

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

**skirmish**

n  
/ 'skərmɪʃ /  
F > E  
a minor dispute or contest between opposing parties.  
*Winston hopes that his skirmish with the neighbors over his dog does not foreshadow a lengthy feud.*

**skirret**

n  
/ 'skɪrət /  
Ar? > F > E  
an Asiatic herb cultivated in Europe for its sweet edible tuberous roots.  
*After foraging for an hour, Yang happened on a skirret, the roots of which he would boil and eat.*

**skittish**

**skoal**

**skookum**

adj  
/ 'skükəm /  
Chinook  
marked by excellent quality : first-rate.  
*Liz felt sure that the pail of blueberries would make a skookum pie.*

**slalom**

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

**slanderous**

**slantindicular**

adj  
/ ,slantɪn'dɪkɪələ(r) /  
E + L > F > E  
somewhat oblique.  
*The main staircase of the new library rises at a slantindicular angle to the facade.*

**slapstick**

n  
/ 'slapstɪk /  
G imit + E  
comedy that depends for its effect on fast, boisterous, and zany physical activity and horseplay often accompanied by broad rowdy verbal humor.  
*The Three Stooges were famous for their slapstick.*

**sleazily**

**sledgehammer**

**sleuth**

v  
/ 'sluθ /  
ON > E  
act as a detective or investigator : search for information or facts.  
*There are several game programs that teach children how to sleuth out facts and figures on the Internet.*

**slobberhannes**

**sloganeer**

n  
/ ,slɔgə'ni(ə)r /  
Gaelic  
a coiner or user of brief striking phrases in advertising or promotion.  
*Without the sloganeer, most commercials would probably be deadily dull.*

**slovenly**

adj  
/ 'sləvənli /  
G or Flemish  
negligent of neatness and order especially in dress or person.  
*He that is born under Capricorn shall incline to the slovenly.*

**sluice**

n  
/ 'slüs /  
L > F > E  
a body of water pent up behind a floodgate.  
*Ellen crossed the sluice in a canoe.*

**slumgullion**

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

**smectic**

**smoggy**

adj  
/ 'smægē /  
(E + Scand?) > E  
characterized by or abounding in a fog made heavier and darker by smoke and chemical fumes.  
*The smoggy atmosphere of Los Angeles aggravated Frank's allergies.*

**smorgasbord**

n  
/ 'smɔrgəs.bɔrd /  
Sw  
a luncheon or supper buffet offering a variety of foods and dishes.  
*Nita's smorgasbord included turkey and smoked salmon.*

**snagrel**

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

**snood**

n  
/ 'snüd /  
E  
a net or fabric bag for confining a woman's hair pinned or tied on at the back of the head.  
*Kathryn auditioned for a part in the Noel Coward play wearing a tea-length gown and snood from the 1930s.*

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**soavemente**

adv

/ sō'āvā'mentā /

L > It

with sweetness or smoothness : in a gentle manner—used as a direction in music.

*The serenade was played soavemente by the strings.*

**sociable**

adj

/ 'sōshəbəl /

L

enjoying companionship.

*The dolphin is one of the most sociable creatures known to man.*

**sodality**

**sojourner**

n

/ 'sōjərnə(r) /

F > E

one that stays as a temporary resident.

*Even though he had lived there for five years, Russell knew he was regarded as a sojourner by the neighbors.*

**solace**

v

/ 'säləs /

L

[has near homonym: solus] console.

*When Janie learned she had failed her swimming exam, she decided to solace herself by going out to a movie.*

**solatium**

n

/ sō'lāshēəm /

L

something that alleviates or compensates for suffering or loss; especially : an additional allowance (as for injured feelings).

*The government offered a solatium to the families of those killed in the terrorist bombing.*

**solder**

v

/ 'sädə(r) /

L > F > E

[has homonym: sodder] unite or make whole by means of a melted metallic alloy.

*Jennifer's science class learned how to solder wires so they could experiment with electrical circuits.*

**soldier**

**solecism**

**solecistic**

adj

/ .sälə'sistik /

Gk > L

relating to, constituting, or involving an ungrammatical combination of words in a sentence.

*Careful writers shun as solecistic the use of the word like as a conjunction.*

**sofatara**

n

/ .sälfə'tärə /

L > It

a volcanic area or vent that yields sulfur gases and hot vapors and represents a late stage of volcanic activity.

*Harry noticed a rotten-egg odor coming from a sofatara on the north side of the previously inactive volcano.*

**solferino**

**solicitous**

adj

/ sə'lisədəs /

L

manifesting or expressing concern.  
*Dr. Turner is especially solicitous toward his older patients.*

**soliloquy**

n

/ sə'liləkwe /

L

a discourse made by one in solitude to oneself.

*At the talent contest Angelo stepped into the spotlight and recited Hamlet's famous soliloquy "To be or not to be, . . ."*

**solipsism**

n

/ 'sōləp.sizəm /

L

extreme indulgence of and concern with the self at the expense of social relationships especially as expressed in a failure of artistic communication.

*Critics accused the popular actor of solipsism.*

**solitaire**

n

/ 'sälə.ta(ə)r /

L

a card game designed for one person to play alone.

*Shelley often relaxes by playing solitaire after everyone else has gone to bed.*

**soliterraneous**

adj

/ .sōlətə'rānēəs /

L

of or relating to Earth and the Sun.  
*Scientists attribute the recent drought to soliterraneous causes.*

**solivagant**

adj

/ sō'livəgənt /

L

marked by solitary wandering.

*During his first semester in college, Gerry took frequent solivagant walks around the campus.*

**solleret**

n

/ .sälə'ret /

L > F

a flexible steel shoe forming part of a medieval suit of armor.

*The curator explained that the cumbersome solleret had to be removed to allow the knight to fight on foot.*

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**solmization**

**solon**

n  
/ 'sɒlən /  
Gk name  
a wise and skillful lawgiver or statesman.  
*Judge Kantz is revered throughout the county as a solon.*

**solstice**

n  
/ 'sɔːltɪs /  
L > F > E  
one of two points on the ecliptic at which its distance from the celestial equator is greatest and which is reached by the Sun each year about June 22nd and December 23rd.  
*The North Pole is tilted directly toward the Sun at the summer solstice.*

**solstitial**

adj  
/ sɔːl'zɪʃəl /  
L  
of or relating to the two points on the ecliptic at which its distance from the celestial equator is greatest and which is reached by the Sun each year about June 22nd and December 23rd.  
*Ancient myths about the eternal battle between light and dark are tied to equinoctial and solstitial moments in the year.*

**solvolysis**

**sombrero**

n  
/ sɒm'bre(,)rɒ /  
Sp  
a high-crowned hat of felt or straw with a very wide brim worn especially in the Southwest and in Mexico.  
*Maria was dressed quite expensively, with leather boots covering her legs and a dark sombrero poised levelly on her head.*

**somnambulant**

adj  
/ sɒm'nambyələnt /  
L + L  
walking or addicted to walking while asleep.  
*Sheila could remember nothing of her somnambulant activities when she was told of them the next morning.*

**somniloquist**

**somnolence**

**sonorous**

adj  
/ 'sɒnərəs /  
L  
characterized by full or loud sound often with clear or rich tone, marked volume, or easy audibility.  
*Alex's sonorous voice made him the clear choice to perform the reading.*

**soothsaying**

**sophisticate**

v  
/ sə'fɪstəkæt /  
Gk > L  
alter deceptively: adulterate.  
*Lanny feared that someone would sophisticate the survey results.*

**sophistry**

n  
/ 'sɒfəstrē /  
Gk > F  
reasoning that is superficially plausible but actually fallacious.  
*Larry's masterful but irresponsible sophistry easily convinced naive listeners.*

**Sophoclean**

adj  
/ ,sɒfə'klēən /  
Gk name  
of, relating to, or characteristic of the Athenian tragic poet Sophocles or his dramas.  
*Finding a new Sophoclean fragment in the museum's papyri was Gunther's claim to fame.*

**sophomore**

n  
/ 'sɒf(ə)mɒ(ə)r /  
Gk  
a student in his second year or with second-year standing at a college.  
*As a sophomore, Jason was expected to find a one-semester internship in his major subject.*

**soporific**

adj  
/ ,sɒpə'rɪfɪk /  
L > F  
causing or tending to cause sleep.  
*The students valiantly attempted to fight off the soporific effects of the lecture.*

**sorbet**

n  
/ 'sɒrbət /  
Turkish > It > F  
[Note: Could be confused with sherbet.] a frozen dessert made with a mixture of fruits.  
*Wylie ate sorbet between courses to cleanse his palate.*

**sorcerer**

n  
/ 'sɒ(r)s(ə)rə(r) /  
L > F  
magician.  
*Traveling alone in the dark, the sorcerer saw no harm in conjuring up a lamp for his convenience.*

**sorcery**

**sorghum**

n  
/ 'sɔːrgəm /  
L? > It  
syrup produced by evaporating the juice from stems of certain tropical grasses.  
*Rachel likes sorghum on her oatmeal.*

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**sorrel**

n  
/ 'sɔrəl /  
Gmc > F > E  
[has homonyms: saurel, soral, sorel] a light bright chestnut horse often with white mane and tail.  
*Ken promised to take good care of the sorrel his dad had bought for him.*

**sortie**

**sortileger**

n  
/ 'sɔ(r)d<sup>ə</sup>liʒə(r) /  
L  
one that tells fortunes; especially : a person who for payment predicts what are claimed to be future events or influences in the life of another.  
*The sortileger predicted a radical change in Frank's lifestyle.*

**soubise**

n  
/ sü'bēz /  
F geog name  
a white or brown sauce containing onions or onion puree.  
*A sauceboat of soubise accompanied the roast.*

**soubresaut**

n  
/ ,sübrə'sɔ /  
L > F  
a ballet jump from and a landing on both feet in closed position.  
*Keith demonstrated his lack of ballet prowess with an awkward soubresaut.*

**soubrette**

**sourdough**

**sousaphone**

n  
/ 'süzəfɔn /  
Amer name + Gk > E  
a large circular tuba having a flaring adjustable bell.  
*The band director was looking for someone who could play the sousaphone.*

**soutane**

**souterrain**

**southpaw**

n  
/ 'saʊθ.pə /  
E + F > E  
left-hander; specifically : a left-handed baseball pitcher.  
*Some fans think Babe Ruth was the best southpaw ever to play major league baseball.*

**souvenir**

n  
/ ,süvə'ni(ə)r /  
L > F  
something that serves as a reminder : memento, remembrance.  
*Moirra kept a seashell as a souvenir of her trip to the ocean.*

**spacious**

**spacistor**

n  
/ 'spā.sistə(r) /  
L  
a high-frequency semiconductor amplifying device.  
*The spacistor has replaced the transistor because of its greater ability to amplify electrical energy.*

**spaghetti**

n  
/ spə'gedē /  
It  
a pasta made in solid strings of small diameter but larger than vermicelli.  
*The specialty of the restaurant was spaghetti with meat sauce.*

**spandex**

**spangle**

n  
/ 'spʌŋgəl /  
Scand > E  
a small object that brightly reflects light.  
*The packrat ran out into the road to pick up the glittering spangle.*

**spaniel**

**spatiotemporal**

adj  
/ ,spāshē(,)ɔ'temp(ə)rəl /  
L  
having the quality of something that is at once extended and enduring.  
*The philosopher pointed out that two things cannot coexist in one spatiotemporal point.*

**spatterdock**

**spatula**

n  
/ 'spachələ /  
L  
a flat thin flexible dull-edged usually metal implement used especially for spreading or mixing soft substances, scooping, or lifting.  
*With batter on his face and a spatula in his fist, Casey smiled for his mom and her camera.*

**species**

n pl  
/ 'spē(,)shēz /  
L  
a category of biological classification ranking immediately below a genus or subgenus.  
*The housefly belongs to the genus Musca and the species domestica.*

**speciesism**

n  
/ 'spē(,)s(h)ē.zizəm /  
L + Ecf  
prejudice or discrimination based on species; especially : discrimination against animals.  
*Some animal rights activists go so far as to claim that swatting a fly is an act of speciesism.*

**specimen**

n  
/ 'spesəmən /  
L  
a particular single item, part, aspect, or incident that is typical and indicative of the nature, character, or quality of others in the same class or group.  
*At the museum Ken and Allison saw an excellent specimen of a moon rock.*

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**specious**

adj  
/ 'spēshəs /  
L

superficially fair, just, or correct, but not so in reality.  
*Only after the candidate was elected was the actual truth of her specious claims exposed.*

**spectral**

adj  
/ 'spektrəl /  
L

of, like, or relating to a disembodied spirit, apparition, or ghost.  
*Galloping toward him was a spectral rider on horseback.*

**spectrum**

n  
/ 'spektrəm /  
L

a series of images formed when a beam of light is subjected to dispersion.  
*The specialty store carried a spectrum of ties to suit any man's taste.*

**speleologist**

n  
/ ,spēlē'äləjəst /  
Gk > L > ISV

a specialist in the scientific study or systematic exploration of caves.  
*Dale's work as a speleologist takes him to spectacular natural features around the world.*

**speleothem**

n  
/ 'spēlēə.thəm /  
Gk > L > ISV + Gk

a cave deposit or formation.  
*Receding waters have left a speleothem of carbonate on the cavern floor.*

**spelunking**

n  
/ spə'lŋkɪŋ /  
E

the hobby or practice of exploring caves.  
*Spelunking is a popular activity in eastern Kentucky.*

**sphagnum**

n  
/ 'sfagnəm /  
Gk > L

any plant of a large genus of atypical mosses that grow only in very wet acid areas where their accumulated remains become compacted with other plant debris to form peat.  
*A large patch of sphagnum grew in the bog by the police station.*

**spherical**

adj  
/ 'sfīrəkəl /  
Gk > L + Ecf

like a sphere : globular.  
*Linda suspected that the spherical rock she found was a geode.*

**spheterize**

v  
/ 'sfedə.rīz /  
Gk

take for one's own : appropriate.  
*The invading army proceeded to spheterize the villagers' private property.*

**sphinx**

n  
/ 'sfɪŋ(k)s /  
Gk > L

a monster in Greek mythology having typically a lion's body, wings, and the head and bust of a woman.  
*According to Greek legend, the sphinx of Thebes would pose a riddle to a passerby and then kill that person if he or she could not answer it.*

**spiedino**

n  
/ ,spēə'dē(,)nō /  
Gmc > F > It

a dish of meat rolled around a filling or minced and formed into balls, then usually batter-dipped and cooked on a skewer.  
*The chef grilled a spiedino of beef on a charcoal grill.*

**spinescent**

adj  
/ spī'nesənt /  
L

tapering to a sharp rigid point.  
*The fish Homer caught had two spinescent fins.*

**spinet**

n  
/ 'spɪnət /  
L > It

a compactly built upright piano of reduced height and usually reduced keyboard suitable for limited space.  
*Percival didn't have room for a full-size piano in his studio apartment, so he bought a spinet.*

**spinnaker**

n  
/ 'spɪnəkə(r) /  
unknown  
a large triangular sail set on a long light pole and used when running before the wind.  
*The spinnaker on Diane's boat is cardinal red.*

**spiracle**

n  
/ 'spɪrəkəl /  
L

one of the breathing pores found on the thorax and abdomen of an insect.  
*The muscular valve of a spiracle opens only to allow the uptake of oxygen and the escape of carbon dioxide.*

**spiritual**

**splendent**

**splenectomize**

**splenetic**

adj  
/ splə'nedɪk /  
Gk > L  
marked by morose bad temper, sullen malevolence, or spiteful, peevish anger.  
*The splenetic critic gave the musical a scathing review.*

**spoliation**

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**spondylitis**

n  
/ ,spändə'lidəs /  
Gk > L  
inflammation of the vertebrae.  
*Jewel's back pain was caused by spondylitis.*

**spongicolous**

**sponson**

**spontaneity**

n  
/ ,späntə'nēədē /  
L  
the quality or state of being unconstrained or impulsive.  
*Brian has always liked to stick to a schedule, but lately he has shown more spontaneity than usual.*

**spontaneous**

adj  
/ spän'tänēəs /  
L  
proceeding from natural feeling or native tendency without external constraint.  
*His employee's spontaneous obedience made Tim's job pleasant.*

**spoonerism**

n  
/ 'spünə.rizəm /  
E name  
a transposition of usually initial sounds of two or more words that generally creates a comic effect.  
*Vivian was afraid that she would utter a spoonerism in her recitation.*

**sporadically**

**sporogenous**

adj  
/ spə'räjənəs /  
Gk > L  
producing or adapted to the production of minute unicellular reproductive bodies.  
*The botany class studied the development of the fern's sporogenous tissue.*

**sporran**

n  
/ 'spärən /  
ScotGael  
a large pouch of skin with the hair or fur on that is worn in front of the kilt by Highlanders in full dress and used as a purse.  
*Angus picked up a quarter and put it in his sporran.*

**springerle**

n  
/ 's(h)prinjərlə /  
G  
a thick hard cookie usually flavored with anise and impressed with a relief design and traditionally eaten at Christmas in German-speaking countries.  
*Klaus broke his tooth on a stale springerle.*

**spur**

**spurious**

**squadron**

**squalid**

adj  
/ 'skwäləd /  
L  
marked by filthiness and degradation usually from neglect.  
*The squalid tenement building was condemned and scheduled for demolition.*

**squaliform**

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

**squeamish**

adj  
/ 'skwēmish /  
AF > E  
inclined to become nauseated : queasy.  
*Pat is squeamish when it comes to rides at the fair.*

**squelch**

v  
/ 'skwelch /  
imit  
move with water or mud in one's shoes and produce a sucking or splashing sound.  
*After playing in mud puddles all the way home, Frances tried to squelch quietly to her room without getting caught by her mother.*

**squirrel**

n  
/ 'skwər(ə)l /  
Gk > L > F > E  
any of various widely distributed small to medium-sized rodents that have a bushy tail and long strong hind limbs.  
*On the trunk of the tree, a brown squirrel was clinging and watching the boy below.*

**stabilimeter**

**stable**

**staccato**

adj  
/ stəkād(.)ō /  
F > It  
marked by short clear-cut playing or singing of tones or chords.  
*Marcia's piano teacher told her to practice the etude's staccato passage several minutes each day.*

**stagnant**

adj  
/ 'stagnənt /  
L  
having undergone physical changes while standing; especially : impaired in flavor, odor, or texture by such changes.  
*Josh stood still in disbelief after Kevin pushed him into the stagnant water of the ditch.*

**stalactite**

n  
/ stəl'ak.tīt /  
Gk  
a deposit of calcium carbonate resembling an icicle hanging from the roof or sides of a cavern.  
*It takes hundreds of years for a stalactite to form.*

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**stalagmite**

n  
/ stə'lag.mīt /  
Gk

a deposit of crystalline calcium carbonate more or less like an inverted stalactite formed on the floor of a cave.

*A gigantic stalagmite blocked the spelunker's path.*

**stalwart**

adj  
/ 'stɔl.wə(r)t /  
E

brave, valiant, resolute.

*The new musical comedy is based on the story of Robin Hood and his stalwart companions.*

**stamina**

n  
/ 'stamənə /  
L

strength or courage of conviction : staying power.

*The elderly senator doubted that he had the stamina to last through another election campaign.*

**stamnos**

**stampede**

n  
/ stam'pēd /  
Gmc > Sp

a wild headlong rush or flight of a number of animals usually due to fright.

*The lightning strike caused a cattle stampede.*

**stanchion**

n  
/ 'stanchən /  
L > F

an upright bar, post, prop, brace, or support.

*When Oliver lost control of his car, it swerved and hit a traffic-light stanchion.*

**stanniferous**

adj  
/ sta'nif(ə)rəs /  
Celt > L

containing tin.

*In Spain, Italy, and the Middle East pottery is sometimes covered with a white stanniferous glaze as a base for other decoration.*

**stannous**

adj  
/ 'stanəs /  
L

of, relating to, or containing tin—used especially of compounds in which this element is bivalent.

*In geology class Syadi was surprised to learn that cassiterite, the principal ore of tin, is not considered stannous.*

**stanzaical**

adj  
/ ,stan'zāikəl /  
L > It

relating to or consisting of groups of lines arranged together in a recurring pattern of metrical lengths and usually a sequence of rhymes.

*Kerri prefers poetry with a more stanzaical form.*

**stapes**

**statically**

adv  
/ 'stədək(ə)lē /  
Gk > L

in stable or unchanging terms.

*Alan's problem was that he always viewed problems statically.*

**stationary**

adj  
/ 'stāshə.nerē /  
L

[has homonym: stationery] fixed in a place, position, course, or mode.

*The clerk calmly remained in a stationary position.*

**stationery**

n  
/ 'stāshə.nerē /  
L > F > E

[has homonym: stationary] materials (as paper, pens, pencils, ink, blankbooks, ledgers, and cards) for writing or typing.

*Claudia complained that just before the beginning of every school year the office stationery began to disappear.*

**statistician**

n  
/ ,stadə'stishən /  
L > G

one versed in or engaged in compiling masses of numerical data.

*Jamie's career as a statistician began with following baseball scores.*

**statistics**

n pl  
/ stə'tistiks /  
L

a science dealing with the collection, analysis, interpretation, and presentation of masses of numerical data.

*Our state has lost some of its voting clout because of statistics reported by the U.S. Census Bureau.*

**statuesque**

adj  
/ ,stachə'wesk /  
L > F > E + F > Ecf

having a massive dignity or impressiveness : majestic.

*A statuesque sculpture stood in the town square.*

**steadily**

**stearic**

**steatogenous**

**steeple**

**stegosaur**

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**steinkern**

n  
/ 's(h)tɪŋ.kɜrn /  
G

a fossil consisting of a stony mass that entered a hollow natural object (as a bivalve shell) in the form of mud or sediment, was consolidated, and remained as a cast after dissolution of the mold.  
*For show-and-tell, Rose brought in a steinkern she had found at the beach.*

**stellar**

adj  
/ 'stelə(r) /  
L

of, relating to, or derived from the stars.  
*Rapid stellar rotation can modify the structure of a star's atmosphere.*

**stenographer**

n  
/ stə'nəgrəfə(r) /  
Gk + Gk

one who is employed chiefly to take and transcribe dictation.  
*Sergeant Fitzpatrick called in a stenographer to record the suspect's confession.*

**stentorophonic**

**steppe**

n  
/ 'step /  
Russ

[has homonym: step] one of the vast tracts in southeastern Europe or Asia that are usually level and without forests.  
*The tourists explored the steppe in search of exotic wildlife.*

**stereotype**

**sternutation**

n  
/ .stɜrnyə'təʃən /  
L

the act, fact, or noise of sneezing.  
*Pat's sternutation was so frequent and loud that his office mate asked to be transferred to another department.*

**stertorous**

adj  
/ 'stɜrdərəs /  
L

characterized by a harsh snoring or gasping sound.  
*While asleep in his easy chair, Uncle Max would give a start every few minutes, briefly awakened by his own stertorous breathing.*

**stethoscope**

n  
/ 'stethə.skɒp /  
Gk > F

an instrument used for the detection and study of sounds within the body.  
*Heard through a stethoscope, the rumbling of the stomach can sound like a storm at sea.*

**stevedore**

n  
/ 'stēvədə(ə)r /  
L > Sp

one who works at or is responsible for the loading or unloading of a ship in port.  
*The stevedore returned to the ship after dining at his favorite dockside restaurant.*

**stewardess**

n  
/ 'st(y)üə(r)dəs /  
E

a woman who attends to the needs of passengers (as on an airplane, ship, or train).  
*When addressed as stewardess, Emily requested that she be called a flight attendant.*

**sthenic**

adj  
/ 'sthenik /  
Gk

marked by excessive vitality or nervous energy.  
*Fido's sthenic symptoms finally subsided.*

**stifle**

v  
/ 'stɪfəl /  
F > E

kill by smothering : asphyxiate.  
*Smoke can stifle a person in a short period of time.*

**stimulus**

**stipend**

n  
/ 'stɪ.pend /  
L

a fixed sum of money typically modest in amount that is paid periodically in compensation for services.  
*The university gave Professor Barrett a stipend for his lecture series.*

**stirrup**

**stochastic**

adj  
/ stə'kastik /  
Gk

lacking or seeming to lack a regular plan, purpose, or pattern.  
*Vince programmed the computer to create a stochastic series of numbers.*

**stoically**

**stolkjaerre**

**stollen**

n  
/ 's(h)tɒlən /  
G

[has homonym: stolen] a sweet yeast bread containing fruits and nuts, usually made in a long oval loaf.  
*Henrietta found a recipe for stollen in her German cookbook.*

**strabismus**

n  
/ strə'bɪzməs /  
Gk > L

inability of one eye to attain binocular vision with the other because of imbalance of the extrinsic eye muscles.  
*Corrective surgery was performed to remedy Herman's strabismus.*

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**straiten**

v  
/ 'strātˈn /  
L > F > E

[has homonym: straighten] cause to suffer or ebb by reason of insufficient funds : reduce (as oneself) to poverty.

*With the generous university grant, Joanne's family would not have to straiten itself to provide the education she desired.*

**strangulate**

v  
/ 'strangyə.lāt /  
L

compress the windpipe of until death results from stoppage of respiration.

*Many nonvenomous snakes strangulate their prey.*

**stratagem**

n  
/ 'stradəjəm /  
Gk

a cleverly contrived trick or scheme for gaining an end.

*Barb was disappointed that her mother saw through her stratagem for staying out past curfew.*

**strategist**

**strathspey**

n  
/ 'strath.spā /  
Scot geog name

a Scottish dance similar to but slower than the reel.

*The highland fling is one example of a dance in the manner of the strathspey.*

**stratocirrus**

n  
/ .stradō'sirəs /  
L

a low dense fairly uniform cloud formation.

*The meteorologist predicted a heavy cover of stratocirrus for the weekend.*

**strength**

**strephosymbolia**

n  
/ .stre(,)fō.sim'bōlēə /  
Gk

reversal or transposition of phrases, words, or letters or of any symbols especially in reading.

*Because of his strephosymbolia, Ryan was diagnosed as having a learning disorder.*

**strepitous**

adj  
/ 'strepədəs /  
L

characterized or accompanied by much noise.

*The playoff game was a strepitous event.*

**streptomycin**

n  
/ .streptō'mīsˈn /  
Gk

an antibiotic organic base active against many bacteria and used especially in the treatment of infections (as tuberculosis) by gram-negative bacteria.

*Streptomycin was the first drug to prove effective against tuberculosis.*

**streusel**

**streuselkuchen**

n  
/ 'strūsəl.kükən /  
G

coffee cake that is baked with a topping of a crumbly mixture of butter, sugar, and flour and sometimes nuts and spices.

*Mrs. Messer, our neighbor, always bakes her family a streuselkuchen for the holidays.*

**stricture**

n  
/ 'strikchə(r) /  
L

an abnormal narrowing of a tubular organ : constriction.

*The stricture of Lucy's throat was caused by an allergic reaction to a bee sting.*

**strident**

adj  
/ 'stridˈnt /  
L

marked by insistent, discordant, harsh, shrill, or grating noise or sound.

*Mary-Ellen's fingernails produced a strident sound as she drew them across the blackboard.*

**strigil**

n  
/ 'strijəl /  
L

an instrument usually of metal or ivory used by the ancient Greeks and Romans for scraping the skin especially after athletic exercises.

*Damocles appreciated receiving a strigil personalized with his initials.*

**stringent**

adj  
/ 'strinjənt /  
L

marked by rigor, strictness, or severity.

*Stringent regulations have helped curb environmental pollution.*

**stroganoff**

adj  
/ 'strōgə.nōf /

Russ name

sliced thin and cooked in a sauce of meat stock, sour cream, onion, and condiments.

*Erica prepared beef stroganoff for the mayor's visit.*

**strongylid**

**strophulus**

n  
/ 'sträfyələs /  
Gk

a rash in infants popularly associated with teething distress.

*The pediatrician prescribed an ointment for our baby's strophulus.*

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**strudel**

n  
/ 's(h)trüd'1 /  
G

a sheet of paper-thin dough rolled up with any of various fillings and baked.

*The flight attendant served the coach passengers a light breakfast of coffee, juice, and strudel.*

**strychnine**

n  
/ 'stri:k.nīn /  
Gk

a very poisonous bitter crystalline alkaloid obtained from various plants.

*Strychnine is a popular poison in murder mystery novels.*

**stubborn**

**studious**

adj  
/ 'st(y)üdēās /  
L

of, relating to, or concerned with the application of the mental faculties to the acquisition of knowledge.

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

**stultiloquence**

n  
/ ,stəl'tilək wən(t)s /  
L + L

senseless or silly talk : babble.

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

**stupefy**

v  
/ 'st(y)üpəfī /  
L

blunt or deaden the faculties of perception and understanding of.

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

**stupendous**

adj  
/ st(y)ü'pendəs /  
L

of amazing size or greatness.

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

**sturgeon**

**stygian**

adj  
/ 'stij(ē)ən /  
Gk name

characteristic of death.

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

**stylebook**

**styptic**

adj  
/ 'stiptik /  
Gk

tending to arrest bleeding.

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

**suable**

**suasible**

adj  
/ 'swāsəbəl /  
L

capable of being induced into some mental position : easily brought to belief, certainty, or conviction.

*When it comes to trying new foods, Ming is the least suasible member of her family.*

**suavity**

**subaltern**

adj  
/ sə'böltə(r)n /  
L

inferior in status or quality : subordinate.

*Julia is disappointed with her subaltern role in the school play.*

**subaqueous**

adj  
/ ,səb'āk wēəs /  
L

being or found under water or beneath the surface of water.

*Bartley rented a glass-bottomed boat to get a better look at the subaqueous fauna.*

**subbasement**

**subboreal**

adj  
/ səb'bōrēəl /  
L

very cold : approaching the frigid.

*Hope grew up in Florida and finds it very difficult to live in what she calls the "subboreal climate" of Minnesota.*

**subfulgent**

adj  
/ ,səb'fūljənt /  
L

moderately lustrous.

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

**subfuscous**

**subjugate**

v  
/ 'səbjəgāt /  
L

bring under the yoke of power or dominion.

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

**submersible**

adj  
/ səb'mərsəbəl /  
L + Ecf

capable of functioning under water.

*The earliest designs for submersible vehicles date to antiquity.*

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**suborn**

v  
/ sə'bò(ə)rŋ /  
L > F

induce (as a person) by underhanded means to do some improper or unlawful thing.  
*The sting operation exposed Mr. Underwood's attempts to suborn the city treasurer.*

**subrident**

adj  
/ .sə'brīd'nt /  
L

wearing or offered with a smile.  
*Eilene's subrident answer belied the furious feelings she had toward the questioner.*

**subscriber**

**subservient**

adj  
/ (.)səb'sərvəənt /  
L

subordinate.  
*In ancient Rome, wives were legally subservient.*

**subsidiary**

adj  
/ (.)səb'sidē.ərē /  
L

of secondary importance or prominence.  
*Marge's role was subsidiary, but her first-rate performance stole the show.*

**subsistence**

n  
/ səb'sistən(t)s /  
L

a mode of obtaining the necessities of life : livelihood.  
*Mr. Ellis preaches to his students that a good education goes far to ensure a respectable subsistence.*

**substitute**

n  
/ 'səbzətə.ti:t /  
L

a person who takes the place of or acts for another.  
*When Donald fouled out of the basketball game, the coach decided to send in a substitute who had been warming the bench for weeks.*

**subterfuge**

n  
/ 'səbtə(r).fyüj /  
L

deception by trickery or stratagem to conceal, escape, avoid, or evade.  
*George's experience in subterfuge is mostly in cryptography.*

**subterranean**

**subtleness**

n  
/ 'səd'lnəs /  
L > F > E + Ecf  
the quality or state of being delicate or elusive.  
*The subtleness of the almond custard eluded Mr. Denson.*

**succedent**

**successor**

**succinct**

adj  
/ sək'siŋ(k)t /  
L

marked by brief and compact expression or by lack of unnecessary words and details.  
*Sandy's succinct answers do not satisfy those who question him.*

**succorance**

n  
/ 'səkə(r)rən(t)s /  
L > F > E

dependence.  
*Harold took measures to reduce his succorance on nasal decongestants.*

**succotash**

n  
/ 'səkətəʃ /  
Algonquian

a mixture of lima beans or shell beans and kernels of corn cooked together.  
*Even though Thelma likes both corn and lima beans, she isn't fond of succotash.*

**succulence**

**succulent**

adj  
/ 'səkyələnt /  
L

full of juice : juicy.  
*Perry wiped his mouth with his sleeve after he bit into the succulent peach.*

**succumb**

v  
/ sə'kəm /  
L

yield and cease to resist or contend before a superior strength, overpowering appeal or desire, or inexorable force.  
*Joanie found it impossible not to succumb to her drowsiness.*

**succumbence**

**sudadero**

n  
/ .südə'de(.)rō /  
L > Sp

a broad piece (as of leather) attached to a stirrup strap to protect a rider's leg from sweat.  
*Before mounting his horse, the cowboy checked to see that each sudadero was properly attached.*

**suddenness**

**sudoriferous**

adj  
/ .südə'rif(ə)rəs /  
L

producing or conveying sweat.  
*Cycling and running are sudoriferous forms of exercise.*

**suede**

s

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**uerte**

n  
/ 'swɜr(ɪ)tā /  
L > Sp

a skilled movement or pass in a bullfight.  
*The crowd cheered as the toreador demonstrated a dangerous suerte.*

**suffice**

v  
/ sə'fɪs /  
L

be enough : meet or satisfy a need.  
*One teaspoonful of salt will suffice for the stew.*

**sufficiently**

adv  
/ sə'fɪʃəntlē /  
L + Ecf

in a manner marked by quantity, scope, power, or quality to meet with the demands, wants, or needs of a situation.  
*The number of books printed sufficiently filled the back orders.*

**sufflamine**

v  
/ sə'fləmənāt /  
L

obstruct, impede.  
*Because Tim said not having a computer would sufflamine his progress, his parents relented and bought him one.*

**suffocate**

v  
/ 'səfəkāt /  
L

die from being unable to breathe.  
*It was so hot and stuffy in the classroom that Mark thought he would suffocate.*

**suffrage**

n  
/ 'səfrɪj /  
L > F  
the right or power to participate in electing public officials and adopting or rejecting legislation in a representative form of government.  
*The 19th Amendment to the Constitution gives women suffrage.*

**suffrutescent**

adj  
/ ,sə'früt'esənt /  
L

having a base that is somewhat woody and does not die down each year—used of a plant or stem.  
*Eunice prunes her suffrutescent shrubs in the fall.*

**suffumigate**

v  
/ sə'fyüməgāt /  
L

apply smoke, vapor, or gas to from below, as to treat (as a house or room) with a gas for the purpose of disinfecting or of destroying pests.  
*Clayton joked that his downstairs neighbor was trying to suffumigate him with his incessant grilling on his deck.*

**suffuse**

v  
/ sə'fyüz /  
L

spread over or through in the manner of fluid or light.  
*The fixtures were intended to suffuse the patio in warm light.*

**suggestible**

**suitable**

**sukiyaki**  
n  
/ ,sükē'(y)äkē /

Jpn  
meat, soybean curd, onions, bamboo shoots, and other vegetables cooked in soy sauce, sake, and sugar.  
*Joyce watched with fascination as the Japanese cook prepared sukiyaki right at the table.*

**sulkily**

adv  
/ 'səlkəlē /  
E?

in a moodily silent manner.  
*When asked to explain why he had been fighting, Tim looked sulkily down at the floor.*

**sultanate**

n  
/ 'səlt'nāt /  
Ar > F

a state or country governed by a sultan.  
*Arhat's ancestors ruled a small sultanate on the Arabian Peninsula.*

**sultriness**

n  
/ 'səltrənəs /  
E

the quality or state of being oppressively hot and humid.  
*Marge's air-conditioned car provided welcome relief from July's sultriness.*

**summarily**

**summary**

**sumpter**

n  
/ 'səm(p)tər /  
L > F > E  
a saddlebag.  
*Grandpa's sumpter is embossed with his initials.*

**sumptuous**

adj  
/ 'səm(p)chəwəs /  
L  
involving large outlay or expense : costly, lavish.  
*Our grandparents treated the whole family to a sumptuous brunch on Saturday.*

**sundae**

**superannuated**

adj  
/ ,süpə'ranjə.wādəd /  
L

rated no longer fully or passably efficient in one's job because of age : incapacitated or disqualified for active duty by advanced age.  
*The superannuated file clerk held little hope of finding a job in the near future.*

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**supercilious**

adj  
/ˌsüpə(r)'silēəs /

L  
arrogantly superior : haughty, disdainful.

*The supercilious senior ignored the first-year student.*

**superficies**

**superfluous**

adj  
/sü'pərflewəs /

L  
exceeding what is sufficient, necessary, normal, or desirable.  
*Alex's teacher told him to eliminate superfluous words from his essay.*

**superintendent**

n  
/ˌsüp(ə)rən'tendənt /

L  
one who has the oversight and charge of a place, institution, department, organization, or operation with the power of direction.  
*Frustrated residents petitioned the superintendent to improve the building's electrical service.*

**supernatural**

adj  
/ˌsüpə(r)'nach(ə)rəl /

L  
attributable to or liable to be attributed to the action or presence of a ghost, spirit, or other invisible agent.  
*The book was filled with tales of supernatural occurrences.*

**supernumerary**

n  
/ˌsüpə(r)'n(y)ümərəre /

L  
an actor employed to play a walk-on (as in a mob scene or spectacle).  
*The casting director wanted a supernumerary to play one of the bank's customers.*

**supersonic**

adj  
/ˌsüpə(r)'sänik /

L  
moving or capable of moving at speeds from one to five times the speed of sound in air.  
*Myrna says that when she grows up, she wants to fly supersonic aircraft.*

**superstitious**

adj  
/ˌsüpə(r)'stishəs /

L > F > E  
having or based on a belief, conception, act, or practice resulting from ignorance, unreasoning fear of the unknown, or a false conception of causation.  
*The bridge became more than ever an object of superstitious awe.*

**supination**

n  
/ˌsüpə'nāshən /

L  
a rotation of the hand and radius around the ulna so that the palm is turned up.  
*Supination aggravated Henri's tennis elbow.*

**supine**

adj  
/sə'pīn /

L  
lying on the back or with the face upward.  
*Greg's dog stayed supine while getting her belly rubbed.*

**suppedaneum**

**supplicate**

v  
/ˌsəpləkāt /

L  
ask earnestly and humbly of.  
*The defendant's only hope was to supplicate the court for mercy.*

**surcease**

**suretyship**

n  
/ˌshür(ə)dēˌship /

L > E + Ecf  
the obligation of a person to answer for the debt, default, or failure in duty of another.  
*When Sally's father co-signed her first automobile loan, he accepted the suretyship that it represented.*

**surfactant**

n  
/ˌsər'faktənt /

L  
a substance useful for its cleansing, wetting, dispersing, or similar powers.  
*The surfactant in a detergent lowers the water's surface tension, enabling faster wetting of the fabric being washed.*

**surfeit**

n  
/ˌsərfət /

L > F > E  
an overabundant supply, yield, or amount of something : excess.  
*The reviewer commented that the novel was burdened with a surfeit of details.*

**surgeon**

**surly**

adj  
/ˌsərlē /

E  
ill-natured, abrupt, and rude : churlishly cross.  
*Marie complained to the manager about the surly, uncooperative clerk.*

**surplus**

**surrealism**

n  
/sə'reälizəm /

F  
the principles, ideals, or practice of producing fantastic or incongruous imagery in art or literature by means of unnatural juxtapositions and combinations.  
*David Lynch is a modern master of cinematic surrealism.*

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**surreptitious**

adj  
/ ,sərəp'tiʃəs /

L  
done, made, or acquired in secret or by stealth.

*Denise was embarrassed when her surreptitious note to Steve was intercepted by the teacher.*

**surrey**

**surrogate**

n  
/ 'sərəgāt /

L  
something that replaces or substitutes for another.

*In formulating new laws, the legislature acts as a surrogate for the entire population.*

**surtout**

n  
/ ,sər'tü /

L > F + L > F

a man's fitted coat or overcoat; especially : frock coat.

*Gerald rented a surtout to complete his Abraham Lincoln costume for the party.*

**surveillance**

n  
/ sə(r)'vālən(t)s /

L > F

close watch kept over one or more persons (as to detect movements or activities).

*The suspects in the bombing investigation were kept under police surveillance.*

**surviving**

adj  
/ sə(r)'vīvɪŋ /

L > F

remaining alive or in existence.

*Uncle Leonard is the oldest surviving graduate of Milburn College.*

**susceptible**

adj  
/ sə'septəbəl /

L  
easily influenced or affected through some trait.

*People who smoke are very susceptible to chronic bronchitis and emphysema.*

**suspicion**

n  
/ sə'spɪʃən /

L  
mistrust, doubt.

*President Kennedy called for cooperation with our adversaries to "push back the jungle of suspicion" and allow the preservation of peace.*

**suspicious**

**sustain**

**sustenance**

n  
/ 'səstənən(t)s /

L > F

something that gives support, endurance, or strength.

*Tyrone drew sustenance from the letters his girlfriend wrote him while he was overseas.*

**susurrant**

**susurration**

n  
/ ,süsə'rāʃən /

L

a whispering sound : murmur.

*A mild susurration could be heard in the study hall despite the teacher's "no talking" mandate.*

**suture**

v  
/ 'süchə(r) /

L&F

unite the parts of by using a strand or fiber.

*The doctor estimated that it would take about 45 minutes to suture the gash in Tim's leg.*

**suzerain**

n  
/ 'süzərən /

F

a superior lord to whom allegiance is due : a feudal lord.

*The suzerain gave the vassal the use of his land and agreed to protect him when necessary.*

**suzerainty**

**Svengali**

n  
/ sfen'gälē /

Brit literary name

one who attempts usually with evil intentions to persuade or force another to do his bidding.

*Many fans thought that the rock star's wife was a Svengali who engineered the group's breakup.*

**swallow**

**sweltering**

adj  
/ 'sweltərɪŋ /

E

oppressively hot : causing or marked by excessive sweating or faintness.

*Despite the sweltering heat, thousands of people lined the streets to watch the Fourth of July parade.*

**swill**

**swindleable**

adj  
/ 'swɪnd(ə)ləbəl /

G + Ecf

capable of being deprived of money or property by fraud or deceit.

*The circus owner maintained that the majority of people are gullible and swindleable.*

**swineherd**

n  
/ 'swɪn.hərd /

E

a person who looks after hogs.

*Ian loathed his job as a swineherd.*

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**swivel**

v  
/ 'swivəl /  
E

turn or pivot freely.  
*Frank chose an office chair that could swivel and tilt.*

**sybaritic**

adj  
/ .sibə'ridik /

Gk geog name  
marked by or given to luxury or voluptuous living.  
*The duke's sybaritic bathroom had marble sinks with gold fixtures, floor-to-ceiling mirrors, and a whirlpool bath.*

**sybaritically**

adv  
/ .sibə'ridək(ə)lē /

Gk > L > E  
in a luxurious or voluptuous manner.  
*Dana reclined sybaritically on the velvet sofa.*

**sycamine**

**sychnocarpous**

adj  
/ .siknə'kärpəs /  
Gk + Gk > L > E  
able to produce fruit repeatedly.  
*The apple and pear are sychnocarpous trees.*

**sycophant**

**syllable**

**syllabus**

n  
/ 'siləbəs /  
Gk > L  
a compendium or summary outline of a discourse, course of study, or examination requirements.  
*After reading the syllabus for the seminar, Brad realized he had made a terrible mistake by enrolling.*

**syllogism**

n  
/ 'silə'jizəm /  
Gk

a brief form of argument that consists of two statements and a conclusion that must be true if these two statements are true.  
*The following argument is a syllogism: All lawbreakers deserve punishment. This person is a lawbreaker. Therefore, this person deserves punishment.*

**syllogize**

v  
/ 'silə'jīz /  
GK > L > E

deduce something by analysis of a formal argument that consists of a major premise, a minor premise, and a conclusion.  
*To teach logical thinking, Mr. Canby had the class syllogize the philosopher's argument.*

**sylph**

n  
/ 'silf /  
unknown > L

a slender woman or girl of light and graceful carriage.  
*One sylph after another joined the growing circle of ballerinas on the stage.*

**symballophone**

**symbiosis**

n  
/ .simbē'ōsəs /  
Gk + Gk

the intimate living together of two dissimilar organisms in any of various mutually beneficial relationships.  
*Some insects depend on symbiosis with bacteria to supplement otherwise nutrient-poor diets.*

**symbol**

**symmetry**

**symminct**

**sympathy**

**symphony**

n  
/ 'sim(p)fənē /  
Gk + Gk

an elaborate instrumental composition usually in sonata form for full orchestra.  
*The concert program featured a symphony by Gustav Mahler.*

**symposiarch**

**synchronicity**

n  
/ .sɪŋkrən'nēədē /  
Gk + Ecf

the state of happening, existing, or arising at the same time.  
*The fireworks display was a spectacle of synchronicity.*

**syncopation**

n  
/ .sɪŋkə'pāshən /  
Gk > L

a temporary displacement or shifting of the regular metrical accent in a musical composition.  
*Syncopation is typical of much Eastern European folk dance music.*

**syncope**

n  
/ 'sɪŋkə(ɪ)pē /  
Gk

a partial or complete temporary suspension of respiration and circulation : faint, swoon.  
*Unexplained dizziness and syncope occasionally occur on arrival at high altitude.*

**syndicate**

n  
/ 'sɪndəkāt /  
L

a loose association of racketeers in control of organized crime.  
*The police have spent years trying to get evidence to convict the head of the local crime syndicate.*

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**synecdoche**

n  
/ sə'nekdə(,)kē /  
Gk

a figure of speech by which a part is put for the whole or vice versa.  
*Fifty sail is a synecdoche for fifty ships.*

**synod**

n  
/ 'sinəd /  
Gk > L > E

an ecclesiastical council : a formal meeting to consult and decide on church matters.  
*Karl is an active participant in the regional Presbyterian synod.*

**synopsis**

n  
/ sə'näpsəs /  
Gk

a brief orderly outline affording a general view.  
*Marvin read a plot synopsis before he saw Macbeth.*

**synoptophore**

n  
/ sə'näptə.fō(ə)r /  
Gk

an instrument for diagnosing imbalance of eye muscles.  
*The ophthalmologist prescribed eye exercises to correct the muscular imbalance detected by the synoptophore.*

**syntax**

**synthesis**

n  
/ 'sin(t)θəsəs /  
Gk

composition or combination of parts or elements so as to form a whole.  
*Language arts is a synthesis of reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills.*

**syringe**

n  
/ sə'rinj /  
Gk > L > E

a device used to inject fluids into or withdraw them from the body or its cavities.  
*Cameron let the toddler use an old ear syringe as a bathtub toy.*

**syzygy**

n  
/ 'sizjəj /  
Gk

the nearly straight-line configuration of three celestial bodies in a gravitational system.  
*Tides are highest when the Sun, Moon, and Earth are in syzygy.*

**tabby**

**tabernacle**

n  
/ 'tabə(r),nakəl /  
L > F > E

a meetinghouse with a large assembly hall.  
*The town meeting will be held at the tabernacle.*

**tabetisol**

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

**tableau**

n  
/ 'ta.blō /  
F

[Note: Plural form can be pronounced similarly.] a static depiction usually presented on a stage with participants in appropriate costume.  
*The final scene is a tableau in which the family is gathered at the gravesite.*

**tabloidism**

**tabulable**

**tachometer**

n  
/ ta'kämədə(r) /  
Gk

a device for indicating the speed of rotation.  
*By watching the tachometer, Mr. Henderson was able to keep the engine running above 3000 rpm.*

**tachygraphy**

n  
/ ta'kigrəfē /  
Gk > F

the art or practice of rapid writing.  
*Professor Jespersen lectures so quickly that students who practice tachygraphy have an advantage.*

**taciturn**

adj  
/ 'tasətərn /  
L > F

habitually silent : temperamentally disinclined or reluctant to talk or converse.  
*Mrs. Gibbons found it challenging to draw the taciturn boy into class discussions.*

**taciturnity**

n  
/ ,tasətərnədə /  
L

the quality or state of being disinclined or reluctant to talk or converse.  
*Gene and Leo's taciturnity about the cause of the scuffle resulted in a trip to the principal's office.*

**tackline**

**tactful**

**tactician**

**tadpole**

**tagraggery**

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

**taiga**

n  
/ 'tīgə /  
Turkish > Russ  
[has near homonym: tiger]  
swampy coniferous forest of  
Siberia beginning where the tundra  
ends.  
*Olga's great-grandfather was born  
in a cabin on the edge of the taiga  
and grew up playing among spruce  
and fir trees.*

**tailgate**

**takkanah**

**talcum**

**talebearer**

**talipes**

n  
/ 'talə.pēz /  
L  
a congenital deformity of the foot  
in which the forepart is twisted into  
one of several directions : clubfoot.  
*Gordon's talipes was so severe that  
surgery was needed to adjust the  
tendons and bones of his foot.*

**talisman**

n  
/ 'taləsmən /  
Gk > Ar > It > Sp > F  
an object thought to act as a charm  
to avert evil and bring good  
fortune.  
*Vern showed us his rabbit's foot,  
which he claimed was an effective  
talisman.*

**talkathon**

**tallow**

n  
/ 'ta(,)lə /  
E  
the rendered fat of cattle and sheep  
that is used chiefly in making soap,  
glycerol, margarine, candles, and  
lubricants.  
*Inside of her little tent, the fortune  
teller began to shuffle her cards by  
the light of a candle made from  
tallow.*

**tallowy**

**Talmudic**

adj  
/ tal'm(y)üdik /  
Heb  
of, relating to, or characteristic of  
the authoritative body of Jewish  
law and custom developed on the  
basis of the scriptural law.  
*The novel was full of Talmudic  
lore.*

**taloned**

**tamale**

n  
/ tə'mälē /  
Nahuatl > Sp  
ground meat seasoned with chili or  
other filling, rolled up in cornmeal  
dough, wrapped in corn husks, and  
steamed.  
*Rosita ordered a tamale, two tacos,  
and a burrito from the street  
vendor.*

**tamarack**

**tambourine**

**tamburello**

**tandem**

**tangerine**

n  
/ .tanjə'rēn /  
Moroccan geog name  
a variable color ranging from  
moderate reddish orange to vivid or  
strong orange.  
*To Petra, the most beautiful color  
of mum is tangerine.*

**tangible**

adj  
/ 'tanjəbəl /  
L  
capable of being touched.  
*The black darkness of the night  
seemed to have a tangible quality.*

**tangy**

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

**tantalize**

v  
/ 'tant'līz /  
Gk name  
tease or torment by presenting  
something to the view and exciting  
desire but continually frustrating  
the expectations by keeping it out  
of reach.  
*Philip used a rod and reel to  
tantalize the kitten with a toy mouse  
tied to the fishing line.*

**tantamount**

adj  
/ 'tantə.maunt /  
L > F > AF > E  
equivalent in value, significance, or  
effect.  
*Because of inflation, Jamie's  
meager raise was tantamount to a  
pay reduction.*

**tantivy**

adv  
/ tan'tivē /  
unknown  
in a headlong dash.  
*Patsy ran tantivy toward second  
base after the bunt.*

**tapestry**

n  
/ 'tapəstrē /  
Gk > F > E + Ecf  
a heavy handwoven textile for  
hangings, curtains, and upholstery.  
*Teresa admired the vivid colors of  
the tapestry hanging in the  
corridor.*

**taphophobia**

n  
/ .tafē'fōbēə /  
Gk  
fear of being buried alive.  
*After reading Edgar Allan Poe's  
"The Cask of Amontillado," Mr.  
Gallo developed a bad case of  
taphophobia.*

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**tapir**

n  
/ 'tāpə(r) /  
Tupi

[has homonym: taper] any of a genus of chiefly nocturnal hoofed mammals of tropical America and Myanmar to Sumatra that have the snout and upper lip prolonged into a short flexible proboscis.

*The tapir is both a browser and a grazer, feeding on leaves, twigs, and fruits, as well as on grasses.*

**tarantula**

n  
/ tə'ranch(ə)lə /

It geog name  
any of a family of large hairy spiders that are capable of biting but are not significantly poisonous to humans.

*Alexander's friend tried in vain to convince him to get a pet tarantula.*

**tardigrade**

adj  
/ 'tārdə,grād /  
L

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

**tariff**

n  
/ 'tarəf /  
Ar > It  
the duty or rate of duty imposed by a government on imported or exported goods.  
*A high tariff protects the home industries from foreign competition.*

**tarmac**

n  
/ 'tār.mak /  
(E + Brit name) > trademark  
a road, apron, or runway made of asphalt.  
*Neil's suitcase fell out of the airplane and its contents spilled out onto the tarmac.*

**tarpaulin**

n  
/ tār'pōlən /  
E + E

a piece of material (as durable plastic) used for protecting exposed objects or areas.

*When rain began during the second inning of the baseball game, the ground crew rolled out the tarpaulin to protect the field.*

**tarragon**

n  
/ 'tarə,gän /  
Ar > L > F

a small European perennial wormwood grown for its aromatic foliage that is used in cooking.

*Paul planted tarragon in his herb garden.*

**tartar**

n  
/ 'tārdər /  
L

[has homonym and near homonyms: tarter and tartare, Tatar] an incrustation on the teeth consisting of salivary secretion, food residue, and various salts.  
*The hygienist carefully removed the tartar from Rekha's teeth.*

**tassel**

**tatami**  
n  
/ tə'tāmē /  
Jpn

a straw matting used as a floor covering in a Japanese home.  
*The Japanese restaurant had a special room in which patrons could sit on a tatami while dining.*

**tatterdemalion**

adj  
/ .təd-ə(r)də'mālyən /  
Scand > E + unknown  
ragged or disreputable in dress or appearance.  
*No one would have guessed that the tatterdemalion fellow is a millionaire.*

**tattersall**

n  
/ 'təd-ə(r).səl /  
E name

a fabric having a pattern of colored lines forming squares of solid background.

*Jeanne bought a blue-and-white tattersall to make into a skirt.*

**tattletale**

n  
/ 'təd-əl.tāl /  
D + E

one that blabs or tells secrets.

*Erica's official title is "social reporter," but Will considers her a plain old tattletale.*

**taught**

**taunt**

v  
/ 'tònt /  
F? > E  
reproach in a mocking or insulting manner : jeer at.  
*Spectators on the sidewalk began to taunt the suspect as he exited the van.*

**tauntingly**

**taupe**

n  
/ 'tōp /  
L > F  
[has homonym: tope] a light brownish gray.  
*It took some time, but Pam finally matched the taupe of her dress to a pair of shoes.*

**tauromachy**

n  
/ tò'räməkē /  
Gk + Gk  
the art or practice of bullfighting.  
*The toreador is well known for his slow, dignified style of tauromachy.*

**taut**

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

**tautology**

n  
/ tō'täləjē /  
Gk

an instance of needless or meaningless repetition in close succession of an idea, statement, or word.  
*The phrase a beginner who has just started is a tautology.*

**tautophony**

n  
/ tō'täfənē /  
Gk

repetition of the same sound.  
*The insistent tautophony of Josh's alarm clock finally woke him up.*

**tawdrily**

adv  
/ 'tòdrälē /  
name > E

in a cheap and gaudy manner.  
*The tawdrily dressed actress signed autographs outside her hotel.*

**tawdry**

**taxation**

**tazza**

**technetronic**

**technical**

**tedious**

**tektite**

**telamon**

n  
/ 'teləmän /  
Gk > L

a male figure used as a supporting column or pilaster.  
*While in Athens, Anita had her picture taken beside a telamon.*

**telecine**

**telegnosis**

n  
/ .telə'nōsəs /  
Gk + Gk

knowledge of distant happenings obtained by occult or unknown means : clairvoyance.  
*The psychic claimed to have telegnosis of events happening on the other side of the Atlantic.*

**telephone**

n  
/ 'teləfōn /  
Gk + Gk

a device for reproducing sounds, especially articulate speech, at a distance.  
*Ginger's parents asked her to limit her time on the telephone to three 15-minute conversations per night.*

**telesis**

n  
/ 'teləsəs /  
Gk

progress intelligently planned and directed.  
*The mayor revealed the city council's ten-year plan for telesis at the press conference.*

**telltale**

**temerarious**

adj  
/ .temə'ra(a)rēəs /  
L

rashly or presumptuously daring : reckless.  
*Mrs. Jasper punished Tim for his temerarious behavior by withholding certain privileges.*

**temerity**

n  
/ tə'merədē /  
L

unreasonable or foolhardy contempt of danger or opposition.  
*The private with the temerity to speak up against the sergeant's bullying was assigned to KP indefinitely.*

**temperament**

**temperate**

adj  
/ 'temp(ə)rət /  
L > E

having a moderate climate.  
*All of the United States, except for Hawaii and parts of Alaska and Florida, lies within the temperate zone.*

**tempest**

**tempestuous**

adj  
/ tem'pes(h)chəwəs /  
L

of, involving, or resembling a furious storm.  
*The tempestuous action of wind and waves imperiled the ships.*

**tempura**

n  
/ .tempə'rä /  
Jpn

[has near homonym: tempera]  
fritters of seafood and vegetables fried in deep fat.  
*The waiter brought a small dish of vegetable tempura as an appetizer.*

**tenacious**

adj  
/ tənə'shəs /  
L > E

holding fast or tending to hold fast.  
*Marjorie is tenacious in her belief that her cousin was abducted by aliens and replaced by an impostor.*

**tenacity**

n  
/ tənəsədē /  
L

the quality or state of holding fast : determination, firmness, persistence.  
*Randy's tenacity often made him seem stubborn.*

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**tenaculum**

n  
/ tənə'kyləm /  
L

a slender sharp-pointed hook attached to a handle and used mainly in surgery for seizing and holding parts (as arteries).  
*Connie slipped the tenaculum under the patient's carotid artery.*

**tendency**

n  
/ 'tendənsē /  
L

a proneness to or readiness for a particular kind of thought or action.  
*Tom's tendency to say exactly what he feels has gotten him into trouble several times.*

**tenderloin**

**tendon**

n  
/ 'tendən /  
L

a tough cord of specialized fibrous connective tissue that unites a muscle with some other part and transmits the force which the muscle exerts.  
*The team doctor said that Larry's Achilles tendon was inflamed and that he shouldn't run in Saturday's race.*

**tendresse**

n  
/ tã'dres /  
F

tender feeling : fondness.  
*Sarah portrayed the sister who, in maidenly fashion, conceals her tendresse for the hero.*

**tenebrific**

adj  
/ .tenə'brifik /  
L + Ecf + L > Ecf  
causing gloom or darkness.  
*Tenebrific rain clouds overshadowed the entire region.*

**tenebrosity**

n  
/ .tenə'bräsədē /  
L

darkness.  
*Nocturnal animals moved silently through the tenebrosity of the forest.*

**tenement**

**tenet**

n  
/ 'tenət /  
L  
[has near homonym: tenant] a principle, dogma, belief, or doctrine generally held to be true; especially : one held in common by members of a group or profession.  
*The basic tenet of Central High's Key Club is that community service benefits everyone.*

**tennis**

n  
/ 'tenəs /  
L > AF > E  
[has homonym: tenace] a typically outdoor game that is played with rackets and a light elastic ball by two players or pairs of players on a level court divided by a low net.  
*Jeannine is so eager to learn to play tennis that she is willing to pay for lessons out of her allowance.*

**tenon**

n  
/ 'tenən /  
L > F > E  
a projecting member in a piece of wood or other material for insertion into a mortise to make a joint.  
*Curtis used his jigsaw to cut a tenon on each board of the box he was making.*

**tensible**

adj  
/ 'ten(t)səbəl /  
L  
capable of being extended.  
*The old rubber band was not very tensible.*

**tensile**

**tension**

**tentacle**

n  
/ 'tentəkəl /  
L  
one of the arms of a cephalopod.  
*In the horror movie the giant octopus tried to grab the heroine with a long tentacle.*

**tentative**

**tentatively**

adv  
/ 'tentədəvle /  
L  
in a hesitant or uncertain manner.  
*Janna smiled tentatively, not knowing if she should show her happiness.*

**tenuous**

adj  
/ 'tenyəwəs /  
L  
having little substance or strength : flimsy, weak.  
*The prosecutor's case was so tenuous that the judge dismissed the charge against the defendant.*

**tepid**

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

**teratism**

n  
/ 'terətizəm /  
Gk + Ecf  
fascination with monsters.  
*Monster movies appeal to the teratism of the viewing public.*

**teratogenic**

adj  
/ .terətō'jenik /  
Gk  
tending to cause developmental malformations.  
*Sylvia carefully avoided any potentially teratogenic drugs during her pregnancy.*

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

**teratological**

adj  
/ .terə'täljəkəl /  
Gk

relating to abnormality of organic growth or structure.

*Because of his several deformities, the so-called "elephant man" was the subject of teratological study.*

**teratology**

n  
/ .terə'täləjē /  
Gk

the study of malformations, monstrosities, or serious deviations from the normal type in growing organisms.

*Because of his several deformities, the so-called "elephant man" is often featured in textbooks for courses in teratology.*

**tercentenary**

n  
/ .tərsən'tenərə /  
L

a 300th anniversary or its celebration.

*Next year Possumville will celebrate the tercentenary of its founding.*

**terdiurnal**

adj  
/ .tərdi'ərnəl /  
L

occurring three times per day.

*The meteorologist set his instrument to take terdiurnal measurements of the air pressure.*

**tergiversate**

v  
/ 'tərdjəvər.sāt /  
L

evade straightforward action or clearcut statement of position.

*While political leaders tergiversate, petty tyrants are taking over the country.*

**tergiversation**

n  
/ .tərdjə(ɪ)vər'sāshən /  
L

evasion of straightforward action or clear-cut statement of position.

*The ambassador explained that in diplomacy there is sometimes defensible tergiversation in communication.*

**termagancy**

n  
/ 'tərməgənsē /  
E name

habitual bad temper : scolding disposition.

*Lillian's abusive termagancy alienated her husband and children.*

**termitarium**

**terrace**

n  
/ 'terəs /  
L > OProv > F

a colonnaded porch or promenade.

*The marketplace consisted of a row of shops along a terrace.*

**terraceous**

adj  
/ .te'rāshəs /  
L

made of earth : earthen.

*Bulldozers hurriedly built up a terraceous dam to prevent further flooding.*

**terrapin**

n  
/ 'terəpən /  
Algonquian  
any of various North American turtles living in fresh or brackish water.

*Murray awoke from his lakeside nap to find a terrapin sunning on the blanket.*

**terraqueous**

adj  
/ ter'ākweəs /  
L

consisting of land and water.

*Global pollution threatens Earth's terraqueous environment.*

**terrarium**

n  
/ tər'rerēəm /  
L

a fully enclosed wholly or predominantly glass container for the indoor cultivation of moisture-loving plants.

*Mosses and other small woodland plants thrive in a terrarium.*

**terrazzo**

n  
/ tər'rät(ɪ)sō /  
OProv > It

a mosaic flooring made by embedding small pieces of marble or granite in freshly placed mortar and after hardening grinding and polishing the surface.

*The contractor explained that if Travis wanted a hard, shiny floor at a reasonable price, terrazzo was an excellent option.*

**terrestrial**

**terrible**

adj  
/ 'tərəbəl /  
L > F > E

requiring extreme effort or fortitude.

*Donating blood may be a terrible ordeal for those people who do not like needles.*

**terricolous**

adj  
/ te'rikələs /  
L + L

living on or in or growing from the land.

*The heath was rich in terricolous lichens.*

**terrific**

adj  
/ tər'rifik /  
L

of an extraordinary nature : astounding, tremendous.

*Terrific, serrated outcrops of bare rock stood on either side of the lush valley.*

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**terrigenous**

adj  
/ tər'ɪjənəs /  
L

formed by the erosive action of rivers, tides, and currents—used of an ocean bottom.

*At the brink of the continental shelf, terrigenous deposits build up and are swept away.*

**tertiary**

**tessitura**

n  
/ .tesə'tʃrə /  
L > It

the general range of a melody or voice part; specifically : the part of the register in which most of the tones of a melody or voice part lie.

*Soprano parts in Bellini's operas call for a very high tessitura.*

**testaceous**

adj  
/ te'stāshəs /  
L

having a shell.

*The oyster is a testaceous marine animal.*

**testimony**

n  
/ 'testə.mōnē /  
L

a solemn declaration usually made orally by a witness under oath in response to interrogation by a lawyer or authorized public official.

*According to Victoria's testimony, she had just returned from vacation when she discovered that the statue was missing.*

**tetanus**

n  
/ 'tet'nəs /  
Gk

an acute infectious disease characterized by tonic spasm of voluntary muscles and especially of the jaw muscles.

*Puncture wounds are dangerous because they allow the bacteria that cause tetanus to enter the body.*

**tetracycline**

**textuary**

**thalassic**

adj  
/ thə'lasɪk /  
Gk

of or relating to the sea or ocean.  
*Some thalassic currents travel for thousands of miles.*

**thanatophobia**

n  
/ .thanətə'fɒbēə /  
Gk

fear of death.

*Michael had such a strong belief in an afterlife that he was not troubled by thanatophobia.*

**thaumatology**

n  
/ .thòmə'täləjē /  
Gk

doctrine, discussion, or study of the performing of miracles.

*Although he had never successfully performed any miracles, the young priest was nonetheless an expert in thaumatology.*

**thaumaturgy**

n  
/ 'thòmə.tərjē /  
Gk > L > F

the performance of miracles.

*The sacred writings of many religions contain stories of thaumaturgy.*

**theatrical**

adj  
/ thē'atrəkəl /  
Gk

marked by extravagant display or exhibitionism : showy, spectacular.

*The performer took a theatrical bow, but the audience's applause was lukewarm.*

**theftproof**

**theocracy**

**theodicy**

n  
/ thē'ädəsē /  
Gk > F

an area of philosophy that treats of the nature and government of God and the destiny of the soul.

*One hotly contested question in theodicy is whether the existence of evil precludes the existence of an omnipotent and perfect God.*

**theodolite**

n  
/ thē'äd'līt /  
Ar? > L > E

a surveyor's instrument for measuring horizontal and vertical angles.

*The theodolite invented by Digges in the 16th century consisted of a horizontal graduated circular plate with an index bearing sights.*

**theosophize**

**therapeutant**

n  
/ .therə'pyüt'nt /  
Gk > E

a healing or curative agent or medicine.

*The diseased elm trees were sprayed with a chemical therapeutant.*

**therapeutic**

adj  
/ .therə'pyüdɪk /  
Gk

of or relating to the treatment of disease or disorders by remedial agents or methods.

*Changes in diet can have a therapeutic effect on obesity, hypertension, peptic ulcer, and osteoporosis.*

**therblig**

n  
/ 'thər(ɪ)blig /

anagram of Amer name

one of the manual, visual, or mental elements into which an industrial manual operation may be analyzed in time and motion study.

*The supervisor's goal was to eliminate one therblig at each station in the assembly line.*

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**theretofore**

adv  
/ ˈθɛrədəˌfɔ(ə)r /  
E

up to that time : until then.  
*The public parks committee created a playground where theretofore there had been a weedy vacant lot.*

**therianthropic**

adj  
/ ˈθɪrēˌənˈθræpɪk /  
Gk + Gk

combining human and animal form.  
*The falcon-headed Horus was a therianthropic god of ancient Egypt.*

**thermometer**

n  
/ θə(r)ˈmæmədər /  
Gk + Gk

an instrument for determining temperature.  
*The thermometer that takes a temperature reading from one's ear is now used widely.*

**thermostat**

n  
/ ˈθɜrməstat /  
Gk + Gk

an automatic device for regulating temperature (as by controlling the supply of gas or electricity to a heating apparatus).  
*The repair person found that our heating problem was caused by a defective thermostat.*

**thesaurus**

n  
/ θəˈsɔrəs /  
Gk > L

a book containing a store of words or of information about a particular field or set of concepts; specifically : a dictionary of synonyms.  
*Caleb's paper read as if he had consulted a thesaurus frequently while writing it.*

**thesmothete**

n  
/ ˈθɛzməθɛt /  
Gk

lawgiver, legislator.  
*Joseph has in his office a marble bust of a famous Athenian thesmothete.*

**thespian**

n  
/ ˈθɛspēən /  
Gk name

an actor.  
*Fiona became stagestruck at an early age and was determined to become a thespian.*

**thirsty**

**thistle**

n  
/ ˈθɪsəl /  
E

a plant with prickly leaves having a head with white, purple, pink, or yellow flowers.  
*Dean plucked a thistle from the lawn of the middle school.*

**tholepin**

**thoracic**

adj  
/ θəˈræsɪk /  
Gk

of, relating to, located within, or involving the part of the body of humans and other mammals located between the neck and the abdomen.  
*The thoracic nerve controls the muscles in the walls of the thorax.*

**thoracodynia**

n  
/ ˌθɔrəkəˈdɪniə /  
Gk

pain in the chest.  
*When Grandpa complained of thoracodynia, Dolly immediately took him to the hospital.*

**thorax**

n  
/ ˈθɔrˌæks /  
Gk > L > E

the portion of an insect body that is the middle of the three chief divisions.  
*The thorax of an insect consists of three segments, each having a pair of legs.*

**thoroughbred**

n  
/ ˈθərəbred /  
E

purebred or pedigreed animal.  
*Alex's thoroughbred comes from a line of Kentucky Derby winners.*

**thoroughfare**

**threaten**

**threnody**

n  
/ ˈθrɛnədə /  
Gk

a song, poem, composition, or speech of lamentation especially for someone dead or something regarded as dead.  
*Asked to write a threnody for English class, Libby composed a song about the death of a robin.*

**threshold**

n  
/ ˈθrɛsh(h)ɔld /  
E

place or point of entering or beginning : entrance, outset.  
*Now at the threshold of adulthood, James wonders if he will miss the carefree days of his previous years.*

**thrombosis**

n  
/ θrəmˈbōsəs /  
Gk

the formation or presence of a blood clot within a blood vessel.  
*The severe pain in Greg's leg was found to have been caused by a thrombosis in one of the veins.*

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

**throstle**

n  
/ 'θrɒsəl /  
E

a largely olive-brown Old World perching bird noted for its song.  
*While on a walking tour in London, Madeline spotted a throstle in a sycamore tree.*

**thule**

**thumb**

**thurible**

n  
/ 'θ(y)ʊrəbəl /  
Gk > L > F > E  
a vessel used in religious services for burning incense.  
*When a thurible is used in the procession, the odor of incense suffuses the church.*

**thylacine**

n  
/ 'θɪləsɪn /  
Gk > L  
a now-extinct somewhat doglike carnivorous marsupial that formerly inhabited Tasmania—called also “Tasmanian wolf.”  
*The female thylacine had a rearward-opening pouch in which two to four young were carried.*

**thyme**

n  
/ 'tɪm /  
Gk  
[has homonym: time] a common garden herb used in seasoning and formerly in medicine.  
*The chicken recipe called for a teaspoon of dried thyme.*

**thymiaterion**

n  
/ .θɪmᵊə'tɪrᵊən /  
Gk  
a vessel used by the ancient Greeks for burning incense.  
*Cecil found a bronze thymiaterion in an antique shop.*

**tibia**

n  
/ 'tɪbᵊə /  
L

the fourth joint counting from the base of the leg of an insect that lies between the femur and tarsus.  
*A cricket's ear is located on the tibia of its foreleg.*

**tichorrhine**

n  
/ 'tɪkə.rɪn /  
Gk > L  
an extinct two-horned woolly rhinoceros.  
*The remains of a tichorrhine were found frozen in the ice of Siberia with the flesh and hair well preserved.*

**tickicidal**

adj  
/ .tɪkə'sɪdᵊl /  
E + L + Ecf  
destroying or controlling any of several wingless parasitic insects.  
*The exterminator used a tickicidal agent to eliminate the pests.*

**tickled**

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

**tightrope**

**tilak**

n  
/ 'tɪlək /  
Skt  
an ornamental spot worn on the forehead chiefly by Hindus as a sectarian mark.  
*After three months of travel Lana returned home clad in a sari and wearing a tilak.*

**tilapia**

n  
/ tᵊ'lɪpᵊə /  
L  
any of a genus of African freshwater food fishes that resemble the American sunfishes.  
*Some American fish farms have been raising tilapia for stocking in ponds and lakes.*

**tilde**

n  
/ 'tɪldə /  
L > Sp  
a mark ~ placed especially over the letter n to denote the /ny/ sound or over vowels to indicate nasality.  
*Marcia could not find the tilde on the computer keyboard.*

**tilth**

**timorous**

**timorously**

adv  
/ 'tɪm(ə)rəsli /  
L  
in a manner showing fear or apprehension.  
*Pam timorously responded to her name and said that she had not finished her book report.*

**tinctorial**

**tincture**

n  
/ 'tɪŋ(k)ʃə(r) /  
L  
hue, tint.  
*The main difference between American and Irish glass is in tincture.*

**tinnient**

adj  
/ 'tɪnᵊənt /  
L  
having a clear or ringing quality.  
*Grandmother's old silver knives made a tinnient sound in the sink as we rinsed them after Thanksgiving dinner.*

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**tinnitus**

n  
/ tə'nɪdəs /  
L

a ringing, roaring, or hissing in the ears that is purely subjective.

*It's hard to understand how annoying tinnitus is unless you have experienced it yourself.*

**tinselry**

**tintinnabulation**

**tirade**

n  
/ 'tɪrəd /  
F

a protracted speech usually marked by abusive language.

*The grumpy woman screamed a tirade of protest whenever children made joyful noises outside her window.*

**tiralee**

n  
/ .tɪrə'lē /  
imit

[has homonym: tearily] a succession of musical notes (as in a bugle call).

*Daniel managed a tiralee on the saxophone, but there was no recognizable melody.*

**titian**

n  
/ 'tɪʃən /

Ital name

one having hair that is brownish orange.

*Mr. Rodman decided that he would be a titian for awhile.*

**tmesis**

**toastmaster**

n  
/ 'tōst.mastə(r) /  
E+L > F > E

one that presides (as at a banquet) and introduces the after-dinner speakers.

*Eric will serve as toastmaster at the Golden Lamp banquet.*

**tobacco**

n  
/ tə'ba(ɪ)kō /  
Taino > Sp

the leaves of a plant of the genus *Nicotiana* prepared and processed for use in smoking or chewing or as snuff.

*At an early age, Amy vowed never to use tobacco.*

**toboggan**

n  
/ tə'bägən /  
Algonquian

a long flat-bottomed light sled made of thin boards curved up at one end with usually low handrails at the sides and used for coasting on snow or ice.

*Bart's new toboggan is the fastest one on the hill.*

**tobogganer**

n  
/ tə'bägənər /  
Algonquian > F

one that coasts on a long flat-bottomed light sled.

*On hitting the unexpected bump, the tobogganer was thrown off his sled.*

**tobogganing**

**toccata**

n  
/ təkādə /  
It

a brilliant musical composition usually for pipe organ or harpischord, in free fantasia style, and usually with many equal-timed notes in rapid movement.

*Jamila sat down at the church organ and played a fast Bach toccata.*

**tocsin**

n  
/ 'täksən /  
L > OProv > F

[has homonym: toxin] an alarm bell or the ringing of a bell for the purpose of alarm.

*In the event of a natural disaster or a civil alert, the fire stations would set off a tocsin that could be heard for two miles in any direction.*

**toggery**

**tome**

n  
/ 'tōm /  
Gk

a volume forming part of a larger work.

*Fiona bought an old copy of *The Messages of the Presidents* that was missing the first tome.*

**tongue**

**tonitruous**

adj  
/ tənɪtrəwəs /  
L + Ecf

thundering, fulminating.

*The tonitruous artillery guns had been shelling the enemy positions for several hours.*

**tonsillectomy**

**tonsillitis**

n  
/ .tän(t)səlɪdəs /  
L

inflammation of the tonsils.

*Dr. Graham treated Erica's tonsillitis with antibiotics.*

**tonsillotomy**

**tonsorial**

**tonsure**

n  
/ 'tänchə(r) /  
L > E

the shaven crown or patch worn by monks or various clerics.

*The actor who played Brother Cadfael had a hairpiece to cover his tonsure when he was off camera.*

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**tontine**

n  
/ 'tän.tēn /  
It name > F  
a financial arrangement whereby the participants share benefits equally on such terms that when one dies or defaults the others equally share the portion until all but one remains to own the entirety.  
*In the days before a central bank or common currency, villagers often used a tontine to share ownership of property.*

**toolach**

**toothache**

n  
/ 'tüth.āk /  
E  
pain in one of the teeth.  
*Nelson thought an abscess might be the cause of his toothache.*

**topaz**

n  
/ 'tō.paz /  
Gk > L > F > E  
a usually yellow, reddish, or pink transparent mineral used as a gem.  
*Leslie received a yellow topaz for her birthday.*

**topiary**

n  
/ 'tōpē.erē /  
Gk > L + Lcf  
the practice or art of training, cutting, and trimming trees or shrubs into odd or ornamental shapes.  
*Edward Scissorhands was skilled in topiary.*

**topography**

n  
/ tə'pāgrəfē /  
Gk  
the art or practice of graphic delineation in detail usually on maps or charts of selected natural and man-made features of a region especially in a way to show their relative positions and elevations.  
*Identifying the enemy's rocket sites will require an expert in topography.*

**toreador**

n  
/ 'tōrē.ədō(ə)r /  
L > Sp  
bullfighter.  
*The toreador posed for the crowd in his suit of lights.*

**toroidal**

adj  
/ tōr'oidəl /  
L  
doughnut-shaped.  
*For the life of her, Bridget couldn't identify the toroidal object she found in her purse.*

**torpor**

**torrential**

**torrentially**

adv  
/ tō'renchəlē /  
L  
in a manner resembling a rushing stream of water.  
*Patricia wept torrentially when she found out about her pet dog's injury.*

**tortellini**

n  
/ .tō(r)dʰɪ'ɛnē /  
L > It  
noodle dough cut in rounds, filled with savory fillings, and boiled.  
*Vic's favorite Italian meal was tortellini stuffed with meat and cheese.*

**tortilla**

n  
/ tō(r)'tē(y)ə /  
Sp  
a round thin unleavened cake usually eaten hot with a savory topping or filling.  
*Theron covered his tortilla with beans and cheese.*

**tortoise**

n  
/ 'tōrdəs /  
F? > E  
any of a family of terrestrial turtles.  
*The park ranger told the children that a tortoise takes five hours to walk just one mile.*

**tortoni**

n  
/ tō(r)'tōnē /  
It name  
an ice cream made of heavy cream, minced almonds, chopped maraschino cherries, or other flavorings.  
*Tortoni is definitely not the dessert for someone on a low-fat, low-calorie diet.*

**totality**

n  
/ tō'talədē /  
L  
the phase of an eclipse during which it is total : state of total eclipse.  
*An eerie silence crept over the crowd as the eclipse reached totality.*

**totemism**

n  
/ 'tōdəmizəm /  
Ojibwa + Ecf  
belief in kinship with or a mystical relationship between a group or individual and an emblematic plant, animal, or other object.  
*Powerful animals are common objects of totemism.*

**toucan**

**tourelle**

**touristry**

**tournedos**

n  
/ .tūrnədō /  
L > F  
a small fillet of beef usually cut from the tip of the tenderloin.  
*Diane usually prepares a tournedos in wine sauce with mushrooms.*

**towhee**

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

**toxicosis**

n  
/ tāk'sə'kōsəs /  
Gk

a pathological condition caused by the action of a poison or toxin.

*The chihuahua exhibited no symptoms of toxicosis after eating the soap.*

**toxophilite**

n  
/ tāk'səfəlīt /  
Gk + Gk + Ecf

one fond of or expert at archery.

*The legendary toxophilite William Tell successfully shot an apple from the head of his own son.*

**toxophily**

**trachea**

**tracheostomy**

n  
/ trākē'ästəmē /  
Gk + Gk

the surgical formation of an opening into the trachea through the skin.

*When Chris developed throat cancer, a tracheostomy had to be performed to facilitate his breathing.*

**tracheotomy**

**tractable**

adj  
/ traktəbəl /  
L

capable of being easily led, taught, or controlled.

*Maybe Fatima's work would improve if she were more tractable.*

**tractile**

adj  
/ traktl /  
L > Ecf

capable of being drawn out in length.

*With laboratory equipment, Dr. Abrams was able to extend the tractile material to a great length.*

**trafficking**

v  
/ 'trafikɪŋ /  
It > F

engaging in commercial activity.

*The townspeople were shocked when they learned that Mr. Bailey had been trafficking in drugs.*

**tragedian**

**tragedienne**

n  
/ trə'jēdē'en /  
F

[Note: Could be confused with tragedian.] an actress who specializes in tragic roles.

*On Thursday night, Ms Siddons, the granddaughter of the tragedienne, made her first appearance.*

**tragedy**

**trajectory**

**tralatitious**

**trammel**

**tramontana**

n  
/ trä(,)mōn'tänə /  
L > It

the north wind; especially : a dry cold strong northerly wind of the west coast of Italy.

*Each winter the tramontana swoops piercingly through the streets of Rome.*

**transcend**

**transcendental**

adj  
/ tran.sen'dentl /  
L

extending or being beyond the limits of ordinary experience.

*Edward's transcendental meditation guru also instructs him in yoga.*

**transducer**

n  
/ tran(t)s'd(y)üsə(r) /  
L + Ecf

a device actuated by power from one system and supplying power in the same or any other form to a second system.

*A common transducer is a microphone, which converts sound waves into electrical signals.*

**transference**

n  
/ tranz'fərən(t)s /  
L

an act, process, or instance of carrying or taking something from one person or place to another.

*Ralph's dad was in charge of the transference of fish from the fishery to the lake being restocked.*

**transience**

n  
/ 'tranzēənts /  
L

[has homonym: transients] the quality or state of passing through or by only briefly.

*The photographer is able to capture transience by being ready to click the shutter at the crucial moment.*

**transient**

**transit**

n  
/ tran(t)sət /  
L

the passage of a smaller body across the disk of a larger (as of Venus or Mercury across the Sun's disk).

*Barrie used sensitive equipment to photograph the transit of Venus.*

**translucent**

**transmissible**

adj  
/ tran(t)'smisəbəl /  
L

capable of being sent or conveyed to another person or place.

*Poison ivy is transmissible through the air to those who are very sensitive to it.*

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**transmit**

**transmogrify**

v  
/ tran(t)'smägrəfī /  
unknown  
change or alter in form, appearance, or structure often with grotesque or humorous effect.  
*Buford set out to transmogrify the hearse into a hot rod.*

**trattoria**

n  
/ ,trädə'rēə /  
F > It  
an eating house : restaurant.  
*It seems to Fran that any trattoria located next to the golf course fails, regardless of the cuisine.*

**traulism**

**trauma**

n  
/ 'traümə /  
Gk  
an injury or wound caused by the application of external force or violence.  
*The football player suffered the trauma of a broken leg.*

**traumatize**

**traumatropism**

n  
/ trə'matrəpizəm /  
Gk  
a modification of the orientation of an organ (as a plant root) as a result of wounding.  
*Traumatropism of the roots does not usually affect plant growth.*

**traversed**

v  
/ trə'værst /  
L > F > E  
moved to and fro over or along.  
*Zane serenely traversed the frozen pond.*

**travesty**

**treacherous**

adj  
/ 'trech(ə)rəs /  
F > E  
characterized by usually hidden dangers, hazards, or perils.  
*Throughout the winter, frigid temperatures and the damp sea air cause treacherous black ice to form on streets.*

**treachery**

**treacly**

adj  
/ 'trēk(ə)lē /  
Gk > F > L > E  
heavily sweet and cloying.  
*Sarah's treacly voice warned her mother that a big request was forthcoming.*

**treadmill**

n  
/ 'tred.mil /  
E + E  
a device operated by walking on an endless belt for the purpose of exercise.  
*Walking on a treadmill in his apartment was convenient, but Sam preferred to get his exercise outside, weather permitting.*

**treason**

n  
/ 'trēzən /  
L > F > E  
the offense of attempting by overt acts to overthrow the government of the state to which the offender owes allegiance or to kill or personally injure the sovereign or the sovereign's family.  
*All persons involved in the attempted coup were charged with treason.*

**treasure**

**treatise**

n  
/ 'trēdās /  
F? > AF > E  
a writing that provides in a systematic matter and for an expository or argumentative purpose a methodical discussion of the facts and principles involved and conclusions reached.  
*Victor's treatise on international relations was well received by his colleagues.*

**treble**

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

**trefoil**

n  
/ 'trē.fōil /  
L > F > E  
any of the common clovers.  
*The hunter came upon several rabbits feeding on a patch of trefoil.*

**treillage**

**trekked**

**trellis**

**trellised**

**tremendous**

adj  
/ trə'mendəs /  
L  
astonishing by reason of extreme size, power, greatness, or excellence.  
*Computers have had a tremendous impact on modern business practices.*

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

**tremulous**

adj  
/ 'tremjələs /  
L

quivering, shaking.  
*Uncle Edgar's tremulous handwriting is one sign of his Parkinson's disease.*

**trenchant**

**trenchantly**

adv  
/ 'trenchəntlē /  
F > E

in a sharply perceptive manner.  
*The commentator trenchantly analyzed the pros and cons of legalized gambling.*

**trepidation**

**trespass**

v  
/ 'trespəs /  
F > E

make an unwarranted or uninvited incursion.  
*The rock salt from farmer Brown's shotgun taught Wally a painful lesson: Don't trespass.*

**tressed**

**trey**

n  
/ 'trā /  
L > F > E

[has homonym: tray] the side of a die or domino that has three spots.  
*If Ian draws either a trey or an ace from the boneyard, he believes he will win the game of dominoes.*

**triage**

n  
/ trē'āzh /  
F  
the sorting of and allocation of treatment to patients and especially battle and disaster victims according to a system of priorities designed to maximize the number of survivors.  
*Once the system of triage was implemented, medics were better able to decide which soldiers should receive immediate treatment.*

**trianon**

n  
/ 'trēənän /

F architecture  
a small elegant villa.  
*Albert wrote his latest thriller in a rented trianon on the Riviera.*

**tribunal**

n  
/ trī'byünəl /  
L

a court or forum of justice.  
*The people have wisely provided, in the constitution itself, a tribunal for settling questions of constitutional law.*

**tributary**

n  
/ 'tribjətərē /  
L

a stream feeding a larger stream or a lake.  
*The Ohio River is a tributary of the Mississippi River.*

**tricenary**

adj  
/ 'trīs'n.ērē /  
L

having or lasting 30 days.  
*Cameron never can remember which months are tricenary.*

**tricephalous**

adj  
/ trī'sefələs /  
Gk

having or depicted with three heads.  
*Orpheus managed to lull the tricephalous watchdog to sleep by playing his lyre.*

**trichinosis**

n  
/ .trikə'nōsəs /  
Gk

infestation with or disease caused by certain nematode worms contracted by eating raw or undercooked infested food and especially pork.  
*Madeline cooked the pork chops well so there would be no danger of trichinosis.*

**trichogenous**

adj  
/ .trə'kājənəs /  
Gk

producing hair.  
*Trichogenous cells produce the tiny hairs on insect bodies and limbs.*

**trichotomy**

n  
/ trī'kädəmē /  
Gk

a system divided or divisible into three constituents or elements.  
*Golda's civics teacher explained how the United States government is a trichotomy, divided into the legislative, judicial, and executive branches.*

**trickle**

**trigonometry**

n  
/ .trigə'nämətrē /  
Gk

a branch of mathematics dealing with the relations holding among the sides and angles of triangles and among closely related magnitudes and especially with methods of deducing from given parts other required parts.  
*Rachel enjoyed her course in trigonometry much more than she enjoys her calculus class.*

**trihedral**

**trillion**

**Trinity**

n  
/ 'trinədē /  
L > F > E

the union of three persons or personified concepts (as the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit) in one godhead so that all the three are one God as to substance but three persons or concepts as to individuality.  
*The Catholic Church once excommunicated believers in the false Trinity of God, Mary, and Jesus.*

**tripeleannamine**

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**tripod**

**triquetra**

n  
/ trī'kwētrə /  
L

a triangle-shaped figure or decoration.

*Murray stenciled a leafy triquetra in each corner of the kitchen ceiling.*

**triskelion**

n  
/ trī'skelēən /  
Gk

a figure composed of three usually curved or bent branches radiating from a center.

*A triskelion has been the emblem of the Isle of Man since the 13th century, when the Vikings were ousted.*

**triste**

adj  
/ 'trēst /  
L > F > E

sad, dismal, dull, depressing.  
*A triste quartet could be heard from the window.*

**triturate**

**triumph**

**triumphal**

**triumvirate**

n  
/ trī'əmvrət /  
L

a group, party, or association of three.

*Vince, Steve, and Phil jokingly refer to themselves as the "terrible triumvirate."*

**trivet**

n  
/ 'trivət /  
L > E

a usually ornamental metal stand with short feet especially for use under a hot dish at a table.

*A brass trivet featuring the local college's insignia is the best-selling item in the gift shop.*

**trochaic**

**trochanter**

n  
/ trō'kantə(r) /  
Gk > L

the second segment counting from the base of the leg of an insect.  
*A trochanter is one of the five parts of an insect's leg.*

**trocheameter**

n  
/ 'trākē'amədə(r) /  
Gk? + Gk > E

an instrument used to count the revolutions of a wheel.

*According to the trocheameter attached to one of the wagon wheels, the wagon train had traveled 30 miles.*

**trochiline**

**trodden**

v  
/ 'träd'n /  
E

walked or trampled upon something.

*The cattle had trodden over the field, flattening the tall grass and weeds.*

**troglodyte**

n  
/ 'trəglədīt /  
Gk > L

a member of a primitive people dwelling in caves or pits.

*While spelunking, Zan and Patrick stumbled on the bones of a troglodyte.*

**troglodytic**

**troika**

n  
/ 'trōikə /  
Russ

a group of three.

*Astrology, yoga, and poetry are the troika of humanities that most interest Bryce.*

**trophallaxis**

n  
/ .träf'ə'ləksəs /  
Gk > L

exchange of food between organisms (as the social insects).  
*Bees, ants, and wasps practice trophallaxis.*

**tropicopolitan**

adj  
/ .trəpəkō'pälət'n /  
Gk

inhabiting all countries near the equator.

*Today the coconut palm is a tropicopolitan species.*

**trophilous**

adj  
/ trō'päfələs /  
Gk + Gk

thriving in an environment that undergoes marked periodic changes (as in temperature, soil moisture, or available light).

*Deciduous trees of the temperate regions are examples of trophilous plants.*

**trough**

n  
/ 'trɒf /  
E

[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word.] an elongated area of low barometric pressure usually with a minimum pressure at each end and between two areas of higher pressure.

*Eric listened to the weather forecaster explain how the local weather was being influenced by the trough that was present.*

**trousseau**

n  
/ 'trü(,)sō /  
F

[Note: Plural form can be pronounced similarly.] the personal possessions of a bride usually including clothes, accessories, and household linens and wares.

*Felicity kept her trousseau in a hope chest at the foot of her bed.*

**trove**

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

**trowel**

**truculent**

adj  
/ 'trʌkyələnt /

L  
feeling or evincing savage ferocity  
: fierce.

*Hunger makes the tiger a truculent hunter.*

**trumpet**

**truncated**

adj  
/ 'trʌŋ.kəd̩əd /

L  
abbreviated by or as if by lopping.  
*Cindy's cat has a truncated tail.*

**truncheon**

**trunnioned**

adj  
/ 'trʌnyənd /

F  
having a pin or pivot usually mounted on bearings for rotating or tilting.

*Dave attached a trunnioned compass to the deck of his sailboat.*

**truttaceous**

adj  
/ 'trʌ'tʃəʃəs /

L  
of, relating to, or resembling a trout.  
*Truttaceous fish are highly esteemed as sport fish because of their spiritedness.*

**trypanosome**

**tsetse**

**tsunami**

n  
/ (t)sü'nämē /

Jpn  
a great sea wave produced by submarine earth movements or volcanic eruption.

*The dock workers were alerted in time to evacuate the harbor area before the tsunami hit.*

**tuberculosis**

n  
/ tʌbərkyə'lōsəs /

L  
a communicable disease caused by the tubercle bacillus and characterized by toxic symptoms or allergic manifestations which in humans primarily affect the lungs.  
*The antibiotic drug streptomycin has been successfully used to treat tuberculosis.*

**tufaceous**

adj  
/ t(y)ü'fāʃəs /

Osc-Umbrian > L > It  
of or resembling a rock composed of the finer kinds of volcanic debris.

*Many buildings in Italy were constructed of tufaceous rock.*

**tuffet**

n  
/ 'tʌfət /

Gmc? > F? > E  
a low seat : stool.

*Katie stood on the tuffet to reach the book on the top shelf.*

**tularemia**

n  
/ .tülə'rēmēə /

Calif geog name + Lcf  
a bacterial disease of rodents, man, and some domestic animals.

*Jerry's temperature reached a dangerously high level during his bout with tularemia.*

**tulle**

**tumefaction**

n  
/ t(y)ü'məlch(ə)wəs /

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

**tumulus**

n  
/ t(y)ümyələs /

L  
[has homonym: tumulous] an artificial hillock or mound (as over a grave).

*In the center of the cemetery is a large tumulus where one of the town's founders is buried.*

**tundra**

n  
/ 'tʌndrə /

Finno-Ugric > Russ  
a treeless plain characteristic of arctic and subarctic regions with a permanently frozen subsoil.

*Do reindeer graze on the moss of the tundra?*

**tungsten**

n  
/ 'tʌŋstən /

Sw  
a gray-white high-melting hard metallic element that is used in the pure form chiefly for electrical purposes (as for filaments for incandescent lamps).

*The filament in many light bulbs is a thin wire of tungsten.*

**turban**

n  
/ 'tʌrbən /

Per > Turk > F  
a headdress worn chiefly in countries of the eastern Mediterranean and southern Asia especially by Muslims and made of a cap around which is wound a long cloth.

*A camel driver wearing a blue turban asked Rebecca if she would like a short ride.*

**turbid**

n  
/ 'tʌrbən /

L > F  
[has homonym: turban] a rotary engine.

*The plane could not take off until the damaged turbine was repaired.*

**turbine**

n  
/ 'tʌrbən /

L > F  
[has homonym: turban] a rotary engine.

*The plane could not take off until the damaged turbine was repaired.*

**turbot**

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**turbulence**

n  
/ 'tɜrbjələn(t)s /  
L

highly irregular atmospheric motion characterized by rapid changes in wind speed and direction and the presence of up and down currents.  
*The captain warned the plane's passengers to brace themselves for a patch of turbulence.*

**turgescence**

**turgescence**

**turgid**

**turmoil**

n  
/ 'tɜr.mɔɪl /  
unknown  
an utterly confused, extremely agitated, or tumultuous state or condition.

*Jacob experienced unrelenting turmoil after his parents informed him that the family might move.*

**turnstile**

n  
/ 'tɜrn.sti(ə)l /  
E + E

a post with four arms pivoted on the top set in a gateway to regulate or monitor passage.  
*Contrary to the prominently posted warning sign, Calvin hopped over the turnstile.*

**turnverein**

**turophile**

n  
/ 't(y)urəfil /  
Gk

a gourmet of cheese : a cheese fancier.  
*The turophile warned us not to be beguiled by the low cost of inferior processed cheese.*

**turpentine**

n  
/ 'tɜrpən.tɪn /  
Gk > L > F > E

any of various oleoresins that are derived from coniferous trees and are obtained in crude form as yellowish viscous exudates of characteristic odor and taste from incisions in the tree trunks and that usually thicken and solidify in the air.  
*The most common use of turpentine is in paint and lacquer thinners.*

**turpitude**

n  
/ 'tɜrpətɪd /  
L  
inherent baseness or vileness of principle, words, or actions : depravity.  
*Sean accused Amitab of moral turpitude for teasing the cat.*

**turret**

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

**turricular**

adj  
/ .tə'rikyələ(r) /  
L  
shaped like or resembling a tower.  
*Shauna's birthday cake was turricular and decorated to look like the Leaning Tower of Pisa.*

**turriferous**

**tutania**

**tutelage**

n  
/ 't(y)üd·lɪj /  
L  
instruction; especially : individual instruction accompanied by close personal attention and a conscious attempt at guidance.  
*Evan made astounding progress under the tutelage of his new trumpet teacher.*

**tutelary**

adj  
/ 't(y)üd·l.ɪrē /  
L  
having the guardianship or charge of protecting a person or a thing.  
*The young princesses were surrounded by tutelary employees.*

**tutoyer**

**tuyere**

n  
/ tü'ye(ə)r /  
F  
a nozzle through which an air blast is delivered to a forge.  
*Dan checked the tuyere for an obstruction.*

**tweezers**

n pl  
/ 'twēzə(r)z /  
F > E  
any of various small pincer-shaped tools used for plucking, holding, or manipulating.  
*The jeweler used a pair of fine tweezers to extract the broken spring from inside Jeff's pocket watch.*

**twelfth**

**twinkle**

v  
/ 'twɪŋkəl /  
E  
shine with a flickering, sparkling, or intermittent light.  
*Atmospheric conditions affect how a star will twinkle in the night sky.*

**tycoon**

**tympanum**

n  
/ 'tɪmpənəm /  
Gk > L  
a thin tense membrane covering an organ of hearing (as in the leg of an insect).  
*The tympanum, which is sometimes hidden beneath the base of an insect's wing cover, is activated by the pressure of sound waves.*

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**typhology**

n  
/ ti'fläləjē /  
Gk

the scientific study of blindness, its causes, effects, and control.  
*Researchers in typhology have found that certain nutritional deficiencies can result in the clouding and softening of the cornea.*

**typhoon**

n  
/ tī'fün /  
Gk&Chinese

a tropical cyclone occurring in the region of the Philippines or the China Sea.  
*A typhoon of unimaginable fury swung across the coastal plains of Bangladesh, swallowing up villages and sweeping away food crops.*

**typify**

v  
/ 'tipə.fi /  
L + Ecf

embody the essential or salient characteristics of.  
*Dickens's characters typify the Victorian era.*

**typothetae**

**tyrannical**

adj  
/ tē'ranəkəl /  
Gk

exhibiting imperious and usually oppressive exercise of absolute power : despotic.  
*Patrick Henry spoke fervently about the urgent need to arrest the tyrannical hands of the British ministry and Parliament.*

**tyrannize**

**tyrannous**

**tyranny**

n  
/ 'tirənē /  
L > F > E

absolute government in which power is vested in a single ruler.  
*The tyranny of many medieval kingdoms was eventually supplanted by democracy.*

**ubiquitous**

adj  
/ yū'bikwədəs /  
L

existing or being everywhere at the same time : omnipresent.  
*The drum is a ubiquitous instrument in world music.*

**udometer**

n  
/ yū'dämədə(r) /  
L + Gk

an instrument for measuring the quantity of precipitation that falls at a given place and time.  
*The local television station asked Karen to put a udometer in her backyard.*

**udomograph**

**uglify**

**ulcerous**

**ullage**

**ulotrichous**

adj  
/ yū'lätrəkəs /  
Gk + Gk

having woolly or crisp hair.  
*The ulotrichous aborigines crafted wide-toothed combs for their hair.*

**ulterior**

adj  
/ əl'tirēə(r) /  
L

not apparent : hidden.  
*When Sherman volunteered to walk the dog, his ulterior motive was to escape the boring conversation in the house.*

**ultimacy**

**ultimatum**

n  
/ əltə'mädəm /  
L

a final proposition, condition, or demand; especially : one whose rejection will end negotiations and cause a resort to force or other direct action.  
*If the striking workers refused its ultimatum, the company threatened to close the factory permanently.*

**ultraviolet**

adj  
/ əltrə'viələt /  
L + L > F > E

situated beyond the visible spectrum at the violet end and having a wavelength shorter than visible light and longer than X rays.  
*Arthur purchased sunglasses that provide some protection against ultraviolet radiation.*

**ululant**

**ululation**

n  
/ əlyə'lāshən /  
L

a loud mournful usually protracted and rhythmical sound : howl.  
*An ululation from deep in the woods gave Jesse goosebumps.*

**umbilical**

adj  
/ əm'biləkəl /  
L

attached by or as if by a cord arising at the navel that connects a fetus with the placenta.  
*Important medical research is being done with stem cells obtained from umbilical cords.*

**umbra**

n  
/ 'əmbərə /  
L

a shaded area : darkness.  
*Trent saw something flicker in the umbra beneath the side porch.*

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**umbrage**

n  
/ 'əmbriːdʒ /  
L > F > E

displeasure, resentment,  
annoyance.

*Hatred between nations disposes  
each more readily to offer insult  
and injury and lay hold of slight  
causes of umbrage.*

**umbrageous**

adj  
/ .əm'brāʒəs /  
L > F > E

providing protection from heat and  
light : shady.

*Sherwood Forest was the  
umbrageous domain of the  
legendary Robin Hood and his  
outlaw band.*

**umbrella**

**umlaut**

n  
/ 'üm.läüt /  
G

a diacritical mark composed of two  
adjacent dots placed especially over  
a German vowel to indicate a  
vowel shift.

*Gary never knew how to pronounce  
words with an umlaut until he  
studied German.*

**umpire**

n  
/ 'əm.pī(ə)r /  
L > F > E

one having authority to arbitrate  
and make a final decision, as an  
official in a sport who rules on the  
plays.

*The coach vehemently objected  
when the umpire ejected the player  
for unsportsmanlike conduct.*

**unabridged**

**unaccompanied**

**unanimous**

adj  
/ yü'nänəməs /  
L

being of one mind : agreeing in  
opinion, design, or determination.  
*The advice given the candidate by  
those in his confidence was  
unanimous.*

**unau**

n  
/ yü'nó /  
Tupi > F

a two-toed sloth of Central and  
South America.

*The unau seldom descends to the  
ground because its slow movements  
make it easy prey for jaguars and  
other predators.*

**unciferous**

adj  
/ .ən'sif(ə)rəs /  
L

bearing a hook or hooklike  
structure.

*Weaving and other fiber arts  
involve the use of several  
unciferous tools.*

**uncinate**

adj  
/ 'ən(t)sənət /  
L

bent at the tip like a hook.

*Using a magnifying glass, Chad  
was able to examine the insect's  
uncinate antennae.*

**unconscionable**

adj  
/ .ən'känch(ə)nəbəl /  
Ecf + L + Ecf

not guided or controlled by an  
internal sense of right or wrong :  
unscrupulous.

*The governor was denounced for  
his unconscionable indifference to  
the plight of the homeless.*

**uncouth**

adj  
/ .ən'küth /  
Ecf + E

lacking in polish and grace.

*Last night we watched a movie  
about turning an uncouth high  
school student into a princess.*

**unctuosity**

**unctuous**

**underrate**

**underread**

**undisciplinable**

**undulance**

**undulate**

v  
/ 'ənʒə.lāt /  
L

form or move in waves.

*Terry stood on the shore and  
watched the ocean undulate in the  
moonlight.*

**undulation**

**unencrypted**

**unexceptionable**

adj  
/ .ənɪk'sepsh(ə)nəbəl /  
Ecf + L

not open or liable to objection,  
criticism, or reproach :  
unimpeachable.

*Mr. Weston was a man of  
unexceptionable character, easy  
fortune, suitable age, and pleasant  
manners.*

**unfeigned**

**unforgettable**

**unfurl**

v  
/ .ən'fərɪl /  
Ecf + L > F

release or open out from a rolled-up  
state.

*Kendra embroidered her school's  
motto on the new flag she will  
unfurl during tomorrow's  
assembly.*

**unguent**

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**unguligrade**

adj  
/ ˈʊŋɡyələɡrād /  
L

walking on hoofs.  
*Unguligrade mammals include horses, cows, swine, camels, deer, elephants, rhinoceroses, and tapirs.*

**unhygienic**

**unicameral**

**unicorn**

n  
/ ˈyüənəkörn /  
L > F > E

a fabulous animal possibly based on faulty old descriptions of the rhinoceros and generally depicted with the body and head of a horse, the hind legs of a stag, the tail of a lion, and in the middle of the forehead a single long straight horn.  
*Sarah has a poster of a beautiful white unicorn on her wall.*

**unilateral**

**unintelligible**

adj  
/ ˌʌnənˈteləjəbəl /  
Ecf + E + L

difficult to comprehend.  
*Dave readily admitted that he found the article unintelligible.*

**unique**

adj  
/ yüˈnēk /  
L

being without a like or equal : single in kind or excellence : unequaled.  
*The class agreed that Martin Luther King Jr. had a unique impact on civil rights in the 20th century.*

**unison**

adj  
/ ˈyünəsən /  
L > F

identical in musical pitch.  
*The choir was well trained in unison singing; every member could hit the same note perfectly.*

**unisonous**

**universally**

**unparalleled**

**unprecedented**

adj  
/ ʌnˈpresədəntəd /  
Ecf + L + Ecff

new, unexampled.  
*Last year the city experienced an unprecedented expansion in population and industry.*

**unpredictable**

adj  
/ ʌnprēˈdiktəbəl /  
Ecf + L

not to be foretold.  
*The raging forest fire was difficult to contain because of the unpredictable weather patterns of that area.*

**unprincipled**

adj  
/ ʌnˈprin(t)səpəld /  
E + L

lacking or exhibiting a lack of a moral code of conduct.  
*The detective described the arsonist as “unprincipled and conscienceless.”*

**unpronounceable**

**unrequited**

adj  
/ ʌnrəˈkwīdəd /  
Ecf + L > E

not returned in kind.  
*Several passages in the novel were devoted to Harriet’s unrequited love for Mr. Elton.*

**unscrupulous**

adj  
/ ʌnˈskrüpjələs /  
E + L

unprincipled.  
*Desmond was not so unscrupulous as to betray his comrades.*

**unsullied**

**untenantable**

adj  
/ ʌnˈtenəntəbəl /  
Ecf + L + Lcf

[Note: Could be confused with untenable.] incapable of being occupied or lived in.  
*The hurricane left thousands of homes untenantable.*

**unveiled**

**unyielding**

adj  
/ ˌʌnˈyēldɪŋ /  
Ecf + E

refusing to give way : resolute, obstinate.  
*Jake’s unyielding opposition to the proposed surprise party is becoming tiresome.*

**upbraid**

**upeygan**

n  
/ üˈpāgən /  
Shona

a black rhinoceros.  
*The front horn of the upeygan can reach a length of over 30 inches.*

**upheaval**

**upholstery**

**uppity**

adj  
/ ˈʌpədə /  
E + Ecf

marked by airs of superiority.  
*Nicole forgave Amanda for her uppity behavior at the party.*

**upright**

adj  
/ ˈʌp.rɪt /  
E

standing up straight on the feet or on one end.  
*When Mom’s old upright vacuum cleaner finally broke down, she went out and bought a new canister model.*

**uproarious**

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**urbanity**

n  
/ ˌərˈbʌnədē /  
L

the quality or state of evincing the polish and suavity characteristic of social life in larger cities.

*Melissa's easy urbanity belied her discomfort at the pie-eating contest.*

**urbiculture**

n  
/ ˈərbəkəlchər /  
L

the practices and problems peculiar to cities.

*The congressman proposed a new federal department of urbiculture to deal with the problems of city dwellers.*

**urceolate**

adj  
/ ˈərˌsēələt /  
L

shaped like an urn.

*At the end of the drive stood a pair of urceolate boxwoods.*

**urchin**

**urgency**

**ursine**

adj  
/ ˈərˌsīn /  
L

[has near homonym: hircine] of, relating to, or characteristic of a bear.

*Some children are particularly fascinated by ursine hibernation.*

**urticant**

adj  
/ ˈərdəkənt /  
L

producing itching or stinging.

*Strawberry nettles are notorious for their urticant effect on human skin.*

**usher**

n  
/ ˈəʃhə(r) /  
L > F > E

one who escorts persons to seats at an assemblage (as in a theater, church, or hall).

*The usher informed the latecomers that they would not be seated until the end of the first act.*

**ustion**

n  
/ ˈəs(h)chən /  
L > F

the action of burning.

*Finding the paper too thick to tear or cut easily, Richard resorted to ustion to destroy it without a trace.*

**ustulation**

n  
/ ˌəs(h)chəlāshən /  
L

the action of burning or searing.

*By ustulation the metallurgist separated the sulfur from the ore.*

**usufruct**

n  
/ ˈyüzəfrəkt /  
L

the right to use or enjoy something.

*The homeowners in Eleanor's neighborhood have a usufruct to a large fenced park.*

**usurious**

adj  
/ yūˈzhürēəs /  
L + Ecf

involving or taking illegal or exorbitant interest for the use of money.

*The officers of the bank were charged with usurious practices.*

**usurpative**

adj  
/ yūˈsərpədɪv /  
L

characterized by or constituting the unauthorized arbitrary assumption and exercise of power especially as infringing on others' rights.

*The king banished the prince for his traitorous usurpative acts.*

**usurper**

n  
/ yūˈsərpər /  
L

one that infringes or encroaches upon the rights or property of another.

*By the end of his term, the mayor had become known as a usurper of authority.*

**usury**

**utensil**

**utilitarian**

adj  
/ (ˌ)yü.tiləˈterēən /  
L > F > E

characterized by or aiming at usefulness as distinguished from beauty or ornament.

*Dean chose a utilitarian briefcase over the fancy leather model.*

**utility**

**utilizable**

adj  
/ ˈyüdˌlīzəbəl /  
L > F > E

capable of being made use of.

*It took three months, but eventually Leon was able to convert the prototype into a utilizable product.*

**utterance**

n  
/ ˈədərən(t)s /  
F > E

something that is spoken.

*Smoke and clamor accompanied every utterance of the Great Oz.*

**uxorial**

adj  
/ əkˈsōrēəl /  
L > E

of, relating to, or having the characteristics of a wife.

*The new bride's conduct defied Mrs. Ketchum's notions of proper uxorial behavior.*

**uxorious**

**vacation**

**vacationland**

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**vacatur**

n  
/ vākādər /  
L

an order of court making void a legal proceeding.  
*The court issued a vacatur when it found that the defendant's rights had not been upheld.*

**vaccary**

n  
/ 'vakərē /  
L

a place where cows or cattle are kept : dairy farm.  
*The teacher plans to take her students to a vaccary during their study of the dairy food group.*

**vaccinate**

v  
/ 'vaksənāt /  
L > F

administer a preparation of microorganisms in order to produce or increase immunity to a particular disease.  
*Doctors no longer vaccinate American children against smallpox, as that disease was eradicated during the 1970s.*

**vaccine**

**vaccinoid**

**vacillate**

v  
/ 'vasəlāt /  
L

waver in mind, will, or feeling : hesitate in choice of opinions or courses.  
*Theresa must allow more time to choose what she will wear if she cannot stop her tendency to vacillate.*

**vacuity**

**vacuous**

adj  
/ 'vakyəwəs /  
L

emptied of or lacking content (as of air or gas).  
*Vacuous spaces within the meteorite made it easy to split in half.*

**vacuum**

**vagabond**

adj  
/ 'vagəbänd /  
L > F > E

moving from place to place without a fixed home.  
*Orson wanted to buy a motor home and lead a vagabond life, but Eileen refused to sell their house.*

**vagary**

n  
/ 'vāgərē /  
L

a whimsical, fanciful, or extravagant idea or notion.  
*George's idea that he would be spending his spring break in Paris was sheer vagary.*

**vagrancy**

n  
/ 'vāgrənsē /  
L?

the state or offense of being a person who has no established residence and wanders idly from place to place without lawful or visible means of support.  
*To clear the downtown area of homeless people, the mayor instructed the police to arrest them for vagrancy.*

**vaguely**

**vainness**

**valedictory**

n  
/ ,valədikt(ə)rē /  
L

a speech or farewell usually given at the commencement exercises of a school or college.  
*Alice's valedictory at graduation brought the entire senior class to its feet.*

**valet**

**valetudinarian**

n  
/ ,valətüd'n'erēən /  
L

a person of a weak or sickly constitution; especially : one whose chief concern is his invalidism.  
*Grandpa hopes that he will never be a valetudinarian.*

**valiant**

**valiantly**

adv  
/ 'valyəntlē /  
L > F > E

in a brave or bold manner : courageously.  
*Deidre tried valiantly to swim the English Channel.*

**validity**

n  
/ vəl'idədē /  
L

the quality or state of being well grounded or justifiable.  
*Some people question the validity of Darwin's theory of evolution.*

**valley**

**valorous**

adj  
/ 'valərəs /  
L

brave, courageous.  
*Carrie's valorous behavior during the flood earned her a medal.*

**valve**

**vampire**

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**vandalism**

n  
/ 'vand<sup>ə</sup>.lizəm /  
L > E

willful or malicious destruction or defacement of things of beauty or of public or private property.  
*The boys who knocked over the gravestones were eventually caught and charged with vandalism.*

**vandalize**

v  
/ 'vand<sup>ə</sup>.liz /  
Gk > L > F

destroy or deface property, usually with malicious intent.  
*The gang planned to vandalize the tombstones at the cemetery with spray paint on Halloween.*

**vanguard**

**vanilla**

n  
/ və'nɪlə /  
L > Sp

a flavoring extract made by soaking comminuted vanilla pods in a mixture of water and grain alcohol.  
*The chef specified that real vanilla be used when making the cake.*

**vanquish**

**vapidity**

**vaporetto**

**vargueno**

**variable**

n  
/ 'verɪəbəl /  
L

[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word.] a star whose brightness changes in more or less regular periods.  
*Clement spent six months tracking changes in the variable.*

**variation**

n  
/ ,verɪ'æʃən /  
L

a solo dance in ballet.  
*Erik choreographed a variation to be performed by the stars of his ballet company.*

**varicelliform**

adj  
/ ,varɪ'selə.fɔrm /  
L + L  
resembling chicken pox.  
*A virus was responsible for Lloyd's varicelliform rash.*

**varicose**

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

**variegated**

adj  
/ 'ver(ɪ)ə.gædəd /  
L  
marked with different colors or tints in spots, streaks, or stripes.  
*A shady corner of the garden was brightened by a clump of variegated coleus plants.*

**variolous**

**vasodilator**

n  
/ ,vā(ɪ)zō'di.lādə(r) /  
L  
an agent (as a parasympathetic nerve fiber or a drug) that induces or initiates widening of the lumen of blood vessels.  
*Red wine contains tyramine, a vasodilator that can cause flushing and headaches.*

**vassal**

n  
/ 'vasəl /  
Celt > L > F > E  
a feudal tenant.  
*The lord of the estate rewarded the vassal for years of faithful service.*

**vaticinator**

**vaudeville**

n  
/ 'vɔd(ə)vəl /  
F geog name  
a stage entertainment especially popular in the early decades of the 20th century that consisted of various unrelated acts following one another in succession and that might include performing animals, acrobats, comedians, dancers, singers, or magicians.  
*Some of the stars of vaudeville went on to become movie actors.*

**vaudevillian**

n  
/ vɔd'vɪljən /  
F geog name&L  
a writer or performer of stage entertainments especially popular in theaters in the early decades of the 20th century.  
*In his days as a vaudevillian, Mr. Kramer was a comedian's sidekick.*

**vault**

**vaward**

n  
/ 'vaü.(w)ɔrd /  
F > E  
the foremost part : forefront.  
*The vaward of the column stopped to allow stragglers to catch up.*

**veal**

**vealskin**

**vegetable**

**vegetarian**

adj  
/ ,vejə'terɪən /  
L > E + Ecf  
consisting wholly of edible plants.  
*After spending two years in Japan, Annabelle followed a vegetarian diet.*

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**vehemence**

n  
/ 'vɛəməŋ(t)s /  
L > F  
the quality or state of being expressive of strong emotion or conviction.  
*Norm's impetuosity and vehemence of temper made him his own worst enemy.*

**vehicle**

**vein**

**velitation**

n  
/ ,velə'tāshən /  
L  
[Note: Could be confused with vellication.] a dispute or slight contest : skirmish.  
*Police used every means to keep the velitation from exploding into a riot.*

**velleity**

n  
/ və'lɛədɛ /  
L  
a slight wish : a faint desire.  
*Mr. and Mrs. Newton found that the hotel staff had anticipated their every velleity.*

**vellication**

n  
/ ,velə'kāshən /  
L  
the act of twitching or of causing to twitch.  
*While dissecting a frog in biology class, Sam noticed vellication of the legs.*

**vellum**

n  
/ 'veləm /  
F > E  
a thin calfskin specially prepared as a surface for writing.  
*Sanford carefully turned the rare vellum over to see if there was any writing on the back.*

**velocious**

**velocity**

n  
/ və'lāsədɛ /  
L > F  
quickness of motion : swiftness, speed.  
*George estimated the velocity of the wind at 22 miles per hour.*

**velodrome**

n  
/ 'vɛlədrōm /  
L > F + Gk > F  
a building containing a track designed for cycling.  
*The university's new velodrome was funded by an alumnus who was an ardent bicyclist.*

**vendaval**

n  
/ ,vendə'val /  
F > Sp  
an autumnal thundersquall on the coast of Mexico.  
*A recent vendaval damaged the banana grove.*

**vendetta**

n  
/ ven'dedə /  
L > It  
a prolonged feud marked by bitter hostility.  
*Chloe's all-night party exacerbated the vendetta with her neighbor.*

**veneer**

n  
/ və'ni(ə)r /  
G  
a thin sheet of wood cut or sawed from a log and adapted for adherence to a smooth surface (as of wood).  
*The maple veneer really spruced up the old pine table.*

**veneniferous**

adj  
/ ,venə'nif(ə)rəs /  
L + Ecf  
bearing or transmitting poison and especially a natural venom.  
*Ellen couldn't believe that anyone would want to work with veneniferous snakes for a living.*

**venerable**

adj  
/ 'venər(ə)bəl /  
L  
deserving to be regarded with profound respect and affection.  
*The venerable teacher's retirement saddened students who had hoped to benefit from her instruction.*

**vengeance**

n  
/ 'venjən(t)s /  
L > F > E  
infliction of punishment in return for an injury or offense.  
*The defeated team howled with rage and fury and swore bloody vengeance.*

**venireman**

**venison**

n  
/ 'venəsən /  
L > F > E  
the flesh of a deer.  
*Mandy roasted a leg of venison with prunes and chestnuts.*

**venom**

n  
/ 'venəm /  
L > F > E  
poisonous matter normally secreted by some animals (as snakes, scorpions, or bees).  
*The snake's venom paralyzed its prey.*

**ventilate**

v  
/ 'ventɪlət /  
L  
cause fresh air to circulate through and contaminated air to be simultaneously withdrawn from.  
*To ventilate her kitchen, Margo set a fan in the doorway and opened the windows.*

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**ventriloquist**

n  
/ ven'trɪləkwəst /  
L

one who is skilled in the art of speaking in such a manner that the voice appears to come from some source other than the vocal organs of the speaker.

*A ventriloquist entertained at Rebecca's birthday party.*

**venue**

n  
/ 'ven(ɪ)yü /  
L > F

a place designated to be the scene of a gathering, such as for a sports event.

*The Georgia Dome in Atlanta was the venue for Super Bowl XXXIV.*

**veracious**

adj  
/ və'rāshəs /  
L + Ecf

[has homonym: voracious]  
observant of the truth : habitually speaking the truth.

*It was up to the jury to decide which of the two witnesses was the more veracious.*

**veracity**

n  
/ və'rasədē /  
L

devotion to the truth : truthfulness.

*The prosecutor questioned the veracity of the witness.*

**verbally**

adv  
/ 'vərbəlē /  
L + Ecff

in a manner involving the use of words rather than action or performance.

*Johann couldn't describe the shape verbally, so he drew it.*

**verbatim**

adv  
/ və(r)'bādəm /  
L

word for word : in the same words.

*Marcelle can recite the entire Gettysburg Address verbatim.*

**verbena**

n  
/ və(r)'bēnə /  
L

any of numerous garden plants that are widely cultivated for their showy spikes of white, pink, red, or blue flowers which are borne in profusion over a long season.

*Marcy noticed tiny flower buds on her verbena in early April and anxiously awaited its full bloom.*

**verbigerate**

v  
/ (ɪ)vər'bijərāt /  
L

repeat a word or sentence endlessly and meaninglessly.

*The psychiatrist explained that some schizophrenic patients often verbigerate.*

**verbomania**

n  
/ ,vərbə'mānēə /  
L + Gk

excessive use of or obsession with words.

*Frances was accused of verbomania by her classmates, who didn't understand why she liked to study spelling.*

**verboten**

adj  
/ və(r)'bōt'n /  
G

forbidden; especially : prohibited by dictate.

*Speaking English in the German language-immersion program is verboten.*

**verdant**

**verdigris**

n  
/ 'vərdəgrēs /  
L > F > E

a green or greenish blue poisonous pigment obtained by the action of acetic acid on copper.

*The verdigris on the church steeple has aged beautifully.*

**verdolaga**

n  
/ ,vərdə'lägə /  
L > Ar > Sp

an annual herb with fleshy leaves.

*Latin American cooks use verdolaga in soups and salads.*

**verdure**

n  
/ 'vəɹjər /  
F > E

[has homonym: verger] fresh and green growing vegetation.

*Joe walked back into the soft thick verdure of the hills and tramped until he was tired.*

**verglas**

n  
/ ver'glä /  
F

a thin film of ice on rock.

*On her way to the stream for some fresh water, Connie slipped on the nearly invisible verglas.*

**verisimilitude**

n  
/ ,verəsə'milətüd /  
L + L

the quality or state of having the appearance of truth.

*The artist's scrupulous attention to detail provided an impressive degree of verisimilitude.*

**verjuice**

n  
/ 'vəɹjüs /  
F > E

the sour juice of crab apples or other unripe fruit.

*Scrooge was the kind of person who looked as though he drank verjuice every morning.*

**vermeil**

**vermicelli**

n  
/ ,vərmə'selē /  
L > It

alimentary paste made in long thin solid strings smaller in diameter than spaghetti.

*The restaurant's five-way chili started with a base of vermicelli.*

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**vermiculate**

adj  
/ və(r)'mikyələt /

L  
wormlike in shape.

*When Tom's two-year-old brother tried to draw something, he could manage only a few vermiculate lines.*

**vernacular**

adj  
/ və(r)'nakyələr /

L  
belonging to or being a language or dialect developed in and spoken and used by the people of a particular place, region, or country in a form considered nonstandard.  
*Mr. Hillis could not understand the vernacular language of the rappers.*

**vernal**

adj  
/ 'vərnəl /

L  
of, relating to, or characteristic of the spring.  
*Cherry trees produce some of the prettiest vernal blossoms.*

**vernissage**

**verricule**

**versatile**  
adj  
/ 'vərsədəl /

L  
[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word.] marked by a tendency to change : fluctuating readily.  
*Tricia's versatile temperament made it impossible to predict her reactions.*

**vertebrate**

adj  
/ 'vɔrdəbrət /

L  
having a spinal column.  
*Vertebrate animals include fishes, reptiles, birds, and mammals.*

**vertex**

n  
/ 'vɔrtɛks /

L  
the point on the limb of a celestial body nearest the zenith.  
*The tiny dark spot near the Moon's vertex is a huge crater.*

**vertical**

adj  
/ 'vɔrdəkəl /

L > F  
perpendicular to the plane of the horizon or to a primary axis : upright.  
*Blythe preferred the fabric with broad vertical stripes.*

**vertiginate**

v  
/ ,vɔr'tijənāt /

L  
whirl dizzily around : twirl.  
*Young children love to vertiginate until they fall down.*

**vertiginous**

**vertigo**  
n  
/ 'vɔrdəgō /

L  
a disordered state in which the individual or the individual's surroundings seem to whirl dizzily.  
*The constant rocking of the boat produced feelings of vertigo and nausea in many of the passengers.*

**vesicant**

n  
/ 'vesəkənt /

L + E  
an agent (as a drug or a plant substance) that induces blistering.  
*Brittany wore thick gloves in order to avoid contact with the vesicant.*

**vespacide**

n  
/ 'vespəsɪd /

L  
one that kills wasps.  
*Mindy waved the can of vespacide threateningly at the nest of yellow jackets.*

**vespertilian**

**vespertine**

adj  
/ 'vespə(r),tɪn /

L  
setting with or just after the Sun.  
*Venus is the most prominent vespertine planet.*

**vessel**

**vestibule**  
n  
/ 'vestəbyül /

L > F  
a passage, hall, or chamber between the outer door and the interior of a building.  
*The elevators were located at the end of the vestibule.*

**vestige**

n  
/ 'vestij /

L > F  
a remaining bit that constitutes a memorial or trace of something formerly present.  
*Dmitri thought he detected a vestige of natural gas odor in the kitchen.*

**veterinary**

**vexation**

**vexatious**  
adj  
/ vek'səʃəs /

L  
causing or likely to cause mental suffering.  
*A lame carriage horse threw everything into sad uncertainty and created a situation Emma found most vexatious.*

**vexillology**

**viable**

**vibraphone**

**vibrato**

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**vicarage**

n  
/ 'vikəriːdʒ /  
L > E

the house of a priest of a parish.  
*About a quarter of a mile down the road rose the vicarage, an old and not very good house.*

**vicegerency**

**vicegerent**

n  
/ vɪs'ʒɪrənt /  
L

an administrative deputy appointed to perform functions of a king or magistrate.  
*The emperor claimed that he was ruling as God's vicegerent.*

**vicereine**

**vichyssoise**

n  
/ 'vɪʃə'swäz /  
F geog name

a soup made of pureed leeks and potatoes and usually served cold.  
*When vichyssoise is well made, it's heavenly; when it's badly made, it's inedible.*

**vicinage**

**viciously**

adv  
/ 'vɪʃəsli /  
L > F > E

in a manner marked by violence or ferocity.  
*The puppy attempted to shake the old sock viciously.*

**vicissitude**

n  
/ vɪ'sɪs.ɪ.təd /  
L

an accident of fortune : a shift of luck.  
*By the vicissitude of winning the lottery, Helen was able to buy the dream house she always wanted.*

**vicontiel**

adj  
/ vɪ'kɒntiəl /  
F > AF

of or relating to a viscount or sheriff.  
*Robin Hood was wanted by the vicontiel authorities of several counties.*

**victorious**

**viduity**

n  
/ vɪ'd(y)uədē /  
L

widowhood.  
*Wendy's first husband was killed in the Gulf War, but her viduity ended when she remarried in 1994.*

**vigesimal**

adj  
/ vɪ'ʒen'teniəl /  
L

occurring once every 20 years : relating to a 20th anniversary.  
*The store celebrated its vigesimal anniversary with a big sale.*

**vigesimal**

**vigilance**

**vigilante**

n  
/ vɪ'ʒə'lantē /  
L > Sp

a member of a volunteer committee organized to protect an interest, especially to suppress and punish crime.  
*The cowboy movie was about a rancher who became a vigilante and joined in the search for a criminal.*

**vigneron**

n  
/ vɪ'neɪə'rɒn /  
F

one who cultivates a vineyard and makes wine from the grapes.  
*The American vigneron was delighted that the French judges chose his wine as being among the world's best.*

**vignette**

**vilayet**

**vilify**

v  
/ 'vɪləfi /  
L

utter slanderous and abusive statements against : defame.  
*Wouldn't it be refreshing if the candidates vying for the office did not vilify each other?*

**vilipend**

v  
/ 'vɪləpend /  
L

speak of slightly or disparagingly : depreciate.  
*The candidate decided to vilipend her opponent instead of discussing the issues.*

**villain**

n  
/ 'vɪlən /  
L > F > E

[has homonyms: villein, villan]  
one who deliberately plots and does serious harm to others.  
*The police were seeking the villain who conned several senior citizens out of their savings.*

**villainous**

**villainy**

**vinaceous**

adj  
/ vɪ'næʃəs /  
L

of the color wine red.  
*The vinaceous liquid in the three-foot-high bottle at the restaurant is not really wine.*

**vinaigrette**

n  
/ vɪnə'gret /  
F

a sauce made typically of vinegar, oil, onions, parsley, and herbs.  
*The salad was dressed with a tomato-flavored vinaigrette.*

**vincible**

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**vinculum**

n  
/ 'vɪŋkjələm /

L  
a unifying bond.  
*Their mutual love of dolls is the vinculum between Delia and Christine, who are otherwise very different.*

**vindicate**

v  
/ 'vɪndəkāt /

L  
free from any question of error, dishonor, guilt, or negligence.  
*Oliver felt the judge's decision would vindicate him completely.*

**vinegar**

n  
/ 'vɪnɪgə(r) /

L > F > E  
a sour liquid used as a condiment or a preservative that is obtained by acetic fermentation of dilute alcoholic liquids (as fermented cider, malt beer, or wine) and is often seasoned especially with herbs.  
*Pete used a special aged balsamic vinegar in the salad dressing.*

**vineyard**

n  
/ 'vɪnyə(r)d /

E  
a field of grapevines.  
*While touring a Napa Valley winery, Jamie wandered through the vineyard.*

**vintner**

n  
/ 'vɪntnə(r) /

L > F > E  
a person who sells wine : a wine merchant.  
*The vintner assured Babette that the wine she was considering would go well with veal.*

**violated**

**violin**

n  
/ ,vɪə'lin /

OProv > It  
a bowed stringed instrument having four strings, a shallow body, a fingerboard without frets, and a curved bridge.  
*Reuben demonstrated his technical virtuosity on the violin when he auditioned for the string ensemble.*

**violoncello**

n  
/ ,vɪələn'che(,)lō /

It  
the bass member of the violin family that is tuned an octave below the viola and held vertically on the floor between the player's knees while in a sitting position.  
*The violoncello played plaintively in the prelude to the last act of the opera.*

**virago**

n  
/ və'rɑːgō /

L  
[has near homonym: vorago] a loud overbearing woman.  
*The manager at the Department of Motor Vehicles was, unfortunately, a virago.*

**viridescent**

adj  
/ ,vɪrə'desənt /

L  
greenish.  
*Gideon removed the viridescent scum from the bottom of the horse trough and added fresh water.*

**virtue**

**virtuoso**

n  
/ ,vɜːrchə'wō(,)sō /

L > It  
one who excels in the technique of an art; especially : a musical performer.  
*The virtuoso took 12 curtain calls, setting a new record for the concert hall.*

**virulent**

adj  
/ 'vɪr(y)ələnt /

L  
characterized by rapid course, severity, and malignancy—used especially of a disease or infection.  
*The virulent strain of flu spread rapidly through the community.*

**visage**

**visceroptosis**

n  
/ ,vɪsərəp'tōsəs /

L + Gk  
downward displacement of the abdominal organs.  
*The growth of the tumor had caused visceroptosis.*

**viscount**

n  
/ 'vɪːkaʊnt /

L > F > E  
a noble ranking below an earl and above a baron.  
*The viscount had no children and was becoming desperate to have an heir.*

**viscous**

adj  
/ 'vɪskəs /

L  
[Note: Could be confused with viscose.] having the physical property of a fluid or semifluid that enables it to develop a certain amount of shearing stress dependent upon the velocity of flow and then to offer continued resistance to the flow.  
*Joe was surprised to learn that glass is viscous, as evidenced by the fact that a windowpane, over time, becomes thicker at its lower edge and thinner at its upper edge.*

**visibility**

n  
/ ,vɪzə'bɪlədē /

L  
the degree or extent to which something is capable of being seen.  
*The captain announced that visibility was approximately five miles.*

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**vitiate**

v  
/ 'vɪʃiə.ət /  
L

make incomplete, faulty, or defective : injure the substance or quality of.

*Freddie argued that Clark's poor acting abilities would vitiate the school play.*

**vitreous**

adj  
/ 'vɪtr̩əs /  
L

of, relating to, derived from, or consisting of glass.

*The huge vitreous wall of skyscrapers reflected the mountains and the sunset.*

**vitrescible**

adj  
/ və'tresəbəl /  
L

of a kind that can be changed into glass or a glassy substance by heat and fusion.

*The ceramics shop owner used only the most vitrescible materials in his work.*

**vitrine**

n  
/ və'trɛn /  
L > F

a glass showcase for display (as of fine wares or specimens).

*Allegra has a large vitrine that houses her collection of porcelain figurines.*

**vitriolic**

adj  
/ ,vɪtr̩ə'əlɪk /  
L > F > E

marked by a caustic biting quality.

*Howard had to be reprimanded for his vitriolic outbursts against the referees and opposing players.*

**vituperative**

adj  
/ (,)vɪ'tɪpərədɪv /  
L

containing or characterized by wordy abuse.

*Josh's dad gave him a vituperative lecture after the accident.*

**vivace**

adv  
/ vɛ'və(,)tʃə /  
L > It

in a brisk spirited manner—used as a direction in music.

*To her teacher's frustration, Marcie plays every piece as if it were marked vivace.*

**vivacity**

**vixenish**

adj  
/ 'vɪksənɪʃ /  
E

resembling a shrewish ill-tempered woman.

*Elena could become vixenish when she felt slighted.*

**vizierial**

**vocabulary**

**vocation**

n  
/ vō'kəʃən /  
L

[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word.] a

summons from God to an individual to undertake the obligations and perform the duties of a particular task or function in life.

*The parents of Thomas Aquinas entreated him to abandon his religious vocation and return home.*

**vociferate**

**vociferous**

adj  
/ vō'sɪf(ə)rəs /  
L

marked by or given to ready vehement insistent outcry.

*A vociferous couple in the back row ruined our evening at the poetry reading.*

**vogue**

**volante**

**volatile**

adj  
/ 'vɒlədʒl /  
L > F

easily passing off by evaporation.

*The fact that gasoline is highly volatile produces an advantage in starting engines.*

**volition**

n  
/ vō'lɪʃən /  
L

the act of willing or choosing : the act of deciding.

*The notary public asked Nigel to state that he was signing the contract of his own volition.*

**volubility**

n  
/ ,vɒlyə'bɪlədɛ /  
L

talkativeness.

*The cheerful volubility at Mrs. King's luncheon is largely due to the fact that she is a great hostess.*

**voracious**

**vorago**

n  
/ və'rɑ:gō /  
L

[has near homonym: virago] an engulfing chasm : abyss.

*Before he knew it, Beck had crossed the bridge over the vorago.*

**vorlage**

n  
/ 'fɔ:rlægə /  
G

the position of a skier leaning forward from the ankles usually without lifting the heels from the skis.

*The object of the vorlage is to keep the body of the skier perpendicular to the slope.*

**vorspiel**

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**vortex**

n  
/ 'vɔːr.tɛks /  
L

a rapidly spinning current of water.  
*The toy sailboat got caught in the vortex and spun wildly as the bathtub drained.*

**vowel**

**voyage**

n  
/ 'vɔɪ(i)j /  
L > E

an act or instance of traveling : excursion, tour.  
*Bill and Gail went on a sea voyage for their honeymoon.*

**vulgar**

adj  
/ 'vʌlɡə(r) /  
L

lacking in cultivation, perception, or taste.  
*Harriet vowed that she would not visit Mr. Martin's wife if he married an ignorant vulgar woman.*

**vulnerable**

adj  
/ 'vʌlnərə(ə)bəl /  
L

capable of being wounded : defenseless against injury.  
*Maggie's sensitive nature made her vulnerable to cross remarks.*

**vulnerary**

adj  
/ 'vʌlnərəri /  
L

promoting the healing of wounds : curative.  
*There was a section in the old medical book about vulnerary herbs.*

**vulpine**

**vulture**

n  
/ 'vʌlʃə(r) /  
L > E

any of various large raptorial birds related to the hawks, eagles, and falcons but having weaker claws and a usually naked head and that subsist chiefly or entirely on the decaying flesh of dead animals.  
*The turkey vulture rarely gets credit for its help in removing unfortunate opossums and skunks from our roadways.*

**waffle**

n  
/ 'wäfəl /  
D

a crisp cake made of pancake batter baked in a specialized appliance.  
*For breakfast, Mary ordered a waffle topped with blueberry compote.*

**waggish**

**wagonload**

**waif**

**wainscot**  
n  
/ 'wānzəkət /  
D > E

the lower three or four feet of an interior wall when finished differently from the remainder of the wall (as with wood panels, tile, or marble slabs).  
*Michelle chose a striped wallpaper for the wainscot in the dining room.*

**wainwright**

**waldmeister**  
n  
/ 'wɔld.mīstə(r) /  
G + L > G

a small European sweet-scented herb.  
*The Germans use waldmeister to flavor May wine.*

**wallaby**

n  
/ 'wäləbē /

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

**wallet**

**walleyed**  
adj  
/ 'wɔ.līd /  
E

having very light gray or whitish eyes.  
*The Appaloosa foaled a walleyed filly last spring.*

**wallop**

v  
/ 'wäləp /  
F

gain a decisive victory over : beat by a wide margin : trounce.  
*Coach Garrett predicts that the Cougars will soundly wallop the Buccaneers.*

**waltz**

n  
/ 'wɔlts /  
G

a moderately fast dance in three-quarter time with a strong accent on the first beat of the measure and characterized by one step per beat.  
*When the band started playing a waltz, Marilyn hoped that someone would ask her to dance.*

**wander**

**wanderlust**  
n  
/ 'wändə(r).ləst /  
G

strong or unconquerable longing for or impulse toward traveling.  
*Caye's wanderlust caused her to postpone college so that she could tour Europe.*

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

**wantonness**

n  
/ 'wɒnt'n(n)əs /  
E

the quality or state of being without check or limitation.

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

**wapiti**

n  
/ 'wäpədē /

Algonquian

a North American deer similar to the European red deer but considerably larger.

*The older male wapiti is often hunted for its antlers.*

**warden**

n  
/ 'wɔrd'n /  
Gmc > F > E

an official in charge of the operation of a prison.

*The warden recommended that the disruptive prisoner be denied parole.*

**warehouse**

**warison**

**warmonger**

**warmth**

**warrior**

n  
/ 'wɔryər /  
E

a human engaged or experienced in warfare and especially in primitive warfare or the close combat typical of ancient or medieval times.

*The warrior attended a council before battle in the morning.*

**wasabi**

n  
/ 'wäsəbē /  
Jpn

an Asiatic herb whose greenish root is grated and eaten with fish or other food.

*In Japan, Pam had raw fish seasoned with wasabi, which tasted like horseradish.*

**washtrough**

**wasp**

n  
/ 'wäsp /  
E

any of numerous winged hymenopterous insects that have well-developed wings and biting mouthparts, and a more or less formidable sting.

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

**wasteweir**

n  
/ 'wäst.wi(ə)r /  
L > F > E + E

a notch in a levee or other barrier across a stream for the escape of superfluous water.

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

**wastrel**

n  
/ 'wästrəl /  
L > F > E

something rejected or discarded as useless or imperfect.

*Hardly any item is wastrel to the ardent recycler.*

**watercress**

n  
/ 'wɔdə(r).kres /  
E

a white-flowered plant growing in water with leaves that are used in salads.

*Jesse added some watercress and carrots to the tossed salad.*

**waxen**

**wearisome**

adj  
/ 'wirēsəm /  
E

tiresome, tedious.

*Gondolph found hearing accounts of other people's dreams wearisome.*

**weasel**

n  
/ 'wēzəl /  
E

any of various small slender active carnivorous mammals that are mostly reddish brown with white or yellowish underparts and in northern forms turn white in winter.

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

**weather**

**webelos**

n  
/ 'wēbəlɔz /  
E acronym

a Cub Scout of the fifth rank who is at least 10½ years old and is preparing for entrance into Boy Scouts.

*Noah spent his second year as a webelos working on his fitness, geologist, and handyman activity badges.*

**weddellite**

**wedge**

**weevil**

n  
/ 'wēvəl /  
E

any of numerous snout beetles in which the head is elongated and usually curved downward to form a snout bearing the jaws at the tip.

*The boll weevil is a serious pest to the cotton crop in North America.*

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

**weigh**

v  
/ 'wā /  
E  
[has homonym: way] evaluate : ponder.  
*Mrs. Avery asked Sam to weigh the potential consequences of his decision.*

**weir**

n  
/ 'wi(ə)r /  
E  
[has homonyms: weer, we're] a fence or enclosure set in a stream to catch fish.  
*Bored by fishing, the boys set up a weir and went off to play basketball.*

**weird**

adj  
/ 'wi(ə)rd /  
E  
[has homonym: weired] curious in nature or appearance : of strange or extraordinary character.  
*Most episodes of The X-Files begin with a weird or puzzling event.*

**welfare**

**welfarism**

n  
/ 'wel.fa(a).rizəm /  
E + Ecf  
the complex of policies, attitudes, and beliefs associated with a welfare state.  
*Free health care was touted as one of the benefits of welfarism.*

**welkin**

n  
/ 'wel.kən /  
E  
the celestial regions as the abode of God or the gods : the heavens.  
*The hymn that begins "Hark! The herald angels sing" was originally written as "Hark how all the welkin rings."*

**wellaway**

**welterweight**

**wharf**

**wharfinger**

n  
/ '(h)wò(r)fənjə(r) /  
E  
a person or company operating a marine terminal with facilities for the berthing of ships and the loading, unloading, and storage of goods.  
*The wharfinger keeps a parrot in his office.*

**wheedle**

v  
/ 'hwēd'l /  
unknown  
get or take something from by using soft words or flattery.  
*Ginger's attempt to wheedle ten dollars out of her father was unsuccessful.*

**wheelbarrow**

**wheelwright**

n  
/ '(h)wēl.rīt /  
E  
a person whose occupation is to make or repair circular frames of metal, wood, or other hard material.  
*In the days of the horse and buggy, the wheelwright had an essential job to do.*

**whelk**

**whelp**

n  
/ 'hwelp /  
E  
one of the young of various carnivorous mammals.  
*Wendy was delighted when the eyes of the cocker spaniel whelp finally opened.*

**wherewithal**

n  
/ '(h)we(ə)rwə.θəl /  
E + E + E  
financial resources : money.  
*Everyone was surprised that Jake had the wherewithal to buy a sailboat.*

**wherry**

**whetstone**

**whilom**

adj  
/ 'hwīləm /  
E  
having been at an earlier time : former.  
*Mother frowned when Edgar said the food was probably too hot to eat, a whilom excuse for being late for lunch.*

**whimper**

v  
/ 'hwimpə(r) /  
imit  
make a low whining plaintive or broken sound.  
*Laura's dog starts to whimper whenever he wants to be fed.*

**whimsical**

adj  
/ 'hwimzəkəl /  
unknown  
resulting from or determined by sudden unpredictable impulses.  
*Ichabod became the object of whimsical persecution to Brom and his gang of rough riders.*

**whimsicality**

**whininess**

n  
/ 'hwīnənəs /  
E  
the quality or state of complaining or lamenting with or as if with a prolonged high-pitched sound.  
*Allen's habitual whininess when asked to do something he didn't like annoyed both his teacher and his classmates.*

**whinyard**

**whippersnapper**

**whippet**

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

**whippoorwill**

n  
/ 'h(w)ɪpə(r)wɪl /  
imit  
a nocturnal bird of the eastern United States and Canada that is seldom seen although its call is often heard at nightfall or just before dawn.  
*At camp Nick recorded the call of a whippoorwill.*

**whirligig**

n  
/ 'hwɜrlɪgɪg /  
E  
a child's toy having a whirling or spinning motion.  
*Sandy bought a whirligig at the dime store.*

**whirlwind**

n  
/ 'hwɜrlwɪnd /  
Scand > E + E  
a small rotating windstorm of limited extent.  
*A whirlwind is sometimes called a "dust devil."*

**whisk**

n  
/ 'hwɪsk /  
Scand > E  
a small usually wire kitchen implement used for hand beating of food (as eggs, cream, or potatoes).  
*Rose used a whisk to beat the egg whites into a stiff froth.*

**whisperer**

n  
/ 'hwɪspərə(r) /  
E  
one that speaks softly with the aim of preserving secrecy.  
*Reverend Loomis scanned the congregation in vain, searching for the whisperer.*

**whist**

n  
/ 'hwɪst /  
imit E  
a four-player card game from which bridge evolved.  
*In learning to play whist, Carole found it helpful to make a chart of its similarities to bridge.*

**whistleable**

adj  
/ 'hwɪsələbəl /  
E + Ecf  
capable of being whistled.  
*Rufus could botch up even the most whistleable tune.*

**whodunit**

n  
/ hū'dənət /  
E  
a detective story or a mystery story presented as a novel, a play, or a motion picture.  
*The whodunit proved to be the most popular play at the summer theater.*

**wholesale**

adv  
/ 'hōl.səl /  
E  
in a manner of, relating to, or engaged in the sale of goods or commodities in quantity for resale.  
*Juliana purchased several store fixtures wholesale.*

**wholesome**

adj  
/ 'hōlsəm /  
E  
promoting health of body : health-giving.  
*Ellie sometimes ate junk food rather than the wholesome lunch her mother had made for her.*

**whorlywort**

n  
/ 'hwɔ(ə)rli.wɜrt /  
E  
a tall perennial herb—called also "Culver's root."  
*Darnell bought a hand-colored engraving of a whorlywort at the auction.*

**whortleberry**

n  
/ 'hwɜrt'l.berē /  
E  
a sweet edible European blueberry.  
*The unripe whortleberry was too sour for Vernon to eat.*

**wickiup**

n  
/ 'wɪkē.əp /  
Sac, Fox, & Kickapoo  
a hut used by Native Americans that is typically elliptical in form and has a rough frame covered by reed mats or grass.  
*As they constructed the wickiup, the campers were careful to leave a hole in the top for campfire smoke to escape.*

**widget**

n  
/ 'wɪdʒət /  
E  
an unnamed article considered for purposes of hypothetical example as the typical product of a company.  
*On Trudy's graph, each star represents one widget.*

**width**

**wince**

**winsome**

adj  
/ 'wɪn(t)səm /  
E  
pleasant because of cheer, childlike nature, and open candor.  
*The little tyke's winsome smile won him many friends.*

**wintriness**

**wirrah**

**wisacre**

**wisent**

n  
/ 'vɛ.zent /  
G  
a European bison.  
*The advance of European civilization drove the wisent to the brink of extinction; it survived mainly by breeding in zoos.*

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**withernam**

n  
/ 'wɪðə(r).nəm /  
E > F > E

the action of taking by way of reprisal : a second or reciprocal distress of other goods in lieu of goods taken by a first distress.  
*Jeff discouraged Larry from going through with the planned withernam by saying "Two wrongs don't make a right."*

**witloof**

n  
/ 'wɪt.ləʊf /  
D

chicory; also : its crown of foliage as a salad green.  
*Emily decided to vary her salad by using witloof instead of lettuce.*

**witticism**

n  
/ 'wɪd̩.ə.sɪzəm /  
E

a clever or amusing expression.  
*The careful use of a witticism in Kevin's speech helped hold the attention of his listeners.*

**wizardry**

n  
/ 'wɪzə(r).drɪ /  
E

magic skill : sorcery, witchcraft.  
*Merlin practiced his wizardry at the court of King Arthur.*

**wizen**

**wobulator**

n  
/ 'wɒbyə.ləd̩.ə(r) /  
G + Ecf

a testing device for radio sets in which the frequency is varied periodically and automatically over a predetermined range.  
*The primary function of a wobulator is broadcast receiver testing.*

**woebegone**

adj  
/ 'wɒb̩.ə.gɒn /  
E

exhibiting a condition of suffering, sorrow, or misery.  
*The teacher looked up at 20 woebegone faces staring at the essay question.*

**woebegoneness**

**wok**

n  
/ 'wɒk /  
Chin  
[has near homonym: walk] a bowl-shaped cooking utensil used especially in the preparation of Chinese food.  
*Lydia received an electric wok as a housewarming gift.*

**wolveboon**

**womp**

**wondrous**

**worrisome**

**wraith**

n  
/ 'rɑːθ /  
unknown  
an apparition of the exact likeness of a living person seen usually just before that person's death.  
*The wraith of a person shortly to die is a firm article in the creed of Scottish superstition.*

**wrangler**

**wrasse**

**wreak**

**wreath**

n  
/ 'rɛθ /  
E  
a coronet, band, or fillet of intertwined flowers or leaves worn or bestowed as a mark of honor or victory or symbol of esteem.  
*The figure on the vase wearing a laurel wreath is identified as Apollo.*

**wreckage**

n  
/ 'rɛkɪj /  
Scand > AF > E  
something that has been reduced to a ruinous state by violence : the remains of a wreck.  
*Cleaning up the wreckage from the tornado would take money as well as time.*

**wren**

**wrestle**

v  
/ 'rɛsəl /  
E  
[has near homonym: rustle]  
contend by grappling with and striving to trip or throw down an opponent.  
*Inspired by the championship match they saw on television, Bobby and Alan began to wrestle on the living room floor.*

**wretched**

adj  
/ 'rɛtʃəd /  
E  
squalid, dismal, foul.  
*After the flood, the whole neighborhood looked wretched.*

**wriggle**

v  
/ 'rɪɡəl /  
G? > E  
move the body or a bodily part to and fro with short writhing motions like a worm.  
*Zakia was startled when she saw a snake wriggle through the tall grass.*

**writhe**

v  
/ 'rɪθ /  
E  
move or proceed with twists and turns.  
*Silently, we watched a seven-foot boa constrictor writhe through the trees.*

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

**wunderkind**

n  
/ 'vʌndə(r).kɪnt /

G  
a child prodigy : one who succeeds in a competitive or highly difficult field or profession at an early age.  
*Mozart, a famous wunderkind, wrote complicated sonatas at the age of five.*

**xanthic**

adj  
/ 'zæn(t)θɪk /

Gk  
of a flower : colored with some tint of yellow.  
*The forsythia rivals the daffodil for being the loveliest xanthic bloom in Cynthia's garden.*

**xanthism**

**xanthoma**

n  
/ zæn'thɒmə /

Gk  
a condition that is marked by the development (as on the eyelids, neck, or back) of irregular yellow patches or nodules.  
*High cholesterol or triglyceride levels can be factors in causing xanthoma.*

**xenocentric**

**xenogamy**

n  
/ zə'nægəmə /

Gk  
fertilization by cross-pollination; especially : cross-pollination between flowers on different plants.  
*Xenogamy may occur by wind or by bees carrying pollen from plant to plant while feeding on nectar.*

**xenophobia**

**xerocolous**

adj  
/ zə'rækələs /

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

**xerosis**

n  
/ zə'rōsəs /

Gk  
abnormal dryness of the skin.  
*Xerosis can be an indication of an underlying health problem.*

**xerostomia**

n  
/ ,zɪrə'stōmēə /

Gk  
abnormal dryness of the mouth due to insufficient secretions.  
*Xerostomia was one of the drug's side effects.*

**xylem**

n  
/ 'zɪləm /

Gk  
a complex tissue in the vascular system of higher plants.  
*The xylem of a tree functions chiefly in conduction of sap but also performs a structural and storage role.*

**xyloglyphy**

**xylograph**

n  
/ 'zɪləɡrɑf /

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

**xylography**

**xylophagous**

**xylophilous**

**xylophone**

n  
/ 'zɪləfōn /

Gk + Gk  
a musical instrument consisting of a series of wooden bars graduated in length and sounded by striking with two small wooden hammers.  
*Many African musical instruments are variations of the xylophone.*

**xylophonist**

**xylotomy**

**xystus**

**yacht**

**yachtsman**

n  
/ 'jɑtsmən /

G > D + E  
[Note: Plural form is pronounced identically.] a person who owns or sails a boat used for pleasure, as for racing or cruising.  
*Mike fancied himself a true yachtsman after one week at sea.*

**yammer**

**yannigan**

**Yarborough**

n  
/ 'jɑr(ə)bərə /

E name  
a hand in bridge or whist containing no card higher than a nine.  
*Gene was not sure how to signal to his bridge partner that he held a Yarborough.*

**yardage**

**yarrow**

**yawl**

**yearn**

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**yeast**

n  
/ 'yēst /  
E

a substance used in baking and the fermentation of alcoholic beverages : leaven.

*The sourdough bread recipe called for two packages of yeast.*

**yeasty**

**yenta**

n  
/ 'yentə /

Yiddish  
one that meddles.

*Evelyn's children laughingly refer to her as a yenta when she tries to set them up on blind dates.*

**yeoman**

**yeomanry**

n  
/ 'yōmənri /

E  
the whole body of small farmers who cultivate their own land; specifically : the body of small landed proprietors of the middle class.

*Among the legal privileges of the yeomanry was the right to serve as a juror.*

**yewberry**

**yield**

v  
/ 'yēld /  
E

agree to accept or comply with something : exhibit willingness rather than opposition.

*Sarah looks forward to the day when she will not have to yield to her parents' wishes.*

**ylem**

**yoga**

n  
/ 'yōgə /  
Skt

union of the individual self with the universal spirit.

*The teacher explained that through years of mental and physical exercise, she had been able to attain a complete yoga.*

**yokel**

n  
/ 'yōkəl /

imit E  
an unpolished, naïve, or gullible inhabitant of a rural area or of a small town.

*The pool hustler disguised himself as a yokel to lure unsuspecting victims.*

**yore**

n  
/ 'yō(ə)r /  
E

[has homonym: your] time past and especially long since past.

*Adam's favorite books contain stories about knights of yore.*

**youngster**

**youthfully**

**yowl**

**ytterbium**

**yttrium**

n  
/ 'itrēəm /  
Sw geog name  
a trivalent metallic element usually included among the rare-earth metals.

*Yttrium is one of the elements used in making lasers.*

**yule**

**yuletide**

**zaguan**

**zaibatsu**

n pl  
/ zī'bät(,)sü /  
Jpn

the powerful financial and industrial conglomerates of Japan.

*Keiko intended that her electronics company become one of the zaibatsu.*

**zapateado**

n  
/ zäpätē'ä(,)dō /  
Sp

a rhythmic stamping or tapping step characteristic of Spanish dancing.

*Juliana needs practice in zapateado before she can take advanced flamenco classes.*

**zeal**

n  
/ 'zēl /  
Gk > L > E

impassioned eagerness.

*Russell entered into his new job with great zeal.*

**zealot**

**zealous**

**zebra**

**zeitgeber**

n  
/ 'tsīt.gäbər /  
G

an environmental agent or event that provides the stimulus for setting or resetting the biological clock of an organism.

*Frederick used a zeitgeber consisting of his bedroom lamp hooked to a timer prior to his trip and was able to avoid severe jetlag.*

**zenith**

n  
/ 'zēnəth /  
Ar > Sp > L > F > E

the point of culmination : peak, summit.

*Winning the Faculty Award was the zenith of Stephanie's college career.*

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**zephyr**

n  
/ 'zefə(r) /  
Gk

a soft warm breeze from the west.  
*The gentle zephyr was not sufficient to keep Renee's kite airborne.*

**zeppelin**

n  
/ 'zɛp(ə)lən /  
G name

a rigid airship.  
*Olga's dream was to ride in a zeppelin one day.*

**zeugma**

n  
/ 'zūgmə /  
Gk

the use of a word in the same construction with two adjacent words in the context with only one of which it is appropriate in sense.  
*The statement "John upset the table and his mother" is, one would hope, a zeugma.*

**zigzaggedness**

n  
/ zig'zagədnəs /  
G? > F + Ecff

the quality or state of having short sharp turns or angles.  
*An aerial photograph revealed the zigzaggedness of the mountain road.*

**zircon**

n  
/ 'zɜr.kän /  
It > F > G

a mineral occurring in brown or grayish square prisms or sometimes in transparent forms which are used as gems.  
*The zircon in Wendy's ring looks very much like a diamond.*

**zoanthropy**

**zodiac**

**zodiacal**

adj  
/ zō'diækəl /  
Gk

of, relating to, or within the zodiac.  
*Jessica has a pendant in the shape of Pisces, her zodiacal symbol.*

**zoning**

**zoological**

**zoophilist**

n  
/ zō'äfələst /  
Gk + Gk + Ecff

a lover of animals; especially : a person concerned with the rights of lower animals and their protection from abuse.  
*The noted zoophilist explained how deforestation is endangering several species of mammals and birds.*

**zootechny**

**zucchetto**

n  
/ zū'ked(,)ō /  
L > It

a small round skullcap worn by Roman Catholic ecclesiastics in colors that vary according to the rank of the wearer.  
*In public appearances, the pope usually wears a white cassock and zucchetto.*

**zucchini**

n  
/ zū'kēnē /  
It

a slender green summer squash.  
*Tim picked a large zucchini from his garden.*

**zugzwang**

n  
/ 'tsük.tsfäj /  
G

the necessity of moving in chess when it is to one's disadvantage.  
*Valerie forced the grandmaster into zugzwang.*

**zwieback**

n  
/ 'swē.bak /  
G

a usually sweetened bread enriched with eggs that is first prepared and baked and then sliced and toasted until dry and crisp.  
*Liza placed a slice of zwieback on the baby's tray.*

**zygosis**

**zymology**