of 1054 was bright enough to be seen during the day.

supersede

supersessive

adj
/ .süpə'sesiv /

L
tending to take the place of or cause to be supplanted.
Jimmy is afraid the new baby will prove supersessive in his parents' affections.

superstition

n
/ .süpə(r)'stishən /

L
a fixed irrational idea : a notion maintained in spite of evidence to the contrary.
Harvey believes in the superstition that breaking a mirror brings seven years of bad luck.

supervene

supervenient

adj
/ .süpə(r)'vĕnyənt /

L
coming or occurring as something additional, extraneous, or unexpected.
A corporation's lawyers must keep abreast of all supervenient changes in corporate laws.

supervise

supineness

supplanter

supple

adj
/ 'səpəl /

L
characterized by ease in bending or other actions.
Ballet and other forms of dancing make their participants more supple.

supplement

suppliantly

adv
/ 'səplĕəntlĕ /

L > F > E
in a humble imploring manner.
The servant suppliantly entreated his employer to forgive his negligence.

supposition

suppress

v
/ sə'pres /

L
put down or out of existence by or as if by authority, force, or pressure.
Despite much effort, Martha could not suppress her hiccups.

suppuration

supralapsarian

supremacy

n
/ sə'premāsĕ /

L
final authority or power.
Americans are wasting their breath if they question the supremacy of the Constitution.

surette

surface

surmise

v
/ sə(r)'mīz /

L > F > E
form a notion of on slight proof : guess, suppose.
It was not hard to surmise from Pedro's evasive answer that he had not completed the report.

surmounted

v
/ sə'r'mauntəd /

F > E
stood at the top of : remained on the top of.
A steeple surmounted the church.

surname

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surpass

v
/ sə'pɑs /
F
become better, greater, or stronger than.
Jay's semester grades will surpass even his parents' high expectations.

surplice

surprise

surrender

surrendered

v
/ sə'rendə(r)d /
F
gave or delivered up possession of upon compulsion or demand.
Clem surrendered his weapon without a fight.

surreptitiously

survey

surveyor

n
/ ,sə'r'vāər /
F > E
one whose occupation is finding and representing the contours, measurements, and position of a part of Earth's surface.
In preparation for the Olympic games, a surveyor measured all the tracks and marked out the individual areas for each event.

survival

susceptibility

suspense

suspiciously

adv
/ sə'spishəslē /
L
in a manner arousing or intending to arouse distrust : questionably.
Conrad's story sounded suspiciously like one his older brother had written two years ago.

sussultatory

adj
/ sə'səltə,tōrē /
L > It
characterized by up-and-down vibrations of large amplitude—used of an earthquake.
The sussultatory patterns on the seismograph warned everyone that Arizona was about to become beachfront property.

sustentacular

svabite

swaddle

swagger

v
/ 'swagə(r) /
Scand
conduct oneself in an arrogant manner.
Dave seemed to swagger slightly as he got up from his final exam.

Swahili

n
/ swā'hēlē /
Ar
a Bantu language of East Africa.
Swahili was originally spoken in Zaire and is now a trade language in much of East Africa and the Congo.

swartback

swarthy

washbuckler

swather

sweater

sweatshop

swelter

swerve

v
/ 'swərv /
E
move from a straight line or course.
The driver had to swerve to avoid hitting the dog.

swidden

swindler

n
/ 'swind(ə)lə(r) /
G
one that deprives a person of money or property by fraud or deceit.
The swindler was arrested after he sold an undercover policeman a fake Rolex watch for \$500.

syllabify

sylvestrian

sympathetic

sympathetically

adv
/ ,sɪmpə'thedək(ə)lē /
Gk + Eeff
in a manner marked by compassion, kind friendly feeling, and sensitivity to others' emotions.
Roald wrote sympathetically of the migrant workers' plight.

symphony

symphonette

n
/ ,sɪm(p)fə'net /
Gk > L > F + Ecf
a symphony orchestra reduced in personnel and typically playing ensemble and salon music in addition to the standard orchestral literature.
The symphonette was just the right size to play the baroque pieces.

symphonious

symphysis

symptoms

n pl
/ 'sɪm(p)təmz /
Gk
subjective evidence of disease.
Headaches and fevers are symptoms of many different diseases.

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synchronism

n
/ 'sɪŋkrənɪzəm /
Gk > L + Ecf
concurrency of acts, events, or developments in time : simultaneousness.
Motion-picture cameras are devised to ensure good synchronism between sound and picture.

synchroscope

n
/ 'sɪŋkrəskɒp /
Gk
a device for showing whether two moving parts are moving in time with each other or for giving an indication of their relative phase.
The rotary synchroscope is used to parallel two alternators.

synchrotron

n
/ 'sɪŋkrətrɒn /
Gk
an apparatus for imparting very high speeds to charged particles (as electrons, protons) by means of a combination of a high-frequency electric field and a low-frequency magnetic field.
The high-energy radiation from a synchrotron has been used in the attack on viruses.

syncopated

syncretic

adj
/ sɪn'kredɪk /
Gk
characterized or brought about by the reconciliation or union of conflicting (as religious) beliefs.
Voodoo is a syncretic religion that developed in Haiti with influences from many parts of Africa.

syncretism

n
/ 'sɪŋkrətɪzəm /
Gk
flagrant compromise in religion or philosophy : eclecticism that is illogical or leads to inconsistency : uncritical acceptance of conflicting or divergent beliefs or principles.
Alice mistook her church's ecumenical ideas for syncretism.

syncytium

syndicator

syndrome

synergize

v
/ 'sɪnərjɪz /
Gk
exhibit cooperative action such that the total effect of discrete agencies is greater than the sum of the two or more effects taken independently.
The pharmacist explained that a muscle relaxant and an anti-inflammatory could synergize to reduce Arnold's shoulder pain more effectively.

synergy

synonymy

n
/ sə'nænəmē /
Gk
the quality or fact of being alike or nearly alike in meaning.
The words destroy, annihilate, demolish, and wreck are related by synonymy.

synoptic

adj
/ sə'næptɪk /
Gk
relating to or displaying atmospheric and weather conditions as they exist simultaneously over a broad area.
Synoptic meteorologists study information on air pressure, temperature, humidity, and wind velocity in preparing weather forecasts.

synovial

adj
/ sə'nɒvɪəl /
Gk > L
secreting a transparent viscid lubricating fluid.
Healthy synovial tissue provides nutrients to surfaces of the body's joints and ensures that these surfaces are lubricated.

synovitis

synthesize

v
/ 'sɪnthəsaɪz /
Gk + Gk + Ecf
produce a chemical compound by the union of elements or simpler compounds or by the degradation of a complex compound especially by laboratory or industrial methods.
Fritz Haber developed a process to synthesize ammonia using atmospheric nitrogen.

synthesizer

synthetic

adj
/ sɪn'thedɪk /
Gk
produced by artificial processes : man-made.
To reduce calories, the sugar content of some foods is replaced by synthetic sweeteners.

synthetically

syntrophism

n
/ 'sɪnrəfɪzəm /
Gk
mutual dependence for the satisfaction of nutritional needs.
The two bacterial strains exhibit syntrophism, with each strain synthesizing the growth factor needed by the other.

syrinx

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syrphid

n
/ 'sɜrfəd /
Gk > L

a fly of the family Syrphidae :
syrphus fly.
*The syrphid is also known as the
"flowerfly" because it is so active
in pollinating flowers.*

syssarcosis

n
/ ,sɪsər'kɔsəs /
Gk

the junction of two or more bones
by means of attached muscles.
*The dentist explained that there
was an abnormality in the way the
syssarcosis of Thomas's jaw
functioned.*

systematic

adj
/ ,sɪstə'mædɪk /
Gk

marked by or manifesting method
or orderly procedure.
*Maria's systematic approach to
drawing stunts her creativity.*

systematician

systole

tabard

n
/ 'tæb(ə)rɪd /
F > E

a tunic with or without short
sleeves worn by a knight over his
armor and emblazoned with his
arms.
*At the Renaissance Fair, the knight
wearing the white tabard won the
jousting contest.*

tabletop

tacan

tachistoscope

n
/ təkɪstə'skɔp /
Gk + Gk

an apparatus for the brief exposure
of visual stimuli that is used in the
study of learning, attention, and
perception.
*The teacher used a tachistoscope to
encourage the students to read
faster.*

tachycardia

n
/ ,tækə'kɑrdɪə /
Gk

relatively rapid heart action
whether physiological or
pathological.
*Cardiologists have successfully
used electrical shocks to treat
severe ventricular tachycardia.*

tachymetry

tachyon

n
/ 'tækɪ.ən /
Gk

a hypothetical particle held to
travel faster than light.
*The tachyon plays a large role in
science fiction stories that involve
time travel.*

tachytely

tacit

Tacitean

adj
/ ,tæsə'teɪən /
L name
of or relating to the Roman
historian Tacitus or resembling his
style of writing.
*The biting Tacitean brevity of the
Senator's speech had more impact
than the rambling casual style of
his opponent.*

tackle

tacky

taco

tactical

tactility

taction

taeniate

taffeta

tagliatelle

n
/ ,tæljə'tel(,)ə /
L > It
pasta in the shape of noodles.
*Last night's dinner was a simple
tagliatelle with pesto.*

tahini

n
/ tə'hɪ(,)nɪ /
Ar
a smooth paste made from sesame
seeds.
*Joyce made a dip with tahini for
her guests to eat with crackers and
vegetables.*

taiaha

tailleur

tailory

taint

taipan

talapoin

n
/ 'tælə,pɔɪn /
Mon > Pg > F
a western African monkey that is
greenish above and whitish beneath
with a black face and yellowish
whiskers.
*The talapoin is one of the smallest
of all African monkeys, weighing
only about three pounds.*

talaria

n pl
/ tə'la(a)rɪə /
L
winged shoes fastened to the ankles
and chiefly used as an attribute of
the god Hermes or Mercury of
classical mythology.
*The talaria symbolize the speed
with which Hermes acts as the
messenger of the gods.*

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talc

talcky

adj
/ 'tɹalkē /
Ar > L > F + Ecf
of, relating to, or containing talc.
Benedict noticed that the rocks scattered on the path had a talcky appearance.

talent

n
/ 'tɹəlɒnt /
Gk > L > E
[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word.] any of several ancient units of weight, as a Babylonian unit equal to 3,600 shekels.
The talent, probably of Babylonian origin, was the basic unit of weight among the ancient Hebrews.

taligrade

talipot

n
/ 'tɹaləpət /
Skt > Beng
a showy fan palm bearing a crown of gigantic fan-shaped leaves that are used as umbrellas and fans and when cut into strips as a substitute for writing paper.
The illustrator's beautiful collages made of talipot earned the book the Caldecott Medal.

talkfest

tallage

n
/ 'tɹaliʒ /
E
a toll or fee paid by a feudal tenant to his lord.
The farm family paid their annual tallage to their lord in fresh fruit and vegetables.

tallyho

talons

n pl
/ 'tɹalɒnz /
L > F > E
the claws of a bird of prey.
The eagle's beak and talons are indeed a formidable sight.

tamarin

n
/ 'tɹamərən /
Galibi > F
[has near homonym: tamarind] any of numerous small chiefly South American monkeys that are related to the marmosets and have silky fur, a long tail, and lower canine teeth that are longer than the incisors.
When put on the defense, the lion tamarin raises its golden mane.

tamarind

n
/ 'tɹamərənd /
Indian geog name > Ar > Pg&Sp
the fruit of a widely cultivated tropical tree that has seeds that are cooked and also ground into meal.
After dinner, Ravi offered his visitors some sweets made from tamarind.

tamarisk

n
/ 'tɹamərəsk /
L > E
a shrub or tree having tiny narrow leaves and masses of minute flowers.
Since its importation, tamarisk has become the dominant plant along streambeds in many western states.

tambouriens

tambourin

n
/ 'tɹambərən /
Per > Ar > F
[has near homonym: tambourine] a lively old Provençal dance originally accompanied by a long narrow drum.
Madeleine, a student of dance history, taught herself the tambourin from an old book.

Tammanyism

n
/ 'tɹamənē.izəm /
Amer name
the principle or practice of seeking municipal political control through corruption and bossism.
Tammanyism was rife in New York City politics in the 1870s.

tamper

tanager

tanbark

tandoori

adj
/ tɹɒn'du(ə)rē /
Hindi
cooked in a cylindrical clay or earthenware oven over charcoal.
Meera made tandoori chicken and vegetables for Sanjay's birthday dinner.

tangemon

n
/ tɹɒn'ʒemən /
geog name + Ar > L > F > E
the fruit of a hybrid between the tangerine and the lemon.
At the farmers' market Pauline bought a pint of strawberries, a tangemon, and a papaya to make a fruit salad.

tangent

tangential

adj
/ tɹɒn'ʒɛnʃəl /
L
acting on or lying on a line that touches something at only one point.
Sharif wrote the equation on a line tangential to the circle.

tangentially

tangibility

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tangle

v
/ 'tʌŋɡəl /
Scand > E
involve so as to hamper, obstruct,
or embarrass.

Corinna found herself more and more involved in a bureaucratic and administrative tangle.

tango

n
/ 'tʌŋ(,)ɡɔ̃ /
African > Sp
a ballroom dance of Spanish-American origin in three-quarter time characterized by posturing, frequent pointing positions, and a great variety of steps.

Ned and Naomi learned the Argentine tango while in college.

tangoreceptor

tankard

tannin

tanning

tapioca

tapioca

n
/ .təpē'ɔ̃kə /
Tupi > Pg&Sp
a preparation of cassava starch processed into granular, flake, pellet, or flour form and used as a thickening agent in liquid foods, as pudding, soups, or juicy pies.
Sam's recipe for blueberry pie calls for two tablespoons of quick-cooking tapioca.

tappable

tappet

taraxein

tardily

tarogato

tarot

tarpon

tarriance

tarsier

n
/ 'tʌrsē.ā /
L > F
any of a family of small chiefly nocturnal and arboreal carnivorous primates of the Malay Archipelago that have large round eyes, long legs, and a long nearly hairless tail.
Its large eyes and acute hearing enable the tarsier to find its prey at night.

tarsus

n
/ 'tʌrsəs /
Gk > L
the part of the vertebrate's foot between the metatarsus and the leg : ankle.
When the orthopedist said Joanne had a medial fracture of the tarsus, he meant that she had a broken ankle.

Tasmanian

adj
/ taz'mānēən /
Pacific geog name
of or belonging to the southern Pacific island of Tasmania.
The Tasmanian wolf is a marsupial animal that used to live in Australia as well as Tasmania.

tattle

tautologous

tavern

tawny

adj
/ 'tɔ̃nē /
E
of a brownish orange to light brown color.
In the well-known children's story, the tawny scrawny lion loves carrot stew.

taxeme

taxiway

taxonomically

adv
/ .taksə'nāmək(ə)lē /
Gk > F + Ecff
with regard to the principles of scientific classification.
On the biology final the students were shown photographs of five common plants and animals and were asked to identify them taxonomically.

taxonomist

teachable

adj
/ 'tēchəbəl /
E
capable of being taught.
Socrates had no doubt that virtue was teachable if he could only figure out what it was.

teak

teal

n
/ 'tēl /
E
[has homonyms: teal, til] a variable color averaging a dark greenish blue.
In the mid '90s teal was a popular color for new motor vehicles.

teammate

tearstain

technicality

n
/ .teknə'kalədē /
Gk + Ecf
a detail that has meaning only for the specialist.
Because of a legal technicality, a mistrial was declared and the defendant had to be retried for the offense.

technician

tectonics

tectorial

tediously

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

teemed

v
/ 'tēmd /
E
[has homonym: teamed] abounded.
The fort, which teemed with historic interest before the area flooded, will eventually be reconstructed.

teeter

teetotal

teetotum

tegmentary

teknonymy

n
/ tek'nänəmē /
Gk + Gk
the custom of naming the parent after the child.
Some cultures employ teknonymy, while in the United States children are often named for their parents.

teledu

n
/ 'telədü /
Malay
a small carnivorous mammal of the mountains of Java and Sumatra resembling the badger and like the skunk secreting an offensive fluid which it can expel a short distance.
A teledu infected the region of a whole village with its offensive odor.

telefacsimile

telegenic

telegram

telegrammic

telegraphic

telemark

n
/ 'telə.märk /
Norw geog name
a turn in which the ski that is to be on the outside of the turn is advanced considerably ahead of the other ski and then turned inward at a steadily widening angle until the actual turn.
Jason, still a novice skier, marveled at the beautiful form of Astrid's telemark.

teleology

n
/ telē'äləjē /
Gk + Gk
the use of design, purpose, or utility as an explanation of any natural phenomenon.
The theory of evolution relies heavily on teleology.

telepathic

adj
/ .telə'pathik /
Gk + Gk
of or relating to apparent communication from one mind to another other than through the channels of sense.
The twins seemed to have some sort of telepathic mode of communication.

telepathist

telescope

n
/ 'telə.skōp /
Gk
an optical instrument for viewing distant objects by means of the refraction of light rays through a lens.
Through the telescope Jorge watched the lunar eclipse.

televangelist

n
/ .telə'va(a)njələst /
Gk
a preacher who conducts regularly televised religious programs.
The prominent televangelist liked to recall his days as an itinerant revival preacher.

television

n
/ 'telə.vizhən /
Gk + L
a medium of communication whereby images and sounds are broadcast to receiving sets.
If it weren't for television, Jack wouldn't know what was going on in the world.

telos

n
/ 'tē.läs /
Gk
an ultimate end or object.
Finding the Holy Grail was the telos of Sir Galahad's quest.

telyn

tempeh

n
/ 'tem.pā /
Jav
an Asian food prepared by fermenting soybeans.
Lauren suggested that Celia crumble some tempeh in the enchilada casserole for some extra protein.

temperamental

adj
/ .temp(ə)rə'mentl /
L
marked by excessive sensitivity and sudden impulsive and often explosive changes of mood.
When the temperamental player disputed the umpire's call, he was ejected from the game.

temperance

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

temperature

n
/ 'tempə(r).chū(ə)r /
L

degree of hotness or coldness measured on one of several arbitrary scales based on some observable phenomenon (as the expansion of mercury).
In Washington, D.C., the average temperature ranges from about 30 degrees in winter to about 86 degrees in summer.

temporal

adj
/ 'temp(ə)rəl /
L

of or relating to time as opposed to eternity.
Temporal matters concerned Mr. Poke much more than philosophical questions about his soul.

temporarily

temporary

tempt

temptation

tenancy

tendril

n
/ 'tendrəl /
L? > F

a portion or the whole of a leaf or stem that is modified into a slender spirally coiling sensitive organ serving to attach a plant.
The tendril of the grapevine wrapped itself so tightly around the gate's lock that it was difficult to open the gate.

tendu

adj
/ tã'dtē /
L > F

extended in a taut manner, as a leg in ballet.
Jordan did a series of leg exercises in a tendu position.

tenebrism

n
/ 'tenə.brizəm /
L + E

a style of painting typically associated with the painter Caravaggio that submerges most of the forms depicted in shadow but dramatically illuminates the remaining forms by a beam of light.
The photographer created a photographic sort of tenebrism.

tenebrous

tentacled

adj
/ 'tentəkəld /
L

having elongate flexible simple or branched processes that are borne by animals chiefly on the head or about the mouth.
All tentacled animals fascinate Kevin, but jellyfish are his favorite.

tentativeness

n
/ 'tentədɪvnəs /
L

the quality or state of being uncertain or hesitant.
The immense importance of the game accounted for much of the players' tentativeness and overdeliberateness.

tenuity

tephra

tepidity

terete

adj
/ tərēt /
L

approximately cylindrical but usually tapering at one or both ends.
Chi Ming looked up from the sea bottom and saw the terete form of a barracuda silhouetted against the Sun.

termagant

terminal

terminate

termite
n
/ 'tər.mīt /
L

any of numerous pale-colored, soft-bodied, small to medium-sized social insects with a highly developed caste system of the order Isoptera.
A termite has two pairs of membranous wings nearly equal in size.

ternary

adj
/ 'tərnərē /
L

[has homonyms: ternery, turnery] containing, consisting of, or relating to three different parts (as elements, atoms, radicals, or components).
Dave listed sulfuric acid, which consists of hydrogen, sulfur, and oxygen, as an example of a ternary acid.

terpsichorean

adj
/ .təp.sɪkə'rēən /
Gk

of or relating to dancing or choreography.
Geoffrey is interested in the terpsichorean arts and wants to major in dance when he goes to college.

terrene

adj
/ te'rēn /
L

[has homonym: terrine] of or relating to this world or life : mundane.
The missionary feels that all this attention is out of place for such a terrene creature as himself.

terrestrially

terrier

territory

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

terror

n
/ 'terə(r) /
L

a state of intense fright or apprehension : stark fear.

Franklin D. Roosevelt warned, "The only thing we have to fear is fear itself—nameless, unreasoning, unjustified terror which paralyzes needed efforts to convert retreat into advance."

terrorism

terrorist

n
/ 'terərəst /
L > F

an advocate or practitioner of terror as a means of coercion.

When the former terrorist came to power, he immediately denounced the use of terror as a political tool.

terse

tertian

tessaraglot

tessellation

tesseract

n
/ 'tesərəkt /
Gk + Gk
the four-dimensional analogue of a cube.

"Going beyond the fourth dimension to the fifth dimension would be a tesseract," explained Mrs. Whatsit.

testament

testator

n
/ 'te.stədə(r) /
L

a person who leaves a will or testament in force at his death.

When the wishes of the testator were made known, the local public library was a half million dollars richer.

testify

v
/ 'testə.fī /
L

make a solemn declaration under oath for the purpose of establishing a fact (as in a court).

A psychiatrist was called on to testify regarding the mental state of the defendant.

testy

adj
/ 'testē /
L > F > E

[has homonym: testee] easily annoyed : irritable.

The mayor became quite testy when asked about his private financial dealings.

tether

n
/ 'tethə(r) /
Scand? > E

something (as a rope or chain) by which an animal is fastened so that it can range or feed only within the radius allowed.

Joan used Rover's leash as a tether to tie him to the bike rack before she went into the supermarket.

tetherball

n
/ 'tethər(,)bəl /
Scand? + ON > E

a game which is played with a ball suspended by a string from an upright pole and in which the object of each contestant is to wrap the string around the pole by striking the ball in a direction opposite to the other.

Paula was injured playing tetherball when she was accidentally struck by the ball.

tetragrammaton

n
/ .tetrə'gramətən /
Gk

the Hebrew word of four letters constituting a name of God usually transliterated as YHWH or YHVH.

Out of reverence or for fear of desecration, some pious Jews do not pronounce or write the tetragrammaton.

tetraploid

tetrapodous

adj
/ te'trapədəs /
Gk + Gk
having four feet or walking appendages.
Tetrapodous animals are usually referred to as "quadrupeds."

textile

thalassocrat

n
/ thə'ləsəkɹət /
Gk
one who has maritime supremacy.
In Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea, Captain Nemo is the perfect thalassocrat.

thallophyte

n
/ 'thələfīt /
Gk + Gk
any plant of a primary division of the plant kingdom including the algae and fungi.
A fungus is a non-chlorophyll-bearing thallophyte.

thalpotic

thanatology

n
/ .thanə'täləjē /
Gk
the description or study of the phenomena of somatic death.
Thanatology is concerned with the notion of death as popularly perceived.

thatch

thatching

theatrocracy

thelygenic

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

theologaster

n
/ thē'äləgastə(r) /
Gk + Lcf
a shallow theologian; especially :
one who pretends to possess great
knowledge relating to the
presentation of the traditional
doctrines of a religion or religious
group.

*The bishop warned his flock to
beware of the theologaster who
would subvert the word of God with
his vain imaginings.*

theology

n
/ thē'äləjē /
Gk
the study of God and his relation to
humans and the world.
*Though Max is not personally
religious, she is fascinated by
theology.*

theomachy

n
/ thē'aməkē /
Gk + Gk
a battle or strife among the gods.
*In the Iliad and the Odyssey,
Homer relates many instances of
theomachy in which humans are
the unfortunate victims.*

theorbo

n
/ thē'ör(,)bō /
Turkish > Slovenian > It
an obsolete 17th century musical
instrument like a lute but having
two necks.
*The young bard played a madrigal
on the theorbo.*

theorem

theoretician

n
/ thēərə'tishən /
Gk
one who formulates theories (as to
account for perceived phenomena).
*Dr. Freud's work as a theoretician
in psychoanalysis earned him an
international reputation.*

theorize

v
/ thēərīz /
Gk
speculate or generalize from facts.
*Dr. Ahmad tried to theorize an
explanation for his data.*

theory

theosophy

theremin

n
/ thērəmōn /
Russ name
a purely melodic instrument of the
electronic family typically played
by moving the right hand between
two projecting electrodes with the
left hand controlling dynamics and
articulation.
*Paula was asked to play her
theremin at the electronic music
festival.*

theriatics

n pl
/ thirē'atriks /
Gk
the science of veterinary medicine.
*Joanna bewildered all her friends
when she said that her father, a
veterinarian, is a specialist in
theriatics.*

theriomorphic

adj
/ thirē'mōrfik /
Gk
having an animal form.
*Lydia's boutique displayed
theriomorphic creamers in the
forms of a cow and a hippo.*

theriomorphism

therm

n
/ thərm /
Gk
100,000 British thermal units.
*Gas utilities frequently use the
therm as a measure of gas
consumption.*

thermal

n
/ thərməl /
Gk > L
a rising body of warm air.
*Steve watched a couple of red-
tailed hawks soaring upward in a
thermal.*

thermoammeter

thermolabile

thermolysis

n
/ (,)thər'mäləsəs /
Gk + Gk
the dissipation of heat from the
living body.
*Thermolysis is accomplished by
evaporation, excretion, and
radiation.*

thermophilous

adj
/ (,)thər'mäfələs /
Gk + Gk
of, relating to, or being an organism
growing at a high temperature.
*Thermophilous bacteria can
flourish at temperatures exceeding
140 degrees Fahrenheit.*

thermos

therophyte

n
/ thirə'fit /
Gk
an annual plant that overwinters as
a seed.
*Because a therophyte can endure
unfavorable conditions as a seed, it
can survive in deserts.*

thersitical

thew

thickener

thief

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

thievery

n
/ 'thēv(ə)rē /
E

the act, practice, or an instance of stealing.

Videocameras were installed throughout the warehouse to prevent thievery by the workers.

thieves

thievish

thighbone

thigmoreceptor

thimble

thimbleful

thionic

thirtieth

thixotropic

adj
/ 'thiksə'trəpik /
Gk + Gk

of, relating to, or exhibiting the property of a gel that becomes fluid when shaken or stirred and settles again to a gel when left undisturbed.

Mayonnaise is an example of a thixotropic fluid.

tholobate

Thomism

n
/ 'tō.mizəm /

It name
a theological theory deriving from the Italian theologian Thomas Aquinas.

Thomism teaches that philosophy and theology have separate spheres that reach conclusions that support each other.

thooid

thorough

adj
/ 'thər(,)ō /
E

marked by sound systematic attention to all aspects and details.

A thorough music practice session for Keith usually takes about an hour.

thoughtful

thrasonic

threadiness

thremmatology

n
/ 'θremə'täləjē /
Gk

the science of breeding animals and plants under domestication.

The dog breeder's bookshelf contained several textbooks on thremmatology.

threptic

adj
/ 'θreptik /
Gk

of or relating to the feeding or rearing of offspring especially among ants or other social insects.

Although ants share many physical and social traits, distinct varieties differ in their colonizing and threptic methods.

thrice

adv
/ 'θrīs /
E

three times.

Harold does his exercise regimen thrice weekly.

throbbled

v
/ 'θrəbd /
imit? > E

pulsated or vibrated in a rhythmic manner.

The school bus driver's temples throbbled after he had been driving noisy children for two hours.

throes

n pl
/ 'θrōz /
E

[has homonym: throws] a condition of struggle, anguish, disorder, or confusion characteristic of a transitional period (as the active phase of creation of some new thing).

In the throes of a search for a new superintendent, the school board ignored major problems that deserved its attention.

thrombolytic

thrombophlebitis

throttle

thrush

thuggery

thumbscrew

n
/ 'θəm.skru /
E + L > F > E

a screw whose head is flattened at the side so that the screw may be turned by the thumb and forefinger.

Lois tightened the last thumbscrew on her new computer desk.

thunderclap

n
/ 'θəndər.klap /
E + E

a sudden crash of thunder.

The thunderclap sent Mom scurrying about the house to close windows.

thurification

n
/ .θ(y)ūrəfə'kāshən /
Gk > L > F > E

the act, process, or an instance of censuring.

Prayers were offered and a thurification was performed around the body of the deceased.

thurm

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

thwarted

v
/ 'θwɔ(ə)rdəd /
ON > E
opposed successfully.
The dog was not easily thwarted when it attempted to go into the house with Brian.

Thyestean

adj
/ θiˈestēən /
Gk name
cannibal.
The 1992 film about a Thyestean doctor known as "Hannibal the Cannibal" won five Academy Awards.

thymus

thyroiditis

n
/ θiˈrɔɪˈdɪtɪs /
Gk + Lcf
inflammation of the endocrine gland which produces a hormone affecting growth, development, and metabolic rate.
Dr. Dowd explained that Gary's thyroiditis was caused by his having the mumps.

tiara

ticketer

ticklenburg

tidal

tiddledies

tiers

n pl
/ 'ti(ə)rz /
F
[has homonym: tears] rows, ranks, or layers of articles; especially : rows arranged one above another.
The top two tiers of Gina's wedding cake got smashed in transport to the reception.

tiffin

tige

tigerish

tight

tighten

v
/ 'tiːn /
Scand > E
[has homonym: titan] fix more securely in place.
Lisa tried to tighten the cap on the soda bottle so that it wouldn't leak inside the cooler.

tightwad

tignum

till

tillage

tilleul

n
/ tə'yəl /
L > F
a pale greenish yellow.
The tinge of tilleul on Carla's face convinced her mother that she really was sick.

timbale

n
/ 'timbəl /
F
[has homonyms: timbal, tymbal] a creamy mixture (as of chicken, lobster, cheese, or fish) cooked in a drum-shaped mold or in individual molds or cups.
After the salad dishes were cleared, Max served a curried chicken timbale.

timbrel

timeliness

timid

timocracy

timoneer

tinamou

tinctured

v
/ 'tɪŋ(k)chə(r)d /
L
tinted or stained with a color.
Kirsten picked a blossom tintured with deep blue.

tinge

v
/ 'tɪŋj /
L > E
color with a slight shade or stain : tint.
Seeing the rainbow tinge the sandy beach is Lauren's most vivid memory of her vacation.

tiniest

adj
/ 'tɪnɪəst /
E
most small or diminutive.
Mrs. Yost said, "Whatever we learn has a purpose and whatever we do affects everything and everyone else, if even in the tiniest way."

tintinnabulary

adj
/ .tɪntə'nabyələre /
L + Ecf
of, relating to, or characterized by bells or their sounds.
The bell ringers gave a tintinnabulary rendition of "Winter Wonderland."

tippee

tippet

n
/ 'tɪpət /
E
a shoulder cape of fur or cloth often with hanging ends.
Mrs. Weston begged Jane to put on her tippet so that she would not catch cold.

tiqueur

n
/ tē'kər /
F
one subject to a convulsive motion of some muscles, especially of the face.
Mary had become a tiqueur, with a constant twitch near her eye.

tiredness

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

tiresome

adj
/ 'tɪ(ə)rsəm /
E + Ecf
possessing a quality that bores or annoys : irritatingly tedious.
The lecturer went into so many details that listening to him was tiresome.

tissuey

titan

n
/ 'tɪtən /
Gk
[has homonym: tighten] one that stands out among others of a group especially for greatness of stature or achievement.
Frank Lloyd Wright was and is a titan in furniture design and architecture.

titanic

adj
/ tɪ'tanɪk /
Gk
colossal, gigantic.
World War II brought political change on a titanic scale to Europe.

titanism

tithable

adj
/ 'tɪθəbəl /
E
subject or liable to payment of tithes.
The church asked for a tenth of each parishioner's tithable property.

titillate

titubant

titular

tivoli

n
/ 'tɪvəlē /
It geog name
a game resembling bagatelle and played on a special oblong board or table.
June and Monty learned to play tivoli on their aunt's antique game table.

toadstool

toehold

tofu

n
/ 'tɒ(,)fʊ /
Jpn
bean curd.
Charmagne ordered Thai rice noodles with tofu.

toggle

n
/ 'tæɡəl /
unknown
a wood or metal pin inserted in a nautical knot to make it more secure or easier to slip.
Noah pulled the toggle to loosen the knot in the anchor rope.

toile

n
/ 'twäl /
L > F
an upholstery and drapery fabric.
When their new couch arrived, Martin and Linda were horrified to find that it was upholstered in a flowery toile instead of plain blue denim.

toilsome

adj
/ 'tɔɪlsəm /
F > AF > E + E
marked by or full of effort.
Tula set herself the toilsome job of cleaning the garage.

tolerable

tolerate

tollgate

toluene

n
/ 'tɔɪləwēn /
ISV
a liquid aromatic hydrocarbon that is used as a solvent, in organic synthesis, and as an antiknock agent in gasoline.
Toluene is used as a raw material for organic compounds such as TNT and some dyes and pharmaceuticals.

tomahawk

tomatillo

n
/ .tɒmə'tē(,)y)ɔ /
Nahuatl > Sp
any of several solanaceous plants with fruits resembling small tomatoes.
The television chef explained that the tomatillo is rich in vitamins A and C.

tomato

tomboyish

tombstones

n pl
/ 'tʊm.stɒnz /
Gk > L > AF > E + E
inscribed stones placed over graves.
Vandals had removed tombstones as a Halloween prank.

tonette

tongawalla

tongs

tonic

n
/ 'tɒnɪk /
Gk
something that invigorates, restores, refreshes, or stimulates.
A glorious sunrise can work as a tonic and uplift downcast spirits.

tonnage

tonneau

tonsils

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topepo

topogaphize

toque

n
/ 'tōk /
Sp > F
[has homonym: toke] a woman's small brimless hat made in any of various soft close-fitting shapes.
Margo buttoned her jacket and adjusted her blue velvet toque in front of the mirror.

toquilla

torero

n
/ tə're(,)rō /
L > Sp
a bullfighter.
Pepe dreamed of being a famous torero like his uncle Luis.

toreutics

n pl
/ tə'ri:diks /
Gk
the art or process of working in metal especially by embossing or engraving.
Archaeological artifacts attest to the ancient Celts' excellence in toreutics.

torii

tormented

adj
/ 'tōr.mentəd /
L
distressed.
The tormented hypochondriac finally decided to seek help from a psychotherapist.

tormentil

n
/ 'tō(r)mən.til /
L > E
[Note: Could be confused with tormentilla.] a yellow-flowered Eurasian herb with a root that contains an astringent and is used sometimes in tanning and dyeing.
The hillside was ablaze with the bright color of tormentil.

tornado

n
/ tōr'nā(,)dō /
L > Sp
a violent destructive whirling wind accompanied by a funnel-shaped cloud that progresses in a narrow path over the land.
In a few moments of unforgettable terror, a tornado roared into the Texas town, killing three people and destroying about 300 houses.

torpedo

torpid

adj
/ 'tōrpəd /
L
sluggish in functioning or acting.
Eric's parents told him that too many hours watching television would make his mind torpid.

torporific

adj
/ .tō(r)pə'rifik /
L
producing mental or spiritual sluggishness or apathy.
Ben's allergy medicine had a torporific effect, robbing him of energy.

torque

Torquemada

n
/ .tō(r)k(w)ə'mädə /
Sp
one who harasses in a manner to injure, grieve, or afflict usually because of some difference of outlook or opinion : oppressor.
The new police chief has been described as a ruthless Torquemada.

torquemeter

n
/ 'tō(r)k.mēd-ə(r) /
L > F + Gk
an instrument to measure or record a force that produces or tends to produce rotation or torsion.
A torquemeter is used to measure the power delivered by airplane propellers, jet engines, and other rotating machinery.

torr

n
/ 'tō(ə)r /
It name
[has homonyms: tor, tore] a unit of pressure equal to 1/760 of an atmosphere and very nearly equal to the pressure of a column of mercury 1 millimeter high at 0 degrees Celsius and standard gravity.
Jill learned that 1 torr is an extremely small amount of pressure.

torrenticole

torrone

n
/ tə'rōnē /
L > Sp > It
a candy made of honey and almonds.
For the holidays the catalog offers a variety of Italian confections, including panettone and torrone.

torsion

torte

n
/ 'tōrdə /
L > It? > G
[has homonym and near homonym: torta and tort] a cake or pastry made of many eggs, sugar, and often grated nuts or dry bread crumbs in place of flour and baked in a large flat form, being sometimes filled with jam and usually covered with a rich frosting
Luke baked a chocolate torte for his sister's birthday.

torus

totalitarian

adj
/ (,)tō.talə'terēən /
L + Ecff
of or relating to centralized control by an autocratic leader or hierarchy.
Totalitarian theory and practice are solidly opposed to any institutional division of power.

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totem

n
/ 'tɒdəm /
Ojibwa
[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word.] a dark reddish orange—called also “Mars red.”
Jessica’s fiery personality perhaps explains why she wants to paint her room totem.

totalpalmate

totipotency

n
/ tɒ'tɪpədənsē /
L + L
ability to generate or regenerate a whole organism from a part.
Certain cells from tadpoles have been shown to have developmental totipotency.

tottered

v
/ 'tɒdə(r)d /
E
staggered, wobbled.
“Don’t look down,” advised Milo as the bug tottered upward on unsteady legs.

toucanet

n
/ 'tʊkənət /
Tupi > Pg > F
any of several small South and Central American toucans predominantly green in color.
While visiting her cousin in Costa Rica, Carla enjoyed the company of her pet toucanet.

tough

adj
/ 'tʌf /
E
[has homonym: tuff] extremely difficult to cope with or comprehend.
The questions on the final exam were so tough that only the well-prepared students got a passing grade.

tourlourou

tourniquet

towhead

townsite

toxicity

toxicology

n
/ 'tɒksə'käləjē /
Gk
a science that deals with poisons and their effect on living organisms and with the clinical, industrial, legal, or other problems involved.
Dr. Krause quickly consulted his textbook on toxicology to find the antidote.

toxoid

trabeated

adj
/ 'træbē.ād.əd /
L
designed or constructed of horizontal beams or lintels.
A trabeated structural form gives a building a solid, boxy shape.

tracheitis

n
/ ,trākē'ɪd.əs /
Gk
inflammation of the main trunk of the system of tubes by which air passes to and from the lungs in vertebrates.
Because of the singer’s tracheitis, many of her concerts had to be canceled.

tracheole

n
/ 'trākē.əl /
Gk > L
one of the minute delicate endings of a branched air-conveying tubule of an insect.
In the respiratory system of insects, oxygen diffuses through the tracheole to enter the body cells.

trachodon

n
/ 'trækədän /
Gk + Gk
a dinosaur of a genus comprising large duck-billed dinosaurs of the Upper Cretaceous that have a broad spatulate snout.
The trachodon had several hundred blunt teeth and fed on twigs, seeds, fruits, and pine needles.

traction

tractor

tradal

trademark

tradition

traffic

tragic

adj
/ 'trajɪk /
Gk
disastrous, fearful.
It is hard to conceive of the tragic significance of the atomic bomb’s very existence.

tragopan

trainable

traineau

n
/ trā'nō /
F
sledge, sleigh.
During the winter, guests at the lodge are met at the station by a long, horse-drawn traineau.

trait

traitor

traitorous

tramontane

trample

tranquil

tranquillo

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

transaction

transcendent

transceiver

transcript

transcutaneous

adj
/ ,tranzkyü'tänēəs /
L

passing or entering through the skin.

Transcutaneous electrical nerve stimulation was used to relieve Kim's chronic back pain.

transept

transfer

transfixed

v
/ tranz'fikst /
L
affixed, fastened, or held motionless by or as if by piercing especially with an absorbing emotion or interest.
They were all transfixed by the Trivium's soothing voice.

transform

transhumance

n
/ tranz'hyümən(t)s /
L > Sp > F
[has homonym: transhumants]
seasonal movement of livestock and especially sheep between mountain and lowland pastures.
Transhumance remains an essential pastoral activity in many sheep-raising areas.

transilient

transistor

n
/ tran'zistə(r) /
L
a tiny electronic device that amplifies, oscillates, or switches the flow of current.
If the transistor had not been invented, today's handheld electronic devices would not exist.

transistorize

transitory

adj
/ 'tranzə.tōrē /
L
marked by the quality of passing away : evanescent, transient.
Last week's homily emphasized the transitory nature of material wealth.

transliterate

translucently

adv
/ tran(t)'slüs'ntlē /
L + Ecf
in a manner permitting the passage of light and diffusing it so that objects beyond cannot be clearly distinguished.
The frosted glass in the window let the sunlight in translucently.

transmittal

n
/ tran(t)'smid'əl /
L
an act, process, or instance of giving or conveying (a disease or infection) to another person or organism.
Washing one's hands is an effective method of preventing the transmittal of germs.

transparency

transparent

adj
/ tranz'pa(a)rənt /
L
having the property of transmitting light so that bodies lying beyond are entirely visible.
Because the protective book cover was transparent, the colorful book jacket could be seen through it.

transpicuous

transpierce

transportee

transposable

adj
/ tranz'pōzəbəl /
L
capable of being interchanged.
In the early 1950s geneticists discovered that transposable genes may change their position on the chromosome.

transposition

transtracheal

adj
/ tranz'trākēəl /
L + Gk
extending or effected through the trachea or windpipe.
Oxygen had to be supplied to the patient through a transtracheal tube.

transversal

trapezoidal

trapunto

n
/ trə'pün(,)tō /
L
a decorative quilted fabric design in high relief.
The oldest coverlet in the museum's collection features a central medallion worked in trapunto and embroidery.

traumatic

adj
/ trō'madik /
Gk
of, relating to, or resulting from an injury or wound to the human body caused by the application of external force or violence.
It took Marsha years to get over her traumatic experience with the revolving door.

travail

traveler

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

traverse

v
/ trə'vərs /
L
go or travel across or over.
The minivan will traverse the middle of the state during the tornado watch.

treacle

n
/ 'trɛkəl /
Gk > L > F > E
a blend of molasses, sugar, and corn syrup used as a table syrup.
Put a small amount of treacle or a bit of sugar on your porridge.

tread

treadle

n
/ 'tredl /
E
a swiveling or lever device pressed by the foot to drive a machine.
Janna set a basket of magazines on the antique sewing machine's treadle.

treasurable

treasurer

treaty

trebly

trellises

tremble

trembling

v
/ 'tremb(ə)liŋ /
L > F > E
quaking with or as if with fear or other emotion.
She found him trembling from fright in a corner with a gun in each hand.

tremellose

tremolo

n
/ 'tremələ /
L > It
a perceptible rapid variation of pitch in the voice especially in singing.
Tremolo in vocal music and vibrato in instrumental music are similar sound effects.

trenchancy

trepak

n
/ trə'pāk /
Russ
a fiery Ukrainian folk dance performed by men and featuring an extension of the legs alternately from a squatting position.
Olga's favorite characters in The Nutcracker are the Cossacks who dance the trepak.

trephone

trespassing

trevally

triacetate

triannulate

triaxial

tribology

n
/ trī'bäləjē /
Gk
a study that deals with the design, friction, wear, and lubrication of interacting surfaces in relative motion to each other (as in bearings or gears).
After getting an undergraduate degree in mechanical engineering, Jeff studied for a master's degree in tribology.

triceratops

n
/ trī'serətäps /
Gk
any animal or fossil of the huge herbivorous dinosaurs having a skull with two large horns above the eyes, a median horn on the nose, and a great bony hood or transverse crest over the neck.
Of all Angela's stuffed dinosaurs, the triceratops is her favorite.

trichologist

trichotillomania

n
/ ,trikətɪlə'mänēə /
Gk + Gk + Gk
abnormal desire to pull out one's hair.
Susan has been diagnosed with trichotillomania, which explains her lack of eyebrows and eyelashes.

trichotomized

v
/ trī'kädə.mīzd /
Gk
divided into three parts, elements, or classes.
Sigmund Freud trichotomized the mind into id, ego, and superego.

tricolette

tricolor

tricot

tricuspid

tridactylous

adj
/ trī'daktələs /
Gk
having three fingers or toes.
The museum exhibit included the fossilized footprint of a tridactylous dinosaur.

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

tridental

adj
/ trī'dentəl /
L

having the form of a three-pronged scepter or spear serving in classical mythology as the attribute or symbol of a sea god.

It is easy to see that Paul's tridental prop is actually a modified pitchfork.

triduum

trifecta

n
/ trī'fektə /
L + L

a betting pool in which the bettor must pick the first, second, and third finishers in a specified race or contest in the correct order.

Grandmother liked to bet the trifecta on her weekly visit to the racetrack.

trifid

trifle

trifling

trifurcate

v
/ 'trifər.kāt /
L

fork or divide into three branches.
Under consideration is a proposal to trifurcate the small nation into Hindu, Muslim, and Buddhist sections.

trigger

triglycerides

n pl
/ trī'glisərīdz /
Gk + Gk + Ecf

esters formed from glycerol by reacting all three of its hydroxy groups with fatty acids.

Triglycerides, researchers say, significantly contribute to the progression of coronary artery disease.

trijugate

trillado

trimaran

tripartite

adj
/ trī'pär.tīt /
L

consisting of three parts or divisions.

In Mr. Baker's tripartite system of evaluation, one number represents classroom participation, one number represents homework effort, and one number represents grades.

triphibian

triphibious

triphthong

triptych

triskaidekaphobia

n
/ .tri.skī.dekə'föbēə /
Gk

fear of the number 13.
Because of his triskaidekaphobia, Alton called the front desk and asked to be moved from Room 1313.

trismus

tritor

triumphant

adj
/ trī'əm(p)fənt /
L > F > E

conquering, victorious.
The triumphant general was given a parade in his honor.

triumvir

trivial

trochee

troching

n
/ 'trō.kiŋ /
F > E

[has homonym with regional label: troking] a small point of a stag's antler.

During mating-season fights, it is common for a troching or two to break off of a stag's antler.

trochlea

troglobiont

trombone

tromometer

n
/ .trō'mämədə(r) /
Gk + Gk

an instrument for measuring or detecting minute earth tremors.

George's new security system is based on a tromometer that can detect footfalls anywhere in the building.

trophobiosis

n
/ .träfō.bī'ōsēs /
Gk

a relation in which an organism of one kind aids and protects an organism of another kind in return for some food product.

The entomologist described the relation between some ants and aphids from whom they obtain sweet secretions as "trophobiosis."

trophy

tropism

n
/ 'trō.pizəm /
Gk

an innate tendency to react in a definite manner to stimuli.

Any type of tropism involves turning toward or away from a stimulus.

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

troposphere

n
/ 'trɒpə.sfi(ə)r /
Gk

the portion of the mass of air around Earth that extends outward about seven to ten miles from Earth's surface.

The temperature of the troposphere decreases with altitude.

trotteur

trottoir

troupe

truancy

truant

trudged

v
/ 'trʌjd /
unknown
marched on foot wearily.
Omar picked up his youngest boy and trudged off down the road, the other three children trotting after him.

trumpeter

truncal

adj
/ 'trʌŋkəl /
L
[has near homonym: truckle] of or relating to the trunk of the body.
The paramedics examined Rob for truncal bruises, but his only injury was a broken finger.

truncheoned

adj
/ 'trʌŋtʃənd /
L > F > E
having a nightstick.
The truncheoned officer saw no need to carry a handgun while walking his beat.

trunnion

truss

v
/ 'trʌs /
L? > F > E
[has near homonym: trust] arrange for cooking by binding the wings or legs of (as fowl) close to the body.
The woman on the Thanksgiving turkey hotline told Kay how to truss a turkey properly so that the stuffing wouldn't leak out during roasting.

trypanosomiasis

n
/ trə'panəsɔ'miəsəs /
Gk > L
an infectious disease spread by certain bloodsucking insects.
American trypanosomiasis occurs primarily in the Central and South American tropics.

tuba

tubercle

tuberculate

tubifacient

tuft

tuition

tumbler

tumbleweed

tumefacient

tumefy

tumid

adj
/ 't(y)üməd /
L
marked by swelling.
Mark had a badly infected tumid leg.

tumming

tumorigenic

tumult

tunic

n
/ 't(y)ünik /
Sem > L
a simple slip-on garment made with or without sleeves and usually knee-length or longer, belted at the waist, and worn as an under or outer garment.
The prince's tunic was embroidered with his coat of arms.

turbidity

turbulent

tureen

turnbuckle

n
/ 'tɜrn.bʌkəl /
E + L > F > E
a right-and-left screw link used for tightening a rod or stay.
Each of the tension wires that supported the old tree had a turnbuckle to allow adjustments.

turnip

turquoise

tussle

tutorial

tuxedo

tweezer

twig

n
/ 'twɪg /
E
a small shoot or branch usually without its leaves.
Dicken could tell when an unpromising bough or twig still had green life in it.

twinkling

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

twinkly

adj
/ 'twɪŋk(ə)lɪ /

E
beaming with lively feeling.
Beth was quite fond of her twinkly grandpa, who was always ready with a good joke.

twister

n
/ 'twɪstə(r) /

E
a tornado, waterspout, sand column, or dust whirl in which the rotatory ascending movement of a column of air is especially apparent.
By the time people see or hear an approaching twister, they have just a few minutes to find shelter.

twistiness

twitter

v
/ 'twɪdə(r) /

E
utter the successive chirping notes of a bird.
The parakeets fill the petstore with song when they twitter.

twoling

tychism

tydie

type

typeface

typical

typographical

tyrant

n
/ 'tɪrənt /

Gk
one who by unfair or unreasonable demands or rigorous exploitation imposes burdens and hardships on those under his or her control.
The Latin teacher, a bitter tyrant, gave his students a huge homework assignment over the holiday break.

ulcer

uliginous

adj
/ yū'lijənəs /

L
growing in wet or swampy ground.
Quentin is making a study of uliginous mosses.

ullaged

ulmin

ulna

ultimate

ultimogeniture

n
/ ʌltəmɔ'jenə.chù(ə)r /

L
a system of inheritance by which the youngest son or sometimes daughter or collateral heir succeeds to the estate.
Mr. Case, deciding that his father's adherence to ultimogeniture was unfair, planned to divide the family farm equally among his siblings and himself.

ultrafiche

ultralight

ultramarine

n
/ ʌltrəmə'rɛn /

L
a vivid blue.
The ultramarine of Billy's eyes is enhanced by tinted contact lenses.

ululate

Ulyssean

adj
/ yū'lisɛən /

Gk name
of, relating to, or resembling Ulysses, the hero of Homer's Odyssey.
James Joyce's Ulysses describes a single day in the life of his Ulyssean hero, Leopold Bloom.

umbellulone

umber

n
/ 'ʌmbə(r) /

L
a brown earthen material highly valued by artists as a permanent pigment.
When umber is ground, washed, and dried, it is called "raw umber."

unaccommodating

unachieved

unadulterated

adj
/ ʌnə'dʌltə.rədəd /
Ecf + L
pure, unmixed, uncorrupted.
Children reared in poverty cannot experience the unadulterated happiness of childhood that they deserve.

unanimity

unappreciative

adj
/ ʌnə'prɛʃhədɪv /
E + L
not having or showing sensitive awareness of worth or aesthetic value.
Tara thought her brother was unappreciative of the help she gave him.

unasked

unassimilable

unatonable

unbowdlerized

unbudgeable

adj
/ ʌn'bʊdʒəbəl /
Ecf + L > F
incapable of being moved or shifted.
The poem exemplifies the author's unbudgeable belief in human goodness.

uncanny

unceremoniously

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

unceremoniousness

n
/ .ən.sə.rə'mōn.ē.sən.səs /
Ecf + Etruscan? > L + Ecf
state of being informal.
Memories of the disagreement began to fade, and soon Mr. Knightley conducted himself with the unceremoniousness of perfect amity.

unchangeable

adj
/ .ən'chānjəbəl /
E + F > E
not capable of being changed : immutable.
Mr. Jowett denied that age makes habits unchangeable.

uncial

uncinus

n
/ .ən'sīnəs /
L
a small hooklike structure or process.
An uncinus is one of a set of structures that the mollusk uses to tear up its food and draw it into its mouth.

uncivilly

uncle

uncompliant

uncomplimentary

adj
/ .ənkəmplə'mentərē /
Ecf + L > E
degrading, derogatory.
Betsy felt sure that her new haircut would elicit many uncomplimentary remarks.

unconcerned

unconscionably

adv
/ .ən'kānch(ə)nəblē /
L
in a manner not guided or controlled by conscience.
Nathan behaved so unconscionably in elementary school that his juvenile delinquency surprises no one.

unconscious

uncooperative

adj
/ .ənkō'öpərədɪv /
Ecf + L
not marked by willingness and ability to work with others in a common effort.
Mr. Jenkins sighed, "Do you enjoy being the most belligerent, uncooperative child in school?"

uncoquettish

unction

n
/ 'ʊŋ(k)shən /
L
the anointing of the sick with oil that is a religious rite of healing.
The Catholic sacrament of extreme unction can be given by a priest to any baptized person who has reached the age of reason.

undecagon

undecided

undecipherable

undergrowth

underlier

underling

underrated

v
/ .əndə(r)'rād.əd /
Ecf + L
undervalued.
The students soon learned that they had underrated the intelligence of their teacher.

understudy

n
/ 'əndə(r).stədē /
E + L
one who stands prepared to act another's part or take over the work or duties of another.
While the leading lady was ill, her understudy performed admirably in her role.

undine

undiscerned

adj
/ .əndə'sərnd /
Ecf + L
unseen.
Many circumstances had passed undiscerned, but the two latest occurrences were witnessed by several individuals.

undisguisable

unequally

unequivocally

unexpugnable

unfastidious

unfathomable

adj
/ .ən'fathəməbəl /
E
incomprehensible, inscrutable.
Maggie's poker face was completely unfathomable.

unfavorable

adj
/ .ən'fāvər(ə)bəl /
E + L > E
opposed, contrary.
Willa decided the time was unfavorable for her to tell her mother the news.

unfirmamented

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

unforeseeable

adj
/ ʌnfɔːr'siːəbəl /

E
incapable of being foreseen, foretold, or anticipated.
The problem was made worse by a number of unforeseeable complications.

ungregarious

ungrudgingly

unguiferate

ungulate

n
/ ˈɪŋɡjələt /
L
a hoofed typically herbivorous quadruped mammal (as a cow, camel, horse, pig, or elephant).
The elephant is the largest ungulate in existence.

uniaxial

adj
/ ˌjʊniːˈæksɪəl /

L
having but one axis.
Uniaxial orientation takes place during the drawing of a filament.

unicellular

unideaed

uniformity

unilaterally

adv
/ ˌjʊniːləˈdɛərəli /
L + L + Ecff
in a one-sided manner.
The dictator unilaterally proclaimed the action a breach of international law and an act of war.

uninterrupted

unionize

uniquity

Unitarian

n
/ ˌjuːnəˈterɪən /

L
a Christian who believes that the deity exists only in one person.
Horace's father was a Unitarian, and his mother was agnostic.

unite

univalve

adj
/ ˈjʊniːvəl /

L
having or consisting in one valve.
The aquatic univalve will usually attach its eggs to leaves or sticks.

universality

universe

n
/ ˈjʊniːvɜːs /
L
the entire celestial cosmos.
Many a philosopher has pondered the question "Are we alone in the universe?"

university

univocal

unkempt

adj
/ ʌnˈkempt /
E
deficient in order or neatness of person : disheveled.
Janice feared that she would look unkempt after her six-hour flight.

unknowable

unlute

unmanacle

unmerciful

unmitigable

adj
/ ʌnˈmɪdʒəbəl /
Ecf + L
not causing to make less severe, violent, cruel, intense, painful.
The traffic jam caused unmitigable anger and frustration in Mr. Nelson.

unmitigated

unnecessarily

adv
/ ʌnˌnɛsɪˈserəli /
Ecf + L
not in such a way that it cannot be otherwise : to a needless degree.
The taxi ride was unnecessarily long because the driver did not know the best route to take.

unneighborly

unnerve

v
/ ʌnˈnɜːv /
E + L
deprive of courage and physical strength : cause to become weak and ineffective especially from fear.
Only after the rush of adrenaline wore off did the horrible accident unnerve the paramedic.

unobtrusively

adv
/ ʌnəbˈtrʊsɪvli /
E + L
in a manner that is not blatant, immodest, or overly aggressive.
The Italian film had English subtitles placed unobtrusively near the bottom of the frame.

unoccupied

unparallelable

unpersuadable

adj
/ ʌnpə(r)ˈswədəbəl /
L
not capable of being induced by argument, entreaty, or expostulation into some mental position : adamant.
Both the Mr. Knightleys were as unpersuadable on that matter as Emma.

unperturbed

unpropitious

unpropitiously

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

unregenerate

adj

/ .ənreˈjen(ə)rət /

E + L

obstinate, stubborn.

Orrin's unregenerate refusal to admit he was wrong angered his wife.

unrehearsed

unreliable

unremitting

adj

/ .ənreˈmitɪŋ /

E + L

constant, incessant.

Doug was a careful and unremitting student of political thought.

unremunerative

unresolved

unscarred

unseasonable

adj

/ .ənˈsiːz(ə)nəbəl /

Ecf + L > F > E + Lcf > Ecf

not usual or normal and usually undesirable for the season of the year.

An unseasonable cold snap proved deadly to many of Kate's roses.

unsentimental

adj

/ .ən.sentəˈmentl /

E + L

not characterized or dominated by excessive emotion.

Jerome tried to be unsentimental in his assessment of the situation.

unsepulchered

unshunnable

unsympathetic

adj

/ .ən.sɪmpəˈθedɪk /

E + Gk

not exhibiting ready

comprehension of others' mental states : unresponsive.

Aaron found Mrs. Schubert totally unsympathetic to his ordeal.

untenable

adj

/ .ənˈtenəbəl /

E + L

not able to be defended or maintained.

Arlen found himself in an untenable position when his boss asked him to lie to the auditors.

untimely

adj

/ .ənˈtɪmlē /

E

occurring at an inopportune time.

Slim's untimely arrival interrupted the ceremony.

untraceable

adj

/ .ənˈtrāsəbəl /

Ecf + F > E + Ecf

not capable of being tracked down.

The armored car was robbed of \$2 million in untraceable bills.

untrammelled

unvaccinated

adj

/ .ənˈvaksənədəd /

Ecf + L

not being inoculated with a vaccine in order to produce immunity.

The injured, unvaccinated horse was given a tetanus antitoxin shot.

unwarrantable

unwearable

unwritten

upbeat

adj

/ ˈʌp.bēt /

E + E

marked by optimism : cheerful, happy.

The students came away from the pep rally in an upbeat mood.

updraft

n

/ ˈʌp.draʃt /

E + E

an upward movement of air or other gas.

A storm's life and power are determined by the middle atmospheric winds around the central updraft.

upheave

v

/ .ʌpˈhēv /

E

lift or raise, usually with great force.

The engineer used dynamite to upheave the boulder.

upholsterer

n

/ (.)ʌpˈhɔɪltz(ə)rə(r) /

E

one whose occupation is the covering of furniture with padding and fabric.

The upholsterer nearly fainted when he ripped open the lumpy cushion and found it stuffed with rolls of dollar bills.

uppityness

uprightously

uraeus

n

/ yəˈrēəs /

Gk > L

[has homonym and near homonym: ureas and urias] a stylized representation of the sacred asp appearing on the headdress of ancient rulers especially just over the forehead and serving as a symbol of sovereignty.

Robin admired the large golden uraeus on the pharaoh's crown.

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

uranium	uveitis n / ,yüvĕ'itäs / L + Ecf inflammation of the portion of the eye composed of the iris and ciliary body together with the choroid coat. <i>Uveitis in horses is sometimes called "moon blindness."</i>	vagabonds n pl / 'vægəbändz / L > F > E individuals who wander about from place to place. <i>Jill and Jenny enjoyed being vagabonds in Europe the summer after they graduated from high school.</i>
uranography		vagarious
uranometry		vagile adj / 'vajəl / L free to move about. <i>Vagile organisms are inherently difficult to observe, which makes study of their interactions challenging.</i>
urban		vagueness n / 'vāgnəs / L > F + Ecf the quality or state of lacking expression. <i>Roy's little eyes began to shine, and they lost their vagueness.</i>
urbane		vain
urn	uvula	vainglorious
ursiform	uvular adj / 'yüvyələ(r) / L [Note: Could be confused with uvula.] of or relating to the pendent fleshy lobe in the posterior border of the soft palate; specifically : produced with the aid of this lobe. <i>Try as she might, Joanie could not produce a uvular trill.</i>	vair n / 'va(a)(ə)r / L > F > E a heraldic pattern of interlocking shield-shaped panes. <i>Rosalind had a difficult time trying to paint the vair of her family's coat of arms.</i>
urticaria		valence n / 'vālən(t)s / L the degree of combining power of any element or radical. <i>Iron has a variable valence: two in ferrous chloride and three in ferric chloride.</i>
usage		valetudinary
usance		valid
usufructuary n / ,yüzə'frækchə.werē / L one having the use or enjoyment of something. <i>Although he leased his farm to a large corporation, Silas remained the usufructuary of the wooded sections.</i>	uxoricide n / ,æk'sörəsɪd / L + L the murder of a wife by her husband. <i>The police suspected the missing woman was a victim of uxoricide.</i>	
usurp		
utile adj / 'yüd·l / L [has homonym: util] practical, useful. <i>Metals such as copper and tin are particularly utile in manufacturing.</i>	uxoriously	
utmost	vacancy	
utopia	vacant	
utricle	vacillant	
utterable	vacillatory adj / 'vasələ.törē / L characterized by changeableness or indecisiveness. <i>Lacking a strong leader, the committee tended to be vacillatory in regard to budget cuts.</i>	
uvala	vacuole	
	vacuometer	

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

valise

n
/ və'li:s /
It > F

traveling bag.

Mrs. McDonald asked the flight attendant to put her valise in the overhead bin.

valorization

valuable

adj
/ 'valyəbəl /
L > F > E

possessing monetary worth in use or exchange.

After quitting her job, Brenda sold a few valuable articles and took a trip to Australia.

valuta

van

vanadium

n
/ və'nādiəm /
ON goddess

a gray or white malleable ductile polyvalent metallic element that is resistant to air, seawater, alkalies, and reducing acids except hydrofluoric acid.

Vanadium is often used as a dye in ceramics and pottery.

vane

n
/ 'vān /
E

[has homonyms: vain, vein] a movable device attached to a spire, mast, or other elevated object for showing the direction of the wind.

Atop the barn is a metal weather vane in the form of a rooster.

vanillery

n
/ və'nɪlərē /
L > Sp > F

a plantation of vanilla.

Juan Aguiar owns a large vanillery north of Guatemala City.

vanishing

vanity

vapid

adj
/ 'vəpəd /
L

lacking flavor, zest, animation, or spirit : uninteresting.

The couple sat through the vapid movie simply because they had paid good money to see it.

vapor

n
/ 'vāpə(r) /
L

diffused matter floating suspended in air and impairing its transparency.

The vapor of exhaust hung thick in the air near the truckstop.

vaporizer

varietal

variety

varioliform

adj
/ ,verē'älə:fɔ:m /
L + EcF

resembling smallpox.

When the relief worker saw the refugee's varioliform lesions, she suspected an experiment in germ warfare had taken place.

variometer

variorum

various

variscite

varlet

n
/ 'vārlət /
F

a low fellow : a base unprincipled person.

Some varlet put his parking ticket on Claudia's car.

varsity

vary

vascular

vasculature

n
/ 'vaskyələchü(ə)r /
L

the disposition or arrangement of blood vessels in an organ or part.

In the biology lab, students are investigating the vasculature of a fetal pig.

vasoconstrictor

vassalage

n
/ 'vasəlij /
L > F > E

a position of subordination or submission (as to a political power or a detrimental influence).

After unifying China, Kublai Khan sent envoys to neighboring kingdoms, obliging them to accept vassalage.

vastitude

n
/ 'vastətüd /
L

immensity.

The vastitude of the proposal held him spellbound.

vaticinal

adj
/ və'tɪs'nəl /
L

of, relating to, or containing prophecy.

Will just laughed at his grandmother's vaticinal utterances, for none of her predictions ever came true.

vaticination

n
/ və'tɪs'n'āshən /
L

something foretold : prediction.

The doomsayer's woeful vaticination fell on deaf ears.

vaunted

adj
/ 'vɔntəd /
L > E

boasted about : praised to the skies.

Jess was looking forward to the vaunted Hawaiian sunshine, but it rained throughout his vacation.

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

vector

n
/ 'vektə(r) /
L

a course or compass direction, especially of an airplane.
The pilot received the vector for landing from the control tower.

Vedic

adj
/ 'vādik /
Skt

of or relating to the most ancient sacred writings of the Hindus.
Ivy took a class in Vedic Sanskrit in her first year of graduate school.

veering

v
/ 'vi(ə)riŋ /
D or G > E
turning, shifting.

The sharks began veering abruptly when the diver pulled the dead fish from her bag.

vega

vehement

veil

n
/ 'vāil /
L > F > E

[has homonym: vale] a length of cloth worn by women as a covering for the head and shoulders and often especially in Eastern countries for the face.
After arriving at the church, the bride frantically announced that she had forgotten her veil.

veined

velvet

velveteen

n
/ ,velvə'tēn /
L > F > E + Ecf

a clothing fabric usually of cotton in twill or plain weaves made with a short close weft pile in imitation of velvet.
Jenny can't wait to wear her holiday dress made of dark green velveteen.

venality

venatic

venatorial
adj
/ ,venə'tōriəl /
L

of, relating to, or used in hunting.
As the duck-hunting season begins, Jake can be counted on to retell accounts of his past venatorial successes.

vendue

venenate

venire

n
/ və'nīrē /
L

an entire panel which is drawn for jury duty and from which a jury is to be selected.
On reporting for jury duty, Astrid was directed to join the venire in courtroom 17.

vent

ventilation

ventrally
adv
/ 'ventrəlē /
L

on, near, or in the direction of the belly.
The aquarium fish was striped both ventrally and dorsally.

ventricle

n
/ 'ventrə'kəl /
L

one of the chambers of the heart which receives blood from a corresponding atrium and from which blood is forced into the arteries.
The heart patient's right ventricle is the source of his trouble.

ventricular

ventripotent

venture

n
/ 'venchə(r) /
E

an undertaking involving chance, risk, or danger.
"My heart was beating finely when we two set forth in the cold night upon this dangerous venture," he confided.

verbalize

verbiage

verbigeration

verbose

verbosity

verdigrised

v
/ 'vərdə,grēsd /
L > F > E

covered or coated with a green or bluish deposit especially of copper carbonates formed on copper, brass, or bronze surfaces.
Five years of weathering verdigrised the roof over the bay window from the color of a shiny new penny.

verein

veridical

adj
/ və'ridə'kəl /
L

conforming to the truth : truthful.
The therapist tried to help the patient distinguish veridical perceptions from illusory ones.

veridicality

verify

vermicular

vermiform
adj
/ 'vərmə'fɔrm /
L

wormlike.
Some insect larvae are vermiform.

vermilion

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

vermin

verminous

adj
/ 'vɜrmənəs /

L
infested by small animals (as lice, bedbugs, mice) that tend to occur in great numbers, are difficult to control, and are offensive as well as injurious.

Mayor Skopek promised to demolish the verminous abandoned buildings.

vernacularize

v
/ və(r)'nakyələ.rɪz /

L
render into or express in a native language or dialect of a country, region, or person.
Vera's attempt to vernacularize the dialog in her novel is requiring more research than she had anticipated.

verruca

version

versus

prep
/ 'vɜrsəs /

L
[has near homonym: verses] against.
The landmark court case "Brown versus Board of Education of Topeka" paved the way for school desegregation.

verticil

n
/ 'vɜrdəsɪl /

L
a circle or whorl of similar body parts (as flowers about a point on an axis).
A verticil of flowers grew at the tip of the plant's stem.

verve

vespetro

vesta

n
/ 'vestə /

L name
a short wooden match.
Robin removed a vesta from the vintage match safe and struck it on the grated exterior.

vestigial

Vesuvian

adj
/ və'süvɪən /

L geog name
marked by uncertainty or sudden outbursts : furious.
Gerald's cardiologist advised him to control his Vesuvian rage lest he jeopardize his health.

veteran

veterans

n pl
/ 'vedərənz /

L
ones skilled through length of service.
The supervisors depended on the veterans to help the novices on the assembly line.

veterinarian

n
/ ,vedərə'nerɪən /

L
one skilled in treating diseases and injuries of animals.
The veterinarian removed a large splinter from Misty's paw.

vettura

vexillary

n
/ 'veksə.lərɪ /

L
standard-bearer.
If the appointed vexillary fell in battle, it was the duty of the nearest soldier to rescue the standard.

viability

n
/ ,vɪə'bilədɪ /

L
the ability to live, grow, and develop.
The viability of the crop was in question after the severe hailstorm.

viaduct

vial

viand

n
/ 'vɪənd /
L > F > E

an article of food.
The pantry was so full that there wasn't room for a single viand more.

vibrant

adj
/ 'vɪbrənt /

L
pulsating with life, vigor, or activity.
The nurse had a vibrant personality that could cheer even the most despondent patient.

vibrissa

vicar

vicarious

vicariously

adv
/ vɪ'ka(a)rɪəsli /

L
in a manner experienced or realized through imaginative or sympathetic participation in the experience of another.
Erin loves to read travel magazines so that she can vicariously enjoy trips to exotic lands.

vicinal

vicinity

vicious

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

vicissitudes

n pl
/ və'sis.ə.tüdz /
L

fluctuations in condition (as of wealth, prosperity, or happiness).
One could not have imagined the extreme vicissitudes the Great Depression brought our nation's populace.

videlicet

vidimus

n
/ 'vidəməs /
L

an attested copy of a document.
In purely legalistic terms, a notarized document could be called a "vidimus."

viga

n
/ 'vɛgə /
Sp

one of the heavy rafters that is often a log and that supports the roof in the native Indian and Spanish colonial architecture of the Southwest.
At least one termite-infested viga was responsible for the roof's collapse.

vigil

n
/ 'vijəl /
L

a religious service on the morning of the day before a holy day.
Deborah enjoyed the Christmas Eve vigil as a respite from her hectic family life.

vigilant

adj
/ 'vijələnt /
L

alertly or watchfully awake; especially : alert or watchful to discover and avoid danger.
The teachers on bus duty were not very vigilant at their posts, choosing instead to socialize with each other.

vigintillion

vigorish

n
/ 'vigərɪʃ /
Russ > Yiddish?

a charge taken (as by a bookie or gambling house) on bets.
David won \$500 at the races but had to pay his bookie a vigorish of \$50.

vigorous

vigorously

adv
/ 'vig(ə)rəslē /
L > F > E

in a manner full of physical or mental strength or active force.
Jesse vigorously objected to the referendum.

vilely

villager

villanelle

n
/ 'vilə'nel /
It > F

a chiefly French poem having typically five tercets and a quatrain.
One of the most striking aspects of the villanelle is its rhyme scheme.

vimineous

adj
/ və'minēəs /
L

of or producing long slender twigs or shoots.
Ryan's backyard is shaded by a huge vimineous willow tree.

vindaloo

n
/ 'vində.lu /
Pg > Indo-Pg > Konkani
a curried meat dish made with garlic and wine or vinegar.
Sweet chutney is a delicious counterpoint to spicy vindaloo.

vindictive

vintage

violaceous

adj
/ vɪə'lāʃhəs /
L

of the color violet.
The prism cast a violaceous band across Sally's face.

violate

violently

adv
/ 'vɪələntlē /
L > F > E

in a manner characterized by extreme force.
The hail beat violently against the spring flowers.

violet

virement

virent

virgule

n
/ 'vɔr.gyül /
L > F

a short, usually slanting stroke or mark used in medieval manuscripts.
In modern times a virgule is often used to divide a date into month, day, and year.

viridity

n
/ və'ridədē /
L

the quality or state of being green : the color of grass or foliage.
Zoysia grass is known for its lack of viridity in cool months.

virility

virtual

virulently

adv
/ 'vir(y)ələntlē /
L + Ecf

in a manner full of bitter malicious hatred.
The campaign turned virulently hostile as the candidates exchanged nasty personal insults.

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

visceral

viscid

adj
/ 'visəd /

L
having an adhesive quality : gluey, sticky.

Katie gazed in fascination at the steaming vat of viscid sap, which would soon be maple syrup.

vise

n
/ 'vīs /

F
[has homonym: vice] any of various tools having two jaws for holding work that close usually by a screw, lever, or cam.

Keith put the copper bar in a vise and hammered the end of it into the desired shape.

visible

Visigothic

adj
/ ,vizə'gäthik /

Gmc > L
of or relating to the western division of the Germanic peoples who invaded the Roman empire beginning in the fourth century and who later established kingdoms between the Loire and Gibraltar.

Herve found several Visigothic artifacts while hiking in the Pyrenees.

visualize

v
/ 'vizhə'līz /

L + E + Ecf
see a mental image of.

Arthur could still visualize the accident down to the smallest detail.

vitality

vitellus

n
/ vī'teləs /

L
the yolk of egg.

In an egg, a ropelike structure called a "chalaza" helps anchor the vitellus and protect it from damage while allowing it to turn easily.

viticetum

n
/ ,vidə'sēdəm /

L
a growth or plantation of vines, especially grapevines.

Mr. Sampson owns the largest viticetum in the county.

viticulture

n
/ 'vidə,kəlchə(r) /

L
the cultivation of grapes.

Whitney has always been interested in viticulture; even as a child she had two grapevines that she grew herself.

vitrailed

viuva

vivacious

adj
/ və'vāshəs /

L
lively in temper or conduct : sprightly.

The vivacious teenager thought nothing of chatting for hours on the telephone.

viviparous

adj
/ vī'vip(ə)rəs /

L
producing living young instead of eggs from within the body in the manner of nearly all mammals, many reptiles, and a few fishes.
Some species of the eelpout lay eggs, while others are viviparous.

vivisection

vivisepture

vocalize

v
/ 'vɔkə'līz /
Gk > L > F > E

utter, speak, sing.

Teresa had to relearn how to vocalize some sounds while recovering from a head injury.

vocational

voeu

voile

volador

n
/ ,vɔlə'dò(ə)r /

L > Sp
[has near homonym: voladora] any of various flying fishes.

Sammy was proud to have caught a volador on his first day of fishing.

volary

volatilize

v
/ 'væləd'līz /

L > F > E
cause to pass off into vapor.

Sampson said it would be easy to volatilize the acid by heat.

volcano

n
/ vāl'kā(,)nō /

L
a vent in Earth's crust from which molten or hot rock and steam issue.
Is that volcano in Hawaii still active?

volley

v
/ 'vālē /

L > F
propel (an object of play) while in the air and before touching the ground.

Cesar won his tennis match by staying close enough to the net to volley hard.

volleyball

voltage

voltolization

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

voluble

volucrine

adj
/ 'vʌlyə.krɪn /

L
of or relating to birds.
The adoption program at the zoo raised more money for the volucrine residents than for any other group of animals.

voluminous

adj
/ və'lʊmənəs /

L
bulky, large, swelling.
Sam's chin sank into a billow of his voluminous shirt front.

voluntary

volunteered

v
/ 'vʌlən'ti(ə)rd /

L > F
entered into or offered oneself for any service of one's own free will without solicitation or compulsion : offered.
Milo thought for just a moment and then resolutely volunteered to go.

voluptuous

volution

vorticity

votary

n
/ 'vɒdəre /

L
a devout or zealous worshiper.
It is said that there are eleven steps, or grades, that lead a Jainist from householder to votary to monkhood.

votive

adj
/ 'vɒdɪv /

L
undertaken or performed in fulfillment of a vow.
This year Sue made her votive pilgrimage to the estate of her favorite performer.

vouchsafe

vousoir

vowelless

adj
/ 'vaʊ(ə)lləs /
L > F > E + Ecf
[Note: Could be confused with foulest.] having only consonants.
Winifred amazed her friends by working a vowelless crossword puzzle in less than an hour.

vulcanization

wafflestomper

n
/ 'wʌfəl.stæmpə(r) /
D + E
a hiking boot with a thick rubber sole with ridges patterned to increase traction.
The typical wafflestomper has a suede upper reaching to the ankle and is lighter than many other boots.

waft

v
/ 'wɔft /
D or G > E
bear along on or as if on a buoyant medium.
As the aroma of coffee started to waft into the room, Mory woke up.

wafture

n
/ 'wɔfchə(r) /
D or G > E + Ecf
a wavelike motion : waft, beckoning.
The wafture of the stadium crowd gave Ebenezer a thrill.

waggery

n
/ 'wʌgərə /
E
mischievous merriment.
The twins delighted in waggery.

Wagnerian

adj
/ vʌg'nɪrēən /
G name
belonging to, characteristic of, or suggestive of the operas of the German composer Richard Wagner.
Star Trek Klingon opera is even more somber than Wagnerian opera.

wahine

wail

wailing

v
/ 'weɪlɪŋ /
Scand > E
expressing sorrow audibly.
The wailing cries of the relatives filled the cemetery.

waistband

waiter

waitress

waiver

n
/ 'weɪvə(r) /
F
[has homonym: waver] the act of intentionally relinquishing or abandoning a known right, claim, or privilege.
The attorney explained to her client how a waiver of a jury trial could be to his advantage.

waldhorn

walepiece

walkathon

wallboard

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

walleye

n
/ 'wò.lī /
ON > E

a large vigorous freshwater food and sport fish that has large prominent eyes.

The walleye put up a good fight but nevertheless ended up as dinner for the fisherman.

wallow

walnut

wane

v
/ 'wān /
E

[has homonym: wain] diminish in phase or intensity—used of the Moon and other satellites and inferior planets.

Mercury will begin to wane on June 23rd.

wantwit

wapentake

warble

warbler

wardwite

ware

warily

adv
/ 'wa(a)rəlē /
E

cautiously.

The toddler approached the puppy warily.

warlock

n
/ 'wòr.läk /
E

one given to black magic.

The warlock shrieked in rage as the paladin shattered his amulet.

warrant

n
/ 'wòrənt /
Gmc > F > E

a writ issued by a magistrate authorizing an officer to make an arrest, a seizure, or a search or to do other acts incident to the administration of justice.

Police officers, armed with a search warrant, entered the suspect's apartment and seized the stolen computers.

warrantee

warranty

n
/ 'wòrəntē /
F > E

[has homonym: warrantee] a usually written guarantee of the integrity of a product specifying that the maker will for a period of time be responsible for the repair or replacement of defective parts.

Celeste angrily waved the warranty for her refrigerator under the repairman's nose.

wary

adj
/ 'wa(a)rē /
E

marked by keen caution, cunning, and watchful prudence in detecting and escaping danger.

The negotiator's subtle diplomacy and wary tactics were the result of years of experience.

washin

waspish

wassail

wassailry

waterbailage

waterfowl

waterspout

n
/ 'wòdər.späüt /
E + E

a slender funnel-shaped or tubular column of rapidly rotating cloud-filled wind on the surface of an ocean or lake.

The photograph is an aerial view of a waterspout about 2000 feet high.

waterwheel

n
/ 'wòdə(r).hwēl /
E + E

a hubbed circular frame mounted vertically on an axle and made to rotate by direct action of a liquid.

The gristmill operator opened the gate in the sluice, and the waterwheel creaked and groaned as it began to turn.

waterzooi

n
/ 'wòdər.züē /
D > Flem

a stew of chicken or seafood and vegetables in a seasoned stock thickened with cream and egg yolks.

Glen ordered the waterzooi simply because it was the most unusual item on the menu.

watteau

n
/ wä'tō /
F name

[Note: Plural form is pronounced identically.] a hat having a shallow crown and a wide brim turned up at the back to hold flower trimmings.

Betty celebrated the coming of spring by wearing her straw watteau delicately decorated with pink and red roses.

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watts

n pl

/ 'wäts /

Scot name

[has homonym: what's] absolute meter-kilogram-second units of power, each equal to 1 absolute joule per second : units of power 1/746 horsepower each.

Tom's smile was so bright that photographers began to call it the "smile of a thousand watts."

wavelet

waviness

waybill

waywiser

weakling

wealthy

weapon

weaponry

wear

weatherize

Websterian

adj

/ webz'tirēən /

American name

of, relating to, or characteristic of the lexicographer Noah Webster or his dictionary.

Jack's Websterian skill at defining and familiarity with word origins made him an ideal editor.

wedel

v

/ 'väd'l /

G

[has near homonym: fatal] ski downhill by moving the rear of the skis from side to side making a series of short quick turns while following the fall line.

The ski instructor watched as Ursula began to wedel confidently down the steep slope.

Wednesday

n

/ 'wenz(,)dā /

E

the day following Tuesday.

Most schoolchildren look forward to Wednesday as the day when the school week is half over.

weighbridge

weighhouse

weight

weimaraner

n

/ 'vīməränə(r) /

G geog name

a German breed of large gray, short-haired sporting dogs with pendulous ears and cropped tail.

The trembling and excessive shyness of the weimaraner may be signs of overbreeding.

wejack

weka

Wellington

n

/ 'welɪŋtən /

Brit name

a leather boot having a loose top with the front usually coming above the knee.

The Wellington was introduced into the British army by the Duke of Wellington to replace the jackboot.

weltpolitik

wentletrap

westerlies

n pl

/ 'westə(r)lēz /

E

winds blowing from the west.

Groves of tall trees had been planted to comb the meanness out of California's prevailing westerlies.

westward

whally

whammy

wheelchair

wheeze

wheezed

v

/ 'hwēzd /

Scand > E

breathed with difficulty with a usually audible sibilant or whistling sound.

"Too much too quickly, too much too quickly," wheezed the out-of-shape gentleman, between gulps.

whelked

adj

/ 'hwelkt /

E

formed like the twisted shell of numerous marine mollusks : convoluted.

The antelope had whelked horns that curved inward.

whencesoever

whereas

whereupon

whether

conj

/ '(h)wethə(r) /

E

[has homonyms: weather, wether]—used as a function word followed usually by correlative or or by or whether to indicate alternative conditions or possibilities.

Jill cannot decide whether or not she would like to go to the prom.

whew

why

whyey

whichever

whiffet

whiffle

while

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

whinchat

whinny

whirlpool

whiskery

whiteout

n
/ 'hwīt.əūt /
E + E

a surface weather condition in an arctic area in which no object casts a shadow, the horizon cannot be seen, and only dark objects are discernible.

When the blizzard thickened to a whiteout, motorists pulled off the road and waited until visibility returned.

whitewashed

v
/ 'hwīt.wòsht /
E

washed, treated, or covered with a white liquid composition.

Breanna and Logan whitewashed the fence together.

whitherward

whitster

whittle

wholehearted

wholly

whorl

whosoever

whump

wickawee

wickedness

wicket

n
/ 'wìkət /
Gmc > F > E
[has near homonym: wicked] the period of play in cricket from the commencement of a batter's innings to his or her dismissal.
Edward scored five runs during the fourth wicket of the Eton championship.

widespread

adj
/ 'wìd.spred /
E
generally prevalent.
The widespread Dutch Elm Disease has all but eliminated the old elm trees in our town.

wield

wienerwurst

n
/ 'wēnə(r).wərst /
G

Vienna sausage.

Blaine decided that it was the wienerwurst, not the 14 pickles, that had caused his indigestion.

wiesenboden

n
/ 'vēz²n.bōd²n /
G
any of an intrazonal group of dark brown to black meadow soils rich in organic matter.
The sedge grass thrived in the wiesenboden.

wigan

wigwam

wilco

wildfowl

wile

wiles

n pl
/ 'wīlz /
E
[has homonym: whites] tricks or stratagems intended to ensnare or deceive.
George Washington believed that nations must ultimately depend on themselves alone and warned against "the insidious wiles of foreign influence."

wiliness

wiliwili

willet

n
/ 'wìlət /
imit
a large shore bird of the snipe family of the eastern and Gulf coasts and the central parts of North America.
The willet feeds near the mud flats in the summer.

willies

willow

willowware

wimble

wincéd

v
/ 'wín(t)st /
Gmc > F > E
shrank back involuntarily.
Waldo wincéd at the Sun's glare.

winceyette

windblown

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

windchill

n
/ 'wind.chil /
E + E
a still-air temperature with the same cooling effect on exposed human flesh as a given combination of temperature and wind speed.
Winds ripped the air at 60 miles an hour, and the windchill dropped to 50 degrees below zero.

winddog

windlass

windowpane

wingspan

winnable

adj
/ 'win.ə.bəl /
E
able to be won.
The coach knew that the game was winnable, but he watched his team throw it away.

winnow

v
/ 'wi(.)nō /
E
treat so that the result is free of unwanted or baser components.
The superintendent spent all day trying to winnow the immense number of applications for director of special education.

wistful

adj
/ 'wistfəl /
E
full of timorous longing or unfulfilled desire : melancholy.
Glenn grew wistful as he reminisced about his boyhood friends.

witan

witchcraft

witching

adj
/ 'wichiŋ /
E
of, relating to, or suitable for sorcery or supernatural occurrences.
Tension grew as the clock neared the witching hour of midnight.

withdrawal

withhold

withholding

witticize

wizard

n
/ 'wizə(r)d /
E
magician.
The wizard vowed to use his powers to help the townspeople.

wizened

wizzled

woad

n
/ 'wōd /
E
a blue dye prepared especially formerly from the leaves of a plant of the same name and containing indigo as its essential constituent.
The ancient Picts of England were known to use woad to make body paint.

wokas

wolfsbane

wombat

n
/ 'wäm.bat /
Australian name
any of several stocky Australian marsupials resembling small bears.
The wombat lives in burrows, which it digs with its strong foreclaws.

wonderful

woodburytype

woody

adj
/ 'wūdzē /
E
of, relating to, characteristic of, suggestive of, or of the nature of woods.
The Girl Scout Handbook tells us to "look for trillium and violets in woody, shady spots."

would

woolliness

wootz

wordle

workaholic

n
/ .wərkə'hōlik /
E + Ar > Sp > L + Ecf
a compulsive worker.
Beth is a workaholic who hasn't taken a vacation in over six years.

worrywart

worship

v
/ 'wəʃhəp /
E
honor or reverence as a divine being or supernatural power : venerate.
Joe found a Web page for people who worship Athena, the ancient Greek goddess of wisdom.

worsted

n
/ 'wərstəd /
E geog name
any of various closely woven fabrics made from smooth yarn spun from long combed fibers, used especially for suits and tailored garments.
The salesman brought out a jacket made from woolen worsted for Brandon to try on.

worthwhile

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

wounded

adj
/ 'wʊndəd /

E
injured, hurt by, or suffering from an injury to the body consisting of a laceration or a breaking of the skin.

Tommy nursed his wounded arm carefully.

wrangle

v
/ 'ræŋɡəl /

E
engage in argument, dispute, or controversy.

No matter what the topic is, the MacNeil brothers all love to wrangle.

wrathful

wreck

wrench

v
/ 'rɛnʃ /

E
twist violently to one side or out of line, shape, or position.

The sudden noise caused Merl to wrench his head around.

wrenched

wresting

wrestling

wrinkly

wristband

writ

n
/ 'rɪt /

E
a written order held to constitute a symbol of the power and authority of the issuer.

President Kennedy pledged to support the United Nations and to “enlarge the area in which its writ may run.”

writhed

v
/ 'rɪθd /

E
moved or proceeded with twists and turns.

A banner writhed in the wind as the storm approached.

writhen

wrote

wrought

wry

wryly

wryneck

wrytail

Xanadu

n
/ 'zænədə /

E poetic name
an idyllic, exotic, or luxurious place.

Kerry told her friends that Bali was just the Xanadu she had hoped for.

xanthomelanous

xanthophyll

xanthosis

xenial

adj
/ 'zɛniəl /

Gk + Ecf
of, relating to, or constituting hospitality or relations between host and guest and especially among the ancient Greeks between persons of different cities.

Gene is good at all the xenial niceties, offering his guests food and rest as soon as they arrive.

xenomania

xenon

xenophobic

adj
/ zɛnə'fɒbɪk /

Gk + Gk
of, relating to, or characterized by fear and hatred of what is foreign and especially of people of foreign origin.

Roger’s xenophobic personality made him unfit for the Peace Corps.

xeroderma

xerophobic

adj
/ zə'rɪfəbəs /

Gk + Gk
having little capacity to resist drought—used of a plant.

Knowing how forgetful she can be, Rachel avoided buying any xerophobic plants.

xerophyte

xiphoid

adj
/ 'zɪfɔɪd /

Gk
shaped like a sword.

“The sword plant is so named for its xiphoid leaves,” Simon told the botany students.

xoanon

xylary

xylographer

n
/ zɪ'lɑgrəfə(r) /

Gk + Gk
one that practices or is skilled in artistic wood carving.

The Chinese xylographer exhibited printings of Buddhist scripture that he had made from woodcuts.

xyloid

adj
/ 'zɪ.lɔɪd /

Gk
having the qualities or nature of wood.

Twigs and xyloid plants were used for toothbrushes many years ago.

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

xylology

n
/ zī'läləjē /
Gk + Gk

a branch of dendrology dealing with the gross and the minute structure of wood.

In xylology, students learn to identify different woods and to distinguish real wood from imitations.

yacca

yakitori

n
/ ,yāki'tōrē /
Jpn

bite-sized marinated pieces of chicken, beef, or seafood grilled on small bamboo skewers.

Mrs. Saito brought an appetizer of chicken yakitori to the Japanese class's end-of-year banquet.

yamen

yardang

n
/ 'yär.dän /
Turkish

a sharp-crested ridge carved by wind erosion.

A yardang marked the boundary between the sand dunes and the surrounding hillside.

yardarm

n
/ 'yärd.ärm /
E + E

either end of a long spar set perpendicularly on a mast to support and spread a square sail.
The custom of the Royal Navy is to fly the Union Jack from the yardarm when a court martial is taking place aboard.

yardbird

yardstick

yarmouth

yawmeter

n
/ 'yò.mēdə(r) /
unknown + Gk
an instrument for measuring the angle of yaw of an airplane.
The pilot was sure her yawmeter was malfunctioning.

yaws

yeanling

yearling

n
/ 'yi(ə)rlɪŋ /
E
one that is a year old; especially : an animal one year old or in the second year of its age.
Although its small size made Ken think the rabbit was a yearling, it was actually closer to three years old.

yearnful

yearning

yellow

yelp

Yiddishkeit

n
/ 'yidish.kīt /
G
Jewish way of life.
Rabbi Cohen answered questions from the Hebrew school pupils about the fundamental values of Yiddishkeit.

yieldable

yielding

yippee

yogism

yoke

yolk

youthful

yperite

zanily

zaniness

zany

zanyism

zarzuela

n
/ zärz'wālə /
Sp
a Spanish opera having spoken dialogue and usually a comic subject.
Linda and Jaime attended an amusing zarzuela on their trip to Barcelona.

zealless

zealotry

n
/ 'zelətrē /
Gk
fanatical devotion.
Terrorists typically justify their violence as acts of zealotry.

zebraic

zebroid

zebu

n
/ 'zē.byü /
Tibetan > F
an Asiatic ox marked by a hump behind the neck and used primarily for draft or riding.
Yasmin used to ride on her family's zebu when she was small, but now she milks it every morning instead.

zeitgeist

n
/ 'tsīt.gēst /
G
the spirit of the time : the general intellectual and moral state or the trend of culture and taste characteristic of an era.
The fact that speed is part of our zeitgeist is one explanation for the popularity of e-mail.

zelkova

zephyrous

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

zero

zerography

zest

zetetic

adj

/ zə'tedɪk /

Gk

proceeding by inquiry.

The class government has its own zetetic justice system.

zigzag

zigzagged

zigzaggedly

zigzaggery

n

/ 'zɪɡ,zæɡərē /

G > F

a course having sharp turns or angles.

The zigzaggery of the stitches is an attractive feature of the afghan.

zilch

n

/ 'zɪlʃ /

unknown

zero, nil.

Eliza told Kevin that the chance of his becoming her sweetheart was zilch.

zillionaire

n

/ 'zɪljənəna(a)(ə)r /

E > L > It > F

one whose wealth is of unspecified millions (as of dollars, pounds, or francs).

Nancy wants to start a software company and be a zillionaire, just like Bill Gates.

zinc

zincography

zinfandel

zinnia

zirconium

ziti

n

/ 'zēdē /

It

medium-sized tubular pasta.

The waiter announced that Tuesday's special was ziti in tomato sauce with eggplant and mushrooms.

zocalo

zoic

zoism

n

/ 'zō.ɪzəm /

Gk

belief in animal powers and influences.

Many Native American tribes practice zoism.

Zolaesque

adj

/ zōlə'esk /

F name

of, relating to, or suggestive of Emile Zola or his writings.

The editor accepted two of Sophie's short stories for publication in the literary magazine, declaring them Zolaesque.

zombiism

zonation

zonda

n

/ 'zōndə /

Sp

a hot enervating north wind that sweeps down from the Andes over the Argentine pampas.

The zonda brings hot spells of many days' duration when temperatures can exceed 100 degrees.

zoogenic

zoology

n

/ zō'äləjē /

Gk

a branch of the science of life concerned with the animal kingdom and its members.

It is surprising that Gretchen, an animal lover, dreads her studies in zoology.

zoom

zoomorphic

adj

/ zōə'mɔrfɪk /

Gk > L

having an animal form that often conforms to a style of expression that is extreme in character, not true to the appearance of nature.

The Mayan ruins included altars carved with zoomorphic figures.

zoophagous

zori

n

/ 'zōrē /

Jpn

a flat thonged sandal usually made of straw, cloth, leather, or rubber.

While running on the pier, Terry caught his zori between two planks and pulled out the thong.

zouave

zumbooruk

n

/ zəm'bü.rək /

Per > Ar

a small cannon mounted on a swivel; especially : one fired from a rest on the back of a camel.

The desert nomads were proud of their marksmanship with the zumbooruk.

zwinger

n

/ 'tsfɪŋə(r) /

G

a fortress protecting a city.

The assailing army was unable to breach the zwinger.

zygodactylous

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

zygoneure

zymoscope

n

/ 'zīməskōp /

Gk > ISV

an apparatus for determining the fermenting power of yeast by measuring the amount of carbon dioxide evolved from a given quantity of sugar.

The brewer used a zymoscope to assess the yeast varieties.

zymosis

zymurgy

n

/ 'zī.mərjē /

Gk

a branch of applied chemistry that deals with fermentation processes.

The chemist had performed many experiments in zymurgy before taking the job at the brewery.

zythum

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Infrequently

abacist

aback

abash

abatable

abate

abatement

n
/ ə'batmənt /
L > F

the act or process of reducing in degree or intensity.

The city council passed a law allowing periodic bans on the burning of wood, paving the way for further pollution abatement.

abbey

abdication

abduct

abeam

abhorrently

abient

abigail

abiogenic

adj
/ .ā.bīō'jenik /
Gk + Gk + Gk
not produced by the action of living organisms.
Randy explained to the group that rock formations are completely abiogenic.

abjure

abode

abolitionary

aboriginally

aborigines

aboveboard

abradant

abrader

abrush

abridge

abridged

abrotine

abruption

abscise

absent

adj
/ 'absənt /
L > F > E
not existing in a place.
Zebra mussels were at one time totally absent from the Great Lakes.

absentee

absolution

n
/ .absə'li:ʃən /
L
a rite, ceremony, or form of words in which a remission of sins is pronounced, proclaimed, or prayerfully implored by a priest or minister.
Father O'Malley performed the rite of absolution on behalf of the thief who had just made his confession.

absonant

absorb

abstinent

abstractum

n
/ abz'traktəm /
L
an entity considered apart from any particular object or specific instance.
Virtue is an abstractum.

abusage

abusing

abut

abuzz

academese

acalculia

acanthosis

accelerometer

acceptant

accessibility

accessioned

accessit

accessorized

accessory

accidence

accident

acclimate

acclimatize

accommodating

adj
/ ə'kämə.dādiŋ /
L + Ecf
disposed to be helpful or obliging.
The accommodating chef prepared the dish exactly as the diner asked.

accommodations

accomplished

accomplishment

accountable

accountancy

accounting

accouplement

accrete

accumulation

accustom

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Infrequently

ace

v
/ 'æs /
L > F > E

make (a hole in golf) in one stroke.
The golfer knew that he must ace the hole if he wanted to have a chance at the championship.

acephalous

acequia

acervation

aces

acetous

achroite

acicula

acidic

acierage

acotyledonous

acquisition

n
/ ,akwə'zishən /
L

the act or action of obtaining.
The principal stated that the students' main goal should be the acquisition of knowledge.

acquisitive

acquit

acquittance

acrobatics

acrolith

acromegalic

acromegaly

n
/ ,akrō'megəlē /
Gk + Gk

a chronic disease of adult life that is characterized by a gradual and permanent enlargement of the flat bones (as the lower jaw) and of the hands and feet, abdominal organs, nose, lips, and tongue.
The circus giant was obviously afflicted with acromegaly.

actinide

n
/ 'aktənīd /
ISV

a chemical element of the series of heavy radioactive metallic elements of increasing atomic number considered to begin with actinium or thorium and end with lawrencium.
Timmy won the contest by correctly identifying plutonium as an actinide.

actionable

actress

actually

adapt

adapted

addenda

addition

additory

addressable

adept

adequacy

adhesion

n
/ ad'hēzhən /
L

the molecular attraction exerted between the surfaces of bodies in contact.
Water in a glass container is pulled upward by adhesion where its upper surface contacts the glass, which results in the formation of a meniscus.

adhocracy

adit

adjoin

adjoining

adj
/ ə'jōiniŋ /
L > F > E
touching or bounding at some point or on some line.
The Sampson family plans to build a summer home on the two adjoining lake lots they recently purchased.

adjutancy

adman

admass

administrative

administrator

admiration

admonition

adobo

n
/ ə'dōbō /
Gmc > F > Sp
a dish of Spanish origin consisting of meat (as chicken or pork) marinated in a spicy sauce, browned, and then simmered in the marinade.
Annmarie's favorite dish at the restaurant is the chicken adobo.

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Infrequently

adonize

v
/ 'adɒn.ɪz /
Gk name
beautify—usually used of a man.
Gram assured Grandpa that he needed nothing to adonize himself.

adoptee

adorned

v
/ ə'dɔ(ə)rnd /
L > F > E
decorated : added to the pleasantness, attractiveness, splendor, or beauty of.
His shoes were polished, his nails were clean, his hat was well brushed, and a white handkerchief adorned his breast pocket.

adrenal

adj
/ ə'drɛnəl /
L
adjacent to the kidneys; specifically : relating to or derived from endocrine glands located near the kidneys.
Janna formed a support group for people who have Addison's disease, Cushing's syndrome, and other adrenal diseases.

adret

adroitly

adv
/ ə'drɔɪt.lē /
F + Ecf
in a manner that is dexterous in the use of the hands.
The magician adroitly pulled a silver dollar out of Mort's right ear.

adscription

n
/ adz'kriʃshən /
L
[Note: Could be confused with ascription.] the quality or state of being added, annexed, or bound.
The adscription of the colony to the empire was protested by the native residents.

adulate

adulatory

adulterate

adulthood

advanced

advantage

advertent

advertise

advice

adynamic

aerate

aerated

aeriferous

aerobicize

aerobics

aerodromics

n pl
/ .a(ə)rə'drämiks /
Gk
the science or art of flying aircraft.
Jim watched a video about the Wright brothers on the first day of his course in aerodromics.

aerolithology

n
/ .a(ə)rə(,)li'thäləjə /
Gk + Gk + Gk
the science that deals with meteorites.
Experts in aerolithology were elated when five more meteorites from Mars were found in early 2002.

aerometer

n
/ a(ə)'rämədə(r) /
Gk > F
an instrument for ascertaining the weight or density of air or other gases.
Stanley calibrated the old aerometer in his lab.

aeronautic

adj
/ .arə'nɒdɪk /
Gk > L
of or relating to the science that deals with the operation of aircraft.
The United States and Russia have been cooperating in aeronautic research.

aeronomy

aerosolize

aerosols

aerotrains

Aesir

n pl
/ 'asɪr /
ON
the chief gods of pagan Scandinavia.
Although the Norse Aesir aged like mortal beings, they could become young again by eating magic fruit.

Aesopian

adj
/ ɛ'sɒpiən /
Gk name
conveying an innocent meaning to an outsider but a concealed meaning to an informed member of a conspiracy or underground movement.
Fearful that the inmates would use Aesopian language in their communication, the warden placed each of them in solitary confinement.

afar

affection

n
/ ə'fekʃhən /
L
kind feeling : tender attachment.
A deep bond of affection soon developed between the boy and his dog.

affettuoso

affiance

affinal

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Infrequently

affluent

n
/ 'a:flüənt /

L

[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word. Also, word could be confused with effluent.] a stream or river flowing into a larger river or into a lake : a tributary stream.

The affluent responsible for the lake's pollution is the creek that runs beside the packing plant.

afflux

afford

affray

affright

affront

aflutter

afterburner

aftercare

afternoon

afterwards

agamy

agave

agelong

aggraded

v
/ ə'grādəd /

L

filled with loose material that results directly from rock disintegration or abrasion.
Silt had aggraded the river bed for at least a hundred miles.

aggression

aggrieve

aggrievement

agio

agisting

agitate

agnolotti

agnostically

agnosticism

agog

agon

agonistically

agonizing

agony

agree

agribusiness

n
/ 'agrəbiznəs /
L + E

a combination of the producing operations of a farm, the manufacture and distribution of farm equipment and supplies, and the processing, storage, and distribution of farm commodities.
Agribusiness in Great Britain was profoundly affected by the foot-and-mouth epidemic of 2001.

agriotype

aguish

ahead

ailment

airbrush

airbus

airfoil

airframe

airport

airtight

aisle

aisling

aition

n
/ 'idē.än /
Gk

[has near homonyms: Idaeian, Idean, idaein, idein] a narrative devised to explain the origin of a religious observance.
One familiar example of an aition is the story of Passover.

akaryote

akinesia

albarium

alburnum

alcarraza

alder

alderman

alee

alewife

alexandrite

alexia

algae

algebra

n
/ 'aljəbrə /
Ar > L

a branch of mathematics in which arithmetic relations are generalized and explored by using letter symbols to represent numbers, variable quantities, or other mathematical entities.
The guidance counselor encouraged George to wait one more year before taking algebra to fulfill his math requirement.

algesia

algetic

algid

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Infrequently

alias

n
/ 'ālēəs /
L

an assumed name.
To avoid publicity the movie star used an alias when registering at the hotel.

aliquant

alison

n
/ 'aləsən /
common name > E

[Note: Could be confused with alyssum.] a plant of a genus of European and Asiatic herbs having small usually yellow flowers.
Bernice added an alison to her bouquet.

aliunde

alkalescence

alkaline

adj
/ 'alkələn /
Ar > L > E + Ecf
of, relating to, or having the properties of a substance having marked basic properties; especially : relating to a hydroxide or carbonate of an alkali metal (as sodium or potassium).
Having identified the mystery substance as alkaline, Olympia proceeded to the next lab exercise.

alkane

n
/ 'alkān /
ISV
any of a series of saturated hydrocarbons derived from fat (as methane).
Methane is the simplest alkane and is a major by-product of the termite digestive system.

alleged

allegedly

allegorize

allergenic

adj
/ ,alə(r)'jenik /
Gk > G
of or relating to a substance that produces an exaggerated or pathological reaction marked by sneezing, respiratory embarrassment, itching, and skin rashes.
Eating too many tomatoes caused Horace's allergic reaction.

alleviant

allocution

allotropic

adj
/ ,alə'trəpik /
Gk > ISV
[Note: Could be confused with allotropic.] of, relating to, or exhibiting the phenomenon of the existence of a substance in two or more different modifications.
Diamonds and graphite are two native allotropic forms of carbon.

allotropy

allowable

alloy

n
/ 'alōi /
F
a substance composed of two or more metals intimately mixed and united usually by being fused together and dissolving in each other when molten.
Brass is an alloy of copper and zinc.

almandite

Almighty

n
/ ɔl'midē /
E
God.
The congregation decided they needed only a simple one-room building in order to worship the Almighty with appropriate humility.

almonds

almuerzo

aloft

adv
/ ə'lɔft /
ON > E
high up into the air.
Mike's kite went aloft with ease on the windy afternoon.

alogism

aloisiite

alongside

alopécoid

alphabetize

alphagram

althorn

although

altiplanation

altruistic

aluminiferous

amah

amass

v
/ ə'mas /
L > F + Gk > L > F
collect into a mass : bring together.
Laura accused her little brother of trying to amass a collection of spiders and snakes just to annoy her.

amberjack

ameliorant

ameliorative

amercing

American

americium

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Infrequently

amine

n
/ ə'mēn /
ISV
any of a class of basic compounds derived from ammonia by replacement of hydrogen by one or more univalent hydrocarbon radicals or other nonacidic organic radicals.

Aniline, the simplest aromatic amine, is a toxic compound used in dyes.

amitious

ammoniac

adj
/ ə'mōnē.ək /
Gk > L > E
containing or having the properties of a colorless gaseous alkaline compound of nitrogen and hydrogen.

Gigi never could stand the ammoniac odor when she washed windows.

amperage

ampersand

amphetamine

amphetamines

amphicrania

amphoric

amphoteric

adj
/ .amfə'terik /
Gk > ISV
capable of reacting chemically either as a base or as an acid.
Ysadora determined that aluminum oxide is amphoteric because it reacted with hydrochloric acid and sodium hydroxide, a base.

ampliative

amygdala

analytically

anaphoric

anaphylactic

anarchism

anchusa

androcracy

anecdotal

anemosis

anenterous

angary

angels

n pl
/ 'anjəlz /
Gk > L > F > E
supernatural spirits commonly depicted as being winged and serving as God's messengers and divine intermediaries and as special guardians of an individual or nation.

Thomas Jefferson believed that man had found no angels in the forms of kings to govern him.

angling

angular

anhydrous

adj
/ 'an.hīdrəs /
Gk
destitute of water.
Sodium carbonate is an anhydrous salt that is used in making soap, soap powders, glass, and paper.

anility

animal

animalcule

animation

n
/ .anə'māshən /
L
a series of drawings each of which shows a successive position of a figure or other object, the drawings being on film so the projection of the film produces a picture in which the objects drawn seem to move in a lifelike and realistic manner.

The history class viewed an animation depicting how the pyramids were probably constructed.

animism

n
/ 'an.ə.mizəm /
L
attribution of conscious life and a discrete indwelling spirit to every material form of reality, often including belief in the continued existence of individual disembodied spirits.
Voodoo as practiced in Haiti is a combination of animism and Roman Catholic ritual, in which a supreme god rules a large group of lesser spirits.

animosity

anionic

adj
/ 'an.i.ənik /
Gk
relating to or consisting of negatively charged atoms or groups of atoms.
By gaining an electron, a chlorine atom becomes anionic.

ankle

anlace

annex

annihilation

annotate

announce

annulment

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Infrequently

anorexia

anosmatic

antacid

n
/ .ant'asəd /
L + L

[Note: Could be confused with
antacid.] an agent that counteracts
or neutralizes acidity.

*For some reason, the voice on
television saying "A major function
of an antacid is to neutralize
hydrochloric acid in gastric juice"
kept running through Lorraine's
mind.*

Antaeon

adj
/ an'tēən /
Gk name

possessed of superhuman strength
with suggestions of human
qualities.

*Marc cannot decide whether
Superman or Wonder Woman is his
favorite Antaeon figure.*

ante

n
/ 'antē /
L

[has homonyms: anti, auntie,
aunty] a poker stake usually
arbitrarily fixed and usually put up
before the deal to build the pot.

*Each player in the lunchtime poker
game put a nickel on the table as
an ante.*

antepirrhema

anticipatory

antihypertensive

antipyretic

antiquing

antisocially

antler

antrorse

anythingarian

anzac

aorta

aortography

aphagia

aphonic

aphoristic

aphotic

apiarist

apocynthion

apogonid

apograph

apojove

apologia

apologist

aporematic

appeal

n
/ ə'pēl /
L > F > E
an application or reference (as to a
recognized authority) for
corroboration, vindication, or
decision.
*Janice's appeal to reason swayed
even her most emotional
opponents.*

appear

appertain

v
/ .apə(r)'tān /
L > F > E
belong either as something
appropriate or as a part, possession,
right, or attribute.
*Puerto Rico is one of several
islands that appertain to the United
States.*

appetible

applaud

applaudable

applicable

apply

appoint

v
/ ə'pɔɪnt /
L > F > E
assign, designate, or set apart by
authority.
*The prom committee's chairman
failed to appoint a cleanup crew.*

appraiser

n
/ ə'prāzə(r) /
F > E
one that sets a value on property.
*The appraiser set the value of
Tim's piano at \$1200.*

appreciative

adj
/ ə'prēshədɪv /
L
having or showing an expression of
gratitude.
*The appreciative guest sent a
thank-you note to her host.*

approach

approbatory

April

n
/ 'āprəl /
Etruscan? > L
the fourth month of the Gregorian
calendar.
*Afternoon showers occur frequently
in many states during the month of
April.*

aptitude

aquacade

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Infrequently

aqueous

adj
/ 'ækwēəs /
L

made from, with, or by means of water.

Pat set up the lab for the next experiment, which dealt with electrolysis of an aqueous solution of sodium chloride.

arachnean

arachnoid

adj
/ ə'rak.nɔɪd /
Gk > L

of, relating to, or characterizing a large class of arthropods including scorpions, spiders, mites, and related forms.

Celia noted several arachnoid features on the bug she found in her sandbox.

aralia

arbitrage

arbitrarily

arbitrational

arboreally

arborescent

arcanist

arcature

arch

archangelic

archduke

archetypal

arcosolium

are

n
/ 'a(a)(ə)r /
L > F

[has homonym: air] a metric unit of area equal to the area of a square 10 meters long on each side : 100 square meters.

The new office has floor space of almost 1 are.

argon

argument

n
/ 'ärgyəmənt /
L

an act or process of contending or disagreeing in words : disputation.

Patrick Henry's famous impassioned speech focused on how ten years of argument with England had been in vain.

argumentation

argute

aria

ark

armada

n
/ ä'r'mädə /
L > Sp

a fleet of warships.

Harry referred to his collection of model warships as his "armada."

armor

n
/ 'ärmər /
L

the usually metal defensive covering worn in combat in the medieval period.

Martin could not understand how a medieval knight could mount a horse while wearing a suit of armor.

armorers

army

n
/ 'ärmē /
L > F > E

a great number : vast multitude.

Lance joked that his mom had bought enough snacks to feed an army of guests.

aromatize

arouse

arpent

n
/ 'ärpənt /
Gaulish > L > F

a unit of land area still used in certain French sections of Canada and the United States equal to about 0.85 acre.

Henri started his farm on less than 1 arpent of land.

arrangement

array

arrest

arrestee

n
/ ,ä're'stē /
L > F > E

one who is under arrest.

The arrestee demanded to see his lawyer before answering any questions.

arrhostia

arride

arrondissement

artemisia

arthropod

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Infrequently

Arthurian

adj
/ ăr'thūrēən /
E name

of, relating to, or characteristic of the legends or romances built around King Arthur and his knights.

The quest for the Holy Grail is Greg's favorite part of Arthurian legend.

articulable

artificed

artistic

aryl

n
/ 'arəl /
G? > ISV

a univalent aromatic radical (as phenyl or tolyl) derived from an arene by removal of one hydrogen atom from a carbon atom of the nucleus.

Natty wrote down that any member of a group that contains one or more fused benzene rings is an aryl, but he remained confused about the concept.

ascensor

ascham

aseity

aseptic

ashen

ashtray

asiago

aside

asperity

aspic

n
/ 'aspik /
F

a savory jelly made from fish or meat stock thickened with gelatin and seasoned and used cold to garnish meat or fish or to make a mold of meat, fish, or vegetables.

Ella's main course was garnished with aspic cut into heart shapes.

aspirate

assassination

n
/ ə.sas'n'āshən /
Ar > L

act of murdering (a usually prominent person) violently.

Theodore Roosevelt assumed the presidency following the assassination of President William McKinley.

assay

assessor

asseverate

assibilate

assiduous

assiette

assignment

n
/ ə'sɪnmənt /
L > F

a specified amount of work or a definite task or mission prescribed by authority or undertaken as though so prescribed.

Several students complained about the assignment that was due the day after spring break.

assistance

assize

n
/ ə'sɪz /
L > F > E

a statute or ordinance regulating weights and measures or the weight, measure, proportions of ingredients, or price of articles sold in the market.

Predna's silver jewelry was produced in strict accordance with the local assize.

assuasive

adj
/ ə'swāsiv /
L

having a pleasantly soothing quality or effect : calming.

The background music in the dentist's office did not have an assuasive effect on Stella.

assurance

asteria

astern

astichous

astral

adj
/ 'astrəl /
Gk

of or relating to the stars.

The story of Juno and the baby Hercules is an astral myth about the origin of the Milky Way.

astride

adv
/ ə'strɪd /
E + E

with one leg on each side.

Frieda set her son John astride the pony.

astringency

astrocytoma

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Infrequently

astrologer

n
/ ə'strɒləjə(r) /
Gk > L > F

one that practices divination that treats of the supposed influences of stars upon human affairs and of foretelling terrestrial events by their positions and aspects.
Nancy Reagan consulted an astrologer before setting up the president's daily schedule.

astrology

astute

asymmetrical

atavism

atherosclerosis

athwart

Atlas

n
/ 'atləs /
Gk name
one who bears a heavy burden : chief supporter : mainstay.
Without Dr. Cunningham as the Atlas of the conservation project, support gradually waned.

atmospherium

atomize

atrociously

attack

attentat

attic

attune

attuned

v
/ ə'tjuːnd /
L + L > E
brought into harmony or accord.
The horse demonstrated that it was attuned to its rider's desires.

aubergine

audiophile

auge

Augean

adj
/ ɔ:'jɛən /
Gk name
extremely difficult and usually very distasteful.
Cleaning the rat-infested shed was an Augean task indeed.

augend

aurification

auscultatory

auslaut

auspex

ateurism

authority

autogenous

adj
/ ɔ:'tæjənəs /
Gk
of origin within or from oneself.
Mrs. Griffin received an autogenous transplant in which some of her own bone marrow was extracted, cleansed of leukemia cells, and then reinjected.

automaton

avail

aviation

n
/ ,ævɪ'eɪʃən /
L
aircraft manufacture, development, and design.
The sophisticated safety measures in modern aviation make air travel safer than road travel.

award

aweigh

awning

Aztec

n
/ 'az.tek /
Nahuatl > Sp
a Nahuatl people that founded the Mexican empire conquered by Cortez in 1519.
The shimmering golden mask was a superb example of the art of the Aztec.

azurean

azurite

babbled

babel

Babelization

n
/ ,bābələ'zāʃən /
Assyr-Bab > Bible name
the process of confusing through the mingling of markedly different languages and cultures.
The Babelization of speech in the big city made it difficult for the visitors to get the information they needed.

baboonery

babracot

bacciform

baccivorous

bacilliform

bacillosis

backblast

backboard

backdrop

background

n
/ 'bak.graʊnd /
E + E
a position away from that which holds the center of attention.
Darby's parents stayed in the background during her party.

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Infrequently

backhoe

n
/ 'bæk.hō /
E + E
an excavating machine in which the bucket is rigidly attached to a hinged stick on the boom and is drawn toward the machine in operation.
Slim manned the backhoe while Jed directed him from the ground.

backlash

backpack

backspin

n
/ 'bæk.spɪn /
E
a backward rotary motion imparted especially to a ball that causes the ball on touching the ground or some other surface to recoil, bounce backward, stop dead, or roll forward only a short distance.
Tommy used backspin to position the cue ball for the next shot.

bacteriolysin

baculus

badge

badly

adv
/ 'bædli /
E
poorly, faultily, defectively.
Roscoe says his car runs badly but will make it to Cicero.

bagasse

bagpipe

bailment

baker

baku

n
/ 'bä()kü /
Philippine name
a hat made of a fine lightweight straw made of fibers from the talipot palm.
Tony was wearing a baku as he got off the airplane after his trip to the Philippines.

balata

balconied

baldmoney

n
/ 'böld.mənē /
E
any of several plants of the genus *Gentiana*.
The baldmoney likes the sun but doesn't thrive in rich soil.

balintawak

balisaur

balistraria

balkline

ballabile

n
/ bæ'læbəlā /
It
a dance in classic ballet performed by the corps de ballet by itself or with the principal dancers.
The ballet ended with a ballabile that included many young dance students.

balladmongering

balletic

adj
/ bæ'ledɪk /
Gk > L > It > F
[has near homonym: balladic]
relating to or resembling ballet.
The Russian ice dancers performed a balletic program to win the Olympic gold medal.

ballistician

ballroom

n
/ 'bɔl.rʊm /
Gk > L > F > E
a large room for dances.
Karin's birthday party was held in the ballroom of the Plaza Hotel.

ballyhoo

ballyhooed

v
/ 'bæl̩.hüd /
unknown
drummed up interest in by means of exaggerated, flamboyant publicity.
Every mile or two along the highway there were large signs that ballyhooed the popular amusement park.

balm

n
/ 'bæm /
Gk > L > F > E
a spicy odor.
The garden sent out radiance and balm into the air.

balmacaan

n
/ ,bælmə'kan /
Scot geog name
a loose boxy overcoat made of rough wool and with raglan sleeves, a short turnover collar, and a closing that may be buttoned to the throat.
As Sherlock Holmes crossed the moors, Dr. Watson followed closely, wrapped in a warm balmacaan.

band

n
/ 'bænd /
Gmc > Prov > E
[has homonym: banned] a body of armed individuals : gang.
Al Capone's band of outlaws had a hideout in the northern woods of Wisconsin.

banda

bandit

bandy

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Infrequently

baneful

banefully

banish

bankbook

bannerstone

banquette

n
/ ban'ket /

Gmc > Prov > F

[has homonym: banket] a raised way or foot bank along the inside of a parapet on which soldiers are posted to fire upon the enemy.

The battle plan called for the archers to stand on the banquette and fire upon the approaching enemy.

bantamize

bantling

barbarity

barbecue

barbed

barbules

barcelona

barely

barleycorn

barn

n
/ 'bärn /
E

[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word.] a unit of area used in nuclear physics for measuring cross section.

Zirconium has an absorption cross section of only 0.18 barn for low-energy neutrons.

barnacles

baronetcy

barong

barracoon

basalt

baseball

based

basha

basic

adj
/ 'bäsik /

Gk > L > F > E

of, relating to, or characteristic of a compound capable of reacting with an acid to form a salt, its aqueous solutions if it is water-soluble having an acrid brackish taste and turning litmus blue.

The textbook stated that basic substances felt slippery and tasted bad, but the students were forbidden to touch or taste the chemicals in the lab.

basil

basilar

basilect

basipetal

basque

bassinet

bastinado

batea

bathe

bathetic

bathorse

bathrobe

bathtub

batter

n
/ 'badə(r) /
E

[has homonym: badder] a mixture (as for cake or waffles) that consists of flour, liquid, and other ingredients and is thin enough to pour or drop from a spoon.

Gordon mixed batter for waffles while Julie sliced fruit and made bacon.

battlement

n
/ 'bad'lmənt /

Celt > L > F > E + Ecf

a parapet that consists of alternate solid parts and open spaces that is used in fortified buildings for defense.

The soldiers on the west battlement had been bribed to ignore the advancing enemy.

bawcock

n
/ 'bö.käk /
F > E

a fine fellow.

"How art thou today, good bawcock?" inquired Theo.

bayadere

n
/ 'bī(y)ə.dī(ə)r /
L > Pg > F

a fabric made with a design of horizontal stripes in strongly contrasted colors.

Leslyn planned to use the remnant of bayadere for a wall hanging.

bazoo

beachhead

n
/ 'bēch.hed /
unknown + E

[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word.] an initial advance position or foothold to be used as vantage ground for extending to new areas.

The general discussed with the president his selection of Site A as the beachhead for the invasion.

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Infrequently

beaming

adj
/ 'bēmiŋ /
E

marked by or expressive of extreme and unreserved joy, happiness, or satisfaction.

The beaming actress thanked the audience profusely for applauding.

beaner

beanery

beanstalk

bearskin

n
/ 'be(ə)r.skɪn /
E + E

[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word.] an often large full-dress military hat made of the skin of a bear.

The palace guard adjusted his saber and bearskin before reporting for duty.

beastie

beastly

adj
/ 'bēstlē /
E

[Note: Could be confused with bestially, beastily, beastlily.] very nasty : abominable.

The mountain climbers were stymied in their attempt to reach the summit because of the beastly weather.

beautician

beautiful

beauty

beauvais

beaver

n
/ 'bēvə(r) /
E

a large semiaquatic rodent having webbed hind feet and a broad flat tail, feeding chiefly on bark and twigs.

Thanks to the adaptations of its teeth, the beaver has a remarkable ability to cut down trees for food and building mats.

because

becerrista

bedchamber

n
/ 'bed.chāmbə(r) /
E + Gk > L > F > E

bedroom.

The ladies of the bedchamber were the only ones who ever saw the queen without her wig.

bedevilment

bedlamite

beefsteak

beeswax

beetle

n
/ 'bēd·l /
E

[has homonym: beadle] any of various insects resembling those in the order Coleoptera.

Both a cockroach and a ladybug may be called a "beetle."

befallen

v
/ bə'fɒlən /
E

taken place especially as if by prompting of destiny or fate.

Sandro would have been a rich man, if not for the fortune that has befallen him.

befuddle

beginner

begonia

n
/ bə'gɒniə /
F name

a plant of a large genus of succulent herbs native to the tropics but widely cultivated with asymmetrical leaves and flowers succeeded by capsular fruit.

Aunt Betsy planted a pink begonia beside Grandmother's grave.

behave

behavioral

behest

beleaguered

beletter

v
/ bə'ledə(r) /
E + L > F > E

decorate the name of (a person) by appending abbreviations of official or academic rank.

Horace looks forward to the day he can beletter his name with M.D.

belief

n
/ bə'li:f /
E

trust in religion : persuasion of the validity of religious ideas.

Jennifer's belief has been unshakable through many unforeseen bumps in the road of life.

bellarmine

bellhop

bellowed

bellowing

v
/ 'be(ɪ)lɔɪŋ /
E

emitting a loud deep hollow prolonged sound.

"Stop bellowing," Mr. Jenkins said sharply. "Do you want the entire school to hear you?"

bellyband

belong

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Infrequently

beloved

bementite

benday

benedictory

benefice

benighted

benignancy

benjamin

n
/ 'benjəmən /
F > E

a balsamic resin that is obtained from various trees of the genus *Styrax* that is used chiefly in treating irritations of the skin.
Zach smeared a dollop of benjamin on his mosquito bite.

bensh

benumbed

v
/ bə'nʌmd /
E

deprived of sensation or feeling.
The skiers returned to the lodge to warm their benumbed fingers and toes.

benzidine

bequeathal

bergylt

berkelium

berloque

berserk

adj
/ bər'zɜrk /
ON

marked by a display of violent erratic behavior indicative of extreme excitement or agitation and suggestive of sudden mental unbalance.
Jake almost went berserk when the last concert tickets were sold to the person in line just ahead of him.

berthage

beryl

beset

besides

betray

better

beverage

beware

bewitch

bezoar

Bible

n
/ 'bɪbəl /
Phoenician geog name > Gk
a book containing the sacred writings of a religion.
The Koran is the Muslim Bible.

biblical

adj
/ 'bɪbləkəl /
Gk
of, relating to, derived from, or in accord with the Bible.
Camp Joseph's guidelines are biblical, although the counselors rarely ever mention the Bible.

bibliophagous

bibliophilic

bibliophilist

bibliotherapy

n
/ ,bɪblēə'therəpē /
Gk + Gk
the use of selected reading materials as curative facilitators in medicine and in psychiatry; also : guidance in the solution of personal problems through directed reading.
The child psychologist spoke to the parent group about the effectiveness of bibliotherapy.

bicaudate

adj
/ bɪ'kɔːdāt /
L
having or terminating in two tails.
Tommy paid two dollars at the fair to see a bicaudate salamander.

bicolor

bidentate

bidet

bienniums

bier

bifid

bifurcate

bight

bigwig

bilabial

bilander

billabong

n
/ 'bɪləbɒŋ /
Australian native name
a backwater caused by overflow from a river and forming a stagnant pool.
Jill's postcard from Australia pictured an emu standing by a billabong.

billfold

billionth

billycan

n
/ 'bɪl̩.kən /
Australian > E
[Note: Could be confused with billiken.] a cylindrical container having a set-in lid and a wire bail and often used for outdoor cooking.
Arlene accidentally knocked over the billycan, scattering the coals and starting a small fire.

bimanous

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Infrequently

bimester

bioethics

biorhythm

biosensor

n
/ 'biō.sen(t)sə(r) /
Gk + L

a device sensitive to a physical or chemical stimulus and transmitting information about a life process.

The technicians checked and rechecked every biosensor on board the space station.

biphyletic

birder

n
/ 'bærdə(r) /
E

an observer or identifier of wild birds in their natural surroundings.

Uncle Hayden is so avid a birder that he never goes anywhere without binoculars and his notebook.

birdlime

n
/ 'bærd.līm /
E + E

an extremely adhesive substance formerly used to trap small birds by smearing twigs where the birds are accustomed to perch.

Marvin begged the gardener not to use birdlime to get rid of the burgeoning sparrow population.

birr

bisdiapason

bisect

v
/ 'bi.sekt /
L

divide into two usually equal parts.
The teacher taught the class how to use a compass to bisect a line.

bismarckian

bisulcate

bite

bitter

adj
/ 'bidə(r) /
E

[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word. In addition, word has homonym: bidder.] distasteful to the mind : distressing to contemplate.
Larry had to accept the bitter fact that all his houseplants were dying.

bittersweet

bitumen

bivalve

bivittate

bizarrely

bizygomatic

blackjack

blackmail

n
/ 'blak.māl /
E + ON > E
extortion of money by threats especially of subjecting someone to criminal prosecution or revealing something injurious to his or her reputation.
Blackmail was originally protection money that Scottish chieftains forced farmers and small landowners to pay for protection against plunder.

blackout

blacksmith

blahs

blanch

v
/ 'blanch /
F > E
scald or parboil (foods) in boiling water or steam in order to remove the skin from, whiten, or stop enzymatic action in.
Jessica's cooking teacher told her to blanch and peel the tomatoes before adding them to the sauce.

blancmange

n
/ blə'mänj /
F + L > F
a dessert made from gelatinous or starchy substances and milk usually sweetened, flavored, and shaped in a mold.
A touch of anisette is the secret to Cassandra's blancmange.

blare

blas

blaspheme

blasphemed

blastocyte

blastomere

bleak

adj
/ 'blēk /
E
lacking in warmth or kindness : cheerless, grim.
The bleak environmentalist warned of pollution's impact on life on Earth.

blench

blepharitis

bletting

blewits

blimp

blindfold

v
/ 'blin(d).fōld /
E
cover the eyes of with or as if with a bandage.
Club members insisted that Demetrius blindfold his little brother before taking him to their secret hideout.

blister

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Infrequently

blithesome

adj
/ 'blīthsəm /
E + Ecf
lively in voice, manner, or appearance : cheery, merry.
The blithesome lottery winner gushed that she had just booked a Caribbean cruise.

blockhead

n
/ 'bläk'hed /
D > F > E + E
a dull and stupid person.
Clara called Kory a "blockhead" for believing everything said in commercials.

blondined

bloodhound

bloodless

adj
/ 'blədləs /
E
lacking or apparently lacking blood.
Martha's face went bloodless with fright at the sight of her brother Joe's Halloween costume.

bloodstone

bloodthirsty

blooming

adj
/ 'blümiŋ /
E
flowering.
A blooming azalea sits on the cedar chest in Paul's house.

blotter

blowgun

blowhole

n
/ 'blō.hōl /
E + E
a nostril in the top of the head of a whale or other cetacean.
The whale gave one spout through its blowhole, took in fresh air, and was down again.

blubbery

bluff

blurbist

boards

boardwalk

boarish

boater

n
/ 'bōdə(r) /
E
[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word.] a man's stiff straw hat with a flat crown, ribbon band, and straight brim.
Grandpa reminisced about when he attended Fourth of July picnics wearing his white linen suit and a boater.

boatload

bobble

bodaciously

bodhi

bodoni

boffo

bogaty

boiling

adj
/ 'böiliŋ /
L > F > E
bubbling from the action of heat.
The boiling blue and yellow liquids in the lab fascinated young Lucinda.

boisterously

bolivar

n
/ bō'lē.vär /
S Amer name
the basic monetary unit of Venezuela.
Drew recently added a drachma, a ruble, and a bolivar to his currency collection.

bolo

bolshevism

bolsheviz

bolster

bolt

n
/ 'bōlt /
E
a rod or heavy pin designed to fasten two or more objects together or to hold one or more objects in place, often having a head at one end and a screw thread cut upon the other end.
Ever earthquake-conscious, Becky used a large bolt to fasten the heavy bookcase to the wall.

bombardier

bomblet

bond

n
/ 'bänd /
E
a mechanism by means of which atoms, ions, or groups of atoms are held together in a molecule or crystal.
The fact that the length of the bond between atoms can be calculated flabbergasted Tenacity.

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Infrequently

bondsman

n
/ 'bän(d)zmən /
E

[Note: Plural form is pronounced identically. Also, has near homonym: bondman.] one who assumes legal liability for another's debt, default, or failure to do a duty.

The defendant was released from jail after a bondsman posted his bail.

boneyard

bongo

bonkers

bonnetless

bonspiel

boodle

boohoo

bookend

bookish

adj
/ 'bükish /
E

of or relating to books.

The result of Hilda's bookish life is that every available wall of her home is lined with books.

booklet

bookworm

n
/ 'bük.wərm /
E + E

one unusually devoted to reading or studying books.

Vanessa was a bookworm when she was in elementary school but recently started showing more interest in extracurricular activities.

boondockers

n pl
/ 'bün.däkə(r)z /
Tag?

field shoes.

After a long day of planting corn, Horace was relieved to get out of his boondockers.

boorish

bootlegger

n
/ 'bü.t.legə(r) /
F > E + ON > E

one who illegally manufactures, sells, or transports for sale especially alcoholic liquor.

Government agents followed the bootlegger to his secret still and destroyed it.

borage

borane

n
/ 'bō.rān /
ISV

a compound of boron and hydrogen.

The simplest borane is called "diborane" and has 12 valence electrons.

borax

bordeaux

boreal

boresight

boresome

boric

adj
/ 'bōrik /
L > F
of, relating to, or derived from a high-melting trivalent metalloid element that is known both in an extremely hard shiny black crystalline form and in the form of a greenish yellow or brown amorphous powder.

Boric acid is used industrially to make Pyrex.

boron

borsholder

n
/ 'bō(r)s.höldə(r) /
E

a parish officer in Great Britain corresponding to the petty constable.

William Dalton was appointed borsholder of Keston in 1790.

botchy

bottle

boubou

boucharde

bouchee

boulter

bouncer

boundless

bounteously

bounty

n
/ 'bauntē /
L > E

a reward, premium, or subsidy especially when offered or given by the government.

The state offered a \$5000 bounty for the apprehension of the escaped convict.

bower

bowgrace

n
/ 'baü.grās /
F > E

a fender of rope or waste for protecting a ship from injury by floating ice.

Captain Armstrong ordered the deckhand to reattach the bowgrace to the ship's prow.

bowknot

bowl

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Infrequently

bowler

n
/ 'bɔlə(r) /
E name

a stiff felt hat with a dome-shaped crown and a rather narrow rolled brim—called also “derby.”

Until recent times a proper English gentleman wouldn't leave home without his bowler and brolly.

bowsprit

bowstave

brace

bracero

bracketed

brad

n
/ 'bræd /
E

a slender wire nail with a small deep round head.

Ricardo used a brad to attach the moulding.

bradytely

brainstorm

v
/ 'bræn.stò(ə)rm /
E + E

find a solution for a specific problem by amassing spontaneously occurring ideas.

Henley's group decided to brainstorm in the morning session and evaluate the produced ideas in the afternoon session.

bramble

branchiae

brandied

brandy

n
/ 'brændē /
D

[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word. In addition, word could be confused with barani.] a trampoline and tumbling stunt in which the performer does a front somersault with a half twist.

The crowd went wild as Chris executed a perfect brandy.

brassy

adj
/ 'brasē /
E

of the color of brass, a usually yellow alloy of copper with zinc or formerly tin.

The brassy color of Mrs. Gilbert's hair could not possibly be natural.

brat

brattice

brazenface

breakage

breaker

n
/ 'brākə(r) /
F > Sp > E

[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word. In addition, word has homonym: braker.] a small water cask especially for use in a lifeboat.
The first thing the survivors did was to ration the water in the breaker.

breastplate

n
/ 'brɛst.plāt /
E + Gk? > L > F > E

a metal plate protecting the torso as defensive armor.

The knight with the broken collarbone struggled painfully out of his breastplate.

breeze

breloque

breve

bricole

bridegroom

n
/ 'brɪd.ɡrʊm /
E

a man just married or about to be married.

The bridegroom wiped frosting from his mouth and smiled for the photographer.

bridge

n
/ 'brɪdʒ /
E

any of various widely differing card games for four players in two partnerships.

Barb and Ray invited their neighbors over to play bridge and watch videos.

brie

brighten

brill

brilliantly

brio

briskly

adv
/ 'brɪsklē /
F? + Ecf

in a quick, energetic manner.

Because of the cold Sam walked briskly to the store.

brisque

n
/ 'brɪsk /
F

[has homonym: brisk] an ace or a ten in certain card games in which the ten ranks between the ace and the king.

Emily needed a brisque to take the trick and win the game.

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broadcast

n
/ 'brɒd.kɑst /
E + ON > E
a single radio or television program.
Dad always stops whatever he is doing in order to listen to the news broadcast.

broaden

brocard

brogue

broguery

broil

v
/ 'brɔɪl /
L? > F > E
cook by direct exposure to radiant heat (as on a grill over live coals or beneath a gas flame or electric coil).
Sharon brought two salmon steaks to broil on Gary's hibachi.

broken

brokenhearted

adj
/ ,brɒkən'hɑ:dəd /
E + E
having the spirits depressed : crushed by grief or despair.
Broke and brokenhearted, the prodigal son returned to ask his father's forgiveness.

broker

n
/ 'brɒkə(r) /
F > AF > E
an agent who for a fee or commission negotiates contracts of purchase and sale between buyers and sellers.
Pat's grandfather was a cotton broker who lost a fortune in the Crash of '29.

bronchiole

bronchoconstrictor

bronchoscope

bronzesmith

brood

n
/ 'brʊd /
E
[has homonym: brewed] the offspring of the same hen especially if nearly of the same age.
Tim selected the largest chick from the brood for a pet.

brooklime

n
/ 'brʊ.klɪm /
E
[Note: Could be confused with geographical name Brookline.] any of certain aquatic or semiaquatic plants of the genus Veronica.
American brooklime can be found along stream banks, swamps, clear ponds, and springs.

brother

brow

browbeat

brownstone

n
/ 'braʊn.stɔ:n /
E + E
a reddish brown sandstone used for building.
The house faced with brownstone was built about 75 years ago.

bruisewort

brushability

brusquerie

brute

bruxomania

bryology

buccally

bucchero

buchite

bucket

buckeye

buckish

buckle

buckles

bucksaw

buckshot

buckwheat

budding

buddleia

budge

buff

adj
/ 'bʌf /
Gk > L > It > F
of a light to moderate yellow color.
Cedric chose buff paper for his résumé.

buffable

buffer

buffeted

bulb

bulge

bulging

bumicky

bunch

n
/ 'bʌnʃ /
E
aggregate, cluster; especially : an aggregate of things of the same kind existing as a natural group or considered together.
Jason selected the largest bunch of grapes he could find and put it in his dad's grocery cart.

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bundle

n
/ 'bʌndl /
D > E

[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word.] a shipping unit of about 125 pounds that is used in papermaking.
Rick bargained to reduce the shipping rate by 25 cents per bundle.

bungee

Bunraku

n
/ bʌn'rä()kü /
Jpn

Japanese puppet theater featuring large costumed wooden puppets, onstage puppeteers, and a chanter who speaks all the lines.
Bunraku features four-foot-high dolls adroitly manipulated by black-clad puppeteers in full view of the audience.

bunt

v
/ 'bʌnt /
Gmc > F > E

block or push (the ball) in a game of baseball within the infield by meeting it with a loosely held bat and no swing.
The team coach told Jackson to bunt the next pitch.

buoyage

buoyance

burbark

burble

v
/ 'bɜrbəl /
imit E

become turbulent.
In the wind-tunnel tests, Hans could see the air burble off the left wing.

burgee

burmite

burning

adj
/ 'bɜrniŋ /
E

on fire.
Al backed his chair away from the heat of the burning campfire.

burnisher

burst

burtoning

burweed

bury

bushels

n pl
/ 'bʊʃəlz /
E
units of dry capacity used in the United States, each equal to 2,150.42 cubic inches.
By his reckoning, Herman had hauled over 10,000 bushels of leaves by the end of the fall.

buskined

bustard

buttonboard

bygones

byssoid

bystander

byway

byzantinism

cabbage

cabdriver

cabin

cablese

caboodle

cacholong

caciquism

cack

n
/ 'kæk /
unknown
a baby's heelless shoe with a soft leather sole.
The shoe clerk recommended a size 3 cack for Amanda's three-month old boy.

cadastral

caddisworm

cadences

n pl
/ 'kæd'n(t)səz /
L > It > E
the modulated and rhythmic recurrences of any sound, especially the sounds of nature.
Mary whispered in Jean's ear so quietly that her words sounded merely like broken cadences of breathing.

cadential

cadmium

caducicorn

cafard

caftan

cage

cahier

cairn gorm

calamander

calamari

calash

n
/ kə'lash /
Czech > G > F
a large hood worn by women in the 18th century.
Priscilla's calash was made of green silk and was supported by whalebone hoops.

calcaneal

calciferous

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Infrequently

calfskin

californium

Calinago

n
/ kalə'nä(,)gō /
Carib > Sp
a native of the Lesser Antilles.
The guide for the couple's island tour was a Calinago.

caller

n
/ 'kōlə(r) /
ON > E
[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word. In addition, word has near homonym: collar.] one that makes the calls for a square dance.
Don is the senior square dance club's favorite caller.

calligram

Callisaurus

n
/ kalə'sōrəs /
Gk
a small genus of lizards (family Iguanidae).
The gridiron-tailed lizard is a member of the genus Callisaurus living in the southwestern United States.

calories

calorimetric

adj
/ kalərə'metrik /
(L + Gk) > F
of or relating to the measurement of quantities of heat.
The lab manual explained how to make a calorimetric device using two Styrofoam cups and a thermometer.

calorimetry

calotype

calyculus

calzone

n
/ kal'zōn /
L > It
a baked or fried turnover of pizza dough stuffed with various fillings usually including cheese.
Jenna's calzone was so large that it nearly covered the entire plate.

camber

cambistry

camcorder

n
/ 'kam.kō(r)də(r) /
L > E + L > E
a small portable videocassette camera and recorder combined.
Jessica borrowed her neighbor's camcorder to make a tape for her parents.

camel

camelback

Camelot

n
/ 'kamələt /
E name
a time, place, or atmosphere of idyllic happiness.
The assassination of President Kennedy is sometimes referred to as "the end of Camelot."

camisa

n
/ kə'mēsə /
Gmc > L > Sp
a woman's embroidered blouse with loose sleeves.
Jeri practiced her Spanish while bargaining for a colorful camisa.

camouflet

campaigner

campfire

camphoraceous

camporee

campsite

camptocormia

camshaft

canaanite

canaliculus

cancan

n
/ 'kan.kan /
F
a woman's dance of French origin characterized by high kicking usually while holding up the front of a full ruffled skirt.
There used to be many clubs in Paris where the cancan was performed.

candid

candied

canicular

canker

cankerous

canned

cannery

cannoli

n pl
/ kə'nōlē /
L > It
tubes of pastry fried in deep fat and filled with a sweetened mixture of ricotta cheese, cream, and flavoring.
Aunt Carla's cannoli are so good that an Italian restaurant offered to buy her recipe.

canonize

cantatrice

n
/ ,kəntə'trēchē /
L > It > F
[Note: One of plural forms is pronounced similarly.] a woman singer; especially : an opera singer.
The cantatrice sang most poignantly when she bid goodbye in her death scene.

Cantonese

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canvasback

caoutchouc

capacitance

capillaceous

capriciously

capsicum

capsized

captive

captivity

car

n
/ 'kär /

L > G or D > E

[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word.] a large live-box for keeping fish or lobsters alive.

Sherman tossed the lobster into the car and continued fishing.

carbide

n
/ 'kär.bīd /
L + ISVcf

a binary compound of carbon with a more electropositive element.
Carbon combines with metals to form several kinds of carbide, some of which are used in metal-cutting tools.

carbonnade

carcinolytic

careful

carfare

carga

n
/ 'kär.gə /
Sp

a unit of weight usually of a value about equal to 300 pounds used in Mexico and certain other Spanish-American countries.

Juan ordered a carga of rice from his vendor.

carhop

cariostatic

carious

carnation

carnelian

caroche

carousal

carouse

carphology

carport

carrefour

carrier

carroccio

carry

carsick

carstone

n
/ 'kär.stön /
E

a firmly cemented ferruginous sandstone found in the British isles.
Carstone, once a traditional English building material, is now used largely for constructional fill.

cartload

n
/ 'kärt.löd /
ON > E + E

one third of a cubic yard (as of dirt).

Every spring, Glennis goes to the tree nursery and buys a cartload of dirt for her garden.

cartoons

carty

carvel

case

casement

n
/ 'käs.mənt /
F? > E

a window sash that opens on hinges.

The imprisoned princess chipped away at the mortar surrounding the iron bars set in the casement.

Cassandra

n
/ kə'sandrə /
Gk name

one who prophesies misfortune or disaster.

Mary's accurate intuition about impending adversity makes her a Cassandra whose warnings should be heeded.

cassioberry

cassis

caste

n
/ 'kast /
L > Pg

[has homonym: cast] one of the hereditary classes into which the society of India is divided in accordance with a system fundamental in Hinduism.

Members of the Brahman caste have the exclusive right to become Hindu priests.

casteless

castellatus

casting

casual

cataclysmically

catallactics

catalogic

catalufa

catalyst

catamount

catatonic

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catawba

n
/ kə'tɒbə /
Choctaw

a very dark to blackish red.
When Morton added a layer of indigo paint to his red Volkswagen, the resulting color could only be called "catawba."

catcall

catch

n
/ 'kætʃ /
L > F > E

[has near homonyms: cache, cash, ketch] something that is taken in or as if in a trap; especially : the total quantity trapped at one time.
The commercial fishing boat returned to the harbor with an unusually good catch.

catchy

cate

n
/ 'kɑːt /
L > F > E

[has homonym: kate] a dainty or choice food : delicacy.
Some consider caviar a cate; others disdainfully refer to it as "fish eggs."

catechesis

catagorematic

categorical

catenate

v
/ 'kædə.nāːt /
L

connect in a series of links or ties.
"The ability of carbon to catenate is discussed on page 743 of your textbook," the lab technician said condescendingly.

cater

cathode

Catholic

adj
/ 'kæθ(ə)lɪk /
Gk > L > F

of, relating to, or being a body of Christians belonging to any of various churches claiming historical continuity from the ancient undivided Christian Church.
Roger and Theresa are planning a Catholic wedding with a full mass.

cationic

adj
/ 'kæd.i.ənɪk /
Gk > ISV

relating to or consisting of positively charged atoms or groups of atoms.
Sodium atoms can easily lose an electron and thus become cationic.

cattery

caulescent

caulocarpic

cavalierly

caveman

cavern

ceilometer

celature

celestialize

celiotomy

cembalo

cenacle

cense

v
/ 'sen(t)s /
L

perfume.
During the ceremony, the priests cense the altar.

ensor

censurable

cent

centenarian

centenary

center

centerpiece

centesimate

centripetally

centrolinead

ceramics

cerebellar

cerebration

certiorari

cervicorn

cesspool

n
/ 'ses.pül /
L > F > E

an underground catch basin that is used where there is no sewer.
A contractor determined the best location for the farmhouse's cesspool.

chain

n
/ 'tʃeɪn /
L > F > E

[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word.] a unit of length equal to 66 feet.
According to the original survey, Lynette's property has a total frontage of 1 chain.

chairman

chairoplane

chairwoman

chalazion

chambray

channel

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Infrequently

chantilly

chaotically

characterize

charbray

charm

n
/ 'chärm /
E

[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word.] a flock of finches.

The largest finch flew out of the charm and alighted on the chimney.

charnel

charterhouse

n
/ 'chärdær.häüs /
F > E

a monastery for members of an austere religious order founded by St. Bruno in 1084.

Monks leave the charterhouse once a week to take a long walk.

charwoman

chasseur

checkers

checkrein

cheekiness

cheekpiece

cheeseburger

chelate

v
/ 'kē.lāt /
Gk

combine with (a metal) so as to form a ring of usually five or six atoms in which a central metallic ion is held in a coordination complex by one or more groups, each of which can attach itself to the central ion by at least two bonds.

Lead poisoning is usually treated with agents such as EDTA or BAL that chelate with lead to form a stable complex of ions.

cherish

cherry

adj
/ 'cherē /
Gk > L > F > E
[has homonym: chary] of a variable color averaging a moderate red that has a hint of yellow.
Santa is often portrayed with cherry cheeks.

chert

chessman

n
/ 'ches.man /
F&L > E
[Note: Could be confused with plural form of word.] one of 32 pieces used in chess.
Sasha's cat knocked over a chessman as she jumped up on the board.

chesstree

n
/ 'ches.trē /
F > E
a piece of wood with a pulley or pulleys bolted in the topside of an antiquated ship.
Elmo wrapped the line around the chesstree to keep from tripping on it as he swabbed the deck.

chestnut

cheviot

chez

chiaus

Chicano

n
/ chi'känō /
Sp
[Note: Could be confused with Chicana.] a male American of Mexican descent.
Rodrigo is proud to be a Chicano.

chickabiddy

chickling

n
/ 'chikliŋ /
L > F > E
the grass pea of Europe cultivated for seeds and forage.
Seeds of the chickling can be made into paste balls, put in curry, or boiled and eaten like legumes.

chide

chiffchaff

chiller

chimerism

china

Chinarra

n
/ chə'närə /
Amerind > Sp
an Indian people comprising a major subdivision of the Concho group.
The small museum was devoted to the culture of the Chinarra.

chine

chinfest

chintz

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Infrequently

chiral

adj
/ 'kī(ə)rəl /
Gk

of, relating to, or being a molecule that is nonsuperimposable on its mirror image.

Ray tried to explain why chiral compounds are called “optically active” and what they do to light that passes through them.

chirography

chirotony

chitchat

chlorella

n
/ klə'relə /
Gk > L

any of the nonmotile unicellular green algae of the genus *Chlorella*.

In the ponds studied, the chlorella proved to be the most efficient photosynthetic organism.

chloromelanite

chlorophane

chockablock

adv
/ 'chäkə,bläk /
unknown + D > F > E

in a crowded or overflowing manner.

Condos and cabins were built chockablock along the tiny beach.

cholla

choplogical

chopper

choragic

choralcelo

chordal

chorography

choruses

choucroute

n
/ shük'rüt /
F + G > F
sauerkraut.
Elena ordered a bratwurst covered with choucroute.

chrematistics

chrism

christened

v
/ 'kris'nd /
Gk > L > E
received or initiated into a Christian church by the rite of baptism.
The priest christened the Jensens' new baby Theodore.

christening

Christian

n
/ 'kris(h)chən /
Gk > L
one who believes or professes or is assumed to believe in Jesus Christ and the truth as taught by him.
When Marie was baptized a Christian, she decided to read the Bible daily.

chroma

n
/ 'krōmə /
Gk
the color dimension on the Munsell scales that correlates most closely with saturation.
The aspect of color known as “chroma” refers to its vividness.

chromic

adj
/ 'krōmik /
Gk
of, relating to, or derived from a blue-white usually hard and brittle metallic element that is resistant to corrosion and is used chiefly in alloys and in electroplating.
Mr. McGonigle corrected Stan's diagram of the structure of chromic acid to include four oxygen atoms.

chrominance

chromosome

chronicles

n pl
/ 'kränəkəlz /
Gk > L > F
historical accounts of facts or events that are arranged in order of time and usually without analysis or interpretation.
In his chronicles the geologist describes the many expeditions he took to study volcanos.

chrononomy

chrysolite

chrysopal

chrysopease

chuck

chucklehead

church

n
/ 'chərch /
E
a building set apart for public especially Christian worship.
The church of Hagia Sophia in Istanbul was built in the sixth century A.D.

chylomicron

cicadellid

cicatrix

cider

cinch

cinematize

cinemobile

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cinereal

adj
/ sə'nirēəl /
L

gray tinged or shaded with black—
used especially in technical
descriptions in biology.

*The cinereal plumage of the vulture
made it look as if it had fallen in an
ashpit.*

cipher

circulation

circumambient

adj
/ ,sərkəm'ambēənt /
L

surrounding, encompassing.
*The circumambient fog made
driving extremely difficult.*

circumforaneous

circummure

circumspect

circumspectly

cirrostratus

cis
adj
/ 'sis /
L

[has homonym and near homonym:
sis and cyst] having or
characterized by certain atoms or
groups on the same side of the
molecule.

*Greg said that cis isomers and
trans isomers were molecules made
of the same combination of atoms,
but in different configurations and
often with very different properties.*

cisco

citrine

citron

citrus

city

cityscape

civilly

cladoptosis

claimant

claimer

clairvoyance

clamor

clang

clapper

claro

clasp
n
/ 'klasp /
E

a releasable catch for holding
together two or more objects or
complementary parts of something.
*Sharon struggled impatiently with
the ornate clasp on the small box
that Jamal gave her.*

claustration

clausula

claybank

cleanliness

clearing
n
/ 'kliriŋ /
E

a tract of land made free of wood
and brush.
*The deer moved among the trees at
the edge of the clearing.*

cleavage

cleave
v
/ 'klēv /
E

adhere firmly, loyally, and
unwaveringly.
*The minister said that even though
doubt was a natural human failing,
believers must still cleave to the
doctrines of the church.*

cleaver

clef

cleft

cleoid

clericulture

clever

cliffside

climax

clinamen

clingstone

clingy
adj
/ 'kliŋē /
E

having a strong emotional
attachment or dependence.
*Dylan was nervous and clingy
when his mother took him to his
new kindergarten.*

clinkerer

cloak
n
/ 'klɔk /
L > ON > F

something resembling or
suggesting an outer garment.
*The princesses decided, "Words
and numbers are of equal value,
for, in the cloak of knowledge, one
is warp and the other woof."*

cloakroom

clog
n
/ 'kläg /
E

[Note: The definition provided is
not the one most commonly
associated with this word.] a heavy
shoe, sandal, or overshoe having a
thick typically wooden sole.
*The thick-soled clog is the
precursor of the modern tap shoe.*

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clogger

n
/ 'klägə(r) /
E
one who performs a dance with a clattering rhythm while wearing clogs.
Skip is a clogger and performs every year at the state fair.

clogging

cloister

v
/ 'klöistə(r) /
L > F > E
confine in or as if in an enclosed space : seclude from the world.
Brenda knew the property manager would disapprove of her new puppy, but she couldn't cloister Muffin in her apartment any longer.

clonal

clone

closure

clothespin

clou

clouy

clump

clumsiness

clumsy

cluster

n
/ 'klästə(r) /
E
a number of similar things grouped together in association or in physical proximity.
Several people who lived in the cluster of houses near the chemical plant have serious health problems.

clydesdale

cnemis

coacervation

coach

coact

coalmouse

n
/ 'köl.maüs /
E
a small greenish gray European bird with a black cap and white patch on the neck.
The coalmouse looked around suspiciously before flying off.

coaxial

cobra

coccid

cockleshell

cocotte

cocozelle

codex

codices

coeducation

coelacanth

coesite

cofeature

n
/ kō'fēchə(r) /
L > E + L > F > E
a presentation in a program (as in an entertainment) accompanying but usually subordinate in interest to a main attraction.
Kerry thought that the cofeature was more interesting than the feature presentation.

coffin

coffle

cogitation

cognate

adj
/ 'käg.nāt /
L
of a language : related by descent from the same recorded or assumed ancestral language.
An 18th-century judge named William Jones revealed that ancient Sanskrit is actually cognate with Western European languages.

cogwheel

coherent

adj
/ kō'hirənt /
L
having the quality of holding together firmly.
Marcello cooked the risotto for so long that it came out of the pan in a single coherent lump.

cohort

coiffeuse

coimplicant

coincidence

n
/ kō'in(t)sədən(t)s /
L
the concurrence of events or circumstances appropriate to one another or having significance in relation to one another but between which there is no apparent causal connection.
By coincidence, Mary's wedding date is the same day her cousin plans to get married.

colcothar

cold

adj
/ 'kōld /
E
having a temperature notably below that compatible with human comfort.
The house grew so cold with the heat cut off that Eric moved into the garage, which had a kerosene heater.

colewort

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Infrequently

colin

colitis

collaborative

collared

adj

/ 'kälərd /

L

[has homonym: collard] wearing, having, or depicted with a band, strip, or chain worn or placed around the neck.

Several collared men stood holding farm implements in the old daguerreotype.

colleague

collect

collectivize

colleen

collegian

collie

collision

collodion

colloidal

colluvies

collywobbles

n pl

/ 'kälē.wäb'lz /

(L + G)? > E?

a slight intestinal disturbance accompanied by abdominal cramps.

Bruno came down with the collywobbles after the pie-eating contest.

colonization

colonnette

colostrum

coltish

colubrine

columbaceous

comatose

combative

combinatorial

comedian

commando

commensurable

adj

/ kə'mezh(ə)rəbəl /

L + L > F > E + L > Ecf

[Note: Could be confused with commensurable.] equal in size, extent, amount, or degree.

Iron has disadvantages almost commensurable with its virtues.

commingle

commitments

commixture

commodatum

commoner

commonweal

commorant

communication

community

commutation

n

/ .kämyə'tāshən /

L

change of a legal penalty or punishment to a lesser one.

At the last minute the governor called in his commutation of the prisoner's death sentence to life imprisonment.

companies

companion

n

/ kəm'panyən /

L > It > D?

[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word.] a structure with frames and sashes formerly incorporated into the deck of a vessel to admit light to a cabin or lower deck.

A large wave crashed into the companion and startled the crew members below.

companionway

comparable

compellable

compendious

compensated

competence

complanate

completely

complexion

component

comportment

n

/ kəm'pōrtmənt /

F

manner of bearing : deportment, demeanor.

The mysterious woman, who claimed to be a princess, had a regal comportment and a very tasteful wardrobe.

Compositae

n pl

/ kəm'pāzətē /

L

a very large family of herbs, shrubs, and trees considered to constitute the most highly evolved plants and characterized by florets arranged in dense heads that resemble single flowers.

Plants in the Compositae can be as small as a dandelion and as large as a sunflower.

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compositor

computation

comprehensible

comprehension

compress

v
/ kəm'pres /
L

reduce the volume of by or as if by pressure : make hard or solid.

At the vitamin factory the children were shown a machine that could compress the ingredients into a pill in less than a second.

compurgation

comradeship

comtemptible

comtemptuous

conacaste

conatus

concameration

concatenation

concave

concede

conchiferous

conchologist

conciliating

adj
/ kən'silē.ād.iŋ /
L

tending to become or try to become friendly.

Jane's fears will completely wear off when she gets a little acquainted with Mrs. Elton's family, for there is nothing in their manners but what is highly conciliating.

conciliation

conciliatory

concomitance

concrete

n
/ 'kän.krēt /
L > E

a hard strong building material.

The dog walked on the concrete before it set, leaving its paw prints.

condescension

n
/ .kändə'senchən /
L

an act or instance of assuming an air of superiority (as to one inferior or less fortunate).

With dry condescension Mr. Blain describes the natives as "primitive" and "uncivilized."

condone

conepate

n
/ .kōnə'pädā /
Nahuatl > Sp

hog-nosed skunk.

Hernandez was the first naturalist to classify the conepate and other skunks in Mexico.

confection

n
/ kən'fekshən /
L

[has near homonym: convection] delicacy; usually : a preparation of fruits, nuts, roots, or other morsels with sugar.

Turkish delight is a chewy confection often flavored with finely chopped nuts and rosewater.

conferencier

conferral

confidential

configuration

confine

confinement

n
/ kən'fɪnmənt /
L > F

the act of restraining or state of being restrained within a limited area.

After three years' confinement, the convict was released on parole.

confrerie

Confucian

adj
/ kən'fyūshən /

Chin name

[has near homonym: confusion] of or relating to the Chinese philosopher Confucius or his teaching or followers.

Most Westerners' knowledge of Confucian thought is nonexistent or limited to a few spurious quotations.

confusing

adj
/ kən'fyūziŋ /
L

misleading, perplexing.

"Everything is so confusing and all your words only make things worse," he said.

congealed

v
/ kən'jēld /
L > F > E

made viscid or of a consistency like jelly.

The impudent soldier's punishment was to clean the congealed grease from the wall behind the cookstoves.

congiary

conglomeration

congrio

conjuraction

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connatural

adj
/ kə'nach(ə)rəl /
L + L
connected by nature : inborn, inherent.
Many pigeons have a connatural sense of direction.

conscription

consequent

conserve

consignation

consistent

adj
/ kən'sistənt /
L
showing no significant change, unevenness, or contradiction.
It was impossible for anyone to throw with such consistent perfection.

conspicuous

conspicuous

constable

n
/ 'kənzəbəl /
L > F > E
a public officer responsible for keeping the public peace and for certain petty judicial duties.
In English villages it is not uncommon to see a constable making his rounds on a bicycle.

constant

n
/ 'kənzənt /
L
something that does not vary or change in its relationship or in an essential relationship with other things.
Soren explained that knowing the equilibrium constant of a reaction is the key to solving many chemistry problems.

constraint

n
/ kənz'trənt /
L > F > E
control over one's own feelings, behavior, or actions.
John's parents taught him that he must put some constraint on his quick temper.

construct

consular

consulate

consulting

v
/ kən'səltn̩ /
L
asking the advice of : seeking the opinion of.
Duke would not take any medicine without consulting his doctor.

consultor

contaminate

contemn

contemned

contemporaries

contempt

contented

adj
/ kən'tentəd /
L
free from dissatisfaction, anxiety, or agitation : easy in mind.
Steve is a charmer—very friendly and responsive, and contented with life.

contents

continuity

n
/ .kəntə'n(y)üədē /
L
[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word.] the script for a radio or television program (as of the introductory and transitional material used by an announcer or master of ceremonies).
Mario's job is to write the continuity for the variety show.

contract

contraction

contradicted

v
/ kəntrə'diktəd /
L
asserted the contrary of : took issue with.
Esther contradicted nearly everything her younger brother said.

contrail

contrarily

adv
/ kən'trerəlē /
L
in a manner opposite to what is expected.
Karin decided contrarily to stay home, disappointing her friends who had planned a movie outing.

contrariwise

contravallation

contravene

v
/ .kəntrə'vēn /
L > F
go or act contrary to : obstruct the operation of.
Ellie was sent to the principal's office when she threatened to contravene the rule against leaving campus.

contrivance

contriver

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controller

conurbation

convention

n
/ kən'venchən /
L

a practice in bidding or playing that by agreement between partners in certain card games (as bridge) conveys some information not necessarily deducible by logic.
Doris and Henry played bridge using a convention of their own devising.

conversance

conversion

n
/ kən'vərzhən /
L

a change in one's religious orientation marked also by a concomitant change in belief.
The conversion of St. Paul on the road to Damascus was a favorite topic of Renaissance painters.

convincing

convocation

convulse

cooncan

n
/ 'kūn.kən /
Sp&E

[Note: Could be confused with conquian.] a game of rummy played by two or more with two packs of cards including two jokers.
After losing ten games of cooncan in a row, Troy threw up his hands in despair and quit.

coonskin

n
/ 'kūn.skɪn /
Algonquian + E
a cap made of the skin or pelt of the raccoon.
The frontiersman wore a coonskin with the tail hanging down his back.

coony

coot

copartner

copen

copilot

copper

coppernose

n
/ 'kæpə(r)nōz /
L > F > E
an inflamed nose such as that of acne rosacea or that sometimes produced by habitual drunkenness.
W. C. Fields was famous for his misanthropy and his coppernose.

coppersmith

coquina

coralline

corbiestep

cord

n
/ 'kɔ(ə)rd /
Gk > L > F > E
[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word. In addition, word has homonym: chord.] a unit of quantity of wood equal to a stack 4 x 4 x 8 feet or 128 cubic feet.
After splitting a cord of firewood, Ray went inside for some hot oatmeal.

cordaites

corde

cordiality

cordite

corduroys

cordwainery

cordwinder

n
/ 'kɔrd.wɪndər /
F > E
shoemaker.
Alvin is the best cordwinder in town, yet his prices are reasonable.

corgi

n
/ 'kɔrgē /
W
a short-legged long-backed dog with foxy head belonging to either of two Welsh varieties.
The Pembroke Welsh corgi in the photo with Queen Elizabeth II is one of four such dogs she owns.

coriaceous

corkscrew

corky

adj
/ 'kɔrkē /
L > Ar > E
peculiar to or suggestive of a beverage spoiled by corking.
Sarnak rejected the corky wine and told the waiter to bring another bottle.

cornupete

coronated

corpulence

correction

correctional

adj
/ kə'rekshən'l /
L
dealing with or charged with the treatment of offenders through a program involving penal custody, parole, and probation.
After his conviction for counterfeiting, Matt had to serve several years in a correctional facility.

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correlative

adj
/ kə'relədɪv /
L

of paired words or expressions :
regularly used together but
typically not adjacent to each other.
*The teacher devoted an entire
period to subject-verb agreement
when correlative conjunctions are
used.*

correlativity

corroborative

corrosion

corrugate

corruption

corsepresent

cortile

corundum

n
/ kə'rændəm /
Skt > Tamil

aluminum oxide occurring in nature
in massive form and as variously
colored rhombohedral crystals
including the gems ruby, sapphire,
oriental amethyst, oriental emerald,
and oriental topaz.
*Ruby can't believe that all the
different forms of corundum,
including the gem she was named
after, contain the material from
which aluminum foil is made.*

corvette

coryza

cosmicity

cosmogony

cosmonaut

cosmopolis

cosovereignty

cossack

n
/ 'käsək /

Turk > Russ&Ukrainian
a member of a favored military
caste of Russian frontiersmen and
border guards in Czarist Russia
who played an important part in
Russian expansion.
*The museum's hat display included
one worn by a cossack who was an
ancestor of Mr. Kuban, the curator.*

cotangent

cottagey

coucal

couching

n
/ 'kauchɪŋ /
L > F > E

a style of embroidery in which a
flat or raised design is made by
threads or cords fastened down by
small stitches at regular intervals.
*The bodice of the queen's gown
was decorated with satin threads
and golden couching.*

cougar

couleur

coulis

n
/ kü'lē /
F

[has near homonyms: coolie,
cooly, coolly, coulee, coulie] a
thick sauce made with pureed
vegetable or fruit and often used as
a garnish.
*For dessert, Kathy ordered a
chocolate torte with raspberry
coulis.*

coulombic

coulometric

adj
/ 'külə.metrɪk /
F name + Gk

of or relating to chemical analysis
performed by determining the
amount of a substance released in
an electrolysis by measuring the
amount of electrical charge used.
*Because an aqueous sodium
chloride solution can contain
several species that can be oxidized
and reduced, Anna used
coulometric analysis.*

counterclockwise

adv
/ ,kauntə(r)'kläk.wɪz /
L > F > E + L > F > D > E + E
in a direction opposite to that in
which the hands of a clock rotate.
*Fay never can remember whether
turning the jar lid counterclockwise
tightens or loosens it.*

counterfeiting

counterfoil

countermure

counterpane

n
/ 'kauntə(r),pān /
L > F > E
bedspread.

*Aretha received a silk and linen
counterpane as a wedding present.*

counterreformation

countersink

countertrades

couquette

couple

n
/ 'kəpəl /
L > F > E

two or an indefinite number of.
*George's lunch consisted of a
couple of apples and a candy bar.*

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course

n
/ 'kō(ə)rs /
L
[has homonym: coarse] policy chosen.
Though he did not know what course others would take, for Patrick Henry the choice was simple: liberty or death.

courtyard

n
/ 'kōrt.yärd /
L > F > E + E
a court or enclosure adjacent to or attached to a house, castle, palace, or other building.
The king was pacing in the courtyard when the messenger breathlessly announced the birth of the prince.

cowardice

crabwise

crackle

cradle

craggy

crake

cram

v
/ 'kram /
E
study intensively or under pressure especially for an examination.
Helga planned ahead so that she would not have to cram on Thursday night for Friday's midterm.

crane

cranny

crate

craven

cravenette

crawl

v
/ 'krōl /
ON > E
[has homonym: kraal] move, progress, or advance slowly or laboriously.
The soldiers were forced to crawl across a minefield to escape the enemy.

creance

crebrity

credenda

credulous

creosote

crepe

crevasse

crewel

criant

criminality

criminology

n
/ 'krimə'näləjē /
L + Gk
the scientific study of crime as a social phenomenon, of criminal investigation, of criminals, and of penal treatment.
Many police officers take courses in criminology and penology at community colleges.

cringle

cripple

critic

n
/ 'kridik /
Gk
one who engages often professionally in the analysis, artistic evaluation, or appreciation of works of art (as literary or dramatic works).
Although the critic enjoyed the play as a whole, he wasn't too pleased with some of the acting.

critical

adj
/ 'kridəkəl /
Gk + Ecf
relating to, indicating, or being a state in which or a measurement or point at which some quality, property, or phenomenon suffers a finite change or undergoes drastic alteration.
Every substance has a critical temperature above which its gas form cannot be made to liquefy.

critique

croaker

crochet

crock

crocus

croesus

croquette

croquettes

n pl
/ krō'kets /
F
small cone-shaped or rounded masses consisting usually of minced fowl, meat, or vegetable coated with egg and bread crumbs and fried in deep fat.
On Friday nights Minnie always makes salmon croquettes.

crossopodia

croupade

croupous

croutons

crowbar

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crown

n
/ 'kraʊn /
Gk > L > F > E
a royal or imperial headdress or cap of sovereignty : a diadem.
Eric's teacher asked him what Shakespeare meant by the line "Uneasy lies the head that wears the crown."

crucifix

cruiser

crupper

cruse

crushed

v
/ 'krʌʃt /
Gmc > F > E
completely subdued in spirits.
Kate was crushed with sorrow when her pet cat met an untimely death.

crustaceous

cryogenic

cryptarithm

crystalline

crystallomancy

ctenoid

cubbish

cubby

cubicle

cuisinier

culicine

cult

n
/ 'kʌlt /
L
a religion regarded as unorthodox or spurious.
The police were warned that the leaders of the doomsday cult might have been storing explosives.

culturist

cumuli

n pl
/ 'kyümyə.lī /
L
massy cloud forms having a flat base and rounded outlines often piled up like mountains and commonly appearing in the early afternoon on warm days.
Tracy filled the sky of her painting with cumuli.

cumulonimbus

n
/ .kyümyə.lɔ̄'nimbəs /
L
thundercloud.
As Stephanie drove down Interstate 80, she could see a dark cumulonimbus approaching from the west.

cumulus

cunctation

cupid

n
/ 'kyüpəd /
L name
a naked usually winged infantile figure representing the Roman god of love and often holding a bow and arrow.
Julia pasted a red cupid on a doily and slipped it in Tony's locker.

cupidity

cupiuba

curate

curatrices

curbstone

n
/ 'kərb.stɔ̄n /
E > F > L + E
a stone set along a margin as a limit and protection.
Chris always managed to hit the curbstone when he parked the car on the street.

curfew

curiological

curium

curling

n
/ 'kərliŋ /
E
[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word.] a game developed in Scotland in which two teams of four persons each send stones spinning over a stretch of ice about 42 yards long toward a target circle.
Angus has loved curling all his life and is the star player on his team.

currycomb

cursive

cursively

cursor

curule

curvet

curvilinear

cuspid

n
/ 'kæsp /
L
point, apex.
Teddy attached a bright red tassel to the cuspid of the dunce cap.

cutting

adj
/ 'kædiŋ /
E
[has homonym: cudding] given to or designed for cutting, severing, or dividing.
The nicks in the planer's cutting blades annoyed Matt and made it impossible to get a smooth board.

cyan

cyanotic

cyberneticist

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Infrequently

Cycladic

adj
/ sə'kladik /
Gk

of or relating to the pre-Mycenaean culture that prevailed in the Cyclades islands.

The peoples of the Cycladic civilization were seafarers who developed maritime trade with Asia Minor and North Africa before 1000 B.C.

cyclogeny

cyclone

Cyclops

n
/ 'sɪ.kləps /
Gk

one of a race of giants in Greek mythology with a single eye in the middle of the forehead.

Kirk found a mask that would help make him a perfect Cyclops at the masquerade party.

cygneous

cyldraceous

cylindrical

adj
/ sə'lindrəkəl /
Gk > F > E

relating to or having the form or properties of a tube.

The caterpillar looked like a small, cylindrical accordion, with pleats running around its circumference and spaced evenly along its axis.

cynegetic

cytochrome

n
/ 'sɪd̩.krōm /
Gk + Gk

any of several respiratory pigments that occur in animal and plant cells and play a major role in intracellular oxidations.

Enzymes of cytochrome help to detoxify cells and break down fat.

Czechoslovak

dabchick

dace

dacoit

dado

dah

daimonion

daintiness

dairymaid

dalmatian

damage

damascene

damper

damsel

dancery

n
/ 'dan(t)s(ə)rē /
L? > F > E + Ecf

a place of entertainment providing facilities for dancing.

Our neighborhood dancery has country line dancing every Tuesday.

dancy

dander

dandify

danio

danseur

n
/ dā'n'sər /
L? > F

a male ballet dancer.

The director chose a tall, graceful danseur for the part of Siegfried in Swan Lake.

danza

n
/ 'dän(t)sə /
L? > F > Sp

a formal, stately dance.

The bewigged actors in the commedia dell'arte began a slow danza on the stage.

dapper

dapple

dappled

v
/ 'dapəld /
E

marked or variegated with spots or patches of a different shade or color.

The lion was dappled with patterns from the tangle of branches.

dare

daredevil

dariole

darning

dashboard

dashi

n
/ 'däsh(,)ē /
Jpn

[has near homonyms: dasi, dassie] a fish broth made from dried bonito.

Yasuko added some miso paste and scallions to the dashi.

dashpot

dasyphyllous

dater

daube

dauerlauf

daunted

v
/ 'dɒntəd /
L > F > E

sapped of courage : discouraged, intimidated.

Even the experienced kayakers were daunted by the river's treacherous rapids.

dauphin

daydream

dayroom

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deaconess

deadened

v
/ 'dedⁿd /
E

[Note: Could be confused with dead end.] impaired in vigor, force, activity, or sensation.
A dental patient's pain can be effectively deadened by a local anesthetic.

deadhead

deal

deathly

adj
/ 'deθlē /
E

like or having the characteristics of death.
A deathly stillness fell over the audience as Dracula descended on his next victim.

debabelization

debit

debonairly

debouch

v
/ də'büʃ /
L > F

march out into open ground.
Major Kipling ordered the three regiments to debouch from the ravines.

debouches

debubbler

debunk

decade

n
/ 'de.kād /
Gk > L > F > E

a period of any ten years.
Carla claims she is going to let her hair grow for a decade without cutting it.

decahedral

decal

decap

decapod

decastere

decastich

decay

deceit

December

decennium

dechlorinate

v
/ dē'klōrə.nāt /
Ecf + Gk > ISV
remove chlorine from.
The gardener was advised to dechlorinate the tap water before using it to water certain plants.

decide

v
/ də'sīd /
L > F > E
arrive at a choice or a solution.
Jeri couldn't decide what she wanted for dessert, so she asked the waiter for his recommendation.

decimated

decimation

decipher

decisive

adj
/ də'sīsiv /
L
having the power or quality of resolving : conclusive.
Many historians say that the siege of Saratoga was the decisive battle of the Revolutionary War.

decisively

deckhand

declaim

v
/ də'klām /
L > E
speak pompously, noisily, or theatrically.
While in London, Sarah spent her Sundays at Speaker's Corner in Hyde Park listening to various orators declaim about a variety of subjects.

declamation

declivitous

decoction

n
/ də'kākshən /
L
a liquid preparation made of a medicinal plant boiled in water.
In ancient times, a decoction of medicinal herbs was often the only treatment available for internal injuries.

decollate

decompression

decongestant

decontrol

decoy

decuple

v
/ 'dek(y)əpəl /
L > F > E
make or become ten times as much or as many.
No one would ever have dreamed that the company's worth would decuple in two years.

dedans

dedition

deduction

defalcator

defeasance

defeat

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Infrequently

defeated	deity	demoralized
defenestration	delaying	v / də'mɔrəlɪzd / L weakened in courage, fortitude, or spirit. <i>The employees became demoralized when company layoffs were announced.</i>
deferment	delegitimation	demurred
deferral	delight	demythologize
deferred	delighted	denary
defiant	adj / də'li:dəd / L > F > E highly pleased : gratified, joyous. <i>The delighted visitors couldn't help laughing at the monkey's antics.</i>	dendroid
defibrillate	deliriously	adj / 'den.drɔɪd / Gk resembling a tree in form. <i>Andy brought back a dendroid coral specimen from Bora Bora.</i>
deficiencies	delitescence	denial
deficient	deliver	denigrate
deficit	delouse	denominations
definition	deltoid	n pl / dənə'mɪnə'sheɪnz / L religious groups or communities of believers called by the same name. <i>Children of other denominations were excused from attending mass at the Roman Catholic school.</i>
defrayal	delusively	denotatum
defroster	demanding	n / .denə'tɑdəm / L an actually existing object referred to by a word, sign, or linguistic expression. <i>The denotatum of the word tree is a large woody plant having branches and leaves.</i>
deftly	adj / də'mændɪŋ / L > F > E unremittingly severe or difficult in making requests. <i>Although the guests were extremely demanding, Joyce enjoyed working at the Ritz.</i>	density
degenerative	demented	n / 'den(t)sədē / L the mass of a substance per unit volume. <i>Jorge calculated what the density of a bubble of gas at the bottom of the lake would be.</i>
degenerescence	demicannon	
deglaze	demigod	
v / de'glāz / Ecf + E dissolve the small particles of sautéed meat remaining in (a pan) by adding a liquid and heating. <i>The chef explained that when making a meat gravy, one should first deglaze the pan with water or broth.</i>	n / 'demē.gəd / L + E a mythological divine or semidivine being (as the offspring of a deity and a mortal) thought to possess less power than a god. <i>The hero Gilgamesh was a demigod in ancient Babylonian mythology.</i>	
degreaser	dempique	
degree	demonstrable	
n / dē'grē / L > F > E a 360th measure for arcs and angles. <i>A miscalculation of only 1 degree on the reentry angle of the spacecraft could drastically change fuel consumption levels.</i>	demonstrate	
dehydrate		

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Infrequently

dentelle

denunciator

depayse

depilous

deplete

depoliticize

deportee

deposition

n
/ .depə'zishən /

L
testimony taken down in writing under oath or affirmation.
The psychiatrist's deposition was presented to the judge and jury as evidence of the defendant's mental condition.

depository

deprecate

depressed

deprogram

v
/ dē'prō.gram /
L + Gk > L

dissuade or try to dissuade from convictions usually of a religious nature often with the use of force.
Sharon's parents hired a specialist in cult psychology to deprogram her after her rescue from the People's Temple at Jonestown.

derangement

dereistic

derisory

derogate

derringer

descamisado

descensional

deschampsia

describe

desensitize

deserts

n pl
/ 'dezə(r)ts /
L
regions in which the vegetation is so scanty as to be incapable of supporting any considerable population.
The class included Antarctica in its study of deserts.

desiccation

designee

designer

n
/ dā'zīnə(r) /
L > F
one who plans and directs the fashioning of theatrical stage settings, costumes, and ballet settings.
The designer outdid himself with the lavish sets for the new opera.

desinent

desist

despicableness

despondency

desquamation

destine

v
/ 'destən /
L
direct and impel inescapably on a fixed course.
The family's money and ambition seemed to destine each newborn child to a career in politics.

destined

v
/ 'destənd /
L > F > E
preordained.
Despite his birth, the Prince did not believe he was destined to attain the throne.

detachability

detainer

n
/ dā'tānə(r) /
L > AF
a writ authorizing the keeper of a prison to continue to keep a person in custody.
The Immigration and Naturalization Service sent the warden a detainer with instructions to hold a prisoner for deportation proceedings.

detent

detention

n
/ dā'tenchən /
L
a holding in custody.
The suspect was in detention until his alibi could be checked.

deteriorate

deteriorated

detorsion

detrain

detumescence

deuterium

development

deviance

devil

v
/ 'devəl /
Gk > L > E
chop (food) fine and mix with hot seasoning or sauce usually after cooking.
Georgia planned to devil a dozen hard-boiled eggs for the potluck.

devilish

devilment

devote

devotee

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Infrequently

devotion

devotions

n pl
/ də'vōshənz /
L

prayers or service of worship usually intended for private nonliturgical services.

Jordan read a pamphlet of daily devotions while waiting for her appointment with the pastor.

devout

dewlappy

dexter

adj
/ 'dekstə(r) /
L

being or relating to the side of a heraldic shield at the right of the person wearing it.

The coat of arms had, among other things, a dexter motto.

dextranase

dharma

dhole

n
/ 'dōl /
Kanarese?

[has homonym: dole] a fierce wild dog of India that hunts in packs and may attack even large fierce animals (as the tiger).

Because of the russet color of its coat, the dhole is often called the red dog.

diaconate

dialyzable

dialyzer

diamagnetic

adj
/ .dīə.məg'nedik /
Gk > ISVcf + Gk > L > F
having negative magnetic susceptibility.

Atoms with an odd number of electrons cannot be diamagnetic.

diamantine

diamondback

diaphoretic

diaphragmatic

diastolic

diatomic

adj
/ .dīə'tämik /
Gk + Gk
having two of the the smallest particles of an element that enter into the composition of molecules.
Hydrogen, nitrogen, oxygen, and the halogens exist as diatomic molecules.

dibatag

dibble

dice

dichotomize

dictamina

dictionary

dietary

differ

differentiation

difficile

diffidence

diffract

v
/ də'frakt /
L
break or separate (as light) into parts.
In 1912 Max von Laue suggested that a crystal lattice should be able to diffract X rays.

digital

dignitary

dilapidation

dilatoriness

dilettante

dilettantism

diligent

adj
/ 'diləjənt /
L > F > E
characterized by steady, earnest, attentive, and energetic application and effort in a pursuit or study.
Despite his diligent study habits, Horatio always panics at exam time.

dimensions

dimer

n
/ 'dīmər /
Gk + Gk
a compound formed by the union of two molecules of a simpler compound.
A molecule of acetic acid can form a dimer with another acetic acid molecule held together by two hydrogen bonds.

dimetrodon

n
/ dī'metrədän /
Gk
a genus of North American Lower Permian reptiles comprising terrestrial carnivores of moderate size distinguished by a crest or dorsal sail.
Dinosaur buff that she is, Amy insists upon being a dimetrodon for Halloween.

dimidiation

diminish

diminution

n
/ .dimə'n(y)üshən /
L
the act, process, or an instance of diminishing : decrease.
By controlling his appetite and exercising, Frank hoped to see a diminution in his weight.

dimity

dimple

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Infrequently

dinergate

dinette

dinosaur

dioptr

n
/ di'ɒptər /
Gk

a unit of measurement of the refractive power of a lens equal to the reciprocal of the focal length in meters.

Barb's optometrist had to explain what a diopter was before being able to convince her that she needed reading glasses.

diorama

diplacuis

diplegia

dipsomania

n
/ dipsə'mānēə /
Gk + Gk

an uncontrollable often periodic craving for alcoholic liquors.
The actor's portrayal of the pain of dipsomania won him universal accolades.

directory

direful

disadvantageous

disagio

disarmament

n
/ dis'ärməmənt /
L > F

the laying aside or depriving of weapons; especially : the reduction of a military establishment to some minimum set by some specified authority.

The disarmament of the defeated aggressor nation must be complete.

disavow

discerned

v
/ dɔ'sɜrnɪd /
L

sensed or came to know or recognize mentally especially something that is obscure.
Nancy's quick eye soon discerned the rabbit's nest in the long grass.

discerning

discernment

discharge

discinct

discipline

disco

discography

discomfit

discophile

discouraged

v
/ dɔ'skərijd /
F
deprived of courage or confidence : disheartened, dejected.
Dad became discouraged when he couldn't figure out how to program the VCR.

discover

v
/ dɔ'skəvə(r) /
L > F > E

obtain for the first time sight or knowledge of.
"What you learn today, for no reason at all, will help you discover all the wonderful secrets of tomorrow."

discreet

discretionary

disembowel

v
/ .disəm'báu(ə)l /
L + L + L > F > E
take out the entrails of : eviscerate.
The tour of the meat packing plant will not include the step where the workers disembowel the animals.

disenable

v
/ .disə'nābəl /
L + L + L
deprive of a power, right, or privilege.
Conviction of a felony will disenable an American citizen of the right to vote.

disenchantment

disentomb

disgregate

disguisable

disheartened

v
/ dis'härt'nd /
L + E
deprived of courage and hope : discouraged, dejected.
After a long drought the disheartened farmer reluctantly decided to sell his land.

dishelm

disherison

dishoard

dishrag

dishwasher

disinfect

disingenuous

adj
/ .disən'jenjəwəs /
L
lacking in candor or frankness; often : giving a false appearance of simple frankness.
The senator's disingenuous answers did not satisfy the press.

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Infrequently

disingenuously

dislike

dislimn

dislocated

v
/ 'dis(,)lɒ.kə.dəd /
L + L

put out of place, as put (a body part) out of order by moving a bone away from its normal connections with another bone or other bones.
Becky dislocated her shoulder when she took a bad fall off her bicycle.

disoblige

disparages

disparaging

dispensable

dispensation

dispersing

dispossessed

disproportionate

v
/ .disprə'pɔrshə.nāt /
L

subject a substance to transformation into two or more dissimilar substances usually by a process involving simultaneous oxidation and reduction.
Heat will disproportionate hydrogen peroxide into water and oxygen.

dissection

dissemble

dissentience

dissociative

adj
/ də'sɔs(h)ē.ādiv /
L

of, relating to, or tending to cause the process by which a chemical combination breaks up into simpler constituents.
The dissociative energy required to break the bond between the atoms in a hydrogen molecule is much higher than that required to break the bond between atoms in a chlorine molecule.

dissolve

dissuasive

dissuasively

dissymmetrical

distance

distensible

distillation

n
/ .distə'lāshən /
L

the process of driving off gas or vapor from liquids or solids by heating and condensing to liquid products.
The petroleum industry uses distillation on a large scale to separate the various components of crude oil.

distress

distressed

adj
/ də'strest /
L > F > E
afflicted with trouble, pain, or grief.
When his factory burned down, the distressed owner resolved to build a new one.

disuse

ditali

diva

n
/ 'dēvə /
L > It

the leading or the principal female singer in an opera or concert organization.
The little-known diva became nationally famous after her performance in La Boheme.

divagation

divaricate

divarication

diverge

v
/ də'vɜrj /
L
move or extend in different directions from a common point.
Deep in the forest two dangerous paths diverge from the main road.

diverticulitis

divine

adj
/ də'vɪn /
L
of or relating to God : proceeding from God.
The Torah teaches that every person must be treated with respect because all are created in the divine image.

divinity

divisible

divot

divulgation

dobbin

dockize

dockwalloper

docorticate

doctor

doctrinal

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docudrama

n
/ 'däkyü.drämə /
L + Gk

a drama for television, motion pictures, or theater dealing freely with historical events and especially those of a recent and controversial nature.

The docudrama deals with the trial of a scientist accused of espionage.

documentation

dodecahedron

dodge

doe

does

n pl
/ dōz /
E

[has homonym: doze] the females especially when adult of any of the various mammals of which the male is called "buck" (as most deer, antelope, goat, rabbit, and rat).

Bobby got three rabbits at Easter: two does and a buck.

dogdom

dogleg

n
/ 'dōgleg /
E + ON > E

a golf hole having an angled fairway that offers the player a choice of following the fairway or risking a shot across the rough.
When he came to the dogleg, Doug teed up to shoot across the rough.

dogma

n
/ 'dōgmə /
Gk

a doctrine or body of doctrines of theology and religion formally stated and authoritatively proclaimed by a church.
The dogma of papal infallibility marks one of the greatest differences between the Catholic and Protestant churches.

dogmatician

dogvane

dogwatch

dolabrate

dolentissimo

dolichoid

dolichopodous

dollar

dolomitic

dome

domiciled

domiciliary

dominance

dominant

domineer

dompt

dompty

doneness

n
/ 'dōnnēs /
E

[has homonym: dunness] the condition of being cooked to the desired degree.

Patrick checked the roast beef for doneness before serving it to his guests.

donnishness

donor

doodling

Doppler

adj
/ 'däplə(r) /
Austrian name

of, relating to, or utilizing a shift in frequency caused by motion between the source of electromagnetic waves and the observer.

In Doppler navigation the change of frequency of reflected radar waves is used to give information on velocity and position.

dormant

dormette

dormition

dose

dotage

dotal

dove

dowlas

n
/ 'daüləs /
F geog name > E

a coarse linen cloth used widely in the 16th and 17th centuries and manufactured originally in Brittany but later especially in northern England and Scotland.

The long coat, typical of the period, was lined with dowlas.

down

n
/ 'daün /
E

[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word.] an undulating generally treeless upland with sparse soil.

The shape of the horse carved in chalk on the down could be seen for miles.

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Infrequently

downbeat

adj
/ 'daʊn.bēt /
E + E

pessimistic, gloomy, unhappy.
Tom has just finished reading a novel about downbeat characters in an urban slum area.

downhaul

downstage

downstairs

dozen

n
/ 'dɒzən /
L > F > E

a group of 12.
Carly packaged a dozen of her freshly baked cookies and took them to her next-door neighbor.

drab

adj
/ 'drab /
Celt > L > F

of the lifeless color of drab cloth, which is dull brown or gray.
The embroidered figures are now a faded drab color, a far cry from their original red and green splendor.

drachma

draggletailed

dragnet

n
/ 'drag.net /
ON > E + F

a network of measures for apprehension (as of criminals).
The state police set up a dragnet to find the escaped convicts.

drahthaar

drain

dramalogue

dramaticule

dramatist

dramatization

n
/ draməd-ə'zāshən /
Gk > L

an act, process, or product of rewriting or adapting a story or incident for theatrical presentation.
The author was not at all pleased with the recent television dramatization of his novel.

drawshave

drawstring

dream

v
/ 'drēm /
E

have ideas or images in the mind while asleep.
After the horror film, Carlo knew he would dream about spiders all night.

dreggy

dressng

dribble

v
/ 'dribəl /
E?

[has near homonym: drivel] propel and maintain control of (a ball or puck) by successive slight taps or bounces with hand, foot, or stick.
The coach told Becky to dribble the basketball up and down the court without looking at it.

dribbler

drifting

adj
/ 'driftɪŋ /
E

disposed to move aimlessly.
Drifting loners were rounded up as suspects after the shooting.

drill

drilling

n
/ 'driliŋ /
L > G > E

[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word.] a strong durable cotton fabric in twill weave made in various weights for clothing, interior decoration, and industrial uses.
Civil War tents were sometimes made from drilling.

drillmaster

drivage

drollery

n
/ 'drɒl(ə)rē /
F

whimsical humor.
The writer's anecdotes were noted not so much for their hilarity as for their charming drollery.

drongo

droopy

adj
/ 'drū.pē /
E

gloomy, dejected.
When feeling tired and droopy, Sarah usually treats herself to lunch at her favorite restaurant.

dropsical

droshky

drosometer

dross

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Infrequently

drove

n
/ 'drōv /
E

[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word.] a crowd or group of people especially when acting, following, or moving in concert or in a docile manner as if in a herd.

The drove of students heading to the playground is participating in a fire drill.

drub

drugget

drum

drumhead

dryasdust

dubitable

ducat

ductus

dudelsack

duel

n
/ 'd(y)üə1 /
L

[has homonym: dual] a prearranged formal combat with deadly weapons fought between two persons in the presence of witnesses usually as a result of an injury done or an insult given by one to the other.

Alexander Hamilton, first secretary of the Treasury of the United States, was killed in a duel with Aaron Burr.

dummel

dumplings

n pl
/ 'dəmplɪŋz /
E?

small masses of leavened dough cooked by boiling or steaming.
Jutta insisted on finding a restaurant in Munich where they could eat dumplings.

dun

adj
/ 'dʌn /
E

[has homonym: done] having a dull, drab color.

The dun cloth was so unappealing to the eye that not one yard from the bolt was sold.

dunce

dungaree

dunlin

duo

n
/ 'd(y)ü(,)ō /
L

a group of two : pair.

The Penguin frequently referred to Batman and Robin as "the dynamic duo" in the television series.

duodecennial

duodenal

duodenum

duple

adj
/ 'd(y)üpəl /
L

in music : having two or a multiple of two beats per measure.
Marches are written in duple time.

duplex

n
/ 'd(y)üpleks /
L

something having two parts or elements (as a two-family house).
Kelly and her family live in one part of the duplex; her grandparents live in the other part.

duramen

duroc

dustblu

dustheap

dutifully

adv
/ 'd(y)üdəf(ə)lē /
F > E + Ecff

in a manner having respect for one's own moral obligations.

Henrietta had dutifully memorized the poem the evening before.

dwindle

dying

dynamometry

dynast

n
/ 'dī.nast /
Gk

a ruler over a state; especially : a hereditary ruler.

The dynast of Jordan is King Abdullah.

dynastic

dysergia

dyslogia

dysphonia

n
/ də'sfōnēə /
Gk

impairment of the voice manifested by hoarseness or other defects of phonation due to organic, functional, or psychic causes.

Mark is a speech therapist specializing in the treatment of dysphonia.

dysproteinemia

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eagerly

adv
/ 'ēgə(r)lē /

E
with urgent desire or enthusiasm.
His thoughts darted eagerly about as everything looked new—and worth trying.

earage

earrings

earthly

adj
/ 'ərthlē /

E
relating to actual human life on Earth : realistic, factual, worldly.
Richard's earthly concerns about his checkbook put a damper on his dreams.

easement

easiness

eatage

n
/ 'ēdij /

E
right of using grassland for pasturage.
Mr. Bosco granted eatage to his neighbor, Farmer Voss.

ebbet

n
/ 'ebət /

E
the common green newt of the eastern United States.
On a hike through Everglades National Park, Joey pointed out a small ebbet sitting on a rock.

ebonize

v
/ 'ebə.nīz /
Gk > L > E + Ecf
make black or stain black in imitation of ebony.

Garth used shoe polish in one of his many attempts to ebonize the figurine.

echoes

echopraxia

eclat

econometrics

economics

n pl
/ 'ekə'nämiks /
Gk > L

a social science that studies the production, distribution, and consumption of commodities.
Melissa signed up for economics in hopes that she would learn more about what causes a recession.

ecosphere

ecosystem

n
/ 'ekō.sistəm /
Gk

an ecological community considered together with the nonliving factors of its environment as a unit.
The fact that his diesel tank was an ecosystem in itself came home to Ray when the algae clogged fuel filter after fuel filter.

ecrus

ecstasize

ectasis

ecthipsis

ectomorph

ectophagous

ectopic

ecumene

ecumenicalism

eddyroot

n
/ 'edē.rüt /
Afr > E

a plant of the Pacific islands that is grown throughout the tropics for its edible starchy tuberous rootstocks.
Eddyroot can be made into poi, a thin, pasty mass of fermented taro starch.

edifices

n pl
/ 'edəfəsəs /
L

buildings; especially : large or massive structures (as churches or government buildings).
Among the most beautiful edifices in our nation's capital is the National Cathedral.

edifyingly

editress

edulcoration

eelpout

effaceable

effectively

effigiate

effigurate

effuse

v
/ e'fyüz /

L
flow out : emanate.
Christy was not surprised to see hostility and criticism effuse from the defeated candidate.

effusion

egotism

egotist

egueiite

eidolon

eigenvector

eight

adj
/ 'āt /
E

[has homonym: ate] being one more than seven in number.
Nan didn't learn the facts about Santa Claus until she was eight years old.

either

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eject

elan

elastic

adj
/ ə'lastik /
Gk > L

capable of recovering size and shape after deformation.
Even the dog got a Christmas gift, an elastic rubber toy.

elation

elbow

election

electrochemical

adj
/ ə'lekt̩rə.keməkəl /
Gk + Gk
of or relating to the science dealing with the relation of electricity to chemical changes.
Mr. Thorvald explained that the order of elements in the electrochemical series shows their tendency to displace the ions of other elements in the series.

electrocution

n
/ ə.lekt̩rə'kyüşən /
Gk > L
the act of killing or putting to death by electric current.
In 1890 New York became the first state to execute criminals by electrocution.

electrograph

n
/ ə'lekt̩rəgraf /
Gk
a device used for the etching or transfer of pictures or designs by electrolytic means.
An electrograph was used to transfer the picture onto a metal plate for printing.

electrolier

elegiambus

eleven

adj
/ ə'levən /
E
being one more than ten in number.
If a football team has more than eleven players on the field when the ball is snapped, the team receives a penalty.

elf

elfin

eliminable

adj
/ ə'limənəbəl /
L
capable of being removed or excluded.
It seems that the more eliminable political candidates are those who spend less on their campaigns.

elitism

elliptical

elliptically

elocutionist

elongated

else

elsewhither

adv
/ 'el(t)s.hwɪðə(r) /
E
to some or any other place in a different direction or toward a different objective.
Marcus never missed a day of work in the factory, but his soul was aimed elsewhither.

elucidative

elutriate

elysian

emaciate

emanate

emancipate

embalment

n
/ əm'bælmənt /
F > E + Ecf
the act or process of preparing a body for burial by injecting into the arterial system and body cavities a preservative and disinfectant fluid (as a solution of formaldehyde).
Because the bodies of the earthquake victims were going to be cremated, there was no need for embalment.

embattled

v
/ əm'badəld /
F > E
made strong : strengthened, as furnished with resistant power.
Surrounded by a stone wall, the embattled fortress survived the attack.

embellished

embellisher

embezzle

embolize

embolus

embrace

embraceable

emcee

emendation

n
/ (i)ē.men'dāshən /
L
[Note: The base of this word could be confused with amend.] the word or the matter substituted for incorrect or unsuitable matter in a work that has been altered.
There was at least one emendation written in the margin of every page in the manuscript.

emerge

emetic

emigrate

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Infrequently

emigration

n
/ ɛmɪ'græʃən /
L

[has near homonym: immigration]
departure from a place of abode,
natural home, or country for life or
residence elsewhere.

*Sylvia never tired of hearing about
her great-grandparents' emigration
from Poland.*

emmeleia

n
/ ɛmɪ'liə /
Gk

a solemn and stately dance used in
ancient Greek tragedy.
*The dancers performed the
emmeleia with grave mournful
gestures.*

emotional

empathize

emphasis

empiricist

empower

v
/ ɛm'pɑu(ə)r /
L > Ecf + L > F > E
give faculties or abilities to :
enable.

*The teacher frequently tells her
students that a good education will
empower them to be whatever they
wish to be.*

empty

adj
/ 'ɛm(p)tē /
E

containing nothing.
*An empty box in the corner was a
perfect place to keep Rowena's new
ferret.*

emulsifier

emulsion

enable

enact

v
/ ɛ'nækt /
L > E + L > E
make into a law; especially :
perform the last aspect of
legislation upon (a bill) that gives
the validity of law.
*Today's vote will, in all
probability, enact the bill.*

enalid

n
/ 'ɛnəlɪd /
Gk + ISV
[has near homonym: annelid] a
submerged marine plant.
*eelgrass is a common enalid found
along the North Atlantic coast.*

enchytrae

encircle

encroach

encryption

endlessly

endocrine

endosteal

endothermic

adj
/ 'ɛndəθərmɪk /
Gk + Gk
characterized by or formed with
absorption of heat.
*The decomposition of mercury
oxide at high temperature is an
example of an endothermic
process.*

endothermy

endysis

enepidermic

adj
/ ɛn.ɛpə'dərmɪk /
Gk + Gk + Gk
applied to the unbroken skin for
medicinal purposes.
*Dan feared that he would have to
get an injection when it became
obvious that the enepidermic
medication was not curing his rash.*

energy

enfeeble

enforce

enfranchise

engage

engastrimythic

engineering

n
/ ɛnjɪ'nɪrɪŋ /
F > E
the science by which the properties
of matter and the sources of energy
in nature are made useful in
structures, machines, and products.
*Terry is studying engineering and
has a special interest in the branch
concerned with the production of
tools, machinery, and their
products.*

enginery

enigma

enjambéd

adj
/ ɛn'jæmɪd /
F
marked or characterized by the
continuation in prosody of the
sense in a phrase beyond the end of
a verse or couplet.
*Haroldur's analysis of the
enjambéd lines was enlightening.*

enlightened

adj
/ ɛn'li:tnd /
L + E + Ecff
freed from ignorance and
misinformation.
*The professors claimed to be an
enlightened group of individuals.*

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Infrequently

enorganic

adj

/ ˌenɔ(r)'ganɪk /

Gk + Gk

[Note: Could be confused with inorganic.] arising within or inherent in the organism : intrinsic.

Ian tried to write an essay describing the difference between enculturated and enorganic forms of ignorance.

enormity

ensiform

ensigncy

enslave

ensorcellment

entangle

enterprise

enterprising

entity

entoleter

entrada

enunciation

envelop

enveloping

envisaged

envy

enzymology

epanorthosis

epaulement

epideictic

epidemiology

n

/ ˌepɪˌdɛmɪˈɒləʒi /

Gk

a science that deals with the incidence, distribution, and control of disease in a population (as of animals or plants).

Sean's knowledge about polio and the history of the Salk vaccine reflects his strong interest in epidemiology.

epigraphic

epilogue

episcopate

episematic

epulation

epuration

epure

equal

equally

equanimous

equestriennes

equipluve

equus

erbium

eremitical

erethism

ergo

ergophobe

n

/ ˈɛrgəˌfəʊb /

Gk + Gk

one suffering from fear of or aversion to work.

Willy, a self-proclaimed couch potato, claims to be an ergophobe.

ericetal

erosive

erraticism

erratum

erring

erstwhile

adj

/ ˈɜrst.hwaɪl /

E + E

having been at some past time.

John recognized his erstwhile gym teacher as the runner leading the pack in the Boston Marathon.

erysipelas

erythromycin

esbat

escape

escapist

escheat

escort

esemplastic

espagnole

n

/ ˌɛspənˈyoʊl /

F

[has near homonym: Spanish word Español] a foundation sauce made of stock thickened with flour browned in fat with added seasonings to taste.

David's steak came with a tarragon-flavored espagnole.

esperanto

espouse

essentialist

establishment

n

/ ɛˈstæblɪʃmənt /

L > F > E

the act of bringing into existence, creating, founding, or setting up.

The establishment of the Environmental Protection Agency has brought many advantages but also a good deal of controversy.

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Infrequently

estancia

ester

n
/ 'estə(r) /
G

[has homonym: Esther] any of a class of compounds that are usually fragrant liquids if sufficiently volatile, several of which are found in essential oils and synthesized especially for use in artificial fruit essences.

Scientists have identified the ester that is responsible for the aroma of pineapples.

estoque

estufa

etamine

eternity

ethanol

n
/ 'ethə.nəl /
ISV

a colorless volatile flammable liquid formed by fermentation.
Breath analyzers subject ethanol to an orange yellow substance that changes into a green substance depending on how much ethanol is present.

ethereality

ethnography

ethnology

ethnozoology

ethology

n
/ e'thələjē /
Gk + Gk

a scientific study of animal behavior.
Jane's desire to save endangered animals led her to take several courses in ethology.

etiolate

eulittoral

eunomy

euphonize

eurodollar

europium

euryene

Euterpean

adj
/ yū'tərpēən /
Gk name

relating to the muse Euterpe or to music.
Shana had a wave of Euterpean inspiration and wrote the lyrics to five songs in one evening.

evangelary

evangelical

evangelize

evaporate

v
/ ə'vəpə.rāt /
L

undergo conversion from a liquid state into a gas.
As liquid in a closed jar begins to evaporate, molecules move from liquid to vapor.

even

adj
/ 'ēvən /
E

being any member of a sequence of positive integers beginning with two and counting by twos : being always exactly divisible by two.
When an even number is multiplied by either an even number or an odd number, the result is always an even number.

evensong

eventful

eveque

evergreen

everlasting

evolutive

evolvement

evulgate

ewery

exacerbated

exacting

adj
/ ig'zaktɪŋ /
L + Ecf
tryingly or unremittingly severe in making demands or requiring the fulfilling of obligations.
Trudy's exacting standards for herself were never fully met.

exactly

exalt

exaugural

excellence

excellency

excellent

excitability

excitement

exclude

exculpated

exculpatory

excursus

n
/ ik'skərsəs /
L

an incidental discussion.
While editing the manuscript, Gloria turned a long excursus into a short footnote.

excuse

execration

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Infrequently

execution

n
/ ˌɛksəˈkyʊʃən /

L
a putting to death as a legal penalty.
In some states, murder of a police officer is punishable by execution.

exemplar

exequy

exercitant

exeunt

exhilarative

exile

existentialism

exobiology

n
/ ˌɛk(ɪ)sɒ(ɪ)bɪˈæləʒi /
Gk

a branch of the science of life concerned with the search for life outside Earth and its atmosphere and with the effects of extraterrestrial environments on living organisms.
Many of NASA's programs in exobiology have focused on life on Mars.

exodus

exorcist

exothermally

adv
/ ˈɛksəˌθɜːrməlɪ /
Gk

in a manner characterized by or formed with evolution of heat.
When a bombardier beetle squeezes a gland in its abdomen, it releases a solution that reacts exothermally with an enzyme to produce an audible detonation and discharge.

expand

expansive

adj
/ ɪkˈspæn(t)sɪv /
L + Ecf

having considerable extent.
The lecturers were directed to choose expansive topics of broad interest.

expatriation

expense

expertness

explanans

explosive

exploiting

exponentiation

exposition

n
/ ˌɛkspəˈzɪʃən /
L

a part of a composition (as of music or drama) in which the theme or subject is presented.
The first movement begins with a lively exposition of the theme that is repeated several times throughout the symphony.

expository

expostulation

expressionism

n
/ ɪkˈspreshənɪzəm /
L

a theory or practice of presenting the subjective or subconscious thoughts and emotions of characters, the struggle of abstract forces, or the inner realities of life by techniques that include abstraction, distortion, and symbolism.
Dramatic lighting and distorted images exemplified expressionism in early black-and-white movies.

expromissor

expugnable

exquisitely

exsiccosis

n
/ ˌɛksəˈkɒsɪs /
L

insufficient intake of fluids or the state of bodily dehydration produced thereby.
During their desert survival course, the Marines learned how to avoid exsiccosis.

extant

adj
/ ˈɛkstənt /
L

[has near homonym: extent]
currently or actually in existence.
Some scientists believe that they can use cloning to bring back creatures that are no longer extant.

extenuating

exterior

extinction

extrapolation

extremely

exult

exultation

exultet

exurb

exurbia

eyeleteer

fabian

fabula

fabulous

facedown

facient

facilities

factionary

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Infrequently

faddish

fagin

faith

fajitas

n pl

/ fə'hētəz /

AmerSp

marinated strips of beef or chicken or sometimes shrimp grilled or broiled and served usually with a flour tortilla and various savory fillings (as sautéed peppers, guacamole, and sour cream).

Joshua made a special dinner of chicken fajitas for his Spanish tutor.

fakement

falcula

fallaciousness

fallible

falsification

famous

fanaticize

fancification

fancy

fandangle

fanlight

fanon

faradize

farmyard

farsighted

farthing

fascicled

fasting

n

/ 'fastɪŋ /

E

the act of abstaining from food especially for an unusual time and often as a form of religious observance or for therapeutic purposes.

Bernadette hoped to reach a new communion with God through regular prayer and occasional fasting.

fathogram

fatiguingly

fatuity

fauces

faulknerian

faunizone

fauteuil

fauvism

faviform

fawningly

fearful

adj

/ 'fi(ə)rfəl /

E

full of fear, alarm, awe, concern, or apprehension.

When surgery was advised, the fearful patient decided to seek a second opinion.

fearfully

fearless

feather

featurette

fedelini

federate

feebly

feedback

feijoada

feis

n

/ 'fesh /

IrGael

an Irish folk festival featuring games and competitions and usually traditional Irish music and dancing.

Kelly and Heather performed dances in the feis sponsored by the Irish-American Club.

feisty

fellow

n

/ 'fe(,)lō /

ON > E

[has homonym: fellow] a graduate student in an American university who is granted money to continue research usually in preparation for an advanced degree and often with certain teaching duties.

Robert, a senior fellow at the University of Pennsylvania, will be the first speaker at the symposium.

felonry

fender

fermium

fern

ferreous

ferreter

ferric

adj

/ 'ferik /

L

of, relating to, or containing iron.
Amy's report on the uses of iron included a section on ferric chloride, which is used in treating industrial wastes and in etching, among other things.

ferritize

ferrochromium

ferromagnetism

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Infrequently

ferruginous

fester

festooned

fetching

fetlock

fever

few

pron pl

/ 'fyü /

E

[has homonyms: feu, phew] not many persons or things.

Few of the claims in the advertisement are true.

fewer

fewness

fiacre

fibranne

fibrocitis

fibrocystic

fickle

fid

fiddlehead

n

/ 'fid^əl.hed /

L? > E + E

one of the young unfurling fronds of certain ferns that are often eaten as greens.

Justin refused to try a fiddlehead until he saw how much his sister loved them.

fiducial

fiduciarily

fieldpiece

fiend

fiercest

adj

/ 'fi(ə)rsəst /

L > F > E

marked by the most furious unrestrained zeal or vehemence.
The newspaper editor became the mayor's fiercest critic.

fieriness

fiesta

n

/ fē'estə /

L > Sp

festival.

The fiesta was held under the stars.

fifteen

fifth

adj

/ 'fif(t)h /

E

being number five in a countable series.

Middle school starts with the fifth grade in many school systems.

fiftieth

file

filiciform

filigree

fillister

filmscript

n

/ 'film.skript /

E + L

a written text for a motion picture.

The actor read every word of the filmscript before signing a contract to play the leading role.

filmy

filter

filthy

final

adj

/ 'fin^{əl} /

L

not to be altered or undone.

After making what she thought was her final decision about buying a car, Sheila was bombarded with new information.

finch

finery

fingerprint

finickiness

finitism

fireman

firing

adj

/ 'fi(ə)rɪŋ /

E

of or relating to the operation or operating parts of a firearm.

The firing mechanism on Tsuki's gun kept jamming.

firm

adj

/ 'fərm /

L > F > E

securely or solidly fixed in place.

The gate and its pillars were firm, but at one side the fence had fallen when a tree fell on it.

firman

firth

fishgig

n

/ 'fish.gig /

E

[Note: Could be confused with fizgig.] a fish spear having two or more barbed prongs.

Corinne found a rusty fishgig on the beach.

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Infrequently

fishy

adj
/ 'fɪʃē /

E
of or relating to a fish.
A fishy odor emanated from the bag in the trunk.

fitful

fixation

n
/ 'fɪk'sāʃhən /
L > E

the conversion of free nitrogen into combined forms useful as such or as starting materials for fertilizers, explosives, and a variety of chemicals.
Fixation of nitrogen dioxide can occur in an electric arc from nitrogen and oxygen in the air.

flabbergastingly

flabby

flaccid

adj
/ 'flæksəd /
L

yielding to pressure for want of firmness and stiffness : flabby.
Joe looked at his flaccid muscles in the mirror and vowed to join a health club.

flaccidity

n
/ 'flæk'sɪdədē /
L

the quality or state of yielding to pressure for want of firmness and stiffness.
As George entered his forties, he found that he had to exercise regularly to combat muscular flaccidity.

flacon

flagellation

flaith

flameout

flanger

flannelly

flare

flareback

flashback

n
/ 'flæʃ.bæk /
E + E

an instance of a literary or theatrical technique used especially in motion pictures and television that involves interruption of the chronological sequence of events by interjection of events or scenes of earlier occurrence.
The movie used a flashback to show the early family life of the main character.

flashlight

flatter

flavescence

flaxier

flaxseed

fleeceable

fleer

fleshpot

flickery

flightily

flimsiness

flintlock

flinty

adj
/ 'flɪntē /
E

harsh and unyielding : rigorous and stern.
The senator's flinty character stood him in good stead on the finance committee.

flirtatious

flixweed

flock

n
/ 'flæk /
E

a company of domestic mammals (as sheep or goats) herded together.
The Christmas card portrayed a shepherd watching over a flock of sheep.

floe

n
/ 'flō /
ON > Norw

[has homonym: flow] floating ice formed in a large sheet on the surface of the sea or other body of water.
Jagged sections of floe around the tanker suddenly joined, trapping the vessel in a sea of solid ice.

floggable

floodlight

n
/ 'flʌd.lɪt /
E + E

artificial illumination in a broad beam; also : a source of such illumination.
As the cast came out for a curtain call, a floodlight brightened the stage.

flora

n
/ 'flɔrə /
L

plant life : plants.
The flora of South Carolina includes the palmetto, which is a significant feature of the state's flag.

florentine

florulent

flounce

fluctuate

fluent

fluidity

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Infrequently

flunk

v
/ 'flʌŋk /
(D or Norw&Danish + F)?
fail.
Evan fears that he will flunk his final exam in chemistry.

fluoride

n
/ 'flu(ə),rɪd /
L > ISV + G&F > ISVcf
a binary compound of fluorine usually with a more electropositive element or radical.
Free molecules of fluoride can be formed by electrolysis of an aqueous fluoride solution.

fluoroscopic

flurriment

flute

flutterboard

fluvicoline

flypaper

n
/ 'fli,pāpər /
E + Gk > L > F > E
paper coated with a sticky substance for killing flies.
David put the flypaper just outside the screen door, hoping to catch insects before they got into the house.

foggara

fogyism

foliageous

folklore

folktale

folly

n
/ 'fālē /
F > E
a thoughtless act or irrational idea.
His scheme was the despairing folly of a powerful man who cannot bear to grow old.

fomented

font

foolproof

footcandles

n pl
/ 'füt,kand°lz /
E + L > E
units of illuminance each equal to the illuminance on a surface that is everywhere 1 foot from a uniform point source of light of one candle and equal to 1 lumen per square foot.
An office or classroom usually requires about 70 footcandles; by comparison, direct sunlight at noon is about 1,000 footcandles.

footlight

footnote

footslogger

footwork

n
/ 'füt,wɜrk /
E + E
the management of the feet and the work done with them, as in dancing or sports.
The star of the soccer team takes a ballet lesson every week to improve his footwork.

foramen

forebitt

foreboding

forefront

foreganger

forehoof

forelegs

n pl
/ 'fɔr,legz /
E
any of the front legs of an insect.
In worker bees the hairs of the forelegs are used to brush pollen from flowers.

foreman

forename

forenoon

foreshorten

foresighted

forestaysail

forestry

n
/ 'fɔrəstrē /
L > F > E
a science of developing, caring for, or cultivating tracts of wooded land : the management of growing timber.
The pulp and paper mill wishes to hire an individual with a master's degree in forestry.

forgetive

forgive

forlornness

format

forsaken

adj
/ fə(r)'sākən /
E
left desolate or empty.
The forsaken town had tumbleweeds growing on Main Street and the dust was inches deep in the buildings.

forte

forthright

fortify

fortnight

n
/ 'fɔrt.nɪt /
E
the space of 14 days : two weeks.
Lewis had hoped to stay at the lodge for a fortnight, but he had to return early.

fortnightly

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Infrequently

forty

adj
/ 'fɔrdē /
E

being one more than 39 in number.
Mrs. Langdon spent the morning in tears the day she turned forty years old.

fossiliferous

fosterage

fought

foundling

fourrier

fourscore

adj
/ 'fɔ(ə)r.skɔ(ə)r /
E

being 80 in number.
Granny declared that she would wear purple whenever she so desired, now that she was fourscore years old.

fourteen

adj
/ fɔ(ə)r(t)'tēn /
E

being one more than 13 in number.
Many of the Scripps Howard National Spelling Bee finalists are fourteen years old.

foxhound

foxing

n
/ 'fäksɪŋ /
E

discoloration; especially : brownish spots in the paper of old books.
Faded print and foxing made the old books in the attic very difficult to read.

foxy

foyer

fractiously

fragilely

fragmentation

framer

framework

francium

francolin

frangipane

frankenstein

frantic

frap

fratority

fratricide

freeloading

freewheeler

frenetic

fresh

adj
/ 'fresh /
E

[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word.]
disposed to take liberties : saucy, impudent, rude.
Mr. Broyles warned Walter not to be so fresh.

fret

v
/ 'fret /
E

become vexed, worried, impatient, or irritated.
Many parents fret over the high cost of feeding their families.

friar

n
/ 'frī(ə)r /
L > F > E

[has homonym: fryer] a member of a mendicant order.
The Mediterranean monk seal is so named because its dark brown coat resembles the brown robe of a Franciscan friar.

friary

Friday

n
/ 'frī(ɪ)dā /
E

the day following Thursday.
Teachers, as well as students, often count the days to Friday.

frigate

frigorimeter

frippery

friskiness

frog

n
/ 'frɔg /
E

[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word. In addition, speller might confuse with homonym frage.] a card game developed from tarok and popular especially in Mexico.
Pablo and Lucita played a couple of hands of frog before lunch.

fronds

n pl
/ 'frändz /
L

[has near homonym: frons] fern leaves.
The goldfish seem to prefer staying away from the waving fronds in the pond.

frontal

frontenis

frore

frostbite

frostily

frothily

frothy

frotton

frowner

frozen

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Infrequently

fructiferous

fructify

frustrated

adj
/ 'frʌstrədəd /
L

filled with a deep chronic sense of insecurity, discouragement, and dissatisfaction.

Many workers feel frustrated because they do not have the opportunity to use their talents in their jobs.

fugleman

fulsomely

adv
/ 'fʊlsəmlē /
E

copiously, abundantly.

Max was lunching in the cafeteria, devouring a fulsomely garnished cheeseburger.

fumy

adj
/ 'fyümē /
L > F > E

producing or full of gaseous emissions that are usually odorous and sometimes noxious.

Vera's eyes started to water from the fumy ammonia she was using to clean the floor.

functionary

funereal

adj
/ fyü'nirēəl /
L

befitting or suggesting a funeral : oppressively solemn.

Ben and Trish enjoyed their elegant meal at the posh restaurant, but the piped-in music was too funereal for their mood.

funereally

funk

n
/ 'fʌnk /
L > F

a strong offensive smell.

The sailors could barely breath below deck because of the funk from tobacco smoke.

furberish

furious

furrier

furrow

furry

furtum

fuseplug

fusibility

fusiform

adj
/ 'fyüzəförm /
L + L

shaped like a spindle : tapering toward each end.

Fusiform rust, a common disease of loblolly pine trees, causes rod-shaped cankers to develop on the branches.

fustanella

fusty

futile

futtock

futuramic

fylfot

gabardine

gabbroid

gadfly

gadget

gadoid

gadolinium

gadroon

n
/ gə'drūn /
F

an ornament produced by notching or carving a rounded molding.
Lucy examined the intricate gadroon on the entry door.

gaelicize

gaffe

gaga

gagman

gainer

gainful

gala

adj
/ 'gālə /
F > It

belonging to, deserving, or attended by festivities.

The king declared that there would be parades through every city in the land and a gala carnival of three days' duration.

galactia

galeate

galeiform

gallium

galloper

galoot

galop

n
/ 'galəp /
F

[has homonym: gallop] a lively dance in duple time performed with sliding steps from side to side and popular in the 19th century.

The galop was introduced into England in 1829 at a ball given by the king.

galvanneal

gambusia

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Infrequently

gamete

gammoned

ganache

gander

gandhian

gang

n
/ 'gɑŋ /
E

a group of persons working under the same direction or at the same task.

The movie was about an escape from prison by a member of a chain gang.

gangling

gangplank

gangster

n
/ 'gɑŋztə(r) /
E

a member of a gang of criminals.
The actor won an award for his portrayal of a Chicago gangster.

gaper

garageman

garb

n
/ 'gärb /
It or F

style of apparel : costume.
Mrs. Whatsit appeared in her familiar wild garb of shawls and scarves and the old tramp's coat and hat.

garbled

garbology

n
/ gär'bäləjē /
Gmc > F + Gk
the study of modern culture through the analysis of what is thrown away as garbage or trash.
The city's landfill known as Mount Trashmore will be a treasure trove to future generations of students of garbology.

garcon

gardener

garlic

garret

garter

n
/ 'gärdər /
Celt > F > E
[has homonym: guarder] a circular band of elastic with or without a fastener worn to hold up a stocking or sock.
The bride's grandmother presented her with the traditional lucky garter to wear on her wedding day.

gastroenterology

n
/ ,gɑ(.)strō.entər'äləjē /
Gk

the study of the stomach and the intestines especially in respect to their diseases and pathology.
It took no expert in gastroenterology to deduce that Jeffrey was suffering from food poisoning.

gauntlet

gauss

n
/ 'gäʊs /
G name
the centimeter-gram-second electromagnetic unit of magnetic induction.
While looking at the exhibits at the science fair, Linda learned that the gauss is a unit of measurement associated with magnetism.

gazette

gearing

gehlenite

geistlich

gelastic

gelidity

gematriot

gemellion

gemmiparous

gender

n
/ 'jendə(r) /
L > F > E
any of two or more subclasses within a grammatical class of a language that determine agreement with and selection of other words or grammatical forms.
In Latin each noun is considered masculine, feminine, or neuter, and every adjective must change its form to match the gender of the noun that it modifies.

gene

n
/ 'jēn /
Gk > G
[has homonym: jean] one of the elements of the germ plasm serving as specific transmitters of hereditary characters.
Blue eyes are caused by a recessive gene.

generally

generate

v
/ 'jenə.rāt /
L
cause to be : bring into existence.
Claude's speech about patriotism was actually intended to generate money for the Olympic teams.

geniality

genocidal

genoise

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Infrequently

genteelly

gentle

adj
/ 'jɛntl /
L

benignly gracious or kind in manner : not harsh or stern : mild.
The psychiatrist maintained a gentle and patient demeanor while probing for the source of the orphan's paranoia.

gentrification

gentry

n
/ 'jɛntri /
L > F > E
upper or ruling class : aristocracy.
During the worst days of the French Revolution, the gentry all feared for their lives.

genuinely

genuineness

geode

n
/ 'jɛd /
Gk
a nodule of stone having a cavity lined with crystals or mineral matter.
Jimmy bought a geode for a dollar in Cerillos, New Mexico.

geogen

geogenous

geoglyphic

geomalism

georgic

geoscology

geosynchronous

adj
/ jɛs'ɪŋkrənəs /
Gk + Gk + Gk
of or relating to an artificial satellite that travels from west to east above the equator and at the same angular velocity as that of Earth so that the satellite seems to remain in the same place.
Satellites that handle telephone calls and television signals are in geosynchronous orbits above Earth.

geotropism

geratology

germanium

germiparity

Geronimo

interj
/ jɛ'rænəm /
Apache name
—used as a battle cry by paratroopers typically at the moment of jumping.
Alex's "Geronimo" trailed off as he fell toward the earth.

gesso

gestalt

n
/ gə's(h)tält /
G
a structure of physical, biological, or psychological phenomena so integrated as to constitute a functional unit with properties not derivable from its parts in summation.
Lieutenant Henry's many experiences as a prisoner of war formed a gestalt from which he may never recover.

gewgawry

ghoulie

giaour

n
/ 'jäu(ə)r /
Per > Turkish
one outside the Muslim faith : infidel.
The coffee house posted a sign warning that no giaour would be admitted.

gibber

gibberellin

gills

n pl
/ 'gɪlz /
Scand > E
organs for obtaining oxygen from water.
Some water insects breathe by means of gills.

gimlet

gingival

gingivectomy

girasol

giustamente

glabella

glaciolacustrine

glacis

gladiolus

gladsome

adj
/ 'glad.səm /
E + Ecf
made happy : filled with joy.
The gladsome audience wildly applauded the pianist's performance.

glairy

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Infrequently

glassily

adv
/ 'glasə'li /
E

in a manner resembling or suggestive of glass.
The surface of the lake glassily reflected the sky.

glasswort

glaucescence

glaucous

glaucomatous

glaucopse

gleamy

gleeful

adj
/ 'glɛfəl /
E

exuberantly or exultantly joyful.
The villain turned fiendishly gleeful when the hero fell into his trap.

glen

n
/ 'glɛn /
ScotGael > E
a secluded narrow valley.

The hikers pointed to a distant glen and agreed it was a perfect place to set up camp.

glide

v
/ 'glɪd /
E

move smoothly, continuously, and effortlessly.
Larry sharpened his skates to help them glide over the ice.

gliding

glisten

glistened

v
/ 'glɪs'nd /
E

shined brightly usually by reflection with a sparkling radiance.
The beaches glistened with smooth stones and sea foam.

glitterati

gloom

global

gloomy

glorify

gloss

glossarial

glossematician

glosseme

glossopyrosis

glottology

n
/ glə'tɒlədʒi /
Gk

the study of human speech in its various aspects (as the structure of a language including such factors as phonetics, accent, syntax, semantics, grammar, and the relation between writing and speech).

Glottology is more frequently referred to as "linguistics."

gluhwein

glum

adj
/ 'glʌm /
E

dismal, dreary, or gloomy.
After receiving their report cards, more than a few students went home glum.

gluttonous

gluttony

glycerinate

glycerol

n
/ 'glɪsə'rɒl /
Gk > F > ISV

a sweet syrupy alcohol that is used chiefly as a solvent and plasticizer and as a moistening agent, emollient, and lubricant.

The high viscosity of glycerol is related to its molecules' tendency to become entangled as they slip past one another.

glycogenesis

glyptography

gnarl

gnats

n pl
/ 'næts /
E

various small two-winged flies.
Hundreds of gnats hovered over the basket of peaches.

gnaw

gnawingly

gnomish

gnomonic

gnosis

n
/ 'nɒsɪs /
Gk

the act or process of cognition or knowing.

The most difficult philosopher to follow was the one who insisted that human beings invent knowledge and that true gnosis is impossible.

gnosticism

gnotobiotics

goatsucker

gobbler

goby

godet

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Infrequently

goitrogenesis

gold

goldbrick

goldsmith

gong

goniometer

goniometry

goniostat

goodish

adj
/'güdish /

E
moderately good.
Pedro tasted the goodish white wine and sighed for his native Spain.

goodly

goofy

googol

n
/'gü.göl /
coined word
the figure 1 followed by 100 zeroes equal to a number that is ten to the 100th power.
In January 1997, astronomers Fred Adams and Gregory Laughlin predicted that the universe would end in a number of years equal to approximately one googol.

gooiest

goombay

goonch

goondie

gooseherd

gordian

adj
/'gór(d)ēən /
Phrygian name
intricate, complicated.
No puzzle was too gordian for Evan.

gospel

n
/'gäspəl /
E
the teachings of Jesus and the apostles as a body or system : the Christian faith, revelation, or dispensation.
The New Testament describes how the apostles traveled and preached the gospel.

gossipmonger

n
/'gäsəp.mängə(r) /
E + Gk > L > E
a person who habitually relates in detail facts, rumors, or behind-the-scenes information of an intimate, personal, or sensational nature.
Riley was eager to find out if rumors about his company's financial troubles were true but was worried about looking like a gossipmonger.

gossiped

gossipry

gossipy

gothamite

governance

grabbots

grabby

graben

graceful

graciousity

gracious

gradgrind

graft

v
/'graft /
E
[has homonym: graphed] implant living tissue so as to form an organic union.
The doctors will graft skin to minimize Luther's burn scar.

grain

n
/'grān /
L > F > E
[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word.] a unit of weight based on the weight of a grain of wheat taken as an average of the weight of grains from the middle of the ear and equal to 0.0648 gram.
Janine wondered what item could be so valuable that it was measured with a unit as small as a grain.

graminaceous

grammatolatry

grandpaternal

grandrelle

granjeno

granola

granules

grapevine

n
/'grāp.vīn /
Gmc > F > E + L > F > E
a sidewise waltz step in which one foot keeps crossing first before and then behind the other.
The grapevine migrated into ballroom dancing from folk dancing.

graphite

graphitic

graphology

graphometry

grappa

grapple

grapples

grate

gratine

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Infrequently

gravimetric

adj
/ 'gravəˌmɛtrɪk /
L + Gk
of, involving, or relating to measurement by weight.
Sarai used gravimetric analysis to help identify the unknown chemical in solution.

gravitation

graziery

grease

greed

greedily

gridlock

n
/ 'grɪd.lɒk /
E + E
a traffic jam in which an intersection is so completely congested that no vehicular movement is possible.
Gridlock can present a real danger to public safety by hindering emergency vehicles.

grim

adj
/ 'grɪm /
E
stern or forbidding in action or appearance.
Grim security guards were stationed at each door of the bank.

grimacing

grinder

grinding

adj
/ 'grɪndɪŋ /
E
excruciating, agonizing.
Obadiah took pain-killers for the grinding pain of his injury.

grindstone

gringo

n
/ 'grɪŋ(ə)ɡō /
L > Sp
a white foreigner in Spain or Latin America especially when of English or American origin.
Even though he is 100% Spanish, Diego is sometimes called a "gringo" because he has blonde hair.

griseous

grist

n
/ 'grɪst /
E
[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word.] a large quantity : lot.
Aunt Bea exclaimed that she had never seen "such a grist of washing for three people."

grog

grogram

grommets

groom

groomsman

groover

groovy

grotesquely

grouch

growing

growl

gruff

adj
/ 'grʌf /
D
rough or stern in manner, speech, or aspect.
Although the teacher had a gruff exterior, she was kind and understanding.

grumbling

v
/ 'grʌmb(ə)lɪŋ /
D > F
expressing dissatisfaction in a low harsh voice and surly manner.
The class started grumbling when Mrs. Griffin announced a pop quiz.

grumpy

adj
/ 'grʌmpē /
E
moodily cross : surly, ill-humored.
The new cashier was trained in ways to deal with grumpy customers.

grungy

guardrail

guasa

gueridon

guester

guesthouse

guimpe

guineas

guiro

n
/ '(g)wē(ə)rō /
Taino > Sp
a percussion instrument of Latin American origin made of a serrated gourd and played by scraping a stick along its surface.
Mrs. Turner's fourth grade class gave an all-percussion recital that featured a solo on the guiro.

guitguit

gujerat

gullet

gunk

gunnel

gunnery

gunsmithy

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Infrequently

gurnard

gust

v
/ 'gəst /
ON?

blow or move in sudden bursts.
Tonya feared the wind would gust so fiercely that it would uproot her new sapling.

gutsy

guttersnipe

guttiferous

gynecologic

gynecomorphous

gypseous

gyring

gyro

gyrodyne

gyve

habanera

haberdashery

habitus

hachures

hackney

hacksaw

Hadean

adj
/ 'hā.dēən /
Gk name
[has homonym: Haitian] of, relating to, or characteristic of hell.
The Hadean temperatures caused a rush to purchase fans and air conditioning units.

hadrosaur

hafiz

n
/ 'häfəz /
Ar
[Note: Could be confused with plural form hafis.] a Muslim who knows the Koran by heart—used as a title of respect.
Hafiz Mehmet can quote an appropriate verse from the Koran for every occasion.

haggadist

hagiology

hagride

hailstone

hairhound

n
/ 'ha(a)(ə)r.haʊnd /
E
[Note: Could be confused with horehound.] a European aromatic mint that has a very bitter taste and is used as a tonic.
Dr. Bebak prepared a mixture of hairhound and camphor.

hairiness

hake

halal

v
/ hə'läl /
Ar
slaughter for food according to Muslim law.
To halal an animal, the slaughterer must be Muslim and must follow specific rituals.

halfpace

n
/ 'haf.pās /
F&E
a raised floor or dais or a platform or footpace at the top of steps (as for a throne or an altar).
The flower girl approached the halfpace and curtsied demurely.

halide

n
/ 'ha.lid /
Gk + ISVcf
a binary compound of a halogen with a more electropositive element or radical.
By combining with hydrogen, an atom of fluorine forms a hydrogen halide.

hallelujah

hallucinate

halo

halterbreak

halve

v
/ 'hav /
E
[has homonym: have] divide into two equal parts.
Uncle Jimmy used a huge butcher knife to halve the chilled watermelon.

halves

hamburger

n
/ 'ham.bərgər /
G geog name
a sandwich made of a cooked patty of ground beef in a split round bun.
The hamburger is supposed to have first been served in the United States at the St. Louis Louisiana Purchase Exposition in 1904.

hamlet

hanaper

hanaster

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Infrequently

hand

n
/ 'hand /
E

[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word.] something resembling a group of fingers in appearance, as a bunch of 8 to 20 bananas attached together on their stem.
Mrs. Loveless knew that she would not be able to eat the entire hand of bananas before she went on her business trip.

handcuff

handcuffs

n pl
/ 'hand.kəʊfz /
E + E

metal fastenings that can be locked around the wrists and are usually connected by a chain or bar.
The convicted felon was taken to prison in handcuffs.

handgun

handicraft

handle

hands

n pl
/ 'han(d)z /
E

[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word.] units of measure, each equal to 4 inches and used especially for the height of horses.
Any horses other than Arabians that are shorter than 14.2 hands are classified as ponies.

handspike

n
/ 'han(d)z.pɪk /
D > E

a wooden bar or pole used as a lever (as in turning a windlass) or as a support (as for carrying timber).
Satish pushed the handspike with all his might until finally the ratchet emitted a satisfying click.

handyman

hangnail

n
/ 'haŋ.nāl /
E

[Note: Could be confused with agnail.] a piece of skin from the nail fold hanging loose at the side or root of a fingernail.
Morgan used his hangnail as an excuse for skipping gym class.

harborage

hardanger

hardback

hardware

harmonize

v
/ 'härmə.nīz /
F

play or sing in a combination of simultaneous musical notes that form a chord.
The trio, widely renowned for their ability to harmonize, were asked to make a recording of their songs.

harp

harpist

harsh

adj
/ 'härsh /
Scand > E

starkly unpleasant or rigorous : stern.
The harsh facts of court delays in our cities lead to many iniquities.

haruspication

hash

n
/ 'hash /
Gmc > F

chopped food; specifically : a dish usually consisting of leftover meat chopped into small pieces, mixed with potatoes, and browned by baking or frying.
Red flannel hash is made red by adding beets to chopped corned beef.

hashslinger

hasp

hatbox

hatful

n
/ 'hat.fʊl /
E + Ecʰ

a considerable amount or number.
Leslie turned down a hatful of suitors before she met Mr. Right.

hatred

haven

hawsehole

haylage

headily

adv
/ 'hed.ɪlē /
E

rashly, headlong.
The wheelbarrow ran headily down the ravine straight into the side of Joe's garden shed.

headquarters

heady

adj
/ 'hedē /
E

tending to make giddy or light-headed.
Aunt Rosa's heady perfume left Jonas reeling after her hug.

health

heartsick

adj
/ 'hært.sɪk /
E + E

very despondent : depressed.
Warren was heartsick at the thought of having to sell the family farm.

heater

heath

heatstroke

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Infrequently

heavenly

adj
/ 'hevənlē /
E

of or relating to the dwelling place of the Deity or the place or state of the blessed dead.

Georgia doesn't expect payment for her good deeds now—she's waiting for her heavenly rewards.

hebraic

hebraize

heckler

hedonistic

heelball

heir

heliacally

helicitic

heliodor

heliophile

helipad

hellenic

helleri

hello

helminthic

helmsmanship

helobious

hemachate

hematite

n
/ 'hemətīt /
Gk > L

a mineral consisting of ferric oxide and constituting an important iron ore that occurs in splendid metallic-looking rhombohedral crystals, in massive forms, and in red earthy forms—called also “specular iron.”

Dad brought Jill a piece of hematite from an ore deposit he visited.

hematochrome

n
/ 'hemədō.krōm /
Gk

an orangish or reddish coloring matter found in various algae (as red snow).

Red snow seen in arctic and alpine regions indicates a presence of algae that contain hematochrome.

hematology

n
/ .hēmətäləjē /
Gk + Gk

a branch of biology that deals with the blood and blood-forming organs.

The research in leukemia provided synopses of several case studies in hematology.

hemicrania

hemimetabolous

adj
/ .hemēmə'tabələs /
Gk > L + Ecf

of or relating to those insects characterized by incomplete metamorphosis; especially various insects with aquatic larvae.

Dragonflies are hemimetabolous insects.

hemline

hemophilia

hemophiliacs

hemorrhaging

hemorrhoid

henceforth

henrician

henry

n
/ 'henrē /

Am name the practical meter-kilogram-second unit of inductance.

The henry is usually abbreviated h or hy and is named for the American physicist Joseph Henry.

heparinize

hepatobiliary

heptad

n
/ 'hep.təd /
Gk

a group of seven.

A heptad of Charles's closest friends roasted him at his retirement party.

heptagon

herd

n
/ 'hərd /
E

[has homonym: heard] a number of one kind of animal kept together under human care or control.

The herd of beefalos grazing in the pasture will be sent to the stockyard next week.

herdic

hereby

heredity

heresiarch

herrenvolk

hesperidium

heterochromatic

heterodont

heterodyne

heterophyte

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Infrequently

heterotrophic

hewer

hexapod

n
/ 'heksəpəd /
Gk

insect.

Chelsea cannot understand why so many of her classmates think that a spider is a hexapod.

hiatal

hiatus

n
/ hi'ædəs /

L

gap : aperture.

A hiatus between theory and practice caused Abbie unending frustration in her job administering surveys.

hibernation

n
/ .hībə(r)'nāshən /

L

the act of being inactive or dormant, especially in winter.

During brief periods of mild winter weather, some insects may come out of hibernation.

hiddenite

hierarchical

hierarchize

hieroglyphic

hieroglyphist

hieroglyphs

hierolatry

highland

highway

highwayman

n
/ 'hī.wāmən /
E + E + E

[Note: Plural form is pronounced identically.] a person who robs travelers on a public road.

As he approached the stopped stagecoach, the highwayman demanded, "Your money or your life!"

hillcrest

hindmost

adj
/ 'hīn(d).mōst /
E + E

farthest in or toward the rear.

Gary always sat in the hindmost pew in church.

hinterland

hipbone

hiplength

hippology

n
/ hi'päləjē /
Gk

the study of the horse.

The veterinary student decided that his concentration would be hippology.

hippophagy

hippotomy

hircocervus

hireling

hirsutal

hirtellous

hispid

histocyte

histology

n
/ hi'stäləjē /
Gk

a branch of anatomy that deals with the minute structure of animal and vegetable tissues as discernible with the microscope.

The primary tissue categories in animal histology are epithelial, connective, muscle, and nervous.

histoplasmosis

historic

historical

historiographer

histozyme

hitch

v
/ 'hich /
E

catch or fasten by or as if by a hook or a knot.

Every house along the historical street still has a post in front for visitors to hitch their horses to.

hoary

adj
/ 'hōrē /
E

gray or white; specifically : gray or white with age.

Tilting his hoary head to one side, the storyteller began his tale.

hobble

v
/ 'hābəl /
E

walk with a halting, labored, typically up-and-down movement often marked by lurching or wobbling.

Sarah started to hobble over to get her coat, but Louis fetched it for her.

hobbledehoy

hochmoor

hockey

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Infrequently

hodiernal

hogan

n
/ 'hō.gän /
Navaho
a conical, hexagonal, or octagonal dwelling characteristic of the Navaho made with a door traditionally facing east and constructed of logs and sticks covered with mud, sod, or adobe or sometimes of stones.
The modern-day hogan is primarily used not for housing but for family ceremonies and curings.

hogger

hoisted

v
/ 'hōistəd /
imit > D or G
raised into position.
By the use of a crane the large stone was hoisted into place.

holeproof

holishkes

hollowly

holluschick

holmium

holoku

holophytic

holy

adj
/ 'hōlē /
E
[has homonyms: holey, wholly] set apart and dedicated to religious service or worship.
Jerusalem is a holy city to people of at least four different religions: Judaism, Islam, Christianity, and Bahaism.

homegrown

homemade

homesick

homework

n
/ 'hōm.werk /
E + E
preparatory reading or research.
Steve had to do quite a bit of homework before he could make an effective presentation on his assigned topic.

homicide

n
/ 'hāməsɪd /
L
a killing of one human being by another.
The autopsy report stated that the woman's death was a homicide.

homiletic

homoeoteleutic

homogenize

homonuclear
adj
/ .hōmō'n(y)üklēə(r) /
Gk + L
of or relating to a molecule composed of like nuclei.
All homonuclear diatomic molecules lack polarity in the bond between their atoms.

homunculus

honeybee

n
/ 'hōnē.bē /
E
any of certain social honey-producing bees.
Commercially desirable honey is produced from clover by the domestic honeybee.

honorable

adj
/ 'änə(ə)bəl /
L > F > E
ethical, upright.
Steve ran an honorable campaign for sheriff.

hookup

hooliganism

hoomalimali

hopeless

adj
/ 'hōpləs /
E + Gkcf > Lcf
having no expectation of good : despairing.
After two days of searching for the hikers, the rescue workers started feeling hopeless.

hopples

hopscotch

hornet

n
/ 'hōrnət /
E
any of the larger social wasps that are vigorous strong-flying insects with powerful stings.
Amy was afraid that she would get stung by a hornet if she walked too close to the nest in the tree.

horotely

horsepower

n
/ 'hō(ə)rs.paü(ə)r /
E + L > F > E
a standard unit of power equal in the United States to 746 watts.
Stan, my hot-rodder friend, likes to brag about the horsepower of his car's engine.

hortulan

host

n
/ 'hōst /
L > E
[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word. In addition, word could be confused with hosed.] a very large number : a great quantity : multitude, myriad.
Becky offered a host of reasons why she should be allowed to go to the mall with her friends.

hostels

hotmelt

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Infrequently

householder

howling

hoydenism

hsin

huaco

huarizo

huckleberry

huckstering

huddled

huddup

huff

n
/ 'hʌf /
imit

a fit of anger or pique.

The Spelling Bee, who was quite upset by the whole affair, had flown off in a huff.

huge

adj
/ 'hyʊj /
F > E

very large or extensive.

The two ships settled to the bottom, each with a huge hole in her side.

huguenot

huitain

huke

humanely

adv
/ hyü'mänlē /
L

in a manner marked by compassion, sympathy, or consideration for other human beings or animals.

The veterinarian argued that it is precisely because animals are not human that we must treat them humanely.

humic

adj
/ 'hyümik /
L

relating to or derived from the organic portion of soil.

Our tour guide explained that humic acids in the soil dissolve limestone and aid in the formation of stalagmites and stalactites in caves.

humifuse

hummock

hunger

hunker

husband

hyacinthine

hyacinths

hyaescent

hyaline

hyaloid
adj
/ 'hiäl.loid /
Gk

glassy, transparent.

The thin hyaloid membrane envelops the vitreous humor of the eye.

hybosis

hydrargyrum

hydrate

v
/ 'hi.drät /
Gk

take up or combine with water or with hydrogen and hydroxyl.

When Beulah activated the cold pack, she was making the ammonium nitrate in it hydrate.

hydrazine

hydroelectric

hydrogenate

hydrogenated

v
/ 'hidrəjə.nādəd /
Gk + Gk + Ecf
combined with hydrogen.
Vegetable oils that have been hydrogenated are used in making margarine.

hydrogenous

hydrognosy

hydrolatry

hydrology

hydrolytic

hydropneumatic

hydroxide

n
/ hi'dræk.sīd /
Gk

the univalent negative ion consisting of one atom of hydrogen and one of oxygen.

The alkali metals react with water to produce hydrogen gas and the corresponding metal hydroxide.

hygrodeik

hygroscopic

adj
/ .hi.grə'skäpik /
Gk

[Note: Could be confused with hydroscopic.] readily taking up and retaining moisture.

Rob was not surprised to read that glycerol is highly hygroscopic, because he knew that it is used as an emollient and moistening agent.

hylean

hylophagous

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Infrequently

Hymenoptera

n pl
/ .hīmə'näptərə /
Gk > L

an extensive order of highly specialized insects that includes bees, wasps, and ants.
The order Hymenoptera is perhaps the most beneficial to man of all insect groups.

hypalgesia

hyphenate

hypnotist

hypnotizable

hypoglycemia

hypokalemia

hypolithic

hypophyllous

hypostasis

n
/ hī'pästəsəs /
Gk
something that settles at the bottom of a fluid : sediment.
A harmless-looking hypostasis in a soft drink bottle led to a series of expensive lawsuits.

hypotonic

adj
/ .hī(,)pə'tānik /
Gk
of a fluid : having a lower osmotic pressure than a fluid used as a standard.
To study the contents of red blood cells, scientists put them into a hypotonic solution that swells and eventually bursts the cells by osmosis.

hypoxia

hypozeugma

hyson

hysteresis

iambist

n
/ i'ambəst /
Gk
one who writes verse containing a metrical foot of two syllables unstressed and stressed respectively.
William Shakespeare is a famous iambist.

ianthine

iatrophysics

Icarian

adj
/ i'ka(a)rēən /
Gk name
[has near homonym: acarian]
inadequate for or incapable of bringing about an ambitious project.
William's problem-solving methods are usually Icarian, but this time his approach provided the perfect solution.

iceblink

n
/ 'is.blɪŋk /
E + E
a yellowish or whitish glare in the sky over an ice field (as in polar regions)—called also "ice sky."
The polar explorers wore special goggles to combat the iceblink.

icebone

n
/ 'is.bōn /
(L > D or G + D or G) > E
the hipbone especially of cattle.
Grandpa stopped carving when his knife hit the icebone.

ichnography

ichthyomorphic

icily

icing

n
/ 'i:ɪŋ /
E
a sweet coating for baked goods usually made from sugar and butter combined with water, milk, or egg white, flavored, often colored, and often cooked.
The lemon icing on Granddad's birthday cake nearly melted from the heat of all the candles.

iconolater

iconolatry

icy

ideal

adj
/ i'dē(ə)l /
L > F
existing as a perfect example.
The ideal gas equation expresses a relationship between the pressure, volume, temperature, and the number of moles of an ideal gas.

ideaphoria

ideomotor

ides

n pl
/ 'idz /
L
the 15th day of March, May, July, or October or the 13th day of any other month in the ancient Roman calendar.
Julius Caesar was murdered on the ides of March.

idgah

idiocrasy

idiocy

idioglossia

idiolect

idiotic

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Infrequently

idolatrous

adj
/ ɪˈdælətrəs /
Gk

of or relating to the worship of a physical object as a god.
Muhammad condemned the idolatrous cults, proclaiming that there is one God.

idolize

v
/ ɪˈdɒl.aɪz /
Gk

give absolute religious devotion and ultimate trust to something that is not God.
It is worrisome that so many people idolize sports figures, rock stars, and millionaires.

idyllically

ignimbrite

ignoble

adj
/ ɪgˈnɒbəl /
L

displaying or characterized by baseness or meanness : despicable.
The senator changed his vote on the health bill for the ignoble purpose of protecting his stock investments.

ignorable

iliad

illegal

illiberally

illocutionary

illuminant

illuminate

illumine

illumimeter

illusionist

n
/ əˈlɪʒənəst /
L

one (as a magician) who produces deceptive or misleading effects.
The illusionist amazed the audience when he levitated a reclining subject.

illusorily

imam

n
/ əˈmäm /
Ar

the prayer leader of a mosque.
The imam at the local Islamic center teaches classes on the Koran to teenagers.

imbecility

imbiber

imbricate

immediate

immersed

adj
/ əˈmɜrst /
L

completely engrossed.
Immersed in his reading assignment, Nathan was unaware that a thunderstorm was raging outside.

immunoassay

immunotherapy

imparlance

impartial

impartite

impassable

impassive

impatience

impatiently

adv
/ ɪmˈpæʃəntli /
L + L

in a manner that is restless or short of temper especially under irritation, delay, or opposition.
The actress waited impatiently in the wings for her cue to go onstage.

impellent

impenitent

imperium

impersonate

impersonator

n
/ əmˈpɜrsən.ədə(r) /
Ecf + L > F > E + Ecf
an entertainer who assumes the character of another individual, a type of person, an animal, or an inanimate object.
The Elvis impersonator had his hair appropriately styled into a pompadour.

impiety

implore

impound

imprecision

impressible

improvisatrice

imprudent

impudence

impulsion

inabsentia

inactive

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Infrequently

inactivity

n
/ ɪnək'tɪvədē /
L + L

the quality or state of being not given to action or effort : idleness, sluggishness.

Too much inactivity can affect mental as well as physical health.

inadvertent

inaja

inanga

inapposite

inarticulate

inbiber

inbroglio

Inca

n
/ ɪŋkə /
Quechua > Sp

a Quechuan people in Peru that established hegemony over surrounding peoples to form an empire from about 1100 until the Spanish conquest in the 1530s; also : a member of such people.

The last Inca calmly stared at the Spanish conquistador before turning around and vanishing into the forest.

incapable

adj
/ ɪn'kæpəbəl /
L + L + L

lacking capacity, ability, or qualification for the purpose or end in view.

The popular author seemed incapable of writing a dull novel.

incapacitate

incarcerated

incaution

incendiarism

incessantly

inch

n
/ ɪntʃ /
L > E

a unit of length equal to 1/36 yard.
Michelle came storming in after her hair appointment, furious because one side of her hair was at least an inch shorter than the other.

incidental

incipience

incoercible

incogitable

incommutable

impossibility

inconclusive

inconsequential

inconsiderate

incontestable

incorporator

increasable

incredulity

incriminating

v
/ ɪn'krɪmənədəɪŋ /
L

furnishing evidence or proof of circumstances tending to show the guilt of someone.

Gunpowder burns on the suspect's hand constituted strong incriminating evidence of his guilt.

inculcation

inculpate

incunabulist

incurment

incursive

indazole

indefensible

indemnatee

indent

indexer

indicatrix

indices

indicial

indict

indignation

indigoferous

indiscernible

indiscriminate

indispensably

indissociable

indium

indocile

indocility

indulgently

inebriate

inebriated

inebrious

inelegant

include

inept

inequitable

inerrancy

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Infrequently

inert

adj
/ i'nɜrt /
L

very slow to move or act : lifeless, sluggish.

Peter could not tell if the inert hamster was near death or not.

inevitable

inexorably

inexpugnable

infamy

infancy

infant

infarction

n
/ ɔn'fɜrkshən /
L

the producing of an area of tissue death (as of the heart) resulting from obstruction of blood circulation in the area.

Angina is usually much less serious than myocardial infarction because in angina there is no death of the heart muscle.

infection

infectivity

infelicitous

infelicity

infield

infinite

infinity

n
/ ɔn'finədē /
L

an indefinitely great number or amount.

Helen was amazed that Walter could look up at the infinity of stars and point out numerous constellations.

inflammation

inflationary

infraction

n
/ ɔn'frakshən /
L

a violation by failure to follow, observe, or obey.

For a first infraction of the school's disciplinary code, a student may be suspended for one day or be assigned four hours in detention.

infractor

infraneritic

ingrained

inhalator

inherently

inhibit

injunction

n
/ ɔn'jəŋ(k)shən /
L

a writ granted by a court of equity whereby one is required to do or to refrain from doing a specified act.

The court issued a temporary injunction against the sale of the allegedly forged work of art.

injure

injures

inland

inning

n
/ 'iniŋ /
E

a division of a baseball game consisting of a turn at bat for each team.

Dad wants to leave the game at the end of the eighth inning to avoid the traffic.

innovate

innovator

innuendoes

inorganic

adj
/ inò(r)'ganik /
L + Gk > L

[Note: Could be confused with *enorganic*.] being, containing, or relating to a chemical substance or substances not relating to or derived from living organisms.
Clarice uses no inorganic fertilizers in her garden.

inquest

inquiry

inquisitorial

inroad

insanity

n
/ ɔn'sanədē /
L

such unsoundness of mind as excuses one from criminal or civil responsibility.

At his arraignment the defendant pleaded "not guilty by reason of insanity."

insider

insight

insincere

insinuation

insolubility

insolvable

insolvency

insolvent

inspiration

inspiratory

inspissating

inspissation

instant

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Infrequently

instar

n
/ 'in.stär /
L

a stage in the life of an insect between two successive molts.
In the first instar of whiteflies, the young, active, wingless forms are usually called larvae.

instellation

instinctive

instruct

insubordination

n
/ insə.bó(r)dʰn'āshən /
L
defiance of authority.
Principal Sawyer warned the students that any insubordination to teachers would be dealt with severely.

insularity

insult

insure

insurgent

intact

intarsia

intellectual

n
/ .int'l'ekch(ew)əl /
L
one given to study, reflection, and speculation especially concerning large, profound, or abstract issues.
The guidance counselor told the student that she should not be afraid to be an intellectual.

intelligence

intent

intently

adv
/ ən'tentlē /
L + Ecf
in a directed manner marked by strained or eager attention.
Karen was gazing so intently out the window that she did not realize her brother had entered the room.

interactive

adj
/ .intə(r)'aktiv /
L + L
of, relating to, or being a two-way electronic communication system (as a telephone or a computer) that involves a user's orders (as for information or merchandise) or responses (as to a poll).
Cody has worked hard to develop his interactive Web site.

intercalary

intercensal

intercession

intercom

intercostal

interdiction

interdisciplinary

adj
/ .intə(r)'disəplə.nerē /
L + L
characterized by participation or cooperation of two or more fields of study.
Many colleges permit students to create interdisciplinary majors.

interest

interleaf

interline

interlinear

adj
/ .intə(r)'linēə(r) /
L
inserted between rows of written or printed characters.
The book contains the original Latin text with an interlinear translation.

interludial

intermediary

intermolecular

adj
/ .intə(r)mə'lekyələr /
L + L
existing or acting between molecules.
The van der Waals equation takes into account the intermolecular forces exerted on a molecule by neighboring molecules.

interofective

interpreter

interreflection

n
/ .intə(r)rə'flekshən /
L + L
reciprocal partial or complete return of a wave motion (as of light or sound) from a surface that it encounters into the medium that it originally traversed.
Interreflection enables light to travel hundreds of miles through fiber-optic cable.

interrelate

v
/ .intə(r)rə'lāt /
L + L
have a mutual connection by way of sympathy especially as marked by community of interest.
Karen and Stella interrelate so well that each often knows what the other is going to say.

interrogation

interrogator

interruption

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Infrequently

intervolve	invocation n / ɪnvə'kæʃən / L a prayer of entreaty that is usually a call for the divine presence and is offered at the beginning of a meeting or service of worship. <i>Reverend Billy Graham gave the invocation at the World Games of the Special Olympics.</i>	irreverence
intestine		irreverential
intonement		irruptible
intransigent		isallotherm
intratelluric		isanemone
intravenous		isepiptesis
intriguer	involucered	islamics
introducible	invulnerable	islandology
introgressant	inwardly	islet
introvert	iodize	isobase
introverted	ionize v / 'ɪɒ.nɪz / Gk > ISV convert wholly or partly into atoms or groups of atoms that carry a positive or negative electric charge as a result of having lost or gained one or more electrons. <i>It takes a certain amount of energy to ionize a given gaseous atom in its ground state and a different amount to ionize the resulting ion a second or third time.</i>	isoelectronic adj / ɪ()səʊ.lek'trænik / Gk > ISV having the same number of negatively charged constituent elementary particles—used of atoms or their ions. <i>Comparing the size of ions of elements in different groups on the periodic table is meaningful only if they are isoelectronic.</i>
intrusion		isolationism
intumescent		isolette
intussuscept		isomeric adj / ɪsə'merik / Gk > ISV of, relating to, or exhibiting the phenomenon exhibited by two or more chemical substances containing the same numbers of atoms of the same elements in the substances but differing in the structural arrangement of the atoms. <i>Two isomeric substances may have different colors, melting points, dipole moments, and chemical reactivities.</i>
inure		
invader		
invariant	ipilipil	
invert v / ɪn'vɜrt / L undergo a conversion of a substance showing dextrorotation into one showing levorotation or vice versa. <i>Dr. Norton pointed on the illustration where the quartz started to invert to cristobalite.</i>	iridectomize	
investigator	iridology	
invigilate	iris	
invigorate	iron	
invitee	irrational	
invocable	irrefragably	
	irreligious adj / ɪrə'liʃəs / L + L lacking emotions, doctrines, or practices that show reverence for a god or a supreme being : ungodly. <i>Trefger prayed every day that his irreligious relatives would eventually see the light.</i>	isopleth
		isopropyl
		isopycnic

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Infrequently

isoseismal

adj

/ ɪ(ˌ)soʊˈsiːzməl /

Gk + Gk

of, relating to, or marked by equal intensity of earthquake shock.

The graph showed the isoseismal zones around the epicenter of the earthquake.

isotopic

adj

/ ɪsoʊˈtəpɪk /

Gk > ISV

of, relating to, or having the relationship of one of two or more species of atoms of the same chemical element that have the same atomic number but differ in atomic mass or mass number.

Hydrogen, deuterium, and tritium, which differ only in number of neutrons, are three isotopic forms of hydrogen.

isotron

ispaghul

ispahan

Italianate

adj

/ ɪˈtalyənət /

Gk > L > It

having an Italian quality : marked by Italian characteristics or influence.

The Italianate style of Victorian architecture was very popular in the United States between 1840 and 1870.

itchy

ivorine

jacana

jacaranda

jacket

jackpot

jackcrew

jacksnipe

jacobeau

jactance

jade

Jainism

n

/ ˈjɑːnɪzəm /

Skt > Hindi

a religion of India characterized by the belief that while gods control the realm of time and matter, no being higher than an absolutely perfect human soul is necessary for the creation or moral regulation of the universe.

Jainism—along with Hinduism and Buddhism—is one of the three most ancient of India’s religious traditions still practiced.

jalousies

jambeaux

jambstone

jangly

janitress

January

n

/ ˈjɑːnjʊwərē /

L

the first month of the Gregorian calendar.

Three Kings’ Day is the sixth day of January.

japanesy

japeries

jargonistic

jarrah

jasponyx

javelineer

jawbreaker

jaygee

jeep

jeerer

jejunity

jequirity

jester

n

/ ˈjestə(r) /

E

fool.

The court jester went too far with his jokes one day and landed in the dungeon.

jesuitize

jetport

jibber

jicara

n

/ ˈhɛkərə /

Nahuatl > Sp

[has near homonym: Jicarilla] a cup or bowl made from the fruit of the calabash tree.

Edward spent some of his free time carving a jicara.

jiffy

jigger

jiggling

jigsaw

jingoist

jinx

jitterbug

n

/ ˈjɪdə(r).bæg /

unknown + unknown

a dance in which couples two-step, balance, and twirl in standardized patterns or with vigorous acrobatics.

Movies set during World War II often show people dancing the jitterbug.

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jive

v
/ jīv /
unknown
[has homonym: gyve] dance to hot jazz.
Cecily loves to jive while listening to her father's collection of old jazz tunes.

jobholder

joggle

joinery

n
/ 'jōinərə /
F > E
the fastening together of pieces of wood to construct furniture, cabinetry, or other articles.
Ronald admired the nearly seamless joinery on the Hepplewhite table at the auction but couldn't afford to bid on it.

jointer

jolly

adj
/ 'jälē /
Scand? > F > E
full of high spirits : joyous.
The students couldn't figure out why their bus driver was so jolly all the time.

jornada

n
/ hō(r)'nädə /
L > OProv > Sp
an arduous usually one-day journey across a stretch of desert.
The travelers almost perished for lack of water on the grim jornada.

journeycake

n
/ 'jərnē.kāk /
E name + ON > E
[Note: Could be confused with johnnycake or jonny cake.] a bread made of white or yellow cornmeal mixed with salt and water or milk and either baked thin in a pan or dropped by spoonfuls onto a hot greased griddle.
Hiram yelled at Mitch for eating the last journeycake.

journeyman

joyful

adj
/ 'jōifəl /
L > F > E + Ecf
experiencing pleasure or delight : happy.
Joyful people are said to outlive their bilious, whining counterparts.

jubate

Judaica

n pl
/ jü'dāəkə /
Gk > L
things Jewish.
Rebecca opened a shop devoted entirely to Judaica.

Judaism

n
/ 'jüdā.izəm /
Heb > Gk > L
the total complex of cultural, social, and religious beliefs and practices of the Jews.
Laura decided to convert to Judaism when she married David.

judaize

judder

judgeship

judgmatically

judiciously

judo

jugger

juggle

juice

juliet

n
/ 'jülüət /
Shakespearean name
a woman's slipper with a high front and back and low-cut sides.
As Ruth slipped her foot into the juliet, she felt the sharp point of an earring she thought she had lost.

jumbo

adj
/ 'jəm(ə)bō /
name of a circus elephant
being a very large specimen of its kind.
The jumbo diamonds flashed at the awards ceremony.

jumping

June

n
/ 'jün /
L name
the sixth month of the Gregorian calendar.
Nuptiality usually increases dramatically in June.

junior

junoesque

jurel

jurisconsult

jurisprudential

justiciar

justificatory

juvenilize

juxtaposed

kaddish

kafkaesque

kalanchoe

kapok

kappa

karaoke

karpas

karyogram

karyotheca

kathenotheism

kavass

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Infrequently

kayak

kea

keckling

kedushah

keelblock

keelboat

keepable

keg

kekepa

kelebe

kelly

n

/ 'kelē /

Ir name

a variable color averaging a strong yellowish green.

Sinead is adamant that the best color of felt for her shamrocks is kelly.

kenning

n

/ 'keniŋ /

ON

a metaphorical compound word or phrase used especially in Old English and Old Norse poetry.

While reading Beowulf, Frieda found a kenning that referred to the ocean as a "whale road."

kenosis

keratopathy

kerion

kerystic

kettledrum

keyboard

keypunch

khaya

kickshaw

n

/ 'kik.shò /

F > E

a fancy dish in cookery : tidbit, delicacy.

Arlene is famous for whipping up some exotic kickshaw out of whatever she has on hand.

kiddish

kiddush

kikepa

n

/ kē'kāpə /

Hawaiian

a sarong worn by Hawaiian women with the top under one arm and over the shoulder of the opposite arm.

During the Hawaiian culture celebration known as Makahiki, males must wear a malo and females must wear a kikepa.

kiloware

kin

n

/ 'kin /

E

a member of the same family : a blood relation.

After comparing notes for over an hour, we determined that Howard was not any kin to us.

kind

n

/ 'kīnd /

E

a group united by common traits or interests : category, class.

When Mayor Winkle publicly informed the migrant workers that their kind was not welcome, they responded with a lawsuit.

kindle

kinesalgia

kinesics

kineticism

king

n

/ 'kiŋ /

E

a male monarch who reigns over a major territorial unit.

When his brother left for the crusades, Prince John decided to make himself king.

kingly

kingpin

kink

kinky

kinswoman

n

/ 'kɪns.wʊmən /

E + E

a female relative.

By marrying a kinswoman of the king, the earl gained even more power and influence.

kisses

kittel

n

/ 'kɪd·l /

Ar? > G > Yiddish

[has homonym: kittle] a white cotton or linen robe worn by orthodox Jews on Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur and at the Passover seder.

Mr. Eisen put on a brand-new kittel and prepared to greet his seder guests.

kittiwake

kiva

klezmer

klipbok

kneel

knickerbockers

knickknackery

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Infrequently

knit

v
/ 'nit /
E

[has homonym: nit] form a fabric or garment by the interlacing of a yarn or yarns in a series of connected loops by means of hand or machine needles.

Scott asked his aunt to knit him a special wool sweater with his name on it.

knitted

knobstick

knotty

adj
/ 'nädē /
E

[has homonyms: nobby, naughty] full of difficulties or complications : hard to solve or understand.

Felipe had trouble cutting through the knotty information presented in the computer manual.

knowing

knowingly

adv
/ 'nōɪŋlē /
E

with awareness, deliberateness, or intention.

The physician was indicted for knowingly defrauding the government.

knuckles

koan

n
/ 'kō.än /
Jpn

a paradox used in Zen Buddhism as an instrument of meditation in training monks to despair of an ultimate dependence upon reason and to force them into sudden intuitive enlightenment.

The most widely known koan is the question "What is the sound of one hand clapping?"

kolo

n
/ 'kō(ɹ)lō /

OSlav > Serbo-Croatian
a central European folk dance in which dancers form a circle and progress slowly to right and left while one or more solo dancers perform elaborate steps in the center.

The tourists clapped as Yelena danced the kolo energetically.

kornerupine

korrigan

n
/ 'kōrə.gän /
Breton

[has homonym: corrigan as in corrigan pulse] a long-haired nocturnal often malevolent Breton fairy sorceress.

The evil character in the French children's film was a korrigan.

korrigum

n
/ 'kärə.gəm /
Kanuri

a reddish fawn antelope of western Africa having black markings.

The zoo recently obtained a reddish-orange korrigum from Senegal.

krausen

kummel

kunzite

kyack

kylin

kyphosis

label

labels

labrum

n
/ 'lābrəm /
L

the upper or anterior lip of insects.
A sand wasp is most easily recognized by an elongated, triangular labrum which resembles a beak.

lacertiform

lakis

laconize

lactose

ladder

laddery

ladino

n
/ lə'dē.nō /
L > Sp

[has near homonym: Latino] a cunningly vicious horse or steer.
One ladino proved to be the downfall of 17 riders at the rodeo.

laicization

lair

lake

n
/ 'lāk /
E

[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word.] a purplish red pigment prepared from lac dye or cochineal.

Eva wiped off her lipstick when Tom told her that it contained lake made from dried female insect bodies.

lama

n
/ 'lämə /
Tibetan

[has homonym: llama] a priest or monk of Tibetan Buddhism.
The famous lama gave an introductory talk on dharma at the Buddhist retreat center in Berkeley.

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lambert

n
/ 'lambə(r)t /
G name
the centimeter-gram-second unit of brightness equal to the brightness of a perfectly diffusing surface that radiates or reflects 1 lumen per square centimeter.
The lambert is used in calculations by astronomers, physicists, engineers, and photographers.

lamellirostral

lamentable

laminipantar

lampblack

lamponery

lanai

lancers

n pl
/ 'lan(t)sə(r)z /
F
a set of five square dances each in a different meter.
In the lancers, the dancers salute in military style.

landlord

lanuginous

laocoon

laputan

larcenist

larcenously

large

adj
/ 'lɑːrj /
L > F > E
exceeding most other things of like kind in bulk, capacity, quantity, superficial dimensions, or number of constituent units.
Compared to saddle horses, Belgians and Clydesdales are quite large.

larrikin

laryngectomize

laryngectomy

latanier

latecomer

lateen

lateral

lather

lathhouse

laticifer

Latino

n
/ lə'tēnō /
L > Sp
[has near homonym: ladino] a person of Latin American origin living in the United States.
Comedian Paul Rodriguez has built his routine around being a Latino.

latitudinarian

latrodecism

latter

laudable

launch

launcher

lavation

lawful

lawrencium

laxative

lay

n
/ 'lā /
Scand
[has homonym: lei] a simple narrative poem.
A popular historical ballad can properly be called a lay.

layback

leaching

lead

leaden

adj
/ 'ledʰn /
E
oppressively heavy.
After hours of trudging through the rain, Tibi's clothes were leaden and her feet ached.

leafcup

leag

leanly

learn

v
/ 'lɜːn /
E
gain knowledge or understanding of or skill in by study, instruction, or experience.
Joel was determined to learn his multiplication tables before Thanksgiving.

least

leather

leathery

leaving

lebhaft

lee

leechcraft

leeward

leeway

leftover

leftovers

n pl
/ 'left.ōvə(r)z /
E + E
fragments of food remaining from a meal.
The waiter brought Elbert a container for his leftovers.

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legalize	Lethean adj / 'lɛθiən / Gk of, relating to, or causing forgetfulness. <i>Blake said that the Lethean nature of the novel was to blame for his poor grade on the literature quiz.</i>	ligand n / 'lɪgənd / L a group, ion, or molecule coordinated to the central atom in a coordination complex. <i>Sphyros explained that a ligand is just a molecule or ion surrounding a transition metal in a complex molecule or ion.</i>
legion		
legionnaire		
legitim		
legitimate		
lei	leucite	
leicester	leucotomy	lightened
leiotrichous	leukemogen	figure
leisurely	lexicology n / ,leksə'käləgē / Gk the science of the derivation and signification of words. <i>Jim is working on a graduate degree in lexicology and has his heart set on becoming a dictionary editor.</i>	ligustrum
lemel		lilacs
lemon		liman
lengthen		limber
lengthy		limburger
lenience		lime n / 'lɪm / E a caustic highly infusible solid that consists essentially of calcium oxide. <i>Sidney learned at the museum that lime is one of the material components of glass.</i>
lentil	liaise v / lɛ'āz / L > F > E establish communication for purposes of mutual understanding. <i>The U.S. Treasury agent had to liaise with the local and state police in the matter of the suspected counterfeiters.</i>	limekiln
lepidopterology n / ,lepə'däptər'äləjē / Gk > L a branch of the science of insect life dealing with the study of butterflies and moths. <i>Dabbling in lepidopterology is a hobby for Ian, who has a fabulous butterfly collection.</i>	liberate	limitless
	librettist	limousines
leprous	lichenology	limpa
leptodactylous	lickerish	limpet
lessee	lickspittle	limpkin
lesser adj / 'lesə(r) / E [has homonym: lessor] smaller : inferior. <i>The lesser rivers and streams did not have names on the Forest Service map.</i>	lifeboat	limuloid
	lifelong	

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Infrequently

lindy

n
/ 'lɪndē /
U.S. name
a jitterbug dance originating in Harlem and later developing many local variants.
Sean and Miriam danced the lindy at the costume party.

linebacker

linenized

linesman

n
/ 'lɪnz.mən /
E&(L > F) + E
[Note: Plural form is pronounced identically.] an official who assists a referee especially in various goal and net games.
The chief duty of the head linesman in football is to mark the yardage gained or lost on each play.

lingcod

lingo

linguistic

linotypist

linoxyn

linseed

linstock

n
/ 'lɪnz.tāk /
D > E
a pointed forked staff shod with iron at the foot formerly used to hold a lighted match for firing cannon.
Captain Braucher waved the linstock over his head to indicate he was ready to fire.

lintwhite

n
/ 'lɪnt.(h)wīt /
E
a common small Old World finch having plumage that varies greatly.
In his poem "Claribel" Tennyson wrote: "Her song the lintwhite swelleth, the clear-voiced mavis dwelleth. . . ."

lionize

lipoprotein

liquid

adj
/ 'lɪkwəd /
L
being extremely fluid without being gaseous and having a definite volume without having a definite shape except such as is temporarily given by a container.
When air is liquefied, oxygen is the first component to become liquid.

lisp

listen

listless

adj
/ 'lɪstləs /
E
characterized by lack of inclination or impetus to exertion : languid, spiritless.
People with abnormally low levels of thyroid hormones are often listless and apathetic.

literal

literally

lithium

lithophilous

litigant

livable

livedo

liverwurst

lividity

lixivate

loach

loafer

n
/ 'lɔfə(r) /
L > Sp > E
[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word.] timber wolf.
Gunter spotted a loafer frolicking in the snow.

loathing

local

localize

localizer

locker

locket

locomobile

locomote

locomotive

loft

logaoedic

logical

logodaedaly

logorrhic

lolloped

v
/ 'lɔləpt /
imit E
proceeded with a bounding or bobbing motion.
The jackrabbit lolloped across the lawn in the twilight.

lombard

longhorn

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Infrequently

longways

adv
/ 'lɒŋ.wəz /
E + E

in two straight lines.
Michael announced that the next folk dance would be performed longways.

loosen

v
/ 'lʊs.n /
E

set free : free from restraint.
The crook thought a little money might loosen his tongue, but Vince never said a word about the jewels.

loosestrife

lope

lopolith

loran

lorelei

lorgnettes

lose

lots

adv
/ 'ləts /
E

to or by a considerable number or amount : much.
Ginny asserts that reading a book is lots more fun for her than watching television.

loutishness

lovable

lox

loyally

loyalty

lubberly

luckily

Lucretian

lucubrate

v
/ 'lʊk(y)ə.brət /
L

discourse learnedly in writing.
Abraham had the opportunity to lucubrate in several journals before he turned away from scholarship.

luge

luger

n
/ 'lʊ.zhə(r) /
F

[has near homonym: loser] one who coasts on a small sled.
Ron likes Nordic skiing, but Arthur fancies himself a luger.

lukewarmly

luminophor

lunate

adj
/ 'lʊ.nāt /
L

shaped like a crescent.
A whimsical lunate window lit the stairwell in Xavier's house.

lupuline

lurch

lure

v
/ 'lʊ(ə)r /
Gmc > F > E

[has homonym: loure] attract, entice, invite.
Wendy hopes that the new neon sign will lure customers into her beauty salon.

lusterware

lustral

lustrously

lutestring

n
/ 'lʊt.striŋ /
It > E

a plain glossy silk formerly much used for women's dresses and ribbons.
Ephemia wore a flowing negligee of white lutestring to the costume party.

luthern

lycanthropic

lymph

lyncean

lynch

lynching

n
/ 'linchiŋ /
Am name
the act of a mob or group that hangs or otherwise kills someone in punishment of a presumed crime or offense.
Police were called in to prevent the riotous mob from lynching the captured terrorist.

lyrurus

lysin

macao

maccus

macellum

n
/ mə'seləm /
Heb > Gk > L
an ancient Roman market or market building.
Phyllis toured the Colosseum, a statuary garden, and a macellum while on vacation in Rome.

macfarlane

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Infrequently

Mach

n
/ 'mäk /
G name
[has homonyms: moch, mock] a number representing the ratio of the speed of a body to the speed of sound in the surrounding atmosphere.
The Mach required to reach low Earth orbit is 25.

machicotage

machinations

machine

macho

macilent

macrobian

macrobiotic

macropterous

adj
/ ma'kräptərəs /
Gk + Gk
having long or large wings—used of birds or insects.
The macropterous bald eagle has a wingspan that ranges from six to eight feet.

macroscian

macular

maculose

madcap

maddeningly

maddish

madeira

madonna

maestoso

maggotry

magi

magic

magisterially

magistrate

magmatic

magnet

magnetician

magnetism

magneto

magnific

adj
/ mag'nifik /
L > F
imposing in size.
Friedrich painted a magnific hill shooting high above the clouds.

magnolia

magpie

magus

n
/ 'mägəs /
Gk > L
magician.
The magus practiced his shape-changing spells on his apprentice.

maiant

maidservant

mailable

mailbox

maile

mainspring

mainstream

majolica

majoon

major

v
/ 'mäjə(r) /
L
pursue a subject of academic study as a field of specialization.
Like many students, Harold has no idea what subject he would like to major in.

makable

adj
/ 'mäkəbəl /
E + Ecf
capable of being made.
Boris and Natasha argued over how to establish a makable bridge contract.

makara

n
/ 'mäkərə /
Skt
a water monster of Hindu religious myth that is represented in religious art as having the body of a crocodile and head of an antelope.
A makara is portrayed on one of the five types of flags mentioned in Buddhist scripture.

maladjustment

malaise

malapropos

malefic

malevolence

malihini

malmignatte

malversation

n
/ .malvə(r)'säshən /
L > F
misbehavior and especially corruption in an office, trust, or commission.
The gubernatorial candidate claims that malversation has become rampant in the present administration.

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Infrequently

mambo

n
/ mäm(,)bō /
Sp
a complex, staccato, usually fast dance related to the rumba and of Cuban origin.
Mr. Varda was the best dancer of the mambo in Cleveland in the 1950s.

mammalia

mammatus

mammonish

manacled

manager

manciple

manger

mango

mangosteen

manicure

maniple

manipulate

manit

mannequin

mannish

adj
/ 'manish /
E
resembling or suggesting that of a man.
Low-heeled mannish shoes completed Louise's outfit.

manslaughter

n
/ 'mæn.slöd.ə(r) /
E + Scand
the slaying of a human being; specifically : the unlawful killing of a human being without express or implied malice.
Because the prosecutor could not prove premeditation, the suspect was charged with manslaughter instead of murder.

mantelpiece

mantra

n
/ 'mantrə /
Skt
a verbal spell, ritualistic incantation, or mystic formula used devotionally in popular Hinduism and Buddhism.
While awaiting rescue from the earthquake, Ravi used a mantra to keep his mind off the pain.

manumitter

many

adj
/ .menē /
E
consisting of or amounting to a large but indefinite number : not few.
Many college students flock to the beaches during spring break.

maoism

maori

mar

maracas

marasmus

marcescence

March

n
/ 'märch /
L name > F > E
the third month of the Gregorian calendar.
March is typically a windy month in the United States.

marchpane

n
/ 'märch.pän /
It
a shapable confection made of almond paste.
The marchpane was sculpted into a tiny edible castle.

margin

marie

n
/ mə'rē /
F
an often ornamented raised border of a plate or flat dish that forms a plane nearly parallel to the bottom.
The marie of Valetta's china was decorated with 14-karat gold.

marina

marinated

marketfish

n
/ 'märkət.fish /
E geog name + E
[Note: Could be confused with margate fish and margot fish.] a variable usually pearl gray fish of the tropical western Atlantic.
The marketfish is esteemed as a food fish.

marmoreal

marooned

marquee

marquette

marriage

n
/ 'marij /
L > F > E
the state of being united to a person as husband or wife.
In many countries marriage has a number of legal ramifications for both parties involved.

marron

marrow

marteline

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martingale

martinique

mascalage

masculinity

masher

n
/ 'mashə(r) /
E

a kitchen utensil for crushing food to a soft, pulpy consistency.

Brittany used a masher on the potatoes before whipping in the butter and milk.

mashie

masochism

masochist

massecuite

mastermind

masterpiece

mastoid

matchcoat

n
/ 'mach.kōt /
Powhatan > E

a mantle or similar loose covering of fur, feathers, or usually woolen cloth formerly extensively worn by Native Americans.

Running Fox took his rifle and his matchcoat and headed out into the night.

matching

matchless

material

matricide

n
/ 'matrə.sɪd /
L

murder of a mother by her son or daughter.

In the Greek drama, Orestes commits matricide in revenge for his mother's murder of his father.

matroclinal

matronly

matsail

maturity

maunderer

mauvette

maxilla

maximum

maxwell

n
/ 'mak.swel /
Scot name

the centimeter-gram-second electromagnetic unit of magnetic flux equal to the flux per square centimeter of normal cross section in a region where the magnetic induction is 1 gauss.

The maxwell is named after James Clerk Maxwell, who is ranked with Sir Isaac Newton and Albert Einstein for the fundamental nature of his contributions to science.

may

n
/ 'mā /
L

[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word.] the early, vigorous part of human life : prime, heyday.

The quarterback knew that the end of his may was at hand, so he began to think about a second career.

maypole

n
/ 'mā.pōl /
L > F > E + L > E

a tall pole in an open place and wreathed with flowers forming a center for May Day sports.

The eighth-grade girls danced around the maypole in the school's spring festival.

mazagran

mazar

n
/ mə'zär /
Ar

a Muslim shrine or enshrined tomb. *The popular shrine was reputed to be the mazar of a saint, but none of the pilgrims was certain who was buried there.*

mcleod

mealiness

mealy

mean

n
/ 'mēn /
E

[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word. In addition, word has homonym: mien.] a quantity formed by adding quantities together in any order and dividing by their number.

When students average their grades, they are calculating the arithmetic mean.

meander

meaning

meatball

mechanics

n pl
/ mə'kaniks /
Gk

a branch of physical science that deals with energy and forces and their relation to the equilibrium, deformation, or motion of solid, liquid, and gaseous bodies.

A scientist in the field of fluid mechanics used a Ping-Pong ball and a shop vacuum cleaner to demonstrate the Bernoulli effect.

mechanistic

mechanize

mechanomorphic

medal

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medallic

median

n
/ 'mēdēən /
L

a value in an ordered set of quantities below and above which fall an equal number of quantities or which is the average of the two middle values if there is no one middle number.

The median of the set {8, 10, 14, 36} is 12.

mediation

medicament

medievalist

medlar

mEEK

megahertz

megaprosopous

megrIm

melangeur

melanin

melanite

melanochroi

melezitose

melic

meliorism

melismatics

melliferous

melodious

melomania

memorable

adj
/ 'mem(ə)rəbəl /
L

worthy of being remembered or noted.

"The Raven" is one of Edgar Allan Poe's most memorable poems.

memorial

menat

mennonite

menology

mensuration

n
/ .men(t)sə'rāshən /
L

the act, process, art or an instance of measuring : measurement.

The lab tests seemed to run perfectly, but careless mensuration resulted in the need to redo everything.

mention

n
/ 'menchən /
L
the act or an instance of citing, noting, or calling attention to someone or something especially in a brief or casual manner.
Harry was disappointed that his defensive play did not receive any mention in the newspaper account of Saturday's game.

menu

n
/ 'me(,)nyü /
L > F
the dishes served at a meal or the meal itself.
The menu for the country music awards banquet includes fried chicken and apple brown Betty.

mercerized

merchant

merchantable

merciful

merciless

adj
/ 'mərsēləs /
L > F > E + EcF
cruel, harsh, pitiless.
The columnist's satire turned a merciless spotlight on the academic establishment.

mercuric

adj
/ .mə'rkyürık /
L > ISV
of, relating to, or containing the heavy silver-white poisonous metallic element that is the only metal liquid at ordinary temperatures—used especially of compounds in which this element is bivalent.
"Mad hatters" are no myth: Toxic solutions of mercuric chloride and mercuric nitrate were once used in the production of felt hats.

merge

merlin

merlon

n
/ 'mərլən /
L > It > F
[has homonym: merlin] one of the tall intervals between embrasures on a battlement.
Sergeant Stammel took cover behind a merlon as the enemy archers began to shoot.

meromictic

merrily

merry

adj
/ 'merē /
E
[has near homonym: marry] full of gaiety or high spirits : cheerful.
Dozens of movies have been made about Robin Hood and his merry men.

meseta

mesocracy

mesoprosopic

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Infrequently

mesoptile

mess

n
/ 'mes /
L > F > E
[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word.]
sufficient quantity (of a specified kind of food) for a dish or a meal.
Janie went out to the garden and picked a mess of green beans for supper.

message

Messiah

n
/ mə'siə /
Heb&Aram
the expected king and deliverer of the Jews.
Messianic Jewish congregations believe that Jesus was the promised Messiah, but they also observe Jewish holidays.

messianic

messmate

metacarpus

metachronous

metalloid

n
/ 'med^əl.ɔɪd /
Gk? > L > F > E + Gk > ISVcf
a nonmetal (as carbon or nitrogen) that can combine with a metal to form an alloy.
When asked to name a metalloid, Xerxes gave two examples: silicon and germanium.

metallophone

metalware

metatarsus

metathesis

n
/ mə'tathəsəs /
Gk
a chemical reaction between two compounds in which part of the first compound becomes united with part of the second and the remainder of the first compound becomes united with the remainder of the second.
Metathesis between an aqueous solution of barium chloride and an aqueous solution of sodium sulfate produces a white precipitate of barium sulfate.

metempsychosis

n
/ .məd.əm.sɪ'kōsəs /
Gk
the passing of the soul at death into another body either human or animal.
Hinduism and Buddhism are major religions that profess belief in metempsychosis.

meteorology

n
/ .mēdēə'räləjē /
Gk
a science that deals with the atmosphere and its phenomena (as variations of heat, moisture, or winds).
Sarah was disappointed when she learned that her favorite weather forecaster had no formal training in meteorology.

meter

n
/ 'mēdər /
Gk
[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word.]
systematically arranged and measured rhythm in verse.
Meter in English is by stress rather than by length of vowel as in Greek.

methanize

v
/ 'methə.nīz /
ISV
convert (as a mixture of carbon monoxide and hydrogen) to a colorless odorless flammable gaseous saturated hydrocarbon that is lighter than air and forms explosive mixtures with air or oxygen.
Dan correctly wrote the chemical equation illustrating how to methanize carbon monoxide and hydrogen.

method

methylate

meticulous

metier

metricize

mhometer

miaul

micraner

microangiopathy

micrometeorite

microphyll

microsecond

n
/ 'mīkrō.sekənd /
Gk + L
a unit of time equal to 1 millionth of a second.
Some writers need five paragraphs to explain an emotion that lasts only for a microsecond.

microseism

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microwave

v
/ 'mī.krō.wāv /
Gk + E

cook or heat in an oven that penetrates food with very short electromagnetic waves.
The instructions on the jumbo package of frozen lasagna were to microwave the contents for 25 minutes.

midbrain

middling

adj
/ 'midliŋ /
E

falling between two extremes.
The fugitive was described as a man of middling height, with blonde hair, and wearing a cape.

midway

adv
/ 'mid.wā /
E

in the middle of the distance.
The alderman's proposal was midway between revolution and reform.

miff

milanaise

mile

n
/ 'mīl /
E

a unit of distance equal to 5,280 feet.
Sasha thought it terribly unfair that he had to walk a mile to school.

military

millennial

millesimal

millimeter

n
/ .mīlē'a(m).mēdə(r) /
L > F + F name + Gk > F

an instrument for measuring electric currents in milliamperes.
The electrical output of a photoelectric cell is measured with a millimeter.

millionaire

milonga

n
/ mə'lɔŋgə /
Sp
an Argentine ballroom dance that preceded the tango early in the 20th century.
It is unusual to see anyone dance the milonga nowadays.

milquetoast

mime

minauderie

mince

mineral

mineralize

v
/ 'mīn(ə)rə.līz /
L + Ecf
supply with minerals or any inorganic compound.
Mary's science project was a poster explaining how fluorine ions in toothpaste help to mineralize teeth and thereby fight decay.

mineralogy

minification

minikin

minimal

miniseries

n
/ 'mīnē.sī(ɪ)rēz /
L + L
a television production of a story presented in sequential episodes.
The novel's plot was so long and convoluted that the television producers decided to dramatize it in a six-part miniseries instead of a movie.

mink

n
/ 'mɪŋk /
E
any of several slender-bodied semiaquatic carnivorous mammals that resemble and are closely related to the weasels.
The American mink generally feeds on fish, muskrats, rabbits, and birds.

minnesinger

n
/ 'mīnē.sɪŋə(r) /
G
one of a class of aristocratic German lyric poets and musicians of the 12th to the 14th centuries characterized by having love and beauty as the subject of their songs.
The folk tale ended with the revelation that the apprentice minnesinger was actually the son of a German prince.

minniebush

miraculously

mirifical

miscalculations

miscella

miscreancy

misdemeanant

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Infrequently

misemphasize

v
/ .mis'em(p)fə.sīz /
Ecf + Gk

give a misplaced or wrong stress or relative importance to.

Mona worried that the highlighting in the used textbook would misemphasize the important points she should learn.

misfortune

n
/ mis'fōrchən /
Ecf + L > F > E

an instance of bad luck.

What victim of a misfortune has not asked "Why me?"

mishit

n
/ 'mis.hit /
E + ON + E

a poor hit in cricket.

David's first swing was deemed a mishit and booed by the crowd.

misinterpret

v
/ .misən'tərprət /
Ecf + L

give an incorrect explanation to : explain wrongly.

It would be very hard to misinterpret the body language conveyed by the rolling of one's eyes.

miso

n
/ 'mē(.)sō /
Jpn

a paste used in preparing soups and other foods that is made by grinding a mixture of steamed rice, cooked soybeans, and salt and fermenting it in brine.

Akira made a light soup of miso, spinach, and tofu.

misorientation

n
/ .mis.ōrēən'tāshən /
Ecf + L

the act of wrongly or incorrectly determining one's bearings or settling one's sense of direction.

The pilot's misorientation led him to believe that the water below him was the sky.

mission

n
/ 'mishən /
L

a ministry (as preaching or educational or medical work) commissioned by a church or some other religious organization for the purpose of propagating its faith or carrying on humanitarian work.

Most young Mormon men serve a two-year mission overseas.

missive

missorted

v
/ mi(s)'sò(ə)rdəd /
Ecf + E

incorrectly put in a given place or rank according to kind, class, or nature.

If the dirty laundry is missorted, some nice clothes could be ruined.

misspeak

v
/ mi(s)'spēk /
Ecf + E

utter words or articulate sounds incorrectly.

The president was relieved when he did not misspeak any words in his inaugural address.

misstrike

n
/ mi(s)'strīk /
Ecf + E

a coin whose design is off center.

The misstrike in the coin collector's shadow box is extremely valuable.

mistakes

n pl
/ mə'stāks /
ON > E

wrong actions or statements proceeding from faulty judgment, inadequate knowledge, or inattention : unintentional errors.

The princess explained, "You must never feel badly about making mistakes as long as you take the trouble to learn from them."

mistreat

mistrust

mittella

miticide

mitigation

mitimae

mitral

mixer

n
/ 'miksə(r) /
L + Ecf

a stationary or portable kitchen utensil equipped with one or more beaters for mixing, beating, creaming, or whipping a variety of foods.

Grace and Harry received a large mixer as a wedding present.

moarian

moat

n
/ 'mōt /
F > E

[has homonym: mote] a deep and wide trench surrounding a castle.

The oily, dark waters of the moat swirled as some unknown creature passed close to the surface.

mobcap

n
/ 'mäb.kap /
D? + L > E

a woman's indoor cap; especially : a fancy cap made of sheer material with a high full crown and often tied under the chin.

The chambermaid, dressed in black and wearing a mobcap and a white apron, brought in the refreshments.

mobster

n
/ 'mäbstə(r) /
L

a member of a criminal gang.

The mobster ordered Tony to pay his gambling debts or else.

mockado

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Infrequently

mode

n
/ 'mōd /
L

[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word. In addition, word has homonym: mowed.] the value that occurs most frequently : the most common value.

In the set {2, 4, 6, 6, 8} the mode is 6.

moderne

modernize

modestly

adv
/ 'mädəstlē /
L

with a moderate opinion of one's own importance or merits.

The firefighter who rescued the child modestly explained that he was just doing his job.

modulus

mofussil

moire

mole

n
/ 'mōlē /
Nahuatl > AmerSp
[has homonym: moly] a highly spiced sauce made principally of chili and chocolate but containing numerous other ingredients and served with meat (as beef or turkey).
Maria's recipe for mole requires four different kinds of chile peppers.

molecular

adj
/ mə'lekylə(ɹ) /
L > F

relating to, connected with, produced by, or consisting of units of matter that are the smallest particles of an element or chemical combination of atoms (as a compound) capable of retaining chemical identity with the substance in mass.

A molecular formula shows the exact number of atoms of each element in a molecule.

mollifier

mollyhawk

n
/ 'mälē.hök /
D > E

[Note: Could be confused with mollymawk.] one of several large oceanic birds (as the fulmar or petrel).

A mollyhawk dove into the water and plucked out a wriggling fish.

molybdenum

mombin

momentous

momus

n
/ 'mōməs /
Gk name
a carping critic : faultfinder.
People might enjoy Molly's company more if she were not such a momus.

monarchical

monarchy

monasterial

mondial

monitor

monkeyfy

monkeys

monody

monogamy

monograph

monohull

monology

n
/ mə'näləjē /
Gk

the habit of talking to oneself.
Dmitri defended his monology, saying that only if he argued with himself should it be of concern.

monophthalmic

monophthong

monopolizer

monopolylogue

monopsony

monotheism

monotheistic

adj
/ .mä'nə(.)thē'istik /
Gk + Gk
of, relating to, or characterized by the doctrine or belief that there is but one God.
Zoroastrianism is perhaps the oldest monotheistic religion.

monoxenous

montane

monuron

moody

adj
/ 'müdə /
E
subject to or characterized by depression or discontent : sullen.
The band's lead singer is notoriously moody and publicity-shy.

moonbeam

moonstone

moor

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Infrequently

moorage

moray

morbidity

morbili

morcellement

morosophist

morphine

morphogeny

morphology

mortgagee

mortmain

mosesite

motion

motivation

motocross

motorcycle

mottlement

mournful

movement

n
/ 'müvmənt /
L + Ecf

the action of moving : change of position.
Serena's jerky movement threw her partner off balance.

moving

muddled

mudskipper

muffled

mug

muguet

mulet

v
/ 'mələkt /
L

defraud especially of money : swindle.

The con artist will mulct Mrs. Crawford of her savings if she falls for his story.

muleta

muleteer

mull

v
/ 'məl /
E

consider or talk over the aspects of at length or at leisure.

After he finished the book, Simon tried to mull it over, but he kept being distracted.

mullet

multiplex

n
/ 'mältəpleks /
L + L

a complex housing several movie theaters.

The new multiplex featured a coffee shop in its lobby for its theater patrons.

munchausen

muniments

murine

murre

murrelet

muscadine

muscular

museology

mushroom

musicale

n
/ .müzə'kal /
F

a usually private concert of music typically comprising a social entertainment.

The governor's mansion was the site of a well-attended musicale celebrating New Year's Day.

musician

n
/ myü'zishən /
L > F > E

one skilled in music.

Although she worked at a bank, Shirley always told people she was a musician when asked what her profession was.

musk

n
/ 'məsk /
Skt > Per > Gk > L > F > E

a substance that has a penetrating persistent odor that is obtained from the male musk deer.

Musk is used in many perfumes and in medicine as an antispasmodic.

mussalchee

mustard

adj
/ 'məstə(r)d /
L > F > E

a pungent yellow condiment which is sometimes mixed with water and vinegar and applied to the skin as a poultice for skin irritation.

Angelique had been up during the night making mustard plasters to relieve his colic.

mutagenesis

mutchkin

n
/ 'məchkən /
E

[has near homonym: munchkin] a Scotch unit of liquid capacity equal to 0.9 pint.

Mrs. Calderwood ordered a mutchkin of lemon juice from the grocer.

mutilation

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Infrequently

mutilator

mutinously

mycology

n
/ mī'käləjē /
Gk

a branch of the science of plant life dealing with fungi.
Dana's neighbor has studied mycology and probably knows the name of the fungus that is killing her flowers.

myelography

myelosis

myology

n
/ mī'äləjē /
Gk

a scientific study of muscles.
The pediatrician recommended that Ron's baby brother, who has trouble swallowing, be taken to a specialist in orofacial myology.

myopically

myriameters

n pl
/ 'mirēə.mēdə(r)z /
Gk > F

metric units of length, each equal to 10,000 meters.
The surveyors calculated that a bridge over the narrowest part of the lake would shorten the route between the towns by several myriameters.

myrrhed

mysticism

mythologist

mythology

nabby

nacho

n
/ 'näç(ç)ō /
Sp

a tortilla chip topped with cheese and a savory substance (as chili peppers or refried beans) and broiled.
Stevie grabbed the last nacho off the platter just as his little brother reached for it.

nachtmusik

nacre

nacreous

namaycush

nameless

namely

adv
/ 'nāmlē /
E

that is to say : to wit.
Yola chalked up another triumph to her growing list; namely, she secured the biggest account in her company's history.

nameplate

nanmu

nao

nappe

nappy

narcolepsy

narcotic

narratage

nascence

naseberry

n
/ 'näzberē /
L > Sp > E
the fruit of the sapodilla tree with a rough brownish skin and very sweet brownish pulp.
The naseberry is a popular fruit export of Jamaica.

nasology

nastiness

nationalism

native

naturalism

n
/ 'nach(ə)rə.lizəm /
L
the quality, rendering, or expression of art or literature executed according to the theory that art or literature should conform exactly to nature or depict every appearance of the subject that comes to the artist's attention.
Naturalism in plays is often exemplified by tough, unsentimental characters, sordid urban settings, and fast-paced slangy dialogue.

nautch

navar

navigable

nearsighted

nebulization

necessarily

necessitate

necrolatry

necrology

necrotic

nectariferous

neencephalon

negate

neglected

negligibility

neighbor

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Infrequently

neighborhood

n
/ 'nābə(r).hūd /
E + E
a number of people forming a loosely cohesive community within a larger unit.
"I've been in the neighborhood only a short time," Mrs. Underwood explained.

nemo

nene

neofascist

neolithic

neology

neoplasm

neoteric

adj
/ .nēə'terik /
Gk > L
recent in origin : modern.
Richard was a fan of neoteric interior design.

nephogram

nephrite

nervulose

ness

nether

adj
/ 'nethə(r) /
E
lower, under.
Mr. Ward feared that his company would be ground to powder between the upper millstone of rigidly set price ceilings and the nether millstone of high labor costs.

neurility

n
/ n(y)ü'rīlədē /
Gk + Ecff
the special properties and functions of the nerves.
When nerve fibers are subjected to injury, neurility is adversely affected.

neurolysis

neuropsychic

neurosis

neurotransmitter

n
/ .n(y)ürōtran(t)'smīdə(r) /
Gk + L + L
a chemical substance that transmits nerve impulses across a synapse.
Parkinson's disease is caused by a lack of the neurotransmitter dopamine in the brain.

neuter

neutrality

next

adj
/ 'nekst /
E
following that approaching or in progress.
After the June test date, the next date for the SAT I is not until October.

ngege

nicad

n
/ 'nī.kad /
Sw? + Gk > L
a rechargeable dry cell that has a nickel cathode and a cadmium anode.
The nicad in Carl's shaver worked even after having been left idle for three years.

nickeline

nidology

niggle

nightcap

n
/ 'nītkap /
E + L > E
a cloth cap worn with nightclothes.
The cartoon depicted an elderly gentleman in bed, complete with tasseled nightcap, casting a fly across the room into a large urn.

nightjar

nightshade

nil

n
/ 'nil /
L
nothing, zero.
Jill gave up making crafts for sale at fairs because she felt she was earning absolutely nil.

nilpotent

adj
/ .nil'pōt'nt /
L
equal to zero when raised to some power.
The number zero is nilpotent for every power except zero.

nincompoop

nineties

n pl
/ 'nīntēz /
E
the numbers 90 to 99 inclusive.
Jack should make an A in math this term because all his test scores are in the high nineties.

ninety

nippers

nisse

nitrite

n
/ 'nī.trīt /
Gk > ISV
a salt or ester of an unstable acid known only in pale blue solution.
In the soil, ammonium from plants and animals becomes nitrite as part of the nitrogen cycle.

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Infrequently

nitwit

nivation

nix

n
/ 'niks /
G

[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word. Word has homonyms: knicks, nicks.] a creature originating in German folklore usually having the form of half human and half fish and usually unfriendly to humans. *The nix is the Germanic version of the water monster we commonly call a "mermaid."*

nobelium

nobility

noble

adj
/ 'nɒbəl /
L

resisting chemical action : chemically inert or inactive. *All noble gases, with the exception of helium, have completely filled outer subshells and therefore will not react with other substances.*

noblesse

noctidiurnal

noctilucence

nocturnality

nodding

noise

noisettes

n pl
/ nɔə'zets /
L > F

small rounded morsels of food. *The noisettes of lamb are the local French restaurant's specialty of the house.*

nolition

nomadism

nomarchy

nomenclatural

nominative

nomothetic

nonagesimal

adj
/ .nänə'jesəməl /
L

being number 90 in a countable series. *The party for the queen mother's nonagesimal birthday paled in comparison with the celebration honoring her hundredth birthday.*

nonce

adj
/ 'nän(t)s /
E

occurring, used, or made only once or for a special occasion. *The teacher could not challenge the spelling of the nonce terms Devon sprinkled throughout his report.*

nonet

n
/ nɔ'net /
L > It
a combination of nine instruments or voices; also : a musical composition for such a combination. *Four violins, two violas, two cellos, and a double bass made up the nonet.*

nonjoinder

nonnecessity

n
/ .nänə'sesədē /
L

something that is not needed. *Gaynor's suitcase exceeded the weight limit, but she considered no packed item a nonnecessity.*

nonnegotiable

adj
/ .nännə'gɔʃh(ē)əbəl /
L
that is not open to discussion or question or dispute. *The company's settlement offer was nonnegotiable; Cameron was told to "take it or leave it."*

nonpartisan

noological

nopalry

normality

n
/ nɒ(r)'mälədē /
L > F?
of a solution : concentration expressed in gram equivalents of solute per liter. *The normality of a given solution depends on its molarity as well as the reaction that is undergone by the oxidizing or reducing agent.*

normosplanchnic

normothermia

n
/ .nɔrmə'thərmēə /
L + Gk
typical body temperature. *For small children, normothermia is often higher than it is in adults.*

norns

n pl
/ 'nó(ə)rnz /
ON
goddesses presiding over personal destiny. *Occasionally Roberta goes out and buys something she cannot afford as a gesture of defiance of the norns.*

norseller

northabout

northerly

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nosebleed

adj
/ 'nōz.blēd /

E
bleeding from the nose.
Jim's severe nosebleed finally stopped after half an hour.

nosh

nosology

nostrils

n pl
/ 'nästrəlz /

E
the external openings of the nose or nasal cavity of a vertebrate.
The bull's wide eyes and flared nostrils were signs that he was unhappy.

notable

adj
/ 'nōd.əbəl /

L
being of much weight, scope, or significance : memorable.
Despite his many successful cookbooks, Raoul felt that his most notable achievement was winning the Iron Chef competition.

notan

notarization

notation

note

v
/ 'nōt /

L
record or fix in the mind or memory.
Lorraine was pleased to note that she had been given the seat of honor at this year's banquet.

notion

n
/ 'nōshən /

L
the meaning or context assigned by the mind to a term.
The teacher admitted that his notion of Abraham Lincoln's oral delivery came more from old movies than from history books.

notitia

notochord

notorious

adj
/ nō'tōrēəs /

L
being or constituting something commonly known : well known.
Our town is notorious throughout the Midwest for noise and pollution.

nourish

nous

novelettist

novella

n
/ nō'velə /

L
a story with a compact and pointed plot.
"The selection is not a major work of fiction, but as a novella it is a gem," wrote Newsweek.

novelty

novillada

nowadays

noyau

nth

adj
/ 'en(t)th /

E
numbered with some unspecified or indefinitely large ordinal number.
The computer quietly crunched through the numbers, figuring pi to the nth decimal.

nucleophilic

nullo

nummular

nunatak

nunciature

nutation

n
/ n(y)ü'tāshən /

L
an involuntary nodding of the head.
When Harold started falling asleep in class, his nutation tipped off the teacher.

nuzzle

v
/ 'nəzəl /

E
work with or as if with the nose : root.
When the mare would nuzzle into his neck, Al would give her a pat and gently push her away.

nyctitropism

nymphal

adj
/ nim(p)fəl /

Gk
of, relating to, or being an insect in the late larval stage of development.
The spinose ear tick attaches inside an animal's ear during the parasitic larval and nymphal stages.

nymphish

nymphs

nyssa

oatmeal

obduce

oberek

object

objection

oblate

oblateness

oblectation

obley

obligatum

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Infrequently

oblige

obliging

obliteration

oblivious

obnebulate

v
/ ˈəbˈnebyə.lāt /

L
[Note: Could be confused with obnubilate.] becloud, befog.
The early morning haze will obnebulate the mountainscape.

obnubilation

obrotund

adj
/ ˌɔbrəˈtʌnd /

L
nearly spherical but with one diameter slightly exceeding the others.
The obrotund object in the museum case was an old torpedo.

obscenity

obscurative

observe

v
/ əbˈzɜrv /

L
conform one's action or practice to : heed, obey.
Anyone who does not observe the rules will have to go to detention hall.

obsess

obstinacy

obvolute

occasional

occidental

occultism

occultist

occur

oceanic

octagonal

octennial

octonocular

octopod

adj
/ ˈɔktəpəd /

Gk
having eight feet, limbs, or arms.
The octopod robot walked with remarkable smoothness.

octuple

octuplicate

n
/ ɔkˈt(y)üpləkət /

L
eight copies all alike—used with in.
The documentation had to be submitted in octuplicate so that each judge could review it independently and simultaneously.

ocular

odd

adj
/ ɔd /
ON > E

[has homonym and near homonym: od and awed] being any member of a sequence of positive integers beginning with one and counting by twos : not divisible exactly by two—opposed to even.
Answers to the math problems that are designated by odd numbers are in the back of the textbook.

ode

n
/ ˈɔd /
Gk > L

[has homonym: owed] a lyric poem usually marked by particular exaltation of feeling and style.
Every element of the victory ode was designed to praise the athlete.

odometer

odontalgia

odontotomy

odorant

adj
/ ˈɔdərənt /
L > F > E
that emits a scent.
At night, the odorant forests roar with the dread sound of fierce monsters.

odorivector

oenophile

oenotherapy

offbeat

offeree

officer

officialese

official

offscour

oidioid

olden

oleraceous

oligarchical

olivesheen

olivine

oloroso

Olympian

n
/ ˈɔˈlɪmpēən /
Gk geog name
a being of lofty detachment or superior attainments.
Standing beside the Olympian was a less conspicuous achiever who was glad for his modest honors.

omissibility

ommateal

omnicompetent

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once

adv

/ 'wʌn(t)s /

E

one time and no more.

*Cathy knows no one who has seen
The Wizard of Oz only once.*

oncological

oneirocritic

ongoing

oolemma

oologize

oops

opaline

adj

/ 'ɒpəlɪn /

Skt > L

resembling especially in appearance a mineral that is less dense than quartz and typically with definite and often marked iridescent play of colors.

The fish's opaline scales glimmered softly in the aquarium.

opaqueness

opaquer

opening

operation

n

/ .əpə'ræʃən /

L

the quality or state of being functional—used with in or into.

The new factory has been in operation for a few weeks.

opiomorphic

opinion

opinioned

opisthenar

oppenheimer

opponency

opportunity

oppose

v

/ ə'pɒz /

L

[Note: Could be confused with appose.] place over against something so as to provide resistance, counterbalance, or contrast.

Although Jim's political beliefs oppose Francine's, the two are the best of friends.

oppressor

opt

optical

optically

optimal

orangeade

orbit

orc

orchesis

orchestral

ordinary

adj

/ 'ɔ(r)d'n.ərē /

L

occurring or encountered in the usual course of events : not uncommon.

The artist had a knack for taking ordinary objects and turning them into works of art.

ordnancemen

orfe

orgeat

orhamwood

oriency

orientation

orienteering

n

/ ɔ'reɪn'ti(ə)riŋ /

L

a cross-country race in which each participant uses a map and compass to navigate between checkpoints along an unfamiliar course.

Orienteering is used by the army as a way to train recruits in outdoor survival skills.

origin

orlean

n

/ 'ɔrlɪən /

Sp name > L > F

a red or yellowish red dyestuff containing bixin prepared from the pulp surrounding the seeds of the annatto tree.

Orlean can be used as a food coloring.

ornate

orneriness

ornithophilous

orology

n

/ ɔ'räləjē /

Gk

the science of mountains.

To Gina, a particularly fascinating aspect of orology is the influence mountains have on precipitation.

orometry

orphans

orthodontist

orthography

n

/ ɔ(r)'thägrəfē /

Gk

a method of representing the sounds of a language by written or printed symbols.

After their conquest of England, the Norman invaders immediately took to reforming English orthography.

orthopter

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Infrequently

orthorhombic

adj

/ ˌɔ(r)θəˈræmbɪk /

Gk

of, relating to, or characterized by the crystal system characterized by three unequal axes at right angles.

Josquin did not understand the difference between an orthorhombic and a tetragonal crystal until he saw an illustration of the crystal system.

orthotics

orwellian

orzo

n

/ ˈɔrd(i)zɔ /

L > It

rice-shaped pasta.

Orzo is often cooked, then added to thick Italian soups.

oscillations

osmagogue

osmics

osmium

osmotic

adj

/ äzˈmäd-ɪk /

Gk

of, relating to, or having the property of the flow or diffusion that takes place through a semipermeable membrane typically separating either a solvent and a solution or a dilute solution and a concentrated solution.

The large quantity of sugar in home-preserved jams and jellies helps to kill bacteria through osmotic action that shrinks the bacteria cells.

osphretic

osteogenous

adj

/ ästēˈäjənəs /

Gk + Gk

originating in bone.

Chemotherapy is used to treat osteogenous cancer.

osteosarcoma

otosclerosis

otosis

ouabain

n

/ wäˈbiən /

F? > ISV

a very toxic compound obtained from the seeds of an African shrub or tree that is used similarly to digitalis and in Africa as an arrow poison.

After being hit with an arrow smeared with ouabain, the antelope ran about 50 yards and then fell.

oud

ought

ousia

ouster

outburst

outright

outspoken

overboard

overhead

adv

/ ˌɔvə(r)ˈhed /

E

above one's head.

The stewardess warned us that the contents of the compartments might shift overhead during the flight.

overindulgence

overpowering

adj

/ ˌɔvə(r)ˈpaü(ə)rɪŋ /

E + L > F > E

exercising an irresistible influence : overwhelming.

Leslie's overpowering garlic breath kept his friends at arm's length.

overripe

overrule

overseas

overseer

overshoe

n

/ ˈɔvə(r)ˌʃü /

E + E

a shoe that is worn over another (as for extra warmth or for protection from wet); especially : a galosh.

Karl's overshoe proved to be too small to fit over his new shoe.

overslaugh

overture

overvoltage

n

/ ˈɔvə(r)ˌvɔltɪj /

E + It name > ISV

the excess potential required for the discharge of an ion at an electrode over and above the equilibrium potential of the electrode.

Because the overvoltage required to form oxygen is quite high, chlorine is more likely than oxygen to form at the anode.

overwhelmed

v

/ ˌɔvə(r)ˈ(h)welmd /

E

subjected to the grip of an overpowering emotion.

Trudy was overwhelmed when she found out that she had the winning lottery ticket.

overwhelming

ovoviviparous

owelty

owing

owlets

owner

oxer

oxidizable

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oxidize

v
/ 'ɒksə.dīz /
Gk > F > ISV
combine with oxygen or with more oxygen.
The sodium hypochlorite in bleach can oxidize the color-bearing substances in stains.

oxyacetylene

oxygenic

oxyrhynch

ozonesonde

ozonizer

n
/ 'oʊ.zō.nīzə(r) /
Gk > G + Ecff
an apparatus for converting ordinary oxygen into ozone.
One type of ozonizer works by passing a silent electric discharge through a current of oxygen or air.

pacific

pack

n
/ 'pak /
G > E
[has homonym: pac] a group of usually wild animals of the same kind congregating in herds, flocks, or schools; specifically : a group of predatory animals hunting together.
A pack of wild dogs was reported to have killed sheep on several farms in the county.

package

padding

padrone

pail

paint

paintbrush

palaka

palberry

n
/ 'pɑl.b(ə)rē /
Austral > E
the edible berry of an Australian tree.
The palberry is sometimes referred to as "native currant."

paleology

paletot

palisades

palleting

palmaceous

paloma

n
/ pə'lōmə /
L > Sp
any of several sharks used as food.
Ling decided to be adventurous and ordered the grilled paloma.

paloverde

palsy

pancetta

n
/ (,)pɑn'chedə /
L > It
unsmoked bacon used in Italian cuisine.
Pancetta is cured with salt rather than smoked.

panchax

pandect

pandemic

pandit

n
/ 'pɑndət /
Skt > Hindi
a Brahman expert in Sanskrit and in the science, laws, and religion of the Hindus.
The temple's senior priest was a pandit from southern India.

pancity

pangrammatic

panic

v
/ 'pɑnik /
Gk name
be stricken with a sudden terror often accompanied by unreasoning or frantic efforts to secure safety.
"Get in position and do not panic," said the teacher calmly when the tornado warning was announced.

pannierman

pannikin

panornithic

panpipe

pansophism

pansophy

Pantagruelism

n
/ ,pɑntə'grüə.lizəm /
F name
buffoonery or coarse humor with a satirical purpose : cynical humor.
Josh's cynical humor is tiring to everyone except those who enjoy Pantagruelism.

pantaloons

pantheistic

pantheress

pantomimic

pantry

paparazzo

papeteries

papillon

papoose

parabolic

parabomb

parabrake

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Infrequently

parade

n
/ pə'rad /
F

a formal public procession : the movement of any body of people or things marshaled in something like military order.

The annual Thanksgiving Day parade featured many new floats and balloons.

paradiddle

paradisiacal

adj
/ .parədə'siækəl /
Gk

of, relating to, or resembling paradise.

Marjorie's parents decided to celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary on a paradisiacal tropical island.

paralipomena

parallelogram

paralogistic

paralytic

parament

parameter

paramilitary

parandrus

n
/ pə'randrəs /
Gk

a mythical stag being able to change colors like the chameleon.

When Vera learned what a parandrus was, she immediately thought about the horse who pulled the carriage in Oz.

parent

parergal

parexis

parget

parishioner

parlatory

parlay

parlor

n
/ 'pärlər /
F > E

a room used primarily for conversation or the reception of guests.

"You are by yourself?" he asked, looking through the doorway into the parlor.

paroemiology

parole

paronychia

parorexia

parotic

parry

v
/ 'parē /
L > OProv > F

[has near homonyms: peri, perry] ward off a weapon or blow by means of a defensive action.

Lola's fencing opponent forced her to parry repeatedly, and she lost ground quickly.

parson

partition

partway

adv
/ 'pärt.wā /
L > F > E + E

to some extent.

There was a detour because the freeway was only partway finished.

partygoer

passable

passageway

passel

n
/ 'pasəl /
L > F > E

a large number : group.

Mr. Jones is considering buying an old school bus so he can take his passel of grandchildren on a cross-country trip.

passerelle

passionate

passkey

Passover

n
/ 'pas.ɔvər /
L > F > E + E

an annual religious and spring agricultural festival of the Jews that commemorates the liberation of the Hebrews from slavery in Egypt.

At Passover, special dishes that symbolize various elements of the flight from Egypt are eaten.

paste

v
/ 'pāst /
Gk > L > F > E

[has homonym: paced] cause to adhere by or as if by means of a soft plastic mixture or composition.

"Let's see if we can paste the decorations on our masks without getting anything on our clothes," said the kindergarten teacher.

pasteboard

pasticcio

n
/ pa'stē(,)chō /
L > It

a musical composition or piece of writing (as an opera or play) made up of selections from different works.

The orchestra played a pasticcio of works from the Romantic period.

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pastina

n
/ pɑ'stēnə /
L > It

very small bits of pasta used especially in soup or broth.
Pastina in the shape of little stars is usually served to babies and small children.

pastoralist

n
/ 'past(ə)rəlɪst /
L

a breeder of cattle or sheep.
Mr. Chambers often dreams of quitting the urban rat race and becoming a pastoralist.

pastrycook

patch

n
/ 'pach /
It? > E
[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word.] a domestic fool or jester.
Stuart is playing a patch in the school play.

patent

patentee

paternal

pathogenic

patience

patient

patriarchally

adv
/ ,pɑtrē'ɑrkəlē /
Gk + Ecf
in a manner characteristic of or suggestive of a man regarded as father or founder (as of a race, science, religion, or class of people).
After listening to his advisers, the president patriarchally delivered his decisions to be carried out.

patricide

n
/ 'patrəsɪd /
L

one that murders his or her own father.
The patricide expressed no remorse before being sentenced to life imprisonment.

patrilineal

patrix

patrolman

patsy

patulously

pavid

pavlova

n
/ pɑ'vlɔvə /
Russ name
a dessert of Australian and New Zealand origin consisting of a meringue shell topped with whipped cream and fruit.
Pavlova was named for a famous Russian ballerina.

paycheck

peace

peanut

peasant

n
/ 'pezənt /
F > E
one of a chiefly European class that tills the soil as small free landowners or hired laborers.
The painting depicted a peasant working with a hoe.

peckish

pectin

peculate

peculated

peculation

n
/ ,pekɪə'ləʃən /
L
the act or practice of stealing or appropriating wrongfully to one's own use especially public money entrusted to one's care : embezzlement.
The governor promised to crack down on the peculation and inefficiency of state administrators.

peculiarity

pedagogic

pedant

n
/ 'pedənt /
L > It > F
one who is uninspired, unimaginative, or narrowly academic or who unduly emphasizes minutiae in the presentation or use of knowledge.
Harold got no respect from his colleagues on campus, all of whom viewed him as a mere pedant.

pedicled

pedigree

pedometer

peduncle

pellicle

pelycosaur

pencil

penduline

penicillate

peninsulate

penne

n
/ 'pen.ə /
L > It
short thick diagonally cut tubular pasta.
Penne is a sturdy pasta that is often served with thick, hearty sauces.

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Infrequently

penniless

pennyroyal

n
/ 'penē.rōi(y)əl /
F > E
a European perennial mint with small pungently aromatic leaves.
The pennyroyal makes a nice ground cover and is known to repel flies.

pension

pensum

pentalogy

n
/ pen'taləjē /
Gk + Gk
a series of five closely related published works.
Evelyn had read all but one novel in the pentalogy.

pentarchy

pentatonic

pentryl

people

pepper

peptide

n
/ 'pep.tīd /
Gk > G > ISV + ISVcf
any of a class of amides that are derived from two or more amino acids by combination of the amino group of one acid with the carboxyl group of another.
Two glycine molecules can join together to form a peptide and one water molecule.

perambulator

percalines

percentage

perchance

adv
/ pə(r)'chan(t)s /
L > F > E + L > F > E
perhaps, possibly.
David hopes that perchance Fiona saw his calculator in the lounge and picked it up for him.

perchlorinate

v
/ .pər'klōrən.nāt /
L + Gk > ISV + L > F + Ecff
combine with the maximum amount of chlorine especially in place of hydrogen.
Mr. Petty helped the students perchlorinate the compound safely.

percussion

percutaneous

percutaneously

perduellion

peregrinations

perforce

performance

n
/ pə(r)'fɔrmən(t)s /
L > F > E
a public presentation (as of a dramatic work).
Jennifer bought a ticket to a matinee performance of Giselle.

perfumery

perfunctorily

adv
/ pər'fʌŋkt(ə)rələ /
L
in a manner characterized by routine or superficiality.
The substitute teacher told the class rather perfunctorily not to run in the halls.

pergameneous

periapt

n
/ 'perē.apt /
Gk
a charm worn especially as a protection against disease or mischief : amulet.
Tonya's research revealed that it was not uncommon for soldiers to wear a periapt into battle for protection.

perimeter

period

periodical

periodontist

periotic

periplus

periscii

peristalith

peristaltic

adj
/ .pərə'stɔltik /
Gk
of, relating to, resulting from, or being successive waves of involuntary contraction passing along the walls of the intestine or other hollow muscular structure and forcing the contents onward.
What grandpa called indigestion, the doctor diagnosed as faulty peristaltic action.

peristylar

periwinkle

perky

adj
/ 'pərkē /
L > F > E
briskly self-assured.
Perky staffers were on hand to greet the visitors to the theme park.

perlaceous

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perlingual

adj
/ˌpɜrˈlɪŋ(yə)wəl/
L

through or by way of the tongue.
Patients in the perlingual treatment group had results comparable to those who received the medication intravenously.

permeameter

permillage

perorate

v
/ˈpɛrəˌrɑt/
L

speak at length.
Granddad loves to perorate about his experiences as a Grand Canyon trail guide.

perpetrate

perpetually

persona

personable

perspicaciously

perspicuous

persuasive

pert

perverse

peskiness

pesto

n
/ˈpe(ˌ)stō/
L > It

a green spaghetti sauce made of green herbs, garlic, and olive oil.
Luigi put some spinach and basil pesto on his spaghetti.

petiole

petitgrain

petroglyph

pettifoggery

pewterer

pezograph

phantasmal

pharisaic

pharmacognosy

n
/ˌfɑrməˈkɑɡnəsē/
Gk

a science dealing with the composition, production, use, and history of drugs of plant and animal origin.
Research in pharmacognosy led to the use of the heart stimulant digitalis, which is obtained from the foxglove plant.

pharmacopedia

phenakistoscope

phengite

phenom

phenotype

philobiblist

n
/ˌfɪləˈbɪblɪst/
Gk + Gk

a lover of books.
The philobiblist had stacks of books throughout the house, even in the kitchen sink.

philogynous

adj
/ˌfɪləˈdʒənəs/
Gk
[Note: Base word could be confused with philogeny/phylogeny.] fond of women.

The philogynous James Bond always seems to have a beautiful woman at his side.

philologaster

philosophy

n
/ˌfɪləˈsɒ(ə)fɪ/
Gk

a science that comprises logic, ethics, aesthetics, metaphysics, and epistemology.
Jeff's study of philosophy enabled him to make many cogent remarks regarding ethics in the workplace.

philtrum

phlebotomy

phlogogenic

phon

n
/ˈfɑn/
Gk

[has homonyms: faun, fawn] the unit of loudness level on a scale beginning at 0 for the faintest audible sound and corresponding to the decibel scale of sound intensity.
Jared fervently wished that his baby brother would cry at just 1 phon.

phonemicize

phonily

phonodeik

phorometry

phot

n
/ˈfɒt/
Gk

the centimeter-gram-second unit of illumination equal to 1 lumen per square centimeter and therefore to 10,000 luxes or about 929 footcandles.
In his lab report Richard was required to note how many footcandles are in 1 phot.

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photolysis

n
/ fō'täləsəs /
Gk
chemical decomposition or dissociation by the action of radiant energy (as light).
High-intensity ultraviolet light has been used to break down fats by photolysis.

photostat

phreatophyte

phthalate

phthisiology

n
/ 'thizē'äləjē /
Gk
[Note: Could be confused with physiology.] the care, treatment, and study of tuberculosis.
The expert in phthisiology reported that up to 15 million Americans are estimated to have latent tuberculosis infections.

phyllite

phylogenetic

phyllophagous

adj
/ fə'läfəgəs /
Gk + Gk + Ecf
feeding on leaves.
Some farmers use pesticides to rid their crops of phyllophagous insects.

physiolatry

phytotoxic

picacho

pickpocket

n
/ 'pik.päkät /
F&E + Gmc > F > E
one who steals money or valuables that someone is carrying in his or her pockets or on his or her person.
The pickpocket quickly disposed of his victim's wallet after relieving it of the money.

picksome

picosecond

pictorialization

pier

pierce

piers

n pl
/ 'pi(ə)rz /
L > E
[has homonym: peers] structures built out into the water on piles for use as landing places or pleasure resorts.
One of the huge piers at Myrtle Beach was destroyed by the hurricane.

piezometry

pigsney

pigtail

pikestaff

pileiform

pillow

pilotage

pilpulist

pimento

pimple

pinaceous

pinacotheca

pinard

pinata

n
/ ,pēn'yädə /
L > It > Sp
a decorated container filled with candies or other gifts and usually suspended from the ceiling that blindfolded children try to break with a stick.
The best part of Sadie's birthday party was the breaking of the pinata.

pincers

pincette

pineal

pineapple

pinecone

pinhead

pinion

v
/ 'pinjən /
F > E
[has homonym and near homonym: pinyon and pinyin] disable or restrain by binding the arms usually to the body.
The police officer struggled to pinion the suspect and radio for help at the same time.

pinking

pint

n
/ 'pīnt /
L > F > E
any of various units of capacity equal to ½ quart.
Ben constantly argued that a lunch consisting of four turkey sandwiches, two apples, and a pint of milk was not enough for a growing boy.

pinto

pinwheel

piolet

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pipetted

v
/ pɪˈpɛdəd /
F

transferred, drawn off, measured, or applied with a small piece of apparatus which in simplest form consists of a narrow glass tube into which liquid is drawn up by suction and in which it is retained by closing the upper end.

Dizzy warned her lab students never to use their mouths to apply suction when they pipetted solutions.

pipkin

pirate

piratical

piscifauna

pistol

pithy

pitta

pituitary

pizza

placket

plaited

planar

adj
/ ˈplænə(r) /
L

[has homonyms: plainer, planer] lying in one surface defined by three points.

Section 13.4 of Kew's textbook explained that a molecule with three atoms can be either linear or planar.

plane

plank

v
/ ˈplʌŋk /
E

cook and serve on a heavy board usually with an elaborate garnish.
Native Americans of the Northwest used red cedar boards to plank salmon and other fish.

plantable

plantation

plasticate

plastisol

platitudinous

platter

n
/ ˈpladə(r) /
F > E

a woman's low-crowned hat that is distinctly flat in silhouette.
Atop the model's head was a platter trimmed with a veil and a silk camellia.

platyopic

play

playgoer

playlet

plaza

n
/ ˈpläzə /
L > Sp

a public square in a city or town.
The summer festival was held under the stars in the plaza.

pleading

pleasantry

pleased

adj
/ ˈplēzd /
L > F > E

affected with or manifesting pleasure : contented, gratified.
Steve's parents were extremely pleased that he finally made the honor roll.

pleat

plectridial

plenteous

plenteously

plesiosaur

plesiosaurus

pliancy

plinth

ploce

plod

plot

v
/ ˈplät /
E

plan or contrive.
Ogilvie refused to plot against his sister in spite of her treachery.

plugboard

plumb

v
/ ˈpləm /
E

[has homonym: plum] examine minutely and critically.
Heraclitus attempted to plumb the depths of his soul, but never found its limit.

plumbing

plumicorn

n
/ ˈplüməkörn /
L

one of the tufts of lengthened feathers on the head of various owls.
Paul's cat's hair is so long that it looks like she has a plumicorn in front of each ear.

plunge

plunger

plural

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Infrequently

plutocracy

plutogoguery

plutomania

plutonian

adj

/ plü'tōnēən /

Gk name

grim and gloomy : harsh and unpleasing.

Some people would describe van Gogh's dark backgrounds as "plutonian."

pluvial

pneumonectomy

poach

v

/ 'pōch /

Gmc > F > E

cook in a liquid kept just below the boiling point.

The doctor told Betsy that she should boil or poach her morning eggs to keep their calorie count down.

pocket

n

/ 'pākət /

Gmc > F > E

[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word.] an English unit for hops equal to 168 pounds.

Cedric, the town's brewmaster, was panicked to find only 1 pocket of hops in the storeroom.

pocourante

pod

n

/ 'päd /

E

[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word. In addition, word has near homonym: pawed.] a number of animals (as seals or whales) closely clustered together : school.

A pod of four or five whales was about 50 yards starboard.

podsnappery

podunk

poetess

poetry

poignance

poikilotherm

pointedly

pointless

poitrel

poivrade

poker

n

/ 'pōkə(r) /

F?

one of several card games in which a player bets that the value of the hand held is greater than the value of the hands held by the other players.

When Billy came home, he was shocked to find his mother and her friends playing poker instead of bridge in the living room.

pokeweed

polarimetric

adj

/ pō'larə'metrik /

L > ISV + Gk > ISV

of or relating to the use of an instrument that determines the amount of polarization of light or the proportion of polarized light in a partially polarized ray.

Oki told his niece that polarimetric observations helped him study the interaction of plane-polarized light and chiral molecules.

polenta

n

/ pō'lentə /

L > It

mush originally made of chestnut meal but now principally of cornmeal or sometimes of semolina or farina.

Polenta is cooked very slowly on top of the stove and can be cut into slices after it cools.

poler

polestar

polity

n

/ 'pälədē /

Gk

political organization : civil order.

Walter claims that any form of polity is more efficient, not morally better, than none.

pollard

pollee

pollex

pollinate

pollyanna

polo

n

/ 'pō(,)lō /

Balti

a game of Asian origin played by teams of three or four players mounted on horseback and using mallets with long flexible handles to drive a wooden ball down the field and through goalposts.

The morning newspaper carried a picture of Prince Charles playing polo.

polonium

polska

n

/ 'pōl.skə /

Pol > Sw

a Swedish folk dance derived from a Polish peasant dance.

The polska is usually danced to music in a minor key.

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polyanthus

polydactylous

polydentate

adj
/ 'pälē.den.tāt /
Gk + L

attached to the central atom in a coordination complex by two or more bonds.

Shara used a tripolyphosphate atom as an example in her efforts to explain the difference between polydentate ligands and other ligands.

polyethylene

polygenous

polyhedron

polymorphic

adj
/ .pälē'mōrfik /
Gk + Gk

having or occurring in several distinct forms.

The polymorphic wild foxes of Canada are of the red, smoky, and silver types.

polymythy

polyphony

polypody

polyptoton

n
/ .pälēp'tō.tän /
Gk

the rhetorical repetition of a word in a different case, inflection, or voice in the same sentence.

Tennyson's "my own heart's heart, and ownest own" well illustrates polyptoton in English.

pomology

n
/ pō'mäləjē /
L + Gk

the science of the cultivation of fruits.

John became familiar with fungi such as American brown rot, apple rust, and banana freckle in his course in pomology.

ponder

v
/ 'pändə(r) /
L > F > E

weigh in the mind.

The setback forced Orson to ponder his position.

pone

pongee

n
/ pän'jē /
Chin

a thin soft clothing and curtain fabric of Chinese origin woven from uneven threads of raw silk and possessing a characteristic ecru or tan color.

Sap's grandmother, who lives in China, sent her some curtains made of pongee.

pontiff

n
/ 'pāntəf /
L > F

a high priest or chief religious figure.

Pope John Paul I was the Catholic pontiff for only one month.

ponytail

poplin

popover

n
/ 'päp.ōvə(r) /
E + E

a quick bread made from a thin batter of eggs, milk, and flour and subjected in the first stage of baking to such heat that steam expands it into a hollow shell.

While a popover is delicious plain, it can also be served with various sweet or savory fillings.

porcelainize

porch

pores

porkpie

n
/ 'pō(ə)rk.pī /
L > F > E + E

a hat with a low telescoped crown, flat top, and brim turned up all around or up in back and down in front.

While dancing in his movies, Fred Astaire often wore a porkpie.

position

n
/ pə'zishən /
L

any of the postures of the feet and arms on which all steps and movements of classical ballet are based.

Mademoiselle Lebrun instructed the students to assume the first position.

positive

positivity

postdoctoral

adj
/ post'däkt(ə)rəl /
L + L

[Note: Speller might confuse doctoral with doctorial.] relating to, awarded for, or engaged in advanced academic or professional work after the attainment of a doctor's degree.

It seems that Skye will always be a student, for now he is immersed in postdoctoral studies.

postmark

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Infrequently

posttest

n
/ 'pɒs(t).test /
L + L > F > E
an examination given to students after the completion of an instructional program to measure their achievement and the effectiveness of the program.
The teacher was mortified when half of her students failed the posttest.

postulation

potamic

potent

potion

n
/ 'pɒʃən /
L
a liquid mixture or dose of a medicine or drug.
The princess declared haughtily that she had no need for a love potion.

potoo

potshot

pottery

pottle

n
/ 'pɒd·l /
E
a liquid or dry measure equal to ½ gallon.
The recipe in Ryan's colonial cookbook calls for a pottle of boiled milk.

pouch

poulterer

pound

n
/ 'paʊnd /
E
a unit of mass and weight equal to 16 avoirdupois ounces or 7,000 grains or 0.45359237 kilogram.
Donna's first job was selling candy by the pound at a bulk food store.

powerhouse

praseodymium

pratincolous

praxis

prayer

n
/ 'pra(a)(ə)r /
L > F > E
[Note: Could be confused with preyer.] a solemn and humble approach to a god or gods in word or thought, usually involving beseeching, petition, confession, praise, or thanksgiving.
Calvin shut his eyes and said a silent prayer before beginning the exam.

preach

v
/ 'prēch /
L > F > E
proclaim the gospel : discourse publicly on a religious subject or from a text of Scripture.
Dr. Mason is wont to preach the same sermon every Easter Sunday.

preacher

precipitous

precrural

preemergent

adj
/ ,prēə'mərjənt /
L + L
used or occurring before seedlings come forth or rise into view aboveground.
Dramatic success in weed control has been achieved with preemergent herbicides.

preempt

preengagement

n
/ ,prēən'gəɪjmənt /
L + F + EcF
a prior obligation.
Valerie's preengagement is a commitment to baby-sit her younger siblings.

preexist

v
/ ,prēɪg'zɪst /
L
have actual or real being before (something).
The monuments on Easter Island preexist written history.

pregnant

adj
/ 'pregnənt /
L
containing unborn young within the body.
The zoo director called a press conference to announce that both female pandas are pregnant.

prehensible

prehensile

prejudice

prepare

preponderating

preprint

presbytery

preschooler

preshrink

pression

pressure

presybytery

pretend

preternatural

pretext

pretty

adj
/ 'prɪdē /
E
pleasing by delicacy or grace.
The pretty little garden on Prospect Street was tended by Mrs. Walter's granddaughter.

prewrap

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Infrequently

prideful

pridian

adj
/ 'pridēən /

L
of or relating to a previous day or to yesterday; also : former.
As the bills accumulated, Gina began to doubt her plan to restore the Victorian mansion to its pridian glory.

priggishness

primary

primigenial

primiparous

princess

printing

privateer

probabilism

proclitic

procrastinate

procrastinating

v
/ prō'krastənādīŋ /

L
putting off intentionally and usually habitually and for a reason held to be reprehensible (as laziness, indifference to responsibility).
The boss's motto is that working leaves no time for brooding or procrastinating.

prodigality

prodigiously

product

n
/ 'prä(ɪ)dəkt /

L
the number or magnitude resulting from the multiplication together of two or more numbers or magnitudes.
The product of 9 and 7 is 63.

productive

proficiency

n
/ prə'fishənsē /

L
the quality or state of being well advanced in an art, occupation, skill, or a branch of knowledge.
Through steady practice the batter attained great proficiency at bunting the ball.

proficiently

profilograph

profiteer

profundity

profusion

prognathous

prohibition

projectionist

n
/ prə'jeksh(ə)nəst /

L
one who operates a motion-picture projector.
The skilled projectionist quickly repaired the break in the film.

prolegomena

prolegomenous

prolificacy

prolongate

promethium

promovent

promulgator

proneur

n
/ prō'nēr /

F
flatterer, eulogist.
Mr. Dirking was a convincing proneur and succeeded in obtaining the most votes.

pronto

adv
/ 'prän(ɪ)tō /

L > Sp
quickly, promptly.
The principal bellowed, "Get in here, pronto!"

pronunciation

proofmark

propagandize

property

n
/ 'präpə(r)dē /

L
any article or object used in a play or motion picture except painted scenery and actors' costumes.
A large mirror was a stage property used in the first act.

prophetic

prophetically

propjet

proponent

proposal

proprietary

prorruption

proscribe

prosthetics

prosthodontist

protasis

n
/ 'prädəsəs /

Gk
the opening lines especially of a drama or narrative poem : introduction.
In the protasis a narrator gives the background for the first scene of the play.

protector

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protein

n
/ 'prō.tēn /
Gk > F + ISV
any of a very large class of naturally occurring extremely complex combinations of amino acids.
The dietician was concerned by the amount of protein in Jenny's daily diet.

Protestant

n
/ 'präd.əstənt /
L
a Christian not of a Roman Catholic or an Eastern church.
Mark, a staunch Protestant, felt out of place during mass when the friends he was visiting rose to take communion.

protium

n
/ 'prō.dēəm /
Gk + ISVcf
the ordinary light hydrogen isotope of atomic mass 1.
Protium, one of the two stable isotopes of hydrogen, accounts for 99.985 percent of the naturally occurring hydrogen on Earth.

protoconch

protonate

v
/ 'prōt'n.āt /
Gk + Ecf
add a positively charged elementary particle to.
Styro remembers the diagram of how to protonate acetic acid molecules by thinking of a horizontal Y.

protostele

prototype

protrusile

adj
/ prō'trūsil /
L
so made that it can be thrust out.
Only in slow motion could we see the frog's protrusile tongue snatch the insect.

protuberance

n
/ prō't(y)üb(ə)rən(t)s /
L
the quality or state of being thrust forward or out.
The protuberance on the plank of wood was easily sanded down.

proud

adj
/ 'praüd /
L > F > E
highly satisfied or pleased : elated.
Mike was proud to be a member of the municipal police force.

proverb

n
/ 'prä.vərb /
L
a brief epigrammatic saying that is a popular byword.
Clark's favorite proverb is "All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy."

provocateur

provocation

prowler

n
/ 'praülə(r) /
E
one that roams over (an area) in a predatory manner; especially : a sneak thief.
Police warned residents to stay out of the park at night because there was a prowler on the loose.

proxemics

proxy

prudish

pryingly

psalmodist

psalter

pseudandry

psilophyton

psittacine

psychodrama

n
/ 'sī(ə)kō.drämə /
Gk + Gk
a usually unrehearsed dramatic play designed to afford catharsis and social relearning for one or more of the participants from whose life history the plot is abstracted.
The family members acted out a psychodrama of what went wrong with their relationships.

psychokinesis

n
/ .sī(ə)kōkə'nēsəs /
Gk + Gk
the production or alteration of motion by influence of the mind without use of physical means.
The psychologist told of a gambler who claimed he could influence the fall of dice by psychokinesis.

psychorrhagy

psychosomatic

psychosomatics

publicize

puckishness

pudding

n
/ 'püdiŋ /
E
a usually boiled or baked sweetened dessert of a soft, spongy, or thick creamy consistency.
After Gage had his wisdom teeth removed, he ate only rice pudding and milkshakes for three days.

pudginess

pudibund

pudicity

puerperal

pugilant

pule

puli

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Infrequently

pullet

pullover

pulpit

pulpy

pulsing

v
/ 'pʌlsɪŋ /
L + Ecf

moving in beats or periodic spurts : vibrating with life, sound, or light.
Jake's legs were pulsing with the energy released as the waves crashed on the dock under his feet.

pump

n
/ 'pʌmp /
unknown

[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word.] a low shoe not fastened on and gripping the foot chiefly at the toe and heel.
Lois hobbled off the dance floor carrying a pump and its detached heel.

pumpkinseed

punctilio

punctiliously

punctuate

pungency

punji

punt

n
/ 'pʌnt /
L > E

[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word. Also, similar word pont, with similar definition, exists.] a long narrow flat-bottomed boat with square ends usually propelled with a pole.
Peter stretched out in the punt and floated slowly to the other side of the pond.

punter

pupigerous

pupil

n
/ 'pyüpəl /
L

a child or young person in school or in the charge of a tutor or instructor : student.
Every year at least one pupil in Miss Simpson's kindergarten class is already a skilled reader.

puppet

puppetry

n
/ 'pəpətrē /
L > F > E
shows featuring small-scale figures of human or other living beings often constructed with jointed limbs and moved usually on a small stage by a rod or by hand from below or by strings or wires from above.
The children's favorite entertainment at the fair was the comical puppetry.

purdah

puree

v
/ pyü'rā /
L > F

boil soft and then rub through a sieve.
Geneva began to puree vegetables for the baby when he was six months old.

purfle

purgatorial

purify

v
/ 'pyürəfī /
L > F > E
cleanse ceremonially.
In Native American religions the sweat lodge is used to purify the body and heal the spirit.

purity

purloiner

n
/ pə(r)'lɔɪnə(r) /
L > F > E
thief.

The purloiner was apprehended as soon as he left the store.

purpura

purse

pushover

puttee

pyramidal

pyretic

pyrometallurgical

adj
/ ,pɪrɔːmed'ɪtʃəkəl /
Gk + Gk + Ecff
of or relating to the chemical science and technology that deals with the extraction of metals from their ores, refining them, and preparing them for use and which depends on heat action (as roasting and smelting).
The forest ranger told Sky that pyrometallurgical processes are an important source of sulfur dioxide, a major component of acid rain.

pyrope

pyrostat

n
/ 'pɪrəstat /
Gk + Gk
any of various automatic devices that when exposed to any manifestation of fire actuate a mechanism for giving a warning or for setting in operation a means of extinguishing the fire.
Most commercial fire alarms nowadays are not manual but are activated by a pyrostat.

pyrotechnical

python

quadder

quadrifilar

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Infrequently

quadrilingual

adj

/kwädrə'ling(yə)wəl /

L

speaking or having knowledge of four languages.

Mrs. Ramirez works for the State Department as a quadrilingual interpreter.

quadrivium

quadruple

quadruplet

quaesitum

quagga

n

/kwagə /

Bantu? > Afrikaans

a now-extinct wild ass of southern Africa related to the zebras but with stripes on the head, neck, and forebody.

The quagga once roamed South Africa in large herds, but overhunting led to its extinction in the 1870s.

qualmishly

quantities

quarrier

quart

n

/kwört /

L > F > E

a U.S. unit of liquid capacity equal to ¼ gallon or 57.75 cubic inches. *When the oil light in Kevin's car came on, he stopped immediately and added a quart of oil.*

quashy

quasimodo

quassia

quatenus

quatercentenary

quaternary

quatrain

quayside

quebrada

quelea

quenelles

quersprung

querulential

quickstep

n

/kwik.step /

E + E

a combination of short rapid dance steps.

The competition judges will check to make sure that the quickstep is performed precisely in time to the music.

quidditative

quietly

quietude

quinary

quinquagenary

quinquagesimal

quinquennially

adv

/kwɪn'kwɛnɛəl /

L

every five years.

Marge's high school class holds a reunion quinquennially, and each time the intervening five years seems shorter and shorter.

quinsy

quintuple

quirk

quisquite

quisutsch

quitclaim

quite

quittance

n

/'kwɪtʰn(t)s /

F

the act of freeing or releasing; specifically : discharge from a debt or an obligation.

Joseph offered his cousin an official deed of quittance, saying that what he had already received was payment enough.

quittor

quivered

v

/'kwɪvə(r)d /

Gmc? > F? E + Ecf

shook or moved with slight tremulous motion : trembled.

When George talked about tomorrow's race, his voice quivered with excitement.

quota

quote

rabbi

n

/'rɑ.bi /

Heb > Gk > L

one acting as the official leader of a Jewish congregation and performing various duties (as preaching, officiating at weddings and funerals).

Aaron decided to become a rabbi in his second year at the yeshiva.

rabbitlike

rabbitry

rabulistic

rachion

raciation

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Infrequently

racket

n
/ 'rakət /
imit
[has homonyms: rakkett, racquet]
noisy, disturbing, or objectionable
talk or activity.
*Sojourner Truth said, "Where there
is so much racket, there must be
something out of kilter."*

raclette

racon

raconteuse

radially

adv
/ 'rādēālē /
L + Ecf
arranged or having parts arranged
like rays.
*Father Quinn's diagram was
radially arranged with his goals
placed in the center.*

radicate

radishes

radium

rafale

railhead

raisins

rake

raki

rallies

ramark

rambla

rampion

ramrod

ramulus

rancio

random

rangette

rangibility

rank

adj
/ 'rɒŋk /
E
having a heavy offensive smell.
*There sat Ralph wreathed in smoke
from a rank cigar.*

Rankine

adj
/ 'rɒŋkən /
Scot name
being, according to, or relating to
an absolute-temperature scale on
which the unit of measurement
equals a Fahrenheit degree and
according to which the freezing
point of water is 491.67 degrees
and the boiling point is 671.67
degrees.
*The Rankine degree is only five-
ninths of the Kelvin degree, but the
0 point of both scales is absolute
zero.*

rankle

rapidly

rapparee

rapper

n
/ 'rɒpə(r) /
F > E
[Note: The definition provided is
not the one most commonly
associated with this word. In
addition, word has homonym:
wrapper.] a short flat flexible steel
sword made with a handle at each
end and used in English folk
dancing.
*The folk dancing teacher had Maia
use a stick instead of a rapper until
her skills improved.*

rappini

rapture

n
/ 'rɒpʃər /
L
Christ's raising up of his true
church and its members to a realm
above Earth where the whole
company will enjoy celestial bliss
with its Lord.
*A popular book series describes the
struggles of a group of believers
who are left behind after the
rapture to fight the forces of
darkness.*

rare

adj
/ 'rɑ(a)(ə)r /
L > E
unusual, uncommon; specifically :
belonging to a small group or class.
*Argon is classified as a rare gas,
according to Larry's basic
chemistry textbook.*

rarefied

rarity

rasceta

rasp

raspy

Rastafarian

n
/ ˌrɑstə'fɑrēən /
Ethiopian name
an adherent of a religious cult that
teaches the eventual redemption of
blacks and their return to Africa
and venerates Haile Selassie as a
god.
*The Rastafarian explained that his
religion requires that he eat only
natural and lightly cooked food.*

ratio

ratoons

rauwolfia

ravage

ravehook

ravenry

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Infrequently

razee

razorbill

reactant

adj
/ rē'aktənt /
L

of, relating to, or marked by a substance that is transforming or changing chemically.

Jayne, knowing the quantities of each reactant substance, calculated how much product would form.

reactor

readable

real

realistic

adj
/ rēə'lɪstɪk /
F

facing reality squarely : not impractical or visionary.

A realistic review of his prospects of reaching the summit convinced Ted to turn back.

realization

really

ream

n
/ rēm /
Ar > F > E
a quantity of paper in lots that vary in the number of sheets included.
There are normally 500 sheets in a ream of copy paper.

reason

v
/ rēz'n /
F > E
use the power of thinking so as to arrive at conclusions.
George is able to reason brilliantly, but he seldom bothers.

reassert

recalcitrate

recall

v
/ rē'kɔl /
E
summon forth a memory of : have a recollection or remembrance of.
The photograph album made Tony recall many scenes from his childhood.

receded

recent

recessionary

adj
/ rē'seshən.ērē /
L
of or relating to a period of reduced economic activity.
A recessionary cycle is characterized by a rising unemployment rate, falling profits and production, falling interest rates, and decelerating inflation.

recidivist

recidivous

reciprocatory

recitalist

n
/ rē'sɪd'ɪləst /
L > F + Ecff
one who performs programs of vocal or instrumental music.
The recitalist sang several romantic arias from various operas.

recitative

reckon

v
/ rekən /
E
conclude on the basis of a calculation or estimation.
As near as he can reckon, Mac has read a million pages in his life.

reclama

reclining

adj
/ rē'klɪnɪŋ /
L
bending or curving gradually back from the perpendicular.
The reclining figure in the painting bore a resemblance to Elmer Fudd.

recoilless

recollect

v
/ rekə'lekt /
L
call to mind.
Fran could not recollect where he had seen the waiter before.

recollection

recombine

recompense

reconciliation

reconstitute

v
/ rē'kɔnzɪtət(y)üt /
L
restore the composition of (as a concentrated juice) by adding water.
Mitch decided to reconstitute the canned tomato soup with milk instead of plain water.

recorder

recourse

n
/ rē.kō(ə)rs /
L > F > E
a turning to someone or something in search of help, support, protection, or safety.
If you lose your tickets, you have no recourse to obtain replacements.

rectangular

rectigrade

rectilinearly

rectipetality

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Infrequently

recto

n
/ 'rek(ɪ)tō /
L

a right-hand page (as of a book) usually carrying an odd page number.
The librarian stamped the library's name on the first recto following the copyright page of each new book.

redhibition

n
/ .red(h)ə'bɪʃən /
L

an annulment of the sale of an article and return of it to the seller because of some material defect.
Dad is convinced that his new car is a lemon and has engaged an attorney who specializes in consumer transactions and redhibition.

redondilla

redoubt

redox
adj
/ 'rē.däks /
L + Gk

[has near homonym: redux] of or relating to oxidation-reduction.
Juju's comment that every basic chemistry student knows that metathesis is not a redox reaction was not welcome at the study group.

redroot

reel
n
/ rēl /

E
[has homonym: real] a lively dance of the Scottish highlanders marked by circular figures and performed with gliding movements.
Several versions of the reel migrated to the Americas from Scotland.

reelected

v
/ .rēə'lektəd /
L

selected (a person) by vote for another term in office.
The candidate himself was not surprised when he was not reelected.

reenact

reestablish
v
/ .rēə'stəblɪʃ /
L > F > E

set up, fix, or confirm again.
Mrs. Jackson thought that the start of the second semester would be a good time to reestablish the class rules.

reevaluate

v
/ .rēə'vəlyə.wāt /
L + L

examine and judge again concerning the worth, quality, significance, amount, degree, or condition of.
The company asked Chris to reevaluate the project's potential for profit.

reeve

reference

reformatory
n
/ rə'fō(r)mə.tōrē /
L

a penal institution to which especially young or first offenders are committed for training and reformation.
For stealing automobiles the juvenile was sent to a reformatory until he reached the age of 18.

reformist

refract

refreshment

n
/ rə'frɛʃmənt /
F > E + Ecf

something (as food or drink) that restores strength and liveliness.
After watching the two-hour movie, Dan decided it was time for some refreshment.

refrigerative

adj
/ rə'frɪjə.rādɪv /
L
tending to cool.
The fan had a refrigerative effect on Frank's overheated body.

refutable

refutatory

regard

regards

regulate

regenerative

adj
/ rē'jənə.rādɪv /
L
of, relating to, marked by, or using a process of replacing or producing anew.
The regenerative stage of a perennial plant's life cycle generally takes place during the winter months.

regent

regie

regress

regulatory

reimburse

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reincarnation

n
/ rē.in.kār'nāshən /
L

a fresh embodiment of someone or something.

The reincarnation of our nation's colonial capital was initially funded by an endowment made by John D. Rockefeller Jr. in 1926.

reiteration

rejectamenta

rejuvenation

relegated

relevancy

n
/ 'reləvənsē /
L

relation to the matter at hand.

The search engine ranked the Web sites according to the relevancy to the word being searched.

religioso

religious

relish

n
/ 'relish /
F > E

a savory pickled or preserved food prepared from mixed chopped vegetables or fruits and usually served with meat.

Cameron put ketchup, onions, and pickle relish on his hot dog.

relleno

relocate

reluctancy

reluctant

remand

v
/ rə'mand /
L

send (a person charged with a crime) back into custody by court order.

The judge decided to remand the prisoner to jail until his appeal could be considered.

remanet

remedy

n
/ 'remədə /
L > AF > E

something that relieves or cures a disease.

Mom's favorite remedy for a cold is chicken soup and lots of rest.

reminiscences

n pl
/ .remə'nis'n(t)səz /
L

remembered experiences.

The program about the history of jazz relied on reminiscences of several older musicians.

reminiscently

remise

remissible

remission

remoteness

remount

remove

reneger

rennet

rentable

renunciation

repair

v
/ rə'pa(a)(ə)r /
L > F > E

[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word.] go to a specified place for a specified purpose.

In his inaugural speech the president indicated his desire to repair at once to the post voters had assigned him.

reparations

n pl
/ .repə'rāshənz /
L

the act of making amends, offering expiation, or giving satisfaction for a wrong or injury.

The judge ordered the cat burglar to make reparations to the victims of his crimes by standing guard outside their homes each night.

repeated

adj
/ rə'pēdəd /
L > F > E

renewed or recurring again and again : frequent.

Mark was taken out of the game for his repeated fouls.

repent

repentance

repercussive

repetitiously

replica

reportedly

repugnancy

require

requisitorial

reseau

resemblance

residential

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resiniferous

resist

respell

v

/ rē'spell /

L > Ecf + Gmc > F > E

name the letters of again, anew, or in another way.

Marilyn gave her students a chance to respell all the misspelled words in their essays.

respirator

n

/ 'respə.rədə(r) /

L

a device for protecting the respiratory tract.

Adam wore a filter respirator when he worked in his laboratory.

respire

respondent

ressaulted

restive

resultant

resurge

v

/ rē'sɜrj /

L

[has homonym: reserge] rise again : become resurrected.

Byron wonders if negative feelings toward his brother will resurge when his brother comes home from college.

resuscitative

resuscitator

retiary

retool

retort

retraxit

retroactive

retrogressive

retrolental

returnable

revelation

n

/ revə'lāshən /

L

an act of revealing or communicating divine truth.

The humanist view is that religion is a human creation rather than a revelation from a god or gods.

revenueur

reverain

reverent

reversal

reverse

reviler

revisionist

revivified

revivify

revocation

revved

rhabdomancy

n

/ 'rəbdə.man(t)sē /

Gk

divination by rods or wands.

Harry Potter tried throwing a handful of rods on the floor, but he didn't know enough about rhabdomancy to read the pattern.

rhapsodized

rhea

rhenium

rheometer

n

/ rē'amədə(r) /

Gk + Gk

an instrument for measuring the flow of viscous substances.

A rheometer is used for measuring the flow properties of powders, granules, and wet mixes in the drug and cosmetic industries.

rheophilic

rheumatoid

rhexis

rhinophonia

n

/ ,rɪnə'fɒnēə /

Gk + Gk

marked nasal resonance.

The principal's voice is so characterized by rhinophonia that he is called "Mr. Quack" behind his back.

rhipidate

rhizoidal

rhodochrosite

rhumb

rhynchophora

rhythmization

ribat

ribbon

ricer

n

/ 'rɪsə(r) /

Gk > It > F > E

a kitchen utensil designed for pressing cooked soft vegetables or uncooked soft foods through a perforated container so that the resulting product emerges as strings about the diameter of a grain of rice.

Jerry pushed all of the cooked turnips through the ricer.

richness

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Infrequently

rickettsial	roble	rootage
ridability	robot	roquelaure
ridgepole	rochet	rosace
ridgeway	n / 'rächət / F a white ecclesiastical garment resembling a surplice worn especially by bishops and privileged prelates. <i>The bishop entered the sanctuary wearing his rochet and miter.</i>	rosaline
ridicule	rocky	rosary
riflery	rodeo	n / 'rōz(ə)rē / L a string of beads used in counting prayers. <i>Eugenia's collection of prayer beads includes a rosary that was blessed by the Pope.</i>
rightful	n / 'rōdē.ō / L > Sp a public performance that features especially contests in calf roping and bull riding. <i>Little Mikey was only six, but he took the blue ribbon for "Tiny Tot Calf Roping" at the rodeo.</i>	rosella
rightless	roe	rosemary
rigid	roentgenology	n / 'rōz.merē / L > E a fragrant shrubby mint that has a warm pungent bitterish taste and is used as a culinary herb and in perfumery. <i>Monique's mother made her a cup of tea flavored with rosemary.</i>
rigidity	roey	rosinweed
rigidly	rogation	rostrular
rijsttafel	roguishness	rosy
rimfire	rollicksome	adj / 'rōzē / Gk > L > E having a rose-colored complexion : healthy, blooming. <i>Ally's rosy appearance belies how sick she feels.</i>
rimur	roman	rotameter
rinforzando	romaticism	rotary
ringside	rongeur	rotorcraft
rinkafadda	roodle	rotten
n / 'rɪŋkə'fäthə / IrGael an Irish dance resembling the Virginia reel. <i>Brendan loved to step dance, but he refused to even try the rinkafadda.</i>	rook	adj / 'rätən / E decayed, putrid. <i>On at least one day every summer, we put on our work clothes, go out in the garden, and have a good old-fashioned rotten tomato fight.</i>
risible	rookie	
risque	n / 'rükē / (L > F)&E a new member of or candidate for an athletic team. <i>In 1963 Pete Rose was chosen as the National League's Rookie of the Year.</i>	
rivalrous		
riverfront		
rivulose		
roadrunner		
roadworthy		
robber		
robin		

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roughrider

roughshod

roulade

rousseauism

roustabout

roustabouts

router

routineer

rowan

n
/ 'raʊən /
Scand

a Eurasian tree with pinnate leaves and flat corymbs of small white flowers followed by red pomes resembling berries—called also “European mountain ash.”

The rowan at the edge of Aunt Fiona’s garden was damaged during the ice storm.

royally

rubasse

rubbish

rubbishly

rubellite

rubidium

ruby

rucervine

ruckus

rudd

ruff

v
/ 'rʌf /
F

[has homonym: rough] play a trump card when another suit is led.
Alice held so many trump cards that she was able to ruff all but two tricks of the bridge hand.

ruffian

rugby

n
/ 'rʌgbē /

E name
a football game which is played with an oval ball by teams of 15 players each and in which play is continuous.

After playing rugby for two hours, Terence was so dirty his mother made him rinse off outside under the garden hose.

ruinous

rumbustious

rummage

runesmith

rung

runnels
n pl
/ 'rʌnˈlz /
E

rivulets, streamlets.

The earthen dam gave way soon after runnels of water zigzagged down its bank.

runny

adj
/ 'rʌnē /
E

excessively soft and liquid.

The dough for the bran muffins seemed much too runny to Tom.

runway

rupee

rupture

rustler

ruthenium

rutidosis

ryegrass

sabbath

n
/ 'səbəθ /
Heb > Gk > L > F > E

the day of rest and solemn assembly observed as sacred to God by Jews and some Christian churches on the seventh day of the week from sunset Friday until sunset Saturday.

Orthodox Jews do not drive or ride in vehicles on the sabbath; if they want to travel on Saturdays, they must walk.

sabretache

sabreur

sabulosity

saccharide

sacchariferous

sacque

sacrilege

saddle

saddlebag

saddlebow

sadware

safecracking

n
/ 'səf.krækɪŋ /
E + E

the act or process of breaking into a safe especially by explosives to burglarize it.

The robbers’ attempt at safecracking was abruptly ended by the alert guard dogs.

safety

sagittate

sailer

sailor

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saint

n
/ 'sānt /
L > F > E
one officially recognized or acknowledged as preeminent for consecration, holiness, and piety especially through canonization by one of the branches of the Christian church.
Elizabeth Seton, who founded the order of the Sisters of Charity of St. Joseph, was the first native-born American to be canonized as a saint.

saintly

salable

salak

salamandroid

salangane

salaried

salience

saliently

salify

salinelle

salinity

salivate

v
/ 'salə.vāt /
L
produce in the mouth an excessive flow of a secretion that serves to lubricate ingested food.
Whenever Alison thinks about sushi, she begins to salivate.

salsa

n
/ 'sōlsə /
L > Sp
popular music of Latin American origin that has absorbed characteristics of rhythm and blues, jazz, and rock.
Salsa has given its name to a generic style of Latin American dancing.

salt

n
/ 'sōlt /
E
any of a class of compounds typified by sodium chloride that are derived from acids by replacement of part or all of the acid hydrogen by a metal or radical acting like a metal.
Before taking chemistry, Tak thought that all salt was the same.

salvage

samarium

sambal

n
/ 'säm.bäl /
Malay
a condiment made typically of peppers, pickles, grated coconut, salt fish, or fish roe and eaten especially with curry and rice in and around Indonesia and Malaya.
Mindy ate a bowl of rice with vegetables and sambal for lunch.

sampans

samsonite

sanctimoniously

sandals

sander

sandpiper

sandshoe

n
/ 'sand.shü /
E + E
a shoe (as a sneaker) designed for wear in sandy ground.
After a walk on the dunes, Sandra stopped to retie her sandshoe.

sans

sansculotte

sansculottic

sapid

sapiens

saprobic

sapropelic

sapsucker

sarothrum

sashayed

sashless

satanic

satiny

satirically

satisfaction

satrapy

satutable

saturated

adj
/ 'sachərādəd /
L
having the greatest concentration that can remain under given conditions (as of temperature and pressure) in the presence of the dissolved substance.
Raising the temperature of a saturated solution usually makes it no longer saturated because more solute can be dissolved at the higher temperature.

saucerless

sauterne

sautoir

savagery

savarin

sawbuck

sawhorse

sawtooth

saxhorn

saxicolous

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Infrequently

scabby

scalar

scalding

scaler

scallions

scallop

scalpriform

scan

v
/ 'skan /
L > E

look through or over hastily.
The students asked the teacher if they could scan their notes for five minutes before the test.

scandalous

scandium

scansorial

scant

scapular

scarab

scarf

scathing

scaup

scazon

scenic

adj
/ 'sēnik /
Gk
affording or abounding in attractive scenery.
The Grand Canyon is one of America's greatest scenic attractions.

scent

v
/ 'sent /
L > F > E
[has homonyms: cent, sent] use the olfactory organ in seeking or tracking prey.
A hound will jump at the opportunity to scent squirrels and rabbits.

schalstein

scheduled

schismatical

schlich

schnell

schokker

scholasticism

schoolboyish

sciapodous

sciential

scintillator

sciolist

scission

scolopaceous

scoop

scoot

scopious

scorch

scorching
adj
/ 'skó(ə)rchiŋ /
Scand > E
burning or parching with intense heat.
With the temperature a scorching 98 degrees, it was simply too hot to play outdoors.

scoring

scour

scoured

scowl

scrapbook

scrappy

scratchy

screamer

screech

screed

scribbling

scriber

scrim

n
/ 'skrim /
unknown
a transparent theater drop or a transparent section in a drop that appears opaque when a scene in front is lighted and transparent when a scene in back is lighted.
The play's dream sequence was performed behind a scrim to give the illusion of unreality.

scrip

scrivello

scrub

scrupulous

scrutineer

scuffle

scum

scup

scuppaug

scurrilousness

scurry

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scut

n
/ 'skət /
unknown
the short erect tail of an animal and especially a hare or rabbit.
Haley found a rabbit's scut on the barbed wire fence.

scuttled

seaboot

n
/ 'sē.büt /
E + E
a very high waterproof boot used especially by sailors and fishermen.
The sailor had no sooner taken off one seaboot than he was again summoned to the deck.

seaborne

adj
/ 'sē.bō(ə)r /
E
transported by ship.
China agreed to take measures to prevent seaborne wood from introducing the pesky wood-eating beetle to the United States.

seafarer

seafowl

seapoose

n
/ 'sē.pūs /
Algonquian > E
a shallow inlet or tidal stream along the Long Island shore.
Dirk floated a toy boat in the seapoose.

season

secession

secretaries

secretion

sectarian

sectile

sector

secure

v
/ sə'kyū(ə)r /
L
seize and confine a person : hold fast.
The prison rules stated that the guards were to secure all remaining prisoners in the event of an escape.

securely

security

sedimentary

seditionary

seditious

seedbed

seedy

seer

seething

seicento

seismatical

seismograph

sejant

selector

selion

semanticize

semelfactive

semiarid

semifinal

semilunar

semipermeable

adj
/ ,semē'pərmēəbəl /
L + L
of or constituting a membrane that is penetrable by some usually small molecules (as of water or inorganic salts) but bars the passage of other usually larger particles (as protein molecules).
Usually the size of a molecule determines whether it will pass through a semipermeable membrane, but other factors are not well understood.

semiquaver

n
/ 'semē.kwāvə(r) /
L + E
a sixteenth note in music.
The composer believed that every semiquaver of her new symphony was perfect.

senator

senescence

seniority

senseless

sensitive

sensual

sentence

sentimentalizing

v
/ ,sentə'mentl.īzɪŋ /
L + Ecff
looking upon and imbuing with emotion.
Daren made the mistake of sentimentalizing the politician as a poor abused fellow.

separable

septenarius

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Infrequently

septendecimal

adj
/ ,sep.ten'desəməl /
L

relating to the number 17 : based on the number 17.
Rob mistakenly thought that once he had lived beyond his septendecimal year he could do as he pleased in his parents' house.

septicization

n
/ ,septəsə'zāshən /
Gk > L + Ecff

treatment of sewage by bacterial action.
Engineers found a way to utilize the gases produced by the septicization of sewage.

septuplets

n pl
/ sep'təpləts /
L

a group of seven offspring born at one birth.
In November 1997 many people in the United States became fascinated with the birth of septuplets to a family in Iowa.

sepulture

sequacity

sequestered

seraphically

serena

serfism

serialize

serigraph

serinette

seriosity

sermon

n
/ 'sərmən /
L

a religious discourse delivered in public usually by a clergyman as a part of a worship service.
John found the minister's sermon unusually long and tedious but struggled to keep his mind on it.

serology

serum

setting

sexton

sextuplet

sfogato

sgabello

sgraffito

shad

shakuhachi

shalloon

shameless

shampoo

shamrock

shandry

shank

shapeliness

sharecropper

shark

sharkskin

sharp

sharpener

sharpshod

sharpshooter

shawl

n
/ 'shōl /
Per

a usually square or oblong piece of fabric used especially as a covering for the head or shoulders.
Alexandra threw a shawl over her head and ran down the path to the windmill.

sheaf

n
/ 'shēf /
E

[Note: Could be confused with chief, sheave.] a quantity of arrows sufficient to fill a quiver; also : the allowance of arrows (as 24) allotted to each archer.
As a walk-on in the recently released movie, Jason handed Robin Hood a sheaf of arrows for his quiver.

sheargrass

shearwater

sheaved

sheepish

sheepskin

n
/ 'shēp.skɪn /
E + ON > E

a document bearing record of graduation from or of a degree conferred by an educational institution.

Jesse was so proud of her sheepskin that she framed it and hung it in her den.

sherry

sherryvallies

shigellosis

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Infrequently

shimmered

v
/ 'shimə(r)d /
E

shone with a tremulous or fitful light : gleamed faintly.
As the patterns of moonlight shifted, the frost-covered blades of grass shimmered.

shimmy

n
/ 'shimē /
F > E

a jazz dance popular after World War I which is characterized by a shaking of the body from the shoulders down.
The shimmy enjoyed a brief popularity among the flappers of the 1920s.

shiner

n
/ 'shīnə(r) /
E

black eye.
Sporting a shiner, Clint said, "You should see what the other guy looks like."

shingler

shingles

n pl
/ 'shɪŋgəlz /
L > E

an acute inflammation of the sensory ganglia of spinal and cranial nerves that is associated with a vesicular eruption and neuralgic pains.
Shingles kept Kyle out of school for two weeks.

shinnery

shinplaster

shiny

shipboard

shipshape

shock

n
/ 'shäk /
Gmc > F

a state of profound depression of the vital processes of the body characterized by pallor, rapid but weak pulse, anxiety, and nausea or vomiting.
Severe injuries in an automobile accident could cause a person to go into shock.

shogun

shone

v
/ 'shōn /
E

[has homonym: shown] emitted rays of light : beamed with steady radiance.
Shutters closed for many years were thrown open to let the brilliant sunlight shine where it hadn't shone in so long.

shoo

shoplifting

n
/ 'shöp.liftɪŋ /
E + ON > E
the stealing of goods on display in a store.
Shoplifting becomes a serious problem for merchants especially around Christmas time.

shortcake

n
/ 'shört.käk /
E + ON > E

a sweet baked dough spread with fruit and served cold.
Strawberry shortcake is a delicious summer treat.

shortening

n
/ 'shörtˈniŋ /
E

an edible fat used to make baked goods flaky or crumbly.
A good pie crust can be made with half a cup of shortening.

shorthanded

adj
/ 'shō(ə)rt.handəd /
E + E

short of the regular or necessary number of people.
Because the boys felt they had an advantage over their smaller opponents, they agreed to play basketball shorthanded.

should

showstopper

n
/ 'shō.stäpə(r) /
E + E

an act, song, or performer that wins applause so prolonged as to interrupt a performance.
The song "Memory" proved to be the showstopper in the musical Cats.

shrievalty

shrine

n
/ 'shrīn /
L > E

an object, structure, or place that is considered sacred by a religious group and that serves as the focus of the performance of some ritual.
The Western Wall in Jerusalem is a Jewish shrine that receives millions of visitors annually.

shrivel

shrunk

shuba

shuffle

v
/ 'shəfəl /
E

perform a dance with a dragging, sliding step.
As the dance marathon wore on, the tired participants began to shuffle from side to side.

shutter

sial

sialagogue

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Infrequently

sibilance

sibilatory

sibling

sickish

adj

/ 'sɪkɪʃ /

E

making somewhat ill.

A sickish odor filled the hospital room.

siesta

n

/ sɛ'ɛstə /

L > Sp

an afternoon nap or rest.

Some Latin American countries have extra periods of rush hour traffic as people go home for their siesta.

sieving

siglum

signality

signet

signifier

signorina

Sikkimese

n pl

/ sɪkə'mɛz /

Indian geog name

natives or inhabitants of the state of Sikkim in northeastern India.

Many Sikkimese believe that certain mountains are protective deities.

silane

n

/ 'sɪ.lān /

ISV

any of several silicon hydrides having the general formula analogous to that of hydrocarbons of the methane series.

When exposed to air, some types of silane will ignite spontaneously.

silencer

silver

similar

simmer

v

/ 'sɪmə(r) /

imit E

stew gently with a bubbling sound below or just at the boiling point.

The chef explained that the carrots should simmer in the broth for several minutes before the other vegetables were added.

simoniac

simplicial

sincere

single

n

/ 'sɪŋɡəl /

L > F > E

a one-dollar bill.

Maria searched her wallet for a single to give the cloak room attendant as a tip.

singlesticker

singleton

n

/ 'sɪŋɡəltən /

L > F > E

a card (as in bridge) that is the only one of its suit originally held in a hand.

Daphne could see that she would have a difficult time winning the hand, since she held only a singleton of the trump suit.

singsong

sinistrad

sinistration

sinkage

sinology

n

/ sɪ'näləʃjē /

Chinese? > Ar > Gk > L > F + Gk > Ecf

[has homonym: cynology] the study of the Chinese especially with reference to their language, literature, history, and culture.

Kim's graduate work in sinology led her to spend a semester at Heidelberg University's Institute of Chinese Studies.

sinople

sinuate

sinus

n

/ 'sɪnəs /

L

a cavity in the substance of the bone of the skull that usually communicates with the nostrils and contains air.

Since Pauline has no frontal sinus, she never gets bad sinus headaches.

siphorhinal

siriasis

sirop

sisal

situation

sizzling

skate

n

/ 'skāt /

Gmc > F > D

a shoe with a metal runner or a set of wheels fastened to the sole.

After a few laps around the rink, Jeff had to tighten up his skate.

skellum

skerrick

sketchy

skiametry

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Infrequently

skiff

skiffle

skiing

skim

v
/ 'skim /
E

read, study, deal with, or examine superficially and rapidly; specifically : glance through (as a book) for the chief ideas or the plot.
Haley often goes to the bookshop on Saturday mornings to skim the current best sellers.

skimmer

n
/ 'skimə(r) /
E

a usually straw flat-crowned hat with a wide straight brim.
Dad had a photo of Grandpa at the train station waving good-by with his skimmer.

skin

skinny

adj
/ 'skinē /
E

thin and lacking flesh (as from emaciation).
Barbara described Frank as "a skinny little guy with a great sense of humor."

skintight

skit

skua

skullcap

n
/ 'skəl.kap /
Scand > E + L > F > E
any of various close-fitting brimless cloth caps for indoor or outdoor wear.
In a corner of the restaurant sat a solitary bearded man wearing a black skullcap and reading a newspaper.

skunk

n
/ 'skʌŋk /
Algonquian
any of various common New World mammals which eject an intensely malodorous secretion when startled or attacked.
Luckily the skunk has warning coloration and is easy to recognize.

skunkweed

n
/ 'skʌŋk.wēd /
Algonquian + E
any of several offensive-smelling herbs.
The skunkweed poked its nose through the surface of the swamp.

skydiving

skyjack

skyjacking

n
/ 'skī.jakɪŋ /
N > E + unknown
the commandeering of an airplane in flight by the threat of violence.
By skyjacking a passenger plane, the terrorists intended to force the authorities to release their imprisoned leader.

slaked

slander

n
/ 'slændə(r) /
L > F > E
utterance of false charges or misrepresentations which defame and damage reputation.
After the heated debate, one candidate threatened to sue the other for slander because of his defamatory remarks.

slangkop

slanguage

slargando

slate

adj
/ 'slæt /
F > E
of the color of any of various grays similar in color to common roofing slates.
The contractor recommends black shutters and slate shingles for the house Karen's family is building.

slavishly

slick

slickenside

slipper

n
/ 'slipə(r) /
E
a light low-cut shoe that is easily slipped on the foot.
Fred's puppy came running into the room shaking a slipper in his mouth.

slipstream

slither

sloe

sloeberry

slogan

sloop

slough

slovenliness

sluiced

slurp

slurry

slurvian

smallish

adj
/ 'smɒlɪʃ /
E
slightly below normal size.
Mr. Sidgwick bought a smallish turkey for Thanksgiving.

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Infrequently

smallpox

n
/ 'smɒl.pəks /
E

an acute contagious virus disease characterized by high fever and skin eruptions which often result in scar formation.

A vaccine is available that will prevent a person from contracting smallpox.

smattering

n
/ 'smədə(r)ɪŋ /
imit? > E

an inconsiderable number or amount especially of similar but distinct individuals or parts : piecemeal collection.

After only a smattering of museum goers showed interest in the exhibit, it was replaced earlier than originally planned.

smileless

smirch

smiris

smoothbore

smuggleable

smuggler

n
/ 'smʌg(ə)lə(r) /
G&D

one who imports or exports anything in violation of the customs laws.

The smuggler was arrested at the airport when cocaine was found in his luggage.

snaffle

snaggletooth

snakily

snare

n
/ 'sna(a)ə(r) /
ON > E

something by which one is entangled or involved in difficulties; often : something deceptively attractive.

Danny has learned the hard way that a smile on the face of a dishonest salesperson can be a snare.

snazzy

sneaker

n
/ 'snēkə(r) /
E

a shoe usually of canvas with a pliable rubber sole worn especially for sports or hiking.

Chip complained that his mom had bought him the wrong kind of sneaker for basketball.

sneer

n
/ 'sni(ə)r /
G?

an expression, remark, or saying that manifests derision, disdain, or contempt.

Roberto's sneer hurt Rachel's feelings.

sniff

v
/ 'snɪf /
E

draw air audibly up the nose.

Klaus is wont to sniff at whatever he does not like.

snifter

n
/ 'snɪftə(r) /
E

a large short-stemmed goblet with a bowl narrowing toward the top in which the aroma of brandy can be savored before drinking.

Heather poured a bit of calvados into a snifter.

sniperscope

snipsnapsnorum

snitch

n
/ 'snɪtʃ /
unknown

one who gives incriminating evidence against someone, especially an associate.

A snitch tipped the police as to where they could find the robbery suspect.

snivel

v
/ 'snɪvəl /
E

speak or act in a whining, sniffing, tearful, or weakly emotional manner.

Uncle Ron sternly told Susie not to snivel when she asked for something.

snook

snooker

n
/ 'snʊkər /
unknown

pool played with 15 red balls having a value of 1 each and 6 variously colored balls having values of from 2 to 7 respectively on which the striker may play only after pocketing a red ball.

Morris learned to play snooker during his junior year abroad at a British university.

snooty

snout

n
/ 'snaʊt /
E

the human nose especially when large or grotesque.

Her scarlet eyes stared over her gruesomely fattened snout.

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Infrequently

snowshoe

n
/ 'snō.shü /
E + E

a light oval frame that is strengthened by two crosspieces strung with thongs and attached to the foot and that is used to enable a person to walk on soft snow without sinking.

The deeper the snow and the heavier the wearer, the larger the snowshoe should be.

snuffer

soapbush

sobeit

soberly

sobornost

soccer

n
/ 'säkər /
shortened E form
a game with 11 players on a side in which the ball is advanced by kicking or by propelling it with any part of the body except the hands and arms.
Worldwide, soccer is probably the most popular team sport.

sockeye

n
/ 'sä.kī /
Salish dialect > E
a small but very important Pacific salmon attaining an average weight of about five pounds and ascending rivers chiefly from the Columbia northward to spawn in late summer or fall.
Tommy had to fight the sockeye for five minutes before finally landing it.

socratically

socratism

soda

n
/ 'sōdə /
Ar? > L > It
the hygroscopic crystalline anhydrous normal salt.
Soda, one of the constituents of glass, used to be obtained from the ash of sea plants.

soilage

solacement

solate

solderable

soldering

solemnize

solential

solepiece

solicitudinous

solid

adj
/ 'sä.läd /
L
having an interior filled with matter.
The stalks of some plants are not solid.

solidarity

soligenous

soliloquize

soluble

adj
/ 'sä.lyə.bəl /
L
susceptible of being dissolved in or as if in a fluid.
Salt and sugar are soluble in water.

solvent

n
/ 'sälvənt /
L
a liquid component of a solution present in greater amount than the solute.
"Obviously," said Dr. Powers, "the best solvent for a material is usually related to its chemical structure."

somatophyte

somatotonia

somnifacient

somnivolency

somnolently

sone

n
/ 'sōn /
L > ISV
[has homonym: sewn] a subjective unit of loudness for a given listener equal to the loudness of a 1,000-cycle sound that has an intensity 40 decibels above the listener's own threshold.
The sone is a more practical unit of loudness than the phon, because sounds do not appear to increase proportionately with the number of phons.

songster

n
/ 'sōŋz.tə(r) /
E
one that is skilled in song.
The songster Cole Porter brought a worldly enthusiasm to American musical comedy stage.

soothsayer

sophrosyne

sopranino

soprano

sorceress

sorites

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Infrequently

soroptimist

sorosis

sostenuto

soteriology

souffle

soulful

soulless

adj
/ 'sɔɪləs /
E + Ecf

having no manifestation of a spiritual or moral nature.
After several years in a city they found soulless, Arthur and Sylvia bought a dairy farm in Vermont.

soundest

sounding

sourdine

sourwood

soutenu

sovietologist

spade

spadeful

spaghetini

spallation

spanner

sparable

spartanize

spasmodically

adv
/ spaz'mädək(ə)lē /
Gk
in a sudden violent and temporary manner.
Tupper spasmodically jerked his leg away from the blow.

spastic

spatha

spatialize

speakerphone

n
/ 'spēkə(r)fōn /
E + Gk
a combination microphone and loudspeaker device for two-way communication by telephone lines.
Ruby turned on the speakerphone so he could tend to the stove and continue talking.

special

spectrology

speechifier

speedball

n
/ 'spēd.bòl /
E + ON > E
a game resembling soccer but permitting a ball caught in the air to be passed with the hands.
The fourth grade played speedball at recess.

spelunker

sphenocephaly

spheroidize

sphragistics

sphygmometer

spicier

adj
/ 'spisēər /
L > F > E
having more of a fragrance suggestive of spices.
The new potpourri was much spicier than the old one.

spicigerous

spikenard

spiling

spilth

spindle

spindrift

spinster

spiracular

spiriform

spirited

adj
/ 'spirədəd /
L
full of life or vigor.
The spirited debater delivered a persuasive speech.

spitzer

splacknuck

spleen

splendor

splurge

splurgy

spoil

spoilage

spoilsport

spokeshave

spoliator

spoor

n
/ 'spú(ə)r /
D > Afrikaans
a mark, a trail, a scent, a sound, or droppings left by one that has passed.
Moxie found the spoor of a cat in the garden.

sporomorph

sporophore

sportswear

spotlight

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Infrequently

sprain

v
/ 'sprān /
unknown
weaken by sudden and violent twisting or wrenching.
Unaccustomed to wearing high heels, Sarah might sprain her ankle if she tried to run in them.

spreader

sprig

springbok

spritsail

sprocket

spryness

spurnwater

squails

squalidity

squandering

v
/ 'skwānd(ə)rɪŋ /
unknown
spending extravagantly or wastefully.
The wealthy heir was criticized for squandering his inheritance at the gambling casinos.

square

n
/ 'skwa(a)(ə)r /
L > F > E
[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word.] a builder's unit of floor or roof area equal to 100 square feet.
The contractor told the Driscolls that they would need a square of roofing material to finish the job.

squat

squatter

squdgy

squeak

squinch

squint

squirearch

staatenbund

stabbing

stability

stabilizer

stachyose

staffage

stagecoach

stagflation

stagiary

staginess

stakeout

n
/ 'stāk.aüt /
E + E
a surveillance maintained by one or more police officers over an area or person suspected of criminal activity.
Police set up a stakeout at the intersection where drug dealers were said to be doing business.

stalactites

stalag

stamen

n
/ 'stāmən /
L
[has near homonym: stamin] the male reproductive organ of a flower.
When the honeybee touched the stamen, pollen stuck to its legs.

standard

n
/ 'standə(r)d /
F > E
a pole or spear bearing some conspicuous object (as a banner) at the top formerly used to mark a rallying point, to signal, or to serve as an emblem.
Before Caesar entered the room, a messenger entered bearing his standard.

standing

n
/ 'standɪŋ /
E
position or condition in society or in a profession.
Rumors about the mayor's expense account have certainly hurt his standing in the community.

standstill

staphylococci

staple

n
/ 'stāpəl /
E
a small U-shaped wire both ends of which are driven through layers of thin and easily penetrable material (as paper or paperboard) and usually clinched to hold the layers together.
Leigh wanted to make a photocopy of the document, but first she had to remove the staple.

stapler

stapp

n
/ 'stap /
Am name
a unit of force caused by acceleration and equal to 1 G acting on a body for 1 second.
Astronauts commonly use the stapp when referring to the G-forces endured at takeoff.

starer

starling

startling

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Infrequently

stases

stash

station

n
/ 'stāshən /
L

the place or position in which something or someone stands or is assigned to stand or remain; as : a post of duty.

Just before the mock fire drill each member of the observation team took his station.

statolatry

status

n
/ 'stādəs /
L

position or rank in relation to others.

Fernando's status in the company changed dramatically after he completed his degree.

stauroscope

stave

steadfast

steadfastly

adv
/ 'sted.fastlē /
E

in a firmly established manner.

The castle steadfastly weathered the storms through the ages.

steam

v
/ 'stēm /
E

cook by direct exposure to or in a vessel surrounded by the vapor of liquid heated to the boiling point.

Some cooks like to steam vegetables in broth rather than in water for added flavor.

steel

n
/ 'stēl /
E

[has homonyms: steal, stele] commercial iron that contains carbon in any amount up to about 1.7 percent.

Changing the carbon content of steel greatly affects its malleability.

steely

steeplejack

n
/ 'stēpəl.jak /
E

one whose work is building or repairing smokestacks, towers, or steeples.

The steeplejack found a stalk of corn growing atop the belfry.

stegosaurian

stelliferous

stellify

stenography

stenophagous

stenosis

stere

n
/ 'sti(ə)r /
Gk > F

[has homonym: steer] a metric unit of volume equal to 1 cubic meter.

The stere is the metric counterpart of the cord, which is 128 cubic feet of stacked wood.

stereognosis

n
/ .sterēäg'nōsəs /
Gk + Gk

ability to perceive or the perception of material qualities (as form, weight) of an object by handling or lifting it : tactile recognition.

To test his stereognosis after his head injury, Barry was blindfolded and handed different shapes to fit into a form board.

stereopsis

sterling

adj
/ 'stərliŋ /
E

of full value or first quality : conforming to the highest standard : genuine.

The recipient of the Citizen of the Year award was cited for her sterling character and matchless energy.

sternum

sternutator

n
/ 'stərnyə.tādər /
L

an agent that induces a flow of nasal secretion or causes sneezing.

A gaseous sternutator was used against soldiers in World War I.

sternway

stethoscopy

stew

v
/ 'st(y)ü /
Gk > L > F > E

cook in a little liquid over a gentle fire without boiling.

It is sometimes advisable to stew an older chicken rather than roast it.

sthene

n
/ 'sthēn /
Gk > ISV

a meter-kilogram-second absolute unit of force equal to 1,000 newtons or 100 million dynes.

Part of Nick's physics homework consisted of converting measurements from the newton to the sthene to the dyne.

stichomythia

n
/ .stikə'mithēə /
Gk

dialogue especially of altercation or dispute delivered in alternating lines (as in classical Greek drama).

The argument continued in stichomythia until the characters realized the futility of such bickering.

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Infrequently

stickleback

stickler

sticky

adj
/ 'stikē /

E
having the quality of adhering.
The sticky gum would not come off of Ann's finger.

stiffener

stigma

stigmata

stilb

n
/ 'stilb /
Gk > ISV

a centimeter-gram-second unit of brightness equal to 1 candle per square centimeter of cross section perpendicular to the rays.
The luminous paint on a watch dial usually registers only a tiny fraction of a stilb.

stiletto

stilt

n
/ 'stilt /

E
one of two poles each with a rest or strap for the foot used to elevate the wearer above the ground in walking.
Waldo had to add the length of the stilt to his leg length to get the proper trouser measurement for his clown costume.

stimulate

stingray

stinkstone

n
/ 'stɪŋk.stōn /

E
a stone that emits a fetid smell on being struck or rubbed owing to decomposition of organic matter.
Stinkstone, a variety of limestone, is also called swinestone.

stipple

stipulate

v
/ 'stɪpyə.lāt /

L
make an express demand for some term in an agreement.
Many corporations who allow employees to telecommute also stipulate the working hours and equipment to be used.

stitch

v
/ 'stɪtʃ /

E
fasten, join, or close with or as if with loops of thread.
The brain surgeon was justly famous for the speed and skill with which she could stitch.

stomachic

stomatitic

stone

n
/ 'stōn /

E
[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word.] an official British unit of weight equal to 14 pounds.
Elizabeth's New Year's resolution is to lose 1 stone before the arrival of summer.

stool

n
/ 'stūl /

E
a device for sitting usually consisting of a single wooden or upholstered seat without back or arms supported by three or four legs or by a central pedestal.
The actor playing the court jester sat on a low stool near the king's throne.

stopwatch

storis

storyteller

stout

adj
/ 'staüt /
Gmc > F > E
characterized by physical or moral bravery : courageous, valiant.
The scoutmaster praised Jim, referring to him as "a brave lad with a stout heart."

stoutly

stovepipe

n
/ 'stōv.pīp /
G > D > E + E
a very tall silk hat.
In honor of Lincoln's birthday, David, wearing a frock coat, stovepipe, and false beard, recited the "Gettysburg Address" for the class.

stow

straddle

stragglingly

strait

stramineous

straphangers

strawberry

n
/ 'strō.berē /
E

[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word.] a small mark or bruise that is of a moderate red or purplish red color.
The strawberry on Martha's thigh is a birthmark.

strawbreadth

streetscape

streptococcus

stretchable

adj
/ 'stretchəbəl /
E
capable of being extended.
The kitten tugged at Alvin's stretchable sock.

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Infrequently

strictness

stridency

stridulous

stringendo

stripling

stromatolite

strong

adj
/ 'strɒŋ /

E
having great muscular power.
Johnny is as strong as a bull.

stronghold

n
/ 'strɒŋ.həʊld /

E
a fortified place.
As the marching soldiers crested the hill, the duke's stronghold came into view.

strophe

strophic

adj
/ 'strəfɪk /

Gk
relating to, containing, or consisting of a rhythmic system composed of two or more lines repeated as a unit.
The strophic pattern of the poem helped Miriam memorize it.

structural

stucco

stuccowork

studied

study

v
/ 'stʌdi /

L
apply the mind to the acquirement of knowledge.
Flora helped her roommate to study for her exam.

stuff

v
/ 'stʌf /
F > E

prepare (meat or vegetables) for cooking or eating by filling or lining with a seasoned mixture.
Bella plans to stuff the turkey with a mixture of cornbread, sausage, and onions.

stuffily

stuffy
adj
/ 'stʌfi /

F > E
oppressive to the breathing.
The air in the tunnel leading into the pyramid was stuffy.

stultify

stummel

stupeficient

stupor

n
/ 'st(y)üpə(r) /

L
a chiefly mental condition marked by absence of spontaneous movement, greatly diminished responsiveness to stimulation, and usually impaired consciousness.
After staying up all night to study, Ellen ended up taking her exam in a stupor.

styliform

stymieing

subconscious

subcontraoctave

subcortex

subculture

subdermal

subdued

adj
/ səb'd(y)üd /
L

reduced or lacking in force or intensity.
The subdued dog could become ferocious when threatened.

subereous

subfebrile

subjacent
adj
/ ,səb'jās'nt /

L
lying under or below.
The hills and subjacent valleys were cloaked in the heavy, wet snow.

subjective

sublease

sublunary

adj
/ 'səbli:nərē /

L
characteristic of or pertinent to this world : terrestrial, mundane.
One suffragette declared that men had undertaken the "absolute control of all sublunary matters."

submerge

suborning

subphylum

subplot

subreptary

subreption

subscribe

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Infrequently

subshell

n
/ 'səb.shel /
L > E + E
any of the one or more spaces occupied by the orbits of a group of electrons of approximately equal energy surrounding the nucleus of an atom.
Fred explained that most elements have more than one subshell of electrons.

substantive

subsume

subtle

subtrahend

n
/ 'səbtrə.hend /
L
a quantity that is to be deducted from a minuend in the mathematical operation of subtraction.
In the equation $14 - 8 = 6$, 8 is the subtrahend.

subtuberant

suburban

adj
/ sə'bərbən /
L
of, relating to, inhabiting, or located in the residential area on the outskirts of any city or large town.
The farm on which George spent his childhood years has been swallowed up in suburban sprawl.

succinctness

sucrose

n
/ 'sü.krōs /
F > ISV + L > Ecf
a sweet water-soluble sugar that occurs naturally in most land plants especially in the juices, fruits, and roots.
Sucrose was the last in a long list of organic substances whose chemical formulas Callie had to memorize that night.

sudatory

sudorific

sugarloaf

suite

sulcus

sulfofying

sulky

sullenly

summit

summons

n pl
/ 'səmənz /
F > E
a warning or citation to appear in court.
As an eyewitness to the robbery, Alicia received a summons to give testimony in court.

sumo

n
/ 'sü(.)mō /
Jpn
a Japanese form of wrestling in which a contestant loses the match if he is forced out of the ring or if any part of his body except his feet touches the ground.
As part of their study of Japanese culture, the class watched an hour of sumo on ESPN.

sumptuously

sunbonnet

n
/ 'sən.bänət /
E + L > F > E
a woman's bonnet with a wide brim framing the face and usually having a ruffle at the back to protect the neck from the sun.
Meghan was so fair-skinned that she never left the house without a sunbonnet.

sundown

n
/ 'sən.daün /
E + E
[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word.] a broad-brimmed hat for women.
Diane put on a straw sundown and took a stroll on the gorgeous beach.

sundry

sunflower

adj
/ 'sən.fläu(ə)r /
E + L > F > E
of or resembling any of various plants with large yellow-rayed flower heads bearing edible seeds that yield an edible oil.
The brown iris was slashed with yellow, the color of sunflower honey.

sunny

adj
/ 'sənē /
E
[has homonym: sonny]
characterized by brilliant sunlight.
Mo added a sunny porch to the back of her house.

sunstone

sunstroke

n
/ 'sən.strōk /
E
heatstroke caused by direct exposure to the Sun.
Sharon suffered a sunstroke when she ran the marathon in mid-August.

superabundant

adj
/ .süpə(r)ə'bəndənt /
L
being considerably more than is sufficient.
The cheerleader's superabundant zeal was a little sickening to Carla.

superannuate

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Infrequently

supercool

v
/ 'süpər.kül /
L + F

reduce in temperature to below the freezing point without solidification or crystallization.
Tage had to first supercool the liquid and then be careful not to stir it; otherwise, it would quickly solidify.

superego

superencipherment

n
/ .süpə(r)ən'sifə(r)mənt /
L + L + Ar > L > F + Ecf
converting into code what already is a cryptogram especially in code.
Jason is an ace code breaker and has recently become interested in superencipherment.

supererogate

supererogatory

superimposable

adj
/ .süpərəm'pözəbəl /
L
capable of covering or of being covered.

If a superimposable ion or molecule is placed over the other, the positions of all the atoms will match.

superrational

adj
/ .süpə(r)'rashən¹l /
L
transcending the power of reason.
Many novelists address the superrational aspects of love in their works.

supplant

v
/ sə'plənt /
L > F > E
take the place of : oust from a position and serve as a substitute for especially by reason of superior excellence or power.
Harry's goal is to supplant the current floor supervisor.

suppletory

supply

suppositional

surcharge

n
/ 'sər.chärj /
F > E
a price demanded for a thing or service in excess of the usual or normal amount.
The overnight delivery service has a steep surcharge for weekend delivery.

surcingle

surmisable

surmountable

adj
/ .sər'maüntəbəl /
F > E + Ecf
capable of being overcome.
Quentin is confident that most of the problems associated with his learning disability are surmountable.

surprising

surrealist

surrogacy

surveil

suspend

v
/ sə'spend /
L
hang so as to be free on all sides except at the point of support.
Tony will suspend a tennis ball from the garage ceiling to help him know how far he can drive into the garage.

suspended

adj
/ sə'spendəd /
L
withheld for a time under specified conditions.
Because this offense was his first, Mike was given a suspended sentence instead of a jail term.

suspenders

n pl
/ sə'spendə(r)z /
L > F > E + Ecf
two supporting bands of elastic, leather, or cloth worn across the shoulders and fastened at the waistline to trousers or a skirt.
They had worn their coats to town, but they ate in their striped shirts and suspenders.

suspension

swampy

swarm

n
/ 'swó(ə)rm /
E
a great often overwhelming number usually in motion and especially migratory : a dense moving crowd or throng.
A swarm of preteen girls and their parents headed for the entrance doors of the concert hall.

swarming

swartrutter

swedes

n pl
/ 'swēdz /
D > G
[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word.]
rutabagas.
The farmer's shed was filled with baskets of potatoes, swedes, and turnips.

sweet

adj
/ 'swēt /
E
pleasing to the smell : fragrant.
Kara's mother loves the sweet smell of gardenia blossoms.

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Infrequently

swing

n
/ 'swɪŋ /
E

jazz dancing in moderate tempo with a peculiar lilted syncopation.
Martin urged Rhonda to learn the swing with him.

switch

switchback

n
/ 'swɪtʃ.bæk /
D? + E

a zigzag road or trail in a mountainous region.
The switchback was so steep that Amber had to back her truck up the next leg rather than turn around and go forward.

swizzle

syagush

sycophants

sycosis

syllabary

syllabic

syllipsis

symbiotically

symblypharon

sympatry

symptomatic

synanthous

synchnocarpous

synchronistic

synchronization

n
/ .sɪŋkrənə'zāʃhən /
Gk + Gk + Ecff

the act or result of making dialogue, music, or sound effects exactly simultaneous with the action shown in a motion picture.
The synchronization in early foreign movies was sometimes ludicrous, with mouths moving when no speech was heard.

synchronize

synclastic

syncretize

synodal

synonymical

syntactician

syntality

synusia

systaltic

system

tabasco

tablets

tachyarrhythmia

tachygrapher

tacitly

adv
/ 'tasətlē /
L + Ecf

in a manner that is implied or indicated but not actually expressed.
The school administration does not enforce the dress code, perhaps tacitly acknowledging that it needs to be changed.

tack

v
/ 'tak /
E

nail, pin, or affix with small sharp-pointed, broad-headed nails.
The landlady told Tristan that although hanging large pictures was not permissible, he could tack a calendar to the wall.

tacker

tact

n
/ 'takt /
L

[has homonym: tacked] a keen sense of what to do or say in a difficult or delicate situation in order to maintain good relations with others or avoid offense : diplomacy.
Tact is an inestimable quality in an administrative assistant.

taffy

tagliarini

tailspin

taintless

talking

talmouse

Talmud

n
/ 'täl.müd /
Heb

the authoritative body of Jewish law and tradition developed on the basis of the scriptural law after the closing of the Pentateuchal text about 400 B.C.
Benjamin studied Torah and Talmud at the yeshiva.

talmudism

talmudist

talon

talus

tammy

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Infrequently

tangled

tantalum

Taoism

n
/ 'taü.izəm /
Chin + Ecf

a religion and philosophy of China traditionally founded by Lao-tzu in the sixth century B.C.
Many of the 20 million adherents of Taoism practice tai chi and Chinese herbal medicine.

taperer

tapeworm

taphonomy

n
/ ta'fänəmē /
Gk

the study of the processes (as burial, decay, and preservation) that affect animal and plant remains as they become fossils.

The archaeology department frequently calls upon a consultant whose expertise is in taphonomy.

tapissier

tarboosh

targhee

tarry

tartareous

tartarly

tartrazine

tasajillo

taskmaster

tasteful

tasteless

adj
/ 'tāstləs /
E + Ecf

having no flavor.
Giorgio, the son of a jeweler, was amused to hear his chemistry professor describe diamonds as tasteless.

tatouay

tatters

Taurus

tautness

tautomerism

tawinness

taxidermist

taxidermy

taxonomy

n
/ tak'sänəmē /
Gk + Gk

the study of the general principles of scientific classification.
No one was surprised when the course in taxonomy began with a discussion of Swedish botanist Carl von Linné and his method of binomial nomenclature.

taxophily

tchaviche

teacher

team

n
/ 'tēm /
E

[has homonym: teem] two or more horses, oxen, or other draft animals harnessed to the same vehicle (as a coach, wagon, sled) or to the same plow or other implement.

A team of mules pulled a wagon along the street of the recreated gold-mining town.

tearjerker

n
/ 'ti(ə)r.jərkə(r) /
E + E

an extravagantly pathetic story, play, film, or radio or television program.
The movie turned out to be a two-hankie tearjerker.

teasel

teaspoon

n
/ 'tēspūn /
Chin + E

a small commonly silver spoon suitable for stirring and sipping tea or coffee and having a standard capacity of 1/3 tablespoon.
William realized that he had used a tablespoon of yeast instead of a teaspoon, which led to the overflow of bread dough from the oven.

technetium

technocrat

technophobia

tectiform

tectonosphere

n
/ tek'tänəsf(ə)r /
Gk + Gk

the zone within Earth in which crustal movements originate.
The geologist specialized in the study of the evolution and structure of Earth's tectonosphere.

teething

teethless

telautograph

telecast

telegraphy

telencephalon

teleological

telepathically

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Infrequently

telepathy

telescich

tellurian

tellurium

temple

n
/ 'tempəl /
L

an edifice dedicated to the worship of a deity.

The Johnsons admired the stately architecture of the Mormon temple on their trip to Salt Lake City.

tempo

n
/ 'tem(ɪ)pō /
L > It

rate of motion.

The frenzied dance slowed to a gentle, lyrical tempo.

temporality

tenace

tenant

tenderfoot

tenderize

tendinitis

tendinous

tenor

tenorless

tenpins

n pl
/ 'ten.pɪnz /
E + E

a bowling game using ten bottle-shaped bowling pins and a large ball and allowing each player to bowl two balls in each of ten frames.

Rip van Winkle played tenpins with the strange little men.

tensely

tenseness

n
/ 'ten(t)snəs /
L + Ecf

the quality or state of being stretched tight.

As the starting time for the race got closer, Brian's tenseness increased.

tentiform

tenure

teonanacatl

terbium

teredos

tergiferous

tergiversator

tergiversatory

teriyaki

termolecular

adj
/ 'tərmə.lekyələr /
L + L

relating to or formed from three molecules.

Because a termolecular reaction is the result of the simultaneous encounter of three molecules, very few termolecular reactions occur.

tern

terpsichore

terraciform

terran

n
/ 'terən /
L

Earth inhabitant.

"The terran departed Hartux Station three hours ago at warp speed," said Glarg.

terreplein

territoriality

tessellate

tessera

tetanogenic

tetra

tetrachloride

n
/ 'tetrə.klōrɪd /
Gk

a compound containing four atoms of chlorine with another element or radical.

Carbon tetrachloride is a useful organic solvent.

tetradactyl

tetrahedral

adj
/ 'tetrə.hēdrəl /
Gk

having or made up of four sides.

Sid remembered that a tetrahedral molecule is made up of five atoms with one at the center and the other four at each corner.

tetralemma

n
/ ,tetrə'lemə /
Gk

an argument analogous to a dilemma but presenting four alternatives in the premises.

When Rachel received four equally attractive invitations to the prom, she decided to draw straws to solve the tetralemma.

tetramerous

tetrapteron

tetraptych

tetrastoon

tetrazzini

thallium

thalweg

thankless

thawless

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theatricality

n
/ thē.ətrə'kælədē /
Gk + Ecff

the quality or state of having the characteristics of a stage play or an actor's performance.

The exaggerated gestures and movements are part of the actor's theatricality.

theatrically

theft

theme

thence

theocratic

theologize

theophobia

n
/ thē(,)ō'fōbēə /
Gk + Gk

dread of the wrath of God.

In his theophobia, Brennan was sure that the thunderstorm was directed specifically at him.

theoretically

thereupon

thermochemical

adj
/ thərmō'keməkəl /
Gk

of, relating to, or obtained by the branch of chemistry that deals with the relations existing between heat and chemical reaction or physical changes of state.

George's comparison of thermochemical changes in several reactions revealed a striking variation in enthalpy.

thermocline

thermoduric

thermohydrometer

n
/ thər(,)mōhī'drāmədə(r) /
Gk

an instrument for measuring the specific gravity of a liquid containing an instrument for measuring the temperature of the liquid under test.

Stan took readings from the thermohydrometer every five minutes throughout the experiment.

thermophilic

thermopile

n
/ 'thərməpīl /
Gk + L > F > E

a thermoelectric battery.

The thermopile is used in connection with a galvanometer for measuring minute quantities of radiant heat.

thermoset

adj
/ 'thərməset /
Gk + E

relatively incapable of softening or fusing when heated.

Thermoset plastics are sometimes used in manufacturing industrial molds.

thermotropism

theta

theurgist

theurgy

n
/ 'thē(,)əɹjē /
Gk

the art of compelling or persuading a god or beneficent supernatural power to do or refrain from doing something: specifically : an occult art in which the operator is held to be capable of evoking or utilizing the aid of divine and beneficent spirits.

Theurgy is sometimes called "high magic," and thaumaturgy, the use of magic for nonreligious purposes, is called "low magic."

thiazide

thigh

thingummy

thirdborough

n
/ 'thərd.bər(,)ō /
E

a former English peace officer especially of a tithing.

Old Mr. Hawkins has been the thirdborough of Warwickshire for the last two years.

thixotropy

thong

n
/ 'thŏŋ /
E

a sandal held on the foot by a strap between the toes.

As Sarah walked down the marble hallway, her every step was sounded by a slapping thong.

thonnier

thoracostomy

thorium

thorny

adj
/ 'thŏrnē /
E

beset with trials, vexations, obstacles, or other difficulties.

Grading papers is often a thorny problem for teachers.

those

thousandth

thrasonical

adj
/ thrā'sänəkəl /
Roman name

bragging, boastful.

Cleo's father asked her not to be thrasonical about her birthday presents in front of her brother.

thread

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Infrequently

thrilled

v
/ 'θrɪld /
E

caused to have a shivering or tingling sensation : affected emotionally.

Jeff was so thrilled by the new Star Wars movie that he got back in line to see it again.

thrips

n pl
/ 'θrɪps /
Gk > L

any of some 5,000 species of tiny winged insects of the order Thysanoptera.

To survive the cold winters, thrips hibernate in hollow plant stems on the ground.

thrive

throttlebottom

throwaway

thrummed

thrust

v
/ 'θrʌst /
ON > E

push or drive with physical force.
To open the can, Elmer had to thrust a screwdriver through the lid.

thuggee

thulium

thunder

thundering

thurifer

Thursday

n
/ 'θɜːz(ɪ)də /
ON > E

the day following Wednesday.
Pizza is served every Thursday in the school cafeteria.

tickle

tidewaiter

tidology

tidy

tierce

n
/ 'ti(ə)rs /
L > F > E

a sequence of three playing cards of the same suit.

Roland's tierce led with the ace of hearts and beat Paul's king, queen, and jack of clubs handily.

tierer

tiger

tigereye

tignon

tiki

n
/ 'tɪkɪ /
Maori&Marquesan

a Polynesian wood or stone image set up as a temporary abode or embodiment of a god or other supernatural power but not worshipped as an idol.
The tiki at the entrance to the Polynesian restaurant is genuine.

tilery

timbe

timber

timberline

timbery

timely

adj
/ 'tɪmlɪ /
E

done or occurring at a suitable time.

A timely downpour quenched the fire.

tin

tinderbox

tintinnabulum

tiponi

tipsy

tiptoed

v
/ 'tɪptəʊd /
E + E

walked or proceeded quietly or cautiously walking on or as if walking on the tips or ends of the toes.

The toddler tiptoed slowly toward his parents with his arms outstretched.

tiresomely

tiring

v
/ 'tɪ(ə)rɪŋ /
E

fatiguing, wearying.

Bridget found her job tiring and boring.

tirralirra

tithe

v
/ 'tɪθ /
E

pay or give a tenth part of especially for the support of the church.

The pastor used this Sunday's sermon time to encourage members of the congregation to tithe.

title

titioism

titration

n
/ tɪ'træʃən /
F > E

a determination of the reactive capacity usually of a solution; especially : the analytical process of successively adding measured amounts of a reagent to a known volume of a sample in solution until a desired end point is reached.
Mark prepared to do a titration by transferring 40 milliliters of sodium hydroxide into a flask.

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tittuppy	torpidity	towser
titularly	torridity	toxicant
tizzy	torture	trabant
tjajele	totally	tracer
toadyism	touchdown	traceried
tocusso	n / 'təch.daʊn / L > F > E + E	tractrix
toddler	the act of scoring six points in a football game by being lawfully in possession of the ball on, above, or behind an opponent's goal line when the ball is declared dead.	trade
tombolo	<i>Barnaby intercepted the ball and ran 89 yards to score the most memorable touchdown in his school's history.</i>	trafficker
tomfoolery	touchline	tragicomedy
tonality	n / 'təch.lɪn / L > F > E + E & (L > F)	tragus
tonetics	either of the lines between and at right angles to the goal lines that bound the sides of the field of play in rugby and soccer.	trajection
tonne	<i>The referee ruled that Colin's foot had come down on the wrong side of the touchline.</i>	tranchet
tonometer	toupee	trans
n / tɒ'nɒmədɔ:(r) / Gk		adj / 'trɑn(t)s / L
an instrument for measuring the exact pitch or vibration rate of tones.		[has homonym: trance] having or characterized by various atoms or groups on opposite sides of the molecule.
<i>In 1833, Scheibler put tonometry on a scientific basis with his tonometer.</i>		<i>Heat or irradiation with light can often change a compound from a cis to a trans isomer, although it does not change the type or number of atoms in the compound.</i>
tonsillitic	tournament	transcription
tope	n / 'tʊrnəmənt / F > E	transenna
topgallant	a trial of skill in which many contestants compete for championship in a series of elimination contests.	transformation
topiarist	<i>Laszlo won first place in the state chess tournament.</i>	n / ,trɑnzfə(r)'mɑ:ʃən / L > E
topical	towering	a physiological change of one thing into another (as larva into adult through metamorphosis).
topodeme	town	<i>During the pupal stage the larva of a butterfly undergoes a transformation in which the wings appear and adult structures are developed.</i>
topology	n / 'taʊn / E	
toponomastic	a compactly settled area usually larger than a village but smaller than a city in population.	
toponymic	<i>The town of Oliver Springs was worst hit by the storm.</i>	
topos		
toreutic		
tormentor		

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transgression

n
/ tran(t)s'grɛʃən /
L
the infringement or violation of a law, command, or duty.
The union leader claimed that the company was guilty of a transgression of the labor contract.

transgressor

transilience

translate

translucence

transmitted

transport

transported

adj
/ tranz'pɔrdəd /
L
impassioned or enraptured by strong and usually pleasurable emotion.
As Tom listened to the chanting monks, he felt transported and otherworldly.

trapdoor

trapeze

trapezoid

trawl

treasonable

trecentist

treeing

v
/ 'trēɪŋ /
E
driving to or up a tree.
Strange to say, Jacques and Philip had a hard time treeing that squirrel.

tremor

trencher

n
/ 'trɛnʃə(r) /
F > E
a platter or tray for serving food.
Ten minutes after entering the inn, the wayfarer was working his way through a trencher piled with food.

trepan

trepanation

trephine

trestletree

triadism

trial

triangular

triassic

triceps

trichology

n
/ trə'käləjē /
Gk
the scientific study of hair.
Several experts in trichology manned booths at the cosmetology fair.

trichotomous

trickled

v
/ 'trikəld /
E
ran or fell in drops.
Water trickled out from the hole in the jug.

triclinic

adj
/ trī'klinik /
Gk
having or characterized by three unequal axes intersecting at oblique angles—used especially of a crystal.
Dusty reminded Sam that triclinic crystals have three unequal dimensions and three unequal angles, none of which is 90 degrees.

tricouni

tricycle

triennial

triforium

triglyceride

trilemma

trillionth

trilocular

trilogy

n
/ 'triləjē /
Gk
a series of three dramas or sometimes three literary or musical compositions that although each is in one sense complete have a close mutual relation and form one theme or develop aspects of one basic concept.
The third novel in the trilogy was a sequel to the first, but the second was a prequel to it.

trimester

trinitrotoluene

trinked

trinket

trinkled

trio

n
/ 'trē(,)ō /
L > It > F
a group or set of three.
Ben belongs to a well-known trio of musicians that plays for wedding receptions.

triplicate

triploid

tripodal

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Infrequently

tristful

adj
/ 'trɪstfəl /
L > E + E

sad, melancholy.
The tristful soldier longed for the day he could return home.

triton

n
/ 'trɪtən /
Gk name

one of a class of minor sea divinities or partly human monsters usually represented as having the upper body like that of a human and the lower body like that of a fish : merman.
Greek mythology has it that when the sea roars, a triton is blowing a conch shell trumpet.

Troadic

adj
/ trɔ̄'adɪk /
Gk geog name

of or relating to ancient Troy.
Many remains of the Troadic culture have been excavated near the city of Hisarlik in Turkey.

trochophore

trogon

trophogenic

tropical

adj
/ 'trɒpɪkəl /
L

of, relating to, occurring in, or used in the region lying between either of two parallels of Earth's latitude that are approximately 23½ degrees north of the equator and approximately 23½ degrees south of the equator.
Diana's cruise took her to several tropical islands.

troth

trouble

troublemaker

n
/ 'trʌbəl.məˌkɛ(r) /
L > F > E + E

a person who foments strife and disagreement often for ulterior motives.
The teenaged troublemaker, having proved to be too difficult for his parents to handle, was sent to a reformatory as a last resort.

troublesome

adj
/ 'trʌbəl.səm /
L > F > E + E

disturbing, vexatious.
Gerald had a troublesome dream last night.

troubulously

troughing

trout

truffled
adj
/ 'trʌfəld /
L > OProv > F

cooked, stuffed, or garnished with edible fungi of the genus *Tuber*.
Emilia prepared a delicious truffled risotto with autumn vegetables.

truly

adv
/ 'trʌli /
E
indeed.

Mary is truly the best leader the student government association has had in many years.

trump

v
/ 'trʌmp /
L > F > E

take a set of cards with a card of a suit designated by chance or by an auction or declaration that if legally played will win over a card that is not of this suit.
Sighing, Joe laid down his final card and waited for Janice to trump the trick with a heart.

truncheons

trunk

trying

adj
/ 'trɪɪŋ /
F > AF > E

causing severe hardship, annoyance, or irritation.
The long and trying journey exhausted Deeka.

tryst

tubercular

tubular

tubulifloral

tubuliflorous

tucket

Tuesday

n
/ 't(y)üz(.)dā /
E

the day following Monday.
The English meaning of Mardi Gras is "Fat Tuesday."

tumblebug

tumor

tumultuary

tun

tunnel

turbinado

turbojet

turboprop

turfman

turkey

turner

n
/ 'tɜrnər /
E

[has homonyms: ternar, terner] one that turns or is used for turning.
Matt grabbed a pancake turner and lit out after the cat.

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turnery

turnout

n
/ 'tɜrn.aʊt /
E + E

[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word.] a position of the feet in ballet with the heels back to back.
Kristin did many stretching exercises to improve her turnout.

turnsole

turntable

n
/ 'tɜrn.tābəl /
E + L > F > E
a machine that reproduces speech or music from records.
The CD player has replaced the turntable in many homes.

turriculate

turtle

n
/ 'tɜrdʒl /
imit > L > E
tortoise.
Jaime fed little bits of hamburger to his pet turtle.

turtledove

tussock

tutu

n
/ 'tʊ.tʊ /
F
a very short projecting skirt worn by a ballet dancer.
In the football team's parody of Swan Lake, the quarterback wore a large white tutu.

twain

n
/ 'twān /
E
couple, pair.
The twain of volunteers who made the fund raiser a success are Mr. Burgess and Ms. Kent.

tweak

twice

adv
/ 'twɪs /
E
for a first and second time : on two occasions.
After Reginald wrecked the car twice, his parents took his driving privileges away for three months.

twin

adj
/ 'twɪn /
E
constituting two similar, closely associated, or otherwise paired persons, topics, or objects.
Ms. Venable purchased new mattresses for the twin beds in the guest room.

twirl

v
/ 'twɜrl /
Scand?
revolve rapidly.
Janet hoped Gregory wouldn't try to twirl her too fast around the dance floor.

two

adj
/ 'tu /
E
[has homonyms: to, too] being one more than one in number.
Betsy was more well behaved at two years than she was at three.

tyg

tying

tylosaurus

typewriter

typhonic

typist

typography

typp

tzigane

ubiquity

ufology

ugli

ugliness

uhlan

uletic

ulmaceous

ulpan

ultimo

ultraism

ultramontane

umbelliferous

umbrous

umland

umpirage

n
/ 'ɒm.pɪrɪj /
L > F > E
an act or instance of deciding in the capacity of one having authority to arbitrate and make a final decision.
Daniel Webster declined the umpirage of any state that tried to settle the validity of laws of Congress.

umpty

unaccountable

adj
/ .ənə'kaʊntəbəl /
Ecf + F > E
not answerable or responsible : free from control.
The students were under the mistaken impression that they would be unaccountable for their actions at the football game.

unanimously

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unannotated

v
/ ʌnˈənəˌtādəd /
Ecf + L
not furnished with critical or explanatory notes.
The library's only copy of the poem was unannotated, so Ivan searched the Internet for expert literary criticism.

unappeasable

adj
/ ˈʌnəˌpeɪzəbəl /
Ecf + L > F > E + Ecf
not capable of being brought to a state of ease or content.
The gladiators fought hour after hour before seemingly unappeasable spectators.

unbleached

adj
/ ˌʌnˈblɛcht /
E
not having the color or stains removed from.
Mr. Byng was dressed from head to toe in unbleached linen.

uncensored

adj
/ ˌʌnˈsen(t)sə(r)d /
Ecf + L
not subjected to the system or practice of altering, deleting, or banning completely after examination.
Many parents want to protect their children from uncensored information on the Internet.

uncrystallized

unctuously

uncurl

undercook

v
/ ˈʌndə(r)kʊk /
E + E
heat food insufficiently or less than thoroughly.
Care must be taken not to undercook poultry.

underestimate

underlineation

underneath

prep
/ ˌʌndə(r)ˈniːθ /
E
close under especially so as to be covered or hidden by.
Val found beetles, worms, and a cricket underneath the flagstone.

underscore

understand

undeterred

undulating

unearth

unembroidered

unencumbered

unenforceable

adj
/ ˌʌnənˈfɔ(ə)rsəbəl /
Ecf + F + Ecf
not capable of causing to take effect.
Shasta believes that the state legislature's recent education bill is unenforceable.

unenviable

unequivocal

unerringly

adv
/ ˌʌnˈe(ə)riŋlɪ /
Ecf + L > F > E + Ecff
in a faultless manner : with precision.
Almost everyone leaving the theater felt that the play had been unerringly performed.

uneventful

unfasten

unfilial

unfinished

unfulfilled

adj
/ ˌʌnfʊlˈfild /
Ecf + E
not satisfied.
The president promised to respond to the unfulfilled needs of the people.

ungenteel

unguerdoned

unhappy

adj
/ ʌnˈhɑpɪ /
E
dejected in spirit : melancholy, sad.
Being such an outgoing person, Joan is unhappy when she has no one to talk to.

unicity

unicycle

unify

v
/ ˈyünəˌfɪ /
L
make into a coherent group or whole.
The coach worked hard to unify the players on the team.

unimpeachable

adj
/ ˌʌnəmˈpɛchəbəl /
Ecf + E + L > F > E + Ecf
exempt from liability to accusation : blameless.
An unimpeachable character is an asset almost every candidate strives to project.

unimpeded

adj
/ ˌʌnəmˈpɛdəd /
Ecf + L
free from anything that hampers.
Many services are provided onsite at the plant to ensure that worker productivity is unimpeded.

unipara

unireme

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unity

n
/ 'yünədə /
L

the quality or state of being or consisting of one : oneness, singleness.

Seth quoted Benjamin Franklin's call for unity: "We must all hang together, or assuredly we shall hang separately."

univalent

adj
/ ,yünə'vələnt /
L

capable usually of combining with only one atom of another element.

Mr. Greenwood said that the hydrogen atom is taken to be univalent.

unkemptly

unknown

unlaureled

adj
/ ,ən'lörəld /
Ecf + L > F > E + Ecf

having no acclaim or reward.

Philo T. Farnsworth, a pioneering researcher in television, went mainly unlaureled after selling the rights to his work.

unlawful

adj
/ ,ən'löfəl /
E

contrary to or prohibited by a binding custom or practice of a community.

Everyone hoped for the capture of those responsible for the hideous unlawful deed.

unleash

unloveliness

unnameable

unnatural

adj
/ ,ən'nach(ə)rəl /
E + L

inconsistent with what is expected or in accordance with or determined by nature : strange.

Throughout the year, Ryan has dyed his hair all sorts of unnatural colors.

unpaid

unpierceable

unputrefied

unravel

unreadable

adj
/ ,ən'rēdəbəl /
Ecf + E + Ecf

lacking attraction or interest as material for reading : alien or dull in vein or spirit.

Two years ago Joy found the novel unreadable, but now she cannot put it down.

unredeemed

unregal

unrelenting

adj
/ ,ən'rə'lentiŋ /
E + L > E

not softening, yielding, or swerving in resolution or determination.

The chairman was a stern and unrelenting taskmaster.

unruly

unsanguine

unscathed

unsealed

unseizable

unselfish

unshipped

unsportsmanlike

untalented

unupholstered

adj
/ ,ənəp'hōlztə(r)d /
E + E

not furnished with or as if with materials (as fabric, padding, and springs) used to make a soft covering especially for a seat.

The congregation discussed whether or not the unupholstered church pews should be provided with cushions.

unurbane

adj
/ ,ən.ər'bān /
E + L

not notably polite or finished in manner : rustic, vulgar.

Donald's unurbane table manners disgusted those sitting near him.

unutterable

adj
/ ,ən'ədərəbəl /
E + E + Ecf

not capable of being spoken.

After repeating the phrase toy boat five times in quick succession, Joel found the phrase unutterable.

unvariegated

unvitiated

unvoyageable

unwontedly

upas

upbraidingly

uphill

adv
/ 'əp.hil /
E

against difficulties.

Shawna kept working her way uphill through school.

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uplifted

adj

/ ˌʌpˈlɪftəd /

E + ON > E

raised in spirits.

After a walk along the beach, Pat returned uplifted and refreshed.

uprighteous

uproar

n

/ ˈʌp.rɪ(ə)r /

D > E

a loud usually disorderly noise of some duration.

An uproar swept the auditorium when Wayne sank a three-pointer at the buzzer.

upsilon

upstage

upstairs

uranology

urbanism

urbanize

urceole

urceus

urgent

adj

/ ˈɜrjənt /

L

calling for or demanding immediate attention.

“Let’s go back,” Calvin said in an urgent voice.

urgrund

urostyle

urushiye

usurer

usurpation

usurped

v

/ yü'sɜrpt /

L

seized and held in possession by force or without right.

The senator claimed that the Supreme Court had usurped the powers of the legislatures.

utilize

vacantly

adv

/ ˈvākəntlē /

L

in a manner characterized by absence of thought and reflection : idly, inanely.

Kevin was staring vacantly out the classroom window when the teacher asked him if he knew the answer to the question.

vacherin

n

/ ˌvash(ə)'rən /

L > F

a dessert consisting of a meringue filled usually with cream, ice cream, or fruit.

Muffy bit into a crisp vacherin filled with sweet chestnut puree.

vacillancy

vagal

vagility

vague

vainly

adv

/ ˈvānlē /

L > E

in a manner that fails to achieve a purpose : unsuccessfully.

Firefighters vainly tried to enter the burning house.

valedictorian

validate

vallate

vallecula

valleys

valvulotomy

vamoose

vamplate

vanaspati

vanillin

vaporize

v

/ ˈvāpə.rīz /

L + Ecf

become converted to the gaseous state.

The cooling effect of rubbing alcohol on skin is caused by the extraction of heat as the molecules acquire kinetic energy and vaporize.

vaporous

vaquero

varicella

varices

variegate

variolate

varrio

vasculitis

vase

vasopressor

Vatican

adj

/ ˈvadəəkən /

L

of or relating to the official residence of the pope in Vatican City, Rome, especially as symbolizing the papacy or its policies.

The Vatican collection of religious art is the largest in the world.

vaticinate

vaulted

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vaunt

vectored

Veda

n
/ 'vādə /
Skt

any of a class of the most ancient sacred writings of the Hindus.
The Veda, which is divided into four parts, was first translated into European languages in the late 18th and early 19th centuries.

veer

veery

vegan

vegetablize

veiled

veiltail

veinless

velveret

vendible

venial

veniremen

venomous

ventiduct

ventriloquial

ventriloquize

ventriloquy

verbicide

verbigerated

verbosely

verdureless

veridically

verism

vermiculated

adj
/ və(r)'mikyə.lādəd /
L

wormlike in shape.
The old books that we found in the cellar were filled with vermiculated tunnels.

verneuk

vernier

verruculate

versatility

versicle

n
/ 'vərsəkəl /
L

a brief poem or set of metrical lines.
When he couldn't sleep, Lord Byron often sat up and wrote a versicle or two.

versicolor

adj
/ 'vərsəkələ(r) /
L + L
having various hues : variegated.
The woman in the long, versicolor silk skirt turned out to be the hostess.

versification

verso

n
/ 'və(r)(,)sō /
L
a left-hand page (as of a book) usually carrying an even page number.
The first verso of a book often displays its International Standard Book Number.

verticillate

verticity

vesicular

viands

viaticum

n
/ vi'adəkəm /
L
an allowance (as of transportation or supplies and money) for traveling expenses.
Shirley has spent all but \$50 of the \$500 viaticum her father gave her for her spring break trip.

vicarial

vicennial

adj
/ vi'senēəl /
L
occurring once every 20 years.
The university president recognized the vicennial medalists, who for two decades had dedicated themselves to teaching, scholarship, and service.

viceroyn

vichyite

victory

victuals

video

videography

n
/ .vidē'ägräfē /
L + Gk
the practice or art of recording images with a video camera.
The camcorders used in videography allow for more realism in police drama programs.

viewpoint

vihara

vilification

villa

vinaigrettes

vinegarroon

vinegary

vinic

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viol

viola

violence

violoncellist

viomycin

viraginous

vireo

virescence

virescent

virginal

virtues
n pl
/ 'vər(,)chüz /
L
characteristics, qualities, or traits known or felt to be excellent.
Patience was not one of Keith's virtues.

virtuous

virulence
n
/ 'vir(y)ələn(t)s /
L
the quality or property of being able to overcome the defense mechanism of the host.
Virulence is the capacity of an infectious agent to damage living cells.

virus
n
/ 'vīrəs /
L
the causative agent of an infectious disease.
The Salk vaccine creates immunity to the virus responsible for polio.

viscera
n pl
/ 'visərə /
L
internal organs of the body.
While on safari, the tourists passed a group of vultures feeding on the viscera of a dead zebra.

viscosity

viscosity

viselike

vision
n
/ 'vɪzhən /
L
something seen otherwise than by the ordinary sight.
Ravi keeps having a vision of a giant bowling ball rolling toward him.

visitor

visually
adv
/ 'vɪzhəle /
L
with regard to the act or power of seeing.
A Seeing Eye dog is a great help to a visually impaired person.

vitiated

vitiates

vitriol

vituline

vituperatory

vivid

vivificate

vocalise
n
/ ,vɔkə'leɪz /
L
a vocalized melody or passage without words.
Jazz singing with nonsense syllables is an improvised form of vocalise.

vocalist

vocoder

voicecast

voiceprint
n
/ 'vɔis,prɪnt /
L > F > E + L > F > E
an individually distinctive pattern of certain voice characteristics that is spectrographically produced.
Detectives testified that the kidnapper's voiceprint matches that of the defendant.

voidee

volcanic

vole
n
/ vɔl /
Scand
any of various rodents that are closely related to the lemmings and muskrats but in general resemble murid mice or rats and inhabit both moist meadows and dry uplands.
The vole is a rodent often responsible for crop damage.

volitation

volitional

volitorial

voltammetry

voltigeur

voltmeter
n
/ 'vɔlt.mēdə(r) /
It name + Gk
an instrument for measuring in volts the differences of potential between different points of an electrical circuit.
The voltmeter showed no current moving through the wire.

volume

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volumetric

adj
/ˈvɒlyəˈmetrɪk/
L + Gk
of or relating to the measurement of space occupied or enclosed by cubic units.
The expensive volumetric flask shattered when it slipped from Horace's hands.

volumette

voluptuate

voluptuousness

vomitory

n
/ˈvɒməˈtɔːri/
L
an entrance piercing the banks of seats of a theater or amphitheater.
After the game ended, every vomitory was packed with fans rushing to their cars.

vouvray

vulgarity

vying

waders

n pl
/ˈwɑːdə(r)z/
E
[has near homonym: waiters] high waterproof boots or a one-piece waterproof garment usually consisting of pants with attached boots that are used for wading (as when fishing).
As Bill and Tom canoed down the river, they passed a fly-fisherman in waders who didn't seem too happy to see them.

waffles

waftage

wager

wake

wallydraigle

wambenger

n
/ˈwɑːmbɛŋgə(r)/
unknown
a widely distributed Australian pouched mouse.
The tail of the wambenger is distinctive for its red color.

wampum

n
/ˈwɑːmpəm/
Narraganset
beads made of shells polished and strung together in strands, belts, or sashes and used by the North American Indians as money, ceremonial pledges, and ornaments.
Some of the oldest existing wampum represents agreements between Native American tribes and Catholic missionaries and is now in the Vatican collection.

wampumpeag

wangle

warbonnet

n
/ˈwɒ(ə)r.bənət/
Gmc > F > E + L > F > E
an American Indian ceremonial headdress with a feathered extension down the back.
The Sioux chief proudly posed for the cameras in his eagle-feathered warbonnet.

wardrobe

wares

warhead

warmouth

warp

v
/ˈwɒ(ə)rɪp/
E
turn or twist out of shape.
The constant wind began to warp the entire row of saplings.

warren

n
/ˈwɒrən/
Gmc? > F > E
an area especially of uncultivated ground for the breeding of rabbits; also : a place abounding in rabbits.
Some of the rabbits in the overpopulated warren went elsewhere to find a place to live.

washout

wassailer

wassails

wastebasket

wasteful

adj
/ˈwɑːstfəl/
E + Ec
expending something valuable in a useless or extravagant manner.
The newly elected mayor suspected wasteful spending and initiated a thorough investigation of expenditures.

waster

water

n
/ˈwɒdə(r)/
E
the liquid that descends from the clouds as rain.
Water pelted the windshield so hard and fast that Etsu pulled off to the side of the road and waited for it to stop.

waterborne

watermark

watermelon

watery

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wattle

n
/ 'wäd^əl /
E

[has homonym: waddle] a fabrication of rods or poles interwoven with slender branches, withes, or reeds.

Wattle is often used for garden fences in the English countryside.

waveson

waxbill

wayfarer

wayward

adj
/ 'wāwə(r)d /
E

characterized by extreme willfulness and by determination to follow one's own capricious, wanton, or depraved inclinations to the point of being ungovernable.

The wayward child insisted on touching everybody's food.

wayzgoose

weald

wean

wearying

adj
/ 'wirēij /
E

that causes to lose freshness or virtue or usefulness.

Katerina found the congenial cafes more interesting than the wearying tense casinos.

weaselly

weatherly

weave

v
/ 'wēv /
E

bring together and interrelate so as to form a coherent whole.

No one else on the radio can weave a wonderful story from whimsical tidbits the way Garrison Keillor can.

weber

n
/ 'webə(r) /
G name

the practical meter-kilogram-second unit of magnetic flux equal to that flux which in linking a circuit of one turn produces in it an electromotive force of 1 volt : 100 million maxwells.

Sarah's homework problem required her to find the voltage to the nearest weber.

wedeln

weedery

weeknight

weem

weld

v
/ 'weld /
E

unite or consolidate by heating to a plastic or fluid state the surfaces of the parts to be joined and then allowing them to flow together.

As a sculptor, Erica has a workshop full of equipment to help her weld large metal sheets together.

welder

wenzel

Wesak

n
/ 'wē.säk /
Skt > Sinhalese
the Buddhist New Year festival celebrating the birthday of the Buddha at the May full moon.
In Sri Lanka, Buddhists dress in white and carry baskets of flowers to the monastery to celebrate Wesak.

wesselton

whalebone

whangdoodle

whatnot

wheat

wheatear

wheaten

n
/ 'hwētⁿ /
E

the color of wheat; specifically : a pale yellow or fawn characteristic of certain breeds of dogs.

Wheaten, the color of Missy's soft-coated terrier, sharply contrasts with that of her boyfriend's black Scottish terrier.

wheatless

wheeled

wheelhorse

whet

whiff

n
/ 'hwif /
imit

an inhalation of odor, smoke, gas, or vapor.

The faintest whiff of cigarette smoke made Fagan sneeze.

whillikers

whiplash

whippoorwills

whirlicote

whirlybird

whitewash

whither

whitsunday

whizgig

whopper

wight

wiikite

wildebeest

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wily

windbreaks

n pl
/ 'wind.brəks /
E + E

rowed or clumped trees or shrubs that give protection against the wind.

The farm presented an orderly appearance with the fencing and hedging, the windbreaks and sheds, and the symmetrical pasture ponds.

windjammer

windmill

n
/ 'wind.mil /
E

a mechanism operated by wind motion acting on oblique vanes or sails radiating from a horizontal shaft.

The windmill drew water up from the well for the cattle to drink.

windup

wink

winkle

winterfeed

winterim

winterize

wisecrack

witchery

wittol

woe

n
/ 'wō /
E

[has homonyms and near homonym: wo, woa, and whoa] distress.

Woe to the student who must stay in detention hall with Mrs. McGillicutty.

wolfishly

womanly

adv
/ 'wʊmənli /
E

possessed of the character or behavior befitting a grown woman.
Mona's womanly, capable, and mature attitude belies her true age.

women

n pl
/ 'wimən /
E

female human beings.

Sojourner Truth preached against the evils of slavery and for the rights of women.

wonder

v
/ 'wʌndə(r) /
E

be in a state of rapt or questioning attention.

Though no insight ever hit him, Jules was disposed nonetheless to wonder at life's mysteries.

wood

woodchuck

n
/ 'wʊd.tʃək /

Ojibwa or Cree > E
a thickset marmot of the northeastern United States and Canada with a chiefly grizzled reddish brown color.

The world's most famous woodchuck is probably Punxsutawney Phil.

woodcock

woodier

woodkern

woodpecker

woolder

woozy

workaholism

worldwide

adj
/ 'wɜːld.waɪd /
E

extended or extending throughout the entire world.

There have been no successful attempts to build a worldwide empire in history, unless we count multinational corporations.

worry

v
/ 'wɒri /
E

afflict with mental distress or agitation : make anxious.

Despite her high grades, final exams always worry Lynette because she is a perfectionist.

wort

woven

wretch

wretchedness

n
/ 'retʃədɪnəs /
E

the quality or state of being deeply afflicted, dejected, or distressed from want, disease, or mental anguish.

The homeless man's wretchedness brought Suzanne to tears.

wringstaff

wrinkle

n
/ 'rɪŋkəl /
E

an innovation in method, technique, or equipment.

The newest wrinkle in Internet technology seems to be wireless communication.

wrist

writhingly

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Infrequently

writing

adj
/ 'rɪtɪŋ /
E

of, relating to, or used in or for the act or art of forming letters on a suitable medium to communicate the ideas which characters and words express.

Mr. Burrett grabbed a writing pad off his desk before the meeting.

wrong

n
/ 'rɒŋ /
E

the state of being mistaken or incorrect.

After listening to two skilled lawyers argue a case, it is often difficult to tell which side is in the wrong.

wrongful

wurrung

wurst

xebec

xenobiotic

xenoglossy

xenolith

xenophile

xerarch

xerography

xeroplastic

xiphophyllous

xylytol

xysti

n pl
/ 'zɪstɪ /
Gk > L

long open porticoes used especially by ancient Greeks or Romans for athletic exercises in wintry or stormy weather.

There were xysti at each end of the emperor's villa, and athletes often trained there during the rainy season.

yagi

yak

yam

arak

yardmaster

yards

n pl
/ 'jɑːrdz /
E

units of length in the United States, each equal to 0.9144 meter.

The band marched eight-to-five: eight equal steps for every 5 yards.

yautia

yaw

yawn

v
/ 'jɒn /
E

gape cavernously : present a wide gulf or breach.

In Rocky Mountain National Park there is a dizzying road with valleys that yawn on either side.

yawweed

Yeatsian

adj
/ 'jætsiən /
Irish name

of or relating to W.B. Yeats or his poetic style or influence.

Many young poets publish a series of Yeatsian poems expressing the romance of history and nature.

yegg

yelper

yeomanette

yesterday

yeti

n
/ 'jetɪ /
Tibetan

abominable snowman.

The mountaineer claimed to have found his way out of a blizzard by following the huge footprints of a yeti.

yew

n
/ 'ju /
E

[has homonyms: ewe, you] any of numerous ornamental evergreen shrubs and trees having stiff leaves spirally arranged, a fruit consisting of a fleshy covering enclosing a hard seed, and poisonous juice.

Wood of the English yew is valued for cabinetwork and archery bows.

Yinglish

n
/ 'jɪŋ(ɡ)lɪʃ /
G + E

English marked by numerous borrowings from Yiddish.

Max's grandfather speaks a colorful Yinglish with the younger members of his family.

yizkor

yokelish

yucca

yugur

zazen

n
/ 'zæ.zən /
Jpn

Zen meditation.

Sitting in the lotus position, Naomi found she slipped easily into a state of zazen.

zenana

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Infrequently

Zendo

n
/ 'zɛndō /
Jpn

a place used for Zen meditation.
Thom built a spacious Zendo beside his house and went there every afternoon.

zestful

adj
/ 'zɛstfəl /
F + Ecf

full of vitality marked by vigor and enthusiasm.
Brian's teacher described him as lighthearted but not insensitive, zestful but not aggressive.

zeta

zinciferous

zinger

Zionist

n
/ 'ziɔ.nəst /
Hebrew > L > E

an adherent to or supporter of a theory, plan, or movement for setting up a Jewish national or religious community in Palestine.
The old Zionist vowed he would not take his last breath until the Jewish state was established.

zipper

zither

zoetic

zonule

zoolatry

zoonosis

zoophorus

zoophyte

zooplankter

zooplankton

zootaxy

zooty

Zoroastrian

adj
/ .zɔrə'wɑstrɛən /
Av > Gk > L

of or relating to a religion founded in Persia by the prophet Zoroaster teaching the worship of Ahura Mazda as the source of all good.
The Zoroastrian scriptures preach the concepts of the immortal soul, heaven, and hell.

zucchettos

zwetschenwasser

zygote

zymogenic

zymotic