

The Spelling Champ

Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency (A-C)



2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

aardvark

abactor

abaft

abandon

abandonedly

adv

/ ə'bandən(d)lɪ /

F > E + Ecf

in a manner free from constraint.

It is well to live abandonedly from time to time.

abatement

abatis

abbatial

abducent

abduction

n

/ əb'dəkʃən /

L

the action of carrying (a person) off by force.

The abduction of Helen by Paris led to the Trojan War.

abecedarian

abendmusik

aberrance

aberrancy

aberrational

abetting

abhorred

v

/ əb'hɒ(ə)rɪd /

L

detested extremely : loathed.

In the 60s many young people abhorred the thought of going to war.

abhorrent

abide

v

/ ə'bɪd /

E

[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word.] atone for : pay for : suffer for.

Dale fears he will have to abide last night's eating binge.

Abidjan

adj

/ 'abə'jæn /

Afr geog name

of or relating to Abidjan, capital of the Ivory Coast from 1934 until 1983.

Nell tuned to CNN to get the latest on the Abidjan protest.

abience

n

/ 'abɪən(t)s /

L

[has near homonym: adience]

tendency to withdraw from a stimulus object or situation.

Claudia's painfully shy brother gave a perfect illustration of abience at the school assembly.

abjoint

ablation

n

/ ə'blæʃən /

L

[has near homonym: oblation]

lowering of a land surface by wind erosion or weathering agents.

Warming of polar seas leads to ablation of the ice caps.

ablaze

adj

/ ə'blæz /

E + E

radiant with light or bright color.

Soren's yard was ablaze with lighted Christmas trees.

ablutions

n pl

/ ə'blʊʃənz /

L > F > E

the washing of one's body or part of it.

Carl nodded to Ivar, who was making his morning ablutions at the pump.

abnegate

abnegation

n

/ ,abnɪ'gæʃən /

L

renunciation or denial.

Monasticism involves the disciplining, limitation, or abnegation of the material aspects of human life.

abnormal

adj

/ əb'nɔrməl /

L

differing from the typical.

In modern society, many people consider it abnormal to live without e-mail.

aboard

adv

/ ə'bɔ(ə)rɪd /

E

on or within a ship, railway car, or passenger vehicle.

Spotting dorsal fins in the distance, Jeff swam back to the sailboat and pulled himself aboard.

abolitionists

n pl

/ ,əbəlɪʃənəsts /

L + Ecf

advocates of doing away with completely; specifically : advocates of doing away with slavery.

African captives from the slave ship Amistad, aided by American abolitionists in a two-year legal battle, were eventually freed.

abominate

aborted

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abbranchiate

adj
/ ă'brɑŋkēət /
Gk
lacking gills.
Salamanders develop into an abbranchiate form as they mature.

abrogate

abrupt

abscission

absentmindedly

adv
/ 'absənt.mɪndədlē /
L > F > E + E + Ecff
in a manner preoccupied to the point of failure to respond to ordinary demands on the attention.
Sal absentmindedly dunked his doughnut in his orange juice.

absolute

absolutely

adv
/ .absə'lütlē /
L
in a manner that is not dependent on anything else.
The tall, rectangular buildings were absolutely plain: Each window and each entrance were exactly like every other.

absolutize

absolve

absorbefacient

absorbent

absorption

abstemiously

abstergent

abstract

abstraction

abstrusity

absurd

abundant

abusive

abusively

abustle

abutment

abyss

abyssal

Abyssinian

adj
/ .abə'sɪniən /
E Afr geog name
of or relating to Ethiopia.
Paul collects Abyssinian tapestry.

academe

n
/ 'akə.dēm /
Gk > L
environment associated with a school especially of higher learning.
Joe is at ease with everyone but prefers the company of those who are familiar with the halls of academe.

academician

n
/ .akədə'mɪʃən /
Gk > L
one (as a professor or student) that is associated with or a member of an institution of learning (as a university).
Dr. Holtzclaw is the oldest academician on campus.

academy

acanthus

n
/ ə'kan(t)θəs /
Gk
[Note: Could be confused with adjective acanthous.] any plant of a genus of prickly herbs of the Mediterranean region whose broad leaves are frequently represented in sculptured architectural ornaments.
The column's capital featured ornamentation representing the leaves of an acanthus.

acarian

adj
/ ə'ka(a)rēən /
Gk > L
of, relating to, caused by, or having the characteristics of a mite or tick.
Acarian parasites have saclike bodies unbroken by segments.

acceded

v
/ ak'sēdəd /
L
[has near homonym: exceeded]
expressed approval or gave consent.
Jan was glad when Mrs. Taft readily acceded to the proposal that the two parties attend the event together.

accent

accentuate

v
/ ak'senchə.wāt /
L
give special attention to : emphasize.
The columns of the Egyptian temple accentuate its height.

acceptable

acceptably

access

acciaccatura

accipitrine

acclaim

acclimated

acclivitous

accommodation

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accompaniment

n
/ ə'kəmp(ə)nēmənt /
L > F > E

an instrumental or vocal part subordinate to and designed to support, amplify, or complement a principal voice or instrument.

The chant followed a single melodic line with no instrumental accompaniment.

accompany

accomplish

accordance

accordion

accost

accostable

accosted

v
/ ə'kɒstəd /
L

approached and spoke to.

Mr. Weston immediately accosted Emma with questions about her health.

accouchement

n
/ ,əkʊʃ'mənt /
F

lying-in; especially : parturition : a state attending and consequent to childbirth.

Many insurance companies require that hospitals limit the period of accouchement to 24 hours.

account

accountant

n
/ ə'kaʊntənt /
F

one skilled in the practice of classifying, recording, and summarizing business and financial transactions and analyzing, verifying, and reporting the results.

Every April Rhonda vows to hire an accountant to figure her next year's taxes.

accredited

accretion

accretionary

adj
/ ə'krēʃhənərē /
L

marked by or involving addition or accumulation.

The accretionary hypothesis states that Earth has gradually grown larger over time because of the influx of meteorites and dust particles from space.

acculturate

acculturation

n
/ ə,kəlchə'rāʃhən /
L + L + Lcf

a process of continuous transmission of traits and elements between diverse peoples, resulting in new and blended patterns.

The Spanish conquest of Mexico was followed by a period of acculturation.

accumbent

adj
/ ə'kəmbənt /
L

leaning or reclining especially at meals.

Harriet ridiculed her brother's accumbent posture as he ate a TV dinner.

accuracy

accustomed

adj
/ ə'kəstəmd /
L > F > E

in the habit or custom : established in the practice.

John was becoming quite accustomed to being called "Jack" by his friends.

acedia

acerbic

acetaldehyde

n
/ ,asəd'aldəhīd /
ISV + [Ar > Sp > L + Gk > L > G]
L + L + Gk)

a colorless volatile water-soluble liquid aldehyde of pungent odor used chiefly in the production of organic compounds.

Acetaldehyde is often used in the manufacture of acetic acid.

acetaminophen

n
/ ə'sēdə'minəfən /
ISV

a crystalline compound used in medicine instead of aspirin to relieve pain and fever.

John took acetaminophen to relieve his headache.

acetic

adj
/ ə'sēdīk /
L > F

[Note: One of alternate pronunciations has homonym: ascetic.] relating to or producing a colorless liquid acid with a pungent odor constituting the chief acid of vinegar.

Morris enjoyed teasing his mom by accusing her of putting acetic acid in his food.

acetone

n
/ 'asətōn /
L > G

a volatile fragrant flammable liquid made by dehydrogenation of isopropyl alcohol or by bacterial fermentation and used chiefly as a solvent.

The simplest ketone is acetone, a pleasant-smelling liquid that is used mainly as a solvent for organic compounds.

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acharya

n
/ ä'chäryə /
Skt
a Hindu religious teacher : one versed in the sacred writings of the Hindus.
The acharya wrote a book in which he offered some innovative insights into the Bhagavad-Gita.

achieve

achievement

achievements

Achilleian

adj
/ .akə'lēən /
Gk name
[has homonym: achilleine] like Achilles, hero of Homer's Iliad (as in strength, invincibility, or moody and resentful wrath).
Troy's approach in games is so Achilleian that no one wants to play with him.

achromatic

achy

acid

n
/ 'asəd /
L
a compound capable of reacting with a base to form a salt, reddening litmus, and evolving hydrogen on reaction with certain metals (as iron, zinc, tin).
The formula for every inorganic acid contains one or more hydrogen atoms as well as an anionic group.

acidify

acidosis

n
/ .asə'dōsəs /
L + Gk > L
a condition of decreased alkalinity of the blood and tissues.
James was rushed to the emergency room, where he learned that he was suffering from acidosis.

acidulous

aciniform

adj
/ ə'sinə'förm /
L + Ecf
shaped like a cluster of grapes.
At the top of each column there was a crude, aciniform pattern.

acknowledged

v
/ ik'nälijd /
E
conceded to be real or true : admitted.
"That may be true," he acknowledged, "but it's completely accurate, and as long as the answer is right, who cares if the question is wrong?"

acinal

acne

acoelous

adj
/ ä'sēləs /
Ecf + Gk + Ecf
lacking a true stomach or digestive tract.
It is difficult to think of acoelous creatures like the sponge as being truly living creatures.

acolutic

acotyledon

n
/ .äkäd'lēd'n /
Gk > L > F
a plant without seed leaves.
The fern is a typical acotyledon.

acoustic

acoustical

acquaint

acquainted

acquiesced

v
/ .akwē'est /
L > F
accepted or complied tacitly or passively.
Until recently, Scott acquiesced in most situations involving conflict.

acquire

acrimony

acrobatic

adj
/ .akrə'badik /
Gk > F
performed with body contortions or tossing of one dancer by a partner.
Yasuko and Hiromi easily won the dance contest with their acrobatic version of the tango.

acrocyanosis

n
/ .akrō.sīə'nōsəs /
Gk
a disorder of the arterioles of the exposed parts of the hands and feet intensified by exposure to cold and resulting in bluish mottled skin.
Jane had acute acrocyanosis after being stranded on the snowy hiking trail for hours.

acrolect

n
/ 'akrə.lekt /
Gk + Gk
the most prestigious language variety of a community.
The British acrolect is defined by the speech of the royal family.

acrolectal

acrophobia

n
/ .akrə'fōbēə /
Gk
abnormal fear of being at a great height.
Because of his acrophobia, Murray stayed at the bottom while the rest of his class went to the top of the Empire State Building.

across

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acrotarsium

acrylics

n pl
/ ə'kriliks /
(L + Gk + Ecf) > ISV
paints in which the vehicle is a glasslike thermoplastic.
Judy enjoys going to the art supply store and shopping for new tubes of acrylics.

actinium

actinotherapy

n
/ .aktə(,)nō'therəpē /
Gk > L
application for therapeutic purposes of the chemically active rays of the spectrum.
Actinotherapy was the treatment of choice for Aletta's malady.

activate

activator

actressy

actuality

n
/ .akchə'walədē /
L
the act or state of existing in fact or reality.
In actuality, the threatening shadows near the house were only trees and shrubs.

actuarial

acuity

acumination

acute

adj
/ ə'kyüt /
L
having a sudden onset, sharp rise, and short course.
Acute appendicitis can be deadly if not diagnosed and treated immediately.

acuteness

adamant

adaptability

adaptable

addax

n
/ 'adaks /
L
a large light-colored antelope of northern Africa, Arabia, and Syria that has long spiraling horns.
The addax has a remarkable ability to find patches of vegetation in desert areas.

addendum

additive

address

addressee

adduce

adductor

adeciduate

adenoiditis

n
/ .ad'n.oi'didās /
Gk
inflammation of the enlarged masses of lymphoid tissue at the back of the pharynx.
The doctor hoped to treat Kyle's adenoiditis without resorting to surgery.

adenoids

adeptly

adherend

n
/ ad'hi.rend /
L
one of the bodies held to another by a bonding substance such as glue.
The instructions on the package said to spread a thin layer of cement on each adherend and clamp them together overnight.

adhesive

adiabatic

adj
/ .adēə'badik /
Gk
occurring without loss or gain of heat by the substance concerned.
Thermos bottles provide temporary adiabatic storage of hot or cold beverages.

adios

interj
/ .ädə'ōs /
L > Sp
—used to express farewell.
Amid cries of "adios" the happy couple departed for their honeymoon trip.

adiposity

adipsia

adjective

adjournment

n
/ ə'jərnmənt /
L > F > E
the act of putting off further proceedings either indefinitely or until a later stated time.
Judge Harcourt refused to grant the defendant's request for an adjournment and ordered the trial to continue.

adjudication

n
/ ə'jüdə'kāshən /
L
a judicial decision or sentence.
The lawyer explained that preventive detention is actually imprisonment without an adjudication of guilt.

adjustable

adjustment

adjutant

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admeasurement

n
/ ad'meʒhə(r)mənt /
L > F > E
dimensions, size.
The canal could handle a ship of considerable admeasurement.

administer

administration

admirable

admiralty

admirer

n
/ ad'mirə(r) /
L
one that regards with wondering esteem accompanied by pleasure and delight.
Long an admirer of Picasso's art, Beth looked forward to attending an exhibition of his works.

admiringly

adv
/ əd'mi(ə)riŋl̩ /
L > F + Ecff
with an elevated feeling of pleasure.
Marcia gazed admiringly at her newly purchased oil painting.

admissible

admission

admissive

admittance

admonish

v
/ ad'məniʃ /
L > F
express warning or disapproval to about remissness or error.
Mayor Richards hastened to admonish the new clerk for her poor manners on the telephone.

adobe

n
/ ə'dəʊbē /
Copt > Ar > Sp
building material of sun-dried earth and straw.
The hut made of adobe sagged sideways in the middle of the field.

adolesce

adolescent

n
/ ˌadˈlesˈnt /
L
one that is in the period of life from puberty to maturity terminating legally at the age of majority.
As an adolescent, Mike enjoyed outdoor activities with the Boy Scouts.

adoptable

adopted

adoration

adorment

adrenergic

adj
/ ˌadrə'nɜːdʒɪk /
L + Gk
activated by adrenaline.
When her child was threatened, Claire felt adrenergic strength surge through her body.

adroit

adscititious

adsorbent

adulation

adulteration

adust

adustiosis

n
/ ədʌstɪ'ɔːsɪs /
L + Gk
a physiological breakdown of the rind of citrus fruit causing a reddish discoloration—called also “red blotch.”
All the oranges in the crisper suffered from one stage or another of adustiosis.

advancement

advantageously

adv
/ ˌadvən'tɪʃəsli /
L > F > E
in a manner that is favorable, profitable, beneficial.
The most advantageously located cities are often on the banks of rivers.

advection

n
/ ad'vekʃən /
L
the horizontal movement of a mass of air which causes changes in temperature or in other physical properties of air.
The advection of warm, moist air over a cold surface often causes fog.

advenient

adventitious

adj
/ ˌad(ɪ)vən'tɪʃəs /
L
coming from another source : added or appended extrinsically and not sharing original, essential, and intrinsic nature.
Researchers have been comparing the carcinogenic risks of naturally occurring and adventitious substances in food.

adverbial

adversarial

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adversaries

n pl
/ 'advə(r).serēz /
L > F > E

ones that contend with, oppose, or resist.

Cynthia's adversaries in the tennis tournament were not easily defeated.

advisable

advising

aerator

aeroballistics

aerobatics

aerodynamics

aerophobia

aerophone

n
/ 'a(ə)rō.fōn /
Gk

a wind instrument.

A thin plate of birch bark used as an instrument is technically described as an aerophone with a tongue but without a soundboard.

aeroplankton

n
/ 'a(ə)rə.plaŋktən /
Gk + Gk

small airborne organisms (as flying insects).

The backyard barbecue was almost spoiled by pesky aeroplankton.

Aesculapian

adj
/ 'eskyə'lāpēən /
Gk name

of or belonging to Aesculapius, the Greco-Roman god of medicine, or the healing art.

The Aesculapian staff is the official insignia of the American Medical Association.

affectation

n
/ 'afek'tāshən /
L

manner of speech or behavior not natural to one's actual personality or capabilities.

Stuart is the sort of man who cultivates his every affectation with loving care.

affeer

affenpinscher

n
/ 'afən.pinchə(r) /
G

a small dog having a stiff red, gray, or black coat; pointed ears; and bushy eyebrows, chin tuft, and mustache.

Erica's affenpinscher escaped when she opened the door.

afferent

affination

affix

v
/ ə'fiks /
L

attach physically, as with nails or glue.

Joanne asked the janitor to affix the bulletin board to the wall of her new classroom.

affixed

affliction

n
/ ə'flikshən /
L

a state of pain, distress, or grief.

John Addison wrote that some virtues are seen only in affliction.

affrighted

adj
/ ə'frīdəd /
E

seized with sudden and great fear approaching terror.

The hair of the affrighted cat bristled.

afghan

n
/ 'af.gan /
Pashto

a blanket or shawl of colored wool, knitted or crocheted in strips or squares which are joined by sewing or crocheting.

Mrs. Campbell knitted a striped afghan as a housewarming present for her new neighbors.

afield

aforsaid

afoul

Afrikaans

n
/ 'afrəkän(t)s /
L > D

a language that developed in southern Africa from 17th-century Dutch and is one of the official languages of the Republic of South Africa.

The South African president gave his inaugural address in Afrikaans.

afterglow

n
/ 'aftə(r).glō /
E + E

the light especially in the western sky after sunset.

Pike's Peak stood out majestic and beautiful in the afterglow.

against

agalloch

n
/ ə'galək /

Dravidian > Gk

the soft resinous wood of an East Indian tree that is burnt as a perfume.

A small piece of agalloch smoldered outside the Buddhist temple.

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agathism

n
/ 'agəˌθɪzəm /
Gk

the doctrine that all things tend toward ultimate good.
Whereas optimism holds that all things are now for the best, agathism maintains that somehow things will be good in the end.

aged

agency

aggrandize

aggrandizing

v
/ əˈgræn.dɪzɪŋ /
L > F

making appear great or greater : exalting.
Aggrandizing himself at every opportunity, Seth sees no value in humility.

aggressor

n
/ əˈɡresə(r) /
L

one that commits or practices an offensive action or procedure; especially : a nation that commits an unprovoked overt hostile attack.
America is fortunate to be bordered by no nation that desires to be an aggressor.

aggrieved

adj
/ əˈɡrɛvd /
L > F > E

troubled or distressed in spirit.
When Laurie's father died, she asked her aggrieved mother to come to live with her.

agile

agility

n
/ əˈjɪlədē /
L

quickness and dexterity of movement.
Mrs. Case moved with great agility for such an old woman.

agitation

n
/ əjəˈtɪʃən /
L

the persistent and sustained attempt to arouse public feeling or influence public opinion (as by appeals, discussions, or demonstrations).
A long agitation for national independence, not a sudden revolt, severed the country's ties with its motherland.

agnomen

n
/ agˈnōmən /
L

an additional name or epithet.
Richard gets testy when people use the agnomen the Lion-Hearted along with his given name.

agonic

agonize

v
/ 'agə.nɪz /
Gk > L > F

endure torture, pain, or anguish.
Before the new pain medication was available, Alicia would agonize with her migraine headaches for several days at a time.

agora

agравic

agricultural

agriculture

agrorod

agronome

agronomist

n
/ əˈɡrænəməst /
L + Gk

a specialist in the branch of agriculture that deals with crop production and soil management.
Last summer a Russian agronomist visited Uncle Carl's farm.

ahem

ahimsa

n
/ əˈhɪm.sə /
Skt

the doctrine of refraining from the harming of others or the taking of life.
Mahatma Gandhi went from village to village trying to restore peace, preaching ahimsa.

aiguille

aiguillette

aioli

n
/ ˈi.ɒ.li /
L > Prov

a sauce made of crushed garlic, egg yolks, olive oil, and lemon juice and sometimes potato.
In the Mediterranean region, aioli is served with fish and potatoes : garlic mayonnaise.

airsickness

airstream

n
/ ˈa(a)(ə)r.streɪm /
Gk + E

a current of air : wind; especially : a high-velocity wind at high altitude.
Flying in the same direction as an airstream increases an airplane's airspeed appreciably.

aitch

n
/ ˈæch /
L? > F

the letter h.
It is surprising in how many words the aitch is silent.

alarmable

alarmist

alas

alba

album

alcazar

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alcogel

alcoves

n pl
/ 'alkōvz /
Ar > Sp > F
recessed parts (as breakfast nooks) of rooms.
Silvio found that the alcoves in the library were ideal spots for afternoon naps.

aldehyde

n
/ 'aldəhīd /
Ar > Sp > L + Gk > L > G
any of a class of very reactive organic compounds that are intermediate in state of oxidation.
Cinnamic aldehyde is a high molar mass aldehyde that has a pleasant odor and is used in the manufacture of perfumes.

alembic

n
/ ə'lembik /
Gk > Ar > L > F
an apparatus usually made of glass or metal formerly much used in distillation.
The sorcerer used an alembic in concocting the invisibility potion.

alepidote

n
/ ə'lepədōt /
Gk
a fish without scales.
The handsaw fish is a deep-sea alepidote.

aleuronat

algebraic

algebraically

adv
/ .aljə'brāək(ə)lē /
Ar > L + Ecff
in a manner of, relating to, involving, or according to the laws of algebra.
The area of a rectangle is expressed algebraically as "area equals length times width."

Algerian

adj
/ al'jirēən /
African geog name
of, relating to, or characteristic of Algeria, a country in northwest Africa.
The Algerian vineyards that were planted under the French colonial rule have mostly fallen into ruin.

algotometer

alienage

aliphatic

adj
/ .alə'fadik /
Gk
of, relating to, or derived from fat.
Alison's science fair project was a study of the effectiveness of the aliphatic compounds used in soap.

aliveness

alkalify

alkyd

n
/ 'alkəd /
ISV
any of a large group of thermoplastic or thermosetting synthetic resins used chiefly in making protective coatings characterized in general by their gloss, flexibility, and good weathering properties.
Alkyd is an important ingredient in paint manufacturing.

allegation

n
/ .alə'gāshən /
L
the act of asserting positively often before a court.
Patrick's allegation that his neighbor started the forest fire was totally unfounded.

allegeable

allegiant

allegretto

alleviate

alleviation

n
/ ə.lēvē'āshən /
L
relief, moderation (as of physical or mental suffering).
Pat was ready to follow any recommendation for alleviation of her back pain.

alleyway

allied

adj
/ 'alīd /
L > F
joined by treaty or compact.
The leaders agreed to form an allied army to defend against any attack on their two countries.

allonym

n
/ 'alə.nim /
Gk
a name that is assumed by an author but that actually belongs to another person.
For his first novel, Allen considered using John Grisham as an allonym.

allot

v
/ ə'lɒt /
(Gmc + L) > F > E
assign as a share or portion to a particular person or thing or for a particular purpose.
When the supervisor made the schedule, she failed to allot each employee time for a morning break.

allotment

allotted

allspice

allure

n
/ ə'lū(ə)r /
L > F + Gmc > F
power of attraction or fascination.
The allure of possible immortality drove the wizard to study the dark side of magic.

alluring

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allusion

n
/ ə'li:zhən /
L

[has homonym: illusion] an implied indication or indirect reference.

Gwen's essay made much of the author's use of biblical allusion.

allusively

adv
/ ə'ly:svl̩ /
L + Ecf

implicitly, indirectly.

The old parchment mentioned treasure so allusively that it was not clear whether it was referring to something of actual monetary value.

alluvial

alluvium

ally

alogia

aloha

alpestrine

alphabetical

alphanumerical

adj
/ ˌalfə.n(y)u'merəkəl /
Gk + L + Ecff
consisting of both letters and numbers and often other symbols as well.

Because she used two separate alphanumerical codes, Georgia made many mistakes.

alpine

alternate

alternative

n
/ ɔl'tərnədɪv /
L

one of a number of things or courses offered for choice.

One alternative to confusion is proper organization.

alternativity

altigraph

n
/ 'altə.graf /
L + Gk

an instrument that measures height and is equipped with a recording mechanism.

Nora stored the readings of the altigraph in a folder in her backpack.

altimeter

altimetry

alto

altocumulus

n
/ ˌal(ɪ)tō'kyümyələs /
L + L

a fleecy cloud or cloud formation consisting of large whitish globular cloudlets with shaded portions.

The altocumulus consisted mostly of small, supercold water droplets.

altricial

adj
/ al'trɪʃəl /
L

having the young hatched in a very immature and helpless condition so as to require care for some time.

Parrots are altricial birds, and their mortality rate is often high if breeders do not pay close attention to detail.

alum

aluminotype

aluminous

aluminum

alumnus

alveolar

adj
/ əl'veələ(r) /
L

articulated with the tip of the tongue touching or near the teethridge (as the English consonant sounds \t\, \d\, and \n\).

Constance worked with a speech therapist to improve her pronunciation of alveolar consonants.

always

alyssum

n
/ ə'ly:səm /
Gk > L

a plant of a genus of European and Asiatic herbs having small usually yellow flowers.

Elvira's flagstone walk was bordered with sweet alyssum.

amalgamation

n
/ ə.məl.gə'məʃən /
Ar > L > F

the action or process of uniting or combining into a uniform and independent whole.

In the 13th century King Edward I effected the amalgamation of Wales with England.

amandine

adj
/ ˌämən'dēn /
Gk > L > F

[Note: Could be confused with almandine and amandin.] prepared or served with almonds.

Gail made salmon with mashed potatoes and green beans amandine for her dinner party.

amantadine

amaranth

n
/ 'amə.rən(t)θ /
Gk

a dark reddish purple.

Justin wanted to buy a green sofa, but his wife preferred to decorate the living room in amaranth and beige.

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

amaranthine

amaretto

amateurish

adj

/ ˌɑməˈtɔrɪʃ /

L > F + Ecf

lacking professional finish.

Sandy refused to pay for the wedding photographer's amateurish work.

amathophobia

Amazon

n

/ ˈɑməzən /

Gk

one of a race or nation of female warriors usually associated with Scythia or Asia Minor with whom the ancient Greeks of mythology repeatedly warred.

Penthesilea was an Amazon who fought on the side of the Trojans in the Trojan War and was killed by Achilles.

amazonite

ambassador

ambidexterity

n

/ ˌɑmbɪˈdɛkˈstɛrədɛ /

L

the quality or state of being capable of using both hands with equal ease.

The quarterback's ambidexterity came in handy on many occasions during yesterday's game.

ambient

ambiguous

ambitious

amble

n

/ ˈɑmbəl /

L

an easygoing or leisurely walking movement.

If you are in a hurry, you had better not go at an amble.

ambrette

n

/ ˈɑmbret /

F

a French dessert pear having a musky odor.

The featured dessert at Le Chateau Rouge was poached ambrette with whipped cream.

ambulance

ameliorable

amenities

n pl

/ əˈmenədēz /

L

things that conduce to physical or material comfort or convenience or to a pleasant and agreeable life.

The timeshare resort's maintenance fee nearly doubled with the addition of several amenities.

amenity

amerce

amercement

n

/ əˈmɜrsmənt /

F > AF > E

the infliction of a penalty at the discretion of the court; also : the penalty thus imposed.

For the officer's neglect of duty the court imposed an amercement of two weeks' pay.

amethysts

n pl

/ ˈɑmɪθəsts /

Gk > L > F > E

[Note: Could be confused with singular form.] specimens of a clear purple or bluish violet variety of crystallized quartz much used as a jeweler's stone.

The jeweler emptied a small bag of amethysts on a velvet pad, and Anna selected the one she liked best.

amiably

adv

/ ˈɑmēəblē /

L > F

in a friendly, sociable, and congenial manner.

"Hello, students," Mr. Perry said, and he amiably gave each child a handshake.

amidol

amigo

n

/ əˈmē(,)gō /

L > Sp

friend.

Roger has been John's amigo since grade school.

ammoniacal

adj

/ ˌɑməˈnēəkəl /

Gk > L

of, relating to, containing, or having the properties of ammonia.

A strong ammoniacal odor emanated from the laboratory.

ammunition

amnesty

n

/ ˈɑmnɪstē /

Gk

the act of an authority (as a government) by which general pardon of an offense is granted.

The new president granted amnesty to all imprisoned draft evaders.

amontillado

amorphous

adj

/ əˈmɔrfəs /

Gk

being without real or apparent crystalline form.

Glass is an amorphous solid that in some ways is more like a liquid than a solid.

amount

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

ampere

n
/ 'am.pɪ(ə)r /
F name
the practical meter-kilogram-second unit of electric current that is equivalent to a flow of 1 coulomb per second or to the steady current produced by 1 volt applied across a resistance of 1 ohm.
Brian's calculations show that the circuit has a current of 1 ampere.

amphichrome

amphitheater

ample

adj
/ 'ampəl /
L
[has near homonyms: ampul, ampule, ampoule] marked by extensive or more than adequate size.
Wilma enjoyed her walks in the cathedral's ample gardens.

ampliate

adj
/ 'amplēət /
L
widened, enlarged.
Carina prefers the new ampliate sidewalks downtown because there is plenty of room for her wheelchair.

amplifier

amplify

amplitude

n
/ 'amplə.tiəd /
L
the extent of a vibratory movement or of an oscillation.
Titus carefully noted any variations in the amplitude of the sine waves.

amply

amputee

amyelonic

amylaceous

amyotonia

n
/ .ā.mīə'tōnēə /
Gk
deficiency of muscle tone.
The doctor recommended physical therapy for the bedridden patient afflicted with amyotonia.

amyotrophic

anaclastic

anacoluthon

n
/ .anəkə'lü.thän /
Gk
syntactical inconsistency or incoherence within a sentence.
Anacoluthon can make dialogue sound more natural.

anacreontic

n
/ ə.nakrē'äntik /
Gk name
a poem in imitation of or in the manner of Anacreon : a drinking song or light lyric.
Mr. Maclean included an anacreontic in the collection of verse.

anadiplosis

n
/ .anədə'plōsəs /
Gk
repetition of a prominent word, usually the last in a phrase, clause, sentence, or verse, at the beginning of the next phrase, clause, sentence, or verse.
Anne read the second member of the anadiplosis louder than the first for emphasis.

anadromous

adj
/ ə'nadrəməs /
Gk
of fish : ascending rivers from the sea at certain seasons for breeding.
The anadromous salmon is a wonder of nature.

anagram

anallobar

analogous

analysis

analyze

v
/ 'an.ə'līz /
Gk > L + Ecf
weigh or study (various aspects, factors, or elements) in order to arrive at an answer, result, or solution.
Deanne needed more information before she could analyze the lab report.

anamnesis

n
/ .anəm'nēsəs /
Gk
a recalling to mind : reminiscence.
The musical comedy was based on an anamnesis of the author's days on a South Pacific island.

Ananias

n
/ .anə'nīəs /
Christian name
liar.
The little boy who cried "Wolf!" is a famous Ananias.

anaphylaxis

n
/ .anəfə'laksəs /
Gk
hypersensitivity (as to foreign proteins or drugs) that is marked by a tendency to intense systemic reaction.
Fortunately, Daphne exhibited no symptoms of anaphylaxis after she was stung by a bee.

anaptyxis

n
/ .an.əp'tiksəs /
Gk
the insertion of an extra vowel in the body of a word.
An example of anaptyxis is the pronunciation of the word athlete as "athalete."

anaqua

anarchic

anathematize

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

anatocism

n
/ əˈnədəˌsɪzəm /
Gk > L
compound interest : the taking of compound interest.
At the seminar the business students discussed simple interest, anatocism, and the basics of investing.

anatomy

n
/ əˈnədəmə /
Gk
a branch of biology that deals with the form and structure of animals.
The two cadavers delivered to the lab were designated for use by Dr. Wheeler's class in anatomy.

ancestral

adj
/ anˈsestrəl /
L > F
of or belonging to an ancestor or ancestors.
Carmen visited Romania to explore her ancestral heritage.

ancestry

anchor

n
/ ˈɑŋkə(r) /
Gk > L > E
something that serves to hold an object firmly.
Because the day was windy, Sarah brought a heavy rock to act as an anchor for the picnic cloth.

anchorage

anchored

ancient

incipital

andiron

andradite

andragogy

n
/ ˈandrəˌɡjē /
Gk + Gk
the art or science of teaching adults.
Mary Lynn's skill in andragogy was due to her experience as a high school teacher.

androgynism

androgynous

adj
/ anˈdrəjənəs /
Gk + Gk + Ecf
having the characteristics of both sexes.
This fall's androgynous fashions don't appeal to Sharon.

android

n
/ ˈɑn.drɔɪd /
Gk
an automaton of human form.
Rolf was cast as an android in the college's spring production.

anechoic

adj
/ ˌanəˈkɔɪk /
Gk
free from echoes and reverberations.
Stereo speakers are tested in an anechoic chamber designed to absorb all stray sounds.

anemology

n
/ ˌanəˈmäləjē /
Gk + Gk
the study of winds.
In his meteorology class Mike learned how anemology helps to explain the effects of winds on the weather.

anemometry

anemotropism

n
/ ˌanəˈmätərəˌpɪzəm /
Gk + Gk
an involuntary reaction by an insect to a current of air in its environment.
An example of anemotropism is when flies poise for flight facing the wind.

anent

anfractuous

angelfish

anger

angiitis

angina

anglophilia

n
/ ˌɑŋglōˈfɪliə /
L + Gk
particular unreasoned admiration of or partiality for England or English ways.
After one trip abroad, Grace was seized by anglophilia and moved to London.

angora

angrily

angstroms

n pl
/ ˈɑŋztrəmz /
Sw name
units of wavelength, each equal to a 10-billionth of a meter.
Sandy determined that the laser's wavelength measured 5,200 angstroms.

anguished

adj
/ ˈɑŋwɪʃt /
L > F > E
produced, affected, or accompanied by excruciating distress.
Charities throughout the country sent aid to the anguished victims of the hurricane.

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angwantibo

n
/ ʌŋ'wɑntəbō /
Efik
a small lemur of western Africa having a rather long snout and a rudimentary tail.
The angwantibo feeds mainly on caterpillars.

anhedonia

n
/ ˌanhē'dōnēə /
Gk
incapacity for experiencing happiness.
Soren's anhedonia might be the result of a miserable childhood.

anhinga

aniconic

animadversion

n
/ ˌanəˈmɑd'vərzhən /
L
criticism that is usually adverse and prompted by some degree of hostility.
The traditionally negative reviewer had little animadversion in his column this week.

animadversions

n pl
/ ˌanəˈmɑd'vərzhənz /
L
censorious remarks or observations.
The movie received so many animadversions in preliminary reviews that the producer decided to revamp it.

animate

animus

n
/ ˈanəməs /
L
intention or objective.
The promise of free land was the animus that drove many Americans to move west in the 19th century.

ankylosaur

n
/ ˈŋkəlōsō(ə)r /
Gk + Gk
any of a suborder of heavily armored Cretaceous dinosaurs somewhat resembling immense horned toads in shape.
The ankylosaur, a herbivore, fed on low shrubbery.

annals

annates

annelid

n
/ ˈanələd /
L > F > L
any of a phylum of usually elongated segmented invertebrate animals (as earthworms and leeches) having a body cavity.
The earthworm is probably the most familiar example of an annelid.

annexation

n
/ ˌanək'sāshən /
L > F
the act of taking possession or control of.
The annexation of Texas by the United States in 1845 was one of the causes of the Mexican War.

announcer

n
/ ˈnəʊn(t)sə(r) /
L > F > E
a person who introduces television or radio programs, makes commercial announcements, or gives station identification.
The game show contestant waited nervously for the announcer to introduce her.

annoy

annularity

n
/ ˌanyə'larədə /
L > F + Ecf
the state or form of a ring.
Photographs of the solar eclipse showed the halo-like annularity of the Sun's disk.

anoia

anoint

anorak

anorexic

ansa

n
/ ˈansə /
L
part of a celestial body having the appearance of a handle (as the projecting part of Saturn's rings).
Photographs from Voyager 2 revealed the planet's ansa in striking detail.

answerer

antagonist

n
/ an'tagənəst /
Gk + L
the principal opponent or foil of the main character in a drama or narrative.
The Joker proved to be a cunning but overconfident antagonist for Batman.

antebellum

antecedence

antedate

anteing

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

antennae

n pl
/ an'tenē /
L

the paired movable sensory appendages of the head of certain arthropods.
The bug stopped and wiggled both of its antennae.

antepenultimate

adj
/ .antəpə'nəltəmət /
L

coming before the next to last in any series.
The antepenultimate question in the game "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire" is worth \$250,000.

anthem

anthesis

n
/ an'thēsəs /
Gk

the action or period of opening of a flower.
Time-lapse photography can show the complete anthesis of a rose in a few seconds.

anthophorous

adj
/ an'thāfərəs /
Gk

flower-bearing.
Amy selected several anthophorous plants to decorate her office.

anthracite

n
/ 'an(t)thrəsīt /
Gk

a hard glossy coal that burns with a nearly smokeless flame.
Anthracite was created when soft coal was subjected to the intense heat and pressure of Earth's crust.

anthropologist

n
/ .an(ə)tθrə'päləjəst /
Gk

a specialist in the study considering man's physical character, historical and present geographical distribution, racial classification, group relationships, and cultural history.
The anthropologist Margaret Mead spent many years studying Pacific Island societies.

anthropology

n
/ .an(ə)tθrə'päləjē /
Gk

the study considering man's physical character, historical and present geographical distribution, racial classification, group relationships, and cultural history.
Jody created a poster that highlighted Margaret Mead's contributions to anthropology.

anthropomorphic

adj
/ .an(t)θrə.pō'mɔrfik /
Gk

described or thought of as having human form or attributes : ascribing human characteristics to nonhuman things.
Sterling pretends that his cat has anthropomorphic powers and often talks for her in a tiny, squeaky voice.

anthropophagous

adj
/ .an(t)θrə'päfəgəs /
Gk + Gk

[Note: Could be confused with noun anthropophagus.] feeding on human flesh : man-eating : cannibal.
The class was fascinated by the story of Christopher Columbus's encounter with the Caribs, a supposed anthropophagous people.

anthropopsychism

n
/ .an(t)θrə.pō'si.kizəm /
Gk + Gk

ascription of a soul like that of humans to nature or to something that governs natural processes.
A perfect example of anthropopsychism can be found in an old commercial that claimed, "You can't fool Mother Nature."

antibiotic

anticipate

anticipation

anticlimax

n
/ .antē'kli.maks /
L + Gk

an event (as the last of a series) that is strikingly less important than what has preceded it.
After the climactic duel with the villain, the hero's wedding came as an anticlimax.

anticoagulant

n
/ .an(ə)tɪkō'agyələnt /
L

a substance (as a drug) that hinders clotting of blood.
The surgeon administered an anticoagulant after the operation.

antidotal

adj
/ .antə'dɔdəl /
Gk

consisting of, suited for, or acting as a remedy able to counteract the effects of poison.
Vomiting is often the body's antidotal response to the ingestion of spoiled food.

antidote

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

antigen

n
/ 'antəjən /
Gk + Gk

a usually protein or carbohydrate substance that when introduced into the body stimulates the production of an antibody.

Louis Pasteur developed an antigen against the much-feared anthrax bacterium.

antihistamine

n
/ .antɪ'hɪstə.mēn /
L + Gk + ISV

any of various compounds used for treating certain allergic reactions.

Although Rod and Todd are twins, only Rod needs to take an antihistamine during the hay-fever season.

antineoplastic

antinomy

n
/ an'tɪnəmē /
Gk

[Note: Could be confused with antimony.] a statement or sentiment that is seemingly contradictory or opposed to common sense and yet perhaps true in fact : paradox.

The students were asked to write an essay on the following antinomy: The more terrible the prospect of nuclear war becomes, the less likely it is to happen.

antipathies

n pl
/ an'tɪpəθēz /
Gk

settled aversions or dislikes.

George Washington warned of the consequences of having permanent, inveterate antipathies against particular nations.

antipathy

antiphonal

adj
/ an'tɪfənəl /
Gk + Gk

answering or alternating (as in a musical composition sung alternately by divisions of a choir or congregation).

The director seated half the choir in the balcony to make the piece with antiphonal parts even more dramatic.

antiphony

antiquate

antiquated

antiseptics

antithetical

antitussive

anxieties

n pl
/ an'zɪədēz /
L

strong concerns about some imminent developments.

Sally has had enough to worry about without our adding to her anxieties.

anxiolytic

n
/ .anʒēō'lɪdɪk /
L + Gk

a drug that relieves an abnormal and overwhelming sense of apprehension and of fear.

Amy's doctor prescribed an anxiolytic for her to take when she felt a panic attack.

anxious

anxiously

adv
/ 'an(k)ʃəsli /
L

in an apprehensive, worried manner.

Mary anxiously twisted her hair during the geometry test.

aoristic

aparejo

n
/ .apə'rā(ɪ)ō /
L > Sp

a packsaddle of stuffed leather or canvas.

The aparejo has never been improved upon as a way to protect an animal from injury while holding cargo.

apartment

apiculture

n
/ 'āpəkəlchə(r) /
L

[has near homonym: aviculture] beekeeping, especially when pursued on a large scale.

Even though apiculture has been practiced for many centuries, bees have not been domesticated or tamed.

apiece

apishamore

aplastic

apocalyptic

adj
/ ə.pākə'liptɪk /
Gk

predicting or foreboding imminent disaster or final doom.

Apocalyptic prophets are typically hostile to reason and science.

apocryph

apocrypha

n pl
/ ə'pākɹəfə /
Gk > L

quasi-scriptural books of doubtful authorship and authority.

The Sunday school teacher shared with her students some stories from the Old Testament apocrypha.

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

Apollonian

adj

/ ˌapəˈlɒniən /

Gk

of, relating to, or resembling the god Apollo, the Greco-Roman god of manly beauty, of poetry and music, and of the wisdom of oracles.

Reggie's Apollonian temperament led him to an admiration of classical art and literature.

Apollyon

n

/ əˈpɒliən /

Biblical name

[Note: Might be confused with Apollonian.] devil.

Like Christian in the book Pilgrim's Progress, everyone eventually faces his or her personal Apollyon.

apologetic

apologize

apolune

apopemptic

adj

/ ˌapəˈpem(p)ɪk /

Gk + Gk

sung or addressed to one departing : valedictory.

At the end of the ceremony the graduates filed out of the auditorium to the strains of an apopemptic hymn.

apophysis

n

/ əˈpɒfəsəs /

Gk + Gk

a part of a bone (as a vertebra) that projects outward.

After Tony's car accident, X rays showed that the apophysis of one of his vertebrae was out of alignment.

apoplectic

apostasy

apostate

n

/ əˈpɒstɑːt /

Gk > L

one who has renounced or forsaken his religious faith or given up his moral allegiance.

The Roman emperor known as "Julian the Apostate" tried to reverse the tide of Christianity in the Roman empire.

apotheosis

n

/ əˈpɒθiˈɒsəs /

Gk

the raising of a person or thing to divine status.

The emperor Caligula announced his own apotheosis to his terrified subjects.

apotheosize

apotropaic

adj

/ əpəˈtrɒˈpaɪk /

Gk + Ecf

designed to avert or turn aside evil.

The native costume included a pouch of apotropaic herbs worn around the neck.

appalled

apparent

apparently

appearance

appeasable

adj

/ əˈpiːzəbəl /

L > F + Ecf

capable of being brought to a state of ease or content.

Jeff described his father as being easily excitable, but just as easily appeasable.

appeased

v

/ əˈpiːzd /

L > F > E

caused to subside : allayed.

Carole peeked in Mrs. Hinkle's grade book and appeased her curiosity about the grade distribution.

appellant

appellate

adj

/ əˈpelət /

L

[Note: Could be confused with appellant.] having the power to review and affirm, reverse, or modify the judgment or decision of another tribunal.

The appellate court decided to reverse the lower court's verdict.

appellations

n pl

/ ˌapəˈlæʃənz /

L

[has near homonym:

Appalachians] names or titles by which persons, things, or clans are called and known.

Matt has a reputation for bestowing familiar appellations upon his friends, and for some reason he calls his best friend "Sarge."

appendage

appendicular

adj

/ ˌapənˈdɪkjələ(r) /

L

of or relating to a limb or limbs.

Arthritis limited Joan's appendicular movements.

appendix

appetitost

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

applause

n
/ ə'plɔz /
L

approval publicly expressed (as by clapping hands).

After the applause subsided, the opera continued.

appleblossom

applicant

application

appliquer

appoggiatura

apportioned

apposite

appraise

v
/ ə'prāz /
F > E

[has homonym: upraise] set a value on (as goods or land).

For insurance purposes, Selina had an expert appraise her furniture.

appreciate

apprehend

v
/ ,aprə'hend /
L

take (a person) in legal process : arrest.

The police chief ordered the officers to apprehend the forger.

apprehensible

approximately

appulse

n
/ ə'pəls /
L

the apparent very near approach of one celestial body to another.

Marsha peered through binoculars to see the appulse of Saturn to Jupiter.

apraxia

apron

apse

apterous

apterygote

adj
/ ap'terə,gōt /
Gk

of or relating to a subclass of insects that are presumed never to have developed wings.

Silverfish, firebrats, and bristletails are apterygote insects.

apteryx

n
/ 'aptə(,)riks /
Gk + Gk

a flightless New Zealand bird that is about the size of a domestic chicken.

The eggs of the apteryx, which are as large as one fourth its weight, are incubated by the male.

apyretic

adj
/ ,āpɪ'redɪk /
Gk

without fever.

The pediatrician said that Bobby could return to school as soon as he was apyretic.

aqua

n
/ 'akwə /
L

a variable color averaging a light greenish blue.

The whiteness of the beach's sand made the aqua of the water even more striking.

aquamarine

aquarelle

aquarellist

n
/ ,akwə'reləst /
L > It > F + Ecf

one who draws or paints in watercolor, especially transparent watercolor.

Duncan showed great promise as an aquarellist.

aquiclude

aquosity

n
/ ə'kwāsədē /
L

the quality or state of being moist.

Marlene dutifully checked the aquosity of the soil every day with the test strips the nursery gave her.

arable

arachin

arachnophagous

adj
/ ,arak'näfəgəs /
Gk + Gk

feeding on spiders.

Jill's contribution to the discussion about arachnophagous creatures was that there are not enough of them.

Aramaic

n
/ ,arə'māik /
Gk

a Semitic language of which documents are known from as early as the 9th century B.C.

Aramaic is the mother of many languages in the Middle East and Asia.

araneid

araneiform

araucaria

arbitrariness

n
/ ,ärbə'trerənəs /
L + Ecf

the quality or state of arising from unrestrained exercise of the will, caprice, or personal preference.

The report indicated that the ghetto residents had been subjected to the arbitrariness of the authorities.

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

arbitration

n
/ ˈɑːrbəˈtræʃən /
L

the hearing and determination of a case between parties in controversy by a judge.

They discussed and debated and raved and ranted until they were on the verge of blows, when it was decided to submit the question to arbitration by the princesses.

arbor

arboretum

arbustum

arbutus

n
/ ərˈbyʊdəs /
L

a tree of a genus of evergreen shrubs or trees of southern Europe and western North America with white or pink flowers and many-seeded scarlet berries.

Evelyn refers to the arbutus in her backyard as a "strawberry tree."

arc

n
/ ˈɑːrk /
L

a sustained brilliantly luminous glow formed when a break is made in an electric circuit.

The arc that shot from the electrical appliance indicated a problem with its circuitry.

arcade

arcane

adj
/ ərˈkɑːn /
L

known only to a very few : mysterious.

The scroll was written in an arcane script that nobody could identify.

archaically

archaism

archetype

n
/ ˈɑːrkəˌtɪp /
Gk + Gk

the original model, form, or pattern from which something is made or develops.

Diane bragged that her dress design was the archetype that others had merely copied.

archidiaconal

archimage

architect

architectural

adj
/ ˈɑːrkəˈtektʃərəl /
Gk > L

of, resembling, or relating to the art or practice of designing and building structures, especially habitable structures.

King Ludwig's castle in Bavaria is a famous example of architectural extravagance.

architrave

archive

archives

archivist

archivistic

ardoise

arena

Areopagus

n
/ ˌɑːrēˈæpəɡəs /
Gk

the supreme tribunal of Athens.
The general was commanded to appear before the Areopagus, but he refused.

argali

n
/ ˈɑːrgəleɪ /
Mongolian

a large wild sheep having immense horns and widely distributed in mountainous central and eastern Asia.

The argali may weigh over 300 pounds and stand four feet high at the shoulders.

argent

n
/ ˈɑːrjənt /
L

a metal tincture used in heraldry and conventionally supposed to be represented by silver but in practice represented by either silver or white.

The earl's coat of arms featured a roaring lion on a field of argent.

argonaut

n
/ ˈɑːrgənəʊt /
Gk name + Gk

an adventurer or traveler engaged in a particular quest; specifically : one of those who went to California in 1849 in search of gold.

Another name for an argonaut is "forty-niner."

argue

argyria

arid

aridly

arise

aristocracy

n
/ ˌɑːrəˈstɪkrəsi /
Gk + Gk

an upper class usually made up of an hereditary nobility.

In matters of war and peace the king often sought the advice of the aristocracy.

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aristocrat

n
/ əˈrɪstəkɹət /
Gk + Gk
one who has the bearing and viewpoint typical of a ruling, privileged, or otherwise superior class.
After winning the lottery, Francine started behaving like an aristocrat.

arithmetic

armiger

n
/ ˈɑːrməjər /
L
[has near homonym: armature]
armor-bearer, squire.
The knight summoned his armiger so he could choose a sword.

armigerous

armoire

arnica

n
/ ˈɑːrnɪkə /
L
the dried flower head of an herb used in a tincture for bruises, sprains, and swellings.
The herbalist used arnica to make a paste for healing bumps and bruises.

arolium

n
/ əˈrɒləəm /
L
a padlike lobe projecting between the tarsal claws of many insects.
The grasshopper has a small but well-developed arolium on its foot.

aromatic

adj
/ ˌɑːrəˈmɑːdɪk /
Gk > L > F > E
of, relating to, or characterized by the presence of at least one benzene ring.
Aromatic amines are used mainly in the manufacture of dyes.

arrearage

n
/ əˈrɪrɪj /
L > F > E + Ecf
an obligation that has not been on time or is unfinished, especially : something that remains unpaid and overdue after previous payment of a part.
Mr. Olson's medical bills remained in arrearage until the insurance claims were settled.

arrears

n pl
/ əˈrɪ(ə)rz /
L > F > E
state of being behind in the discharge of duties, obligations, or responsibilities.
Mark's landlord will evict him because he is one year in arrears with his rent payments.

arriccio

arriero

arrival

arrogate

arsedine

arsine

arson

n
/ ˈɑːrsən /
L > F
the willful and malicious burning of or attempt to burn any building, structure, or property of another or of one's own usually with criminal or fraudulent intent.
The investigators determined that the fire was the result of arson.

arterial

arteriole

artery

Arthropoda

n pl
/ ɑːˈθrəpədə /
Gk
the largest phylum of invertebrate animals with jointed legs, a segmented body, and an exoskeleton.
Insects comprise the class Insecta, the largest class of the phylum Arthropoda.

articulate

adj
/ ɑːˈtɪkjələt /
L
expressing oneself clearly and effectively.
Articulate even when he was a young child, Jack is a good choice for debate team captain.

artificer

artist

artiste

artistry

arugula

asado

n
/ əˈsɑː(,)dō /
L > Sp
barbecue.
Tina is sure that La Piñata has the best asado in town.

asarotum

ascending

adj
/ əˈsendɪŋ /
L > E + Ecf
mounting up or sloping upward : rising.
The watercolor depicted a country manor with a gently ascending driveway.

ascensive

ascertain

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ascetic

adj
/ ə'sedɪk /
Gk
refraining from self-indulgence : self-denying, self-disciplined, austere.
Ricky's lavish lifestyle contrasts sharply with his brother's ascetic existence.

ascot

ascribe

ashamed

askance

adv
/ ə'skɑn(t)s /
unknown
with a side look : sideways, obliquely.
Juan's cat has a habit of looking askance at a toy for a long while before pouncing on it.

asocial

aspen

asperge

asperities

n pl
/ ə'spɛrədēz /
L
rough places.
Only with a microscope could Michael see asperities on the seemingly smooth leaf.

asperous

aspersions

aspidistra

aspirant

asportation

assailants

n pl
/ ə'sālənts /
F
ones who encounter or confront in order to prevail over.
Roosevelt warned that assailants of the democratic way of life were on the march, threatening large and small nations.

assault

n
/ ə'sɔlt /
L > F > E
a violent attack with physical means (as blows or weapons).
The rock musician was fined \$2000 for his assault on the photographer.

assemble

v
/ ə'sembəl /
L
join together usually in an orderly way with logical selection or sequence.
Moira helped Simon assemble the 5000-piece puzzle, but it still took them a week to finish.

assembly

assertive

assessable

assessed

assign

assimilative

assisi

n
/ ə'sē(,)sē /
It geog name
embroidery with unworked designs outlined by a solid background of cross-stitch.
Elaine purchased an antique Italian pillowcase decorated with assisi.

assist

assistant

assure

assurgent

adj
/ ə'sɜrjənt /
L
ascending, rising.
In heraldry a human or beast rising out of the sea is said to be "assurgent."

astatine

asterial

adj
/ ə'stɪrēəl /
L or Gk
of or relating to stars.
The movie theater's ceiling is dotted with an asterial design.

asterisk

asthma

asthmogenic

astounding

adj
/ ə'staʊndɪŋ /
E
causing or capable of causing wonder and surprise in high degree.
The book was hailed as a fascinating account of an astounding epoch.

astragal

astragalomancy

n
/ ə'strəgəlō.mɑn(t)sē /
Gk + Gk
divination by means of small bones or dice.
The committee decided to have a booth devoted to astragalomancy rather than the usual palm readings at the fair.

astringent

adj
/ ə'strɪnjənt /
L > F
having the property of drawing together the soft organic tissues.
Lorelei applied an astringent lotion to her face every night before bedtime.

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astrolabe

n
/ 'astrə.lāb /
Gk > L&F > E
a compact instrument for observing the positions of the celestial bodies.
Before the sextant was developed, the astrolabe was used for navigation.

astronaut

astrophysicist

n
/ ,astrə'fizəsəst /
Gk
a specialist in the branch of astronomy dealing principally with the physical and chemical natures of the heavenly bodies and their origin and evolution.
Martha plans to be an astrophysicist and work for NASA.

astuciously

adv
/ ə'st(y)üşhəslē /
L > F
shrewdly, cleverly.
The movie details the methods of the detective who astuciously solves the murder mystery.

astucity

asunder

adv
/ ə'səndə(r) /
E
into parts : into different pieces.
The wind was so violent that Justin feared his tent would be torn asunder.

asymmetric

adj
/ ,āsə'metrik /
Gk
not characterized by due or balanced proportions.
Devon challenged his audience by intentionally making the sculpture asymmetric.

asymptote

n
/ 'asəm(p).tōt /
Gk
a straight line associated with a curve such that as a point P moves out along the curve, the distance from the point P to the line approaches zero.
The graph clearly showed an asymptote to the hyperbola.

asyndeton

n
/ ə'sində'tæn /
Gk
omission of the conjunctions that ordinarily join words or clauses.
Anyone who has taken Latin should know the famous asyndeton in Caesar's words, "I came, I saw, I conquered."

atavistic

adj
/ ,adə'vistik /
L
marked by recurrence in an organism or in any of its parts of a trait typical of ancestors more remote than the parents.
Even though Marie considered herself a city girl, visiting her great-grandparents' farm ignited an atavistic desire to dig in the dirt.

atheist

athetize

athodyd

Atlantic

adj
/ ə'tlantik /
Gk
of, relating to, or found in, on, or near the Atlantic Ocean.
The hurricane ravaged the Atlantic coast of Florida.

atoll

n
/ 'atōl /
Maldivé Islands name
a coral reef appearing above the sea as a low ring-shaped coral island or as a chain of closely spaced coral islets around a shallow lagoon.
The atoll was formed by a process started millions of years ago by an undersea volcano.

atrament

n
/ 'atrəmənt /
L
a very dark substance—usually used of liquids.
The puff of atrament hid the octopus from a nearby predator.

atresia

attaboy

interj
/ 'adə'bɔi /
E
—used to express encouragement, approval, or admiration.
"Attaboy!" cried Uncle Felix as Ted crossed the finish line.

attachable

adj
/ ə'tachəbəl /
Gmc + Lcf
capable of being fastened to something.
Linda's new cape has an attachable hood for use in the rain.

attacked

attain

attempt

attending

atticism

n
/ 'adə'sizəm /
Gk
a favoring of or attachment to the Athenians.
Jacques's writing was noted for its pronounced atticism.

attorney

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attorneys

n pl
/ ə'tɜrnēz /
F

legal agents qualified to act for suitors and defendants in legal proceedings.
Under the law, the hospital had to turn over all relevant documents to the attorneys for the plaintiff.

attraction

n
/ ə'trækshən /
L

[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word.] a force acting between oppositely electrified bodies or oppositely magnetized bodies that tends to draw them together and resist their separation.
Mr. Lee showed the pupils a simple compass and explained that it worked because of the attraction between the compass needle and Earth's magnetic poles.

atwitter

auburn

adj
/ 'ɒbə(r)n /
L > F

of a moderate brown color that is redder, lighter, and slightly stronger than chestnut brown.
Rita Hayworth and Greer Garson were famous actresses who had auburn hair.

auction

v
/ 'ɒkshən /
L

sell to the highest bidder at a public sale of property.
Georgia wanted to auction all of the furniture.

audace

adj
/ au'dä.chā /
L > It

bold, spirited—used as a direction in music.
Angela sang the audace passage with remarkable verve, and the audience murmured their appreciation.

audible

audio

audiometer

n
/ .òdē'amədə(r) /
L + Ecf + Gk > Ecf
an instrument used in measuring the acuity of hearing in the individual ear for sounds of various frequencies.

At the local schools, students' hearing is tested annually by a specialist using an audiometer.

audit

v
/ 'òdət /
L

attend (a course especially in a college or university) without working for or expecting to receive formal credit.
Senior citizens are allowed to audit classes free of charge at the local community college.

auditor

auditorium

n
/ .òdət'ɔrēəm /
L
a room, hall, or entire building specially designed for stage and film presentations, concerts, lectures, and audio-visual features and activities.
A new curtain for the stage of the auditorium was purchased with money raised by the students.

augmented

v
/ òg'mentəd /
L

increased.
Cheating at Tim's school has actually augmented under the new honor code.

Augustan

adj
/ ò'gəstən /
L name
of, relating to, or characteristic of the Roman emperor Augustus Caesar or his age.
Vergil's Aeneid is the pinnacle of Augustan literature.

aulic

aunt

aurify

v
/ 'òrə.fī /
L

turn into gold.
Alchemists of long ago tried to aurify stone.

auroral

aurulent

auscultate

auspicate

auspicious

austausch

n
/ 'äus.taush /
G
an effect of turbulent motion that is manifested by an exchange of air and water vapor molecules from one layer to another.
The meteorologist ran a computer simulation to show atmospheric austausch.

austerity

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

Australian

adj
/ ɔːˈstræliən /

L
of or relating to the commonwealth of Australia.

The longest fence in the world keeps Australian wild dogs from marauding the sheep herds of Southeast Australia.

Australopithecus

n
/ ɔːstrā(,)lɔːˈpɪθɪkəs /
L + Gk

a genus of extinct generalized anthropoid apes known chiefly from skulls from the middle Pleistocene deposits of southern Africa.

Justine's heart skipped a beat as she unearthed the skull of an Australopithecus.

autecology

auteur

n
/ ɔːˈtər /
F

[has homonym: hauteur] a film director who is the primary creative force in a motion picture.

The auteur was not very receptive to the actors' suggestions.

authoritarianism

n
/ ɔːˌθɪərəˈtɛrɪənɪzəm /
L + Ecff

a political system that concentrates power in the hands of a leader or a small autocratic elite not constitutionally responsible to the people.

Sergei said that despite all its democratic rhetoric, the system was authoritarianism, pure and simple.

authorship

autistic

adj
/ ɔːˈtɪstɪk /
Gk

of, relating to, or marked by absorption in self-centered subjective mental activity.

Ulrike's autistic behavior includes fantasies, hallucinations, and delusions.

autochthon

autograph

automation

n
/ ɔːdəˈmæʃən /
Gk

the state of being operated with a self-regulating mechanism that performs a required act at a predetermined point in an operation.

Automation of the assembly line increased productivity at the plant.

automobile

autonomously

autopilot

auxilian

avalvular

avenge

avenue

aversion

avert
v
/ əˈvɜrt /
L

[has near homonym: evert] prevent the occurrence or unfortunate, dangerous, and dire effects of.
It is hoped that the peace mission will avert war.

avgolemono

n
/ ˌävɡɔːˈlemə(,)nɔː /
Gk

a soup or sauce made of chicken stock, egg yolks, and lemon juice.
Alex ate three bowls of his grandmother's avgolemono after his soccer game.

aviary

avid

adj
/ ˈævəd /
L

craving eagerly : desirous to the point of greed.

Behind Mr. Jenkins's superficial concern was a gleam of avid curiosity.

avidity

avifauna

avocation

avogram

n
/ ˈævəˌɡrɑːm /

It name + Gk > ISV
a unit of mass and weight equal to one gram divided by the Avogadro number.

Mr. Lufkin explained to the class that an avogram of any element is equal to the weight of one atom.

avoid

awesome

awful

awkward

adj
/ ˈɔːkwə(r)d /
ON > E + E

lacking ease, grace, or deftness of movement.

Something troubled and awkward in Melinda's manner made Mary stare very hard at her.

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axel

n
/ 'aksəl /
name

[has homonyms: axil, axle] a jump from the outer forward edge of one skate with 1½ turns taken in the air and a return to the outer backward edge of the other skate.

Melanie performed a flawless triple axel in practice but fell on the landing during the tryouts for the ice show.

axiomatic

adj
/ .aksē'madik /

Gk
of or relating to a proposition, principle, or rule that has found general acceptance.

"Everyone has to die and pay taxes" is Mrs. Badger's favorite axiomatic saying.

axle

n
/ 'aksəl /
E

a spindle that enables a wheel or pair of wheels to revolve.

Mike called a tow truck after the rear axle on his car was damaged in a collision.

axolotl

azalea

n
/ ə'zālyə /
Gk

any plant of a genus of shrubs or trees with deciduous leaves and funnel-shaped flowers now usually considered a subgenus of Rhododendron.

Anna grew a magnificent azalea on her balcony.

baalize

v
/ 'bā(ə).līz /
Heb

convert to or influence toward the worship of Baal or to some other form of idolatry.

The minister gave a sermon lambasting Wall Street and the bull market for trying to baalize investors to the worship of mammon.

babouche

n
/ bə'būsh /
Per > Ar > F

a chiefly oriental slipper made without heel or quarters.

The babouche on display had a maroon silk upper and colorful beadwork.

babuina

bacillary

adj
/ 'bas.əl.ērē /
L

shaped like a rod : consisting of small rods or rodlike bodies.

Roger did not know which bacillary parasite he was viewing under the microscope.

backlight

backspace

backstage

n
/ 'bak'stāj /
E + L > F > E

the whole or any part of the area of a stage that is behind the proscenium; specifically : the dressing rooms of a theater.

The drama class members were delighted to be asked if they wanted to tour the backstage.

backstroke

backwoods

bacon

bacteria

bactericidal

bactericide

n
/ bak'tir.əs.īd /
Gk + L

something that destroys bacteria.

Maggie cleans the bathroom with a product that contains a bactericide.

bacterin

bacteriology

n
/ (.)bak.tir.ē'äləjē /
Gk

a science that deals with the study of bacteria and with their relations to medicine, industry, and agriculture.

Mrs. Murry has doctorial degrees in both biology and bacteriology.

bacteriophagic

adj
/ bak.tir.ē'fajik /
Gk

of, relating to, or being viruses that infect and destroy bacteria.

Around 1910 Frederick Twort discovered bacteriophagic viruses, thus laying the foundation for modern virology.

bacteriosis

bacterium

baculiform

adj
/ 'bakyələ.fōrm /
L

shaped like a rod.

The baculiform chromosomes looked huge under the electron microscope.

badgers

n pl
/ 'bajə(r)z /
AF? > E + Ecf

any of certain strong sturdily built carnivorous mammals.

Ivar always said that the badgers had cleaner houses than people, and that when he hired a housekeeper her name would be Mrs. Badger.

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bafflement

baffling

adj
/ 'baf(ə)liŋ /
E

perplexing, confusing.
Liam tried to explain the problem with baffling wordy sentences.

baggy

bail

bailey

n
/ 'bāle /
F > E

[has homonyms: bailee, bailie] the outer wall of a medieval castle or any of the several walls surrounding the keep.
When the enemy attacked the castle, they first tried to scale the bailey with crudely made ladders.

bakery

bakeware

balance

n
/ 'balən(t)s /
L > F

[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word.] a controlled state in dancing of maintaining an erect posture.
Barbara kept her balance perfectly as she spun around and around.

balderdash

baleen

baleful

balkanize

v
/ 'bɒlkənīz /
geog name + Ecf
break up (as a region) into smaller ineffectual and frequently conflicting units.
The candidate charged her opponent with attempting to balkanize society by emphasizing ethnic tensions.

ballad

balladist

balloonist

n
/ bə'li:nəst /
Gmc > It + Ecf
one that ascends in a balloon (as for exhibition purposes).
The aerial photograph of Leadville was taken by a balloonist more than a hundred years ago.

ballot

ballotade

balmy

balneotherapy

n
/ ,balnē'θerəpē /
L + Gk
the treatment of disease by baths.
In the early 1900s a small town in Tennessee was known as the ultimate place for balneotherapy.

balsamiferous

balthazar

bamboche

banal

banally

adv
/ 'bān'lē /
F
in a trite, uninteresting manner.
After many weeks of campaigning, the tired senator was speaking banally and rather robotically.

banderilla

n
/ ,bandə'rē(y)ə /
Gmc > Sp
a decorated barbed dart that is thrust into the neck or shoulder of the bull in a bullfight.
The animal rights protesters displayed a bloodstained banderilla.

banderillero

bandersnatch

bandstand

bandwagon

bangboard

bangtail

banished

v
/ 'banisht /
Gmc > F > E
required (a person) by authority to leave especially his own country or the country in which he was staying.
It has been that way since Rhyme and Reason were banished.

bankroll

bankrupt

banner

banns

n pl
/ 'banz /
E
[has homonym and near homonym: bans and bands] notice of a proposed marriage proclaimed in a church or other place prescribed by law in order that any person may announce a known impediment to the union.
Lord Bainbridge hoped that the three days required between the posting of the banns and the wedding would be long enough for his son to reconsider his decision to marry the cobbler's daughter.

bantam

adj
/ 'bantəm /
Javanese geog name
small : easily handled.
Accustomed to bantam automobiles in Europe, Jacqui regards American cars as too large and unwieldy.

bantamweight

banter

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banzai

baptize

barathrum

n
/ 'barəθrəm /
Gk > L

a bottomless pit or abyss : a place or state of misery or torment.

The motivational speaker said that her early life was a barathrum which she was fortunate to have survived.

barbarian

barbel

barbershop

barbet

barbicel

Barbizon

adj
/ 'bərbəzän /
F geog name

depicting landscape and rural genre subjects from direct observation of nature and with much attention to the expression of light and atmosphere.

The exhibit featured works of three prominent artists of the Barbizon school of painting.

bardolatry

bareback

barefisted

bariatrics

barium

barley

barleycorns

n pl
/ 'bärlē.kó(ə)rnz /
E

[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word.] old units of length, each equal to the average length of a grain of barley : the third part of an inch.

Matthew decided to annoy his teacher by measuring his project results in barleycorns.

barnyard

barometry

baroness

baroquely

baroscope

n
/ 'barəskōp /
Gk + Gk

an apparatus for showing that the loss of weight of an object in air equals the weight of the air displaced by it.

Stanley put the baroscope beside the air pump before starting his experiment.

barrabora

barrette

barretter

barring

barrister

n
/ 'barəstə(r) /
E

a counsel admitted to plead at the bar and undertake the public trial of causes in an English superior court.
Tim's role of barrister in the school play requires that he don a powdered wig and speak with a British accent.

baryon

bascart

baseless

basicity

basistroal

basket

basketball

bass

bassoonist

baste

v
/ 'bāst /
Gmc > F > E

[has homonym: based] sew by hand or machine with long loose stitches in order to hold in place during fittings or for final stitching.
Lorna's sister showed her how to baste the hem of the dress before she tried it on.

bathyal

adj
/ 'bathēəl /
Gk

of or relating to the deeper parts of the ocean, especially those parts between 100 and 1000 fathoms : deep-sea.
In the bathyal zone photosynthesis cannot occur because light doesn't penetrate that deep.

bathybic

adj
/ bə'thɪbɪk /
Gk > L

of, relating to, or living in the deepest parts of the sea.

The ichthyologist spent his career studying bathybic fish indigenous to the Cayman Trench.

bathyseism

n
/ 'bathəsɪzəm /
Gk + Gk

an earthquake of deep origin recordable the world over.

In Carleen's story, tidal waves caused by a bathyseism destroyed everything within 20 miles of coastlines.

bathysmal

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bathysphere

battement

n
/ bătămäⁿ /
F
an extension of the free foot in any direction followed by a beat against the supporting foot.
Baryshnikov executed a quick battement as he entered the stage.

batten

v
/ 'batⁿ /
ON
fasten by or as if by means of a reinforcing strip.
The captain ordered the crew to batten down the hatches when the waves grew higher.

batterie

n
/ 'badərə /
F
[has homonym: battery] a ballet movement consisting of beating together the feet or calves of the legs during a leap.
Jason injured his ankle attempting a batterie.

battery

battle

battledore

n
/ 'bad^l.dō(ə)r /
L > OProv? > E
a light flat bat or racket that is used in striking a shuttlecock.
Alfonso dusted off the old battledore and went to the badminton court.

battlesome

batture

n
/ ba'tú(ə)r /
F
the alluvial land between a river at low-water stage and a levee—used especially of such land along the lower Mississippi River.
The government decreed that the batture could be used only for farmland because it was prone to seasonal flooding.

baud

Bauhaus

adj
/ 'bau.häus /
G
of, relating to, or influenced by a school of design in Weimar in 1919.
The area's newest ski lodge is a mixture of Bauhaus and Danish modern.

beadle

n
/ 'bēd^l /
E
[has homonym: beetle] a herald or messenger especially in the service of a law court.
The bailiff knows that his job is important, even though the townsfolk refer to him as a beadle.

beadledom

beagle

beard

bearded

beast

beatific

adj
/ .bēə'tifik /
L
marked by an appearance of complete bliss or utter benignity.
The hockey player appeared beatific as he related how he made the winning goal.

beatnik

beautify

beaverette

beckon

becloud

v
/ bə'klaüd /
E + E
cover over with a cloud : obscure, mask.
The meteorologists expect this front to becloud the mountains for several days.

bedaub

bedizen

v
/ bə'dizⁿ /
D
dress or adorn with gaudy and showy vulgarity.
Angelina decided to bedizen herself with jewelry and scarves and go to the costume party as a fortuneteller.

bedrock

beechnut

beeline

beelzebub

n
/ bē'elzə.bəb /
Heb
a devil.
When the police appeared, the thieves left all their loot behind and ran as though a beelzebub were after them.

beeper

Beethovenian

adj
/ .bā.tō'vēnēən /
G name + Ecf
of, relating to, or characteristic of Ludwig van Beethoven or his musical style or works.
The opening movement of Hubert's new symphony is clearly Beethovenian in style.

begaud

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

beginning

behalf

beignet

n
/ bān'yā /

F
[Note: Could be confused with one pronunciation of plural beignets.]
fritter.

As each beignet was dropped in hot oil, there was a loud sizzle and pop.

belabor

belaud

belfry

belladonna

bellicosely

adv
/ 'belə.kōslē /

L + Ecf
in a warlike, aggressive, combative manner.

Vinny reacts bellicosely to conflict and has been suspended several times for fighting.

bellyache

beloid

adj
/ 'bē.lōid /

Gk + Ecf
having a shape like that of an arrow.

Whenever the cursor on the computer screen reached a significant word or icon, it became beloid.

beneath

benefactor

beneficial

beneficiary

n
/ .benə'fishē.ērē /

L
the person named (as in an insurance or annuity policy) as the one who is to receive proceeds or benefits accruing.

Cora named her son as her beneficiary in her life insurance policy.

beneficiate

v
/ .benə'fishē.āt /

L > Sp
process (as a raw material) so as to improve the physical and chemical properties.

To prepare clay for ceramic uses, it is first necessary to beneficiate it by crushing and separating out impurities such as sand and mica.

benefit

n
/ 'benə.fit /

L > F > E
something that guards, aids, or promotes well-being : advantage.
Advances in genetic engineering could enhance the nutritional benefit of crops.

benign

adj
/ bə'nīn /

L > F > E
tending to promote or indicative of happiness, goodness, or favorable outcome : wholesome.

Gretchen's new circle of friends is not a benign influence on her.

benignly

benthos

benthoscope

benzolize

bequeathed

v
/ bə'kwēthd /

E
gave or left by formal declaration so that the thing given passes into the ownership of the recipient after the death of the donor.

The childless couple bequeathed their property to their favorite charity.

berate

Berber

n
/ 'bərbər /

Ar
[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word.] a branch of the Afro-Asiatic language family comprising languages spoken by minorities in North Africa and the Sahara.

Alex speaks enough Berber to ask directions in rural Morocco.

bereaved

berok

n
/ bə'rək /

unknown
a monkey of southeastern Asia having a short slender tail which is held in the shape of the letter S when the animal is excited.

The botanist trained the berok to collect specimens from tall trees.

berserker

beryllium

beseech

v
/ bə'sēch /

E
address oneself earnestly to.
Margaret put on her most dejected look to beseech her father to give her the car keys.

besiege

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

besieged

v
/ bə'sējd /
L > F > E
surrounded closely : crowded upon or around.
Of the numerous fans who besieged the athlete, Michelle was the only one to get his autograph.

besmirch

besotted

adj
/ bə'sätəd /
E
characterized by a condition of blind dotting affection.
The Air Force pilot was besotted with the movie star.

bestiary

n
/ 'beschē.erē /
L
a medieval often illustrated work in verse or prose describing with an allegorical moralizing commentary the appearance and habits of real and fabled animals.
At the Metropolitan Museum, Eli lingered in front of a case containing a French bestiary that told a story about a unicorn and a dragon.

bestsellerdom

bethesda

n
/ bə'thezdə /
Gk biblical geog name
a hallowed place : chapel.
Dorcinda attended services at the bethesda.

betrayal

betrothal

n
/ bə'trōthəl /
E
the act of promising in marriage.
The king announced the betrothal of his daughter to the duke.

betwixt

prep
/ bə'twɪkst /
E
between.
The fly landed right betwixt Peter's eyes.

bevue

bewail

bewildering

adj
/ bə'wɪld(ə)rɪŋ /
E + E
causing to lose one's bearings.
The town's maze of streets was bewildering even to its own inhabitants.

bey

bezique

n
/ bə'zēk /
F
a card game similar to pinochle that is played with a pack of 64 cards and in which the points are made chiefly by winning tricks.
Clyde claimed he was playing bezique with friends the night his business partner's house was robbed.

bhabar

bhalu

n
/ 'bälü /
Skt > Hindi
a common bear of India and Sri Lanka that has long black hair and very large claws, a white V-shaped mark on the breast, a long snout, and a very mobile tongue and lips.
The bhalu is also called a sloth bear because of its slow-moving habits.

bialy

n
/ bē'alē /
Yiddish
a flat roll that has a depressed center and is usually covered with onion flakes.
A bialy is dense and chewy, somewhat like a bagel.

biathlon

n
/ bī'ath.län /
L > Gk
a composite athletic contest consisting of cross-country skiing and rifle sharpshooting.
Justine placed second in the biathlon at the Olympic trials.

bibliognost

bibliotaphic

adj
/ ,bɪblēə'tafɪk /
Gk > F
characteristic of one who hides away or hoards books.
Hazel devotes her entire basement to the accommodation of her bibliotaphic desires.

bibulous

adj
/ 'bɪbyələs /
L
inclined to drink especially intoxicating beverages.
W. C. Fields made a career out of playing bibulous characters.

bicker

bickering

bicuspid

bicycle

bidialectalist

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

biennially

adv
/ bī'enēəlē /
L

every two years.
The air force base biennially hosts an air show of new and old aircraft.

bierstube

bifara

bifocal

bigamy

n
/ 'bigəmē /
Gk > L

the statutory offense of entering into a ceremonial marriage with one person while still legally married to another.
Belief that one's first marriage was illegal is not acceptable as a valid defense of bigamy.

bigbloom

bighorn

bigot

bigotry

n
/ 'bigətrē /
F > E

obstinate and unreasoning attachment to one's own belief and opinions with intolerance of beliefs opposed to them.
The school's International Relations Club strives to increase awareness of the prevalence of bigotry.

bilberry

bilboquet

bildungsroman

n
/ 'bil.dʊŋ(k)srō.män /
G

a novel about the usually early development or spiritual education of the main character.
Wilson called the bildungsroman an experiment in living for the hero.

bile

bilious

adj
/ 'bilyəs /
L

appearing as though affected by a liver disorder.
The green of the marble reflecting on their faces made them look bilious.

biliousness

bilirubin

n
/ 'bilə'rübən /
L > F + L + ISV

a reddish yellow crystalline pigment occurring in bile, blood, urine, and gallstones.
If a newborn is jaundiced because of a high level of bilirubin, phototherapy is the common treatment.

billboard

billet

billingsgate

n
/ 'bilingz.gāt /
E landmark
condemnatory language marked by the coarse or offensive and scornfully abusive or contentious.
The billingsgate in the film was excessive and unnecessary, serving only to give it an R rating.

billowy

adj
/ 'biləwē /
ON?

characterized by rolling or swelling surges.
The warm sun and billowy breezes dried them as they went.

binding

n
/ 'bīndɪŋ /
E

the fastening of the sections of a book.
Despite the great age of the book, its binding was still intact.

binturong

n
/ bin'tü.rəŋ /

Malay
an Asian prehensile-tailed catlike carnivorous mammal.
The muscular prehensile tail of the binturong is used to grasp branches while its forelimbs pull fruiting branches to its mouth.

biodegradable

bioengineering

biological

biology

biophagous

biospeleology

biplane

birch

birchbark

birdie

n
/ 'bærdē /
E

[has homonym: birdy] a golf score of one stroke less than par on a hole.
Eleanor putted well on the 18th hole and got a birdie.

birthright

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

biscotti

n pl
/ bə'skädē /
L > It

crisp cookies of Italian origin
flavored usually with anise and
filberts or almonds.

*Angela usually has several biscotti
with her morning coffee.*

biserial

bishopric

n
/ 'bɪʃə(ɹ)pɪk /
Gk

the administrative area under the
jurisdiction of a clergyman of the
highest order in Christian churches
usually charged with a function
such as the supervision of a
diocese.

*Priests throughout the bishopric
were required to attend the
meeting.*

bismarck

n
/ 'bɪz.märk /
G name

a raised doughnut shaped like a ball
with filling usually of jelly.

*Jelly squirted out the end of the
bismarck when Carrie bit into it.*

bismuth

bistoury

bitingly

bitt

bitumastic

bituminous

adj
/ bɪ't(y)ümənəs /
Celt? > L > E

impregnated with, infiltrated by, or
containing soft coal.

*While doing research for her report
on the Industrial Revolution,
Hayley learned of the many uses
for bituminous coal.*

blabber

blackbird

blackboard

blackthorn

blamable

blameful

blanching

blandish

blanquillo

n
/ blän'kē(ɹ)(y)ō /
Sp

any of several important marine
food fishes (as the ocean whitefish
and the tilefish).

*It took Hans only ten minutes to
land a three-foot blanquillo.*

blatancy

blatherer

blazer

blazonry

bleachable

bleachers

bleakness

blende

blepharism

blepharospasm

n
/ 'blefə(ɹ)rō.spazəm /
Gk

spasmodic winking from the
involuntary contraction of the
orbicular muscle of the eyelids.
*Blepharospasm can usually be
relieved by injecting small doses of
botulinum toxin directly into the
muscles involved.*

blew

blighter

blinder

blinker

n
/ 'blɪŋkə(r) /
E

a device consisting essentially of a
light that can be flashed on and off
regularly as a warning (as at a
railway crossing).

*Because of the low afternoon sun,
Jemmy couldn't tell if the
Cadillac's left-turn blinker was on
or not.*

blintzes

blitheful

blithely

blloat

blob

blockade

blockbuster

blolly

blondism

bloodcurdling

bloodshed

blooper

n
/ 'blüpə(r) /
imit

an embarrassing public blunder.
*The director shouted "Enough!"
when the actor's blooper evoked
laughter.*

blouson

n
/ 'blau.zän /
F

a garment (as a dress or blouse)
having a close waistband with
material falling over it in loose
folds.

*Serena wore a white blouson and
long black skirt to the audition for
Hedda Gabler.*

blowtorch

bluegill

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

blundering

adj
/ 'blʌndə(r)ɪŋ /
E

characterized by or given to moving unsteadily, confusedly, or blindly : floundering.
The blundering bird flew into the picture window.

blurred

adj
/ 'blɜrd /
E?

smearred with or as if with ink.
The signature was blurred and couldn't be read.

blurry

blustering

blustery

adj
/ 'blʌst(ə)rē /
G? > E

blowing boisterously : stormy.
The blustery weather forced NASA to divert the returning space shuttle to a new landing site.

blutwurst

boardroom

boastful

bodice

boding

v
/ 'bɔdɪŋ /
E

[has near homonym: boating]
giving advance warning of.
The winds and dark clouds are boding a heavy storm.

bodkin

n
/ 'bɔdkɪn /
E

a small slender instrument with a sharp point for making holes in cloth and leather and for picking out bastings.
The church spire seemed from a great distance like a bodkin.

boeotian

adj
/ bē'ōshən /
Gk

marked by stupidity and philistinism : crudely obtuse : loutish.
John's father adhered to the boeotian mentality that only self-indulgent idlers go to college.

boglet

bogus

bohemian

boing

bollard

n
/ 'bɔlə(r)d /
(ON > E + Gmc > F > E)?

a single or double post of metal or wood fixed on a pier or wharf and around which mooring lines are thrown.

Kyle fastened the boat's line to the bollard and stepped out onto the pier.

bolus

bombard

bombardment

bombardon

bombastic

adj
/ bəm'bastɪk /
Per? > Gk > L > F + Ecf
marked by or given to a pretentious inflated style of speech or writing.
The candidate's bombastic speeches did little to gain votes.

bombycine

bonbon

bondieuserie

boned

bonification

n
/ .bänəfə'kāshən /
L
betterment of housing conditions and farming practices in a particular area.
The Peace Corps engages in bonification in almost every underdeveloped country in the world.

bonus

n
/ 'bɔnəs /
L
something given or received that is over and above what is expected.
Tomi is off enjoying her year-end bonus, a week on a Caribbean island.

bookkeeping

booklore

bookmaker

n
/ 'bʊk.mākə(r) /
E + E
a printer, binder, or designer of books.
Wendell was no run-of-the-mill bookmaker but an accomplished artist whose works sold for thousands of dollars.

booth

bordereau

n
/ 'bɔrdə.rō /
F
[Note: Plural form can be pronounced identically.] a detailed note or memorandum of account.
The insurance clerk spent half the night before the audit trying to find the missing bordereau.

boregat

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

borough

n
/ 'bɔr(ɪ)ɔ /
E

one of the five constituent political divisions of New York City.
Many visitors are surprised to see farmland in the borough of Staten Island.

boroughreeve

borrowed

Borsalino

n
/ .bɔrsə'lɛ(ɪ)nɔ /

It name
a wide-brimmed soft felt hat for men.
Roberto tilted back his Borsalino and scratched his forehead, frowning at the shopkeeper.

boson

n
/ 'bɔsən /
Indian name + E

[Note: Could be confused with boatswain.] a particle (as a photon, meson, or alpha particle) having zero spin or an integral number of quantum units of spin and conforming to the Bose-Einstein statistics.
Researchers in elementary particle physics are searching for a particle known as the Higgs boson, which is connected with the weak nuclear force.

bosselated

boswellize

v
/ 'bɔzwəlɪz /
Scot + Ecf

write of in the manner of one who writes with love for and intimate knowledge of any subject.
It would be difficult for anyone to boswellize America's favorite pastime better than Ken Burns did in his documentary Baseball.

botryoidal

adj
/ .bɔtrɪ'ɔɪdɪl /
Gk

having the form of a bunch of grapes.
Minerals presenting an aggregation of large sections of small globes are called "botryoidal."

bottine

n
/ bə'tɛn /
F

a woman's light boot.
Marguerite waited while the cobbler put a new heel on her bottine.

botulism

bouchon

n
/ bʊ'shän /
F

a bushing pressed into a bridge or plate of a timepiece.
The only thing wrong with Adam's pocket watch was a broken bouchon.

bouffancy

bouffant

bouilli

bouncily
adv
/ 'bɔun(t)sɔlə /
imit E + Ecf

with verve : jauntily, springily.
Joyce skipped bouncily through the park on her way home from school.

bourgade

boutade

n
/ bʊ'täd /
F

an outbreak or burst especially of temper.
When the general received news of his losses, he reacted with a violent boutade.

boutique

bowered

v
/ 'bɔu(ə)rd /
E

formed a shelter or covered place in a garden with branches of trees or vines twined together.
Bougainvillea bowered the front porch of the old house.

boxwood

bozzetto

bracemate

brachiation

brachiator

brachiosaur

n
/ 'brakɪɔ.sə(ə)r /
Gk
a dinosaur of the genus Brachiosaurus of the Upper Jurassic having longer forelegs than hind legs.
The 110-million-year-old fossil is believed to be part of a rib of a gigantic herbivorous brachiosaur.

bracket

bracteose

adj
/ 'braktɪɔs /
L
having numerous or conspicuous modified leaves from which a flower rises.
Of all bracteose plants, the poinsettia is probably the most familiar.

bradenhead

braggart

n
/ 'bragə(r)t /
E

a loud or arrogant boaster.
The braggart exaggerated his fishing stories so much that no one would believe him.

braggartism

bragget

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

Brahmsian

adj
/ 'brämzēən /

G name

of or relating to Johannes Brahms or his musical compositions.

Ulla thought she knew the whole Brahmsian oeuvre, but she could not recognize the piece that Mirga played.

braid

braille

braillist

brainchild

brake

brandishing

v
/ 'brandishiŋ /

Gmc > F > E

shaking or waving (a weapon) menacingly.

"That's why I drove him off," cried the Humbug, fiercely brandishing his cane.

brandtite

brashly

bratling

bravado

n
/ brə'vä(,)dō /

Sp

showy or demonstrative conduct or action often characterized by bluster and swagger.

Much of Leo's arrogance is based on bravado and cannot be supported by competence.

brawl

n
/ 'brōl /

E

a loud, angry, or disorderly quarrel.
Vincent couldn't resist joining in the playground brawl.

breadth

n
/ 'bredth /

E

distance from side to side.

The breadth of the church's transept is 54 feet.

breadwinner

break

bream

breaststroke

breathe

breathing

breathlessly

adv
/ 'breθlēsle /
E + Ecff

in a manner bringing about or marked by being out of breath because of fear, suspense, awe, or other strong emotion.

Ken breathlessly opened the door to the attic to find that a cat was responsible for the yowling sounds.

brecciated

adj
/ 'brechē.äd.əd /

It

marked by sharp fragments of rock embedded in a fine-grained matrix of clay or sand.

The countertop was made of a beautifully polished slab of brecciated stone.

brecciation

breechloader

breezeway

brethren

n pl
/ 'breθ(ə)rən /

E

ones related or linked by some common tie or interest (as of shared rank, profession, membership in a society, suffering, or labor).

People at the ecumenical service agree that they are brethren of the same principle.

breton

n
/ 'bret'n /

L > F

a woman's hat made on a basic pattern of round crown and wide even brim that is curved upward all around.

Before putting on her breton, Emily trimmed it with a bright red peony.

breviary

n
/ 'brēv(y)ərə /

L

an ecclesiastical book containing the daily public or canonical prayers for the canonical hours.

Kristin opened her breviary to read the prayer for vespers.

brewery

brickkiln

n
/ 'brik.kil(n) /

E

a kiln in which bricks are baked or burned.

Ethan spent the summer operating the brickkiln in the colonial village.

bricklayer

brief

brigandage

brilliance

brilliantine

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

brindisi

n
/ 'brɪndə(,)zē /

G > It

a drinking or toasting song.

The bride and groom were wished good health and happiness in a traditional brindisi.

brindle

brisance

brisket

bristle

bristly

adj
/ 'brɪs(ə)lē /

E

consisting of or like short stiff coarse hair.

Trudy pictured her uncle with a bristly brown mustache, even after he had shaved it off.

brittle

broccoli

brogan

n
/ 'brɔːgən /

IrGael

a heavy shoe; especially : a coarse leather work shoe reaching to the ankle.

Just after getting out of bed, Cal tripped over a brogan and fell on the sleeping dog.

broguing

brokerage

bromine

bronchospasm

n
/ 'brɒŋ(,)kɔːspəzəm /

Gk

constriction of the air passages of the lung by spasmodic contraction of the bronchial muscles (as in asthma).

In many asthmatics, exercise can provoke bronchospasm.

brontophobia

n
/ .brɒntə'fɒbēə /

Gk

abnormal fear of thunder.

As he got older, Xavier gradually overcame his brontophobia.

broth

n
/ brɒθ /

E

liquid in which meat, fish, cereal grains, or vegetables have been cooked.

Mother made two quarts of broth from the leftover chicken.

brownie

brunizem

n
/ brūnə'zɛm /

L + Russ

a soil of the prairies developed from loess and occurring extensively in Iowa.

Corn usually thrives in the rich brunizem of Iowa.

brunneous

adj
/ 'brʌnēəs /

Gmc > L + Ecf

dark brown—used chiefly scientifically.

Hatchery officials were worried about brunneous spots on the fish eggs.

brusquely

brusqueness

bryophyte

n
/ 'brɪəˌfɪt /

Gk + Gk

a plant of a division of nonflowering plants comprising the mosses and liverworts.

The botanist said that the earliest land plant was probably a bryophyte.

bubbly

adj
/ 'bʌb(ə)lē /

E

exhibiting almost unrestrainable enthusiasm or happy emotion : effervescent.

The bubbly tourists spent the evening rehashing the day's sightseeing trip.

bubonic

buccal

buccinators

n pl
/ 'bʌksə.nāˌdə(r)z /

L

thin broad muscles forming the walls of the cheeks.

As the trumpeter played, his buccinators rhythmically expanded and contracted.

budget

buffa

n
/ 'bʊfə /

It

a woman singer of comic roles in opera.

*Lorelei admired the beautiful voice of the buffa in the Metropolitan Opera production of *Così Fan Tutte*.*

buffet

buffeting

n
/ 'bʌfəˌdɪŋ /

F

repeated alteration of the aerodynamic forces acting on any part of an airplane in flight.

Chuck Yeager's plane was subject to severe buffeting as it approached the sound barrier.

bufflehorn

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

Bugaku

n
/ bŭ'gä(,)kü /
Jpn

a stately classical Japanese dance originally introduced from China.
The visiting dance troupe performed a Bugaku in the emperor's honor.

bugia

n
/ 'b(y)üj(ē)ə /

Algerian geog name > L
a low candlestick with a short handle.
Marlo keeps a bugia on her bedside table.

bugle

bulbously

bulimic

bulk

bulldozer

bulliform

bullpen

bulwark

bulwarks

n pl
/ 'bŭlwə(r)ks /
G > D > E

imposing safeguards.
Elizabeth fought tirelessly to counter the opposition of those entrenched behind the bulwarks of custom and authority.

bumblebee

n
/ 'bəmbəl.bē /
E

any of numerous large robust hairy yellow-and-black social bees of the genus *Bombus*.
The nest of the bumblebee is usually underground.

bumpkins

n pl
/ 'bəm(p)kənz /
D > Flemish?

typically awkward blockish and utterly unsophisticated rustics.
With the girls as an audience, the boys were acting like bumpkins.

bungle

union

bunker

n
/ 'bŏŋkə(r) /
E? > Sc

a sand trap or embankment with soil exposed constituting a hazard on a golf course.
Ronnie's first shot off the tee flew 150 yards directly into a bunker.

bunkhouse

bunting

Bunyanesque

adj
/ .bənyə'nesk /
Amer name
of or befitting the tales of Paul Bunyan; especially : of fantastically large size.
No amount of food can satisfy Raymond's Bunyanesque appetite.

buoy

burden

burdensome

adj
/ 'bərd'nsəm /
E + Ecf
difficult or distressing to carry or to bear.
Tia found running the snack bar a burdensome responsibility.

bureau

bureaucrat

burelage

burgeoned

burglar

burglarious

adj
/ .bər'glə(a)rēəs /
Gmc > L > AF
of or suitable for the use of one who breaks into a building illegally especially with intent to steal.
The prosecutor asked the defendant to explain why he had burglarious tools in his automobile.

burglary

n
/ 'bərglərē /
Gmc > L > AF
the act of breaking into a building illegally especially with intent to steal.
More than once Blake committed burglary to get money to pay his gambling debts.

burgonet

n
/ 'bərgənət /
F geog name
a light 16th-century helmet having cheekpieces and sometimes a nosepiece.
The French commander checked to see that every footsoldier was carrying a pike and was wearing a burgonet.

burgundy

n
/ 'bərgəndē /
F geog name
a variable color averaging a dark grayish reddish brown that is redder and duller than mahogany.
The students at the new high school voted for burgundy and gray as their school colors.

burial

burinist

burladero

burlap

burlesquing

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

burro

n
/ 'bʊr(ɪ)ɔ̃ /
L > Sp
[has homonyms: borough, burrow]
donkey.
The easy pace and sure step of the burro make it a good pack animal.

bushido

bushy

adj
/ 'bʊʃhē /
E + Ecf
resembling a shrub : thick and spreading.
There was one part of the wall where the creeping dark green leaves were more bushy than elsewhere.

buskin

n
/ 'bʊskən /
Sp
a strong thick-soled laced foot covering with a legging reaching halfway or more to the knee.
Emma found her kitten sound asleep inside her fur-lined buskin.

bustle

bustling

adj
/ 'bʊs(ə)lɪŋ /
ON > E + Ecf
given to or full of noisy or energetic activity.
As they strolled along the bustling and busy avenue, he began.

butane

butterflies

n pl
/ 'bʊdə(r).flɪz /
E
any of several slender-bodied diurnal insects that have very large broad wings which are often strikingly colored and patterned.
The formerly quiet field erupted with beautiful red butterflies.

buttermilk

butylene

n
/ 'byüdə'lēn /
ISV
any of three isomeric hydrocarbons of the ethylene series obtained usually by cracking petroleum.
Because butylene is highly flammable, it is hazardous to work with.

Byronic

adj
/ bɪ'rɪnɪk /
E name
of, relating to, or having the characteristics of the poet Byron or his writings, usually involving hatred of mankind or distrust of human nature.
His attitude and his smile were Byronic, at once world-weary and contemptuous.

byssus

cabal

cabaletta

n
/ ,kabə'ledə /
L > OProv > It
the lively conclusion of an aria or duet.
The tenor ended the cabaletta on a high C, inspiring the audience to respond with a standing ovation.

cabalist

cabalistic

caballero

n
/ ,kabə'le(ə)(.ɪ)rɔ̃ /
L > Sp
knight, cavalier.
For Halloween Kenny dressed as a Spanish caballero and rode his pony from house to house.

cabasa

cabecera

n
/ ,kabə'serə /
Sp
the chief city of a province or district in a Spanish-speaking country.
The town of Santiago de Compostela has been the cabecera of Galicia since medieval times.

cabinetry

cablegram

cabotinage

n
/ 'kabətə'nɑːʒ /
F name + Fcf
behavior befitting a second-rate actor : theatricality.
To fit the tone of a 19th-century melodrama, the actors indulged in a good deal of deliberate cabotinage.

cabretta

cabriolet

cachepot

cacoepy

cactus

cadenza

cadge

caffeinic

adj
/ ka'fēnik /
Turk > F > G
of or containing caffeine.
Cindy relied on the caffeinic effects of coffee to energize her in the morning.

cahoots

n pl
/ kə'hütz /
F
collusion, connivance.
Thelma suspected her brothers were in cahoots against her, but she had no proof.

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cajoled

v
/ kə'jɔld /
F
obtained (an object or favor) from someone by persuading with deliberate flattery : wheedled.
Sally raves about the time she cajoled a lock of hair from the football team captain.

cakewalk

n
/ 'kāk.wɔk /
ON > E > E
a stage dance developed from walking steps, especially a high-stepping prance with a backward tilt.
The cakewalk was originally performed in competitions where the prize was a cake.

calamitous

calamondin

calando

calceiform

adj
/ 'kalsēə.fɔrm /
L
shaped like a slipper.
Fictional detective Nero Wolfe cultivated certain orchids for the calceiform lip in their flowers.

calceus

n
/ 'kalsēəs /
L
an ancient Roman ankle-length shoe usually of leather.
The calceus was the preferred shoe of Roman city dwellers.

caldera

n
/ kal'derə /
L > Sp
a crater much greater in diameter than the vent of the volcano with which it is associated.
The volcano's eruption was so violent that it blew away the cone, leaving a vast caldera.

calefaction

calefactory

caliga

n
/ 'kaləgə /
L
a heavy-soled Roman military shoe or sandal worn by all ranks up to and including centurions.
The emperor Caligula was named after the caliga, which he was fond of wearing as a boy.

callee

calligraphy

calliopean

calomel

n
/ 'kaləməl /
Gk > L
a white tasteless salt used as a cathartic, fungicide, and insecticide.
Years ago calomel was an ingredient in medicine, but now it is found mostly in insecticides and fungicides.

calorimeter

n
/ ,kalə'rimədə(r) /
L + Gk > Ecf
any of several apparatuses for measuring quantities of absorbed or evolved heat or for determining specific heats.
The calorimeter is designed to minimize heat loss during measurement.

calumniate

calvary

calyx

n
/ 'kālīks /
Gk
the outer set of floral leaves making up the external part of the flower.
Once the flower's petals fell, the green calyx seemed much more attractive.

Cambodian

n
/ kam'bōdēən /
Asian geog name
the language of the Cambodians, which is of Mon-Khmer origin.
Sunita surprised her boss when she volunteered to learn Cambodian for his research.

cambric

cameist

camellia

Camembert

n
/ 'kaməm.be(ə)r /
F geog name
a soft unpressed cheese having a characteristic odor and flavor produced by the presence of a blue mold and usually covered with a feltlike rind inside which the cheese softens progressively toward the center.
Brenda served a ripe Camembert after the dessert course.

cameral

cameraman

n
/ 'kam(ə)rə.man /
L + E
[Note: An alternate pronunciation can be confused with plural form of word.] an operator of a motion-picture or television camera.
The cameraman said he was willing to travel anywhere to cover breaking news stories.

camorra

campaign

campanologist

n
/ ,kampə'näləjəst /
L + Gk
maker of bells.
The campanologist beamed with pride every time he heard the cathedral carillon.

campanology

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

campesino

n
/ ˌkɑmpə'seɪ(ˌ)nō /
L > Sp

a native of a Latin-American rural area; especially : a Latin-American Indian farmer or farm laborer.
The elderly campesino was the village's historian, weather forecaster, and mediator.

campestral

camphoric

campimeter

n
/ kɑm'pimədə(r) /
(L + Gk) > ISV
an instrument for testing indirect or peripheral visual perception of form and color.
When Mrs. Dunn developed cataracts, her doctor used a campimeter to measure vision impairment.

Canaan

n
/ 'kɑnən /
Heb > Gk
a promised land : place of rest, reward, or fulfillment.
Mrs. Gruber, who will be 100 years old on her next birthday, talks often of seeing her loved ones again in Canaan.

canal

cancel

cancellation

cancelli

n pl
/ kɑn'se.li /
L
screens or rails typically of latticework or stone grating used to enclose or separate a part of a church.
From the style of the church's cancelli, the church was built in the 16th century.

cancer

n
/ 'kɑn(t)sə(r) /
L > E
a malignant tumor of potentially unlimited growth.
Chemotherapy proved quite effective in treating Kristin's cancer.

candidate

candidly

adv
/ 'kɑndədli /
F&L
in a disinterested, fair, or just manner.
Fiona candidly admitted to having taken the money but refused to admit she had acted wrongfully.

candle

candlelight

n
/ 'kɑndl.lit /
L > E + E
the light of a candle.
C. J. sat by candlelight in his study and thought about the last eight years of his life.

canepin

canister

cannibals

cannonball

canonicity

canorous

cantabank

n
/ 'kɑntəbɑŋk /
Gmc > L > It
a singer from benches or platforms : a ballad singer.
The cantabank strolling through the streets of the amusement park was not an employee, though he gave that impression to his onlookers.

cantabile

adv
/ kɑn'täbəl.ä /
L > It
in a singing manner : melodiously—often used as a direction in music.
The second movement's most memorable theme was appropriately played cantabile.

canticle

n
/ 'kɑntəkəl /
L
song, poem, hymn.
Scott left church humming the canticle "Nunc Dimittis."

cantillate

v
/ 'kɑntl.ät /
L
recite with musical usually improvised tones (as in synagogues and highly liturgical churches) : chant.
The congregation knelt as the choir began to cantillate the 23rd Psalm.

cantina

n
/ kɑn'tēnə /
It > Sp
a small barroom : saloon.
In the very first Star Wars movie, a scene set in a cantina features many interesting aliens.

cantle

n
/ 'kɑntl /
F > E
[has near homonym: candle] the upwardly projecting rear part of a saddle.
Only the cantle prevented the rider from falling out of the saddle when the warhorse reared.

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

canton

n
/ 'kant^ən /
L > Prov > F

[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word.] any one of the spaces in the four corners of a heraldic field.

Each canton of the coat of arms was a different color.

caparisoned

capeador

n
/ kápaá'thòr /
Sp

a bullfighter's aide who uses a cape to distract or excite the bull.

As the capeador teased the bull at the other end of the stadium, Manuela had time to recover from her fall.

caper

n
/ 'kápa(r) /
L > It

a capricious or madcap escapade : prank, antic.

Roberto's little caper resulted in a three-day suspension from school.

capered

capitol

capitulation

n
/ kə'pichə'lāshən /
L

the act or agreement of one that surrenders to an enemy upon stipulated terms.

The capitulation of the army took place on the battlefield at noon.

capitulum

capote

n
/ kə'pōt /
F

a small Victorian bonnet with tie strings and varied trimmings.

Martha trimmed her capote with colorful embroideries for festive occasions.

capriccio

n
/ kə'prē(,)chō /
It

an instrumental piece in free form usually lively in tempo and brilliant in style.

When feeling depressed, Kate plays a recording of a capriccio to lift her spirits.

caprices

n pl
/ kə'prēsəz /
L > It > F

sudden impulsive apparently unmotivated changes of mind.

Ms. Lawrence understands the caprices of children and thus has a high tolerance for their whims.

capriole

capsheaf

n
/ 'kəp,shēf /
L > E + E

the crowning point : acme, climax.

Ingrid thought the stranger's insult to his benefactor was the capsheaf of folly.

captain

caption

captious

capture

carambola
n
/ kə'rəm'bōlə /
Marathi > Pg

[Note: Could be confused with carambole.] a green to yellow usually somewhat acid fruit that is much used in Chinese cookery : star fruit.

The slices of carambola on the fruit tray disappeared rapidly as the guests passed by the food table.

carapace

n
/ 'karə,pās /
Sp > F

a bony or chitinous case or shield covering the back or part of the back of an animal (as the upper shell of a turtle, the shell of an armadillo, or the shell of a crab).

Glenda saw an armadillo carapace for the first time when her family went to Florida on vacation.

caravel

carbine

carbon

carbuncle

n
/ 'kär,bəŋkəl /
L > F > E

a painful local inflammation of the skin and deeper tissues, usually accompanied by fever.

Dr. Morton applied a topical antibiotic to the carbuncle on Jason's neck.

carcajou

n
/ 'kärkə,jü /
Alqonquian > F

a northern North American carnivorous mammal that is blackish with a light brown band on each side of the body and that is noted especially for its strength : wolverine.

Over soft, deep snow the large feet of the carcajou enable it to catch its reindeer prey.

carcinogenic

adj
/ ,kärs^ən(,)jō'jenik /
Gk + Gk

producing or tending to produce cancer.

Thorald pointed out to his daughter Sam that thousands of naturally occurring chemicals have carcinogenic effects.

cardiogram

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

carditis

n
/ kār'dīdītis /
L
inflammation of the heart muscle.
Carditis is one of the manifestations of rheumatic fever.

careen

v
/ kə'rēn /
L > It > F
cause (a boat) to lean over on one side (as on a beach) making the other side accessible for repairs below the waterline.
The crew decided to haul the boat onto the beach and careen it so that they could repair the hull.

career

carefree

adj
/ 'ke(ə)rifrē /
E + E
having no worries : happy.
Grandpa reminisced about the days of his youth, when he was playful and carefree.

careless

caress

caret

cargador

n
/ 'kārgədó(ə)r /
Sp
one who works at or who is responsible for the loading or unloading of a ship in port.
Tina had her picture taken with a burly cargador at the wharf.

Caribbean

adj
/ kə'ribēən /
Arawak > Sp + Ecf
of, relating to, or characteristic of the eastern and southern West Indies.
Whenever Ellie thinks about Caribbean music, she hears in her head the brilliant sound of steel drums.

caribe

caricatured

v
/ 'karəkəchū(ə)rd /
L > It
represented in exaggeration by means of deliberate simplification and often ludicrous distortion of parts or characteristics.
Those who inaugurated the movement for women's enfranchisement were initially censured and caricatured by the press.

caries

n pl
/ 'ka(ə)rēz /
L
[has homonym: carries] tooth decay.
Daily flossing and brushing help keep caries at bay.

carination

n
/ ,karə'nāshən /
L
the quality or state of being shaped like the keel or prow of a ship.
The architect created a whimsical seaside building with a definite carination at the front.

carioca

n
/ ,karē'ōkə /
Tupi > Pg
[has near homonym: karaoke] the samba adapted to ballroom dancing.
The carioca is a very lively dance that originated in Brazil.

cariogenic

adj
/ ,ka(a)rēō'jenik /
L > Gk
conducive to the development of tooth decay.
The combination of saliva with food is the first step in digestion; unfortunately, it is also very cariogenic.

caritative

adj
/ 'karətādiv /
L
charitable in nature or tendency.
After the fire, the caritative impulses of utter strangers restored Josh's faith in humanity.

carmagnole

n
/ ,kärmə'n'yōl /
It geog name > F
a street dance in a meandering course to the tune of a lively song popular at the time of the first French Revolution.
Christine and Jean-Paul danced the carmagnole at the street fair in Marseilles.

carmine

n
/ 'kär.mīn /
(L + Ar) > L > F
a vivid red pigment used as a biological stain and as a coloring in foods, drugs, and cosmetics.
Yolanda's father snidely remarked that her lipstick contained a little too much carmine.

carnauba

carol

Carolingian

adj
/ ,karə'linj(ē)ən /
Gk > G > L
of or relating to a Frankish family that was founded about A.D. 613 and including among its members the rulers of France from 751 to 987, of Italy from 774 to 961, and of Germany from 752 to 911.
Charles the Fat, a Carolingian monarch, ruled in Italy until A.D. 887.

carom

carpentry

carpet

carpetbagger

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carrosserie

n
/ kārōsrē /
L > It > F
the carriage body of an automobile.
A display in the transportation museum showed how the carrosserie of an early Model T Ford was made.

cartographers

n pl
/ kār'tāgrəfərz /
Gk > L
individuals who make maps.
The package contains several brochures and a city map, which was carefully drawn by master cartographers and is current.

cartridge

cartwheel

cartwright

casein

n
/ 'kā.sēn /
L > F
[Note: Could be confused with casing.] the principal protein of cheese.
Arlene saved the company thousands of dollars by lowering the proportion of casein used in its mozzarella.

cashmerette

casket

casque

n
/ 'kask /
Sp&F
[has homonym: cask] a piece of armor for the head : a helmet or military headpiece of any kind.
The museum acquired a 15th-century casque for its medieval armor display.

cassation

cassette

cassideous

Cassiopeian

adj
/ .kasēə'pē(y)ən /
Gk name > L + Ecf
of or relating to the constellation Cassiopeia.
Dr. Giddings insisted that he had never heard of a Cassiopeian meteor shower.

cassock

n
/ 'kasək /
Per > F
a long close-fitting garment reaching to the feet that is worn by the clergy of certain churches often during divine service and by choristers and vergers.
The acolyte's mother gasped as her eyes traveled from her child's cassock to his basketball shoes.

cassollette

castellan

n
/ 'kastələn /
L > F > E
a governor or warden of a castle or fort.
Richard played the part of the castellan during the medieval fair.

castellate

castellated

castle

cataclasm

catacombs

n pl
/ 'kadəkōmz /
Gk > L > It > F
a subterranean cemetery consisting of galleries or passages with side recesses for tombs.
Our visit to Rome included a tour of the catacombs.

catafalque

n
/ 'kadə'falk /
L > It
an ornamental sometimes very elaborate structure used in many churches in solemn funerals for the lying in state of the body.
Many mourners stood in line to walk by and touch the velvet-draped catafalque.

catalineta

n
/ .kad'lə'nedə /
Gk > L > Sp
any of several angelfishes.
A catalineta can grow up to two feet in length.

catalysis

n
/ kə'taləsəs /
Gk
the change in the rate of a chemical reaction brought about by often small amounts of a substance that is unchanged chemically at the end of the reaction.
Enzymes speed up many chemical reactions in the body through catalysis.

catamnesis

n
/ .kadəm'nēsəs /
Gk
the follow-up medical history of a patient.
Once the patient's catamnesis was complete, the records were placed in long-term file storage.

cataplexy

catarrhal

catastrophic

catbird

catchpenny

catchword

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

catechistic

adj

/ˌkədəˈkɪstɪk/

Gk > L

of or relating to a teacher of moral and religious doctrine or to the material taught by such a teacher.

After a period of catechistic instruction, Greg was ready to be received as a full member of the church.

catena

n

/kəˈtɛnə/

L

a connected series of related things.

While at camp, Lorna and Beatrice made up a catena of funny songs about their bunkmates.

catheter

caulicle

n

/ˈkɒləkəl/

L

a rudimentary stem; specifically : the stem of an embryo or young seedling.

After planting the corn seed, the biology class eventually was able to observe the development of the caulicle, from which the first roots grew.

caulicolous

adj

/kɒˈlɪkələs/

L

growing on the stems of other plants.

During our hike Mom pointed out the caulicolous fungi on the trees.

cauliflorous

caulome

causable

causative

cautious

cavity

caxon

cayenne

n

/kiˈɛn/

French Guiana geog name

a very hot and pungent powder made by drying and grinding the whole fruits or the seeds of several hot peppers.

Paolo's chili was too mild, so he sprinkled some cayenne on it.

ceaselessly

cebell

cedar

celebrate

v

/ˈsɛləbræt/

L

demonstrate grateful and happy satisfaction in (as an anniversary or event) by engaging in festivities, merrymaking, or other similar deviation from accustomed routine.

About 100 friends and relatives attended the party to celebrate Mom and Dad's 50th wedding anniversary.

celebratory

adj

/ˈsɛləbrətōrē/

L

used or intended for use in celebrating a solemn or festive occasion.

The champions were feted at a celebratory dinner at which the trophies were presented.

celerity

celesta

n

/səˈlestə/

L > F

[Note: Could be confused with celeste.] a keyboard instrument having an action like that of a piano with hammers that strike steel plates suspended above wooden resonance boxes and producing a tone similar to that of a glockenspiel.

For the talent competition Trish performed a medley of Gershwin tunes on the celesta.

celestina

cellar

cellblock

celluloid

n

/ˈsɛlyəˌlɔɪd/

trademark

motion-picture film.

The celluloid used for the movie weighed about 300 pounds.

Celsius

adj

/ˈsɛlsᵻs/

Sw name

relating to, conforming to, or having the international thermometric scale on which 0 is the freezing point and 100 is the boiling point of water.

Normal human body temperature is 37 degrees Celsius.

cembalist

cementitious

cenote

n

/səˈnōdē/

Maya > Sp

a deep sinkhole especially in Central America and the Yucatán peninsula having a pool at the bottom fed by the water table; especially : such a natural well into which sacrificial offerings were thrown in Mayan ceremonies.

Kirsty went cavern diving in a cenote during her vacation on the Yucatán peninsula.

censer

n

/ˈsɛn(t)sə(r)/

L > F > E

a vessel for burning incense.

The bell rings, the censer swings, and chants fill the air in the chapel on Sunday.

ensorship

censure

centrally

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

centuple

centurion

n
/ sen't(y)ūrēən /
L

an officer commanding 100 men.
Divisions called "cohorts" in the ancient Roman army were subdivided into groups of 100 soldiers, each of which was commanded by a centurion.

cephalic

adj
/ sə'falik /
Gk

of or relating to the head.
The cephalic veins in the arm are so called because it was once believed that they were related to certain ailments of the head.

Cerberean

adj
/ sə(r)'birēən /
Gk name > L
of, relating to, or like a watchdog.
Dobie is the best Cerberean creature one could hope to have.

cerberus

n
/ 'sərb(ə)rəs /
Gk > L
watchdog, gatekeeper, custodian.
As school treasurer, Tony refers to himself as the cerberus of the school's coffers.

cerci

n pl
/ 'sər.sī /
Gk > L
paired appendages believed to be sensory situated at the tip of the abdomen in many insects.
The cerci on some insects are also modified limbs.

cerebellum

n
/ ,serə'beləm /
L
a large lower back part of the brain that is concerned especially with the coordination of muscles and the maintenance of equilibrium.
Sheila's vertigo results from damage to her cerebellum.

cerebral

cerebrate

v
/ 'serə.brāt /
L + Ecf
use the mind : think.
Sharon went to the library so that she could cerebrate without interruptions from her brothers.

cerebriform

ceremonious

ceremoniously
adv
/ ,serə'mōnēəslē /
Etruscan? > L
in an elaborate or punctilious manner.
Paul reached inside his coat pocket, drew out a small velvet box, and handed it ceremoniously to his girlfriend.

ceremony

ceriman

certain

certificate

certitude

cervine

cession

cetacean

n
/ sē'tāshən /
Gk > L
any of an order of aquatic mostly marine mammals including the whales, dolphins, porpoises, and related forms that have a tapered nearly hairless body, paddle-shaped forelimbs, no hind limbs, and a flattened tail.
Moby Dick is the most famous cetacean in American literature.

chablis

chafe

chairborne

adj
/ 'che(ə)r.bó(ə)rən /
Gk > L > F > E + E
assigned to a desk job : not serving in the field or in combat—used originally and especially of military officers.
After three years of being chairborne, Sandy decided to resign from the Marines.

chaise

chalcedonyx

chaldron

n
/ 'chöldrən /
F
a unit of measure for coal equal to 36 bushels or 25½ hundredweight.
Before 1963 in Great Britain, people were accustomed to ordering coal by the chaldron.

chalet

chalkography

challenging

chamade

chameleon

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

chameleonic

adj
/ kə.məlē'ānik /
Gk > L > F > E
like a chameleon in changeability; assuming varying hues.
The military hopes to develop chameleonic suits so soldiers can blend in with different backgrounds.

champion

adj
/ 'champēn /
Gmc > L > F > E
acknowledged as supreme over contestants or rivals.
Scott is the champion golfer in his age group at his country club.

chanceman

chancery

n
/ 'chan(t)s(ə)rē /
L > F > E
a record office for the collection, arrangement, and safekeeping of public archives and ecclesiastical, legal, or diplomatic proceedings.
The diocese requires that each pastor submit a financial report to the chancery at least once a year.

chandler

chandlery

n
/ 'chandlerē /
L > F > E + Ecf
a place where candles are kept.
The altar boy spent the afternoon reorganizing the chandlery.

changa

n
/ 'changə /
Sp
a large brown mole cricket.
The changa is a destructive pest to crops.

changer

chanoyu

n
/ chānō'yū /
Jpn
an elaborate Japanese tea ceremony.
Mariko performed the chanoyu for her guests with serene grace.

chaperonage

chapiter

chaplain

chapter

characin

charade

charades

n pl
/ shə'rādz /
Prov > F
a game in which a group is divided into two sides each alternately devising words represented in riddling verse or by pictures or dramatic action to be guessed by the other.
The dinner party was complemented by a most animated evening of charades.

charcuterie

n
/ (,)shär:küd-ə'rē /
L > F
a delicatessen in France specializing in dressed meats and meat dishes (as cold cuts and sausages).
Lorraine stopped at the charcuterie and bought a smoked chicken for supper.

chard

chardonnay

charisma

n
/ kə'rizmə /
Gk
a personal magic of leadership arousing special popular loyalty or enthusiasm for a public figure.
John F. Kennedy is often named as a leader with charisma.

charismatic

adj
/ ,kärəz'madik /
Gk
of or relating to the religious movement that emphasizes the extraordinary power (as of healing) given a Christian by the Holy Spirit.
The charismatic movement in American religion began in the early 1960s, when a California minister announced to his congregation that he had been given the gift of tongues.

charitable

charitarian

Charleston

n
/ 'chärlztən /
US geog name
a ballroom dance in which the knees are twisted in and out and the heels are swung sharply outward on each step.
Jana has an old photograph of her great-grandmother doing the Charleston.

Charybdis

n
/ kə'ribdäs /
Gk > L
a destructive peril—usually used as the alternative to Scylla.
Whether to tell the truth or to lie is sometimes a choice between Scylla and Charybdis.

chasten

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

chastise

v
/ 'chɑ:stɪz /
L > F > E

censure severely in an attempt to correct or improve.

Ms. Stanton protested a form of government that she believed gave a man the power to chastise and imprison his wife.

chastisement

n
/ chɑ:'stɪzmənt /
L > F > E

punishment.

Hazel's mother required her to spend an hour in her room as chastisement for disobeying.

chatelaine

n
/ 'ʃɑ:dəl.æn /
L > F

[has homonym: chatelain] an ornamental chain or clasp usually worn at a woman's waist to which trinkets, keys, a purse, or other articles are attached.

Melissa has an antique chatelaine that her great-grandmother used to hold her needle case, magnifying glass, and a small pair of scissors.

chaton

chatterbox

n
/ 'tʃɑ:də(r).bɑ:ks /
E

one who talks incessantly and idly.
Before the party, Alex had no idea that Serena was such a chatterbox.

chattering

v
/ 'tʃɑ:də(r)ɪŋ /
imit > E

uttering rapidly succeeding sounds somewhat like language but inarticulate and indistinct.

The squirrel was chattering furiously at the magpies who had stolen its food.

chauffeuse

chechia

n
/ 'ʃēʃh.jä /

Per geog name > Maghribi > F
a cylindrical brimless cap of Arab origin often having a tassel on the crown.

When Gordon arrived in Morocco, he was greeted by a tour guide wearing a red chechia.

checkered

cheddar

cheerful

adj
/ 'tʃɪrfəl /
G? > L? > F > E

full of good spirits arising from a carefree attitude and a bright lively disposition.

Linda appeared relaxed and cheerful as she began skating for the judges.

chef

n
/ 'ʃef /
L > F > E

one skilled in food preparation who has charge of the kitchen and kitchen personnel in a large establishment (as a hotel or restaurant).

Before he became a famous television personality, Emeril Lagasse was a chef at several fine restaurants.

cheka

n
/ 'tʃā(ɪ).kə /
Russ

secret police (as of the former U.S.S.R.) having virtually unrestrained power over life and death.

The dissidents were detained and tortured for months by the cheka.

chela

n
/ 'kēlə /
Gk

a pincerlike organ or claw borne by certain of the limbs of Crustacea and Arachnida.

Rush cracked open the lobster's chela and feasted on the meat inside.

chemical

chemise

chemisette

n
/ ,ʃemē'zɛt /
F

a woman's vestlike outer garment or undergarment.

For his wife's birthday present, Ted bought a silk chemisette embroidered with roses.

chemosphere

chemurgy

cherries

cherubic

chervil

chest

n
/ 'tʃɛst /
E

the part of the body enclosed by the ribs and breastbone.

Herman has a mole right in the middle of his chest.

chevalet

chevaline

chevon

n
/ 'ʃevən /
F + F > E

the flesh of the goat used as food.

To many inhabitants of the tropics, chevon is as palatable as mutton.

chevron

chewy

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

chiack

chiaroscuro

n
/ .kiərə'sk(y)ūrəst /
L > It

an artist who uses the arrangement or treatment of the light and dark parts in a pictorial work of art.
The chiaroscuroist deftly conveyed the mood in black and white.

chiaroscuro

chiasmus

n
/ ki'azməs /
Gk

the inversion of the order of syntactical elements in the second of two juxtaposed and syntactically parallel phrases or clauses.
Chiasmus is frequent in Greek and Latin poetry.

chic

chickaree

chief

chifforobe

chilblain

childishly

chiliast

chiliastic

adj
/ .kilē'astik /
Gk + Ecff
relating to belief in the millennium of Christian prophecy.
Leonard listened with interest to the fiery chiliastic sermon of the street preacher.

chinoiserie

n
/ .shēn.wāz(ə)'rē /
F

a style in art (as in decoration) reflecting or felt to reflect Chinese artistic motifs.
Chinoiserie was popular in 18th-century English furniture design.

chippendale

adj
/ 'chipən.dāl /
E name
relating to a style of 18th century furniture.
Mrs. Davis planned to bid on the chippendale chair at the auction.

chipper

adj
/ 'chipə(r) /
E
being in high spirits : cheerful, sprightly.
Kyle has good reason to be chipper: His real estate business is thriving.

chirognomy

n
/ ki'rāgnəmē /
Gk
the art or practice of reading a person's character or aptitudes and especially his past and possible future from the general character and shape of his hands and fingers and the lines, mounts, and marks on the palms.
Heather read a pamphlet on chirognomy in preparation for her role as a palm reader at the fall festival.

chiromancer

chiromegaly

n
/ .ki'rə'megələ /
Gk
abnormal increase in the size of the hands.
The distraught parents called the pediatrician with the claim that their daughter had a case of chiromegaly.

chiroplasty

n
/ 'ki'rəplastē /
Gk > L
plastic surgery of the hand.
Zeke was not looking forward to undergoing chiroplasty.

chiropody

n
/ kə'rəpədə /
Gk
the care and treatment of the human foot in health and disease.
Dr. Griffin was the only practitioner of chiropody in the town.

chiropractor

n
/ 'ki'rəpraktər /
Gk + Gk + Ecff
a practitioner of a system of healing based upon the theory that disease results from a lack of normal nerve function and employing treatment by scientific manipulation and specific adjustment of body structures (as the spinal column).
Joanne scheduled a visit to the chiropractor after a flare-up of her back pain.

chirp

chirr

chistka

chitin

n
/ 'ki'tɪn /
Gk > F
[has homonym: chiton] a tough horny substance that makes up the bulk of the insect cuticle.
Chitin serves as a protection for an insect.

chloasma

n
/ klō'azmə /
Gk
a skin discoloration marked by yellowish brown pigmented patches or spots—called also “liver spots.”
Because conforming is important to small children, they have trouble ignoring things like chloasma.

chlore

chlorinator

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

chloroform

n
/ 'klɔrəfɔrm /
(Gk + L) > F
a colorless volatile heavy toxic liquid of ethereal odor and sweetish taste used chiefly as a solvent and especially formerly as a general anesthetic.
The comedian explained that his new perfume was made from a secret mixture of lanolin and chloroform.

chlorosis

n
/ klə'rɔsəs /
Gk
a diseased condition in chlorophyll-bearing plants manifested as the yellowing or blanching of the normally green parts due to causes other than the absence of light (as attacks of parasites or mineral deficiencies).
The philodendron in Cathy's kitchen exhibits an advanced stage of chlorosis.

chocolaty

adj
/ 'chəklədeɪ /
Nahuatl > Sp + Ecf
made of or like chocolate.
Simon enjoys the chocolaty flavor of his chicken mole.

chogset

choice

cholangitis

chondral

chopine

n
/ chɔ'pɛn /
Sp > F
a woman's shoe of the 16th and 17th centuries having a high often stiltlike sole to increase stature and protect the feet from mud and dirt.
While the chopine elevated a lady's stature, it often led to her downfall.

chord

chore

choreograph

v
/ 'kɔrɛəgrɑf /
Gk > F
compose dance movements and patterns (as for a ballet).
The famous dancer asked Balanchine to choreograph a special ballet for her.

choreutic

adj
/ kə'rɪdɪk /
Gk
of or belonging to a chorus.
There are many choreutic parts in the ballet The Nutcracker.

choriamb

chorine

n
/ 'kɔrɛn /
Gk
a young woman who sings or dances in the chorus of a theatrical production.
Lisa has the part of a chorine in the musical Funny Girl.

chose

chouette

n
/ shü'et /
F
a method of scoring by which more than two persons can participate in a two-handed game (as backgammon), one player accepting the bets of all other players on the result of a game between himself or herself and one other active player.
Bob and Jill used a chouette to include Carla and James in their game.

chrismatory

n
/ 'krɪzmətɔrɛ /
Gk > L > E
a vessel or a place in which consecrated oil is kept.
The museum's collection of religious relics included a 500-year-old chrismatory.

chromatin

n
/ 'krɔmətɔn /
Gk > ISV > G
the part of a cell nucleus that stains intensely with basic dyes.
The microbiologist stained the bacteria cells with various dyes to show the chromatin.

chromatosis

n
/ ,krɔmə'tɔsəs /
Gk
pigmentation; specifically : deposit of pigment in a normally unpigmented area or excessive pigmentation in a normally pigmented area.
The condition called "liver spots" is one kind of chromatosis.

chrome

chromometer

n
/ krɔ'mämədə(r) /
Gk
an apparatus for comparing the color of a substance with a standard especially to determine the degree of purity or percentage of a constituent.
The chromometer indicated that the gold was not pure enough for use in electronics.

chromophobe

chromosphere

n
/ 'krɔməsfi(ə)r /
Gk + Gk
the lower part of the atmosphere of the Sun that is thousands of miles thick and is composed predominantly of hydrogen gas.
The Sun's rosy color is a manifestation of the chromosphere.

chronicler

chronograph

n
/ 'kränəgrɑf /
Gk
an instrument for measuring time.
The chronograph in Dr. Jekyll's lab needs calibrating.

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

chronologize

v
/ krə'nälə,jīz /

Gk

arrange (as events or documents) in order of time.

As a history assignment, Mrs.

Griffin had the students

chronologize the events leading up to the Revolutionary War.

chrysoberyl

chrysochlorous

adj
/ ,krīsə'klōrəs /

Gk

[has near homonym:

Chrysochloris] of the color golden green.

The chrysochlorous case suspended from the twig is the pupal stage of the monarch butterfly.

chrysography

chub

chubby

chuckle

chulo

chummage

chumming

chylocaulous

adj
/ ,kīlə'kōləs /

Gk > G + Ecf

having fleshy or succulent stems.

Many desert plants are chylocaulous.

cicatrize

cichlid

ciconine

cilia

n pl
/ 'silēə /

L

[has near homonyms: coelia and sillier] hairlike processes found on many cells that are capable of vibratory movement and that serve as organs of locomotion.

The bacterium's cilia fluttered as it came into view under the microscope.

ciliary

adj
/ 'silē.ērē /

L + Ecf

of or relating to minute hairlike processes found on many cells.

Careful inspection revealed the microbe's movement was ciliary, not flagellary, in nature.

cimetidine

Cimmerian

adj
/ sə'mirēən /

Gk

[has near homonym: Sumerian] marked by intensity of darkness or gloom : stygian.

Gina's parents became concerned when she wanted her room to have a Cimmerian appearance.

cinctured

v
/ 'sɪŋ(k)chə(r)d /

L

girded, encircled.

The valley, cinctured with mountains, is home to about 25 families who lead a lifestyle reminiscent of yesteryear.

cinderella

n
/ ,sɪndə'relə /

fairy tale name

one suddenly lifted often fortuitously from obscurity and neglect to honor and significance.

After its football team won the state championship in a huge upset, Fremont High became the school district's cinderella.

cinematheque

n
/ ,sɪnə'mə'tek /

Gk > F

[Note: Could be confused with cinematic.] a small movie theater specializing in avant-garde films.
The local cinematheque was showing a new French film last week.

cinophile

n
/ 'sɪnə'fɪl /

Gk > F

[has homonym: sinophile] a devotee of motion pictures.

The cinophile had mixed reactions to the latest Star Wars movie.

cinquain

cinque

n
/ 'sɪŋk /

L > F > E

[has homonym: sink] five; especially : the number five in dice or cards.

The highest card that Lou held was only a cinque of diamonds.

circa

prep
/ 'sɜrkə /

L

about, around.

The children enjoyed seeing the photographs of their grandparents taken circa 1940.

circline

circumflex

circumlunar

adj
/ ,sɜrkəm'lünə(r) /

L + L

revolving about or surrounding the Moon.

Sailors say a circumlunar halo foretells rainy weather.

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

circumnavigate

v
/ ˌsɜrkəmˈnavəɡāt /

L
go or travel completely around (as the Earth) especially by water.
Magellan was the first explorer to circumnavigate the globe.

circus

circusiana

n pl
/ ˌsɜrkəsēˈānə /
L

materials or objects relating to circuses or circus life.
Maya's collection of circusiana fetched a surprisingly high price at auction.

cirque

n
/ ˈsɜrk /
L > F
a deep steep-walled basin high on a mountain usually shaped like half a bowl and often containing a small lake, caused especially by glacial erosion, and usually forming the blunt head of a valley.
Justine climbed down the cirque and set up camp.

cirrocumulus

cirrus

cispontine

cissoid

civics

n pl
/ ˈsiviks /
L
study of the workings of the national and local government especially as the subject of a secondary school course suited as training for citizenship.
Advanced students in Tim's school usually select the course in civics to fulfill the ninth grade history requirement.

civil

civilian

civility

n
/ səˈvilədē /
L > F > E
the state of being advanced in social culture.
Jubril's civility in accepting the policeman's apology for mistakenly tackling him was remarkable.

clairaudient

clairsentience

n
/ ˌkla(a)rˈsench(ē)ən(t)s /
L > F > E
perception of what is not normally perceptible.
Gert attributed her uncanny ability to tell when her mother was coming home to clairsentience.

clambake

n
/ ˈklam.bāk /
E + E
a social gathering where food is prepared and eaten outdoors; specifically : a seashore outing where edible mollusks and fish are cooked by dry heat (as on heated rocks covered by seaweed).
The children liked vacationing at the seashore, where they swam every day and had a clambake every night.

clamber

v
/ ˈklam(b)ə(r) /
E
move by or as if by catching hold with the hands and feet.
Simone watched her brother clamber up an incline as a warthog chased him.

clammy

clamorous

clamp

n
/ ˈklamp /
D? > E
any of various instruments or appliances having parts brought together as by a screw for holding or compressing something.
The toymaker used a clamp to hold the two halves of the yo-yo together while the glue dried.

clandestinely

adv
/ klanˈdestənlē /
L
in a manner marked by, held in, or conducted with secrecy and concealment.
The outlawed political group had to meet clandestinely in members' houses to avoid detection by the secret police.

clangorous

clapboard

clarain

clarification

n
/ klarəfəˈkāshən /
L
the act or process of explaining clearly.
Bill's request for clarification of the test instructions was a familiar stalling tactic.

clarity

n
/ ˈklarədē /
L
the distinctness of shape, outline, or sound.
The voice had the warmth of a woodwind, the clarity of a trumpet, and the mystery of an English horn.

clarkeite

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

classicist

n
/ 'klasisəst /
L

one learned in the works of literature of ancient Greece or Rome : a classical scholar.
During the interview the publisher asked Kathy if she were a classicist.

classicistic

classification

n
/ .klasəfə'kāshən /
L > F

a system for the arrangement of books or other literary material according to subject or form.
The librarian used a chart to illustrate the decimal classification of books to the third-grade students.

clavecin

n
/ 'klavəsən /
L > F
harpsichord.

One of Henry's jobs at the historical museum is to play period pieces on a clavecin that belonged to Thomas Jefferson.

clavilux

clavis

claymore

cleanser

cleat

cleavability

clergy

n
/ 'klərjē /
F > E

a body of religious officials prepared and authorized to conduct religious services and attend to other religious duties.
Abby sought comfort and counsel from a member of the clergy.

clergyman

n
/ 'klərjəmən /
F > E + E

a member of those duly ordained to the service of God in the Christian church.
Sabrina resented the fact that she was often called a clergyman.

clerical

clerihew

n
/ 'klerəhyü /
E name

a light verse quatrain in lines usually of varying length, rhyming aabb, and making a statement usually concerning a person whose name typically supplies the initial rhyme.
The disc jockey composed a humorous clerihew for each of the presidential candidates.

client

climactic

climb

climber

clinical

clinometer

cliometrics

clipboard

clipping

cliquism

cllobber

clochard

clockwork

cloddiness

cloddish

cloth

clothes

cloudburst

n
/ 'klaüd.bərst /
E + E

a sudden copious rainfall as if a whole cloud had been precipitated at once.
Following the spectacular cloudburst, the stream overflowed and flooded the roadway.

cloven

adj
/ 'klōvən /
E

divided or split especially to a certain depth.
According to folklore, the devil cannot appear without his cloven feet.

clover

cloverleaf

n
/ 'klōvə(r).lēf /
E + E

an interchange between two major highways that allows traffic to change from one to the other without requiring any left turns or crossings.
The construction of the cloverleaf at I-295 and Cooper Road is scheduled for completion in August.

cloying

cloze

adj
/ 'klōz /
L > F > E
[has homonyms: clothes, close] of, relating to, or being a test of reading comprehension that involves having the person being tested supply words which have been systematically deleted from the text.
Madame DeFarge told the first-year French class that their final exam would consist mainly of cloze exercises.

coadunate

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

coagulability

n
/ kōagyələ'bilədē /

L
the quality or state of being capable of gathering together or forming into a mass or group.

Increased viscosity of the blood coupled with increased coagulability multiplies the risk of a stroke.

coagulum

coaptation

coarse

adj
/ 'kō(ə)rs /

E
[has homonym: course] roughly or crudely formed.

Modern coarse imitations lack the original fineness of authentic Navajo rugs.

coarsely

coati

n
/ kə'wädē /

Tupi > Pg
a mammal of tropical America that is related to the raccoon but with a longer body and tail and a long flexible snout.

When foraging, the coati often climbs trees for fruit.

coaxation

cobalt

n
/ 'kō.bōlt /

L > G
a hard magnetic silver-white metallic element.

Cobalt is essential as a trace element in animal and plant nutrition.

cobbler

n
/ 'käblə(r) /

E
a repairer or maker of shoes.
Milt's great-grandfather was a cobbler in Bavaria.

cobblestone

cocainize

cochlea

cockpit

cockroach

n
/ 'kä.krōch /

Sp
any of an order (Blattaria) of insects with long antennae and a flat, soft body.

The cockroach is one example of a highly adaptable insect which can be found all over the world.

cocksure

coctile

coda

coden

codger

codify

coefficient

coercible
adj
/ kō'ərsəbəl /

L + Ecf
capable of being restrained, controlled, or dominated.

Previously coercible, James has learned to ignore the threats of the class bullies.

coffeepot

coffer

cogency

cognosce

cognoscenti

coiffure

coincide

cokery

colander

colcannon

n
/ kəl'kanən /

IrGael
potatoes and cabbage or other greens boiled and mashed together.
Deirdre's mother serves a different meat every night of the week, but the side dish is always colcannon.

colectivo

coleopterist

coleopterous

adj
/ .kōlē'äptərəs /

Gk + Ecf
of or relating to a beetle.
Coleopterous insects usually have biting mouthparts and hard front wings that cover the membranous hind wings.

coleslaw

colicky

collaborate

collapse

collar

collarbone

collards

collation

collectanea

collector

collegiate

adj
/ kəl'ēj(ē)ət /

L
relevant to the life of college students often on the nonacademic side.

Students who participate in major collegiate sports usually have been outstanding high school athletes.

colliculate

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

collide

colligate

v
/ 'kälə,gāt /
L

[has near homonym: collocate]
bind, unite, or group together often according to a subsuming principle.
The lawyer attempted to colligate instances of the employer's unfair treatment of the workers.

colligation

collimate

collocate

v
/ 'kälə,kāt /
L

[has near homonym: colligate] set or arrange in a place or position; especially : set side by side.
The plan is to collocate the two satellite signal receivers to make data analysis easier.

colloquialism

colloquium

n
/ kə'lŏkwēəm /
L

a conference; specifically : a seminar that several lecturers take turns in leading.
Professor Dunnock participated in a colloquium on "The Role of the Mass Media in a Democratic Society."

collunarium

n
/ ,kälə'n(a)rēəm /
L

a medicated solution for instillation into the nostrils as a wash or spray or as drops.
Steve knew that the collunarium would aid his stuffy nose, yet he refused to use it.

collutorium

n
/ ,kälə'tŏrēəm /
L

mouthwash.
Every few minutes the dental hygienist offered her patient a collutorium.

colobus

n
/ 'käləbəs /
Gk > L

any of a genus of slender long-tailed African monkeys.
In the colobus the thumb is either absent or greatly reduced in size.

colonial

colonnaded

adj
/ ,kälə'nādəd /
L > It > F

having a series of columns placed at regular intervals.
The colonnaded royal palace was the city's shining architectural jewel.

colony

n
/ 'kälənē /
L > F > E

a group of persons united by a common characteristic or interest living in a limited section surrounded by others not so united.
Members of the colony occasionally left the compound to purchase food, medicine, and fuel.

colored

colorfast

colorimeter

n
/ ,kälə'rīmədə(r) /
L + Gk

an instrument for determining and specifying colors by reference to other colors and giving results not independent of abnormalities in the observer's color vision.
A colorimeter and a spectrophotometer are actually quite different, although they both measure colors.

coloristic

colorless

adj
/ 'kələ(r)lās /
L + Ecf

transparent and not distinguished by any hue.
Gary was able to list several colorless gases without much thought: nitrogen, carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide, and oxygen.

colossally

colossus

colt

colugo

n
/ kə'lügō /
Malay?

either of two arboreal nocturnal mammals that are about the size of a cat and that have a broad fold of skin extending from the neck to the tail on each side that forms a parachute used in making long sailing leaps.
The colugo lives in the rain forest and feeds on the leaves, buds, shoots, and flowers of trees.

comandancia

n
/ ,kämən'danch(ē)ə /
Sp

a province or district under military control.
Soldiers patrolled the streets enforcing the curfew in the comandancia.

combination

combust

v
/ kəm'bäst /
L

cause to undergo any chemical process accompanied by the evolution of light and heat, being typically a vigorous union of substances with oxygen.
Sue's assignment was to combust hydrogen and estimate the resulting change in enthalpy.

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

combustible

comedian

n
/ kə'mēdēən /
Gk > F
[has homonym: comedienne] an actor who plays in dramas of light or amusing character and typically with a happy ending.
The comedian in the movie was played by an actor who was better known for his dramatic roles.

comedy

comestibles

n pl
/ kə'mestəbəlz /
L
items suitable to be eaten.
A wide variety of comestibles was on display at the gourmet shop.

comic

comity

commandeer

commemoration

n
/ kə.memə'rāshən /
L
something that calls to remembrance (as by speech, statue, or ceremony).
The city council voted to have a parade in commemoration of the city's 150th anniversary.

commemorative

commensal

adj
/ 'kə'men(t)səl /
L
of or relating to those who habitually eat together.
Having pizza on Friday night is a commensal tradition among Carrie and her friends.

comminatory

comminution

n
/ ,kämə'n(y)üshən /
L
gradual lessening by the removal of small particles at a time : wearing away.
Frost promotes the comminution of stone to small particles.

commiserative

commissariat

commissioner

n
/ kə'mish(ə)nə(r) /
L
the officer in charge of a department or bureau of the public service.
The police commissioner awarded the officer a medal for his heroic rescue of a child.

commissure

commit

committal

n
/ kə'mid·l /
L
the consignment or sentencing to confinement (as in a prison or mental hospital).
After hearing all the testimony, the judge decided that committal to a psychiatric hospital would be appropriate for the defendant.

committee

commodiously

commodities

commodity

commodore

communard

n
/ 'kämyə.närd /
F
an adherent of a principle or system of organization in which the major social or political units are local self-governing communities.
A communard is an individual who wishes for an extreme development of local government.

communiqué

commutator

comoid

compact

adj
/ kəm'pakt /
L > E
suggesting firmness, soundness, and a degree of strength.
The bulldog's compact frame contrasts sharply with the greyhound's lanky build.

companionship

company

n
/ 'kəmp(ə)nē /
L > F > E
an organization of performers.
The Dance Theater of Harlem is a famous modern dance company.

comparability

comparison

compass

compathy

compensation

compensatory

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

competitive

adj
/ kəm'pedədɪv /

L
of or relating to a contest between rivals.

The competitive spirit of the two musicians rings loud and clear when they play the tune "Dueling Banjos."

complacency

complaint

n
/ kəm'plānt /
F > E

the act or action of expressing protest, censure, or resentment.
The employees' major complaint was that their work hours were not flexible enough.

complaisant

complementary

adj
/ ,kəm'plə'mentərē /
L

[has homonym: complimentary]
supplementing and being supplemented in return.
Susan and Stuart's complementary talents of artistry and business acumen made their boutique a success.

complex

adj
/ kəm'pleks /

L
having many varied interrelated parts, patterns, or elements and consequently hard to understand.
Caroline brought an unbelievably complex camera on the trip and was forever changing lenses.

complexus

compliance

complicated

adj
/ 'kæmplə'kædəd /

L + Ecf
complex : not simple to fabricate or comprehend.

Mary's piano teacher assigned her a complicated piece and asked her to master the first page before the next lesson.

complicity

n
/ kəm'plɪsədē /
L

association or participation in or as if in guilt.

The complicity between the two thieves goes back to their early shoplifting escapades.

compliment

comply

composite

composition

compost

composure

compotator

compound

n
/ 'kæmpaʊnd /
L > F > E

a large fenced or walled-in area (as in a prison or detention camp).
POWs wandered around the compound, hoping and praying for rescue.

comprehensive

compressed

adj
/ kəm'prest /
L > E + Ecf

condensed : reduced in volume by pressure.
Carolyn filled her scuba tanks with compressed air.

comprimario

compromise

compulsion

n
/ kəm'pʊlʃən /

L
a driving by force, power, pressure, or necessity.

Jake was acting under compulsion, not on his own free will.

computable

concealment

conceited

adj
/ kən'sēdəd /
E + Ecf

entertaining an excessively or unjustifiably high opinion of oneself.
Dennis is so conceited that he would rather have stones thrown at him than not be noticed.

conceitedness

n
/ kən'sēdəd'nəs /
E

the quality or state of entertaining an excessively or unjustifiably high opinion of oneself.
The diva had trouble with her fellow singers because of her boundless conceitedness.

conceive

v
/ kən'sēv /
L > F > E

form in the mind.
Alec tried to conceive a solution to his problem but couldn't think of anything.

concentus

conceptual

conceptualize

v
/ kən'sepchə(wə).līz /
L

form a thought, idea, or notion of.
Nowadays it is difficult to conceptualize a world without telephones.

concert

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

conchetto

conche

conchoidal

conchology

concise

conclave

n
/ 'kän.kläv /

L > F > E

the body of cardinals especially when considered in respect to their electoral function.

A puff of white smoke signified that the conclave had elected the new pope.

conclude

v
/ kən'klüd /

L > E

reach a final determination or judgment about.

The numbers forced Nina to conclude that she should close up shop.

concur

condensation

n
/ .kän.den'sāshən /

L

transition of a substance from the vapor to the liquid phase.

Raindrops are formed by the condensation of water vapor onto specks of dust.

condense

v
/ kən'den(t)s /

L

undergo transition from the vapor to the liquid phase.

When molecules condense, they lose some of their kinetic energy.

condensed

condescendent

condolences

n pl
/ kən'dölən(t)səz /
L > F

expressions of sympathy with another in sorrow or grief.

At the funeral, Rafael offered his condolences to the Martinez family.

condominium

conduct

conelrad

confectioner

confer

conference

conferred

v
/ kən'fərd /

L

held conversation on important, difficult, or complex matters : consulted, deliberated.

The referees conferred for a few minutes and then rendered a decision that was unpopular with the home team.

confess

v
/ kən'fes /
L > F > E

acknowledge (one's sins) especially to God or a priest in order to receive forgiveness.

In the Hitchcock movie I Confess, a frightened murderer is moved to confess his sin to a priest, who cannot break the sanctity of the confessional.

confession

confide

confidence

n
/ 'känfədən(t)s /
L

a relation or state of trust between persons who confide in each other.
When the entire class knew of her crush on Wes, Emily regretted having taken Jane into her confidence.

confident

configure

confined

confirmable

confiscatory

conflict

confrere

n
/ kō'fr(ə)r /
L > F > E

colleague : a fellow worker (as in a profession or in a field of study).
Fran's study is so specialized that the nearest confrere in her field is halfway across the country.

congelation

n
/ .kän.jə'lāshən /
L

the action or process of alteration (as by freezing) from a fluid to a solid or semisolid state.

Ice is the result of the congelation of water.

congelative

congelifract

congeniality

n
/ kən.jēnē'alədē /
L

affinity of spirit or temperament : mutual agreeableness.

Captain Schreiner fostered a spirit of congeniality between the officers and the enlisted men.

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

congestion

n
/ kən'jes(h)chən /
L > F
clogging.

Byron decided to be tested for allergies after years of suffering with nasal congestion.

conglutinant

adj
/ kən'glüt'nənt /
L

causing to adhere.
Used chewing gum was the conglutinant substance that held the papers together.

congratulations

n pl
/ kən.grachə'lāshənz /
L

expressions of sympathetic pleasure.
In a 1783 address to Congress, General George Washington offered his congratulations on the departure of British troops from American soil.

congregation

n
/ kəŋgrə'gāshən /
L > F > E

an assembly of persons : gathering; especially : an assembly of persons met for the worship of God and for religious instruction.
The pastor asked the congregation to support the upcoming blood drive.

conical

conjecture

v
/ kən'jekchə(r) /
L > F > E

form opinions concerning on grounds confessedly insufficient for certain conclusions.
His fellow workers would often conjecture playfully about the cause of Lou's frequent tardiness.

conjugate

adj
/ 'känjəgət /
L

yoked or joined together especially in pairs : acting as if joined.
In mathematics and physics, problems usually have conjugate solutions.

conjugation

conjunction

n
/ kən'jəŋ(k)shən /
L

a configuration in which two celestial bodies have their least apparent separation.
Some New Age doomsayers predict a calamity when Earth and Mars come into conjunction.

conjunctivitis

n
/ kən.jəŋ(k)tə'vīdās /
L

inflammation of the mucous membrane that lines the inner surface of the eyelids.
In common parlance, conjunctivitis is known as "pinkeye."

conjure

v
/ 'känjər /
L

invent, contrive.
Tony will rely on Jason to conjure up a reason for both of them to leave class early.

conjury

connective

adj
/ kə'nektiv /
L

tending to join, fasten, or link together, usually by means of something intervening.
Ducks have a connective membrane on their feet that enables them to swim very quickly.

connoisseur

n
/ kə'nɪpshən /
unknown

a fit of rage, hysteria, or alarm.
Dad had a connoisseur when he discovered that someone had stolen the radio from his car.

connive

connotations

n pl
/ ,känə'tāshənz /
L

things implied or suggested by a word or sometimes by a thing : implications.
Calling Carl's behavior juvenile had negative connotations for him.

consanguineous

adj
/ ,känsaŋ'gwinēəs /
L

descended from the same person (as a father) or the same ancestor.
Although Ron and Bill have different mothers, they have the same father, and are therefore consanguineous.

consent

n
/ kən'sent /
L

compliance or approval especially of what is done or proposed by another : permission.
The group assembled to protest against a form of government existing without the consent of the governed.

consequently

adv
/ 'kän(t)sə'kwentlē /
L

as a result.
The verbs founder and flounder are often confused and consequently misused.

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

consider

v
/ kən'sidə(r) /
L > F > E
think about with a degree of care or caution.
Had Vince taken time to consider the consequences of his behavior, he would have acted differently.

consideration

consigned

consilient

adj
/ kən'silyənt /
L
in accord with a set of inductive laws of distinct derivation.
The biologist Edward O. Wilson argues that natural sciences and social sciences are consilient in the study of human evolution.

consist

consistency

consolation

consolatory

adj
/ kən'sɒlə.tɔːrē /
L
designed or intended to bring comfort and solace.
The fireman offered a few consolatory remarks before rescuing Ann's kitten from the tree.

consolidate

consolidator

consonant

consort

n
/ 'kən.sɔːrt /
L
one that shares the company of another, as a wife or husband.
The queen attended the festival with her consort, Prince Reginald.

conspirator

conspirators

consternation

n
/ kənztə(r)'nāshən /
L
grievous exasperation or distraction.
The two, father and son, stared at each other in consternation, and neither knew what to do.

constituency

n
/ kənzt'itʃəwənsē /
L > F
a body of citizens or voters that is entitled to elect a representative to a legislature or other public body.
The representative asked his constituency for opinions on the issue.

constrictor

consul

consume

contagion

n
/ kən'tājən /
L
the process by which disease is transmitted from one person to another by direct or indirect means.
Frequent hand washing has been found to be effective in disrupting the contagion of the common cold.

contagiosity

containing

contaminant

contemplated

contemporary

contemptuous

contemptuously

contention

contentious

context

continent

contingency

continual

contortion

n
/ kən'tɔːrshən /
L
a twisting into abnormal or grotesque shape.
When the demon appeared on stage, the hero assumed a position of painful contortion.

contradict

contradictory

contrapposto

contrecoup

contrive

v
/ kən'trɪv /
L > F > E
devise, plan, plot.
Nona tried to contrive a valid excuse for her absence but finally admitted she had overslept.

controlled

controversial

contumelious

contumely

n
/ kən't(y)üməlē /
L > F > E
the suffering of insult : humiliation.
Dan's ability to ignore insults gave him an endless capacity for bearing contumely.

conundrum

convalesce

v
/ kən'və'les /
L
recover health and strength gradually after sickness or weakness.
Mrs. Davis is going to convalesce at her son's house.

conventionally

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

converge

convince

convoluted

adj
/ kənvə'ljuːdəd /
L

complicated and involved.
Stuart's convoluted blackjack system is so difficult as to be useless.

convulsively

adv
/ kən'vʌlsəvli /
L

in a manner producing or accompanied by an unnatural, violent, and involuntary contraction or series of contractions of the muscles.
As Edna listened to the details of her son's accident, she dropped into a chair and sobbed convulsively.

coolant

cooper

n
/ 'kju:pə(r) /
D or G > E
a maker or repairer of wooden casks or tubs.
Ned watched a cooper making barrels at Sturbridge Village.

coparcener

n
/ kə'pɑ:sənər /
L + L > F
a joint heir.
In accordance with the will, each coparcener is to receive an equal amount from the sale of the parents' property.

copolymer

coppice

copyist

n
/ 'kɒpiəst /
L > F
one who is employed to make copies.
Four hundred years ago, one might have had to hire a copyist in order to obtain sheet music.

coquettish

coquillage

coquille

n
/ kə'ki:l /
F
a shell-like dish in which food is served.
Emily baked the scallops in a coquille.

coral

adj
/ 'kɒrəl /
Gk > L > F > E
[has homonym: choral] of a strong pink color that has a hint of dark yellow.
The seashell, coral when wet, was almost white after it dried.

coralene

cordage

cordate

cordial

cordovan

n
/ 'kɒ(r)dəvən /
Sp geog name
a variable color averaging a dark grayish red.
The cordovan of Kathy's purse does not match the cordovan of her penny loafers.

coreopsis

n
/ ,kɒrē'ɒpsəs /
Gk + Gk
a plant of a genus of herbs which have showy flower heads with bracts in two distinct series of eight each.
The name coreopsis means "bug-appearance" and refers to the bug-like shape of the plant's seed.

cornerstone

cornhusking

corolla

corona

n
/ kə'rɒnə /
L
something suggesting a crown.
Perhaps the lampshade's gold color and frilly edges made Roald imagine that it was a corona.

coronal

adj
/ kə'rɒnəl /
L
[has homonym: coronel] of or relating to a corona or crown.
The king had to swear a coronal oath which required his assent to the laws passed in parliament.

coronation

n
/ ,kɒrən'eɪʃən /
L
the ceremony of investing a sovereign or consort with the royal crown.
The prince and his consort rode to their coronation in a gilded carriage.

corporal

corporeity