

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

**churrasco**

n  
/ chù'rä.skō /  
Sp

beef broiled on a spit over an open fire or grilled under an oven flame.  
*At the barbecue the whole family feasted on the churrasco that Dad cooked.*

**chutney**

n  
/ 'chətnē /  
Prakrit > Hindi

a condiment that has the consistency of jam and is made of acid fruits with added raisins, dates, and onions and seasoned to taste with spices and vinegar.  
*Spicy or sweet chutney is sometimes eaten with Indian meals containing curry.*

**chymous**

adj  
/ 'kīməs /  
Gk + Ecf

of or relating to the semifluid mass of partly digested food resulting from the action of gastric juice.  
*One of the coroner's less pleasant tasks is testing chymous material.*

**ciborium**

**cicada**

n  
/ sə'kādə /  
L

any insect of the family Cicadidae—called also “locust.”  
*The male cicada produces sound by vibrating miniature “drumheads” on the lower surface of its abdomen.*

**cicerone**

n  
/ .sɪsə'rōnē /  
L > It

one who acts as a guide to or shows the sights to.  
*At the end of the tour, Maria praised her cicerone as being very knowledgeable and articulate.*

**Ciceronian**

adj  
/ .sɪsə'rōnēən /  
L name

resembling the Roman orator Cicero in oratorical or literary qualities.  
*Beulah's Ciceronian bombast about Destiny and Youth impressed the audience.*

**ciguatera**

n  
/ .sēgwə'terə /  
Taino > Sp

poisoning caused by eating fish or mollusks with flesh toxic to man.  
*Although she contracted ciguatera in June, Constance could not return to work until November.*

**cilantro**

n  
/ sə'lantrō /  
L > Sp

leaves of coriander used as a flavoring or garnish.  
*In Janet's opinion, the best part of the fresh salsa was the chopped cilantro.*

**cincture**

v  
/ 'sɪŋ(k)chə(r) /  
L

girdle with or as if with a belt or band.  
*For the Halloween party, Evelina chose to cincture her gypsy costume with a spangled belt.*

**cinematographer**

n  
/ .sɪnəmə'tägrəfə(r) /  
Gk

a motion-picture camera operator.  
*Darina won the award for outstanding cinematographer at last year's Montreal Film Festival.*

**cinereous**

**cinnabar**

n  
/ 'sɪnəbär /  
Gk > L&F

artificial red mercuric sulfide used principally as a pigment.  
*The orange color of rubber gaskets is often created by the addition of cinnabar.*

**cinnamon**

n  
/ 'sɪnəmən /  
? > Gk > L > F > E  
a culinary spice prepared from the bark of certain tropical trees.  
*Akbar likes cinnamon in his hot chocolate.*

**cioppino**

n  
/ chə'pē.nō /  
It

a dish of fish and shellfish cooked in tomato sauce and usually seasoned with wine, spices, and herbs.  
*After an afternoon at the beach, Beverly stopped at a local restaurant for cioppino and coffee.*

**circadian**

**circinate**

adj  
/ 'sərs'n.āt /  
L

rounded in outline : characterized by or having the form of a flat coil of which the apex is the center.  
*The retracted tongue of a butterfly forms a circinate coil.*

**circuit**

n  
/ 'sərkət /  
L > F

the complete path of an electric current.  
*The average electrical house circuit carries about 30 amperes.*

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**circuitous**

adj  
/ ˌsərˈkyuədəs /

L  
being a circular or winding course :  
indirect, roundabout.

*As we drove through the  
mountains, the road took an  
increasingly circuitous route.*

**circular**

**circumambulate**

v  
/ ˌsɜrkəmˈambyəˌlāt /

L  
wander about at leisure without  
definite purpose or as a result of  
indirection.

*Her first day in London, Connie  
decided to circumambulate instead  
of taking a guided tour.*

**circumlocution**

n  
/ ˌsɜrkəmˈlɔːkyuʃən /

L  
the use of an unnecessarily large  
number of words to express an  
idea.

*The attorney's circumlocution  
caused one of the jurors to doze off.*

**circumstantial**

adj  
/ ˌsɜrkəmzˈtʌnʃəl /

L + Ecf  
belonging to, consisting of,  
influenced by, or dependent on  
conditions, facts, or events  
accompanying others.

*The report contains strong  
circumstantial evidence of  
wrongdoing by the governor.*

**cirrhosis**

n  
/ səˈrɔːsəs /  
Gk + Lcf

[has homonym and near homonym:  
soriasis and xerosis] a chronic  
progressive disease of the liver.  
*The damage caused by cirrhosis is  
irreversible.*

**cislunar**

adj  
/ sisˈlünə(r) /

L + L  
of or relating to the space between  
Earth and the Moon or the Moon's  
orbit.

*The space enthusiast talked often  
about the practicalities of setting  
up a colony in the cislunar region.*

**cistern**

n  
/ ˈsɪstə(r)n /  
L > F > E

[has homonym: sistern] an  
artificial reservoir or tank for  
holding or storing water or other  
liquids.

*Three weeks into the drought, the  
farm's cistern ran dry.*

**citadel**

n  
/ ˈsɪdədəl /  
L > It > F

a fortress that commands a city  
both for control and defense;  
broadly : a strong fortress.

*The citadel had three separate  
walls around it so that defenders  
could retreat again and again to a  
position of safety.*

**citation**

**cite**

**citify**

**citizen**

**citronella**  
n  
/ ˌsɪtrəˈnelə /  
F > L

a yellowish essential oil with  
lemonlike odor obtained from  
either of two grasses and used  
especially as an insect repellent.  
*Candles containing citronella were  
kept burning on the picnic table.*

**civitas**

n  
/ ˈkɪwɪtəs /

L  
a body of people constituting a  
politically organized community.  
*The concept of civitas remains  
strong in many small towns.*

**clairvoyant**

**clandestine**

adj  
/ klanˈdestən /  
L

marked by, held in, or conducted  
with secrecy and concealment.

*Mike and Sally made clandestine  
preparations for their mom's  
surprise birthday party.*

**claque**

n  
/ ˈklak /  
F

[has homonym: clack] an opera hat  
with a collapsible crown.

*As the gentleman entered the opera  
house, he doffed and flattened his  
claque.*

**claret**

**clarify**

**clarion**

**claustrophobe**

**claustrophobia**

n  
/ kləʊstrəˈfɒbiə /  
Gk + Gk  
abnormal dread of being in closed  
or narrow spaces.  
*Herman's claustrophobia keeps  
him from flying on crowded  
airplanes.*

**clavichord**

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**clavicle**

n  
/ 'klavəkəl /  
L

a bone in man situated just above the first rib on either side of the neck and having the form of a narrow elongated S.

*Garth wore shoulder pads to football practice to protect his clavicle.*

**claviger**

n  
/ 'klavəjə(r) /  
L

one that keeps the key or keys : custodian, warden.  
*Because she had forgotten her key, Marsha needed to locate the claviger, Mr. Carl, to open her classroom door.*

**clematis**

n  
/ 'klemədəs /  
Gk

a plant of a genus of opposite-leaved slightly woody vines or erect herbs having elongate plumose styles.  
*The clematis is cultivated in North America for its attractive flowers.*

**clemency**

n  
/ 'klemənsē /  
L

[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word.]  
tendency to be mild and compassionate.  
*Emma supposed she must say more before she would be entitled to Mr. Knightley's clemency.*

**clepsydra**

n  
/ 'klepsədrə /  
Gk > L

an instrument designed to measure time by the flow of a quantity of water.  
*For his science project Kerry designed and built a clepsydra.*

**clerisy**

n  
/ 'klerəsē /  
L > G

the well-educated or learned class : intelligentsia.  
*Many believe that laws should be readily understood by the general public, not solely by an elite clerisy.*

**clientele**

n  
/ klīən'tel /  
L > F

a body of patrons or customers.  
*Bill hopes to enlarge the clientele of the shoe store.*

**climatology**

**clinically**

**clinician**

n  
/ klə'nishən /  
Gk > F

one who directs, is closely allied with, or works in or through a clinic or with clinical methods.  
*At the hospital a clinician drew a vial of Harry's blood to test for diabetes.*

**clinqant**

adj  
/ 'kliŋkənt /  
F

glittering especially with gold decoration : showily ornate.  
*The theater lobby in its clinqant splendor cast dazzling reflections from every gleaming surface.*

**clique**

n  
/ 'klik /  
F

[alternate pronunciation has homonym: cleek] a narrow exclusive circle or group of people.  
*Sofia didn't want to be part of the popular clique because she thought they were the most boring kids in school.*

**cloche**

n  
/ klōsh /  
L > F

[alternate pronunciation has homonym: closh] a woman's small helmetlike hat usually with deep rounded crown and very narrow brim.  
*At the Thatchers' wedding Margaret looked smashing in her white ostrich-feather cloche.*

**clodhopper**

n  
/ 'kläd.häpə(r) /  
E + E

a large heavy shoe.  
*The thump of Archie's clodhopper hitting the floor announced that he was going to bed.*

**cloistered**

**clothe**

v  
/ 'klōth /  
E

put garments on.  
*Elizabeth Cady Stanton stressed that she did not propose petitioning the legislature to clothe every woman in male attire.*

**cloture**

**cloudy**

adj  
/ 'klaüdē /  
E

made or consisting of fog, mist, or haze.  
*The mountain with its cloudy veil inspired Sven's painting.*

**clough**

**clowder**

**cluse**

n  
/ 'klüz /  
L > F

[has homonym: clues] a narrow gorge cutting transversely through an otherwise continuous ridge.  
*Although Brian studied the trail map carefully, he found no mention of the cluse that barred his way.*

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**cnemial**

adj  
/ 'nēmēəl /  
Gk + E

relating to the shin or shinbone.  
*Bud suffered a cnemial injury while quarterbacking in the game last night.*

**coacervate**

n  
/ ,kōə'sərvət /  
L

an aggregate of colloidal droplets held together by electrostatic attractive forces.  
*The chemist referred to the aggregation of liquid particles in an emulsion as a coacervate.*

**coadjutor**

n  
/ ,kōə'jüdə(r) /  
L > F > E

one who works together with another usually in a somewhat subordinate position : assistant.  
*Offended by being called a "lackey," Marcus prefers to be called a "coadjutor."*

**coagulate**

v  
/ kō'agyəlāt /  
L

curdle, clot.  
*Hemophiliacs lack a protein needed to help blood coagulate.*

**coalesce**

v  
/ ,kōə'les /  
L

unite by growth into one body.  
*The nervous host hoped that the tight little groups of guests would coalesce into a real party.*

**coalescence**

n  
/ ,kōə'lesən(t)s /  
L

a growing together or union in one body, form, or group.  
*Rain is the result of the coalescence of water droplets within a cloud.*

**coalification**

**coalition**

n  
/ ,kōə'lishən /  
L > F + Ecf

the temporary alliance of distinct parties, persons, or states to achieve a common purpose.  
*Representatives from a coalition of labor unions met with the multinational corporation's lawyers in an attempt to work out a new contract.*

**coaming**

**coaration**

n  
/ ,kōə'rāshən /  
L

cooperative tilling of soil as practiced by early village communities.  
*The villagers found that coaration was the most efficient system for cultivating the land.*

**coax**

**coccygeal**

**cochineal**  
n  
/ 'kächə'nēl /  
Sp > F

a red dyestuff consisting of the dried bodies of the cochineal insect.  
*Before the introduction of synthetic dyes, cochineal was commonly used in textile production.*

**cochleariform**

adj  
/ ,kōklē'a(a)rəfōrm /  
Gk > L + Ecf  
shaped like a spoon.  
*Jacques theorized that the cochleariform bone was used in prehistoric times as a spoon.*

**cockatoo**

**cocoon**

n  
/ kə'kūn /  
L > Prov > F

a silky or fibrous protective encasement created by a larval insect for shelter during the pupal stage.  
*Ricky found the cocoon of a moth clinging to a branch of an oak tree.*

**codeine**

n  
/ 'kō(,)dēn /  
Gk + F

a crystalline alkaloid usually made from morphine but feebler in action.  
*The patient was given codeine to kill the pain.*

**codicil**

n  
/ 'kädəsəl /  
L > F

a legal instrument made subsequently to a will and modifying it in some respects.  
*Robert had his lawyer draw up a codicil to clarify a few ambiguities in his will.*

**codicology**

**coelostat**

n  
/ 'sēləstat /  
L > ISV + GK > ISV

a device consisting of a flat mirror that is turned slowly by a motor to reflect the Sun continuously into a fixed telescope.  
*Professor Merkle plans to use a coelostat to photograph the movements of planetary bodies.*

**coerce**

**coercion**

**coeval**  
adj  
/ kō'ēvəl /  
L + Ecf

of the same or equal age or antiquity.  
*Nearly the same in mass and brightness, the stars were thought to be coeval.*

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**coffee**

**cogent**

**cogitate**

v  
/ 'kājətāt /  
L

ponder on or meditate upon.  
*Greta liked to cogitate on the tricks she could play on her big brother.*

**cogitating**

**cognizant**

adj  
/ 'kājənəzənt /  
L > F > E

aware : perceiving with a degree of controlled thought or observation.  
*Watching television commercials can make viewers more cognizant of fads and fashions.*

**cognomen**

n  
/ kāj'nōmən /  
L

one's family name : surname.  
*The cognomen "Crane" fit the physical attributes of the tall, lank, long-armed, and shovel-footed Ichabod, whose whole frame most loosely hung together.*

**cognoscitive**

adj  
/ kāj'näsədīv /  
L + Ecf

having the power of knowing.  
*Lillian explained to her friends that her cognoscitive ability was innate, something like a sixth sense.*

**coherence**

**cohesion**

**coincidental**

adj  
/ kō'insə'dentl /  
L

characterized by the concurrence of events between which there is no causal connection.  
*It was purely coincidental that the electricity went off just as the guests began to arrive for the surprise party.*

**cointise**

n  
/ kwan'tēz /  
F > E

a scarf worn on a lady's headdress or as a token of favor on a knight's helmet.  
*Sir Agravaine proudly displayed the bright red cointise.*

**colectomy**

**colic**

n  
/ 'kälīk /  
Gk > L > F > E

acute abdominal pain in man or animals.  
*Last spring Sam's horse had colic.*

**collabent**

adj  
/ kō'lābənt /  
L

sunken or falling in : collapsing in the middle.  
*Orville poked the collabent anthill with a stick.*

**collaborator**

n  
/ kə'lābərədə(r) /  
L  
[has near homonym: collaborateur]  
one that works jointly with others.  
*Sir William Gilbert was Arthur Sullivan's collaborator for many operettas.*

**collage**

n  
/ kə'lāzh /  
Gk > LF + Fcf  
an artistic composition of fragments of printed matter and other materials pasted on a picture surface.  
*Sabrina spent weeks finishing a large collage of a Paris street scene.*

**collate**

v  
/ kə'lāt /  
L

arrange or assemble (paper, sheets, or forms) according to an orderly system.  
*Edith's favorite feature of the new copier was its ability to collate documents.*

**collateral**

adj  
/ kə'lādərəl /  
L > F > E  
[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word.] placed or regarded as side by side : parallel, coordinate, or corresponding in position, order, time, or significance.  
*Mexico's Sierra Madre Oriental and Occidental mountain ranges are collateral.*

**college**

n  
/ 'kälīj /  
L

[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word.] an organized group of persons engaged in a common pursuit, having a common duty or role and sometimes a charter or special rights and privileges.  
*Pope John Paul II was 58 years old when the College of Cardinals elected him to lead the Roman Catholic Church.*

**collegial**

**colliery**

n  
/ 'käljərə /  
E

[has near homonym: colory] a coal mine and the buildings connected with it.  
*The colliery around which the village was built closed when its reserves of coal were exhausted.*

**collocal**

**colloquial**

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**colloquy**

n  
/ 'käləkwe /  
L

high-level serious discussion.  
*Listeners in the gallery must remain silent during the legislators' colloquy.*

**collusion**

n  
/ kə'lüzən /  
L

secret agreement : secret cooperation for a fraudulent or deceitful purpose.  
*For acting in collusion with an enemy agent, the nuclear scientist was sentenced to 20 years in prison.*

**cologne**

n  
/ kə'lɔn /  
G name > F

a perfumed liquid composed of alcohol and certain aromatic oils.  
*The taxi driver sprayed expensive cologne in his cab every evening.*

**colonel**

**colonelcy**

n  
/ 'kərnɪlsē /  
L > It > F + Ecf

the office, rank, or commission of a colonel.  
*Nathan announced that he was being considered for a colonelcy in the infantry.*

**colonnade**

**colophon**

n  
/ 'käləfən /  
Gk

an identifying mark, emblem, or device used by a printer or publisher sometimes on the title page, cover, shelfback, or jacket.  
*The publisher decided on the figure of a Russian wolfhound as its colophon.*

**coloratura**

n  
/ kələɾə'türə /  
L > It

[Note: Could be confused with colorature.] the florid ornamentation in vocal music (as runs, trills, arpeggios).  
*Barry thinks that he would enjoy opera music more if it did not contain so much coloratura.*

**colossal**

adj  
/ kə'läsəl /  
Gk > L > F

characterized by extremely great bulk, extent, force, strength, power, or effect.  
*The new stadium is a colossal building seating about a hundred thousand people.*

**column**

**comedienne**

n  
/ kə.mēdē'en /  
Gk > F

[Note: Could be confused with comedian.] an actress who plays in dramas of light and amusing character and typically with a happy ending.  
*Lucille Ball was America's favorite comedienne during the 1950s.*

**comestible**

**comet**

n  
/ 'kämät /  
Gk

a celestial body that consists of a fuzzy head usually surrounding a bright nucleus and that has an orbit varying in eccentricity.  
*The vaunted Kohoutek comet proved to be a great disappointment for stargazers.*

**comfort**

**commemorate**

v  
/ kə'meməɾāt /  
L

call to remembrance as by speech, writing, or ceremony.  
*Every year on December seventh, ceremonies are held to commemorate those who died during the attack on Pearl Harbor.*

**commencement**

**commendable**

adj  
/ kə'mendəbəl /  
L

worthy of praise.  
*Jim received several scholarships as a result of his commendable academic performance.*

**commensurable**

**commensurate**

adj  
/ kə'men(t)s(ə)rət /  
L

corresponding in size, extent, amount, or degree : proportionate.  
*The want ad stated that salary would be commensurate with experience.*

**commentary**

**commercial**

adj  
/ kə'məɾshəl /  
L > F + Ecf

from the point of view of profit : having profit as the primary aim.  
*Leila was determined that her jewelry store would be a commercial success.*

**commercialize**

v  
/ kə'məɾshə.līz /  
L > F + Ecff

make use of for profit-seeking purposes.  
*The Hopi denounced those who would commercialize their religious dances and ceremonies.*

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**commination**

n  
/ ˌkæməˈnāshən /  
L

[Note: Could be confused with combination.] an instance or the action of announcing, warning of, or threatening punishment or vengeance.  
*The president ended his speech with a severe commination against the rebels.*

**comminute**

**commiseration**

n  
/ kəˈmizəˈrāshən /  
L

the feeling or showing of sorrow or the expression of condolence for the wants or distresses of another.  
*Aunt Betsy sighed and moralized with true and steady commiseration.*

**commissary**

**commissional**

**commitment**

n  
/ kəˈmitmənt /  
L

the consignment or sentencing to confinement (as in a prison or mental hospital).  
*Tony's sentence included commitment to the state penitentiary for at least five years.*

**commodious**

adj  
/ kəˈmɒdēəs /  
L > F > E + Lcf + Ecf  
large or roomy and convenient.  
*Leo and his family rented a modest but commodious villa in Spain.*

**commorancy**

**communicate**

**commute**

v  
/ kəˈmyüt /  
L

travel back and forth regularly or frequently.  
*For his work, Horst must commute daily between Philadelphia and New York.*

**comparatively**

adv  
/ kəmˈparədɪvl̩ /  
L

nearly, approximately.  
*"Well, approximately yes," he replied; "that is, comparatively no."*

**compatible**

**compelled**

v  
/ kəmˈpeld /  
L  
forced by physical necessity.  
*Artie was compelled to hold his breath while swimming under water.*

**compendium**

n  
/ kəmˈpendēəm /  
L  
a work treating in brief form the important features of a whole field of knowledge or subject matter category.  
*Eileen is writing a compendium of investment information for small company shareholders.*

**compensable**

**competency**

n  
/ ˈkæmpədənsē /  
L  
the quality or state of being functionally adequate.  
*The prospective student questioned the competency of the professor.*

**competently**

**compilation**

**complement**

n  
/ ˈkæmpləmənt /  
L  
a finishing or consummating part, integral, or component.  
*The earrings made the perfect complement to Anjali's ensemble.*

**comprehend**

v  
/ ˌkæmprəˈhend /  
L > E  
see the nature, significance, or meaning of.  
*Although he had read every word of Moby Dick, Stu failed to comprehend it.*

**compulsory**

**compunction**

n  
/ kəmˈpʌŋ(k)shən /  
L  
normal human regret, pity, or anxiety : remorse.  
*The children showed no compunction about having eaten the entire cake before dinner.*

**compunctious**

**computernik**

**comradeliness**

n  
/ ˈkæm.rɑdl̩ənəs /  
L > Sp > F + Ecf  
a spirit of friendly familiarity and goodwill.  
*The comradeliness of her shipmates put Mrs. Stein at ease.*

**comstockery**

**concatenate**

v  
/ kənˈkɑdəˌnāt /  
L  
link together : unite in a series or chain.  
*The professor told the class to write a program that would concatenate two or more files.*

**conceit**

**conceivable**

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**conceivably**

**concentrate**

v  
/ 'kən(t)sən.trāt /  
L + Ecf  
bring all one's powers, faculties, or activities to bear : focus.  
*Anthony couldn't concentrate on the reading material because he was sick.*

**concentric**

adj  
/ kən'sentrik /  
L  
having a common center (as circles one within another).  
*Shane stared at the concentric circles of the dart board for so long that he seemed to be hypnotized.*

**concept**

n  
/ 'kän.sept /  
L  
thought, idea, notion.  
*Julie's concept of an entertaining movie was not the same as her younger brother's.*

**concertina**

**concerto**

n  
/ kən'cherd(,)ō /  
L > It  
a virtuoso piece for solo instrument or voice and orchestra that usually has three contrasting movements.  
*A violin concerto by Vivaldi concluded the orchestra's program.*

**concessible**

**concession**

n  
/ kən'seshən /  
L  
the admitting of a point claimed in argument; especially : the voluntary yielding of a disputable contention.  
*Concession was out of the question, but it was time to appear to forget that they had ever quarreled.*

**concessionary**

**conch**

n  
/ 'känk /  
Gk > L  
[has homonym: conk] any of various large spiral-shelled marine gastropod mollusks.  
*Herbert recoiled when he saw conch on the menu of the Caribbean restaurant.*

**conchiform**

adj  
/ 'känkə.förm /  
Gk > L > ISV  
shell-shaped.  
*Mom keeps her jewelry in a conchiform box.*

**conchitic**

adj  
/ kän'kidik /  
Gk  
composed of shells.  
*The professor brought in a piece of conchitic limestone so students could examine the mollusk shells in it.*

**concierge**

n  
/ kō'syerzh /  
L > F  
an attendant at the entrance of a building : doorkeeper.  
*The concierge took note of the mysterious man's comings and goings at the hotel.*

**conciergerie**

**conciliate**

v  
/ kən'silē.ät /  
L  
win over from a state of hostility or distrust : appease.  
*The new king hoped to conciliate his subjects by doing them all the good in his power.*

**concinnity**

n  
/ kən'sinədē /  
L  
harmony or fitness in the adaptation of parts to a whole or to each other.  
*After reading through the writer's first draft, the editor praised the writer for her consistency and concinnity of style.*

**conclamant**

**concoct**

v  
/ kən'käkt /  
L  
put together : devise, fabricate.  
*Mom overheard the boys concoct a story to explain the broken window.*

**concoction**

**concomitant**

adj  
/ kən'kämədənt /  
L  
occurring along with or at the same time as and with or without causal relationship.  
*Mr. Simmons noted that his son's poor grades in algebra were concomitant with the start of the basketball season.*

**concordat**

n  
/ kən'kōr.dat /  
L > F  
a compact between a national government and a religious group establishing terms of agreement concerning matters of mutual interest.  
*Bonaparte and Pope Pius VII signed a concordat that the state of France should protect and acknowledge the Roman Catholic Church.*

**concrecence**

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**concurrency**

n  
/ kən'kərən(t)s /  
L

[has homonym: concurrents]  
agreement in opinion.  
*Frank agreed to it, but with so quiet a "Yes," as inclined Emma almost to doubt his real concurrence.*

**concussion**

n  
/ kən'kəʃən /  
L

a smart or hard knock, blow, or collision; also : the shock of such a blow.  
*When Amy slipped on the ice she nearly suffered a concussion.*

**condemn**

v  
/ kən'dem /  
L

[has near homonym: contemn]  
pronounce as ill-advised, reprehensible, wrong, or evil.  
*Often custom justifies an action that years later it will condemn.*

**condescended**

v  
/ kändə'sendəd /  
L > F > E + Ecf

stooped or bent to action or speech less formal or dignified than is customary in one's social rank.  
*The rajah condescended to seat himself on a rug under the tree.*

**condign**

**condiment**

n  
/ 'kändəmənt /  
L > F > E

something usually pungent, acid, salty, or spicy added to or served with food to enhance its flavor or to give added flavor : seasoning.  
*Mustard is the condiment usually served on hot pastrami sandwiches.*

**condolence**

**condor**

n  
/ 'kändó(ə)r /  
Quechua > Sp

a very large American vulture having the head and neck bare and being one of the largest and most powerful of flying birds.  
*Of all the birds of prey at the zoo, the Andean condor is Alison's favorite.*

**conductor**

**conduit**

n  
/ 'kän(ə)düət /  
F > E

a natural or artificial channel through which water or other fluid passes or is conveyed.  
*Grandfather showed Logan the conduit that irrigated his large garden.*

**confidential**

**confetti**

n pl  
/ kən'fedē /  
L > It

tiny colored paper disks or paper streamers so made as to scatter readily when thrown.  
*Ticker tape and confetti swirled like snow over the crowded street.*

**confiscate**

v  
/ 'känfə'skāt /  
L

seize by or as if by public authority.  
*After a two-hour wait, the border guard decided not to confiscate Brenda's antique necklace.*

**conflagration**

n  
/ 'känflə'grāʃən /  
L

a large disastrous fire involving numerous buildings.  
*Sixty fire trucks were called in to battle the conflagration.*

**confluence**

n  
/ 'kän.flüən(t)s /  
L

the place of meeting of two streams.  
*Martina agreed to meet Lynn at the confluence of Rogers Creek and the Little Red River.*

**confusion**

**conga**

n  
/ 'kängə /

African geog name  
a Cuban dance of African origin involving three steps followed by a kick and performed by a group in single file.  
*When he was a child, Jimmy loved to dance the conga.*

**congeal**

**congenial**

adj  
/ kən'jēnyəl /  
L

characterized by friendly sociability.  
*Paul and Linda appreciated the restaurant's congenial atmosphere.*

**congenital**

**conglob**

v  
/ kən'glōb /  
L

form into a ball.  
*Time-lapse photos showed how clouds conglob.*

**conglomerate**

n  
/ kən'gläm(ə)rət /  
L

a mixture gathered from various sources : a composite mass.  
*Father called his specialty "Irish stew," but it was really more like a conglomerate of indeterminate substances.*

**congruent**

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**coniferous**

adj  
/ kŏ'nif(ə)rəs /  
(Gk + L) > L + Ecf  
bearing cones.  
*A covering of coniferous trees keeps some mountains green all winter.*

**conjugal**

**conjunctiva**

**Connecticut**

adj  
/ kə'nedəkāt /  
Mohican? > American geog name of or from the state of Connecticut.  
*Ichabod Crane is a famous character of Connecticut lore.*

**connived**

**connivery**

n  
/ kə'niv(ə)rē /  
L + Ecf  
the practice of cooperating secretly, especially in a wrongful act.  
*Allen suspects Brenda of connivery in the mysterious sale of the mansion.*

**connoisseur**

n  
/ .känə'sü(ə)r /  
L > F  
one who is an expert in a subject; especially : one who understands the details, technique, or principles of an art and is competent to act as a critical judge.  
*The connoisseur who judged the culinary creations is a chef at a five-star restaurant.*

**connote**

v  
/ kə'nōt /  
L  
arouse as an inseparably associated idea or feeling : imply, suggest.  
*Eli wonders if sending a dozen long-stemmed roses to Gretchen might connote what he finds difficult to say.*

**connubial**

adj  
/ kə'n(y)übēəl /  
L  
of or relating to marriage or the marriage state.  
*Susan and Stuart spent their honeymoon in a state of connubial contentment.*

**conqueror**

**conquian**

**conquistador**

n  
/ kŏn'k(w)ēstədō(ə)r /  
L > Sp  
conqueror; specifically : any one of the leaders in the Spanish conquest of America, especially of Mexico and Peru, in the 16th century.  
*Mr. Sanchez found the helmet of a conquistador deep in the canyon.*

**consanguinity**

n  
/ .känsan'gwinədə /  
L  
the quality or state of being related by blood.  
*Consanguinity has historically been of great importance in determining who sits on the various thrones of Europe.*

**conscience**

n  
/ 'känchən(t)s /  
L  
the sense of right or wrong within the individual.  
*In this country everyone has a right to exercise individual conscience and judgment on all matters of public interest.*

**conscientious**

adj  
/ .känchē'enchəs /  
L  
governed by the dictates of the sense of right or wrong : honest, scrupulous.  
*Janice was very conscientious about telling the truth.*

**consciousness**

n  
/ 'känchəsənəs /  
L + Ecf  
intuitively perceived knowledge of something in one's inner self.  
*With a sort of sneering consciousness, Tyler admitted that he had nothing to say that would be entertaining to anyone.*

**consecrate**

v  
/ 'känsäkrāt /  
L  
make or declare sacred or holy.  
*The bishop will consecrate the new chapel next Sunday.*

**consecutive**

**consenescence**

**consensus**

n  
/ kən'sen(t)səs /  
L  
collective opinion : the judgment arrived at by most of those concerned.  
*The Booster Club's consensus was that popcorn would sell better than cotton candy.*

**consentaneous**

**conservatory**

**considerable**

**consignment**

**consistory**

**consomme**

**consortium**

n  
/ kən'sŏrsh(ē)əm /  
L  
[has near homonym: consortion]  
an organization of persons having a common interest.  
*Several organizations joined the consortium that fosters inclusion of individuals with disabilities in all aspects of society.*

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**conspiracy**

n  
/ kənz'pirəsē /

L  
an illegal, treasonable, or treacherous plan to harm or destroy another person, group, or entity.  
*The commissioner charged that the entire industry was in conspiracy to keep out competition.*

**constabulary**

n  
/ kənz'tabyələre /

L  
a body of policemen (as of a particular town, district, country).  
*The local constabulary was out in force at the Halloween celebration.*

**constellation**

n  
/ kənztə'lāshən /

L  
any one of 88 arbitrary configurations of stars or an area of the celestial sphere covering one of these configurations.  
*Rani found it difficult to see a scale in the constellation Libra.*

**constituent**

**constitution**

**constrain**

**construe**

v  
/ kənz'trü /

L > E  
explain the sense or intention of often to one's own satisfaction or according to or in conformity with a given set of circumstances.  
*Paul tried to construe the situation in the best possible light.*

**consuetude**

n  
/ kən(t)swət(y)üd /

L  
social usage : custom, habit.  
*The practice of men opening doors for women has fallen from consuetude.*

**consummate**

adj  
/ 'kän(t)səmät /

L  
of the very highest or finest : supremely excellent.  
*Marie was worried that her son would ruin the party, but he behaved like a consummate gentleman.*

**contagious**

**container**

**contemplate**

v  
/ 'kántəm.plāt /

L  
carefully and intently think about something : ponder.  
*The board of directors will contemplate the proposal from the rival company.*

**contemporaneous**

**contemptible**

adj  
/ kən'tem(p)təbəl /

L  
meriting scorn and condemnation as paltry, mean, base, or vile.  
*Though most people viewed the accused man as a contemptible being, Sister Agatha pitied him and tried to reach out to him.*

**contiguous**

adj  
/ kən'tigyəwəs /

L  
touching or connected throughout.  
*Mr. Wallace understands but resents higher shipping costs for U.S. customers living in states outside the contiguous 48.*

**contingencies**

n pl  
/ kən'tinjənsēz /

L  
possible future events or conditions or unforeseen occurrences that may necessitate special measures.  
*Setting the date of the family reunion involved considering the contingencies and conveniences of about 100 people.*

**continuum**

**contour**

**contraband**

n  
/ 'käntrə.bänd /

L > It  
goods or merchandise the importation, exportation, or sometimes possession of which is forbidden.  
*On the teacher's desk sat the contraband taken from students during the day.*

**contrabass**

**contrapuntal**

adj  
/ käntrə'pənt'l /

It  
of, relating to, or according to the rules of melodic part writing.  
*J. S. Bach was a master of contrapuntal melody.*

**contrariety**

n  
/ käntrə'riədē /

L  
the quality or state of being in opposition or disagreement.  
*Amanda was becoming impatient with her two-year-old son's contrariety.*

**contretemps**

n  
/ kō'trətä /

F + L > F  
an inopportune embarrassing occurrence : mishap, mischance.  
*Jeremy moved steadily from blunder to contretemps to embarrassment.*

**contrition**

n  
/ kən'trīshən /

L  
consciousness of guilt or sin giving rise to humility and sorrow.  
*In the warmth of true contrition she would call upon Miss Bates the very next morning, and it should be the beginning, on her side, of a regular, equal, kindly relationship.*

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**controversy**

n  
/ 'kɑntrəvɜrsē /  
L

a difference marked especially by the expression of opposing views : dispute.

*Most television talk shows seem more interested in creating controversy than in trying to resolve it.*

**contumacious**

**contumacy**

n  
/ kən't(y)üməsē /  
L > E

stubborn resistance to authority; specifically : willful contempt of court.

*In the Middle Ages contumacy could be punished by excommunication and the loss of civil rights.*

**contusion**

n  
/ kən't(y)üzhən /  
L

a bruise caused by external violence.

*The contusion on Wayne's shoulder began to fade nine days after his accident.*

**conundrums**

n pl  
/ kə'nɒndrəmz /

unknown riddles based on some fanciful or fantastic resemblance between things quite unlike and forming a puzzling question whose answer is or involves a pun.

*Mr. Elton was invited to contribute any really good conundrums to Emma's collection of riddles of every sort.*

**convalescence**

**convection**

n  
/ kən'vekshən /  
L

the circulatory motion that occurs in a fluid at a nonuniform temperature owing to the variation of its density and the action of gravity.

*In the tropics, strong convection draws warm air high into the sky.*

**convene**

**convenience**

**convergent**

adj  
/ kən'verjənt /  
L

tending to move toward one point or each other.

*The crowds leaving the stadium became convergent on their way to the subway entrance.*

**conversant**

adj  
/ kən'versənt /  
L

familiar or acquainted by use or study : well-informed.

*Sabendra is conversant in the latest movements in European art.*

**convertible**

n  
/ kən'verdəbəl /  
L

an automobile having a top that may be folded back, lowered, or removed.

*Thelma and Louise enjoyed cruising the highway in Louise's convertible.*

**conveyance**

**convivial**

adj  
/ kən'vivēəl /  
L

fond of good company and festivity.

*The convivial lodge owners enjoyed socializing with their guests.*

**convivially**

adv  
/ kən'vivēəlē /  
L + Ecf

in a manner that is fond of good company and festivity.

*Though the hostess felt ill and wanted to leave the party, she behaved convivially.*

**convolute**

**convoy**

**coordinate**

adj  
/ kō'örd(°)nət /  
L

equal in rank, quality, or significance.

*The United States attempts to keep the branches of government coordinate.*

**coossify**

**Copernican**

adj  
/ kō'pərnəkən /  
Pol name

of, relating to, or being the astronomic system of Copernicus in which the Sun is taken as the center of the planets.

*The Copernican view of the solar system was originally regarded as heretical.*

**copious**

adj  
/ 'kōpēəs /  
L

present in large quantity : plentiful, abundant, lavish.

*Patrick took copious notes during the lecture.*

**copyright**

**coquetry**

n  
/ 'kōkōtrē /  
F

effort or action intended to attract admiration, gallantry, or affection without responsive feeling.

*The princess used coquetry as a tool as a carpenter uses a hammer.*

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**coquettishly**

**coracle**

n  
/ 'kɔrəkəl /  
W

a small boat made by covering a wicker frame with hide or leather.  
*Ted rowed an old coracle to the small island in the lake.*

**cordially**

**cordillera**

n  
/ .kɔ(r)dɪ'lerə /  
L > Sp

a group of mountain ranges forming a mountain system of great linear extent.  
*The Andean cordillera extends along the west coast of South America.*

**corduroy**

n  
/ 'kɔ(r)də.rɔi /  
F > E name

a cut-pile fabric with vertical ribs or wales, usually made of cotton.  
*His worn trousers of corduroy were three inches too short.*

**coriander**

n  
/ .kɔrɪ'ændə(r) /  
L

an Old World herb whose ripened dried fruit is used for flavoring especially of pickles, curries, confectioneries, and liquor.  
*Jane almost always uses coriander to season her stew.*

**cormorant**

n  
/ 'kɔrm(ə)rənt /  
L > F > E

any of various dark-colored web-footed seabirds.  
*In parts of eastern Asia the cormorant is domesticated by fishermen.*

**cornea**

**cornice**

n  
/ 'kɔrnəs /  
Gk > L > It > F  
the typically molded and projecting horizontal member that crowns an architectural composition.  
*Here and there among the ruins of the great palace, a cornice or part of a column remained intact.*

**corniculate**

adj  
/ kɔ(r)'nɪkyələt /  
L  
having horns or small horn-shaped processes.  
*In some species of animals, only the males are corniculate.*

**cornucopia**

n  
/ .kɔ(r)n(y)ə'kɔpɪə /  
L  
a curved goat's horn from the mouth of which fruit and ears of corn overflow, emblematic of abundance—called also “horn of plenty.”  
*Robert placed various kinds of rolls in the basket shaped like a cornucopia and set it in the center of the table.*

**corollary**

n  
/ 'kɔrələ.rɪ /  
L  
a proposition that follows upon one just demonstrated and that requires no additional proof.  
*After proving the theorem, Mr. Barnes showed how the corollary logically followed.*

**coronach**

n  
/ 'kɔrənək /  
ScGael&IrGael  
a lamentation for the dead as sung or played on the bagpipes in Scotland and Ireland : dirge.  
*The mournful coronach could be heard throughout the valley.*

**coronary**

adj  
/ 'kɔrənərɪ /  
L  
of or involving the blood vessels of the heart; broadly : of or relating to the heart.  
*A blockage in a coronary artery caused Tom's heart attack.*

**coroner**

n  
/ 'kɔrənə(r) /  
L > F > AF > E  
a public officer whose principal duty is to inquire into the cause of any death which there is reason to suppose is not due to natural causes.  
*The job of coroner combines elements of medicine and detective work.*

**coronet**

n  
/ .kɔrə'net /  
Gk > L > F  
a small or lesser crown usually signifying a high rank below that of a sovereign.  
*The princess happily let her young cousin try on the coronet.*

**corporeal**

adj  
/ kɔ(r)'pɔrɪəl /  
L  
having, consisting of, or relating to a physical material body : not spiritual.  
*It's very difficult for Mrs. O'Connor to think in a corporeal way.*

**corpulent**

adj  
/ 'kɔ(r)pyələnt /  
L  
having a large bulky body.  
*Mike and Edie laughed at the corpulent gorilla as it stuffed bananas into its mouth.*

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**corpuscle**

n  
/ 'kɔ(r).pəsəl /  
L

a living cell that is somewhat isolated and not aggregated into continuous tissues.

*In the science fiction movie, a white corpuscle attacked the tiny ship as it traveled through the bloodstream.*

**corral**

v  
/ kə'ral /  
L > Sp

[has homonym: chorale] round up and drive (livestock) into a pen.  
*With the help of his dog, Jerry managed to corral the herd.*

**corralled**

**correspond**

v  
/ .kɔrə'spænd /  
L

communicate with a person by exchange of letters.

*Mason and his friends correspond frequently by e-mail.*

**corridor**

**corroborate**

v  
/ kə'rɒbərət /  
L

provide evidence of the truth of : confirm.

*Without a witness to corroborate his alibi, Zorba remained the chief suspect in the robbery case.*

**corrugated**

adj  
/ 'kɔrə.gətəd /  
L

having a ridged or furrowed surface.

*The corrugated sand dune looked like a work of art.*

**corruptible**

**corsage**

**corsair**

**cortisone**

**coruscate**

v  
/ 'kɔrə.skāt /  
L

gleam with intermittent flashes : glitter, sparkle.

*The flickering light from Trudy's lantern made the cave walls coruscate.*

**corybantic**

adj  
/ .kɔrə'bantik /  
Gk

like or in the spirit of the attendants or priests of the nature goddess Cybele noted for wildly emotional processions and rites; specifically : wild, frenzied.

*At the rock concert many fans engaged in corybantic dancing.*

**corymb**

n  
/ 'kɔrɪm(b) /  
Gk > L > F

a flower cluster in which the flower stalks arise at different levels on the main axis and reach about the same height, forming a somewhat flat-topped cluster.

*Each corymb of Queen Anne's lace by the porch has a bumblebee on it.*

**cosmogensis**

n  
/ .kəzmɔ'jenəsəs /  
Gk

a part of the science of astronomy that deals with the origin and development of the universe.

*Contrary to his expectations, Lionel's study of cosmogenesis made him more religious.*

**cosmopolite**

n  
/ kəz'məpə.līt /  
Gk

one that is at home in every country.

*Although she considered herself a cosmopolite, Sharon still couldn't get used to driving on the left side of the road.*

**coterie**

n  
/ 'kɔdərə /  
F

an intimate often exclusive group of persons having a binding common interest or purpose : clique.

*Phyllis and her coterie arrived fashionably late for the gallery opening.*

**coterminous**

**cotyledon**

n  
/ .kəd'ɪlɛdən /  
Gk > L

the first leaf or one of the first pair or whorl of leaves developed by the embryo in seed plants and in ferns and related plants.

*Mr. Pittman drew a fern cotyledon on the blackboard.*

**couchant**

adj  
/ 'kauchənt /  
F

lying down with the head up.  
*The coat of arms depicted a couchant lion.*

**cough**

**coulisse**

n  
/ kü'lēs /  
F

a side scene of the stage in a theater or the space between the side scenes.

*The path depicted in the coulisse led the eyes to the center stage.*

**couloir**

n  
/ kü'l'wär /  
L > F

a deep gorge.

*Lance hiked along the stream at the bottom of the couloir.*

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**counsel**

n  
/ 'kaʊn(t)səl /  
L > F > E

[has homonym: council] advice, direction.

*Mr. Knightley shared unpleasant truths with Emma and proved himself her friend by very faithful counsel.*

**countenance**

n  
/ 'kaʊnt(ə)nən(t)s /  
L > F > E

the expressive appearance of one's face : look, expression.

*The department store Santa's countenance set Loretta at ease.*

**counterfeit**

**countermand**

**countervail**

v  
/ 'kaʊntər.vəl /  
L > F > E

oppose or exert force against : counteract.

*Miles built a low wall around his sloping garden to countervail erosion.*

**countian**

**coup**

n  
/ 'kü /  
F

a sudden decisive exercise of localized or concentrated force unseating the personnel of a government.

*The dictator was ousted by a military coup.*

**coupon**

**courier**

n  
/ 'kʊrɪə(r) /  
L > It > F

[has homonym: currier] one who carries messages, news, or information either with urgent haste or in accordance with a regular schedule.

*Jaime worked as a courier after school to earn money for a new car.*

**courlan**

**courteously**

**cousin**

**couture**

n  
/ kü'tü(ə)r /  
L > F

the business of designing, making, and selling fashionable expensive custom-made women's clothing.

*At the Paris fashion shows Carolyn talked to several young designers who were just starting out in couture.*

**covenant**

n  
/ 'kəvənənt /  
L > F > E

an agreement that is usually formal, solemn, and intended as binding.

*The book of Genesis describes Noah's covenant with God that saved his family from the Great Flood.*

**covey**

n  
/ 'kəvɪ /  
L > F > E

a small flock or number of birds of the same kind—used typically of partridges and certain related birds.

*The hunter aimed at the covey of quail flying over the pasture.*

**coyote**

n  
/ ki'tɔd(ɪ) /  
Nahuatl > Sp

a small wolf native to the western part of North America and well established northward in Alaska and eastward at least as far as New York state.

*The lone male coyote kept to the edges of the pack for many days before being accepted into the group.*

**cozened**

v  
/ 'kəzənd /  
L > It

obtained by artful wheedling or tricky dishonesty.

*The crooked lawyer cozened the life's savings of several of his clients.*

**craniectomy**

**craquelure**

**crassamentum**

**credential**

**credenza**  
n  
/ krə'denzə /  
L > It

a sideboard, buffet, or bookcase without legs whose base rests flat on the floor.

*Robin's CDs are on the second shelf of the credenza.*

**credulity**

n  
/ crə'd(y)ülədɪ /  
L

belief or readiness of belief especially on slight or uncertain evidence.

*Marco's personality was a strange mixture of shrewdness and credulity.*

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**creekology**

n  
/ krē'käləjē /  
ON > E + Gk  
any method of searching for oil based on a limited knowledge of geology and practiced especially by wildcat prospectors.  
*Doug, who was known for his nose for oil, attributed his success to creekology.*

**creel**

**crenate**

adj  
/ 'krē.nāt /  
L  
having the margin cut into rounded scallops.  
*The crenate leaves on Freda's specimen gave her a clue as to its classification.*

**creophagy**

n  
/ krē'äfəjē /  
Gk  
the use of flesh as food.  
*After visiting a slaughterhouse, Stephanie was repulsed by creophagy and became a vegetarian.*

**crepitant**

adj  
/ 'krēpədənt /  
L  
having or making a crackling sound : crackling.  
*The boys rolled and tumbled in the pile of crepitant leaves.*

**crepuscular**

adj  
/ krə'pəsk(y)ələ(r) /  
L + Ecf  
active in the twilight.  
*Darnel blurted out "firefly" when the teacher asked for an example of a crepuscular insect.*

**crescendo**

n  
/ krə'shen(,)dō /  
L > It  
the peak of a gradual increase (as in physical or emotional force or intensity).  
*As soon as his boat sailed out of the harbor, Angus realized that the wind was nearing a crescendo.*

**crescent**

n  
/ 'kresənt /  
L > F > E  
the shape or figure defined by a convex and a concave edge.  
*The moon's silvery crescent disappeared as the eclipse reached totality.*

**crescive**

adj  
/ 'kresiv /  
L  
increasing, growing.  
*The crecive vines traveled up the trellis.*

**crecograph**

n  
/ 'kreskəgraf /  
L + Ecf + Gk  
an instrument for making perceptible the growth of plants.  
*The crecograph can magnify small plant movements as much as ten million times.*

**cretonne**

**crewelwork**

**cribbage**

n  
/ 'kribij /  
E  
a card game for two and sometimes three or four players each of whom is dealt six cards one or two of which are discarded before play to form an extra hand for the dealer.  
*Kathy and her cousins are ferociously competitive when they play cribbage.*

**cribral**

adj  
/ 'kribrəl /  
L  
of or relating to a sieve : perforated.  
*The mouths of certain whales contain a cribral structure for collecting food.*

**cricetid**

n  
/ krə'sēdəd /  
Slav > L  
any of a family of small rodents including lemmings, voles, and hamsters.  
*The hamster is an example of a cricetid that is kept as a pet.*

**crimson**

n  
/ 'krimzən /  
Ar > Sp > E  
any of several deep or vivid reds or purplish reds of rather indefinite range.  
*The sun was dropping slowly from sight, and stripes of purple and orange and crimson and gold reached upward from the distant hills.*

**crinoline**

n  
/ 'krin'lən /  
L > It > F  
a full stiff skirt or underskirt.  
*The crinoline that Andrea wore in the pageant made her knees itch.*

**criophore**

**crocheting**

v  
/ krō'shāin /  
F + Ecf  
working with needlework consisting of the interlocking of looped stitches formed with a single thread and a hooked needle.  
*Marie sat nearby crocheting and tried to take a friendly interest in the game.*

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**cromlech**

n  
/ 'kräm.lek /  
W

a circle of monoliths usually enclosing a dolmen or mound.  
*Inspired by their study of Stonehenge, Mr. Akala's fifth-grade class built a cromlech on the playground.*

**cronyism**

n  
/ 'krōnē.izəm /  
Gk + Ecf

partiality to familiar friends especially as evidenced in the appointing of political hangers-on to office without due regard for their qualifications.  
*When the mayor appointed his best friend head of the police department, he was accused of cronyism.*

**croquet**

n  
/ krō'kā /  
F

a game in which players drive wooden balls with mallets through a series of wickets set out on a lawn in a particular order.  
*Erica and her friends played croquet in the churchyard.*

**crotchety**

adj  
/ 'krächədəē /  
F > E

subject to whims, crankiness, or ill temper.  
*Not getting enough sleep usually makes Trudy crotchety in the morning.*

**croup**

n  
/ 'krüp /  
imit

a spasmodic laryngitis in infants and children characterized by episodes of difficult breathing and hoarse cough.  
*Mrs. Dowling hoped Everett's sore throat wouldn't develop into croup.*

**croupier**

n  
/ 'krüpē.ā /  
F

an employee of a gambling casino who watches, collects, and pays bets and assists the dealer in charge of the table.  
*The croupier tossed two more \$100 chips onto Daphne's growing pile.*

**croustade**

n  
/ krü'stād /  
Prov > F

a crisp shell (as of toasted or fried bread) in which to serve food.  
*Louise didn't know whether or not she was supposed to eat the croustade in which her salad was served.*

**crucial**

**crucible**

n  
/ 'krüsəbəl /  
L

a vessel or melting pot that is used for melting and calcining a substance (as metal and ore) which requires a high degree of heat.  
*Clyde began the experiment by dumping the collected samples into a crucible.*

**cruciferous**

adj  
/ krü'sif(ə)rəs /  
L + Ecff

belonging to or having the characteristics of the mustards or related plants.  
*Cruciferous vegetables are an excellent source of beta carotene.*

**cruller**

n  
/ 'krələ(r) /  
D

a small sweet cake made of a rich egg batter formed into twisted strips and fried brown in deep fat.  
*Olive couldn't decide whether to order a cruller or an éclair with her coffee.*

**Crusade**

n  
/ krü'sād /  
F

an expedition undertaken for a declared religious purpose.  
*The first Crusade to reclaim Jerusalem for Christians began in 1096.*

**crustacean**

n  
/ ,krə'stāshən /  
L

an animal belonging to a large class of Arthropoda comprising the majority of the marine or freshwater arthropods (as lobsters, shrimps, crabs, and barnacles).  
*Our team's mascot is Crusty the Crustacean, a ten-pound Maine lobster.*

**cryology**

n  
/ krī'äləjē /  
Gk

the study of snow and ice.  
*In cryology, students learn how glaciers grow, shrink, advance, and retreat.*

**cryophilic**

**cryophorus**

n  
/ ,krī'äfərəs /  
Gk > L

an instrument that illustrates the freezing of water by its own evaporation.  
*The cryophorus was made of glass in the form of a tube connecting two globes partially filled with liquid.*

**cryptic**

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**cryptographer**

n  
/ krip'tägräfə(r) /  
Gk  
one that practices the art of preparing or reading messages in a form intended to prevent their being read by those not privy to secrets of the form.  
*An inveterate cryptographer, Rico enjoys searching ordinary writing samples for hidden messages.*

**cryptonym**

n  
/ 'kriptənim /  
Gk  
a secret name.  
*Each person in our club was given a cryptonym known only to the other members.*

**crystal**

adj  
/ 'kristəl /  
Gk  
consisting of or resembling quartz that is transparent or nearly so and that is either colorless or only slightly tinged.  
*Once inside, they hurried down a long hallway, which glittered with crystal chandeliers.*

**crystosphere**

n  
/ 'kristəsfi:n /  
Gk  
a buried sheet of ice under the tundra of North America formed by the freezing of spring water.  
*The geologist measured the thickness of the crystosphere.*

**cubic**

adj  
/ 'kyübik /  
Gk > L > F  
relating to a crystal form that consists of six similar, mutually perpendicular faces.  
*Gold crystallizes in a cubic structure with a density of 19.4 grams per cubic centimeter.*

**cucaracha**

n  
/ kükə'rächə /  
Mexican song  
a Mexican ballroom and nightclub dance.  
*Determined to win the state ballroom dance title, Joan and Marlon practiced their cucaracha for weeks.*

**cuchifrito**

n  
/ kuchi'frədō /  
Sp  
a deep-fried cube of pork.  
*When Lane wasn't looking, Stephanie popped a cuchifrito into the dog's mouth.*

**cuckoo**

n  
/ 'kü(,)kü /  
E imitative  
[has homonym: kuku] a familiar European bird that is noted for its characteristic two-syllabled whistle and for its habit of laying its eggs in the nests of other birds for them to hatch.  
*The cuckoo in the aviary sounded just like Grandmother's clock.*

**cucurbit**

n  
/ kyü'kərbət /  
L > F > E  
(Note: Dictionary designates as attributive.) a many-seeded fleshy fruit plant with a hard rind (such as squashes, pumpkins, and certain gourds).  
*The cucurbit is probably put to a wider variety of uses than is any other fruit family.*

**cudgel**

n  
/ 'kəjəl /  
E  
a short heavy stick used as an instrument for punishment or a weapon.  
*A nightstick is one kind of cudgel.*

**cuirass**

**culgee**

n  
/ 'kəl.gē /  
Per > Hindi  
a jeweled plume worn in India on the turban.  
*Professor Singh happily loaned his grandfather's culgee to the museum.*

**culinary**

adj  
/ 'kəl.nerē /  
L  
of or relating to the kitchen or cookery.  
*The early colonists used herbs for both culinary and medicinal purposes.*

**culminant**

adj  
/ 'kəlmənənt /  
L  
being at greatest altitude or on the meridian.  
*The Sun casts the shortest shadows when it is culminant.*

**culotte**

**culpable**

adj  
/ 'kəlpəbəl /  
L  
meriting condemnation or censure especially as criminal or as conducive to accident, loss, or disaster.  
*The property owner was guilty of culpable negligence in the accident involving an uncovered manhole.*

**culprit**

n  
/ 'kəlpɹət /  
L > AF  
one who is guilty of a crime or other wrongdoing.  
*The detectives devised a plan to capture the culprit.*

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**cultivation**

n  
/ kəltə'vāshən /  
L

the art or process of farming.  
*Frigid weather conditions and barren soil make cultivation of tundra almost impossible.*

**culturati**

n pl  
/ kəlchə'rād(ɪ)ē /  
Gk + Lcf

people intensely interested in the artistic and intellectual aspects or content of human activity.  
*The scheduled performance by "The Three Tenors" generated excitement among the city's culturati.*

**cumbersome**

adj  
/ 'kəmbə(r)səm /  
F > E + Ecf

of an excessive size, shape, or length : unwieldy.  
*Emrick dragged his cumbersome duffel bag by its strap.*

**cumbrous**

adj  
/ 'kəmbɾəs /  
E

giving trouble : vexatious.  
*A swarm of cumbrous gnats followed the hikers all day long.*

**cummerbund**

n  
/ 'kəmə(r).bænd /  
Per > Hindi

a waistband worn in place of a vest with men's dress clothes.  
*The bride wanted the groom's cummerbund to match the pale pink of her flowers.*

**cumulative**

**cuneiform**

adj  
/ kyü'nēə.fōrm /  
L + L

written in characters composed of strokes having the form of a wedge or arrowhead.  
*The cuneiform Code of Hammurabi is the most complete record of ancient Babylonian law in existence.*

**cupboard**

**cupressineous**

adj  
/ .k(y)üprə'sinēəs /  
Gk > L + Ecf

relating to or resembling the cypress.  
*The wood of cupressineous trees is usually light, moderately hard, and very durable.*

**curator**

n  
/ kyə'rādə(r) /  
L

one in charge of the exhibits, research activities, and personnel of a museum, zoo, or other place of exhibit.  
*Eric interviewed the curator of marine mammals at the aquarium.*

**curiousness**

n  
/ 'kyürēəsnəs /  
L > F > E + Ecf

the quality of being inquisitive.  
*Dickon's round eyes were full of eager curiousness but he said not a word.*

**curlew**

**curliewurly**

**curmudgeon**

n  
/ (ɪ)kər'məjən /  
unknown

a crusty, ill-tempered, or difficult and often elderly person.  
*Fiona's dad called her grandfather a "cantankerous old curmudgeon."*

**current**

adj  
/ 'kərənt /  
L

[has homonyms: courant, currant] presently elapsing.  
*In the current fiscal year Cornucopia College enjoys a slight budget surplus.*

**curriculum**

n  
/ kə'rikyləm /  
L

the whole body of courses offered by an educational institution or one of its branches.  
*The school is planning to add Latin to its curriculum next year.*

**cursorly**

**curtain**

n  
/ 'kərt'n /  
L > F > E

the screen separating the stage from the auditorium of a theater.  
*The law states that the theater curtain must be made of fireproof material.*

**curtilage**

n  
/ 'kərd'lij /  
F > E

a yard, courtyard, or other piece of ground included within a fence surrounding a dwelling house.  
*The police searched the house and the curtilage for any clues relating to the robbery.*

**curvature**

n  
/ 'kərvə.chü(ə)r /  
L

the act or state of deviating from a straight line or course typically with a rounded gradual effect.  
*The curvature of the brick path gave the garden a pleasing informality.*

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**custard**

n  
/ 'kəstə(r)d /  
L > Prov > E

a sweetened mixture of milk and eggs that is baked, boiled, or frozen.

*Lemon custard is Harold's favorite dessert.*

**custody**

n  
/ 'kəstədē /  
L > E

charge or control (as of a suspect) exercised by a person or an authority.

*The suspect was kept in police custody until she provided an incontrovertible alibi.*

**cutaneous**

adj  
/ kyü'tānēəs /  
L

of or relating to the skin.

*Cutaneous sensation includes feeling cold, heat, contact, and pain.*

**cuticle**

n  
/ 'kyüdəkəl /  
L

an external membranous or hardened noncellular investment secreted by the outer surface of the body (as in arthropods).

*Because expansion cannot occur in the chitinous cuticle, the growing insect must periodically shed its covering.*

**cyanosis**

n  
/ .sīə'nōsəs /  
Gk

a bluish or purplish discoloration (as of skin) due to deficient oxygenation of the blood.

*Cyanosis may result from pneumonia, asphyxiation, heart failure, or heart anomalies.*

**cybernetics**

n pl  
/ .sībə(r)'nediks /  
Gk

the comparative study of the automatic control system formed by the nervous system and brain and by mechanical-electrical communication systems and devices (as computers or thermostats).

*Bertha's new robotics software promised to revolutionize cybernetics.*

**cyclical**

adj  
/ 'sɪkləkəl /  
Gk

of, relating to, or belonging to a regularly recurring succession of events or phenomena.

*Mr. Ramirez explained the cyclical phases of the Moon to the science class today.*

**cyclogenesis**

n  
/ .sī(ɪ)klɔ'jənəsəs /  
Gk

the process of development or intensification of a rotating storm system.

*Satellites have greatly improved the monitoring of cyclogenesis.*

**cyclonic**

adj  
/ sɪ'klänɪk /  
Gk

of, relating to, or having the characteristics of a rotating storm.

*Cyclonic disturbances known as hurricanes usually occur during the summer and fall.*

**cycloserine**

**cygnet**

n  
/ 'sɪgnət /  
Gk > L > F > E

a young swan.

*Six-year-old Abby, openly contemptuous of the fairy tale, patiently explained to her mother that there's no way an ugly duckling can turn into a swan—only a cygnet can.*

**cylinder**

**cymbals**

**cynegetics**

n pl  
/ .sɪnə'jedɪks /  
Gk

the art of hunting.

*Mrs. White began her talk about cynegetics with a recording of melodies played on hunting horns.*

**cynology**

n  
/ sə'näləjē /  
Gk

[has homonym: sinology] scientific study of the dog especially in respect to its natural history.

*Having a coyote as a childhood pet gave Rick an early interest in cynology.*

**cynophilist**

n  
/ sə'näfələst /  
Gk

[Note: Could be confused with form of sinophil/sinophile.] a dog fancier : one that is favorably disposed toward dogs.

*Although Leon considered himself a cynophilist, he did not trust the pit bull terrier.*

**cynosure**

n  
/ 'sɪnə.shü(ə)r /  
Gk

a center of attraction or interest.

*The student union, with its billiard tables, bowling alley, and snack bar, is a cynosure for freshmen during orientation week.*

**Cytherean**

adj  
/ .sɪthə'rēən /  
Gk > L + Ecf

of or relating to the goddess Venus or to the planet Venus.

*The Cytherean atmosphere has a high concentration of sulfuric acid.*

**cytotoxic**

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**cytology**

n  
/ sī'täləjē /  
Gk + Gk

[has homonym: sitology] the branch of biology concerned with the study of cells as vital units with reference to their structure, function, multiplication, pathology, and life history.

*For differentiating between benign and malignant lesions, cytology offers a more precise method of diagnosis than does the use of X rays.*

**dachshund**

n  
/ 'däks.hünt /  
G + G

a small dog of a breed of German origin having long drooping ears, commonly a short sleek coat, and the legs short in comparison with the body length.

*Chloe has a brown dachshund named "Oscar."*

**dacquoise**

n  
/ dāk'wäáz /  
F

a dessert made of baked layers of nut meringue with a filling usually of buttercream.

*The hotel dessert buffet included a chocolate-pecan dacquoise.*

**dactylogram**

n  
/ dak'tilə.gram /  
Gk + Gk

an impression taken from a finger : fingerprint.

*Calvin used a magnifying glass to examine the loops and whorls in a dactylogram of his index finger.*

**dactylogy**

**dactyloscopy**

n  
/ daktə'läskəpē /  
Gk

identification by comparison of fingerprints.

*Dactyloscopy indicated that the suspect's fingerprints are indeed on the murder weapon.*

**daedal**

adj  
/ 'dēd'əl /  
Gk

ingeniously formed or working : like a maze : intricate.

*The children's quiz show led its contestants through a daedal journey of stunts and questions.*

**daffodil**

**daffodils**

n pl  
/ 'däfə.dilz /  
D + L > F > D

plants having flowers that have a large corona elongated into a trumpet.

*These flowers blooming in the snow are daffodils and snowdrops.*

**daguerreotype**

**dahlia**

n  
/ 'dalyə /  
Sw name > L

a plant of a genus of tuberous-rooted herbs having rayed flower heads.

*The brightly colored flowers of the dahlia can be six inches in diameter.*

**daiquiri**

**dais**

n  
/ 'dāəs /  
L > F > E

a platform raised usually above the floor of a hall or large room to give distinction or prominence to those occupying it.

*A round dais was exactly in the center of the room.*

**Daliesque**

adj  
/ 'dälē'esk /  
Sp name

resembling or suggesting the paintings of the Spanish surrealist artist Dali.

*The poster showed a Daliesque face with feathers poking out of each nostril.*

**dalliance**

**dallied**

**damask**

**Damoclean**

adj  
/ .damə'klēən /  
Gk name + Ecf

involving imminent danger.

*Retrieving the car keys from the piranha tank was a Damoclean task indeed.*

**dandelion**

**dangerous**

**dangle**

**danseuse**

n  
/ dän'sə(r)z /  
F

a female ballet dancer.

*Denise was advised that being a danseuse was as exhausting as it was rewarding.*

**Dantesque**

adj  
/ .dän'tesk /

It name  
of, relating to, or resembling the Italian writer Dante or his writings.  
*The Dantesque image of a soul in torture repulsed Regina.*

**dashiki**

**dashing**

adj  
/ 'dashiŋ /  
E imit + Ecf

vigorously active : spirited.

*The dashing actor was the talk of the party.*

**dastardly**

**dasymeter**

**dauntless**

**dawdle**

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**dawdler**

n  
/ 'dɔd(ə)lə(r) /  
unknown + Ecf  
one who wastes time in idle  
lingering.  
*Lauren was such a dawdler that  
she often missed the school bus.*

**dazzling**

v  
/ 'daz(ə)liŋ /  
ON > E + Ecf  
overpowering with brightness :  
shining.  
*Morgan took great satisfaction in  
dazzling his neighbors with his  
Christmas light display.*

**deacon**

**deactivate**

**deacerate**

**dearth**

n  
/ 'dɜrθ /  
E  
scarcity : lack of a present  
necessity.  
*The general realized that his army  
was suffering from a dearth of self-  
confidence.*

**debacle**

n  
/ də'bækəl /  
L > OProv > F  
a sudden breakdown : collapse.  
*Craig reads everything he can find  
regarding the Wall Street debacle  
of 1929.*

**debarrass**

**debenture**

n  
/ də'benʃə(r) /  
L  
a writing or certificate signed by a  
public officer as evidence of a debt  
or of a right to demand or receive a  
sum of money.  
*Uncle John treasures the debenture  
issued by the Confederate  
government, even though it is  
actually worthless.*

**debility**

**debonairness**

**debouchment**

n  
/ də'bʊʃmənt /  
F  
a mouth or outlet especially of a  
river.  
*The river's debouchment had to be  
dredged because the sediment was  
a hazard to navigation.*

**debridement**

n  
/ də'brɛd.mənt /  
F  
the surgical removal of lacerated,  
devitalized, or contaminated tissue.  
*The doctor explained to the  
firefighter why debridement was  
the best treatment for his second-  
degree burns.*

**debris**

n  
/ də'brɛ /  
F  
the remains of something broken  
down or destroyed.  
*Scattered debris lies where  
majestic homes stood before last  
week's tornado.*

**debut**

**decadent**

**decaffeinate**

**decanter**

**decendent**

n  
/ də'sɛdnt /  
L  
a dead person; especially : a person  
who has recently died.  
*The relatives of the decendent  
gathered for the reading of the will.*

**deceitful**

adj  
/ də'sɛtʃəl /  
E + Ecf  
dishonest.  
*The Better Business Bureau warned  
Jasper of the awning company's  
deceitful business practices.*

**deceive**

v  
/ də'si:v /  
L > F > E  
cause to believe the false : delude.  
*Cara's forgery of her mother's  
signature did not deceive the  
principal.*

**decelerate**

v  
/ dɛ'sɛlə.rɪt /  
L  
lessen the speed of : slow down.  
*Reversing engine thrust is used to  
decelerate jets upon landing.*

**deceleron**

**decennial**

**decentralization**

**decibel**

n  
/ 'desə.bəl /  
L + Scottish-American name  
a unit for measuring the relative  
loudness of sounds equal  
approximately to the smallest  
degree of difference of loudness  
ordinarily detectable by the human  
ear.  
*Differences of one decibel can be  
important to a recording engineer.*

**deciduous**

adj  
/ də'si:dʒwəs /  
L  
falling off or shed at the end of the  
growing period, at certain seasons,  
or at certain stages of development.  
*Deciduous trees drop their leaves  
each fall.*

**decimal**

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**decimate**

v  
/ 'desə.māt /  
L

select by lot and kill every tenth person of.  
*The terrorist promised to decimate the group of hostages every half hour until his demands were met.*

**deciphered**

v  
/ də'sɪfə(r)d /  
L + Ar > L > F > E

made out, read, or interpreted despite obscuration.  
*When one considers the variety of handwriting, and of bad handwriting, too, that must be deciphered, it increases the wonder that so seldom a letter is delivered to the wrong person.*

**decistere**

n  
/ 'desə.sti(ə)r /  
F

a metric unit of capacity equal to 1/10 cubic meter.  
*Caleb bought a decistere of lime for his front lawn.*

**declamatory**

adj  
/ də'klamə.tōrē /  
L

marked by rhetorical effect or display : stilted.  
*Minna's declamatory sermon alienated many of her listeners.*

**declension**

**decline**

**declivate**

adj  
/ də'klɪ.vāt /  
L

inclining downward : sloping.  
*Mary Ann slid down the declivate roof of the playhouse.*

**declivous**

**decompose**

v  
/ dɪkəm'pōz /  
L > F

separate or resolve into constituent parts or elements or into simpler compounds.  
*Mr. Landry asked the students whether they knew any compounds other than methanol which decompose into carbon dioxide and water.*

**decorous**

adj  
/ 'dekərəs /  
L

marked by propriety and good taste.  
*Lucia was surprised to find that the disc jockey was as decorous off the air as he was volcanic while on the air.*

**decorticate**

v  
/ dɛ'kɔ(r)dəkāt /  
L

remove the bark, husk, or other outer covering from.  
*Sharp front teeth allow squirrels to decorticate hickory nuts.*

**decoupage**

n  
/ .dākü'pāzh /  
F

the art of decorating surfaces by applying cutouts and then coating them with several layers of a finish such as lacquer or varnish.  
*Aunt Hazel's interest in arts and crafts was kindled by a free class in decoupage.*

**decreolization**

**decrescendo**

**decuman**

adj  
/ 'dekyəmən /  
L

(of a wave) : extremely large.  
*That decuman wave that took the ship fore and aft swept the life raft off the deck.*

**decumbiture**

**decussate**

adj  
/ 'dekəsət /  
L

shaped like an X.  
*Each wing of the moth had a decussate marking.*

**deducibility**

**defamatory**

**defeasible**

adj  
/ də'fēzəbəl /  
F + Ecf  
capable of being or liable to being voided, annulled, or undone.  
*When a family adopts a baby, several requirements have to be met; otherwise the adoption is defeasible.*

**defendant**

n  
/ də'fendənt /  
L > F

a person required to make answer in an action or suit in law or equity or in a criminal action.  
*When the foreman of the jury read the verdict of "not guilty," the defendant embraced his attorneys.*

**deferential**

**defervescence**

n  
/ .dɛ(ɪ)fər'ves'n(t)s /  
L

the subsidence of a fever.  
*Antonio's mother was relieved to note the signs of defervescence in her son.*

**deficiency**

n  
/ də'fɪshənsē /  
L

the quality or state of lacking some quality, faculty, or characteristic necessary for completeness.  
*Scurvy is caused by a deficiency of vitamin C in the diet.*

**defilade**

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

**definite**

adj  
/ 'def(ə)nət /  
L

free of all ambiguity, uncertainty, or obscurity.  
*Dad sounded quite definite when he told us to turn off the TV.*

**degauss**

**deglutition**

**dehisce**

**dehiscence**

n  
/ də'his'n(t)s /  
L + Ecf  
the bursting open of a capsule or pod at maturity.  
*In dry weather, dehiscence of some seed pods occurs prematurely.*

**deify**

**deign**

**deipnosophist**

n  
/ dip'nəsəfəst /  
Gk  
a person skilled in table talk.  
*Clint's reputation as a deipnosophist makes him an ideal dinner guest.*

**delectable**

adj  
/ də'lektəbəl /  
L  
deliciously flavored.  
*JoAnne selected Black Forest cake from the delectable dessert offerings.*

**delegate**

**deleterious**

adj  
/ delə'tirēəs /  
Gk  
hurtful, destructive.  
*The museum did not permit flash photography because of the possible deleterious effects on the paintings.*

**deleteriously**

adv  
/ delə'tirēəsli /  
Gk + Ecf  
in a hurtful or destructive manner.  
*It seems that every day we are reminded that smoking affects the body deleteriously.*

**delicacy**

n  
/ 'deləkəsē /  
L  
something pleasing to eat that is accounted rare or luxurious.  
*Caviar is considered a delicacy.*

**delicatessen**

n  
/ deləkə'tes'n /  
F > G  
a store where ready-to-eat food products (as cooked meats and prepared salads) are sold.  
*Marta stopped at the delicatessen to buy some cold cuts for our lunch.*

**delicious**

adj  
/ də'lishəs /  
L  
appealing to one of the bodily senses, especially that of taste.  
*Judith said the fudge was the most delicious she had ever tasted.*

**delineate**

**delinquency**

**delinquent**

n  
/ də'liŋkwənt /  
L  
a transgressor against duty or law.  
*The police referred to Harold as a "delinquent" when he was found on the street after curfew.*

**deliquesce**

v  
/ delək'wes /  
L  
become soft or liquid with age.  
*After a couple of weeks in the refrigerator, lettuce begins to deliquesce.*

**deliquescent**

**delirious**

adj  
/ də'lirēəs /  
L  
affected with frenzied excitement or wild enthusiasm.  
*The delirious fans rushed onto the field to congratulate the champions.*

**delitescent**

adj  
/ delə'tesənt /  
L  
lying hidden : obfuscated, latent.  
*The psychiatrist tried to discover the delitescent significance of his patient's dreams.*

**delphinium**

**deltiology**

n  
/ delte'äləjē /  
Gk  
the hobby of collecting postcards.  
*Jodie got started in deltiology just last year but already has postcards from over 100 countries.*

**deltoidal**

**delude**

**deluge**

n  
/ 'del(,)yüj /  
L > F > E  
a drenching rain : downpour.  
*The children were caught in a deluge as they waited for the school bus.*

**demagoguery**

n  
/ 'deməgäg(ə)rē /  
Gk + Ecf  
the principles or practices of rabble-rousers.  
*Economic hardship often gives rise to demagoguery.*

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**demarcate**

v  
/ də'mär.kāt /  
Gmc > It > Sp  
mark by bounds.  
*Sol used fishing line to demarcate his half of the room from his brother's.*

**demaree**

**demeanor**

n  
/ də'mēnə(r) /  
L > F > E  
behavior toward others : outward manner.  
*The vice-president's icily serious demeanor was fodder for the late-night talk shows.*

**demegoric**

**dementia**

**demersal**

**demesne**

n  
/ də'mān /  
F  
[has near homonym: domain] legal possession of land as one's own.  
*The earl vowed to defend his demesne at any cost.*

**demiglace**

**demijohn**

n  
/ 'demē.jän /  
F + F name > E  
a narrow-necked bottle of glass or stoneware that is enclosed in wickerwork and has one or two wicker handles.  
*Water glugged from the demijohn as Emily emptied it on the lawn.*

**demise**

**demitasse**

n  
/ 'demē.tas /  
L > F > E + Per > Ar > F  
a small cup of coffee usually taken black.  
*Nathan sipped nervously at a demitasse while he waited for his attorney.*

**demobilize**

**democracy**

n  
/ də'mäkrəsē /  
Gk > L  
a government by the people : rule of the majority.  
*Cara could not imagine what her life would be like if it were governed not by a democracy but instead by the whims of a few people.*

**demography**

n  
/ də'mägrəfē /  
Gk  
the statistical study of the characteristics of human populations especially with reference to size and density, growth, distribution, migration, and vital statistics.  
*Beth's interest in demography led her to a career in advertising.*

**demolition**

**demoniacal**

**demulcent**

adj  
/ də'məlsənt /  
L  
soothing, softening.  
*The pharmacist told Boris that a demulcent syrup would be best for his sore throat.*

**demurrage**

**demurs**

n pl  
/ də'mərz /  
L  
difficulties in making up one's mind : indecisions.  
*Harriet's message was unequivocal, containing no doubts or demurs.*

**dengue**

n  
/ 'deŋ(,)gē /  
African? > Sp  
[has homonym: dinghy] an acute infectious disease characterized by sudden onset, headache, racking joint pain, and a rash and caused by a virus transmitted by mosquitoes.  
*The African village was quarantined after an outbreak of dengue.*

**denizen**

n  
/ 'denəzən /  
L > F > E  
a dweller in a certain place or region.  
*Melvin asked a local denizen for directions.*

**denominator**

**denouement**

n  
/ ,dānū'mä<sup>n</sup> /  
L > F  
the final outcome, result, or unraveling of the main dramatic complication in a play or other work of literature.  
*The loose ends of the plot were neatly tied up in the surprising denouement.*

**dentifrice**

n  
/ 'dentəfrəs /  
L  
a powder, paste, or liquid used in cleaning the teeth.  
*John decided to use a dentifrice containing baking soda.*

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**denunciation**

n  
/ dənənsē'āshən /

L  
the act of pronouncing (as a person, idea, course of conduct, or political philosophy) as blameworthy or evil.

*The senator's speech was a denunciation of many federal programs.*

**depilatory**

n  
/ də'pilə.tōrē /

L > F  
a cosmetic for the temporary removal of undesired hair.

*Hank mixed a depilatory into his sister's shampoo.*

**depreciated**

v  
/ 'deprə.kādəd /

L  
sought to avert.  
*When a very thick letter from Mr. Churchill was brought to Emma, she guessed what it must contain and depreciated the necessity of reading it.*

**deprecatory**

**depredatory**

adj  
/ 'deprədə.tōrē /

L  
tending to lay waste or prey upon : plundering.  
*Following the earthquake, depredatory gangs looted many stores.*

**depurate**

v  
/ 'depyə.rāt /

L  
free from impurities or heterogeneous matter : purify, cleanse.

*The hiking book advised using iodine tablets and a filter to depurate groundwater before drinking it.*

**deracinated**

adj  
/ də'ras'n.ātəd /

L > F + Ecf  
physically, mentally, or emotionally separated from one's racial, social, or intellectual group.  
*Erica's father worries that she might become deracinated at such a large university.*

**derailleur**

n  
/ də'rālə(r) /

F  
[has homonym: derailer] a mechanism for shifting gears on a bicycle that operates by moving the chain from one set of exposed gears to another.

*Laurent's derailleur jammed a few minutes into the race, and he was forced to the side of the road.*

**deranged**

adj  
/ də'rānjd /

F  
disordered, unbalanced.  
*Jane's health seemed completely deranged, though she had no absolutely alarming symptoms.*

**dereism**

**derelict**

n  
/ 'derə.likt /

L  
a thing voluntarily abandoned by its owner with the intention of not retaking it and rightly claimed by the first person who takes possession of it; specifically : a boat abandoned on the high seas.  
*Tom sank his yacht when his rescuers arrived lest it become a derelict.*

**dereliction**

n  
/ derə'likshən /

L  
intentional or conscious neglect (as of principles).  
*The security guard was summarily fired for dereliction of duty.*

**dermatitis**

n  
/ dərmə'tidəs /

Gk > L  
inflammation of the skin typically marked by reddening, swelling, and scaling.

*Bonnie treated her dermatitis with aloe juice.*

**dermonecrotic**

adj  
/ ,dər(,)mō.nə'krädik /

Gk  
relating to or causing the death of skin tissue.

*The powerful medication had a dermonecrotic effect on Uncle Arthur's legs.*

**derogatorily**

**derogatory**

adj  
/ də'rägə.tōrē /

L  
expressive of low estimation or reproach : disdainful.  
*Janet did not appreciate the derogatory remarks her brother made about her dress.*

**derrick**

n  
/ 'derik /

E name  
the framework or tower over a deep drill hole (as that of an oil well) for supporting the tackle for boring or for hoisting and lowering.  
*The rocket was supported on the launch pad by a tower that was a converted oil derrick.*

**descendible**

**descent**

v  
/ dē'sent /

L + E  
rid of odor or smell.  
*After their dog was sprayed by a skunk, the Andersons tried everything to descent him, but nothing worked.*

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**descried**

v  
/ də'skrīd /  
F > E

caught sight of especially by watchful attention and careful observation of the distant, uncertain, or obscure.

*When the dog descried his master walking up the lane, he hurried out to greet him.*

**desecrate**

**desiccate**

v  
/ 'desəˌkāt /  
L

[has near homonym: desecrate] dry up or cause to dry up : deprive or exhaust of moisture.

*The hot sunshine and the dry wind combined to desiccate Martha's tomato plants.*

**design**

**desirable**

**desman**

n  
/ 'dezˌmən /  
Sw

an aquatic insectivorous mammal of Russia that resembles a mole.  
*At one end the desman has a long, flared snout and at the other end a long, flattened tail.*

**desolate**

adj  
/ 'desələt /  
L

characterized by abandonment, isolation, or barrenness.

*The irrigation project revived the once desolate farming community.*

**despair**

n  
/ də'spa(a)ə /  
L

utter loss of hope.

*Despair overcame Gerald as he stared at his French exam.*

**desperado**

n  
/ despə'rā(,)dō /  
L > Sp

a bandit of the western frontier.

*Louis pretended to be a desperado holding up a stagecoach.*

**desperate**

**despicable**

adj  
/ də'spikəbəl /  
L

meriting hatred, scorn, or loathing.

*Sylvester's stress level would be greatly reduced if he found fewer situations despicable.*

**despotism**

n  
/ 'despəˌtɪzəm /  
Gk > F

absolute government in which power is vested in a single ruler.

*Those who believe in the progress of humanity have a hard time explaining 20th-century despotism.*

**desquamate**

v  
/ 'deskwəˌmāt /  
L

peel off in the form of scales.

*Ed came down with scarlet fever and was horrified when his skin began to desquamate.*

**destrier**

n  
/ 'destrēər /  
L > F > E

a large powerful horse used as a war-horse by a medieval knight.

*The knight rapidly saddled his destrier and galloped off to battle the invaders.*

**desuetude**

n  
/ 'deswēˌtüd /  
L

discontinuance from use, practice, exercise, or functioning : a state of protracted suspension or of apparent abandonment.

*In some schools the practice of memorizing great poems has fallen into desuetude.*

**desultorily**

adv  
/ desəl'tōrəlē /  
L

in an erratic, wavering manner.

*Orna behaved desultorily at the dress rehearsal.*

**desultory**

adj  
/ 'desəlˌtōrē /  
L

not cogently relevant : digressive.

*Nancy's comments in class are usually rather desultory, but today her remarks were very relevant.*

**detective**

n  
/ də'tektɪv /  
L

a plainclothes police officer.

*The detective asked the bystanders if any of them had actually seen the shooter.*

**deterge**

**detergent**

**deterrence**

n  
/ də'tərən(t)s /  
L + Ecf

the act or process of turning aside, discouraging, or preventing from acting especially by fear.

*The police hoped that Ted's severe jail sentence would promote the deterrence of criminal acts by the other gang members.*

**deterrent**

n  
/ də'tərənt /  
L

something that discourages or prevents from acting by fear or consideration of unpleasant attendant consequences.

*The police hoped that Ted's severe jail sentence would serve as a deterrent to criminal activity by the other gang members.*

**detinue**

**detonator**

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**detour**

**detriment**

**detritus**

n  
/ də'trɪdəs /  
L

a product of disintegration or wearing away : fragment or fragmentary material.

*The aerial photo of Don's ranch shows a fan of detritus at the mouth of the gulch.*

**detrude**

**deuce**

n  
/ 'd(y)üs /  
L > F

[has near homonyms: do's, dues] a tie in tennis in points toward a game or in games requiring scoring of two consecutive points by one side to win the game or set.

*The first point won in tennis after deuce is called "advantage in" if won by the server, "advantage out" if won by the receiver.*

**deuteragonist**

n  
/ ,d(y)üdə'ragənəst /  
Gk + Gk

a person who serves as a foil to another.

*The movie's hero was thwarted by the villainous deuteragonist.*

**deuteranopia**

n  
/ ,d(y)üdərə'nōpēə /  
Gk

red-green blindness believed due to a defect in the optic nerve.

*Joel's deuteranopia disqualified him from the Air Force's pilot school.*

**devolution**

**dewclaw**

**dextrally**

**dhurrie**

n  
/ 'dərē /  
Hindi

a thick cotton cloth or carpet made in India.

*The dhurrie in Morgan's foyer is one she purchased during her trip to Delhi.*

**diabetes**

n  
/ ,dīə'bēdēz /  
Gk

any of certain abnormal conditions characterized by the secretion and excretion of excessive amounts of urine.

*Drugs and diet changes can control diabetes in most patients.*

**diablerie**

n  
/ dē'äblə(,)rē /  
L > F

dealings with the devil or devils : witchcraft, sorcery.

*Each Halloween, stories of diablerie resurface in the media.*

**diacetate**

**diadem**

n  
/ 'dīə,dem /  
Gk > L > F > E

crown; specifically : an ornamental headband worn (as by Eastern monarchs) as a badge of royalty.

*A brocade diadem would be a perfect finishing touch for Josh's King David costume.*

**diagnose**

v  
/ 'dīəg,nōs /  
Gk > L

identify a condition by evaluating its signs and symptoms.

*Dr. Morris was reluctant to diagnose Tina's condition until he had the test results.*

**diagonal**

adj  
/ dī'agənəl /  
Gk > L

running across from corner to corner.

*Chris preferred the tile floor with the diagonal pattern.*

**diagram**

**dialysis**

n  
/ dī'aləsəs /  
Gk

the separation of substances in solution by means of their unequal diffusion through semipermeable membranes.

*Blood was removed from the patient, purified by dialysis, and then returned to the patient's bloodstream.*

**diapason**

n  
/ dīə'pāzən /  
Gk > L

a burst of harmonious sound : melody, strain.

*The trumpeters filled the courtyard with thrilling diapason.*

**diapered**

**diaphanous**

adj  
/ dī'afənəs /  
GK > L

characterized by such fineness and delicacy of texture as to permit seeing through.

*The jellyfish were so diaphanous that you could be next to them in the water and never know they were there.*

**diaphragm**

**diary**

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**diaspora**

n  
/ dī'asp(ə)rə /  
Gk

a dispersion (as of people of a common national origin or of common beliefs).

*The guest lecturer at the Modern Language Association meeting jokingly referred to the diaspora of Esperanto speakers.*

**diaspore**

**diatribe**

n  
/ 'dīə.trīb /  
Gk

a bitter, abusive, and usually lengthy speech or piece of writing.

*After supper, Deirdre launched into her familiar diatribe against commercial television.*

**diazotype**

**dicerous**

adj  
/ 'disərəs /  
Gk

having two antennae.

*Because most insects have a pair of antennae, they are dicerous.*

**dichotomy**

n  
/ dī'kädəmə /  
Gk

the phase of the Moon or an inferior planet in which just half its disk appears illuminated.

*The Moon had just reached dichotomy when Amos began planting.*

**dickcissel**

**didactic**

adj  
/ dī'daktik /  
Gk

fitted or intended to teach.

*Guy's innovative and effective didactic style inspired his students to produce amazing work.*

**didacticism**

**didascal**

**dietetic**

**dietetics**

n pl  
/ dīə'tediks /  
Gk

the science or art of applying the principles of nutrition to the feeding of individuals or groups under different economic conditions or for hygienic or therapeutic purposes.

*Pam concentrated on dietetics in her graduate studies with hopes of joining a world hunger organization after receiving her degree.*

**different**

**difficult**

adj  
/ 'difə(,)kəlt /  
L

hard to understand : puzzling, obscure.

*There were so many words that were difficult, and Milo knew hardly any of them.*

**diffident**

adj  
/ 'difədənt /  
L

lacking confidence in oneself : distrustful of one's own powers.

*Emma was always quick and assured; her sister was slow and diffident.*

**digitalis**

n  
/ dijə'taləs /  
L

the dried leaf of the purple foxglove containing substances that are used to prepare a drug that is a heart stimulant.

*Digitalis has proved to be the most effective treatment for Ginger's heart disorder.*

**dilapidated**

adj  
/ də'lapədədəd /  
L

decayed, deteriorated, injured, or fallen into partial ruin.

*Only birds and bats resided in the dilapidated old house.*

**dilatory**

adj  
/ 'dīlə.tōrē /  
L

characterized by procrastination or delay : slow.

*Mr. Knightley always moved with the alertness of a mind which could be neither undecided nor dilatory.*

**dilemma**

**diligence**

**diligently**

**dillydally**

v  
/ 'dīlə.dalē /  
Gmc > F > E

waste time by loitering or delay.

*"There's lots to do; we have a very busy schedule—from 6:00 to 7:00 we dillydally," he exclaimed.*

**diluent**

n  
/ 'dīlyəwənt /  
L

an inert substance added to a mixture especially for reducing the concentration of active ingredients.

*Water added to the insecticide acts as a diluent and a carrier.*

**dilute**

v  
/ dī'lüt /  
L

make less concentrated : diminish the strength, activity, or flavor of.

*Because of the heat produced, caution is needed when using water to dilute concentrated sulfuric acid.*

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**dimension**

n  
/ dɪ'menʃən /  
L  
a measurable aspect such as length or width.  
*Height is one dimension of a cube.*

**diminuendo**

**diminutive**

adj  
/ dɪ'mɪnyədɪv /  
L  
small especially in size : tiny.  
*Kerry was first to notice the diminutive hummingbird at the honeysuckle bush.*

**dimissory**

adj  
/ 'dɪməsɔrē /  
L  
dismissing or granting leave to depart.  
*Upon hearing the principal's dimissory words, the students bolted out of the auditorium.*

**dinosauric**

adj  
/ .dɪnə's(ə)rɪk /  
Gk + Gk + Ecf  
huge.  
*Angela was astounded by the dinosauric size of the statue of Abraham Lincoln at the Lincoln Memorial.*

**diocese**

n  
/ 'dɪəsəs /  
Gk > L > F  
the district in which a bishop has churchly authority.  
*The local bishop's diocese covers five counties.*

**diphtheria**

n  
/ dɪf'thɪrēə /  
Gk  
an acute highly contagious bacterial disease chiefly of young children that is marked by swelling and obstruction of the throat.  
*During the Depression, diphtheria claimed the lives of many children.*

**diphthong**

n  
/ dɪf'thɒŋ /  
Gk  
a gliding monosyllabic sound that starts at or near the articulatory position for one vowel and moves to or toward the position for another.  
*Many people do not pronounce the diphthong in the word realtor correctly.*

**diphyodont**

adj  
/ dɪ'fɪə.dənt /  
Gk  
having deciduous and permanent sets of teeth successively.  
*The teeth of most reptiles are naturally replaced throughout life, but most mammals are diphyodont.*

**diploma**

**diplopia**

n  
/ də'plɒpēə /  
Gk  
a disorder of vision in which two images of a single object are seen, owing to unequal action of the eye muscles.  
*Shirley noticed that her medicine produced the side effects of dizziness and diplopia.*

**dipnoous**

**dipody**

n  
/ 'dɪpədə /  
Gk > L  
a prosodic unit or measure of two feet.  
*The teacher commented on the poet's use of dipody for dramatic effect.*

**diptych**

n  
/ 'dɪp(,)tɪk /  
Gk  
a picture or series of pictures painted on two tablets connected by hinges.  
*The church's altarpiece is a Byzantine diptych.*

**diremption**

**dirigibility**

**dirigible**

n  
/ 'dɪrəjəbəl /  
L + Ecf  
airship.  
*The explosion of the dirigible Hindenburg is famous for its dramatic radio coverage.*

**dirigisme**

n  
/ dɪrɛzhɛsm(ə) /  
L > F  
economic planning and control by the state.  
*Dirigisme is a characteristic of socialist law.*

**dirndl**

**disaffiliate**

**disappointed**

adj  
/ .dɪsə'pɔɪntəd /  
L > F  
defeated in expectation or hope.  
*Ken's parents were disappointed that he earned only a D in math.*

**discalced**

adj  
/ dɪ'skɑlst /  
L  
unshod, barefooted.  
*The discalced runner became a celebrity at the Olympics.*

**discern**

**discerp**

**discerptible**

adj  
/ dɪ'sɜrptəbəl /  
L + Ecf  
capable of being torn to pieces or pulled apart.  
*Al's pet dog made short work of his discerptible stuffed animals.*

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**disciples**

n pl  
/ dɪ'sɪpəlz /  
L

those who receive instruction from another : followers.

*Katrina was among Mr. Crane's musical disciples who assembled for instruction one evening a week.*

**disclaimant**

n  
/ dɪ'sklæmənt /  
L > F

one who makes a denial or disavowal of legal claim.

*The disclaimant did not want any part of his grandfather's estate.*

**discoloration**

**discomfiture**

n  
/ dɪ'skɒmfətʃu(ə)r /  
L > F > E

the state of being disconcerted or abashed : confusion, embarrassment.

*The bright lights added to Verne's discomfiture as he stood behind the lectern.*

**discotheque**

n  
/ 'dɪskə.tek /  
Gk > L > F

a nightclub for dancing to recorded music.

*Allen is a disk jockey at a popular discotheque in Chicago.*

**discredit**

**discrepancy**

n  
/ dɪ'skrepənsē /  
L

difference, variation, inconsistency.

*The accountant found a mysterious discrepancy between the two payroll records.*

**discretion**

n  
/ dɪ'skreshən /  
L

power of decision : individual judgment.

*The Constitution was framed and adopted to establish a government that should not depend on state opinion and state discretion.*

**discursive**

**disdain**

n  
/ dɪs'daɪn /  
L > F > E

a feeling of contempt and aversion for something regarded as unworthy of or beneath one : scorn, contempt.

*"This," said Clara with complete disdain, "is my little brother."*

**disembogue**

v  
/ dɪsəm'bɔg /  
L > Sp

discharge water from an outlet or mouth.

*Many streams disembogue into the river along its course.*

**disentangle**

v  
/ dɪsɪn'tæŋgəl /  
L > Ecf + E

straighten out : unravel.

*Mrs. Luce helped David disentangle the strands of the plot in Hamlet.*

**disguise**

v  
/ dɪs'gɪz /  
E, F

change the customary dress or appearance of.

*Ben tried to disguise his voice when he telephoned Jill.*

**disingenuousness**

n  
/ dɪsɪn'jenjəwəsniəs /  
L

state of being unworthily or meanly artful.

*Disingenuousness and double dealing seemed to meet Mr. Churchill at every turn.*

**disintegration**

n  
/ dɪs.intə'græʃən /  
L

the act or process of shattering suddenly : flying to bits.

*Mark caused the disintegration of the mirror when he slammed the door.*

**disinter**

**dismal**

adj  
/ 'dɪzməl /  
L > F > E

marked by gloom, dejection, somberness, or depression of spirits.

*The children who forgot their gloves spent a dismal recess looking out the window at the snow.*

**disobey**

v  
/ dɪsə'bā /  
F

refuse or fail to abide by orders, rules, or laws.

*A well-trained dog would not disobey a familiar command.*

**disparage**

v  
/ dɪ'spəriːj /  
F > E

speak slightly of.

*Arthur did not want to disparage his mother's cooking, so he complimented her on her pot roast and secretly fed it to the dog.*

**disparate**

**disparity**

n  
/ dɪ'spərədē /  
L

marked difference (as in age, rank, grade, condition, quantity, quality, or kind).

*The evil of the actual disparity between Mr. Woodhouse's and his daughter's ages was increased by his constitution and habits.*

**disponible**

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**disputatious**

adj  
/ .dispyə'tāshəs /  
L

inclined to argue for or against something asserted or maintained.  
*Helen did not enjoy going to family reunions because of her disputatious relatives.*

**disquisition**

n  
/ .diskwə'zishən /  
L

an elaborate analytical or explanatory discussion : discourse.  
*Rhetta's first book was a lengthy disquisition on the Irish potato famine.*

**disseminate**

**dissentient**

adj  
/ də'sench(ē)ənt /  
L

not concurring : disagreeing.  
*There was not a dissentient voice on the subject.*

**dissertation**

**dissident**

**dissilient**

**dissimilitude**

n  
/ di(s)sə'milətüd /  
L

lack of resemblance.  
*Although the plots of Gary's two stories resemble each other, there are several points of dissimilitude.*

**dissipated**

v  
/ 'disəpādəd /  
L

dispelled, dissolved.  
*Mr. Knightley walked in soon after tea and dissipated every melancholy fancy.*

**dissonant**

**dissuade**

v  
/ də'swād /  
L

divert by advice or persuasion : turn from something by reasoning.  
*Penny tried to dissuade her friend from making a choice she might later regret.*

**dissymmetry**

n  
/ di(s)'simətrē /  
Gk + Gk + Gk  
the absence of or the lack of balanced proportions.  
*The quilt designer was inspired by dissymmetry in crystal formations.*

**distillate**

**dithyramb**

n  
/ 'dithəram /  
Gk  
a statement or piece of writing in an exalted impassioned style usually in praise of something.  
*Dennis launched into a dithyramb on Moira's beauty and manifold virtues.*

**ditokous**

adj  
/ 'didəkəs /  
Gk  
producing two eggs or young at a time.  
*Most common songbirds are ditokous.*

**dittology**

n  
/ di'täləjē /  
Gk  
a double reading or twofold interpretation (as of a biblical text).  
*Millicent's first lecture of the semester was a dittology of the story of Genesis entitled "Serpent or Savior?"*

**diuretic**

**diurnal**

adj  
/ di'ərnəl /  
L

active chiefly during the daytime.  
*Few cats are naturally diurnal, which can be a problem for light-sleeping owners.*

**divagate**

v  
/ 'divəgāt /  
L  
move or extend in different directions from a common point.  
*Several ancient caravan routes divagate from the extinct oasis.*

**divergent**

**divestiture**

n  
/ di'vestəchù(ə)r /  
L + Ecf  
the compulsory transfer of title or disposal of interests (as stock in a corporation) upon government order.  
*The Interstate Commerce Commission ordered the divestiture of the company to be carried out no later than September 30.*

**division**

**divorce**

**divulge**

v  
/ də'vəlʒ /  
L  
tell or make known.  
*Ken was reluctant to divulge the details of the merger.*

**docent**

n  
/ 'dōsənt /  
L  
a person who guides groups through a museum or art gallery and discusses and comments on the exhibits.  
*Judd's interest in ancient history was sparked by a knowledgeable docent during a field trip to a museum.*

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**docilely**

adv  
/ 'dāsəl(l)ē /  
L

in an obedient or submissive manner.

*Greg's pet dog docilely follows his every command.*

**docility**

n  
/ də'silədē /  
L

the quality or state of being easily taught, led, or managed.

*Docility and intelligence are important qualities that breeders look for in the horses they buy.*

**dockhand**

**doctrinaire**

n  
/ .däkrə'nə(a)(ə)r /  
L > F

one who attempts to put into effect some especially political theory with little or no regard for practical difficulties.

*Benito described his opponent as an ivory-tower doctrinaire.*

**documentary**

n  
/ .däkyə'mentərə /  
L

a presentation (as a film or novel) that has the objective quality, authority, or force of documentation in the representation of a scene, place, condition of life or of a social or political problem or cause.

*The documentary is being produced by environmentalists who protest the destruction of forests.*

**dolcissimo**

adv  
/ dōl'chēsə.mō /  
L > It

very sweet or soft—used as a direction in music.

*The composer and the conductor argued over whether the passage should be played dolcissimo.*

**doleful**

adj  
/ 'dōlfəl /  
L > E + Ecf

attended with or indicating grief or a morose or despairing attitude.

*Martha had a doleful look on her face as she gazed out the window at the rain.*

**dolioform**

adj  
/ 'dōlēə.fōrm /  
L

shaped like a barrel.

*The barrel cactus is a common dolioform plant of the deserts of North and South America.*

**dolorifuge**

n  
/ də'lōrə.fyūj /  
L > F > E

something that banishes or mitigates grief.

*Martina was so heartbroken when her dog died that her dad brought home a new puppy as a dolorifuge.*

**dolorimetry**

**dolorous**

adj  
/ 'dōlərəs /  
L

expressive of sorrow or affliction.

*In a dolorous voice the reporter described the scene of the disaster.*

**dolphin**

n  
/ 'dälfən /  
Gk > L > Prov > F > E

any of various small toothed whales with the snout more or less elongated into a beak and the neck vertebrae partially fused.

*The trained dolphin performed its feats with great agility and grace.*

**domain**

**domestic**

adj  
/ də'mestik /  
L

relating to the household or the family.

*Selma's domestic situation changed drastically after she married a pack rat.*

**domiciliated**

v  
/ .dämə'silē.ädəd /  
L

had established residence : resided.

*The schoolmaster was domiciliated in a different village house each week.*

**domineering**

**domino**

n  
/ 'dämənō /  
L > F

a flat rectangular block of bone, ivory, wood, or plastic the face of which is divided into two equal parts called “ends” which are blank or bear from one to six dots, used in a set of 28 to play a game in which the ends are matched.

*As a joke, Grandpa hid a domino before asking Billy if he'd like to play.*

**donnism**

**doraphobia**

**dorcastry**

n  
/ 'dōrkəs.trē /

Biblical name + Ecf

a church auxiliary organized to plan and execute benevolent work.

*The dorcastry served free Thanksgiving dinners for the homeless.*

**dormancy**

n  
/ 'dō(r)mənsē /  
L > F > E + Ecf

the quality or state of being inactive.

*Certain Australian frogs undergo long periods of dormancy during drought.*

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**dormitories**

**dorsicollar**

**dosage**

**dossieret**

**dossier**

n  
/ 'dòs,yā /  
F  
an accumulation of records, reports, miscellaneous pertinent data, and documents bearing on a single subject of study or investigation : file.  
*The physician kept a careful dossier on each of her patients.*

**Dostoevskian**

adj  
/ .dästä'yefskēən /  
Russ name  
of, relating to, or typical of the Russian novelist Fedor Dostoevski or his writings.  
*The Dostoevskian character's tortured psychic state gripped and twisted Randy's mind as he read page after page.*

**dotard**

**douanier**

n  
/ dwányā /  
F  
a customs officer.  
*At the international airport the douanier insisted on searching the luggage of everyone proceeding through customs.*

**doublure**

n  
/ .də'blü(ə)r /  
L > F  
the lining of a book cover; especially : an ornamental lining.  
*The doublure is an important clue in identifying pirated editions of early novels.*

**douceur**

**doughiness**

n  
/ 'dōēnēs /  
E  
the quality or state of being not thoroughly baked.  
*The doughiness of the cake mortified Mrs. Cavendish.*

**doughty**

adj  
/ 'daüdē /  
E  
[has homonym: dowdy] marked by fearless resolution and by stoutness in contest or struggle : valiant.  
*Daniel was a soldier's soldier—rough, tough, and doughty.*

**dowager**

n  
/ 'daüäjə(r) /  
F  
one of the elder women of assured position who tend to set the tone of an assembly, social group, or community.  
*Great Aunt Georgine is the dowager of the Arts Council.*

**dowitcher**

**doxology**

n  
/ däk'säləjē /  
Gk  
a commonly short hymn or formula expressing praise to God.  
*One common doxology in Protestant churches is set to a tune called "Old Hundred."*

**doyen**

n  
/ 'dōiən /  
L > F  
[Note: Could be confused with feminine doyenne.] the senior male member of a body or group (as of a diplomatic corps).  
*George Burns was the doyen of American stand-up comedians.*

**draconian**

adj  
/ drā'kōnēən /  
Gk name  
marked by extreme severity or cruelty : harsh, rigorous.  
*The pop star's main residence was on an island where the tax laws were less draconian than in her native England.*

**drainage**

**drama**

**dramaturgy**

n  
/ 'dramətərjē /  
Gk > L > F > E  
the technical devices that are used in writing plays and that tend to distinguish the play from other literary forms.  
*Shakespeare was skilled at both poetry and dramaturgy.*

**dreadful**

adj  
/ 'dredfəl /  
E  
arousing feelings of disapproval or dissatisfaction.  
*"Turn off that dreadful song," Cynthia's mom calmly demanded.*

**dreary**

adj  
/ 'drirē /  
E  
being without liveliness, cheer, joy, or hope.  
*The dreary accountant decided that it was time to take an extended vacation.*

**dreidel**

n  
/ 'drād'l /  
G > Yiddish  
a four-sided die that revolves like a spinning top, that is marked on each side with a different Hebrew letter, and that is used as a toy especially during the Hanukkah festival.  
*Evan gave each of his classmates a dreidel after presenting his report on traditions associated with Hanukkah.*

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**drepaniform**

adj

/ drə'panəfɔrm /

Gk + Ecf

hooked or curved like a sickle.

*As Cliff walked home, the drepaniform Moon did little to light his way.*

**dressage**

n

/ drə'säzh /

F

the execution by a horse of maneuvers involving changes of gait, pace, and airs in response to barely perceptible movements of a rider's hands, legs, and weight.

*While in Austria, Derrick attended an exhibition of dressage at a famous equestrian school.*

**drisheen**

n

/ drə'shēn /

IrGael

a sausage prepared with sheep's blood, milk, and seasonings.

*While in County Cork, Mr. O'Donnell ordered drisheen and eggs for breakfast.*

**drivel**

v

/ 'drivəl /

E

talk stupidly and carelessly without due thought, knowledge, or consideration.

*Bart's opinion is highly valued, for he is not one to drivel.*

**drogue**

n

/ 'drɔg /

E

[has homonym: drog] a sea anchor (as a canvas bag with a hooped mouth) used to reduce the speed of a boat and keep her head into the wind.

*The captain yelled at the crew to lower the drogue while he signaled the other boat.*

**dromedary**

n

/ 'drämədəerē /

Gk > L > F > E

a camel of unusual speed, bred and trained especially for riding, and having a single large hump on the back.

*Camel rides at the zoo featured a dromedary.*

**dromomania**

n

/ 'drämə'mānēə /

Gk > L

an exaggerated desire to wander.

*Yielding to his dromomania, Jack bought a recreational vehicle and spent the summer touring the country.*

**drone**

n

/ 'drɔn /

E

one that lives on the labors of others.

*In Sleepy Hollow there were some rustic patrons who considered a schoolmaster a mere drone.*

**drosophilist**

n

/ drɔ'säfələst /

G + L + Ecf

one who uses the vinegar fly in the study of genetics.

*The drosophilist has helped to advance our knowledge of genes and the role they play in heredity.*

**drudgery**

n

/ 'drəj(ə)rē /

E

dull, fatiguing, or unrelieved work or expenditure of effort.

*Machines now take much of the drudgery out of housework.*

**druggist**

n

/ 'drəgəst /

F

one who sells medicine : pharmacist.

*Jean asked her druggist to recommend a cough syrup.*

**drupaceous**

adj

/ drü'päshəs /

Gk > L

of or relating to a one-seeded indehiscent fruit having a hard bony endocarp, a usually fleshy mesocarp, and a thin exocarp that is either like a skin or dry and almost leathery.

*Cherries, plums, and almonds are drupaceous fruits.*

**duarchy**

n

/ 'd(y)ü.ärkē /

Gk

a government by two rulers having equal power.

*Critics accused the governor of establishing a duarchy with her husband.*

**dubiety**

n

/ d(y)ü'biədē /

L

the quality or state of being doubtful or skeptical : uncertainty.

*There was dubiety in his voice and a hint of uncertainty in his eye.*

**duchy**

**ductile**

**dudgeon**

n

/ 'dəjən /

unknown

aggrieved or angered feeling : ill humor.

*Fuming at the insult, Carl stalked off in high dudgeon.*

**duet**

n

/ d(y)ü'et /

It

performance of a musical composition or movement for two singers or two instrumentalists.

*Stephan and Christiana's duet featured Bach's concerto for two violins in D Minor.*

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**dulcamara**

n  
/ dɒlkə'märə /  
L

a sprawling Old World poisonous plant that is common as a weed in America and has purple flowers and oval coral-red berries and that has a taste at first sweetish and then bitter.

*The dried stems of the dulcamara were once used in pharmaceutical preparations as a sedative.*

**dulcet**

adj  
/ 'dʌlsət /  
L > F > E

pleasing to the ear.  
*Hiroshi marveled at the dulcet tones of the quartet.*

**dulcitude**

**dullard**

n  
/ 'dʌlə(r)d /  
F

a stupid person.  
*Barry apologized for rashly calling James a dullard.*

**dumbbell**

n  
/ 'dʌm,bel /  
E

an exercise device that consists of round weights joined by a bar.  
*With great effort, Tony hoisted the dumbbell above his shoulder.*

**dune**

**dungarees**

n pl  
/ .dʌŋgə'res /  
Hindi

heavy cotton work clothes made usually of heavy, coarse, durable, blue cotton twill.  
*Greg preferred his faded dungarees to any other pants in his wardrobe.*

**dungeon**

**dunnage**

n  
/ 'dʌnɪj /  
unknown

[Note: Could be confused with tonnage, tunnage.] cushioning or padding used in a shipping container to protect fragile articles against shock and breakage.  
*Mother used popcorn as dunnage in her gift boxes to her family in Germany.*

**duodenitis**

n  
/ d(y)üə.dē'nīdəs /  
L

inflammation of the first part of the small intestine.  
*George's cramps were diagnosed as duodenitis.*

**duplicitous**

**duplicity**

n  
/ d(y)ü'plisədē /  
L

deception by pretending to entertain one set of feelings and acting under the influence of another.  
*When the candidate's duplicity was exposed, his supporters felt embarrassed and betrayed.*

**durable**

adj  
/ 'd(y)ürəbəl /  
L > F > E

able to exist for a long time : lasting.  
*Jimmy brought along a pair of durable hiking boots for his trek through the mountainous terrain.*

**duress**

n  
/ d(y)ə'res /  
L > F > E

[has near homonym: dress] stringent compulsion by threat of danger, hardship, or retribution.  
*Contracts signed under duress are not valid.*

**durezza**

**duvet**

n  
/ d(y)ü'vā /  
ON > F

a warm bedcover : quilt, comforter.  
*Sally stored her duvet in the linen closet and used a light bedspread during the summer months.*

**dvandva**

n  
/ 'dvän(,)dvä /  
Skt

a class of compound words having two constituents that are equal in rank and related to each other as if joined by and.  
*The word secretary-treasurer is an example of a dvandva.*

**dwarf**

n  
/ 'dwò(ə)rf /  
E

an abnormally small person.  
*The adult dwarf was offended when people treated him as a child.*

**dwindling**

**dynamitard**

n  
/ 'dīnəmə'tärd /  
Gk > Sw + Ecf

one that uses explosives for anarchistic or other political acts of violence.  
*Police agents seized the dynamitard in an old warehouse.*

**dynamite**

**dynasty**

**dysbarism**

**dyscalculia**

n  
/ .dɪskəl'kyülēə /  
Gk + L

impairment of mathematical ability due to an organic condition of the brain.  
*Because she disliked math class so much, Kathy was convinced that she suffered from dyscalculia.*

**dysentery**

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**dyskinesia**

n  
/ ˌdɪskəˈnēz(h)ḗə /  
Gk

impaired or abnormal motion of voluntary or involuntary muscle.  
*Some drugs that are used to treat psychiatric disorders can have dyskinesia as a side effect.*

**dyslexia**

n  
/ dḗˈsleksēə /  
Gk

a disturbance of the ability to read.  
*In Maria's school, students with dyslexia are given special training to improve their reading, spelling, and writing.*

**dyspepsia**

**dyspeptic**

adj  
/ dḗˈspeptɪk /  
Gk

gloomy or negative.  
*The editor's dyspeptic views on the election irritated many readers.*

**dysphemia**

**dysphemism**

n  
/ ˈdɪsfəˌmɪzəm /  
L  
substitution of a disagreeable, offensive, or disparaging word or expression for an agreeable or inoffensive one; also, a word or expression so substituted.  
*Rachel, whose father is an auto mechanic, cringes every time she hears the dysphemism grease monkey.*

**dysphoria**

n  
/ dḗˈsfōrēə /  
Gk

a generalized state of feeling unwell or unhappy.  
*Edith has had frequent crying spells and periods of dysphoria since early childhood.*

**dysrhythmia**

n  
/ dḗsˈrɪθmēə /  
Gk

a condition characterized by various psychological and physiological effects and which occurs following long flight through several time zones and probably results from disruption of human body rhythms that occur in 24-hour cycles : jet lag.  
*The travel agent gave the tour group several tips on how to avoid dysrhythmia.*

**dystopia**

n  
/ dɪˈstōpēə /  
Gk

an imaginary place which is distressingly wretched and whose people lead a fearful existence.  
*The science-fiction tale was set in a 23rd-century dystopia.*

**eagle**

**eaglet**

**earlobe**

**earnest**

n  
/ ˈɛrnəst /  
E  
[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word.]  
something of value given by a buyer to a seller to bind a bargain.  
*Ms. Giblin gave the sellers \$3,000 as earnest so that they would not entertain other offers.*

**eavesdrop**

**ebony**

**ebriosity**

**ebullience**

**ebullient**

adj  
/ əˈbʊlyənt /  
L

characterized by enthusiasm or exuberance.  
*Angela tried to be as ebullient as possible during the cheerleading tryouts.*

**ebullition**

**eburnated**

**eccentric**

**ecchymosis**

n  
/ ˌekəˈmōsəs /  
Gk > L  
the escape of blood into the tissues from ruptured blood vessels marked by a livid black-and-blue or purple spot or area.  
*A black eye results from ecchymosis.*

**ecclesiastic**

n  
/ əˈklēzēˈastɪk /  
Gk  
a person in holy orders or consecrated to the service of the church.  
*The new bishop was an ecclesiastic of high learning and virtue.*

**ecclesiastical**

adj  
/ əˈklēzēˈastəkəl /  
Gk > L  
belonging to, suggestive of, or suitable for use in a church building or service of worship.  
*Ramona designed and sewed all the ecclesiastical garments worn in the church's services.*

**ecclesiology**

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**ecesis**

n  
/ ə'sēsəs /  
Gk

the successful establishment of a plant or animal in a new environment or habitat.

*Ecesis by an introduced species often threatens native flora or fauna.*

**echelon**

n  
/ 'eshəlän /  
L > F

one of a series of levels or grades (as of leadership or responsibility) in an organization or field of activity.

*Employees at every echelon of the company were encouraged to make suggestions.*

**echelonment**

**echinoderm**

n  
/ ə'kinədərm /  
Gk

any of a phylum of radially symmetrical marine animals that have a true body cavity, a calcareous exoskeleton, a blood-vascular system, a nervous system, and a water-vascular system that provides tentacles and organs of locomotion.

*The starfish is a familiar echinoderm.*

**echoed**

v  
/ 'e(.)kəd /  
Gk

resounded with sounds caused by reflections of sound waves.

*Reanna's words echoed back to her from across the canyon.*

**echolalia**

n  
/ ekəlälēə /  
Gk + Gk

the often pathological repetition of what is said by other people as if imitating them.

*The speech of autistic persons is sometimes characterized by echolalia.*

**echt**

adj  
/ 'ekt /  
G

genuine, authentic.

*All the lamps were very attractive, but only one was echt Tiffany.*

**eclectic**

adj  
/ e'klektik /  
Gk + Gk

composed of elements drawn from various sources.

*Gaynor's eclectic taste in music makes selecting CDs for her a cinch.*

**eclipse**

n  
/ ə'klips /  
L > F > E

the obscuration of one celestial body by another.

*Susan and Stuart flew to Mexico to view a total eclipse of the Sun.*

**eclogue**

n  
/ 'eklög /  
Gk > L

a poem in which shepherds are introduced conversing.

*The bucolic view of meadows and hills inspired Shelley to compose an eclogue.*

**ecocatastrophe**

n  
/ ē(.)kōkə'tastrə(.)fē /  
Gk

a major destructive upset in the balance of nature especially when caused by the intervention of humans.

*Sam considers the destruction of the rain forests an ecocatastrophe.*

**ecologist**

n  
/ ē'käləjəst /  
Gk > G

a specialist in the branch of science concerned with the interrelationship of organisms and their environment.

*Kimberly will work as a summer intern for an ecologist in the Everglades.*

**economist**

n  
/ ē'känəməst /  
Gk

a specialist in or student of the social science that studies the production, distribution, and consumption of commodities.

*Adam Smith was the most influential economist of the 18th century.*

**ecru**

n  
/ ā'krü /  
L > F

[has near homonym: accrue] of a textile : a light grayish yellowish brown that is yellower and lighter than gravel.

*The bridal gown is available in both ecru and white.*

**ecstasy**

**ecstatic**

adj  
/ ek'stadik /  
Gk

caused by, expressing, or causing a state of exaltation or rapturous delight.

*Maria was ecstatic when her boyfriend proposed to her.*

**ectocanthion**

n  
/ ektə'kan(t)thēən /  
Gk + Gk

the point at which the outer ends of the upper and lower eyelids meet.

*Plastic surgery was needed to repair an injury to the patient's face at the ectocanthion.*

**ectoplasm**

n  
/ 'ektəplazəm /  
Gk

the emanation from a spiritualistic medium that is believed to effect telekinesis and similar phenomena.

*In the movies people are always getting slimed by what they call "ectoplasm," but if it exists, it would more likely look like mist.*

**ecuelle**

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

**ecumenism**

n  
/ 'ekyʊmə'nizəm /  
Gk + Ecf  
principles and practices relating to or promoting worldwide Christian unity.  
*The World Council of Churches is a major force in the religious movement known as "ecumenism."*

**ecumenopolis**

n  
/ 'ekyʊmə'näpələs /  
Gk  
a single city encompassing the whole world that is held to be a possibility of the future.  
*Many science fiction stories are based on the premise of Earth's future ecumenopolis.*

**eczematous**

adj  
/ ig'zēmədəs /  
Gk  
relating to or having the characteristics of an inflammatory skin condition characterized by redness, itching, and lesions.  
*Eczematous skin eruptions may be due to allergies to certain foods, drugs, or cosmetics.*

**edacious**

adj  
/ ə'dāshəs /  
L + Ecf  
[has near homonym: audacious]  
voracious, devouring.  
*Mary Ellen's edacious appetite for gossip is offensive to all.*

**edaphon**

n  
/ 'edə.fän /  
Gk > ISV  
the animal and plant life present in soils.  
*Stephanie is studying the edaphon of the river delta.*

**edelweiss**

n  
/ 'äd'l.wīs /  
G  
a small perennial herb growing high in the Alps.  
*Eva recognized the edelweiss by its distinctive white petals.*

**edentulate**

**edentulous**  
adj  
/ ɛ'denchələs /  
L  
lacking teeth; especially : having lost teeth previously present.  
*When Susie skipped into the second grade classroom, she gave Miss O'Connell an edentulous grin.*

**edible**

**edification**

n  
/ .edəfə'kāshən /  
L  
a building up of the mind, character, or faith : intellectual, moral, or spiritual improvement.  
*Though she knew that the word origins wouldn't be on the test, Tara studied them for her own edification.*

**edifice**

n  
/ 'edəfəs /  
L  
building; especially : a large or massive structure (as a church or government building).  
*To Amy, the most beautiful edifice in our nation's capital is the National Cathedral.*

**editorial**

**edulcorate**

v  
/ ə'dəlkə'rāt /  
L  
free from harshness (as of attitude)  
: make pleasant.  
*Ben is under the mistaken impression that his flattery will edulcorate the stern judge.*

**eerily**

**efface**

**effectually**

adv  
/ ə'fekch(əw)əlē /  
L&F > E  
in a manner producing the desired results.  
*A warm drink is said to fortify one effectually against the cold.*

**effervesce**

**effervescent**

adj  
/ .efə(r)'ves'nt /  
L  
impossible or difficult to restrain or suppress : bubbling, exuberant.  
*Sean's effervescent personality caught the attention of the job recruiter.*

**effete**

**efficacious**

**efficacy**

n  
/ 'efəkəsē /  
L  
the power to produce an effect : effectiveness.  
*For Harriet, the idea of being preferred by Mr. Elton had all the usual weight and efficacy.*

**efficiency**

**effigy**

n  
/ 'efəjē /  
L > F  
a full or partial representation especially of a person.  
*Andy felt a chill when he spotted the effigy of his ancestor in the cathedral crypt.*

**effleurage**

n  
/ .eflə'rāzh /  
L > F  
a light stroking movement used in massage.  
*Abdominal effleurage is a technique used in prepared childbirth.*

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**efflorescence**

n  
/ ɛflə'resəns(t)s /

L  
the result or culminating feature of a developmental process : outgrowth, flower.

*The museum guide commented that change in art is merely the efflorescence of certain long prepared and anticipated effects.*

**effluent**

n  
/ ɛ.fljuənt /

L  
[Note: Could be confused with affluent.] something that flows out, as liquid discharged as waste (as water used in an industrial process).  
*The effluent from the cooling tower is pure water.*

**effluvium**

n  
/ ɛ'fljuvɪəm /

L  
an exhalation or smell especially when unpleasant.

*The effluvium from the backed-up drain nauseated Mr. Locke.*

**effrontery**

n  
/ ə'frɒntərɪ /

L > F  
flagrant boldness that is offensive or insolent : gall.

*Chuck had the effrontery to interrupt the senator during his speech.*

**effulgence**

**effulgent**

adj  
/ ɛ'fʊljənt /

L  
marked by or as if by brightly shining light.

*An effulgent flash of intuition enabled Tony to solve the geometry exam's final problem.*

**effusive**

adj  
/ ə'fyʊsɪv /

L  
expressing or marked by unrestrained emotion : unduly demonstrative.

*Troy was bowled over by the effusive greeting of his Labrador retriever.*

**egalitarian**

adj  
/ (i)ɛ.gə'lɪtəriən /

L > F  
marked by or adhering to a belief that all persons are equal in intrinsic worth and are entitled to equal access to the rights and privileges of their society.

*The senator promised to help create and expand opportunities and distribute them in an egalitarian fashion.*

**egocentric**

adj  
/ ɛgə'sentrik /

L + Gk > E  
self-centered, selfish.

*Dillard's friends claimed there was not an egocentric bone in his body.*

**egocentricity**

n  
/ ɛgə(ɪ)sen'trɪsədɪ /

L + Gk > L  
the quality or state of being concerned with oneself rather than with others.

*The conductor's egocentricity made his interaction with the musicians less than harmonious.*

**egregious**

adj  
/ ə'grɛjəs /

L  
flagrant : glaringly evident.

*As a medical researcher, Laura knew that many of the reports of medical breakthroughs on television contained egregious errors.*

**egregiously**

**egress**

n  
/ ɛ'grɛs /

L  
the act or right of going or coming out.

*Every hotel should provide accessible ways of egress.*

**eider**

**eiderdown**

n  
/ ɪdɔ(ɹ).daʊn /  
ON > Icel > G

the small fluffy under feathers of any of several large northern sea ducks.

*The price tag on the sleeping bag stuffed with eiderdown shocked Kevin's parents.*

**eidetic**

adj  
/ ɪ'dedɪk /

Gk  
[has near homonym: identic] of or relating to voluntarily producible visual images having almost photographic accuracy : vivid, lifelike.

*Sometimes Grandma would fall into eidetic reveries and talk to her long-deceased brother.*

**eigne**

**einkorn**

n  
/ ɪn.kɔrn /

G  
a one-grained wheat that is regarded by some as the most primitive wheat and is grown especially in poor soils in central Europe.

*Einkorn grown in southeastern Turkey is believed to be closely related to a grain first domesticated as early as 9000 B.C.*

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**Einsteinian**

adj  
/ 'ɪnz.tɪn.i.ən /

G name

of or relating to American physicist and mathematician Albert Einstein or his theories.

*The Einsteinian theory of special relativity revolutionized the field of physics.*

**einsteinium**

**ejector**

**ekistics**

n pl  
/ ə'kɪstɪks /

Gk

a science dealing with human settlements and drawing on the research and experience of professionals in various fields (as architecture, engineering, city planning, and sociology).

*Dora's degree in sociology aided her in her study of ekistics.*

**elasticity**

**electrolysis**

n  
/ ə.lek'træləsəs /

Gk

the destruction of hair roots with an electric current.

*Electrolysis was one of the means of hair removal demonstrated in Roweena's cosmetology class.*

**electuary**

n  
/ ə'lekchə.werē /

Gk > L > E

a medicated paste prepared with honey or other sweet substance, used in veterinary practice, and administered by smearing on the teeth, gums, or tongue.

*The veterinarian patiently smeared an electuary on the horse's gums.*

**eleemosynary**

adj  
/ elə'mäs'n.erē /

L

of or relating to charity : charitable, philanthropic.

*Participation in eleemosynary activities is a graduation requirement at Janie's school.*

**elegiacal**

**elementary**

**elephant**

n  
/ 'eləfənt /

Hamitic? > Gk > L > F

any of a family of thickset extremely large nearly hairless herbivorous mammals that have a snout elongated into a muscular trunk and two incisors in the upper jaw developed especially in the male into large ivory tusks.

*Zack and Debbie enjoyed watching the elephant use its trunk to spray water on its back.*

**elephantine**

adj  
/ elə'fan.tēn /

Gk > L

of enormous size or weight : uncommonly large : immense, massive.

*Troy was served an elephantine ice cream sundae.*

**eligible**

adj  
/ 'eləjəbəl /

L

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

*The quietness of the game made it particularly eligible for Mr. Woodhouse, who had often been distressed by the more animated sort.*

**elision**

n  
/ ə'lɪzhən /

L

the use of a speech form that lacks a final or initial sound that a variant speech form has.

*Today's French class concentrated on when to use elision.*

**elitist**

adj  
/ ə'lɪtəst /

L > F

of or relating to a consciousness of being one of a segment or group regarded as socially superior.

*The private school offers many need-based scholarships to combat the impression that its student body is elitist.*

**elixir**

n  
/ ə'liksə(r) /

Gk? > Ar > L > E

a substance or concoction held to be capable of prolonging life indefinitely.

*Explorers through the ages have sought the elixir of life, better known as the "fountain of youth."*

**ellipse**

n  
/ ə'lips /

Gk

an elongated circle.

*The walking path behind the school forms an ellipse around the tennis courts.*

**ellipses**

n pl  
/ ɛ'lip.sēz /

Gk

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

omissions of one or more words that are obviously understood but must be supplied to make a construction grammatically complete.

*Pat's use of suspension periods to punctuate her main character's ellipses visually portrays the character's disjointed thought.*

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**ellipticity**

**elocution**

n  
/ ˌeləˈkyʊʃən /

L  
the art of oratorical or expressive public speaking.  
*Senator Okada is a master of elocution.*

**eloquence**

n  
/ ˈeləkwən(t)s /

L  
discourse marked by apt and fluent diction and imaginative fervor.  
*The defense lawyer addressed the courtroom audience with eloquence.*

**elucidate**

v  
/ əˈlʊsəˌdāt /

L  
make intelligible by clear explanation or careful analysis.  
*Belinda asked Mrs. Dent to elucidate the complicated essay question.*

**elutriation**

**emaciated**

adj  
/ əˈmāʃēˌādəd /

L  
made lean by impairment (as from hunger).  
*The emaciated cat stared at Tina with hollow eyes.*

**emanation**

n  
/ ˌeməˈnāʃən /

L  
a flowing forth.  
*The air was tainted with the musky emanation from the alligator pen.*

**emancipation**

n  
/ əˌman(t)səˈpāʃən /

L  
the act or process of setting or making free; broadly : deliverance from any onerous and controlling power.  
*Abraham Lincoln's decree proclaiming emancipation for slaves came as a joyous daybreak to end the long night of captivity.*

**emanometer**

n  
/ ˌeməˈnämədə(r) /

L + Gk  
any of various devices designed to measure quantities or intensity of a heavy gaseous element produced by radioactive disintegration.  
*The emanometer detected dangerous amounts of radon in Theo's basement.*

**embarcadero**

n  
/ ɛm.bärkəˈde(,)rō /

L > Sp  
a landing place; especially : a landing place on an inland waterway.  
*An organ grinder and his monkey entertained visitors at the embarcadero of the restored village.*

**embargo**

n  
/ əmˈbär(,)gō /

L > Sp  
an edict or order of the government prohibiting the departure or entry of ships of commerce at ports within its dominions.  
*In defiance of the embargo, the boat slipped out of the harbor at night.*

**embarrass**

**embarrassment**

n  
/ əmˈbarəsmənt /

Pg > Sp > F  
confusion or discomposure of mind.  
*Locking his car keys in his car trunk caused Andy much embarrassment.*

**embassy**

**embellish**

v  
/ əmˈbelɪʃ /

F > E  
enhance, amplify, or garnish (an account) by elaboration with inessential but decorative or fanciful details.  
*Ivan likes to embellish his stories a little differently each time he tells them.*

**embezzlement**

n  
/ əmˈbezəlmənt /

F > AF > E  
fraudulent appropriation of money by a person to whom it has been entrusted.  
*The FBI investigation led to the union leader's indictment for embezzlement.*

**emblazon**

v  
/ əmˈblāzən /

Lcf > Ecf + F > E  
set off conspicuously (as by rich or brilliant decorations).  
*Andrea asked the seamstress to emblazon the sweater with embroidered flowers.*

**emblem**

**embolism**

n  
/ ˈembəlɪzəm /

Gk  
the sudden obstruction of a blood vessel by a foreign or abnormal particle (as a bubble of air or a blood clot).  
*Careless administration of an injection can cause an embolism.*

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**embouchure**

n  
/ 'æmbü.shü(ə)r /  
L > F  
the position and use of the lips in producing a musical tone on a wind instrument.  
*After six weeks of criticism about her poor embouchure, Kirsten switched from the clarinet to the piano.*

**embracery**

n  
/ əm'brās(ə)rē /  
F > E  
the act of one who attempts to or acts so as to influence a court, jury, or other office or officer corruptly (as by promises, money, or threats).  
*After trying to bribe a juror, the mobster was arrested and charged with embracery.*

**embrasure**

n  
/ əm'brāzhə(r) /  
F  
an opening with sides flaring outward in a wall or parapet of a fortification usually for allowing the firing of cannon.  
*Bobby and Jackie amused themselves during the castle tour by climbing into every embrasure to look out the windows.*

**embrocate**

**embrocation**

n  
/ .embrə'kāshən /  
Gk > L  
liniment.  
*The fact that Della's throat is so much better can be attributed to the excellent embrocation her mother applied regularly.*

**embroidery**

**embryo**

**embryonic**

adj  
/ .embrē'ānik /  
Gk > L + Ecf  
being in an early and undeveloped stage.  
*Delia disclosed embryonic plans for the new theater.*

**emerald**

n  
/ 'em(ə)rəld /  
Gk > L > F > E  
a highly prized gemstone of rich green color.  
*Beth's grandfather has a lovely unmounted emerald that he plans to give to her for a graduation present.*

**emeritus**

adj  
/ ə'merədəs /  
L  
retired from an office after gaining recognition.  
*Our summer school teacher, Dr. Benteen, is Professor Emeritus of history from Dartmouth University.*

**emigrant**

n  
/ 'eməgrənt /  
L  
[has near homonym: immigrant] a person who leaves a country or region to establish permanent residence elsewhere.  
*Sidney's great-great-grandfather was an Irish emigrant during the potato famine.*

**eminent**

adj  
/ 'emənənt /  
L  
[has homonym and near homonyms: emanent and immanent, imminent] standing out so as to be readily perceived.  
*The National Cathedral is a building of eminent beauty.*

**eminently**

**emissaries**

**emissary**

n  
/ 'eməsərē /  
L  
an agent or representative usually empowered to act more or less independently.  
*Each government sent an emissary to the trade talks.*

**emolliate**

**emollient**

adj  
/ ə'mälyənt /  
L  
[Note: Could be confused with emolument.] soothing especially to the skin or mucous membrane.  
*Erna usually applies an emollient cream to her hands after washing dishes.*

**emolument**

n  
/ ə'mälyəmənt /  
L  
[Note: Could be confused with emollient.] profit or perquisites from office, employment, or labor.  
*The waitress who did not report the tips portion of her emolument faced incarceration for tax evasion.*

**empanada**

n  
/ .empə'nädə /  
L > Sp  
a turnover filled with meat.  
*For the hike Luke packed an empanada and an apple in his knapsack.*

**empathy**

**empennage**

n  
/ .ämpə'näzh /  
Fcf + L + Fcf  
the tail assembly of an aircraft.  
*After the accident the FAA ordered the airline to inspect the empennage of every plane in its fleet.*

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**emphatically**

adv

/ ɛm'fadəkəlē /

Gk

in a markedly forceful manner.

*At the school board meeting Jonah spoke emphatically in favor of requiring students to wear uniforms.*

**emphysema**

n

/ .em(p)fə'zēmə /

Gk

a condition characterized by air-filled, blisterlike expansions in the tissues of the lungs.

*Most cases of emphysema are caused by smoking.*

**empirical**

adj

/ ɛm'pɪrəkəl /

Gk > L

originating in or relying or based on factual information, observation, or direct sense experience usually as opposed to theoretical knowledge.

*Epidemiologists rely heavily on empirical data in predicting the spread of a contagious disease.*

**empleomania**

n

/ .emplēō'mānēə /

F > Sp + Gk > L

an excessive desire for holding public office.

*Otis's empleomania drove him to squander his fortune on political campaigns.*

**emporium**

**empyrean**

n

/ .em.pɪ'rēən /

Gk > L

the highest heaven or heavenly sphere in ancient and medieval cosmology usually described as a sphere of fire or light.

*According to Ptolemy, there are five heavens, the last of which is called the "empyrean," from the Greek word meaning "fiery."*

**emu**

**emulate**

**enamel**

**encephalitis**

n

/ ɛn.sefə'lɪdəs /

Gk

inflammation of the brain, especially when due to infectious agents or their toxins.

*The symptoms of encephalitis usually include fever, headache, and tremors.*

**enchilada**

n

/ enchə'lādə /

Sp

a tortilla topped or rolled up with a highly seasoned meat or other filling and served with tomato sauce seasoned with chili.

*The sampler platter included a taco, an enchilada, and a burrito.*

**enclave**

n

/ 'en.klāv /

L > F

a district or region (as in a city) inhabited by a particular race or set apart for a special purpose.

*The Warsaw Ghetto was an infamous enclave during World War II.*

**enclitic**

**encomium**

n

/ ɛn'kōmēəm /

Gk

an often formal expression of warm or high praise : eulogy.

*At the dedication of the war memorial, the president offered an encomium for the fallen heroes.*

**encore**

n

/ 'än.kō(ə)r /

L > F

the further appearance of a performer or an additional performance requested by an audience.

*The audience was so thrilled by the singer's rendition of the aria that it cheered for an encore.*

**encroachment**

n

/ ɛn'krōch.mənt /

Scand > F > E

advancement beyond set limits.

*When a football player enters the neutral zone and makes contact with an opponent before the ball is snapped, the head linesman will penalize the team for encroachment.*

**encumbrance**

**encyclical**

**endemic**

adj

/ en'demɪk /

Gk

peculiar to a locality or region.

*Despite its name, Rocky Mountain spotted fever is not endemic to the western United States.*

**endocrinology**

**endophytous**

adj

/ en'däfədəs /

Gk

living within the tissues of plants.

*Most vascular plants could not grow without the endophytous fungi that inhabit their roots and supply essential nutrients.*

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**endorphin**

n  
/ en'dɔrfɪn /  
Gk > ISV  
any of a group of proteins with potent pain-killing properties that occur naturally in the brain.  
*In long-distance runners, elevated blood levels of endorphin can prevent the pain of sustained exertion.*

**endorsement**

**endow**

**endurable**

**energetic**

adj  
/ .enə(r)'jɛdɪk /  
Gk  
marked by energy.  
*The energetic captain kept the police force ready for any emergency.*

**enervate**

v  
/ 'enə(r),vāt /  
L  
[has near homonym with opposite meaning: innervate] lessen the nerve, vitality, or strength of.  
*Being outside in the heat of the day would enervate Grandma, so she weeds her garden in the cool hours of early morning.*

**enervated**

adj  
/ 'enə(r),vādəd /  
L  
lacking physical, mental, or moral vigor.  
*After the 15-mile mountain hike, Marsha found herself completely enervated.*

**enfilade**

n  
/ 'enfə.lād /  
F  
arrangement (as of rooms, doorways, trees) in opposite and parallel rows.  
*The hallway of the huge hotel was seemingly endless, with an enfilade of doors appearing to grow ever tinier in the distance.*

**enfranchisement**

n  
/ ən'frɑn.tʃɪz.mənt /  
F > E  
the act of endowing with a constitutional or statutory right or privilege; especially : the act of endowing with the right to vote.  
*It is hard to believe today that segments of American society were once denied enfranchisement.*

**engineer**

n  
/ enjə'ni(ə)r /  
F > E  
a person trained to plan and supervise projects in a technical field.  
*The chief engineer and his team designed a flood control plan for the city.*

**engrossed**

adj  
/ ən'grɔst /  
L > AF > E  
completely occupied or absorbed.  
*Engrossed in her book, Mary did not hear her mother's repeated calls for her to come downstairs.*

**enhance**

**enigmatic**

adj  
/ .e(,)nɪg'mɑdɪk /  
Gk > L  
inexplicable, puzzling.  
*Marla scribbled an enigmatic message on Lance's arm cast.*

**enlightenment**

n  
/ ən'li:t'nmənt /  
Ecf + E + Ecf  
the act or means of furnishing with useful information.  
*The rules of the debate will be posted on the bulletin board for the enlightenment of all participants.*

**enmity**

n  
/ 'enmədē /  
L > F  
hostility, animosity.  
*The enmity which Mr. and Mrs. Elton dared not show in open disrespect to Miss Woodhouse found a broader vent in contemptuous treatment of her best friend.*

**ennead**

**enneastyle**

adj  
/ 'enēə.stɪl /  
Gk + Gk  
marked with columniation with nine columns across the front.  
*The new monument has an enneastyle arrangement with Corinthian columns.*

**ennui**

n  
/ ən'wē /  
F  
languor or emptiness of spirit : boredom.  
*Though she claimed to dislike school, Tara felt a certain ennui when not doing something academic.*

**ensconce**

v  
/ ənz'kæn(t)s /  
L > F > E  
place or hide (as oneself) securely : conceal.  
*Jared was able to ensconce himself behind the sofa before his brother came looking for him.*

**ensconced**

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**ensemble**

n  
/ ˈænˈsæmbəl /  
L > F  
a group of supporting players, singers, or dancers.  
*The principals in the play were ably supported by the ensemble.*

**ensilage**

**entablature**

**entangled**

adj  
/ ɛnˈtæŋɡəld /  
E  
involved in a perplexing or troublesome situation from which escape is difficult.  
*Several birds got entangled in the net Mr. Cantrell placed over his cherry tree.*

**entente**

n  
/ ɛnˈtɑnt /  
L > F  
a written or unwritten international understanding usually less formally binding than an alliance.  
*The president decided that her government's policy of isolationism would not be broken by an entente.*

**entertain**

**enthymeme**

n  
/ ˈɛn(t)θəˌmɛm /  
Gk  
an argument or truncated syllogism in which one of the propositions is understood but not stated.  
*A good example of an enthymeme is the statement "We are dependent; therefore, we should be humble."*

**entitle**

**entomogenous**

adj  
/ ɛntəˈmɛjənəs /  
Gk  
growing on or in the bodies of insects.  
*Some scale insects that feed on trees have entomogenous fungi.*

**entomologist**

n  
/ ɛntəˈmɒləjəst /  
Gk  
one specializing in the study of insects.  
*Dirk has wanted to be an entomologist since he was in the third grade.*

**entourage**

n  
/ ˌɛntəˈrɑːʒ /  
L > F  
one's attendants or subordinates.  
*The rock star and his entourage occupied an entire floor of the hotel.*

**entrance**

**entrecote**

n  
/ ɛnˈtrækəʊt /  
L > F  
a steak cut from between the ribs; sometimes : sirloin.  
*Martha's health-conscious brother turned down an entrecote in favor of a flank steak.*

**entremets**

n pl  
/ ˌɛntrəˈmɛ(z) /  
L > F  
dishes (as vegetables or savories) served in addition to the main course of a meal.  
*At some restaurants, entremets must be ordered separately from the main course.*

**entrepreneur**

n  
/ ˌɛntrəˈp(r)əˌnɔːr /  
L > F  
the organizer of an economic venture; especially : one who organizes, owns, manages, and assumes the risks of a business.  
*The local college gives accounting classes for the first-time entrepreneur.*

**enumerate**

**enunciate**

v  
/ ɛˈnʌn(t)sɛˌɑːt /  
L  
utter articulate sounds.  
*Mr. Dubek reminded Val to stand straight and enunciate clearly.*

**enunciator**

**environs**

n pl  
/ ɛnˈvɪrənz /  
L > F > E  
vicinity, neighborhood.  
*Residents of the subdivision and its immediate environs are eligible to join the neighborhood pool association.*

**envisage**

v  
/ ɛnˈvɪzɪj /  
F  
have a mental picture of in advance of realization.  
*Benjamin could scarcely envisage the scale of the project, so he broke it down into smaller, more manageable units.*

**envisagement**

**enzyme**

n  
/ ˈɛn.zɪm /  
Gk  
any of a very large class of complex proteinaceous substances that are produced by living cells and that are essential to life by acting as catalysts.  
*Emil Fischer theorized in 1894 that an enzyme acts like a lock to which a certain reactant is the key.*

**ephapse**

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**ephedrine**

n  
/ ə'fedrɪn /  
Gk

a white crystalline alkaloid used often in the form of a salt (as the sulfate) chiefly in relieving hay fever, asthma, and nasal congestion.  
*Ephedrine has been used to treat the bronchoconstriction associated with asthma.*

**ephemeral**

**ephemeris**

n  
/ ə'fem(ə)rəs /  
Gk

a publication giving the computed places of the celestial bodies for each day of the year.  
*Tracy's attorney consulted an ephemeris to verify her story about having seen Venus on the morning of the crime.*

**epicede**

n  
/ 'epəsɛd /  
Gk

a funeral song or ode.  
*The poet laureate composed an epicede for the queen's funeral.*

**epicure**

**epicurean**

adj  
/ epə'kyərəən /  
Gk name > L + Ecf  
stimulating and satisfying to the senses.  
*The presentation of the epicurean dishes was as delightful as their taste and aroma.*

**epicycle**

n  
/ 'epəsɪkəl /  
Gk

a circle in which a planet moves and which has a center that is itself carried around at the same time on the circumference of a larger circle.  
*Ancient astronomers used the epicycle to explain their theory that Earth is at the center of the solar system.*

**epidemic**

**epidermis**

n  
/ epə'dɜrməs /  
Gk

the outer layer of the skin of a vertebrate.  
*The paper cut, though painful, barely broke Kayla's epidermis.*

**epigram**

n  
/ 'epə,grəm /  
Gk

a short poem with a witty or satirical point.  
*Kelly kept a calendar on her desk that gave a humorous epigram for each day of the year.*

**epilepsy**

n  
/ 'epəlepsē /  
Gk

a chronic nervous disorder of humans and other animals that involves changes in the state of consciousness and of motion.  
*Epilepsy is sometimes caused by glandular disturbances.*

**epiphany**

n  
/ ə'pɪfənē /  
Gk

an appearance or revelatory manifestation of a divine being or a god.  
*Apuleius's Metamorphoses includes a description of an epiphany of the goddess Isis.*

**episcopacy**

**episode**

n  
/ 'epəsəd /  
Gk

the part of a radio, television, or motion-picture serial presented at one performance.  
*The ending of each episode of the soap opera left one wanting to see the next episode.*

**epistemology**

n  
/ ə'pɪstə'mäləjē /  
Gk

the study of the method and grounds of knowledge especially with reference to its limits and validity; broadly : the theory of knowledge.  
*The middle books of Plato's Republic are the key to his epistemology.*

**epistle**

**epistolary**

adj  
/ ə'pɪstələrē /  
L

written in the form of a series of letters.  
*Evan read four epistolary novels last summer.*

**epistrophe**

**epitaph**

**epitaphs**

n pl  
/ 'epətəfs /  
Gk

inscriptions on or at tombs or graves in memory of those buried there.  
*For amusement the children like to read the epitaphs in the old church cemetery.*

**epitasis**

n  
/ ə'pɪdəsəs /  
Gk

the part of a play developing the main action and leading to the catastrophe.  
*During the epitasis the characters developed relationships that would complicate their lives.*

**epithet**

n  
/ 'epəθet /  
Gk

a disparaging or abusive word or phrase.  
*Donnie apologized for shouting an epithet at Mr. Garibaldi.*

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**epitome**

**epitomize**

v  
/ ə'pidə.mīz /

Gk  
serve as the typical representation of.

*Sharon's choice of clothing must surely be an attempt to epitomize bad taste.*

**epizootic**

adj  
/ epəzə'wädik /

Gk  
of or relating to a disease affecting many animals of one kind at the same time.

*Great measures are being taken to ensure that the epizootic foot-and-mouth disease does not enter the United States.*

**epoch**

**epoche**

**eponymous**

adj  
/ ə'pänəməs /  
Gk + Ecf

bearing the name of, being, or relating to one for whom or which something is named.

*Jason will play the role of Julius Caesar in the drama club's presentation of the eponymous play.*

**epopee**

**epyllion**

n  
/ e'pīlēən /  
Gk

a relatively short narrative poem resembling an epic in theme, tone, or style.

*Is "Hiawatha" short enough to be considered an epyllion?*

**equanimity**

n  
/ ēkwə'nīmədē /  
L

evenness of mental disposition : emotional balance especially under stress.

*The writer learned to accept with equanimity the rejections from publishers.*

**equation**

**equator**

n  
/ ē'kwādə(r) /  
L

the great circle of the celestial sphere whose plane is perpendicular to the axis of Earth.  
*Spring begins when the Sun moves north across the equator.*

**equatorial**

adj  
/ ēkwə'tōrēəl /

L  
of, at, or relating to the equator.  
*The length of the days and nights doesn't vary much in equatorial regions.*

**equestrienne**

**equilateral**

**equilibrist**

n  
/ ēkwə'librəst /  
L > F

one who balances himself in unnatural positions and performs hazardous movements.  
*Of all the acts in the circus, Yancy liked the equilibrist best.*

**equilibrium**

n  
/ ēkwə'librēəm /  
L

a state of dynamic balance attained in a reversible chemical reaction when the velocities in both directions are equal.

*Marge injected a flask of colorless nitrogen dioxide with dinitrogen tetroxide, a brown gas, to illustrate chemical equilibrium: When equilibrium occurred, the gas in the flask stopped becoming browner.*

**equine**

**equinoctial**

adj  
/ ēkwə'näkshəl /  
L > F > E

relating to either of the two times each year when the Sun crosses the equator and day and night are everywhere of equal length.

*Marge began making preparations for her annual spring equinoctial festival.*

**equinox**

n  
/ 'ēkwənäks /  
L > E

either of the two times each year when the Sun crosses the equator and day and night are everywhere of equal length, being about March 21st and September 23rd.

*Legend has it that you can balance an egg on its end only during the equinox.*

**equipage**

**equipment**

**equipoise**

v  
/ 'ēkwə'pōiz /  
L + L > F

put or hold in a state of equilibrium or balance.

*Tod's efforts to equipoise the opposing interests of the two groups enabled them to coexist civilly.*

**equipped**

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**equitable**

**equity**

n  
/ 'ekwədə /

L  
the money value of a property or of an interest in a property in excess of claims or liens (as mortgaged indebtedness) against it.  
*During the three-year real estate boom, Jan's home equity went up 300%.*

**equivalent**

adj  
/ ə'kwiv(ə)lənt /

L  
corresponding or virtually identical especially in effect or function.  
*Butter and margarine are equivalent in most recipes.*

**equivocate**

v  
/ ə'kwivəkāt /

L  
avoid committing oneself in what one says : speak evasively.  
*When confronted with the facts, Bernie realized it would do no good to equivocate.*

**eradicable**

**eradicate**

v  
/ ə'radəkāt /

L  
[has homonym with opposite meaning: irradicate] do away with : destroy completely.  
*Many wheat farmers use aerial sprays to eradicate weeds, diseases, and insect pests from their fields.*

**erasable**

adj  
/ ə'rāsəbəl /

L  
capable of being rubbed or scraped out or removed from existence or memory.  
*Penelope signed the contract with erasable ink.*

**erasure**

**eremology**

n  
/ erə'mäləjē /  
Gk + Gk

a science concerned with the desert and its phenomena.  
*Professor Heath's research on desert flora was hailed as a significant contribution to eremology.*

**ergot**

n  
/ 'ərgət /  
F

a fungal disease of rye and other cereals.  
*An outbreak of ergot destroyed Mr. Kern's crop.*

**ermine**

n  
/ 'ərmən /  
Gmc > F > E

any of several weasels that assume white winter fur usually with more or less black on the tail.  
*Despite the outcry of animal activists, the fine fur of the ermine is still used for ornamentation of some designer clothing.*

**errancy**

**errand**

**erroneous**

**ersatz**  
adj  
/ 'er.zäts /

G  
substitute, synthetic : simulated.  
*Because copper was needed for armaments, pennies were made with an ersatz material during World War II.*

**erubescant**

adj  
/ er(y)ə'bes'nt /

L  
becoming red : reddening.  
*Eufemia's erubescant complexion made her embarrassment obvious.*

**erudite**

adj  
/ 'eryədīt /  
L > E

characterized by a love of knowledge for its own sake : devoted to the pursuit of learning.  
*The speaker's presentation was a compilation of research that would interest only the most erudite scholars in his field.*

**erudition**

n  
/ 'eryədishən /  
L

an extensive knowledge acquired chiefly from books.  
*The schoolmaster was esteemed as a man of great erudition.*

**erumpent**

**escalator**

**escamotage**

n  
/ eskāmötāzh /  
F

juggling, hand trickery.  
*The street magician accompanied his deft escamotage with jokes and a distracting patter.*

**escargot**

n  
/ eskārgō /  
OProv > F

a snail prepared for use as food.  
*Saul fished the escargot out of its shell with a tiny fork and popped it into his mouth.*

**escarpment**

n  
/ ə'skärpmənt /  
F

a long cliff or steep slope separating two comparatively level or more gently sloping surfaces.  
*From the top of the escarpment, Peter had a commanding view of both baseball fields.*

**eschew**

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**eschewal**

n  
/ əs(h)'chüəl /  
Gmc > F > E  
shunning, avoidance.  
*Peter's eschewal of anything containing peanuts or peanut oil is a matter of life and death.*

**esonson**

**escritoire**

n  
/ 'eskrə.twär /  
L > F  
a piece of furniture resembling a bureau and providing a writing surface or desk area behind a hinged front that drops down.  
*Jennifer bought a valuable 18th-century escritoire at Sotheby's.*

**escrow**

**esoteric**

adj  
/ .esə'terik /  
Gk  
difficult to understand.  
*Phil found the article on metaphysics too esoteric.*

**espadrille**

n  
/ 'espə.dril /  
L > Prov > F  
a flat sandal having a fabric upper and a flexible often rope sole.  
*Marsha put on her other espadrille and headed for the beach.*

**espalier**

**espaliers**

n pl  
/ ə'spalyərz /  
L > It > F  
fruit trees or other plants trained to grow flat against a building, wall, railing, trellis, or other support.  
*Harriet walked up the broad and neat gravel walk, which led between rows of espaliers to the front door.*

**especially**

**espionage**

n  
/ 'espē.nāzh /  
F  
the practice of spying or using spies to obtain information about the plans and activities especially of a foreign government or a competing company.  
*After discovering that Mr. Carmichael had sold company trade secrets to a competitor, his employer charged him with industrial espionage.*

**esplanade**

n  
/ 'esplə.nād /  
L > It > F  
a level open stretch of paved or grassy ground; especially : one designed for walking or driving and often providing a vista (as over water).  
*Carole decided to go for a stroll on the esplanade before dinner.*

**espresso**

**essence**

n  
/ 'es'n(t)s /  
L  
an extract (as from fruit) used as flavoring in cooking.  
*Tatiana could taste the pomegranate essence in the cake's frosting.*

**estaminet**

n  
/ estāmēnā /  
Gmc > F  
a small café : bistro.  
*While driving through Belgium, Jeff and Linda stopped at a charming estaminet for lunch.*

**esteem**

**estimable**

adj  
/ 'estəməbəl /  
L  
worthy of esteem or respect.  
*The statesman had a tarnished youth but is now, in many ways, an estimable figure.*

**estoppel**

n  
/ ə'stəpəl /  
F  
a legal preclusion by which one is prevented from alleging something previously denied or denying something previously alleged.  
*Because his previous statement was on record, an estoppel prevented Tom from changing his position.*

**estrepement**

n  
/ ə'strēpmənt /  
F > AF  
waste or needless destruction of lands; especially : damage wrought by a tenant for life.  
*The tenant's estrepement of the farm had made the land almost useless.*

**estuarine**

**estuary**

n  
/ 'es(h)chə.werē /  
L  
a water passage where the tide meets the current of a stream.  
*Small boats were warned not to travel the estuary without aid.*

**esurient**

adj  
/ ə'sürēənt /  
L  
having a huge appetite : greedy.  
*Which one of you esurient fellows ordered the extra-large pizza?*

**ethnic**

**ethos**

**etiolation**

n  
/ .ēdēə'lāshən /  
F  
the yellowing or whitening of a green plant through lack of sunlight.  
*Rhonda uses a special lamp on her houseplants to prevent etiolation.*

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**etiquette**

n  
/ 'edəkət /  
F

the forms required by good breeding or prescribed by authority to be observed in social or official life.

*The defendant's attorney advised him on the observance of courtroom etiquette.*

**etymology**

n  
/ .edə'mäləjē /  
Gk > L > E

a branch of linguistics concerned with the complete history of a linguistic form (as a word or morpheme).

*Students have rated Dr. Bailly's class in etymology the best course in the English department.*

**etymon**

n  
/ 'edə.män /  
Gk

the word in a foreign language that is the source of a particular loanword.

*The etymon of the English word cantata is the same word in Italian.*

**eucalyptus**

n  
/ .yü.kə'liptəs /  
Gk

a tree or shrub native to western Australia.

*Brad planted a eucalyptus in the vain hope of attracting koalas.*

**eudaemonic**

adj  
/ .yü.dē'mänik /  
Gk

producing happiness : based on the idea of happiness as the proper end of conduct.

*The company's decision to eliminate production quotas had a eudaemonic effect on all the workers.*

**Euhemerism**

n  
/ yü'hēmə.rizəm /  
Gk name

a theory held by the Greek mythographer Euhemerus that the gods of mythology were but deified mortals.

*While studying Euhemerism, Serjei learned that the god Vulcan was the first to discover how to make bronze and iron.*

**eulogy**

n  
/ 'yüləjē /  
Gk

a composition (as a set oration) in commendation of someone or something (as of the character and accomplishments of a deceased person).

*The university president delivered a moving eulogy at the funeral of the dean.*

**eupeptic**

adj  
/ yü'peptik /  
Gk

cheerful, optimistic.

*The eupeptic president put the people at ease about the nation's economy.*

**euphemism**

n  
/ 'yü.fə.mizəm /  
Gk

a polite term used to avoid the direct naming of an unpleasant reality.

*Marjorie referred to her illness with a vague euphemism.*

**euphoric**

adj  
/ yü'förik /  
Gk

characterized by a feeling of well-being or elation.

*The golfer was absolutely euphoric after making a hole in one.*

**eureka**

interj  
/ yə'rekə /  
Gk

used to express triumph concerning a discovery.

*A loud "Eureka!" emanated from the chemistry laboratory.*

**eurytherm**

n  
/ 'yürəthərm /  
Gk + Gk

an organism that tolerates a wide range of temperature.

*Whereas some animals hibernate during the winter, a eurytherm is active throughout the cold months.*

**eustacy**

**eutaxy**

n  
/ 'yü.taksē /  
Gk

good order or management.

*Rose's Christmas decoration routine was an example of the eutaxy she practiced constantly.*

**euthanasia**

**euthenics**

n pl  
/ yü'theniks /  
Gk

a science that deals with developing human well-being and efficient functioning through the improvement of environmental conditions.

*As the world becomes more populated, people pay more attention to the relevance of euthenics.*

**eutrophic**

adj  
/ yü'träfik /  
Gk + Gk

of a lake : rich in dissolved nutrients but frequently shallow and with seasonal oxygen deficiency.

*Since the 1970s the use of phosphates in detergents has been banned in some states because they make lakes eutrophic.*

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**evaluate**

v  
/ əˈvæljuːwāt /  
L > F > E  
examine and judge concerning the worth, quality, significance, amount, degree, or condition of.  
*The company sent Chris to evaluate the project's potential for profit.*

**evanescent**

adj  
/ ˌevəˈnesənt(t) /  
L  
of short life or duration : fleeting.  
*The joy and moral stimulation of work is often forgotten in the mad chase of evanescent profits.*

**evaporable**

**evidentiary**

adj  
/ ˌevəˈdɛnʃ(ə)rē /  
L + Ecf  
being, relating to, or affording evidence.  
*Because he is not an expert in forensics, Harvey's opinion has no evidentiary value.*

**evildoer**

n  
/ ˈɛvəl.düə(r) /  
E  
one who does wicked deeds.  
*The prosecutor portrayed the defendant as a friendly face with the heart of an evildoer.*

**evincible**

**eviscerate**

v  
/ əˈvisə.rāt /  
L  
take out the entrails of : disembowel, gut.  
*The chef showed his apprentice how to eviscerate a fish.*

**eviternity**

**evocative**

adj  
/ əˈvəkədiv /  
L  
tending to call forth an emotional response.  
*Kathy sang an evocative ballad about her emigrant grandparents.*

**evoke**

v  
/ əˈvōk /  
L  
call forth or up : summon.  
*For Eva, the first crisp days of autumn always evoke memories of her semester in England.*

**exacerbate**

v  
/ ɪgˈzæsə(r)bāt /  
L  
make more violent or bitter : intensify the bad qualities of.  
*Cindy learned how name-calling could exacerbate an already violent argument.*

**exaggerate**

v  
/ ɪgˈzæjə.rāt /  
L  
misrepresent on the side of largeness (as of size, extent, or value) : overstate the truth.  
*Like any fisherman, Tio tends to exaggerate the size of his catches.*

**example**

**exanimate**

**exaration**

**excelsior**

**excerpta**

**exchequer**

**excise**

n  
/ ˈɛk.sɪz /  
D  
any of various taxes on privileges (as of engaging in a particular trade or sport) that are often assessed in the form of a license or other fee.  
*An excise is included in the cost of a fishing license.*

**exclamation**

n  
/ ˌɛkskləˈmæʃən /  
L  
vehement expression (as of protest, reproach, or complaint).  
*Trudy gave a loud exclamation as the plane took off without her.*

**exclamatorily**

**excoriate**

v  
/ ɛkˈskɔrē.āt /  
L  
censure scathingly.  
*Mr. Dent proceeded to excoriate Ellen in front of the entire pep squad.*

**exculpate**

v  
/ ˈɛk(,)skəl.pāt /  
L  
clear from alleged fault or guilt.  
*Greg is positive that the honor council will exculpate him after a thorough investigation.*

**excursion**

**exedent**

**exemplary**

adj  
/ ɪgˈzemplərē /  
L  
deserving imitation : commendable.  
*Hubert was praised for his exemplary conduct.*

**exercise**

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**exhaustion**

n  
/ ig'zɔschən /  
L

weariness following overstrain or overexertion.  
*Vance collapsed from exhaustion after running the marathon.*

**exhibit**

**exhilarate**

**exhortation**

**exigency**

**exiguous**

adj  
/ eg'zɪgəwəs /  
L  
scanty in amount : meager, narrow.  
*Fran's father disapproves of her plan to use her exiguous savings for the down payment on a motorcycle.*

**existential**

**exonerate**

v  
/ ig'zænə.rāt /  
L  
clear from accusation or blame.  
*DNA analysis has the potential either to exonerate suspects or to place them at the scene of the crime.*

**exonerated**

**exoneration**

**exorbitant**

adj  
/ ig'zɔ(r)bədənt /  
L > F > E  
excessive.  
*The ferryman charged an exorbitant rate to carry people across the strait.*

**exoskeleton**

n  
/ ɛksə'skelət'n /  
Gk + Gk > L  
an external supportive or protective structure or framework of an insect.  
*An exoskeleton provides protection for an insect, much like a suit of armor.*

**exotic**

adj  
/ ig'zɔdɪk /  
Gk  
from another country : not native to the place where found.  
*Little did Polly know that the exotic bird she bought had been illegally smuggled into the country.*

**expatiate**

v  
/ ɛk'spəshē.āt /  
L  
speak or write at length or in considerable detail.  
*The mighty bulk of the whale affords a congenial theme whereon to enlarge, amplify, and expatiate.*

**expatriate**

**expectorant**

**expeditious**

adj  
/ ɛkspədɪshəs /  
L  
acting with promptness or efficiency : speedy.  
*Mrs. Elton boasted that her horses were extremely expeditious and that her carriage probably drove faster than anyone else's.*

**expensive**

adj  
/ ik'spen(t)sɪv /  
L  
characterized by high price or cost.  
*The concert tickets were expensive, but the event sold out a month before the performance date.*

**expiate**

v  
/ ɛkspē.āt /  
L  
extinguish the guilt incurred by : make conciliation for.  
*Buddhist doctrine holds that one must expiate the sins committed in past lives.*

**exploit**

n  
/ ɛk.splɔɪt /  
L > F > E  
deed, act.  
*Sarah's first exploit in baking resulted in a burned pie and charred juice in the oven.*

**explosive**

adj  
/ ik'splɔ.sɪv /  
L + EcF  
of or relating to the act of violently expanding and bursting.  
*Witnesses told the arson investigator that two men ran from the side door of the warehouse moments before the explosive fire.*

**expostulate**

v  
/ ik'spəschəl.āt /  
L  
reason earnestly with a person for purposes of dissuasion or remonstrance.  
*Nelson takes every opportunity to expostulate about politics with strangers on the subway.*

**expunge**

v  
/ ik'spʌnj /  
L + L  
strike out, obliterate, or mark for deletion (as a word, line, or sentence).  
*Jeff agreed to expunge the word stupid from his book report.*

**exquisite**

**exsculptate**

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**exsiccate**

v  
/ 'eksə.kāt /  
L + L

drive moisture from (as by the action of heat).

*Sara wants to exsiccate the plums she picked to see if they will really turn into prunes.*

**exsuccous**

adj  
/ ek(s)'səkəs /  
L + L

devoid of all juices or sap : dried up.

*The exsuccous orange in Tamra's locker must have been left there months ago.*

**exsufflation**

**extemporaneous**

adj  
/ .ek.stempə'rānēəs /  
L

composed, performed, or uttered on or as if on the spur of the moment.

*Suzi gave an extemporaneous talk about bonsai at the craft club meeting.*

**extempore**

**extensive**

**extinct**

adj  
/ ik'stɪŋ(k)t /  
L > E

no longer living : deceased, dead.  
*Latin is an extinct language.*

**extinguish**

v  
/ ik'stɪŋwɪʃ /  
L + Ecf

cause (as a fire or light) to cease burning.

*Procedure dictated that Lenny extinguish his car's headlights before approaching the guardhouse.*

**extirpate**

v  
/ 'ektə(r)pāt /  
L

pull up or out by or as if by the roots or stem.

*Fay made it her mission to extirpate every weed in the lawn.*

**extract**

**extraneous**

adj  
/ ek'strānēəs /  
L

existing or originating outside or beyond.

*Leona didn't let extraneous noises bother her while she was studying.*

**extraordinarily**

adv  
/ ik.strō(r)d'n'erəlē /  
L

in a manner beyond what is usual, regular, common, or customary.

*Dr. Miller told us that Brutus was extraordinarily frisky this morning.*

**extraordinary**

**extrapolate**

v  
/ ik'strapə.lāt /  
L + L > E

infer from a trend within an already observed interval.

*From the data she had collected so far, Mirna tried to extrapolate a preliminary conclusion about the insect population of the state.*

**extraterrestrial**

adj  
/ ekstrə.tə'restrēəl /  
L

originating or existing outside Earth or its atmosphere.

*The shiny rock appeared to Zelda to be extraterrestrial.*

**extravaganza**

n  
/ ik.stravə'ganzə /  
L > It

a lavish or spectacular show or event.

*The Mardi Gras extravaganza in New Orleans has several carnival-like parades.*

**extravasate**

v  
/ ik'stravə'sāt /  
L

pour out or erupt.

*When extreme heat and pressure build within a volcano, molten lava may extravasate into the air.*

**extricate**

v  
/ 'ekstrə.kāt /  
L

pull out.

*When the whistle blew, Jason tried to extricate himself from the bottom of the pile of players.*

**exuberance**

**exuberant**

adj  
/ ig'züb(ə)rənt /  
L

joyously unrestrained and enthusiastic.

*The students at Payton Middle School gave the visiting astronaut an exuberant welcome.*

**fabiform**

adj  
/ 'fäbə.förm /  
L + Ecf

[has near homonym: faviform] shaped like a bean.

*Jodie is having a fabiform swimming pool installed in her backyard.*

**fabled**

**fabricate**

**facade**

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**facetiousness**

n  
/ fəˈsɛʃhēˈʌsədə̄ /  
L + Ecf  
the quality or state of being jocular in an often clumsy or inappropriate way.  
*Mrs. Foster did not appreciate Barney's facetiousness during her history class.*

**facetious**

**facial**

**facile**

adj  
/ ˈfasəl /  
L  
easily accomplished or attained.  
*Sarpedon's facile backgammon victory over his sister made him suspicious of her intent.*

**facilely**

adv  
/ ˈfasəl(l)ē /  
L + Ecf  
in an easy manner : with ease or assurance.  
*Andy sat down at the piano and played facilely through a book of show tunes.*

**facilitate**

**facilitator**

n  
/ fəˈsɪlətəd(ə)r /  
L + Ecff  
one that makes something easier or less difficult.  
*As a teacher, Mr. Logan considers himself a facilitator of learning rather than a dispenser of information.*

**faconne**

**facsimile**

n  
/ fakˈsɪmələ̄ /  
L  
an exact and detailed copy.  
*Jared bought a facsimile of Noah Webster's 1828 dictionary.*

**factitious**

**factotum**

n  
/ fakˈtɒdəm /  
L  
a person having many diverse activities or responsibilities : a general servant.  
*Mrs. Alexander has so many responsibilities not related to instruction that she feels more like a factotum than a teacher.*

**facula**

n  
/ ˈfakyələ /  
L  
any of the bright regions of the Sun's photosphere seen most easily near the Sun's edge and occurring most frequently in proximity to sunspots.  
*Seymour tracked the Sun's rotation by charting the position of a facula.*

**facultative**

**faculties**

n pl  
/ ˈfakəltēz /  
L > F > E  
inherent capabilities, powers, or functions.  
*While Barbara was recovering from eye surgery she had to rely more on her faculties of hearing and smelling.*

**faddist**

**Fahrenheit**

adj  
/ ˈfarən.hīt /  
G name  
relating or conforming to a thermometric scale on which under standard atmospheric pressure the boiling point of water is at 212 degrees and the freezing point at 32 degrees.  
*Nathan knew it was hot outside, but he was astonished to learn that the temperature was 100 degrees Fahrenheit.*

**faillie**

**faineant**

adj  
/ ˈfānēənt /  
F  
idle and ineffectual.  
*Lack of purpose can contribute to a faineant life.*

**faint**

**faithful**

n pl  
/ ˈfāthfəl /  
E  
adherents of a system of religious belief.  
*The pope spoke to the faithful from his balcony, asking them to pray for the future of the world.*

**falbala**

**falcate**

adj  
/ ˈfal.kāt /  
L  
hooked or curved like a sickle—used also of the Moon or an inferior planet when less than half its disk is illuminated.  
*The Moon's falcate form loomed above the horizon.*

**falcon**

**faldstool**

**fallacious**

**fallacy**

n  
/ ˈfaləsē /  
L  
a false or erroneous idea.  
*Though Ben's argument may seem plausible, it is pure fallacy.*

**fallibility**

n  
/ faləˈbɪlədə̄ /  
L  
liability or proneness to err.  
*The executive pardon can be seen as a recognition of the fallibility of our system of justice.*

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**fallow**

adj  
/ 'fa(,)lɔ /  
E  
left untilled or unsown after plowing.  
*Miriam has big plans for the patch of fallow ground in her backyard.*

**falsetto**

n  
/ fəl'sed(,)ɔ /  
L > It  
an artificially high voice.  
*Dad draped a mop over his head and sang "Mary Had a Little Lamb" in falsetto.*

**falsify**

**familiar**

adj  
/ fə'milyə(r) /  
L > F > E  
frequently seen or experienced.  
*Sandy was chosen for the job because she was familiar with computers.*

**famish**

v  
/ 'famish /  
E  
deprive of food : starve.  
*The war will famish many people trapped in the besieged city.*

**fanaticism**

n  
/ fə'nədə'sizəm /  
L + Ecf  
excessive enthusiasm and intense uncritical devotion usually toward some controversial matter (as religion, politics, or philosophy).  
*Throughout history, political fanaticism has led to many violent wars.*

**fanchonette**

n  
/ .fanchə'net /  
F  
an open tart covered with meringue or sometimes whipped cream.  
*Randy ordered a lemon fanchonette for dessert.*

**fandango**

n  
/ fan'daŋ(,)gɔ /  
Pg? > Sp  
a lively Spanish dance usually performed by a man and woman with castanets and in triple time.  
*Craig and Ursula danced a fandango in the high school talent competition.*

**fanfaronade**

**fantasize**

v  
/ 'fantə'sīz /  
Gk > L > F > E + Ecf  
create or develop imaginative and often fantastic views, ideas, or explanations.  
*After Calvin was elected to the student council, all he ever did was fantasize about becoming president of the United States.*

**fantoccini**

n pl  
/ .fäntə'chēnē /  
L > It  
puppets moved by strings or mechanical devices.  
*So many spectators stopped to watch the fantoccini that the puppet shows had to be moved to one of the park's larger amphitheaters.*

**farad**

n  
/ 'fə.rəd /  
E name  
the practical meter-kilogram-second unit of capacitance equal to the capacitance of a capacitor between whose plates there appears a potential of 1 volt when it is charged by 1 coulomb.  
*Todd calculated the necessary capacitance of the insulation to be exactly 1 farad.*

**farcical**

adj  
/ 'färsəkəl /  
L  
receiving or meriting laughter or amused scorn as utterly without claim to serious consideration or as laughably inept.  
*Shakespeare employs farcical characters in many of his plays to provide comic relief.*

**farcically**

**farewell**

**farinaceous**

adj  
/ 'färə'nāshəs /  
L  
containing or rich in starch.  
*Common farinaceous foods include bread and pasta.*

**faro**

**farouche**

adj  
/ fə'rüsh /  
L > F  
lacking social graces and experience : marked by shyness and lack of polish.  
*As a teenager, Inez was rather farouche, hesitant to make eye contact with strangers.*

**farraginous**

**farrago**

n  
/ fə'rä(,)gɔ /  
L  
a confused, disordered, or irrational assemblage (as of words or ideas).  
*The candidate's concession speech was a rambling farrago that underscored his instability.*

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**farthingale**

n  
/ 'fɑ:θɪŋ.gəl /  
L > Sp > F

a support worn especially in the 16th century beneath a skirt to swell out and extend it at the hip line.

*No lady-in-waiting at the court of Queen Elizabeth I would have been seen in public without a farthingale.*

**fascinate**

**fascine**

**fascism**

n  
/ 'fɑ:ʃɪzəm /  
L

any program for setting up a centralized autocratic national regime with severely nationalistic policies exercising rigid censorship and forcible suppression of opposition.

*Given the current regime's fascism, a coup was inevitable.*

**fashion**

**fastidious**

**fastish**

adj  
/ 'fɑ:ʃɪʃ /  
E

rather speedy.

*Jane's mutt was a fastish runner despite its injured leg.*

**fatal**

adj  
/ 'fɑ:dəl /  
L & F > E

causing death.

*The cholera had broken out in its most fatal form.*

**fathom**

n  
/ 'fɑ:θəm /  
E

a unit of length equal to 6 feet based on the distance between fingertips of a man's outstretched arms and used especially for measuring the depth of water.

*The fathom, once standard on British admiralty charts, has been replaced by the meter.*

**fatigue**

n  
/ fə'ti:ɡ /  
F

weariness from work or exertion.

*Fatigue results from doing too much too fast.*

**fatuous**

adj  
/ 'fɑ:tʃəwəs /  
L

marked by want of intelligence and rational consideration.

*Lenny characterized Nestor's attempts to build a perpetual motion machine as fatuous.*

**faucet**

**fauna**

n  
/ 'fəʊnə /  
L

animals in general or animal life especially as distinguished from flora.

*The customs agent asked Bart if he was bringing any flora or fauna into the country.*

**Fauntleroy**

adj  
/ 'fəʊntlə:roɪ /

E literary name characterized by a short tailored jacket, knee-length trousers, rather frilly shirt, wide collar with rounded corners, or large loose bow.

*Lulu's masterpiece was a painting of her little brother dressed in a Fauntleroy costume, holding their basset hound by its collar.*

**faveolate**

adj  
/ fə'veələt /  
L

honeycombed.

*The tiny chapel had a faveolate ceiling.*

**fealty**

n  
/ 'fi:ə(ə)ltē /  
L > F > E

faithfulness, allegiance.

*One by one, the nobles knelt before the queen and swore fealty to the crown.*

**feasibility**

n  
/ 'fi:zə'bɪlədē /  
L > F > E

the capability of being done, executed, or effected.

*Engineers are studying the feasibility of constructing a tunnel under the river.*

**feasible**

adj  
/ 'fi:zəbəl /  
L > F > E

capable of being done, executed, or effected.

*Because our Constitution is simple and practical, it is feasible to meet extraordinary needs by making changes without loss of essential form.*

**feature**

**febrifugal**

adj  
/ fə'brɪf(y)əgəl /  
L

mitigating or removing fever.

*Aspirin is well known for its analgesic and febrifugal properties.*

**febrility**

n  
/ fə'brɪlədē /  
L

feverishness.

*As her febrility increased, the patient became delirious.*

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**feckless**

adj  
/ 'fɛk.ləs /  
E

impractical and shiftless.

*Mort was worried that his long periods of unemployment would make him look feckless when he applied for a job.*

**fecund**

adj  
/ 'fɛk.ənd /  
L

marked by noteworthy intellectual productivity and inventiveness.

*The Renaissance was a fecund era for the arts.*

**federal**

**fedora**

n  
/ fə'dɔrə /

F name

a soft felt hat with a low crown creased lengthwise and with or without a high roll on the side brim.  
*Brent stepped into the spotlight and pulled his fedora low over one eye.*

**feign**

**feigned**

**feigning**

v  
/ fāniŋ /  
L > F > E

simulating falsely.

*Darla wondered if her mother was feigning good feelings about her decision to marry Edgar.*

**feint**

v  
/ 'fānt /

F

make a pretense of.

*George broke his hand when he attempted to feint a punch at the wall but overshot his target.*

**felicific**

**felicitous**

adj  
/ fə'lisədəs /  
L

marked by general happiness or good fortune.

*All of Rob's college roommates showed up for the felicitous occasion of his wedding.*

**felicity**

n  
/ fə'lisədē /  
L

the quality or state of being happy.

*Liberty from British rule became more and more necessary for the felicity of the American colonists.*

**feliform**

adj  
/ 'fɛlə.fɔrm /  
L + Lcf > Ecf

resembling a cat.

*Eric found a feliform stone in a cave.*

**felonious**

**felsenmeer**

n  
/ 'fɛlzən.me(ə)r /  
G

an assemblage of rock fragments completely mantling the surface and commonly present in mountainous regions.

*Our guide showed us a field of felsenmeer formed from underlying bedrock by the action produced by frost.*

**feminine**

adj  
/ 'fɛmənən /  
L

female.

*The feminine characters were played by men and the masculine characters were played by women in Cornell Theatre's production of King Lear.*

**femoral**

adj  
/ 'fɛmərəl /  
L

[has homonym: femerell] of, relating to, or located near the thigh.

*The femoral artery supplies blood to the abdomen and lower extremities.*

**fenestrated**

adj  
/ 'fɛnə.strədəd /  
L

provided with or characterized by windows.

*Symmetrically fenestrated buildings characterize Georgian architecture.*

**fenestration**

**fennel**

n  
/ 'fɛnəl /  
L > E

a perennial European herb introduced to North America and cultivated for the aromatic flavor of its seeds.

*Celene often flavors her vegetables with curry powder and fennel.*

**feracious**

adj  
/ fə'rāshəs /  
L

producing abundantly : prolific.

*Sylvia decided to can some of the tomatoes from her extraordinarily feracious plants.*

**feral**

adj  
/ 'fɛrəl /  
L

lacking a human personality due to being reared in isolation from all or nearly all human contacts.

*The television executive rejected the idea of another series about a feral child trying to adjust to modern culture.*

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**feretory**

n  
/ 'ferətɔrē /  
Gk > L

a place for keeping an ornate coffin for the relics of a saint.

*Every two hours the monks at the shrine of St. Dionysios in Greece perform a prayer service and open the feretory for viewing.*

**fermata**

n  
/ fer'mädə /  
L > It

a prolongation at the discretion of the performer of a musical note, chord, or rest beyond its given time value.

*To the conductor's consternation, Dean exaggerated each fermata.*

**fermeture**

**ferocious**

**ferraiolone**

**ferret**

n  
/ 'ferət /  
L > F > E  
a semidomesticated variety of the European polecat.  
*Carl's ferret comes to him for a reward every time he squeezes a squeaky toy.*

**ferrous**

**ferrule**

n  
/ 'ferəl /  
L > F > E  
[has homonym: feral] a band or cap usually of metal enclosing the end of a cane, tool handle, table leg, or similar object to strengthen it or prevent splitting and wearing.  
*Both the knob and the ferrule of Mr. Benson's walking stick were made of finely engraved silver.*

**ferruminate**

v  
/ fə'rümənāt /  
L

join together (as metals) : solder.  
*Fortunately, Tom's dad was able to ferruminate the broken parts of the metal toy.*

**fervent**

adj  
/ 'fərvənt /  
L  
of great intensity; specifically : characterized by often deep intensity of feeling or expression.  
*Natalia's remorseful look and fervent plea for leniency did not sway the vice-principal.*

**fervorous**

adj  
/ 'fərv(ə)rəs /  
L  
full of intensity of feeling or expression.  
*The crowd couldn't help but be swayed by Greg's fervorous speech.*

**fescue**

**festoon**

**festucine**

adj  
/ 'fest(y)əsīn /  
L  
of the color straw yellow.  
*Dorothy's blue eyes suited her festucine hair.*

**feud**

n  
/ 'fyüd /  
Gmc > F > E  
a relationship of aggressive hostility : quarrel.  
*A feud over the property boundaries developed between the two families.*

**fianchetto**

v  
/ .fēən'ched(,)ō /  
F + It  
move (a bishop) in a chess game to the position Knight 2.  
*The analysts correctly predicted that Evangeline would fianchetto her bishop.*

**fiasco**

n  
/ fē'a(,)skō /  
Gmc > It  
an utter and often ridiculous failure especially of an ambitious or pretentious undertaking.  
*The attempt to distribute campaign leaflets by air turned into a fiasco when the wind changed direction.*

**fibrillar**

**fibrillation**

n  
/ .fibrə'lāshən /  
L  
very rapid irregular contractions of the muscle fibers of the heart resulting in a lack of synchronism between heartbeat and pulse beat.  
*Ventricular fibrillation is a condition in which the heart twitches haphazardly instead of propelling blood forward in an organized way.*

**fibrositis**

**fibrous**

adj  
/ 'fibrəs /  
L  
containing, consisting of, or like fibers.  
*The fibrous content of fruits and vegetables is beneficial to the digestive system.*

**fichu**

**ficile**

**fiction**

**fictitious**

**fideism**