Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Frequently (S-Z)
skirmish
n
/ˈskɪrmɪsh/
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
/ˈskɪrɛt/
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
/ˈskʊkəm/
Chinook marked by excellent quality: first-rate. *Liz felt sure that the pail of blueberries would make a skookum pie.*

slalom
n
/ˈslæləm/
Norw skiing in a zigzag or wavy course between upright obstacles. *Tully did the slalom down the mountainside.*

slanderous

slantindicular
adj
/ˈslæntɪndɪkjʊlər/ E + L > F > E
somewhat oblique. *The main staircase of the new library rises at a slantindicular angle to the facade.*

slapstick
n
/ˈslæpstɪk/
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
/ˈslɛθ/ 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
A coiner or user of brief striking phrases in advertising or promotion. *Without the sloganeer, most commercials would probably be deadly dull.*

slovenly
adj
/ˈsləʊvnəli/ 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
/ˈsluːs/ L > F > E a body of water pent up behind a floodgate. *Ellen crossed the sluice in a canoe.*

slumgullion
n
/ˈslʌmɡəliən/ unknown + (L > F > E)? a meat stew. *The sailors protested when they were served yet another meal of slumgullion.*

smectic

smoggy
adj
/ˈsmɑːɡi/ (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
/ˈsmɔːɡəs.bɔːrd/ Sw a luncheon or supper buffet offering a variety of foods and dishes. *Nita’s smorgasbord included turkey and smoked salmon.*

snagrel
n
/ˈsnæɡrəl/ unknown an herb of the genus Aristolochia of the eastern United States. *Snagrel is also called Virginia snakeroot.*

snood
n
/ˈsnuːd/ 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.*
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Definition</th>
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</table>
| soavemente | adv with sweetness or smoothness: in a gentle manner—used as a direction in music.  
*The serenade was played soavemente by the strings.* |
| sociable | adj enjoying companionship.  
*The dolphin is one of the most sociable creatures known to man.* |
| sodality |  |
| sojourner | n 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  
*When Janie learned she had failed her swimming exam, she decided to solace herself by going out to a movie.* |
| solation | n  
*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…”* |
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<tr>
<th>solmization</th>
<th>somnambulant</th>
<th>sophomore</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>solon</td>
<td>adj</td>
<td>n</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/ˈsōlən/</td>
<td>/sʌmˈnæmbələnt/</td>
<td>/ˈsәf(ə)mәd(ə)r/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gk name</td>
<td>walking or addicted to walking while asleep.</td>
<td>Gk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a wise and skillful lawgiver or statesman.</td>
<td>Sheila could remember nothing of her somnambulant activities when she was told of them the next morning.</td>
<td>a student in his second year or with second-year standing at a college.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Judge Kantz is revered throughout the county as a solon.</td>
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<tr>
<td>solstice</td>
<td>somnoloquent</td>
<td>soporific</td>
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<tr>
<td>n</td>
<td>adj</td>
<td>adj</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/ˈsɒlətɪs/</td>
<td>/ˌsɒməˈlɑːkət/</td>
<td>/ˌsɒpəˈrɪfɪk/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L &gt; F &gt; E</td>
<td>Gk &gt; L</td>
<td>L &gt; F</td>
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<tr>
<td>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.</td>
<td>characterized by full or loud sound often with clear or rich tone, marked volume, or easy audibility.</td>
<td>causing or tending to cause sleep.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The North Pole is tilted directly toward the Sun at the summer solstice.</td>
<td>Alex’s sonorous voice made him the clear choice to perform the reading.</td>
<td>The students valiantly attempted to fight off the soporific effects of the lecture.</td>
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<tr>
<td>solstitial</td>
<td>soothsaying</td>
<td>sorbet</td>
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<tr>
<td>adj</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>n</td>
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<tr>
<td>/ˈsɒlɪstɪʃəl/</td>
<td>/ˌsoʊθˈseɪŋ/</td>
<td>/ˈsɒrbɛt/</td>
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<tr>
<td>L</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>Turkish &gt; It &gt; F</td>
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<tr>
<td>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.</td>
<td>Ancient myths about the eternal battle between light and dark are tied to equinoctial and solstitial moments in the year.</td>
<td>[Note: Could be confused with sherbet.] a frozen dessert made with a mixture of fruits.</td>
</tr>
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<td>Ancient myths about the eternal battle between light and dark are tied to equinoctial and solstitial moments in the year.</td>
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<tr>
<td>solvolysis</td>
<td>sophisticate</td>
<td>sorcerer</td>
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<tr>
<td>sombrero</td>
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<td>n</td>
<td>v</td>
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<td>/ˈsɒvlɪsɪs/</td>
<td>/sɒfɪstəˈkæt/</td>
<td>/ˈsɒrərɛ/</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gk &gt; L</td>
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<tr>
<td>reasoning that is superficially plausible but actually fallacious.</td>
<td>alter deceptively: adulterate.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Larry’s masterful but irresponsible sophistry easily convinced naïve listeners.</td>
<td>Lanny feared that someone would sophisticate the survey results.</td>
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<tr>
<td>sorcery</td>
<td>Sophoclean</td>
<td>sorcery</td>
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<tr>
<td>n</td>
<td>adj</td>
<td>n</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/ˈsɔrərɪ/</td>
<td>/ˌsɒfəˈklɪn/</td>
<td>/ˈsɔrərɪ/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gk name</td>
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<td>Gk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of, relating to, or characteristic of the Athenian tragic poet Sophocles or his dramas.</td>
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<td>syrup produced by evaporating the juice from stems of certain tropical grasses.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finding a new Sophoclean fragment in the museum’s papyri was Gunther’s claim to fame.</td>
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<td>Rachel likes sorghum on her oatmeal.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Wylie ate sorbet between courses to cleanse his palate.

Traveling alone in the dark, the sorcerer saw no harm in conjuring up a lamp for his convenience.

Finding a new Sophoclean fragment in the museum’s papyri was Gunther’s claim to fame.
sorrel
n /ˈsɔrəl/ 
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 /ˈsɔr(ə)lɪdʒə(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 / suˈbɛz/ F geog name
a white or brown sauce containing onions or onion puree. A sauceboat of soubise accompanied the roast.

soubresaut
n /ˌsōbrəˈsoʊ/ L
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 /ˈsūsəˌfōn/ 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.

souterrain

southpaw
n /ˈsaʊθpəʊ/ 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 /ˈsuːvəˌni(r)/ L
something that serves as a reminder: memento, remembrance. Moira kept a seashell as a souvenir of her trip to the ocean.

spacious

spacistor
n /ˈspæsɪstə(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 /ˈspædʒəti/ 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 /ˈspæŋgəl/ Scand > E
a small object that brightly reflects light. The packrat ran out into the road to pick up the glittering spangle.

spatula
n /ˈspætələ/ 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 /ˈspiːsɪz/ 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 /ˈspiːsɪsɪzəm/ L + Ec
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 /ˈspɛkəmən/ 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.
specious
adj
/ˈspēshəs/
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
/ˈspektrəl/
L
of, like, or relating to a disembodied spirit, apparition, or ghost.
*Galloping toward him was a spectral rider on horseback.*

spectrum
n
/ˈspektrəm/
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
/ˈspɛləˌələjəst/
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
/ˈspɛləˌθiːm/
Gk > L > ISV + Gk
a cave deposit or formation.
*Receding waters have left a speleothem of carbonate on the cavern floor.*

spelunking
n
/ˈspɛləŋkən/
E
the hobby or practice of exploring caves.
*Spelunking is a popular activity in eastern Kentucky.*

sphegnum
n
/ˈsfəɡnəm/
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
/ˈsfɪrəkəl/
Gk > L + Ecff
like a sphere: globular.
*Linda suspected that the spherical rock she found was a geode.*

sphesterize
v
/ˈsfɛdərɪz/
Gk
take for one’s own: appropriate.
The invading army proceeded to sphesterize the villagers’ private property.

sphinx
n
/ˈsfɪŋ(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.*

spindino
n
/ˈspɛdəˈðiːnəʊ/
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 spindino of beef on a charcoal grill.

spinescent
adj
/ˈspɪnəsnt/
L
tapering to a sharp rigid point.
The fish Homer caught had two spinescent fins.

spinet
n
/ˈspinət/
L > It
a compactly built upright piano of reduced height and usually reduced keyboard suitable for limited space.
The invading army proceeded to sphesterize the villagers’ private property.

spiracle
n
/ˈspɪrəkəl/
unknown
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
/ˈsplənɛdik/
Gk > L
marked by morose bad temper, sullen malevolence, or spiteful, peevish anger.
The splenetic critic gave the musical a scathing review.

spoliation
spondylitis
n
/ spāndəˈlidəs /
Gk > L
inflammation of the vertebrae. Jewel’s back pain was caused by spondylitis.

spongicolous

sponson

spontaneity
n
/ spōnˈtānəsɪti /
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
/ spōnˈtānēəs / L
proceeding from natural feeling or native tendency without external constraint. His employee’s spontaneous obedience made Tim’s job pleasant.

spoonerism
n
/ˈspōnərizəm / 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
/ spōrəˈjənəs / 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
/ˈspærən/ 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.

sporran

spontaneous
adj
/ˈspɒntənɪəs/ Gk > L
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.

springerle
n
/ˈspriŋərlə/ 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
/ˈskwɔːld/ L
marked by filthiness and degradation usually from neglect. The squalid tenement building was condemned and scheduled for demolition.

squaliform
adj
/ˈskwɔːlfɔːrm/ L > E resembling a shark or dogfish in form. While scuba diving, Mike encountered a group of curious squaliform fish.

squelch
v
/ˈskwelch/ 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
/ˈskwɔr(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
/ˈstækətəʊ/ 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
/ˈstæɡnənt/ 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
/ˈstæləktaɪt/ 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.
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Word</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>stalagmite</td>
<td>n / sta'lag.mit / 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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stalwart</td>
<td>adj / 'stōlwa(r)kt / E brave, valiant, resolute. The new musical comedy is based on the story of Robin Hood and his stalwart companions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stamina</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stanniferous</td>
<td>adj / sta'nif(ə)rəs / Celt &gt; 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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stannous</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stanzaical</td>
<td>adj / stan'zäkəl / L &gt; 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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stationery</td>
<td>n / sta'shənerē / L &gt; F &gt; 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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>statistician</td>
<td>n / sta'də'stishən / L &gt; G one versed in or engaged in compiling masses of numerical data. Jamie’s career as a statistician began with following baseball scores.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>statistics</td>
<td>n pl / sta'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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>statuesque</td>
<td>adj / 'stəchəwesk / L &gt; F &gt; E + F &gt; Ecf having a massive dignity or impressiveness: majestic. A statuesque sculpture stood in the town square.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>steadily</td>
<td>adv / 'stedək(ə)lē / Gk &gt; L in stable or unchanging terms. Alan's problem was that he always viewed problems statically.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stationary</td>
<td>adj / 'stəshənerē / L [has homonym: stationery] fixed in a place, position, course, or mode. The clerk calmly remained in a stationary position.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stearic</td>
<td>n / stē'rik / Gmc &gt; Sp a wild headlong rush or flight of a number of animals usually due to fright. The lightning strike caused a cattle stampede.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>steeple</td>
<td>n / stē'pl / Gmc &gt; Sp an upright bar, post, prop, brace, or support. When Oliver lost control of his car, it swerved and hit a traffic-light stanchion.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stegosaur</td>
<td>n / ste-gō'sör / L &gt; G a large, quadrupedal reptile with a skeleton resembling an armadillo's. A stegosaur had a series of bony plates along its back.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Word</td>
<td>Definition</td>
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<tr>
<td>steinkern</td>
<td>n / 'stɪkərn / G a fossil consisting of a stony mass that entered a hollow natural object</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(as a bivalve shell) in the form of mud or sediment, was consolidated, and remained as a cast</td>
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<td>after dissolution of the mold. For show-and-tell, Rose brought in a steinkern she had found</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>at the beach.</td>
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<tr>
<td>stellar</td>
<td>adj / 'stelə(r) / L of, relating to, or derived from the stars. Rapid stellar rotation can</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>modify the structure of a star’s atmosphere.</td>
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<tr>
<td>stenographer</td>
<td>n / stə'nəgrəfə(r) / Gk + Gk one who is employed chiefly to take and transcribe dictation.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Sergeant Fitzpatrick called in a stenographer to record the suspect’s confession.</td>
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<tr>
<td>stentorophonic</td>
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<tr>
<td>steppe</td>
<td>n / 'step / Russ [has homonym: step] one of the vast tracts in southeastern Europe or Asia that</td>
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<td>are usually level and without forests. The tourists explored the steppe in search of exotic</td>
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<td></td>
<td>wildlife.</td>
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<tr>
<td>stereotype</td>
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<tr>
<td>sternutation</td>
<td>n / stɔ'nə'tʃən / L the act, fact, or noise of sneezing. Pat’s sternutation was so frequent and</td>
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<td>loud that his office mate asked to be transferred to another department.</td>
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<td>stertoruous</td>
<td>adj / 'stərtoʊrəs / L characterized by a harsh snoring or gasping sound. While asleep in his</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>easy chair, Uncle Max would give a start every few minutes, briefly awakened by his own</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>stertoruous breathing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stethoscope</td>
<td>n / 'stɛθəskəp / Gk &gt; F an instrument used for the detection and study of sounds within the</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>body. Heard through a stethoscope, the rumbling of the stomach can sound like a storm at sea.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stovedore</td>
<td>n / 'stɛvədə(ə)r / L one who works at or is responsible for the loading or unloading of a ship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>in port. The stovedore returned to the ship after dining at his favorite dockside restaurant.</td>
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<tr>
<td>stewardess</td>
<td>n / 'stɛrədəs / E a woman who attends to the needs of passengers (as on an airplane, ship, or</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>train). When addressed as stewardess, Emily requested that she be called a flight attendant.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sthenic</td>
<td>adj / 'sthɛnik / Gk marked by excessive vitality or nervous energy. Fido’s sthenic symptoms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>finally subsided.</td>
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<tr>
<td>stifle</td>
<td>v / 'stɪfl / F &gt; E kill by smothering : asphyxiate. Smoke can stifle a person in a short period</td>
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<td></td>
<td>of time.</td>
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<td>stimulus</td>
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<td>stipend</td>
<td>n / 'sti.pend / L a fixed sum of money typically modest in amount that is paid periodically</td>
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<td>in compensation for services. The university gave Professor Barrett a stipend for his lecture</td>
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<td>series.</td>
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<td>stirrup</td>
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<tr>
<td>stochastic</td>
<td>adj / sta'kastik / Gk lacking or seeming to lack a regular plan, purpose, or pattern. Vince</td>
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<td></td>
<td>programmed the computer to create a stochastic series of numbers.</td>
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<td>stolkjaerre</td>
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<tr>
<td>stollen</td>
<td>n / 's(h)tələn / G [has homonym: stolen] a sweet yeast bread containing fruits and nuts, usually</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>made in a long oval loaf. Henrietta found a recipe for stollen in her German cookbook.</td>
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<tr>
<td>strabismus</td>
<td>n / strə'bɪzəməs / Gk &gt; L inability of one eye to attain binocular vision with the other because</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>of imbalance of the extrinsic eye muscles. Corrective surgery was performed to remedy Herman’s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>strabismus.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
straighten
v
/strát'n/
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 straighten itself to provide the education she desired.

strangulate
v
/străngyə lat/
L
compress the windpipe until death results from stoppage of respiration.
Many nonvenomous snakes strangulate their prey.

stratagem
n
/strədʒəm/ 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
/straths.pè/ 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
/strədōsirəs/
L
a low dense fairly uniform cloud formation.
The meteorologist predicted a heavy cover of stratocirrus for the weekend.

strength

strepitosus
adj
/strepədəs/
L
characterized or accompanied by much noise.
The playoff game was a strepitous event.

streptomycin
n
/strepə'misən/ 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
/strüsəlkuken/ 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.

stringent
adj
/strinjənt/ L
marked by rigor, strictness, or severity.
Stringent regulations have helped curb environmental pollution.

stroganoff
adj
/strəɡənəf/ 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
/strəfələs/ Gk
a rash in infants popularly associated with teething distress.
The pediatrician prescribed an ointment for our baby’s strophulus.

strident
adj
/strident/ 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.
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 is a popular poison in murder mystery novels.

Pam is the most studious pupil in Mr. Ramsey’s class.

Myra soon broke her vow never to resort to stultiloquence when communicating with her baby.

Bright headlights will often stupefy a deer and cause it to stand motionless in the path of an oncoming vehicle.

The construction of Khufu’s pyramid was a stupendous accomplishment for the ancient Egyptians.

A black robe, a papier-mâché sickle, and some grayish makeup completed Sean’s stygian Halloween costume.

Kenneth had to apply a styptic agent to his chin where he cut himself while shaving.

Ming is the least suasive member of her family.

The silver platter in Mary’s antique shop was battered but still had a subfulgent gleam.

The love of acquisition and conquest are powers of destruction when used to subjugate one person to another.

The earliest designs for submersible vehicles date to antiquity.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>suborn</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>subrident</td>
<td>wearing or offered with a smile. Eilene's subrident answer belied the furious feelings she had toward the questioner.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>subscriber</td>
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<tr>
<td>subservient</td>
<td>In ancient Rome, wives were legally subservient.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>subsidiary</td>
<td>Marge's role was subsidiary, but her first-rate performance stole the show.</td>
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<tr>
<td>subsistence</td>
<td>Mr. Ellis preaches to his students that a good education goes far to ensure a respectable subsistence.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>substitute</td>
<td>a person who takes the place of or acts for another.</td>
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<tr>
<td>subterfuge</td>
<td>deception by trickery or stratagem to conceal, escape, avoid, or evade. George’s experience in subterfuge is mostly in cryptography.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>subterranean</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>subteness</td>
<td>the quality or state of being delicate or elusive.</td>
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<tr>
<td>succedent</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>successor</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>succinct</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>succorance</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>succotash</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>succulence</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>succulent</td>
<td>full of juice : juicy. Perry wiped his mouth with his sleeve after he bit into the succulent peach.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>succumb</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>succumbence</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>sudadero</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sudoriferous</td>
<td>producing or conveying sweat. Cycling and running are sudoriferous forms of exercise.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>suede</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
suerte - misspelled on original!

n
/ 'swer(ə)ta /
L > Sp
a skilled movement or pass in a bullfight.
The crowd cheered as the toreador demonstrated a dangerous suerte.

suffice
v
/ sə'fıts /
L
be enough: meet or satisfy a need.
One teaspoonful of salt will suffice for the stew.

sufficiently
adv
/ sə'fishaʊntə /
L + Ec
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.

sufflaminate
v
/ sə'flamənət /
L
obstruct, impede.
Because Tim said not having a computer would sufflaminate his progress, his parents relented and bought him one.

suffocate
v
/ sə'faʊkət /
L
die from being unable to breathe.
It was so hot and stuffy in the classroom that Mark thought he would suffocate.

suffrage
n
/ sə'frıj /
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'rfrü'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'fyūməgæt /
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
/ sʊk'e(y)ə'kə /
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.

sultriness
n
/ sə'ltrənəs /
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

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
/ sʊpə'رانiə-wädəd /
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.
<table>
<thead>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>supercilious</td>
<td>adj arrogantly superior: haughty, disdainful.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>superficies</td>
<td>superfluous adj exceeding what is sufficient, necessary, normal, or desirable. Alex’s teacher told him to eliminate superfluous words from his essay.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>superintendent</td>
<td>n 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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>supernatural</td>
<td>adj 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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>supernumerary</td>
<td>n 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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>supersonic</td>
<td>adj 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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>superstitious</td>
<td>adj 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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>supination</td>
<td>n a rotation of the hand and radius around the ulna so that the palm is turned up. Supination aggravated Henri’s tennis elbow.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>supine</td>
<td>adj lying on the back or with the face upward. Greg’s dog stayed supine while getting her belly rubbed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>suppedaneum</td>
<td>supplicate v ask earnestly and humbly of. The defendant’s only hope was to supplicate the court for mercy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>suretyship</td>
<td>n 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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>surfactant</td>
<td>n 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.</td>
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<tr>
<td>surfeit</td>
<td>n an overabundant supply, yield, or amount of something: excess. The reviewer commented that the novel was burdened with a surfeit of details.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>surgeon</td>
<td>surly adj ill-natured, abrupt, and rude: churlishly cross. Marie complained to the manager about the surly, uncooperative clerk.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>surplus</td>
<td>surrealism n 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.</td>
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<td>surreptitious</td>
<td>susceptible</td>
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<tr>
<td>adj</td>
<td>adj</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/sərəˈpɪtʃəs/</td>
<td>/səˈseptəbəl/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L done, made, or acquired in secret or by stealth.</td>
<td>L easily influenced or affected through some trait. People who smoke are very susceptible to chronic bronchitis and emphysema.</td>
</tr>
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<tr>
<th>surrey</th>
<th>surrogate</th>
<th>surzerainty</th>
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<tr>
<td>n</td>
<td>n</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>/sərəˈɡæt/</td>
<td>/səˈspishən/</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L something that replaces or substitutes for another. In formulating new laws, the legislature acts as a surrogate for the entire population.</td>
<td>L mistrust, doubt. President Kennedy called for cooperation with our adversaries to “push back the jungle of suspicion” and allow the preservation of peace.</td>
<td></td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>surtou</th>
<th>suspicion</th>
<th>svengali</th>
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<tr>
<td>n</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>n</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/sərtˈtʊʃ/</td>
<td>/səˈspishən/</td>
<td>/ˈsfnˈɡæli/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L &gt; F + L &gt; F a man’s fitted coat or overcoat; especially : frock coat. Gerald rented a surtout to complete his Abraham Lincoln costume for the party.</td>
<td>L mistrust, doubt. President Kennedy called for cooperation with our adversaries to “push back the jungle of suspicion” and allow the preservation of peace.</td>
<td>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.</td>
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</tbody>
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<tr>
<th>surveillance</th>
<th>suspicious</th>
<th>swallow</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>n</td>
<td>sustain</td>
<td>sweltering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/sərəˈvæln(t)z/</td>
<td>/ˈsəstənən(t)s/</td>
<td>/ˈswelˈtərɪŋ/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L &gt; 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.</td>
<td>L something that gives support, endurance, or strength. Tyrone drew sustenance from the letters his girlfriend wrote him while he was overseas.</td>
<td>L 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.</td>
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<tr>
<th>surviving</th>
<th>sustenance</th>
<th>swindleable</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>adj</td>
<td>sustain</td>
<td>swindleable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/sə(r)ˈvɪvɪŋ/</td>
<td>/ˈsəstənən(t)s/</td>
<td>/ˈswɪnd(ə)ˈləbəl/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L &gt; F remaining alive or in existence. Uncle Leonard is the oldest surviving graduate of Milburn College.</td>
<td>L something that gives support, endurance, or strength. Tyrone drew sustenance from the letters his girlfriend wrote him while he was overseas.</td>
<td>L 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.</td>
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<tr>
<th>susurrant</th>
<th>susurration</th>
<th>swineherd</th>
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<td>n</td>
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<tr>
<td>/sʊsəˈrɑːtʃən/</td>
<td>/ˈsʊsərətʃən/</td>
<td>/ˈswɪn.ˈhɜrd/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L a whispering sound : murmur. A mild susurration could be heard in the study hall despite the teacher’s “no talking” mandate.</td>
<td>L a whispering sound : murmur. A mild susurration could be heard in the study hall despite the teacher’s “no talking” mandate.</td>
<td>E a person who looks after hogs. Ian loathed his job as a swineherd.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
swivel
v
/swivəl/
E
turn or pivot freely.
Frank chose an office chair that could swivel and tilt.
sybaritic
adj
/siˈbærɪdɪk/ /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
/siˈbærɪdɪk(ə)lɛ/ /Gk > L > E
in a luxurious or voluptuous manner.
Dana reclined sybaritically on the velvet sofa.
sycamine

sychnocarpous
adj
/sɪknaˈkærps/ /Gk + Gk > L > E
able to produce fruit repeatedly.
The apple and pear are sychnocarpous trees.
sycophant

syllable

syllabus
n
/sɪləˈbəs/ /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
/sɪləˈdʒɪzəm/ /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.
sylogize
v
/sɪləˈdʒɪz/ /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
/sɪlf/ /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
/sɪmˈbɪəsɪs/ /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

symmict

sympathy

symphony
n
/sɪmˈpfaɪn/ /Gk
an elaborate instrumental composition usually in sonata form for full orchestra.
The concert program featured a symphony by Gustav Mahler.
symposiarch

synchronicity
n
/sɪnˈkrɑːnɪsiəd/ /Gk + Ec
the state of happening, existing, or arising at the same time.
The fireworks display was a spectacle of synchronicity.
syncopation
n
/sɪnˈkrɑːpəsən/ /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
/sɪnˈkroʊp/ /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
/sɪnˈdækət/ /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.
synecdoche
n
/səˈnekdə(ð)(ə)/
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
/ˈsɪnoʊd/  
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
/səˈnɒpsəs/  
Gk
a brief orderly outline affording a general view.
Marvin read a plot synopsis before he saw Macbeth.

synoptophore
n
/səˈnɒptəˌfoʊ(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
/ˈsinθəsɪs/  
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
/səˈrɪnj/  
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
/ˈsɪzədʒi/  
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
/ˈtæbərˈnəkl/  
L > F
a meetinghouse with a large assembly hall.
The town meeting will be held at the tabernacle.

tabetisol
n
/ˈtæbətəˈsɔl/  
L + EcF
unfrozen ground above, within, or below the permanently frozen ground.
Arctic wildflowers are able to survive in areas of tabetisol.

tableau
n
/ˈteɪbləʊ/  
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

tabular

tabloids

tachometer
n
/taˈkæmədər/  
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
/taˈkɪgrəfi/  
Gk > F
the art or practice of rapid writing.
Professor Jespersen lectures so quickly that students who practice tachygraphy have an advantage.

taciturn
adj
/ˈtæsɪtərn/  
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
/ˈtæsɪtərni/  
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

tagaggery
taiga
n
/ˈtaɪɡə/
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
takkannah
talcum	
talebearer
talipes
n
/ˈtæləpɛz/
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
/ˈtælɪsmən/
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
/ˈtɔlələʊ/
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
/ˈtaləm(y)ədik/
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
/ˈtəməlē/
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
/ˈtæŋgərən/
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
/ˈtæŋgəbəl/
L
capable of being touched.
The black darkness of the night seemed to have a tangible quality.

tangy
adj
/ˈtængi/
Scand > E + Ecf
having a particularly pungent odor.
The burning pile of old tires will leave the air tangy for several days.

tantalize
v
/ˈtæntəlайz/
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
/ˈtæntəmənənt/
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
/ˈtæntɪvɪ/
unknown
in a headlong dash.
Patsy ran tantivy toward second base after the bunt.

tapestry
n
/ˈtæpəstrɪ/
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.

taphephobia
n
/ˈtæfəfəbɪə/
Gk
fear of being buried alive.
After reading Edgar Allan Poe’s “The Cask of Amontillado,” Mr. Gallo developed a bad case of taphephobia.
### Tapir

**n**
/ˈtæpə(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**
/ˈtərəntələ/

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**
/ˈtɑrdɪgrəd/ /ˈtɑrdə-\-

moving or stepping slowly. The sloth is a well-known tardigrade animal.

### Tariff

**n**
/ˈtarəf/ /ˈtar if/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**
/ˈtɑrmək/ (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**
/ˈtɑrpələn/ /ˈtər po-lən/ 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**
/ˈtɑrəɡən/ Ar > L a small European perennial wormwood grown for its aromatic foliage that is used in cooking. Paul planted tarragon in his herb garden.

### Tar tar

**n**
/ˈtɑrət/ /ˈtɑrət/ 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

**n**
/ˈtæsəl/ (E name)

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.

### Tattletale

**n**
/ˈtætlət/ /ˈtætlət/ D + E one that blabs or tells secrets. Erica’s official title is “social reporter,” but Will considers her a plain old tattletale.

### Taught

**v**
/ˈtɔt/ /ˈtɔt/ 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

**adj**

### Taupe

**n**
/ˈtɔp/ /ˈtɔp/ 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**
/ˈtɔrəmɑki/ /ˈtɔrəmɑki/ 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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**TheSpellingChamp.com**

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Frequently
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>tautology</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tautophony</td>
<td>repetition of the same sound. The insistent tautophony of Josh’s alarm clock finally woke him up.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tawdrily</td>
<td>in a cheap and gaudy manner. The tawdrily dressed actress signed autographs outside her hotel.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tawdry</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>taxation</td>
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<tr>
<td>tazza</td>
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<tr>
<td>technetronic</td>
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<tr>
<td>technical</td>
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<tr>
<td>tedious</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tektite</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>telamón</td>
<td>a male figure used as a supporting column or pilaster. While in Athens, Anita had her picture taken beside a telamón.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>telecine</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>telegnosis</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>telephone</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>telesis</td>
<td>progress intelligently planned and directed. The mayor revealed the city council’s ten-year plan for telesis at the press conference.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>telltale</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>temerarious</td>
<td>rashly or presumptuously daring: reckless. Mrs. Jasper punished Tim for his temerarious behavior by withholding certain privileges.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>temerity</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>temperate</td>
<td>having a moderate climate. All of the United States, except for Hawaii and parts of Alaska and Florida, lies within the temperate zone.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tempest</td>
<td>The tempestuous action of wind and waves imperiled the ships.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tempestuous</td>
<td>of, involving, or resembling a furious storm.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tempura</td>
<td>fritters of seafood and vegetables fried in deep fat. The waiter brought a small dish of vegetable tempura as an appetizer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tenacious</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tenacity</td>
<td>the quality or state of holding fast: determination, firmness, persistence. Randy’s tenacity often made him seem stubborn.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
tenaculum
n / tə'nakələm /
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 / 'tendənsi / 
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 / tɛdɪˈdres / 
F
tender feeling: fondness.
Sarah portrayed the sister who, in maidenly fashion, conceals her tendresse for the hero.

tenebrifíc
adj / 'tenəbriːflɪk / 
L + Ecfr acne L > Ecfr
causing gloom or darkness. Tenebrifíc rain clouds overshadowed the entire region.

tenebrósity
n / tɛnəˈbreɪsədɪ / 
L
darkness.
Nocturnal animals moved silently through the tenebrósity 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.

tensile
adj / 'ten(t)siːbl / 
L
capable of being extended. The old rubber band was not very 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 / 'tentədəvlɪ / 
L
in a hesitant or uncertain manner.
Janna smiled tentatively, not knowing if she should show her happiness.

tenuous
adj / 'tənjuəs / 
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 / 'tepɪd / 
L
marked by an absence of enthusiasm or conviction.
The debate drew a tepid response from the audience.

teratism
n / ˌtərətəˈzəm / 
Gk + Ecfr
fascination with monsters.
Monster movies appeal to the teratism of the viewing public.

teratogenic
adj / ˌtɛrətəˈjenɪk / 
Gk
tending to cause developmental malformations.
Sylvia carefully avoided any potentially teratogenic drugs during her pregnancy.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>teratological</strong></th>
<th><strong>tergiversation</strong></th>
<th><strong>terrarium</strong></th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>adj / tɛrəˈtæljəkəl /</td>
<td>n / təˈrjəˌvɑrˈsɑʃən /</td>
<td>n / təˈrerəm /</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gk relating to abnormality of organic growth or structure.</td>
<td>L evasion of straightforward action or clear-cut statement of position.</td>
<td>L a fully enclosed wholly or predominantly glass container for the indoor cultivation of moisture-loving plants.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Because of his several deformities, the so-called “elephant man” was the subject of teratological study.</em></td>
<td><em>The ambassador explained that in diplomacy there is sometimes defensible tergiversation in communication.</em></td>
<td><em>Mosses and other small woodland plants thrive in a terrarium.</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>teratology</strong></th>
<th><strong>termagancy</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>n / tɛrəˈtælijə /</td>
<td>n / tərməɡɑnˈsɛ /</td>
<td>n / təˈræt(ˌ)sɔ /</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gk the study of malformations, monstrosities, or serious deviations from the normal type in growing organisms.</td>
<td>E name habitual bad temper : scolding disposition.</td>
<td>OProv &gt; 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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Because of his several deformities, the so-called “elephant man” is often featured in textbooks for courses in teratology.</em></td>
<td><em>Lillian’s abusive termagancy alienated her husband and children.</em></td>
<td><em>The contractor explained that if Travis wanted a hard, shiny floor at a reasonable price, terrazzo was an excellent option.</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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<tr>
<th><strong>tercentenary</strong></th>
<th><strong>terrace</strong></th>
<th><strong>terrestrial</strong></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>n / tərɛnˈtɛnərɛ /</td>
<td>n / tɛrəs /</td>
<td>adj requiring extreme effort or fortitude.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L a 300th anniversary or its celebration.</td>
<td>L &gt; OProv &gt; F a colonnaded porch or promenade.</td>
<td><em>Donating blood may be a terrible ordeal for those people who do not like needles.</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Next year Possumville will celebrate the tercentenary of its founding.</em></td>
<td><em>The marketplace consisted of a row of shops along a terrace.</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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<th><strong>terracaceous</strong></th>
<th><strong>terricolous</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>adj / tərˈdiərnəl /</td>
<td>adj / tɛˈrəʃəs /</td>
<td>adj / tɛˈrikaʊəs /</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L occurring three times per day.</td>
<td>L made of earth : earthen.</td>
<td>L + L living on or in or growing from the land.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>The meteorologist set his instrument to take terdiurnal measurements of the air pressure.</em></td>
<td><em>Bulldozers hurriedly built up a terraceous dam to prevent further flooding.</em></td>
<td><em>The heath was rich in terricolous lichens.</em></td>
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<th><strong>terrapin</strong></th>
<th><strong>terrific</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>v / tərˈjəvərˌsæt /</td>
<td>n / tɛrəˈpɪn /</td>
<td>adj / təˈrɪfɪk /</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L evade straightforward action or clearcut statement of position.</td>
<td>Algonquian any of various North American turtles living in fresh or brackish water.</td>
<td>L of an extraordinary nature : astounding, tremendous.</td>
</tr>
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<td><em>While political leaders tergiversate, petty tyrants are taking over the country.</em></td>
<td><em>Murray awoke from his lakeside nap to find a terrapin sunning on the blanket.</em></td>
<td><em>Terrific, serrated outcrops of bare rock stood on either side of the lush valley.</em></td>
</tr>
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<td>L consisting of land and water.</td>
<td>L a fully enclosed wholly or predominantly glass container for</td>
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<td>Global pollution threatens Earth's terraqueous environment.</td>
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terragenous

adj
/təˈrijənas/
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
/ˈtesəˈtūrə/
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
/tɛstəˈʃeɪs/ 
L
having a shell. 
The oyster is a testaceous marine animal.

testimony

n
/ˈtestəmənə/ 
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
/ˈtɛtnəs/ 
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
/thəˈlasık/ 
Gk
of or relating to the sea or ocean. 
_Some thalassic currents travel for thousands of miles._

thanatophobia

n
/ˌθænəˈtɒfəbēə/ 
Gk
fear of death. 
_Michael had such a strong belief in an afterlife that he was not troubled by thanatophobia._

thaumatology

n
/θəˈmuːtəlɔrʲə/ 
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
/θəˈmuːtərjə/ 
Gk
the performance of miracles. 
_The sacred writings of many religions contain stories of thaumaturgy._

theatrical

adj
/thəˈatrəkəl/ 
Gk
marked by extravagant display or exhibitionism : showy, spectacular. 
_The performer took a theatrical bow, but the audience’s applause was lukewarm._

theodicy

n
/θiˈədəsɪ/ 
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
/θiˈədəlɪt/ 
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
/ˌθɛrəˈpyʊtənt/ 
Gk > E
a healing or curative agent or medicine. 
_The diseased elm trees were sprayed with a chemical therapeutant._

therapeutic

adj
/ˌθɛrəˈpyʊdɪk/ 
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
/ˈθɛrəblɪg/ 
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._
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>theretofore</th>
<th>therianthropic</th>
<th>thermomether</th>
<th>thorax</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>adv</td>
<td>adj</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>n</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/ˈθɛrəˌfoʊ(ə)r/</td>
<td>/ˈθɪrənˈθræpɪk/</td>
<td>/ˈθɛzməθɪθ/</td>
<td>/ˈθɔrəks/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E up to that time : until then.</td>
<td>Gk + Gk combining human and animal form.</td>
<td>Gk lawyer, legislator.</td>
<td>Gk &gt; L &gt; E the portion of an insect body that is the middle of the three chief divisions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The public parks committee created a playground where theretofore there had been a weedy vacant lot.</td>
<td>The falcon-headed Horus was a therianthropic god of ancient Egypt.</td>
<td>Joseph has in his office a marble bust of a famous Athenian theriomorph.</td>
<td>The thorax of an insect consists of three segments, each having a pair of legs.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>thermometer</th>
<th>thespian</th>
<th>thirsty</th>
<th>thoroughbred</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>n</td>
<td>n</td>
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<td>n</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/θə(ˈ)mæˈmɔːr/</td>
<td>/ˈθɛspɪən/</td>
<td>/ˈθɪsəl/</td>
<td>/ˈθərəˈbred/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gk + Gk an instrument for determining temperature.</td>
<td>Gk name an actor.</td>
<td>E a plant with prickly leaves having a head with white, purple, pink, or yellow flowers.</td>
<td>Gk purebred or pedigreed animal.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The thermometer that takes a temperature reading from one’s ear is now used widely.</td>
<td>Fiona became stagestruck at an early age and was determined to become a thespian.</td>
<td>Dean plucked a thistle from the lawn of the middle school.</td>
<td>Alex’s thoroughbred comes from a line of Kentucky Derby winners.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>thermostat</th>
<th>thistle</th>
<th>throtobred</th>
<th>thoroughfare</th>
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<td>n</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>/ˈθɔrəməˈstæt/</td>
<td>/ˈθɪsəl/</td>
<td>/ˈθɔrəˈbred/</td>
<td>/ˈθroʊˈfɛr/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gk + Gk an automatic device for regulating temperature (as by controlling the supply of gas or electricity to a heating apparatus).</td>
<td>E a plant with prickly leaves having a head with white, purple, pink, or yellow flowers.</td>
<td>Gk purebred or pedigreed animal.</td>
<td>E a song, poem, composition, or speech of lamentation especially for someone dead or something regarded as dead.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The repair person found that our heating problem was caused by a defective thermostat.</td>
<td>Dean plucked a thistle from the lawn of the middle school.</td>
<td>Alex’s thoroughbred comes from a line of Kentucky Derby winners.</td>
<td>Asked to write a threnody for English class, Libby composed a song about the death of a robin.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>thesaurus</th>
<th>thoracic</th>
<th>threshold</th>
<th>thrombosis</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>n</td>
<td>adj</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>n</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/θəˈsoʊrəs/</td>
<td>/θoˈræsɪk/</td>
<td>/ˈθres(h)ˈɔld/</td>
<td>/θrəˈməʊsɪs/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gk &gt; L a book containing a store of words or of information about a particular field or set of concepts; specifically: a dictionary of synonyms.</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>E place or point of entering or beginning : entrance, outset.</td>
<td>Gk the formation or presence of a blood clot within a blood vessel.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caleb’s paper read as if he had consulted a thesaurus frequently while writing it.</td>
<td>The thoracic nerve controls the muscles in the walls of the thorax.</td>
<td>Now at the threshold of adulthood, James wonders if he will miss the carefree days of his previous years.</td>
<td>The severe pain in Greg’s leg was found to have been caused by a thrombosis in one of the veins.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
throstle
n
/ˈθrɔsəl/
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.

tibia
n
/ˈtɪbə-/ 
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
/ˈtɪkərɪn-/ 
Gk > L > F > E
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
/ˈtɪkɪsɪdəl-/ 
E + L + Ec
destroying or controlling any of several wingless parasitic insects. The exterminator used a tickicidal agent to eliminate the pests.

tickled
v
/ˈtɪkəld-/ 
E
excited or stirred up agreeably. The young actor was tickled to be offered the leading role in his next movie.

tilapia
n
/ˈtɪləpɪə-/ 
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
/ˈtɪldə-/ 
L > Sp
a mark ~ placed especially over the letter n to denote the /ŋ/ sound or over vowels to indicate nasality. Marcia could not find the tilde on the computer keyboard.

timorous
adv
/ˈtɪmərəs-/ 
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


tinture
n
/ˈtɪn(t)ʃʊə(r)-/ 
L
hue, tint. The main difference between American and Irish glass is in tinture.

tinnient
adj
/ˈtɪnənt-/ 
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.
tinnitus
n
/ təˈnɪtəs /
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
/ˈtɪrəd/ 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
/ˌtaɪrəˈliː/ 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
/ˈtɪʃən/ Ital name
one having hair that is brownish orange.
Mr. Rodman decided that he would be a titian for a while.

tmesis

tobacco
n
/ təˈboʊ.əkəʊ/ 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
/ ˈtōbəɡən/ 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
/ ˈtōbəɡənər/ 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
/ ˈtɔkədə/ It
a brilliant musical composition usually for pipe organ or harpsichord, 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
/ˈtɒksən/ 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
/ˈtɔm/ 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

toniruous
adj
/ˌtəˈnɪtɾɔwəs/ L + EcF thundering, fulminating.
The toniruous artillery guns had been shelling the enemy positions for several hours.

tonsillectomy

tonsilitis
n
/ˌtɑn(ə)sɪˈlɪdəs/ L
inflammation of the tonsils.
Dr. Graham treated Erica’s tonsilitis with antibiotics.

tonsillotomy

tonsorial

tonsure
n
/ˈtɒnsər/ 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.
tontine
n /ˈtɒntɪn/ 
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 /ˈtʌथ.ək/ 
E
pain in one of the teeth.
Nelson thought an abscess might be the cause of his toothache.

topaz
n /ˈtɒpæz/ 
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 /ˈtɒpiəri/ 
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 /ˈtɒɡrəfi/ 
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 /ˈtɔrɛədɔr(ə)r/ 
L > Sp
bullfighter.
The toreador posed for the crowd in his suit of lights.

toroidal
adj /ˈtɔrəʊɪdəl/ 
L
doughnut-shaped.
For the life of her, Bridget couldn’t identify the toroidal object she found in her purse.

torment


torrential


torrentially
adv /ˈtɔrəntiəli/ 
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 /ˈtɔrtəlɪni/ 
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 /ˈtɔrtɪlə/ 
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 /ˈtɔrtəs/ 
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.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Definition</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>toxicosis</td>
<td>a pathological condition caused by the action of a poison or toxin.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>The chihuahua exhibited no symptoms of toxicosis after eating the soap.</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>toxophilite</td>
<td>one fond of or expert at archery.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>*The legendary toxophilite William Tell successfully shot an apple from</td>
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<td>the head of his own son.*</td>
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<tr>
<td>toxophily</td>
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<td>trachea</td>
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<tr>
<td>tracheostomy</td>
<td>the surgical formation of an opening into the trachea through the skin.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>*When Chris developed throat cancer, a tracheostomy had to be performed</td>
</tr>
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<td>to facilitate his breathing.*</td>
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<tr>
<td>tracheotomy</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>tractable</td>
<td>capable of being easily led, taught, or controlled.</td>
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<td></td>
<td><em>Maybe Fatima's work would improve if she were more tractable.</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tractile</td>
<td>capable of being drawn out in length.</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>*With laboratory equipment, Dr. Abrams was able to extend the tractile</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>material to a great length.*</td>
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<tr>
<td>trafficking</td>
<td>engaging in commercial activity.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>*The townspeople were shocked when they learned that Mr. Bailey had</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>been trafficking in drugs.*</td>
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<tr>
<td>tragedian</td>
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<tr>
<td>tragedienne</td>
<td>an actress who specializes in tragic roles.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>*On Thursday night, Ms Siddons, the granddaughter of the tragedienne,</td>
</tr>
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<td>made her first appearance.*</td>
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<tr>
<td>tragedy</td>
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<td>trajectory</td>
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<td>tralatitious</td>
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<tr>
<td>trammel</td>
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<tr>
<td>tramontana</td>
<td>the north wind; especially: a dry cold strong northerly wind of the west</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>coast of Italy.</td>
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<td>*Each winter the tramontana swoops piercingly through the streets of</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rome.*</td>
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<tr>
<td>transcend</td>
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<tr>
<td>transcendental</td>
<td>extending or being beyond the limits of ordinary experience.</td>
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<td></td>
<td><em>Edward's transcendental meditation guru also instructs him in yoga.</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>transducer</td>
<td>a device actuated by power from one system and supplying power in the same</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>or any other form to a second system.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>*A common transducer is a microphone, which converts sound waves into</td>
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<td></td>
<td>electrical signals.*</td>
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<tr>
<td>transference</td>
<td>an act, process, or instance of carrying or taking something from one</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>person or place to another.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>*Ralph's dad was in charge of the transference of fish from the fishery</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>to the lake being restocked.*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>transience</td>
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<tr>
<td>transit</td>
<td>the passage of a smaller body across the disk of a larger (as of Venus or</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>Mercury across the Sun's disk).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Barrie used sensitive equipment to photograph the transit of Venus.</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>translucent</td>
<td>capible of being sent or conveyed to another person or place.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>*Poison ivy is transmissible through the air to those who are very</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>sensitive to it.*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
transmit

transmogrify
v
/ tran(t)’smäɡrəf/ 
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
/ trä(d)əˈrä/ 
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
/ ’tráɪmə/ 
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
/ trōˈmətrəpɪzəm/ 
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
/ traˈvərst/ 
L > F > E
moved to and fro over or along.
Zane serenely traversed the frozen pond.

treachery

treachery
adj
/tre̞tʃərē/ 
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.

treble
adj
/tre̞bəl/ 
F > E
threefold.
Whatever might be their motive or motives—whether single, double, or treble—their actions were unjustified.

trefoil
n
/ ’tre̞fōil/ 
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
/treˈmendəs/ 
L
astonishing by reason of extreme size, power, greatness, or excellence.
Computers have had a tremendous impact on modern business practices.
tremulous
adj
/tremylás/
L
quivering, shaking.
Uncle Edgar’s tremulous handwriting is one sign of his Parkinson’s disease.

trenchant
trenchantly
adv
/trenchantlē/
F > E
in a sharply perceptive manner.
The commentator trenchantly analyzed the pros and cons of legalized gambling.

trepidation
trespass
v
/trespas/
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
/trä/  
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
/trèäzh/  
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
/trèänän/  
F architecture
a small elegant villa.
Albert wrote his latest thriller in a rented trianon on the Riviera.

tribunal
n
/trìbyūn'l/  
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
/trìbyäterē/  
L
a stream feeding a larger stream or a lake.
The Ohio River is a tributary of the Mississippi River.

tricenary
adj
/trís'nerē/  
L
having or lasting 30 days.
Cameron never can remember which months are tricenary.

tricephalous
adj
/trì'sefalēs/  
Gk
having or depicted with three heads.
Orpheus managed to lull the tricephalous watchdog to sleep by playing his lyre.

trichinosis
n
/trìka'nösās/  
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
/trì'kājōnas/  
Gk
producing hair.
Trichogenous cells produce the tiny hairs on insect bodies and limbs.

trichotomy
n
/trì'kādə-mē/  
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
/trìgə'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
n
/trìnädē/  
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.

tripelennamine
tripod

triquetra
n
/tríˈkwɛtrə/
L
a triangle-shaped figure or decoration.
Murray stenciled a leafy triquetra in each corner of the kitchen ceiling.

triskelion
n
/trɪˈskɛlən/
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
/třˈst/ /ˈtrést/
L > F > E
sad, dismal, dull, depressing.
A triste quartet could be heard from the window.

triturate

triumph

triumphant

triumvirate
n
/trɪˈəmvrərət/ /ˈtrɪəmvəˌrət/
L
a group, party, or association of three.
Vince, Steve, and Phil jokingly refer to themselves as the “terrible triumvirate.”

trivet
n
/trɪˈvɛt/ /ˈtrɪvət/
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
/ˌtrōˈkæntər(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
/ˌtrōk′ēəməˈtər/ /ˌtrōk′ēəməˈtər/
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.

trochilic

trod
d
/ˈtrəd/ /ˈtrəd/ /ˈtrəd/ /ˈtrəd/
E
walked or trampled upon something.
The cattle had trodden over the field, flattening the tall grass and weeds.

troglodyte
n
/ˌtrōɡ′lədīt/ /ˌtrōɡ′lədīt/
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
/ˈtrōɪkə/ /ˈtrōɪkə/ /ˈtrōɪkə/ /ˈtrōɪkə/
Russ
a group of three.
Astrology, yoga, and poetry are the troika of humanities that most interest Bryce.

trophone

trope

tropicopolitan
adj
/ˌtrōpˈkōpəˈlātən/ /ˌtrōpˈkōpəˈlātən/
Gk
inhabiting all countries near the equator.
Today the coconut palm is a tropicopolitan species.

tropophilous
adj
/ˌtrōpˈfīləs/ /ˌtrōpˈfīləs/
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 tropophilous plants.

trophy

trough
n
/ˈtrōf/ /ˈtrōf/ /ˈtrōf/ /ˈtrōf/
[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
/ˈtrůsˌwə/ /ˈtrůsˌwə/ /ˈtrůsˌwə/ /ˈtrůsˌwə/
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
truculent adj /ˈtrʊkələnt/ L feeling or evincing savage ferocity: fierce. Hunger makes the tiger a truculent hunter.

trumpet n /ˈtrʌpət/ 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.

tunicate adj /ˈtʌnikət/ L of or resembling a rock composed of the finer kinds of volcanic debris. Many buildings in Italy were constructed of tufaceous rock.

tunnel n /ˈtjuːnəl/ 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.

turbot n /ˈtɜrbot/ /ˈturbət/ 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.

tumefaction n /ˈtjuːmɪfəkʃən/ L full of commotion and uproar: boisterous. As the basketball star entered, he received tumultuous applause from his schoolmates.

tumorous adj /ˈtjuːmərəs/ L full of tumefaction: boisterous. The basketball star's entrance was met with a tumultuous applause from his schoolmates.

tumultuous adj /ˈtjuːmlətʃəs/ L full of commotion and uproar: boisterous. As the basketball star entered, he received tumultuous applause from his schoolmates.

tungsten n /ˈtʌŋstən/ /ˈtʊŋstən/ a 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.

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turbulence
n
/tərbjuːləns/ /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
turgescent
turgid
turmoil
n
/tʊərˈmɔɪl/ /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
/tɜːrnˈstɪl/ /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
/tjuːrəˈfil/ /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
/tərˈpɛntin/ /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
/tərˈpɪtjuːd/ /L
inherent baseness or vileness of principle, words, or actions : depravity.
Sean accused Amitab of moral turpitude for teasing the cat.

turret
n
/tərˈrɛt/ /F > E
a little tower.
The princess escaped from the turret by sliding down a rope of knotted bedsheets.

turricular
adj
/tərɪˈriːkuːlər/ /L
shaped like or resembling a tower.
Shauna’s birthday cake was turricular and decorated to look like the Leaning Tower of Pisa.

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tutelary
adj
/tuːˈleɪri/ /L
having the guardianship or charge of protecting a person or a thing.
The young princesses were surrounded by tutelary employees.

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tuyere
n
/tuːˈjeɪrə/ /F
a nozzle through which an air blast is delivered to a forge.
Dan checked the tuyere for an obstruction.

tweezers
n pl
/tweɪˈzəzər/ /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

typanum
n
/tɪmˈpænəm/ /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.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>typhlology</th>
<th>tyranny</th>
<th>ultimatum</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>the scientific study of blindness, its causes, effects, and control. Researchers in typhlology have found that certain nutritional deficiencies can result in the clouding and softening of the cornea.</td>
<td>absolute government in which power is vested in a single ruler. The tyranny of many medieval kingdoms was eventually supplanted by democracy.</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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<tr>
<th>typhoon</th>
<th>ubiquitous</th>
<th>ultraviolet</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>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.</td>
<td>existing or being everywhere at the same time: omnipresent. The drum is a ubiquitous instrument in world music.</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<tr>
<th>typify</th>
<th>typothetae</th>
<th>ululant</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>embody the essential or salient characteristics of. Dickens's characters typify the Victorian era.</td>
<td></td>
<td>a loud mournful usually protracted and rhythmical sound: howl. An ululation from deep in the woods gave Jesse goosebumps.</td>
</tr>
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<th>tyrannical</th>
<th>ulcerous</th>
<th>umbilical</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>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.</td>
<td>having woolly or crisp hair. The ulotrichous aborigines crafted wide-toothed combs for their hair.</td>
<td>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.</td>
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<th>ulterior</th>
<th>umbra</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>not apparent: hidden. When Sherman volunteered to walk the dog, his ulterior motive was to escape the boring conversation in the house.</td>
<td></td>
<td>a shaded area: darkness. Trent saw something flicker in the umbra beneath the side porch.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
umbrage
n
/ˈʌmbrɪdʒ/
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
/ˈʌmbrɪdʒəs/
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
/ˈʌmlaʊt/
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
/ˈʌmpɪr/ 
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
/yʊˈnæməs /
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
/yʊˈnəʊ /
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
/ˈʌnsɪfərəs /
L
bearing a hook or hooklike structure.
Weaving and other fiber arts involve the use of several unciferous tools.

uncinate
adj
/ˈʌnsɪnət/ 
L
bent at the tip like a hook.
Using a magnifying glass, Chad was able to examine the insect’s uncinate antennae.

unconsciousable
adj
/ˈʌnˌkʌnʃəˈnæbəl /
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
/ˈʌnkʌð/ 
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

undulation

unencrypted

unexceptionable
adj
/ənˈeksəʃənəbəl /
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

ufurl
v
/ənˈfɔːrl/ 
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
unguligrade
adj
/ˈʌŋɡyʊlərɪɡrɑːd/ /L
walking on hoofs.
*Unguligrade mammals include horses, cows, swine, camels, deer, elephants, rhinoceroses, and tapirs.*

unhygienic
unicameral

unicorn
n
/yʊˈnɪkərn/ /L
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.

unalterable
unintelligible
adj
/ˌʌnɪˈtelɪdʒəbəl/ /Ecf + E + L
difficult to comprehend.
Dave readily admitted that he found the article unintelligible.

unique
adj
/yuˈniːk/ /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
/yʊˈnɪsən/ /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
/ˌʌnˈprezɪdəntɪd/ /Ecf + L + Ecff
new, unexampled.
Last year the city experienced an unprecedented expansion in population and industry.

unpredictable
adj
/ˌʌnprɪˈdɛktəbəl/ /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
/ˌʌnprɪˈnɪkəl/ /Ecf + L + Ecff
lacking or exhibiting a lack of a moral code of conduct.
The detective described the arsonist as “unprincipled and conscienceless.”

unpronounceable

unrequited
adj
/ˌʌnˈriːkwɪtɪd/ /Ecf + L + Ecff
not returned in kind.
Several passages in the novel were devoted to Harriet’s unrequited love for Mr. Elton.

unscrupulous
adj
/ˌʌnˈskrʌpjuːləs/ /E + L
unprincipled.
Desmond was not so unscrupulous as to betray his comrades.

unsullied

untenantable
adj
/ˌʌnˈtenəntəbəl/ /Ecf + L + Ecff
[Note: Could be confused with untenable.] incapable of being occupied or lived in.
The hurricane left thousands of homes untenantable.

unveiled

unyielding
adj
/ˌʌnˈjɪldɪŋ/ /Ecf + E
refusing to give way: resolute, obstinate.
Jake’s unyielding opposition to the proposed surprise party is becoming tiresome.

unprincipled

upheaval

upholstery

uppity
adj
/ˈʌpɪti/ /E + Ecf
marked by airs of superiority.
icole forgave Amanda for her uppity behavior at the party.

upright
adj
/ˈʌprɪt/ /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
urbanity
n /ˌərˈbænəti/  
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 /ˈɜːrbəˌkʌltʃər/  
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 /ərˈsēələt/  
shaped like an urn.
{At the end of the drive stood a pair of urceolate boxwoods.}

urchin

urgency

ursine
adj /ˈərsən/  
[has near homonym: hircine] of, relating to, or characteristic of a bear.
{Some children are particularly fascinated by ursine hibernation.}

urticant
adj /ˈərdəkənt/  
producing itching or stinging.
{Strawberry nettles are notorious for their urticant effect on human skin.}

usher
n /ˈəʃə(r)/  
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.}

ution
n /ˈəʃ(ə)ʃən/  
the action of burning.
{Finding the paper too thick to tear or cut easily, Richard resorted to ution to destroy it without a trace.}

ustulation
n /əs(ə)ʃəˈlɑːʃən/  
the action of burning or searing.
{By ustulation the metallurgist separated the sulfur from the ore.}

usufruct
n /ˈyuːzəfrʌkt/  
the right to use or enjoy something.
{The homeowners in Eleanor’s neighborhood have a usufruct to a large fenced park.}

usurious
adj /ˈyuːzərərəs/  
involving or taking illegal or exorbitant interest for the use of money.
{The officers of the bank were charged with usurious practices.}

usurpative
adj /ˈyuːsərəpədəv/  
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 /ˈyuːsərpər/  
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

utilitarian
adj /əˌjuːtəˈlɪtəriən/  
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 /əˌjuːtəˈlɪzəbl/  
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 /ˈətərəns/  
something that is spoken.
{Smoke and clamor accompanied every utterance of the Great Oz.}

uxorial
adj /əˈkrəsəˈrəl/  
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
vacatur
n
/ vəˈkædər /  
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.

vacary
n
/ ˈvækəri /  
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
/ ˈvaksənət /  
L  
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
/ ˈvɑsələt /  
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
/ ˈvakyəwəs /  
L  
empty of or lacking content (as of air or gas). 
Vacuous spaces within the meteorite made it easy to split in half.

vacuum

vagabond
adj
/ ˈvæɡəbənd /  
L  
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
/ ˈvægərē /  
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
/ ˈvæɡrənsē /  
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
/ ˈvælədɪkt(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
/ ˈvælətədˈnərēən /  
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
/ ˈvæliəntli /  
L  
in a brave or bold manner: courageously. 
Deidre tried valiantly to swim the English Channel.

validity
n
/ ˈvælidətē /  
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
/ ˈvælərəs /  
L  
brave, courageous. 
Carrie’s valorous behavior during the flood earned her a medal.

valve

vampire
vandalism
n
/ˈvændəlizm/
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
/ˈvændəlɪz/
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
n
/ˈvændərdʒ/ 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
n
/ˈvæŋkwɪʃ/ 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.

variation
n
/ˌvɛrəˈʃərn/ L
a solo dance in ballet.
Erik choreographed a variation to be performed by the stars of his ballet company.

varicelliform
adj
/ˌværəˈsɛlɪfərm/ L + L
resembling chicken pox.
A virus was responsible for Lloyd’s varicelliform rash.

varicose
adj
/ˈværəkəs/ L
abnormally swollen or dilated.
Extreme cases of varicose veins can require surgical treatment.

variegated
adj
/ˈvər(ə)ˈɡædʒəd/ 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
adj
/ˈvɑːrɪələs/ L
consisting wholly of edible plants.
After spending two years in Japan, Annabelle followed a vegetarian diet.

vanguard
n
/ˈværərdʒ/ L
the foremost part: forefront.
The vaward of the column stopped to allow stragglers to catch up.

vaudevillian
n
/ˈvɔdəvɪlən/ F
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.
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<th>vehemence</th>
<th>velocity</th>
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<td>n</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>adj</td>
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<tr>
<td>/ˈvɛmən(t)s/</td>
<td>/vəˈlæsədə/</td>
<td>/ˈvenər(ə)bal/</td>
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<tr>
<td>L &gt; F</td>
<td>L &gt; F</td>
<td>L</td>
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<tr>
<td>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.</td>
<td>quickness of motion: swiftness, speed. George estimated the velocity of the wind at 22 miles per hour.</td>
<td>deserving to be regarded with profound respect and affection. The venerable teacher's retirement saddened students who had hoped to benefit from her instruction.</td>
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<td>/ˈvɛldrəm/</td>
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<td>a building containing a track designed for cycling. The university's new velodrome was funded by an alumnus who was an ardent bicyclist.</td>
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<td>/ˈv æltʃʌn/</td>
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<tr>
<td>[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.</td>
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<th>vellation</th>
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<td>L &gt; It</td>
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<td>an autumnal thundersquall on the coast of Mexico. A recent vendaval damaged the banana grove.</td>
<td>an autumnal thundersquall on the coast of Mexico.</td>
<td>a prolonged feud marked by bitter hostility. Chloe's all-night party exacerbated the vendetta with her neighbor.</td>
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<th>velleity</th>
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<td>/ˈv æləd ə/</td>
<td>/vəˈn ən(ə)r/</td>
<td>/ˌvənəˈnɪf(ə)rəs/</td>
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<tr>
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<td>G</td>
<td>L + EcF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a slight wish: a faint desire. Mr. and Mrs. Newton found that the hotel staff had anticipated their every velleity.</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>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.</td>
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<th>vellication</th>
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<td>/ˈv  e n əs ən/</td>
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<td>/ˈv  e nˈleɪt/</td>
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<td>L &gt; F &gt; E</td>
<td>L &gt; F &gt; E</td>
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<td>the act of twitching or of causing to twitch. While dissecting a frog in biology class, Sam noticed vellication of the legs.</td>
<td>the flesh of a deer. Mandy roasted a leg of venison with prunes and chestnuts.</td>
<td>poisonous matter normally secreted by some animals (as snakes, scorpions, or bees). The snake's venom paralyzed its prey.</td>
<td>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.</td>
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<td>ventriloquist</td>
<td>verbena</td>
<td>verdolaga</td>
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<td>n / venˈtriloʊkwɑːst /</td>
<td>n / ˈvə(r)ˈbɛnə /</td>
<td>n / ˈvɜrdəˈlɑɡə /</td>
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<tr>
<td>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.</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>an annual herb with fleshy leaves. Latin American cooks use verdolaga in soups and salads.</td>
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<th>venue</th>
<th>verbigerate</th>
<th>verdure</th>
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<tr>
<td>n / ˈven(ˌ)yū /</td>
<td>v / (ˌ)vərˈbiɡərət /</td>
<td>n / ˈvərˈʒɔr /</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>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.</td>
<td>repeat a word or sentence endlessly and meaninglessly. The psychiatrist explained that some schizophrenic patients often verbigerate.</td>
<td>n / ˈvɜrdəˈlɑɡə /</td>
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<tr>
<th>veracious</th>
<th>verbonomania</th>
<th>verisimilitude</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>adj / vəˈrɑʃəs /</td>
<td>n / ˈvɜrbəˈmänə /</td>
<td>n / ˈvɜrəˈsɪmilətud /</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>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.</td>
<td>excessive use of or obsession with words. Frances was accused of verbonomania by her classmates, who didn’t understand why she liked to study spelling.</td>
<td>the quality or state of having the appearance of truth. The artist’s scrupulous attention to detail provided an impressive degree of verisimilitude.</td>
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<th>veracity</th>
<th>verboten</th>
<th>verjuice</th>
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<tr>
<td>n / ˈvərəsətē /</td>
<td>adj / ˈva(r)ˈbōtən /</td>
<td>n / ˈvərˈʒiːs /</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>devotion to the truth : truthfulness. The prosecutor questioned the veracity of the witness.</td>
<td>forbidden; especially : prohibited by dictate. Speaking English in the German language-immersion program is verboten.</td>
<td>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.</td>
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<th>verbally</th>
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<tr>
<td>adv / ˈvərbələ /</td>
<td>n / ˈvɜrdənt /</td>
<td>n / ˈvɜrməˌsɛlə /</td>
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<tr>
<td>in a manner involving the use of words rather than action or performance. Johann couldn’t describe the shape verbally, so he drew it.</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>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.</td>
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<th>verbatim</th>
<th>verdigris</th>
<th>vermicelli</th>
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<td>adv / ˈvərəbətəm /</td>
<td>n / ˈvɜrdəɡriːs /</td>
<td>n / ˈvɜrməˌsɛlə /</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>word for word : in the same words. Marcelle can recite the entire Gettysburg Address verbatim.</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>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.</td>
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<tr>
<td>vermiculate</td>
<td>adj, wormlike in shape. When Tom's two-year-old brother tried to draw something, he could manage only a few vermiculate lines.</td>
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<tr>
<td>vernacular</td>
<td>adj, 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.</td>
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<td>vernal</td>
<td>adj, of, relating to, or characteristic of the spring. Cherry trees produce some of the prettiest vernal blossoms.</td>
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<td>vernissage</td>
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<td>versatile</td>
<td>adj, [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.</td>
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<td>vertebrate</td>
<td>adj, having a spinal column. Vertebrate animals include fishes, reptiles, birds, and mammals.</td>
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<td>vertex</td>
<td>n, 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.</td>
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<td>vertical</td>
<td>adj, perpendicular to the plane of the horizon or to a primary axis: upright. Blythe preferred the fabric with broad vertical stripes.</td>
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<td>vertiginate</td>
<td>v, whirl dizzily around: twirl. Young children love to vertiginate until they fall down.</td>
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<td>vertiginous</td>
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<td>vertigo</td>
<td>n, 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.</td>
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<td>vesicant</td>
<td>n, an agent (as a drug or a plant substance) that induces blistering. Brittany wore thick gloves in order to avoid contact with the vesicant.</td>
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<td>vesperitine</td>
<td>adj, setting with or just after the Sun. Venus is the most prominent vespertine planet.</td>
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<td>vessel</td>
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<td>vestige</td>
<td>n, 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.</td>
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<td>vexation</td>
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<td>vexatious</td>
<td>adj, causing or likely to cause mental suffering. A lame carriage horse threw everything into sad uncertainty and created a situation Emma found most vexatious.</td>
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<td>vexillology</td>
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<td>viable</td>
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<td>vibraphone</td>
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<td>vibrato</td>
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vicarage n /ˈvɪkərɪdʒ/ 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 /ˈvɪsəˈdʒɛrənt/ 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
vichyssosé n /vɪʃiˈsɔsə/ F geog name
a soup made of pureed leeks and potatoes and usually served cold.
When vichyssosé is well made, it’s heavenly; when it’s badly made, it’s inedible.

vicinage
viciously adv /ˈvɪʃəsli/ L > F > E
in a manner marked by violence or ferocity.
The puppy attempted to shake the old sock viciously.

vicissitude n /vɑˈsɪstjuːd/ 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.

vicountiel adj /vɪˈkɒnʃəntiəl/ F > AF
of or relating to a viscount or sheriff.
Robin Hood was wanted by the vicountiel authorities of several counties.

victorious
viduity n /vɪˈdɪəti/ L
widowhood.
Wendy’s first husband was killed in the Gulf War, but her viduity ended when she remarried in 1994.

vigentennial adj /vɪˈdʒənˈtɛnəl/ L
occurring once every 20 years: relating to a 20th anniversary.
The store celebrated its vigentennial anniversary with a big sale.

vigesimal
vigilance
vigilante n /vɪˈɡɪlənti/ 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 /vɪnəˈɡrɒn/ 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 /ˈvɪlətɪ/ 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 /ˈvɪləpend/ L
speak of slightingly or disparagingly: depreciate.
The candidate decided to vilipend her opponent instead of discussing the issues.

villain
villainous
villainy
vinaceous adj /vɪˈnəʃəs/ L > F > E
of the color wine red.
The vinaceous liquid in the three-foot-high bottle at the restaurant is not really wine.

vinaigrette
vincible
<table>
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<th>Word</th>
<th>Definition</th>
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| vinculum | n
* /ˈvɪŋkyələm /
L
a unifying bond. *Their mutual love of dolls is the vinculum between Delia and Christine, who are otherwise very different.* |
| vindicate | v
* /ˈvɪndɪkət /
L
free from any question of error, dishonor, guilt, or negligence. *Oliver felt the judge’s decision would vindicate him completely.* |
| vinegar | n
* /ˈvɪŋgər(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
* /ˈvɪnɪərd /
E
a field of grapevines. *While touring a Napa Valley winery, Jamie wandered through the vineyard.* |
| vintner | n
* /ˈvɪntnə(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 | n
* /ˈvɪlətəd /
L
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.* |
| violin | n
* /ˈvɪlən /
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
* /ˌvələnˈtʃɛloʊ /
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
* /ˈvɪrəɡəʊ /
L
[has near homonym: vorago] a loud overbearing woman. *The manager at the Department of Motor Vehicles was, unfortunately, a virago.* |
| viridescent | adj
* /ˈvɪrədesnt /
L
greenish. *Gideon removed the viridescent scum from the bottom of the horse trough and added fresh water.* |
| virtue | n
/ˈvɜːrəts /
L
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.* |
| virtuoso | n
/ˈvɜːrətsoʊ /
L
the degree or extent to which something is capable of being seen. *The captain announced that visibility was approximately five miles.* |
| virology | n
* /vɪˈrɒlədʒi /
L
the study of viruses.* |
| visage | n
* /ˈvɪʒeɪdʒ /
L
a look or appearance.* |
| viscount | n
* /ˈvɪskənt /
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
* /ˈvɪskəs /
L
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.* |
| viscose | adj
* /ˈvɪskəs /
L
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.* |
| virulent | adj
* /ˈvɜːrələnt /
L
classified as having rapid course, severity, and malignancy—used especially of a disease or infection. *The virulent strain of flu spread rapidly through the community.* |
| virulence | n
* /ˈvɜːrələns /
L
the state or condition showing or felt as virulence.* |
| virulence | n
* /ˈvɜːrələns /
L
the state or condition showing or felt as virulence.* |
| visceroptosis | n
* /ˈvɪskərəptəsəs /
L + Gk
downward displacement of the abdominal organs. *The growth of the tumor had caused visceroptosis.* |
| virulence | n
* /ˈvɜːrələns /
L
the state or condition showing or felt as virulence.* |
vitiate
v
/ˈvɪʃət/ 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 /ˈvɪtrəs/ L of, relating to, derived from, or consisting of glass. The huge vitreous wall of skyscrapers reflected the mountains and the sunset.

vitrescible
adj /ˈvɪtərɪsəbəl/ 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 /ˈvɪtʃrɪn/ L 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 /ˈvɪtəriəlik/ L marked by a caustic biting quality. Howard had to be reprimanded for his vitriolic outbursts against the referees and opposing players.

vituperative
adj /vɪtʃˈpʊərətɪv/ L containing or characterized by wordy abuse. Josh’s dad gave him a vituperative lecture after the accident.

vivace
adv /vɪˈvæs/,chɑ/ L 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 /ˈvɪksənɪʃ/ L resembling a shrewish ill-tempered woman. Elena could become vixenish when she felt slighted.

vociferate

vociferous
adj /ˈvɒkəfərəs/ L marked by or given to ready vehement insistent outcry. A vociferous couple in the back row ruined our evening at the poetry reading.

vociferate

vocabulary

vocation
n /vəˈkɑʃən/ 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.

volatility

vole

volar

volar

volatile
adj /ˈvɔlətəl/ L easily passing off by evaporation. The fact that gasoline is highly volatile produces an advantage in starting engines.

volition
n /ˈvɒliʃən/ 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 /vɒliˈbɪləti/ 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 /vəˈræɡo/ L [has near homonym: virago] an engulfing chasm: abyss. Before he knew it, Beck had crossed the bridge over the vorago.

vorlage
n /ˈvɔr.lɑɡə/ 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
vortex
n /ˈvɔr.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 /ˈvoi(ə)ij/ L > E
an act or instance of traveling: excursion, tour. Bill and Gail went on a sea voyage for their honeymoon.

vulgar
adj /ˈvʊlɡə(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 /ˈvʌlnərəbəl/ L
capable of being wounded: defenseless against injury. Maggie's sensitive nature made her vulnerable to cross remarks.

vulnerary
adj /ˈvʌlnərərē/ L
promoting the healing of wounds: curative. There was a section in the old medical book about vulnerary herbs.

vulpine

vulture
n /ˈvʌlchə(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 /ˈwæfəl/ 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 /ˈwæŋzkɑt/ L
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 /ˈwɔld.mista(r)/ G + L > G
a small European sweet-scented herb. The Germans use waldmeister to flavor May wine.

wallaby
n /ˈwæləbē/ A
Australian name any of various small or medium-sized kangaroos. The wallaby usually feeds in the safety of dusk or darkness.

wallet

walleyed
adj /ˈwɔl.iid/ E
having very light gray or whitish eyes. The Appaloosa foaled a walleyed filly last spring.

wallop
v /ˈwæləp/ 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 /ˈwɔltz/ 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 /ˈwʌndər.lʌst/ G
strong or unconquerable longing for or impulse toward traveling. Cayte's wanderlust caused her to postpone college so that she could tour Europe.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wantonness</th>
<th>Wasabi</th>
<th>Wearisome</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>n</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>adj</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/ˈwɒntn/</td>
<td>/ˈwəsəbə/</td>
<td>/ˈwɛrəsəm/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>Jpn</td>
<td>E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the quality or state of being without check or limitation.</td>
<td>an Asiatic herb whose greenish root is grated and eaten with fish or other food.</td>
<td>tiresome, tedious.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The wantonness of comfort Georgetta experienced as a young child caused her to become a spoiled brat.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wapiti</th>
<th>Wasp</th>
<th>Weasel</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>n</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>n</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/ˈwæpədə/</td>
<td>/ˈwæsp/</td>
<td>/ˈwɛzəl/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Algonquian</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a North American deer similar to the European red deer but considerably larger.</td>
<td>any of numerous winged hymenopterous insects that have well-developed wings and biting mouthparts, and a more or less formidable sting.</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The older male wapiti is often hunted for its antlers.

The well-known yellow jacket is a wasp with a hurtful sting.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Warden</th>
<th>Washtrough</th>
<th>Weather</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>n</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>n</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/ˈwɜrdən/</td>
<td>/ˈwɔst.wi(ɔ)r/</td>
<td>/ˈwɛðər/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gmc &gt; F &gt; E</td>
<td>L &gt; F &gt; E + E</td>
<td>E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>an official in charge of the operation of a prison.</td>
<td>a notch in a levee or other barrier across a stream for the escape of superfluous water.</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The warden recommended that the disruptive prisoner be denied parole.

A wasteweir was constructed in the dam to prevent flooding along the banks of the stream.

In the snow the white fur of the weasel camouflages it against attacks by hawks or owls.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Warison</th>
<th>Warmonger</th>
<th>Warmth</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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</tbody>
</table>

The warrior attended a council before battle in the morning.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Warrior</th>
<th>Watercress</th>
<th>Waxen</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>n</td>
<td>n</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/ˈwɔrɪər/</td>
<td>/ˈwɔdə(ɹ)kres/</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>E</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a human engaged or experienced in warfare and especially in primitive warfare or the close combat typical of ancient or medieval times.</td>
<td>a white-flowered plant growing in water with leaves that are used in salads.</td>
<td>something rejected or discarded as useless or imperfect.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Hardly any item is wastrel to the ardent recycler.

The boll weevil is a serious pest to the cotton crop in North America.
Mrs. Avery asked Sam to weigh the potential consequences of his decision.

Bored by fishing, the boys set up a weir and went off to play basketball.

Most episodes of The X-Files begin with a weird or puzzling event.

Free health care was touted as one of the benefits of welfarism.

In the days of the horse and buggy, the wheelwright had an essential job to do.

Ichabod became the object of whimsical persecution to Brom and his gang of rough riders.

Allen’s habitual whininess when asked to do something he didn’t like annoyed both his teacher and his classmates.

Everyone was surprised that Jake had the wherewithal to buy a sailboat.

Mother frowned when Edgar said the food was probably too hot to eat, a whilom excuse for being late for lunch.

Laura’s dog starts to whimper whenever he wants to be fed.

Ichabod became the object of whimsical persecution to Brom and his gang of rough riders.

Everyone was surprised that Jake had the wherewithal to buy a sailboat.

Laura’s dog starts to whimper whenever he wants to be fed.
whippoorwill
n
/ˈhɪpəwɔr(ə)l/ 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
/ˈhɪrlɪdʒ/  E
a child’s toy having a whirling or spinning motion. Sandy bought a whirligig at the dime store.

whirlwind
n
/ˈhɜrlwɪnd/  Scand > E + E
a small rotating windstorm of limited extent. A whirlwind is sometimes called a “dust devil.”

whisk
n
/ˈhɪsk/  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
/ˈhɪspərə(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
/ˈhɪst/  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
/ˈhwɪsləbl/  E + Ecf
capable of being whistled. Rufus could botch up even the most whistleable tune.

whodunit
n
/ˈhədənət/  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
/ˈhɔlsəl/  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
/ˈhɔlsəm/  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
/ˈhwɔrlɪrɔ(r)lɛrɔrt/  E
a tall perennial herb—called also “Culver’s root.” Darnell bought a hand-colored engraving of a whorlywort at the auction.

whortleberry
n
/ˈhwɔrtlˈberi/  E
a sweet edible European blueberry. The unripe whortleberry was too sour for Vernon to eat.

wickup
n
/ˈwɪkəp/  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 wickup, the campers were careful to leave a hole in the top for campfire smoke to escape.

widget
n
/ˈwɪdʒt/  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
/ˈwɪns(ə)m/  E
pleasant because of cheer, childlike nature, and open candor. The little tyke’s winsome smile won him many friends.

wintriness

wirrah

wiseacre

wisent
n
/ˈvɪzənt/  G
a European bison. The advance of European civilization drove the wisent to the brink of extinction; it survived mainly by breeding in zoos.
withernam
n
/ˈwɪðən/  nām /
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
/ˈwɪt.ʊf/  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
/ˈwɪt.əˌsɪzəm/  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
/ˈwɪzəd(r)əri/  E
magic skill: sorcery, witchcraft.
Merlin practiced his wizardry at the court of King Arthur.

wizen

wobbulator
n
/ˈwɒbəˌlədə(r)/  G  +  Ef
a testing device for radio sets in which the frequency is varied periodically and automatically over a predetermined range.
The primary function of a wobbulator is broadcast receiver testing.

woebegone
adj
/ˈwəbiɡən/  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
/ˈwɒk/  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
/ˈræθ/  unknown
an apparition of the exact likeness of a living person seen usually just before that person’s death.
The wrath of a person shortly to die is a firm article in the creed of Scottish superstition.

wrangler

wrasse

wreak

wreath
n
/ˈrēθ/  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
/ˈrekəj/  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
/ˈrɛstəl/  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
/ˈrɛchəd/  E
squalid, dismal, foul.
After the flood, the whole neighborhood looked wretched.

wriggle
v
/ˈrɪgl/  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
/ˈrɪθ/  E
move or proceed with twists and turns.
Silently, we watched a seven-foot boa constrictor writhe through the trees.
wunderkind
n
/ˈvʊndərkiŋt/  
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
/ˈzænθɪk/  
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
/ˈzænθəmə/  
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
/ˌzɛnəˈɡæmɪ/  
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

xeroculous
adj
/ˌzɛrəˈkʌləs/  
Gk > L + L + Ecf
thriving in a relatively dry environment. The xeroculous plants of the desert generally have roots that penetrate deeply into the soil to obtain moisture.

xerosis
n
/ˌzɛrəˈrɒsɪs/  
Gk
abnormal dryness of the skin. Xerosis can be an indication of an underlying health problem.

xerostomia
n
/ˌzɛrəˈstɒmɪə/  
Gk
abnormal dryness of the mouth due to insufficient secretions. Xerostomia was one of the drug’s side effects.

xylem
n
/ˈzɪləm/  
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.

xylograph
n
/ˈzɪləɡrɑf/  
Gk
an engraving on wood. A Chinese xylograph of a bull decorated the restaurant wall.

xylography

xylophagous

xylophilous

xylophone
n
/ˌzɪləˈfən/  
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

yacht

yachtsman
n
/ˈjætsmən/  
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
/ˈjær(ə)ˌbɔrə/  
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
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **yeast** | n /ˈyɛst/  
A substance used in baking and the fermentation of alcoholic beverages: leaven.  
The sourdough bread recipe called for two packages of yeast. |
| **yenta** | n /ˈyɛntə/  
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** | n /ˈjœmən/  
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** | n /ˈjœberi/  
Yew, a shrub or small tree with glossy leaves and cones.  
| **yoga** | n /ˈyəgə/  
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 /ˈyəkəl/  
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 /ˈyor(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 /ˈɪtrɪəm/  
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 /zâˈbäts(ə)sû/  
Jpn the powerful financial and industrial conglomerates of Japan.  
Keiko intended that her electronics company become one of the zaibatsu. |
| **zapateado** | n /ˌzâˈpaˈtâ(ə)dô/  
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 /ˈzel/  
Gk > L > E impassioned eagerness.  
Russell entered into his new job with great zeal. |
| **zealot** |  
| **zealous** |  
| **zebra** |  
| **zeitgeber** | n /tsitˈɡābər/  
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 /ˈzenəθ/  
Ar > Sp > L > F > E the point of culmination: peak, summit.  
Winning the Faculty Award was the zenith of Stephanie’s college career. |
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 /'zep(ə)lən/
G name
a rigid airship.
Olga’s dream was to ride in a
zeppelin one day.

zeugma
n /'züɡma/
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'zagəd'nəs/
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 /'zərkən/
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

zeugma

zoochnology

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