

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

aardvark

abactor

abaft

abandon

abandonedly

adv

/ ə'bandən(d)lē /

F > E + Ecf

in a manner free from constraint.

It is well to live abandonedly from time to time.

abatement

abatis

abbatial

abducent

abduction

n

/ əb'dəkshən /

L

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

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

abecedarian

abendmusik

aberrance

aberrancy

aberrational

abetting

abhorred

v

/ əb'hò(ə)rd /

L

detested extremely : loathed.

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

abhorrent

abide

v

/ ə'bid /

E

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

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

Abidjan

adj

/ 'abəjän /

Afr geog name

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

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

abience

n

/ 'abēən(t)s /

L

[has near homonym: adience]

tendency to withdraw from a stimulus object or situation.

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

abjoint

ablation

n

/ ə'blāshən /

L

[has near homonym: oblation]

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

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

ablaze

adj

/ ə'blāz /

E + E

radiant with light or bright color.

Soren's yard was ablaze with lighted Christmas trees.

ablutions

n pl

/ ə'blūshənz /

L > F > E

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

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

abnegate

abnegation

n

/ ,abnē'gāshən /

L

renunciation or denial.

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

abnormal

adj

/ əb'nōrməl /

L

differing from the typical.

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

aboard

adv

/ ə'bō(ə)rd /

E

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

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

abolitionists

n pl

/ ,abə'lishənəsts /

L + Ecff

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

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

abominate

aborted

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abbranchiate

adj
/ ă'brənjkēăt /
Gk
lacking gills.

Salamanders develop into an abbranchiate form as they mature.

abrogate

abrupt

abscission

absentmindedly

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

absolute

absolutely

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

absolutize

absolve

absorbefacient

absorbent

absorption

abstemiously

abstergent

abstract

abstraction

abstrusity

absurd

abundant

abusive

abusively

abustle

abutment

abyss

abyssal

Abyssinian

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

academe

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

academician

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

academy

acanthus

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

acarian

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

acceded

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

accent

accentuate

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

acceptable

acceptably

access

acciaccatura

accipitrine

acclaim

acclimated

acclivitous

accommodation

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accompaniment

n
/ ə'kəmp(ə)nēmənt /
L > F > E

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

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

accompany

accomplish

accordance

accordion

accost

accostable

accosted

v
/ ə'kɒstəd /
L

approached and spoke to.

Mr. Weston immediately accosted

Emma with questions about her health.

accouchement

n
/ .ə.kʊʃ'mä" /
F

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

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

account

accountant

n
/ ə'kaʊntənt /
F

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

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

accredited

accretion

accretionary

adj
/ ə'krēshənērē /
L

marked by or involving addition or accumulation.

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

acculturate

acculturation

n
/ ə.kəlchə'rāshən /
L + L + Lcf

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

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

accumbent

adj
/ ə'kəmbənt /
L

leaning or reclining especially at meals.

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

accuracy

accustomed

adj
/ ə'kəstəmd /
L > F > E

in the habit or custom : established in the practice.

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

acedia

acerbic

acetaldehyde

n
/ .əsəd'aldə.hīd /
ISV + [Ar > Sp > L + Gk > L > G]
L + L + Gk)

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

Acetaldehyde is often used in the manufacture of acetic acid.

acetaminophen

n
/ ə'sēd-ə'minəfən /
ISV

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

John took acetaminophen to relieve his headache.

acetic

adj
/ ə'sēd-ik /
L > F

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

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

acetone

n
/ 'asə.tōn /
L > G

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

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

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acharya

n
/ ä'chäryə /
Skt

a Hindu religious teacher : one versed in the sacred writings of the Hindus.

The acharya wrote a book in which he offered some innovative insights into the Bhagavad-Gita.

achieve

achievement

achievements

Achilleian

adj
/ ,akə'li:ən /
Gk name

[has homonym: achilleine] like Achilles, hero of Homer's Iliad (as in strength, invincibility, or moody and resentful wrath).

Troy's approach in games is so Achilleian that no one wants to play with him.

achromatic

achy

acid

n
/ 'asəd /
L

a compound capable of reacting with a base to form a salt, reddening litmus, and evolving hydrogen on reaction with certain metals (as iron, zinc, tin).

The formula for every inorganic acid contains one or more hydrogen atoms as well as an anionic group.

acidify

acidosis

n
/ ,asə'dōsəs /
L + Gk > L

a condition of decreased alkalinity of the blood and tissues.

James was rushed to the emergency room, where he learned that he was suffering from acidosis.

acidulous

aciniform

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

acknowledged

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

acinal

acne

acoelous

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

acolutic

acotyledon

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

acoustic

acoustical

acquaint

acquainted

acquiesced

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

acquire

acrimony

acrobatic

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

acrocyanosis

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

acrolect

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

acrolectal

acrophobia

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

across

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acrotarsium

acrylics

n pl

/ ə'kriliks /

(L + Gk + Ecf) > ISV

paints in which the vehicle is a glasslike thermoplastic.

Judy enjoys going to the art supply store and shopping for new tubes of acrylics.

actinium

actinotherapy

n

/ ˌaktə(ɹ)nō'therəpē /

Gk > L

application for therapeutic purposes of the chemically active rays of the spectrum.

Actinotherapy was the treatment of choice for Aletta's malady.

activate

activator

actressy

actuality

n

/ ˌakchə'walədē /

L

the act or state of existing in fact or reality.

In actuality, the threatening shadows near the house were only trees and shrubs.

actuarial

acuity

acumination

acute

adj

/ ə'kyüt /

L

having a sudden onset, sharp rise, and short course.

Acute appendicitis can be deadly if not diagnosed and treated immediately.

acuteness

adamant

adaptability

adaptable

addax

n

/ ˈɑdaks /

L

a large light-colored antelope of northern Africa, Arabia, and Syria that has long spiraling horns.

The addax has a remarkable ability to find patches of vegetation in desert areas.

addendum

additive

address

addressee

adduce

adductor

adeciduate

adenoiditis

n

/ ˌadˈn.ɔɪ'dɪdəs /

Gk

inflammation of the enlarged masses of lymphoid tissue at the back of the pharynx.

The doctor hoped to treat Kyle's adenoiditis without resorting to surgery.

adenoids

adeptly

adherend

n

/ ad'hɪ.rend /

L

one of the bodies held to another by a bonding substance such as glue.

The instructions on the package said to spread a thin layer of cement on each adherend and clamp them together overnight.

adhesive

adiabatic

adj

/ ˌadēə'badɪk /

Gk

occurring without loss or gain of heat by the substance concerned.

Thermos bottles provide temporary adiabatic storage of hot or cold beverages.

adios

interj

/ ˌädə'ɔs /

L > Sp

—used to express farewell.

Amid cries of “adios” the happy couple departed for their honeymoon trip.

adiposity

adipsia

adjective

adjournment

n

/ ə'jɔrnmənt /

L > F > E

the act of putting off further proceedings either indefinitely or until a later stated time.

Judge Harcourt refused to grant the defendant's request for an adjournment and ordered the trial to continue.

adjudication

n

/ ə'jüdə'kāshən /

L

a judicial decision or sentence.

The lawyer explained that preventive detention is actually imprisonment without an adjudication of guilt.

adjustable

adjustment

adjutant

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admeasurement

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

administer

administration

admirable

admiralty

admirer

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

admiringly

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

admissible

admission

admissive

admittance

admonish

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

adobe

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

adolcesce

adolescent

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

adoptable

adopted

adoration

adornment

adrenergic

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

adroit

adscititious

adsorbent

adulation

adulteration

adust

adustiosis

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

advancement

advantageously

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

advection

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

advenient

adventitious

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

adverbial

adversarial

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adversaries

n pl
/ 'advə(r).serēz /
L > F > E

ones that contend with, oppose, or resist.

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

advisable

advising

aerator

aeroballistics

aerobatics

aerodynamics

aerophobia

aerophone

n
/ 'a(ə)rō.fōn /
Gk

a wind instrument.

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

aeroplankton

n
/ 'a(ə)rə.plaŋktən /
Gk + Gk

small airborne organisms (as flying insects).

The backyard barbecue was almost spoiled by pesky aeroplankton.

Aesculapian

adj
/ ˌɛskyə'lāpēən /
Gk name

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

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

affectation

n
/ ˌæfɛk'tāshən /
L

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

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

affeer

affenpinscher

n
/ 'afən.pinchə(r) /
G

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

Erica's affenpinscher escaped when she opened the door.

afferent

affination

affix

v
/ ə'fiks /
L

attach physically, as with nails or glue.

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

affixed

affliction

n
/ ə'flikshən /
L

a state of pain, distress, or grief.

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

affrighted

adj
/ ə'frīdəd /
E

seized with sudden and great fear approaching terror.

The hair of the affrighted cat bristled.

afghan

n
/ 'af.ɡan /
Pashto

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

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

afield

aforesaid

afoul

Afrikaans

n
/ 'ɑfrə.kän(t)s /
L > D

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

The South African president gave his inaugural address in Afrikaans.

afterglow

n
/ 'aftə(r).glō /
E + E

the light especially in the western sky after sunset.

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

against

agalloch

n
/ ə'galək /
Dravidian > Gk

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

A small piece of agalloch smoldered outside the Buddhist temple.

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agathism

n
/ 'agəˌθɪzəm /
Gk

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

aged

agency

aggrandize

aggrandizing

v
/ əˈgran.dīzɪŋ /
L > F
making appear great or greater : exalting.
Aggrandizing himself at every opportunity, Seth sees no value in humility.

aggressor

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

aggrieved

adj
/ əˈɡrɛvd /
L > F > E
troubled or distressed in spirit.
When Laurie's father died, she asked her aggrieved mother to come to live with her.

agile

agility

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

agitation

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

agnomen

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

agonic

agonize

v
/ 'agəˌnɪz /
Gk > L > F
endure torture, pain, or anguish.
Before the new pain medication was available, Alicia would agonize with her migraine headaches for several days at a time.

agora

agravic

agricultural

agriculture

agrorod

agronome

agronomist

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

ahem

ahimsa

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

aiguille

aiguillette

aioli

n
/ 'i.ɒlɪ /
L > Prov
a sauce made of crushed garlic, egg yolks, olive oil, and lemon juice and sometimes potato.
In the Mediterranean region, aioli is served with fish and potatoes : garlic mayonnaise.

airsickness

airstream

n
/ 'a(a)(ə)r.strēm /
Gk + E
a current of air : wind; especially : a high-velocity wind at high altitude.
Flying in the same direction as an airstream increases an airplane's airspeed appreciably.

aitch

n
/ 'äch /
L? > F
the letter h.
It is surprising in how many words the aitch is silent.

alarmable

alarmist

alas

alba

album

alcazar

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alcogel

alcoves

n pl

/ ˈalkəvz /

Ar > Sp > F

recessed parts (as breakfast nooks) of rooms.

Silvio found that the alcoves in the library were ideal spots for afternoon naps.

aldehyde

n

/ ˈaldəhīd /

Ar > Sp > L + Gk > L > G

any of a class of very reactive organic compounds that are intermediate in state of oxidation.

Cinnamic aldehyde is a high molar mass aldehyde that has a pleasant odor and is used in the manufacture of perfumes.

alembic

n

/ əˈlembik /

Gk > Ar > L > F

an apparatus usually made of glass or metal formerly much used in distillation.

The sorcerer used an alembic in concocting the invisibility potion.

alepidote

n

/ əˈlepədōt /

Gk

a fish without scales.

The handsaw fish is a deep-sea alepidote.

aleuronat

algebraic

algebraically

adv

/ ˌaljəˈbrāək(ə)lē /

Ar > L + Ecff

in a manner of, relating to, involving, or according to the laws of algebra.

The area of a rectangle is expressed algebraically as “area equals length times width.”

Algerian

adj

/ alˈjirēən /

African geog name

of, relating to, or characteristic of Algeria, a country in northwest Africa.

The Algerian vineyards that were planted under the French colonial rule have mostly fallen into ruin.

algonometer

alienage

aliphatic

adj

/ ˌaləˈfədɪk /

Gk

of, relating to, or derived from fat.

Alison’s science fair project was a study of the effectiveness of the aliphatic compounds used in soap.

aliveness

alkalify

alkyd

n

/ ˈalkəd /

ISV

any of a large group of thermoplastic or thermosetting synthetic resins used chiefly in making protective coatings characterized in general by their gloss, flexibility, and good weathering properties.

Alkyd is an important ingredient in paint manufacturing.

allegation

n

/ ˌaləˈgāshən /

L

the act of asserting positively often before a court.

Patrick’s allegation that his neighbor started the forest fire was totally unfounded.

allegeable

allegiant

allegretto

alleviate

alleviation

n

/ əˌlēvēˈāshən /

L

relief, moderation (as of physical or mental suffering).

Pat was ready to follow any recommendation for alleviation of her back pain.

alleyway

allied

adj

/ ˈa.liəd /

L > F

joined by treaty or compact.

The leaders agreed to form an allied army to defend against any attack on their two countries.

allonym

n

/ ˈalə.nim /

Gk

a name that is assumed by an author but that actually belongs to another person.

For his first novel, Allen considered using John Grisham as an allonym.

allot

v

/ əˈlot /

(Gmc + L) > F > E

assign as a share or portion to a particular person or thing or for a particular purpose.

When the supervisor made the schedule, she failed to allot each employee time for a morning break.

allotment

allotted

allspice

allure

n

/ əˈlū(ə)r /

L > F + Gmc > F

power of attraction or fascination.

The allure of possible immortality drove the wizard to study the dark side of magic.

alluring

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allusion

n
/ ə'lyʒhən /
L

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

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

allusively

adv
/ ə'lyʒɪvli /
L + Ecff

implicitly, indirectly.

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

alluvial

alluvium

ally

alogia

aloha

alpestrine

alphabetical

alphanumeric

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

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

alpine

alternate

alternative

n
/ ɒl'tərnədɪv /
L

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

One alternative to confusion is proper organization.

alternativity

altigraph

n
/ 'altəˌɡraf /
L + Gk

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

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

altimeter

altimetry

alto

altocumulus

n
/ ˌal(,)tə'kyümyələs /
L + L

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

The altocumulus consisted mostly of small, supercold water droplets.

altricial

adj
/ al'trɪʃəl /
L

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

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

alum

aluminotype

aluminous

aluminum

alumnus

alveolar

adj
/ əl'veələ(r) /
L
articulated with the tip of the tongue touching or near the teethridge (as the English consonant sounds \t\, \d\, and \n\).
Constance worked with a speech therapist to improve her pronunciation of alveolar consonants.

always

alyssum

n
/ ə'lyʒəm /
Gk > L
a plant of a genus of European and Asiatic herbs having small usually yellow flowers.
Elvira's flagstone walk was bordered with sweet alyssum.

amalgamation

n
/ əˌmalgə'māʃən /
Ar > L > F
the action or process of uniting or combining into a uniform and independent whole.
In the 13th century King Edward I effected the amalgamation of Wales with England.

amandine

adj
/ ˌämən'dēn /
Gk > L > F
[Note: Could be confused with almandine and amandin.] prepared or served with almonds.
Gail made salmon with mashed potatoes and green beans amandine for her dinner party.

amantadine

amaranth

n
/ 'aməˌran(t)h /
Gk
a dark reddish purple.
Justin wanted to buy a green sofa, but his wife preferred to decorate the living room in amaranth and beige.

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

amaranthine

amaretto

amateurish

adj
/ ˌaməˈtərɪʃ /
L > F + EcF
lacking professional finish.
Sandy refused to pay for the wedding photographer's amateurish work.

amathophobia

Amazon

n
/ ˈaməˌzæn /
Gk
one of a race or nation of female warriors usually associated with Scythia or Asia Minor with whom the ancient Greeks of mythology repeatedly warred.
Penthesilea was an Amazon who fought on the side of the Trojans in the Trojan War and was killed by Achilles.

amazonite

ambassador

ambidexterity

n
/ ˌam.bədəkˈsterədə /
L
the quality or state of being capable of using both hands with equal ease.
The quarterback's ambidexterity came in handy on many occasions during yesterday's game.

ambient

ambiguous

ambitious

amble

n
/ ˈambəl /
L
an easygoing or leisurely walking movement.
If you are in a hurry, you had better not go at an amble.

ambrette

n
/ ˈambret /
F
a French dessert pear having a musky odor.
The featured dessert at Le Chateau Rouge was poached ambrette with whipped cream.

ambulance

ameliorable

amenities

n pl
/ əˈmenədēz /
L
things that conduce to physical or material comfort or convenience or to a pleasant and agreeable life.
The timeshare resort's maintenance fee nearly doubled with the addition of several amenities.

amenity

amerce

amercement

n
/ əˈmərsmənt /
F > AF > E
the infliction of a penalty at the discretion of the court; also : the penalty thus imposed.
For the officer's neglect of duty the court imposed an amercement of two weeks' pay.

amethysts

n pl
/ ˈaməθəsts /
Gk > L > F > E
[Note: Could be confused with singular form.] specimens of a clear purple or bluish violet variety of crystallized quartz much used as a jeweler's stone.
The jeweler emptied a small bag of amethysts on a velvet pad, and Anna selected the one she liked best.

amiably

adv
/ ˈāmēəblē /
L > F
in a friendly, sociable, and congenial manner.
"Hello, students," Mr. Perry said, and he amiably gave each child a handshake.

amidol

amigo

n
/ əˈmē(,)gō /
L > Sp
friend.
Roger has been John's amigo since grade school.

ammoniacal

adj
/ ˌaməˈnīəkəl /
Gk > L
of, relating to, containing, or having the properties of ammonia.
A strong ammoniacal odor emanated from the laboratory.

ammunition

amnesty

n
/ ˈamnəstē /
Gk
the act of an authority (as a government) by which general pardon of an offense is granted.
The new president granted amnesty to all imprisoned draft evaders.

amontillado

amorphous

adj
/ əˈmɔrfəs /
Gk
being without real or apparent crystalline form.
Glass is an amorphous solid that in some ways is more like a liquid than a solid.

amount

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

ampere

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

amphichrome

amphitheater

ample

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

ampliate

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

amplifier

amplify

amplitude

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

amply

amputee

amyelonic

amylaceous

amyotonia

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

amyotrophic

anaclastic

anacoluthon

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

anacreontic

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

anadiplosis

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

anadromous

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

anagram

anallobar

analogous

analysis

analyze

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

anamnesis

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

Ananias

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

anaphylaxis

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

anaptyxis

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

anaqua

anarchic

anathematize

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

anatocism

n
/ əˈnədəˌsɪzəm /
Gk > L

compound interest : the taking of compound interest.

At the seminar the business students discussed simple interest, anatocism, and the basics of investing.

anatomy

n
/ əˈnədəˌmɪ /
Gk

a branch of biology that deals with the form and structure of animals.

The two cadavers delivered to the lab were designated for use by Dr. Wheeler's class in anatomy.

ancestral

adj
/ ənˈsestrəl /
L > F

of or belonging to an ancestor or ancestors.

Carmen visited Romania to explore her ancestral heritage.

ancestry

anchor

n
/ ˈæŋkə(r) /
Gk > L > E

something that serves to hold an object firmly.

Because the day was windy, Sarah brought a heavy rock to act as an anchor for the picnic cloth.

anchorage

anchored

ancient

ancipital

andiron

andradite

andragogy

n
/ ˈandrəˌɡjē /
Gk + Gk

the art or science of teaching adults.

Mary Lynn's skill in andragogy was due to her experience as a high school teacher.

androgynism

androgynous

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

android

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

anechoic

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

anemology

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

anemometry

anemotropism

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

anent

anfractuous

angelfish

anger

angiitis

angina

anglophilia

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

angora

angrily

angstroms

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

anguished

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

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angwantibo

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

anhedonia

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

anhinga

aniconic

animadversion

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

animadversions

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

animate

animus

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

ankylosaur

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

annals

annates

annelid

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

annexation

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

announcer

n
/ ɔ'naün(t)sə(r) /
L > F > E
a person who introduces television
or radio programs, makes
commercial announcements, or
gives station identification.
*The game show contestant waited
nervously for the announcer to
introduce her.*

annoy

annularity

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

anoia

anoint

anorak

anorexic

ansa

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

answerer

antagonist

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

antebellum

antecedence

antedate

anteing

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

antennae

n pl
/ an'tenē /
L

the paired movable sensory appendages of the head of certain arthropods.

The bug stopped and wiggled both of its antennae.

antepenultimate

adj
/ .antəpə'nəltəmət /
L

coming before the next to last in any series.

The antepenultimate question in the game "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire" is worth \$250,000.

anthem

anthesis

n
/ an'thēsās /
Gk

the action or period of opening of a flower.

Time-lapse photography can show the complete anthesis of a rose in a few seconds.

anthophorous

adj
/ an'thāfərəs /
Gk

flower-bearing.

Amy selected several anthophorous plants to decorate her office.

anthracite

n
/ 'an(t)thrəsīt /
Gk

a hard glossy coal that burns with a nearly smokeless flame.

Anthracite was created when soft coal was subjected to the intense heat and pressure of Earth's crust.

anthropologist

n
/ .an(ɪ)(t)thrə'päləjəst /
Gk

a specialist in the study considering man's physical character, historical and present geographical distribution, racial classification, group relationships, and cultural history.

The anthropologist Margaret Mead spent many years studying Pacific Island societies.

anthropology

n
/ .an(ɪ)(t)thrə'päləjē /
Gk

the study considering man's physical character, historical and present geographical distribution, racial classification, group relationships, and cultural history.

Jody created a poster that highlighted Margaret Mead's contributions to anthropology.

anthropomorphic

adj
/ .an(t)thrə.pō'mɔrfik /
Gk

described or thought of as having human form or attributes : ascribing human characteristics to nonhuman things.

Sterling pretends that his cat has anthropomorphic powers and often talks for her in a tiny, squeaky voice.

anthropophagous

adj
/ .an(t)thrə'päfəgəs /
Gk + Gk

[Note: Could be confused with noun anthropophagus.] feeding on human flesh : man-eating : cannibal.

The class was fascinated by the story of Christopher Columbus's encounter with the Caribs, a supposed anthropophagous people.

anthropopsychism

n
/ .an(t)thrə.pō'sī.kizəm /
Gk + Gk

ascription of a soul like that of humans to nature or to something that governs natural processes.

A perfect example of anthropopsychism can be found in an old commercial that claimed, "You can't fool Mother Nature."

antibiotic

anticipate

anticipation

anticlimax

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

anticoagulant

n
/ .an(ɪ)tikō'agyələnt /
L
a substance (as a drug) that hinders clotting of blood.
The surgeon administered an anticoagulant after the operation.

antidotal

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

antidote

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

antigen

n
/ 'antəjən /
Gk + Gk

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

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

antihistamine

n
/ ,anti'histə.mən /

L + Gk + ISV

any of various compounds used for treating certain allergic reactions.

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

antineoplastic

antinomy

n
/ an'tinəm /
Gk

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

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

antipathies

n pl
/ an'tipəθēz /
Gk

settled aversions or dislikes.

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

antipathy

antiphonal

adj
/ an'tifən'l /
Gk + Gk

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

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

antiphony

antiquate

antiquated

antiseptics

antithetical

antitussive

anxieties

n pl
/ an'ziədēz /
L

strong concerns about some imminent developments.

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

anxiolytic

n
/ ,anʒēō'lidik /
L + Gk

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

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

anxious

anxiously

adv
/ 'an(k)ʃəslē /
L

in an apprehensive, worried manner.

Mary anxiously twisted her hair during the geometry test.

aoristic

aparejo

n
/ ,apə'rā(i)ō /
L > Sp

a packsaddle of stuffed leather or canvas.

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

apartment

apiculture

n
/ 'āpəkəlchə(r) /
L

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

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

apiece

apishamore

aplastic

apocalyptic

adj
/ ə,päke'liptik /
Gk

predicting or foreboding imminent disaster or final doom.

Apocalyptic prophets are typically hostile to reason and science.

apocryph

apocrypha

n pl
/ ə'päkrəfə /
Gk > L

quasi-scriptural books of doubtful authorship and authority.

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

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

Apollonian

adj

/ ˌapəˈlɒnēən /

Gk

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

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

Apollyon

n

/ əˈpɒliən /

Biblical name

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

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

apologetic

apologize

apolune

apopemptic

adj

/ ˌapəˈpem(p)tɪk /

Gk + Gk

sung or addressed to one departing : valedictory.

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

apophysis

n

/ əˈpäfəsəs /

Gk + Gk

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

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

apoplectic

apostasy

apostate

n

/ əˈpɑːstāt /

Gk > L

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

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

apotheosis

n

/ əˈpəθēˈɒsəs /

Gk

the raising of a person or thing to divine status.

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

apotheosize

apotropaic

adj

/ əpətrəˈpaɪk /

Gk + Ecf

designed to avert or turn aside evil.

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

appalled

apparent

apparently

appearance

appeasable

adj

/ əˈpiːzəbəl /

L > F + Ecf

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

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

appeased

v

/ əˈpiːzd /

L > F > E

caused to subside : allayed.

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

appellant

appellate

adj

/ əˈpelət /

L

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

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

appellations

n pl

/ ˌapəˈlāshənz /

L

[has near homonym:

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

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

appendage

appendicular

adj

/ ˌapənˈdɪkylə(r) /

L

of or relating to a limb or limbs.

Arthritis limited Joan's appendicular movements.

appendix

appetitost

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

applause
n
/ ə'plɔz /
L
approval publicly expressed (as by clapping hands).
After the applause subsided, the opera continued.

appleblossom

applicant

application

appliquer

appoggiatura

apportioned

apposite

appraise
v
/ ə'prāz /
F > E
[has homonym: upraise] set a value on (as goods or land).
For insurance purposes, Selina had an expert appraise her furniture.

appreciate

apprehend
v
/ ,aprə'hend /
L
take (a person) in legal process : arrest.
The police chief ordered the officers to apprehend the forger.

apprehensible

approximately

appulse
n
/ ə'pəls /
L
the apparent very near approach of one celestial body to another.
Marsha peered through binoculars to see the appulse of Saturn to Jupiter.

apraxia

apron

apse

apterous

apterygote
adj
/ ap'terə,gōt /
Gk
of or relating to a subclass of insects that are presumed never to have developed wings.
Silverfish, firebrats, and bristletails are apterygote insects.

apteryx
n
/ 'aptə(,)riks /
Gk + Gk
a flightless New Zealand bird that is about the size of a domestic chicken.
The eggs of the apteryx, which are as large as one fourth its weight, are incubated by the male.

apyretic
adj
/ ,äpɪ'redɪk /
Gk
without fever.
The pediatrician said that Bobby could return to school as soon as he was apyretic.

aqua
n
/ 'akwə /
L
a variable color averaging a light greenish blue.
The whiteness of the beach's sand made the aqua of the water even more striking.

aquamarine

aquarelle

aquarellist
n
/ ,akwə'reləst /
L > It > F + Ecf
one who draws or paints in watercolor, especially transparent watercolor.
Duncan showed great promise as an aquarellist.

aquiclude

aquosity
n
/ ə'kwäsədē /
L
the quality or state of being moist.
Marlene dutifully checked the aquosity of the soil every day with the test strips the nursery gave her.

arable

arachin

arachnophagous
adj
/ ,arak'näfəgəs /
Gk + Gk
feeding on spiders.
Jill's contribution to the discussion about arachnophagous creatures was that there are not enough of them.

Aramaic
n
/ ,arə'māik /
Gk
a Semitic language of which documents are known from as early as the 9th century B.C.
Aramaic is the mother of many languages in the Middle East and Asia.

araneid

araneiform

araucaria

arbitrariness
n
/ ,ärbə'trerənəs /
L + Ecf
the quality or state of arising from unrestrained exercise of the will, caprice, or personal preference.
The report indicated that the ghetto residents had been subjected to the arbitrariness of the authorities.

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

arbitration

n
/ ˌärbə'trāshən /

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

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

arbor

arboretum

arbustum

arbutus

n
/ ər'byüdəs /

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

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

arc

n
/ ˈärk /

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

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

arcade

arcane

adj
/ ər'kän /

L
known only to a very few : mysterious.

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

archaically

archaism

archetype

n
/ ˈärkə'tīp /

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

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

archidiaconal

archimage

architect

architectural

adj
/ ˌärkə'tekchərəl /
Gk > L

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

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

architrave

archive

archives

archivist

archivistic

ardoise

arena

Areopagus

n
/ ˌarē'äpəgəs /

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

argali

n
/ ˈärgələ /

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

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

argent

n
/ ˈärjənt /

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

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

argonaut

n
/ ˈärgə.nət /
Gk name + Gk

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

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

argue

argyria

arid

aridly

arise

aristocracy

n
/ ˌarə'stäkrəsē /

Gk + Gk
an upper class usually made up of an hereditary nobility.

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

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

aristocrat

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

arithmetic

armiger

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

armigerous

armoire

arnica

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

arolium

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

aromatic

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

arrearage

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

arrears

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

arriccio

arriero

arrival

arrogate

arsedine

arsine

arson

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

arterial

arteriole

artery

Arthropoda

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

articulate

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

artificer

artist

artiste

artistry

arugula

asado

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

asarotum

ascending

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

ascensive

ascertain

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

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

ascot

ascribe

ashamed

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

asocial

aspen

asperge

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

asperous

aspersions

aspidistra

aspirant

asportation

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

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

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

assembly

assertive

assessable

assessed

assign

assimilative

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

assist

assistant

assure

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

astatine

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

asterisk

asthma

asthmogenic

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

astragal

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

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

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astrolabe

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

astronaut

astrophysicist

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

astuciously

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

astucity

asunder

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

asymmetric

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

asymptote

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

asyndeton

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

atavistic

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

atheist

athetize

athodyd

Atlantic

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

atoll

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

atrament

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

atresia

attaboy

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

attachable

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

attacked

attain

attempt

attending

atticism

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

attorney

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

attorneys

n pl
/ ə'tɜrnēz /
F

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

attraction

n
/ ə'trakshən /
L

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

atwitter

auburn

adj
/ 'ɒbə(r)n /
L > F

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

auction

v
/ 'ɒkshən /
L

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

audace

adj
/ au'dä.chā /
L > It

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

audible

audio

audiometer

n
/ ɔdē'ämədə(r) /
L + Ecf + Gk > Ecf
an instrument used in measuring the acuity of hearing in the individual ear for sounds of various frequencies.
At the local schools, students' hearing is tested annually by a specialist using an audiometer.

audit

v
/ 'ɒdət /
L

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

auditor

auditorium

n
/ ɔdə'tɔrēəm /
L

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

augmented

v
/ ɔg'mentəd /
L

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

Augustan

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

aulic

aunt

aurify

v
/ 'ɔrəfī /
L

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

auroral

aurulent

auscultate

auspicate

auspicious

austausch

n
/ 'äus.taush /
G

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

austerity

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

Australian

adj

/ ɒ'strālyən /

L

of or relating to the commonwealth of Australia.

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

Australopithecus

n

/ ɒ.strā(,)lɒ'pithikəs /

L + Gk

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

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

autecology

auteur

n

/ ɔ'tər /

F

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

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

authoritarianism

n

/ ɒ.thä'rə'terē.nizəm /

L + Ecff

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

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

authorship

autistic

adj

/ ɒ'tistik /

Gk

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

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

autochthon

autograph

automation

n

/ ɒdə'māshən /

Gk

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

Automation of the assembly line increased productivity at the plant.

automobile

autonomously

autopilot

auxilian

avalvular

avenge

avenue

aversion

avert

v

/ ə'vərt /

L

[has near homonym: evert] prevent the occurrence or unfortunate, dangerous, and dire effects of.

It is hoped that the peace mission will avert war.

avgolemono

n

/ ävgɒ'lemə(,)nɒ /

Gk

a soup or sauce made of chicken stock, egg yolks, and lemon juice.

Alex ate three bowls of his grandmother's avgolemono after his soccer game.

aviary

avid

adj

/ 'avəd /

L

craving eagerly : desirous to the point of greed.

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

avidity

avifauna

avocation

avogram

n

/ 'avə.gram /

It name + Gk > ISV

a unit of mass and weight equal to one gram divided by the Avogadro number.

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

avoid

awesome

awful

awkward

adj

/ 'ɒkwə(r)d /

ON > E + E

lacking ease, grace, or deftness of movement.

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

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axel

n
/ 'aksəl /
name

[has homonyms: axil, axle] a jump from the outer forward edge of one skate with 1½ turns taken in the air and a return to the outer backward edge of the other skate.
Melanie performed a flawless triple axel in practice but fell on the landing during the tryouts for the ice show.

axiomatic

adj
/ ,aksēə'madik /
Gk

of or relating to a proposition, principle, or rule that has found general acceptance.
"Everyone has to die and pay taxes" is Mrs. Badger's favorite axiomatic saying.

axle

n
/ 'aksəl /
E

a spindle that enables a wheel or pair of wheels to revolve.
Mike called a tow truck after the rear axle on his car was damaged in a collision.

axolotl

azalea

n
/ ə'zālyə /
Gk

any plant of a genus of shrubs or trees with deciduous leaves and funnel-shaped flowers now usually considered a subgenus of Rhododendron.
Anna grew a magnificent azalea on her balcony.

baalize

v
/ 'bā(ə)līz /
Heb

convert to or influence toward the worship of Baal or to some other form of idolatry.
The minister gave a sermon lambasting Wall Street and the bull market for trying to baalize investors to the worship of mammon.

babouche

n
/ bə'büsh /
Per > Ar > F

a chiefly oriental slipper made without heel or quarters.
The babouche on display had a maroon silk upper and colorful beadwork.

babuina

bacillary

adj
/ 'basə.lerē /
L

shaped like a rod : consisting of small rods or rodlike bodies.
Roger did not know which bacillary parasite he was viewing under the microscope.

backlight

backspace

backstage

n
/ 'bak'stāj /
E + L > F > E

the whole or any part of the area of a stage that is behind the proscenium; specifically : the dressing rooms of a theater.
The drama class members were delighted to be asked if they wanted to tour the backstage.

backstroke

backwoods

bacon

bacteria

bactericidal

bactericide

n
/ bak'tirə'sid /
Gk + L
something that destroys bacteria.
Maggie cleans the bathroom with a product that contains a bactericide.

bacterin

bacteriology

n
/ (i)bak.tirē'äləjē /
Gk
a science that deals with the study of bacteria and with their relations to medicine, industry, and agriculture.
Mrs. Murry has doctoral degrees in both biology and bacteriology.

bacteriophagic

adj
/ bak.tirēə'fajik /
Gk
of, relating to, or being viruses that infect and destroy bacteria.
Around 1910 Frederick Twort discovered bacteriophagic viruses, thus laying the foundation for modern virology.

bacteriosis

bacterium

baculiform

adj
/ 'bakyələ'förm /
L
shaped like a rod.
The baculiform chromosomes looked huge under the electron microscope.

badgers

n pl
/ 'bajə(r)z /
AF? > E + Ecf
any of certain strong sturdily built carnivorous mammals.
Ivar always said that the badgers had cleaner houses than people, and that when he hired a housekeeper her name would be Mrs. Badger.

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bafflement

baffling

adj

/ 'baf(ə)liŋ /

E

perplexing, confusing.

Liam tried to explain the problem with baffling wordy sentences.

baggy

bail

bailey

n

/ 'bālē /

F > E

[has homonyms: bailee, bailie] the outer wall of a medieval castle or any of the several walls surrounding the keep.

When the enemy attacked the castle, they first tried to scale the bailey with crudely made ladders.

bakery

bakeware

balance

n

/ 'balən(t)s /

L > F

[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word.] a controlled state in dancing of maintaining an erect posture.

Barbara kept her balance perfectly as she spun around and around.

balderdash

baleen

baleful

balkanize

v

/ 'bɒlkənīz /

geog name + Ecf

break up (as a region) into smaller ineffectual and frequently conflicting units.

The candidate charged her opponent with attempting to balkanize society by emphasizing ethnic tensions.

ballad

balladist

balloonist

n

/ bə'li:nəst /

Gmc > It + Ecf

one that ascends in a balloon (as for exhibition purposes).

The aerial photograph of Leadville was taken by a balloonist more than a hundred years ago.

ballot

ballotade

balmy

balneotherapy

n

/ .balnē'θerəpē /

L + Gk

the treatment of disease by baths.

In the early 1900s a small town in Tennessee was known as the ultimate place for balneotherapy.

balsamiferous

balthazar

bamboche

banal

banally

adv

/ 'bān'lē /

F

in a trite, uninteresting manner.

After many weeks of campaigning, the tired senator was speaking banally and rather robotically.

banderilla

n

/ .bandə'rē(y)ə /

Gmc > Sp

a decorated barbed dart that is

thrust into the neck or shoulder of the bull in a bullfight.

The animal rights protesters displayed a bloodstained banderilla.

banderillero

bandersnatch

bandstand

bandwagon

bangboard

bangtail

banished

v

/ 'banisht /

Gmc > F > E

required (a person) by authority to leave especially his own country or the country in which he was staying.

It has been that way since Rhyme and Reason were banished.

bankroll

bankrupt

banner

banns

n pl

/ 'banz /

E

[has homonym and near homonym: bans and bands] notice of a proposed marriage proclaimed in a church or other place prescribed by law in order that any person may announce a known impediment to the union.

Lord Bainbridge hoped that the three days required between the posting of the banns and the wedding would be long enough for his son to reconsider his decision to marry the cobbler's daughter.

bantam

adj

/ 'bantəm /

Javanese geog name

small : easily handled.

Accustomed to bantam automobiles in Europe, Jacqui regards American cars as too large and unwieldy.

bantamweight

banter

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

banzai	barleycorns n pl / 'bärlē.kó(ə)rnz / E [Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word.] old units of length, each equal to the average length of a grain of barley : the third part of an inch. <i>Matthew decided to annoy his teacher by measuring his project results in barleycorns.</i>	basicity
baptize		basistrostral
barathrum n / 'barəθrəm / Gk > L a bottomless pit or abyss : a place or state of misery or torment. <i>The motivational speaker said that her early life was a barathrum which she was fortunate to have survived.</i>		basket
barbarian	barnyard	basketball
barbel	barometry	bass
barbershop	baroness	bassoonist
barbet	baroquely	baste v / 'bāst / Gmc > F > E [has homonym: based] sew by hand or machine with long loose stitches in order to hold in place during fittings or for final stitching. <i>Lorna's sister showed her how to baste the hem of the dress before she tried it on.</i>
barbicel	baroscope n / 'barə.skōp / Gk + Gk an apparatus for showing that the loss of weight of an object in air equals the weight of the air displaced by it. <i>Stanley put the baroscope beside the air pump before starting his experiment.</i>	bathyal adj / 'bathēəl / Gk of or relating to the deeper parts of the ocean, especially those parts between 100 and 1000 fathoms : deep-sea. <i>In the bathyal zone photosynthesis cannot occur because light doesn't penetrate that deep.</i>
Barbizon adj / 'bärbə.zän / F geog name depicting landscape and rural genre subjects from direct observation of nature and with much attention to the expression of light and atmosphere. <i>The exhibit featured works of three prominent artists of the Barbizon school of painting.</i>	barrabora	bathybic adj / bə'thibik / Gk > L of, relating to, or living in the deepest parts of the sea. <i>The ichthyologist spent his career studying bathybic fish indigenous to the Cayman Trench.</i>
bardolatriy	barrette	
bareback	barretter	
barefisted	barring	
bariatrics	barrister n / 'barəstə(r) / E a counsel admitted to plead at the bar and undertake the public trial of causes in an English superior court. <i>Tim's role of barrister in the school play requires that he don a powdered wig and speak with a British accent.</i>	bathyseism n / 'bathə.sizəm / Gk + Gk an earthquake of deep origin recordable the world over. <i>In Carleen's story, tidal waves caused by a bathyseism destroyed everything within 20 miles of coastlines.</i>
barium	baryon	bathysmal
barley	bascart	
	baseless	

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bathysphere

battement

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

batten

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

batterie

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

battery

battle

battledore

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

battlesome

batture

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

baud

Bauhaus

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

beadle

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

beadledom

beagle

beard

bearded

beast

beatific

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

beatnik

beautify

beaverette

beckon

becloud

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

bedaub

bedizen

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

bedrock

beechnut

beeline

beelzebub

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

beeper

Beethovenian

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

begaud

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

beginning

behalf

beignet

n
/ bān'yā /
F

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

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

belabor

belaud

belfry

belladonna

bellicosely

adv
/ 'belə.kōslē /
L + Ecf

in a warlike, aggressive, combative manner.

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

bellyache

beloid

adj
/ 'bē.lōid /
Gk + Ecf

having a shape like that of an arrow.

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

beneath

benefactor

beneficial

beneficiary

n
/ .benə'fishē.erē /
L

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

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

beneficiate

v
/ .benə'fishē.āt /
L > Sp

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

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

benefit

n
/ 'benə.fīt /
L > F > E

something that guards, aids, or promotes well-being : advantage.

Advances in genetic engineering could enhance the nutritional benefit of crops.

benign

adj
/ bə'nīn /
L > F > E

tending to promote or indicative of happiness, goodness, or favorable outcome : wholesome.

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

benignly

benthos

benthoscope

benzolize

bequeathed

v
/ bə'kwēthd /
E

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

The childless couple bequeathed their property to their favorite charity.

berate

Berber

n
/ 'bərbər /
Ar

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

Alex speaks enough Berber to ask directions in rural Morocco.

bereaved

berok

n
/ bə'rāk /
unknown

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

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

berserker

beryllium

beseech

v
/ bə'sēch /
E

address oneself earnestly to.

Margaret put on her most dejected look to beseech her father to give her the car keys.

besiege

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

besieged

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

besmirch

besotted

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

bestiary

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

bestsellerdom

bethesda

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

betrayal

etrothal

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

betwixt

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

bevue

bewail

bewildering

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

bey

bezique

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

bhabar

bhalu

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

bialy

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

biathlon

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

bibliognost

bibliotaphic

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

bibulous

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

bicker

bickering

bicuspid

bicycle

bidialectalist

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

biennially

adv

/ bī'enēəlē /

L

every two years.

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

bierstube

bifara

bifocal

bigamy

n

/ 'bigəmē /

Gk > L

the statutory offense of entering into a ceremonial marriage with one person while still legally married to another.

Belief that one's first marriage was illegal is not acceptable as a valid defense of bigamy.

bigbloom

bighorn

bigot

bigotry

n

/ 'bigətrē /

F > E

obstinate and unreasoning attachment to one's own belief and opinions with intolerance of beliefs opposed to them.

The school's International Relations Club strives to increase awareness of the prevalence of bigotry.

bilberry

bilboquet

bildungsroman

n

/ 'bil.dũŋ(k)srō.män /

G

a novel about the usually early development or spiritual education of the main character.

Wilson called the bildungsroman an experiment in living for the hero.

bile

bilious

adj

/ 'bilyəs /

L

appearing as though affected by a liver disorder.

The green of the marble reflecting on their faces made them look bilious.

biliousness

bilirubin

n

/ 'bilə'rübən /

L > F + L + ISV

a reddish yellow crystalline pigment occurring in bile, blood, urine, and gallstones.

If a newborn is jaundiced because of a high level of bilirubin, phototherapy is the common treatment.

billboard

billet

billingsgate

n

/ 'biliŋz.gāt /

E landmark

condemnatory language marked by the coarse or offensive and scornfully abusive or contentious.

The billingsgate in the film was excessive and unnecessary, serving only to give it an R rating.

billowy

adj

/ 'biləwē /

ON?

characterized by rolling or swelling surges.

The warm sun and billowy breezes dried them as they went.

binding

n

/ 'bīndiŋ /

E

the fastening of the sections of a book.

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

binturong

n

/ bin'tü.ròŋ /

Malay

an Asian prehensile-tailed catlike carnivorous mammal.

The muscular prehensile tail of the binturong is used to grasp branches while its forelimbs pull fruiting branches to its mouth.

biodegradable

bioengineering

biological

biology

biophagous

biospeleology

biplane

birch

birchbark

birdie

n

/ 'bərdē /

E

[has homonym: birdy] a golf score of one stroke less than par on a hole.

Eleanor putted well on the 18th hole and got a birdie.

birthright

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

biscotti
n pl
/ bə'skädē /
L > It
crisp cookies of Italian origin
flavored usually with anise and
filberts or almonds.
*Angela usually has several biscotti
with her morning coffee.*

biserial

bishopric
n
/ 'bishə(,)prik /
Gk
the administrative area under the
jurisdiction of a clergyman of the
highest order in Christian churches
usually charged with a function
such as the supervision of a
diocese.
*Priests throughout the bishopric
were required to attend the
meeting.*

bismarck
n
/ 'biz.märk /
G name
a raised doughnut shaped like a ball
with filling usually of jelly.
*Jelly squirted out the end of the
bismarck when Carrie bit into it.*

bismuth

bistoury

bitingly

bitt

bitumastic

bituminous
adj
/ bī't(y)ümənəs /
Celt? > L > E
impregnated with, infiltrated by, or
containing soft coal.
*While doing research for her report
on the Industrial Revolution,
Hayley learned of the many uses
for bituminous coal.*

blabber

blackbird

blackboard

blackthorn

blamable

blameful

blanching

blandish

blanquillo
n
/ bläng'kē(,) (y)ō /
Sp
any of several important marine
food fishes (as the ocean whitefish
and the tilefish).
*It took Hans only ten minutes to
land a three-foot blanquillo.*

blatancy

blatherer

blazer

blazonry

bleachable

bleachers

bleakness

blende

blepharism

blepharospasm
n
/ 'blefə(,)rō.spazəm /
Gk
spasmodic winking from the
involuntary contraction of the
orbicular muscle of the eyelids.
*Blepharospasm can usually be
relieved by injecting small doses of
botulinum toxin directly into the
muscles involved.*

blew

blighter

blinder

blinker
n
/ 'blɪŋkə(r) /
E
a device consisting essentially of a
light that can be flashed on and off
regularly as a warning (as at a
railway crossing).
*Because of the low afternoon sun,
Jemmy couldn't tell if the
Cadillac's left-turn blinker was on
or not.*

blintzes

blitheful

blithely

bloat

blob

blockade

blockbuster

blolly

blondism

bloodcurdling

bloodshed

blooper
n
/ 'blüpə(r) /
imit
an embarrassing public blunder.
*The director shouted "Enough!"
when the actor's blooper evoked
laughter.*

blouson
n
/ 'blau.zän /
F
a garment (as a dress or blouse)
having a close waistband with
material falling over it in loose
folds.
*Serena wore a white blouson and
long black skirt to the audition for
Hedda Gabler.*

blowtorch

bluegill

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

blundering

adj

/ 'blʌndə(r)ɪŋ /

E

characterized by or given to moving unsteadily, confusedly, or blindly : floundering.

The blundering bird flew into the picture window.

blurred

adj

/ 'blɜrd /

E?

smeared with or as if with ink.

The signature was blurred and couldn't be read.

blurry

blustering

blustery

adj

/ 'blʌst(ə)rē /

G? > E

blowing boisterously : stormy.

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

blutwurst

boardroom

boastful

bodice

boding

v

/ 'bɒdɪŋ /

E

[has near homonym: boating] giving advance warning of.

The winds and dark clouds are boding a heavy storm.

bodkin

n

/ 'bɒdkɪn /

E

a small slender instrument with a sharp point for making holes in cloth and leather and for picking out bastings.

The church spire seemed from a great distance like a bodkin.

boeotian

adj

/ bē'ōshən /

Gk

marked by stupidity and philistinism : crudely obtuse : loutish.

John's father adhered to the boeotian mentality that only self-indulgent idlers go to college.

boglet

bogus

bohemian

boing

bollard

n

/ 'bɒlə(r)d /

(ON > E + Gmc > F > E)?

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

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

bolus

bombard

bombardment

bombardon

bombastic

adj

/ bəm'bastɪk /

Per? > Gk > L > F + Ecf

marked by or given to a pretentious inflated style of speech or writing.

The candidate's bombastic speeches did little to gain votes.

bombycine

bonbon

bondieuserie

boned

bonification

n

/ ,bänəfə'kāshən /

L

betterment of housing conditions and farming practices in a particular area.

The Peace Corps engages in bonification in almost every underdeveloped country in the world.

bonus

n

/ 'bɒnəs /

L

something given or received that is over and above what is expected.

Tomi is off enjoying her year-end bonus, a week on a Caribbean island.

bookkeeping

booklore

bookmaker

n

/ 'bʊk.mākə(r) /

E + E

a printer, binder, or designer of books.

Wendell was no run-of-the-mill bookmaker but an accomplished artist whose works sold for thousands of dollars.

booth

bordereau

n

/ 'bɒrdə.rō /

F

[Note: Plural form can be pronounced identically.] a detailed note or memorandum of account.

The insurance clerk spent half the night before the audit trying to find the missing bordereau.

boregat

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

borough

n
/ 'bər(ɪ)ɔ /
E

one of the five constituent political divisions of New York City.

Many visitors are surprised to see farmland in the borough of Staten Island.

boroughreeve

borrowed

Borsalino

n
/ .bɔrsə'lɛ(ɪ)nɔ /

It name

a wide-brimmed soft felt hat for men.

Roberto tilted back his Borsalino and scratched his forehead, frowning at the shopkeeper.

boson

n
/ 'bɔ.sən /

Indian name + E

[Note: Could be confused with boatswain.] a particle (as a photon, meson, or alpha particle) having zero spin or an integral number of quantum units of spin and conforming to the Bose-Einstein statistics.

Researchers in elementary particle physics are searching for a particle known as the Higgs boson, which is connected with the weak nuclear force.

bosselated

boswellize

v
/ 'bɔzwə.lɪz /

Scot + Ecf

write of in the manner of one who writes with love for and intimate knowledge of any subject.

It would be difficult for anyone to boswellize America's favorite pastime better than Ken Burns did in his documentary Baseball.

botryoidal

adj
/ .bɑtrɛ'ɔɪdɪl /
Gk

having the form of a bunch of grapes.

Minerals presenting an aggregation of large sections of small globes are called "botryoidal."

bottine

n
/ bə'tɛn /
F

a woman's light boot.

Marguerite waited while the cobbler put a new heel on her bottine.

botulism

bouchon

n
/ bʊ'shän /
F

a bushing pressed into a bridge or plate of a timepiece.

The only thing wrong with Adam's pocket watch was a broken bouchon.

bouffancy

bouffant

bouilli

bouncily

adv
/ 'baʊn(t)sɔlē /
imit E + Ecf

with verve : jauntily, springily.

Joyce skipped bouncily through the park on her way home from school.

bourgade

boutade

n
/ bʊ'täd /
F

an outbreak or burst especially of temper.

When the general received news of his losses, he reacted with a violent boutade.

boutique

bowered

v
/ 'baʊ(ə)rd /
E

formed a shelter or covered place in a garden with branches of trees or vines twined together.

Bougainvillea bowered the front porch of the old house.

boxwood

bozzetto

bracemate

brachiation

brachiator

brachiosaur

n
/ 'brakēɔ.sə(ə)r /
Gk

a dinosaur of the genus

Brachiosaurus of the Upper

Jurassic having longer forelegs than hind legs.

The 110-million-year-old fossil is believed to be part of a rib of a gigantic herbivorous brachiosaur.

bracket

bracteose

adj
/ 'braktē.ɔs /
L

having numerous or conspicuous modified leaves from which a flower rises.

Of all bracteose plants, the poinsettia is probably the most familiar.

bradenhead

braggart

n
/ 'bragə(r)t /
E

a loud or arrogant boaster.

The braggart exaggerated his fishing stories so much that no one would believe him.

braggartism

bragget

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

Brahmsian

adj

/ 'brämzēən /

G name

of or relating to Johannes Brahms or his musical compositions.

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

braid

braille

braillist

brainchild

brake

brandishing

v

/ 'brandishŋ /

Gmc > F > E

shaking or waving (a weapon) menacingly.

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

brandtite

brashly

bratling

bravado

n

/ brə'vā(,)dō /

Sp

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

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

brawl

n

/ 'brōl /

E

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

breadth

n

/ 'bredth /

E

distance from side to side.

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

breadwinner

break

bream

breaststroke

breathe

breathing

breathlessly

adv

/ 'brethləslē /

E + Ecff

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

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

brecciated

adj

/ 'brechē.ādəd /

It

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

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

brecciation

breechloader

breezeway

brethren

n pl

/ 'breθ(ə)rən /

E

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

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

breton

n

/ 'brɛt'n /

L > F

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

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

breviary

n

/ 'brēv(y)ərə /

L

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

Kristin opened her breviary to read the prayer for vespers.

brewery

brickkiln

n

/ 'brik.kil(n) /

E

a kiln in which bricks are baked or burned.

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

bricklayer

brief

brigandage

brilliance

brilliantine

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

brindisi

n
/ 'brɪndə(,)zē /
G > It
a drinking or toasting song.
The bride and groom were wished good health and happiness in a traditional brindisi.

brindle

brisance

brisket

bristle

bristly

adj
/ 'brɪs(ə)lē /
E
consisting of or like short stiff coarse hair.
Trudy pictured her uncle with a bristly brown mustache, even after he had shaved it off.

brittle

broccoli

brogan

n
/ 'brɔːɡən /
IrGael
a heavy shoe; especially : a coarse leather work shoe reaching to the ankle.
Just after getting out of bed, Cal tripped over a brogan and fell on the sleeping dog.

broguing

brokerage

bromine

bronchospasm

n
/ 'bræŋ(,)kɔːspəzəm /
Gk
constriction of the air passages of the lung by spasmodic contraction of the bronchial muscles (as in asthma).
In many asthmatics, exercise can provoke bronchospasm.

brontophobia

n
/ ˌbrəntə'fɒbēə /
Gk
abnormal fear of thunder.
As he got older, Xavier gradually overcame his brontophobia.

broth

n
/ brɒθ /
E
liquid in which meat, fish, cereal grains, or vegetables have been cooked.
Mother made two quarts of broth from the leftover chicken.

brownie

brunizem

n
/ brʊnə'zɛm /
L + Russ
a soil of the prairies developed from loess and occurring extensively in Iowa.
Corn usually thrives in the rich brunizem of Iowa.

brunneous

adj
/ 'brʌnēəs /
Gmc > L + Ecf
dark brown—used chiefly scientifically.
Hatchery officials were worried about brunneous spots on the fish eggs.

brusquely

brusqueness

bryophyte

n
/ 'brɪəˌfɪt /
Gk + Gk
a plant of a division of nonflowering plants comprising the mosses and liverworts.
The botanist said that the earliest land plant was probably a bryophyte.

bubbly

adj
/ 'bʌb(ə)lē /
E
exhibiting almost unrestrainable enthusiasm or happy emotion : effervescent.
The bubbly tourists spent the evening rehashing the day's sightseeing trip.

bubonic

buccal

buccinators

n pl
/ 'bʌksə.nāˌdə(r)z /
L
thin broad muscles forming the walls of the cheeks.
As the trumpeter played, his buccinators rhythmically expanded and contracted.

budget

buffa

n
/ 'bʊfə /
It
a woman singer of comic roles in opera.
Lorelei admired the beautiful voice of the buffa in the Metropolitan Opera production of Cosi Fan Tutte.

buffet

buffeting

n
/ 'bʌfəˌdɪŋ /
F
repeated alteration of the aerodynamic forces acting on any part of an airplane in flight.
Chuck Yeager's plane was subject to severe buffeting as it approached the sound barrier.

bufflehorn

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

Bugaku

n
/ bŭ'gä(,)kü /
Jpn
a stately classical Japanese dance originally introduced from China.
The visiting dance troupe performed a Bugaku in the emperor's honor.

bugia

n
/ 'b(y)üj(ē)ə /
Algerian geog name > L
a low candlestick with a short handle.
Marlo keeps a bugia on her bedside table.

bugle

bulbously

bulimic

bulk

bulldozer

bulliform

bullpen

bulwark

bulwarks

n pl
/ 'bŭlwə(r)ks /
G > D > E
imposing safeguards.
Elizabeth fought tirelessly to counter the opposition of those entrenched behind the bulwarks of custom and authority.

bumblebee

n
/ 'bəmbəl.bē /
E
any of numerous large robust hairy yellow-and-black social bees of the genus Bombus.
The nest of the bumblebee is usually underground.

bumpkins

n pl
/ 'bəm(p)kŏnz /
D > Flemish?
typically awkward blockish and utterly unsophisticated rustics.
With the girls as an audience, the boys were acting like bumpkins.

bungle

bunion

bunker

n
/ 'bŏŋkə(r) /
E? > Sc
a sand trap or embankment with soil exposed constituting a hazard on a golf course.
Ronnie's first shot off the tee flew 150 yards directly into a bunker.

bunkhouse

bunting

Bunyanesque

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

buoy

burden

burdensome

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

bureau

bureaucratise

burelage

burgeoned

burglar

burglarios

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

burglary

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

burgonet

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

burgundy

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

burial

burinist

burladero

burlap

burlesquing

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

burro

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

bushido

bushy

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

buskin

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

bustle

bustling

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

butane

butterflies

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

buttermilk

butylene

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

Byronic

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

byssus

cabal

cabaletta

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

cabalist

cabalistic

caballero

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

cabasa

cabecera

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

cabinetry

cablegram

cabotinage

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

cabretta

cabriolet

cachepot

cacoepey

cactus

cadenza

cadge

caffeinic

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

cahoots

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

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cajoled

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

cakewalk

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

calamitous

calamondin

calando

calceiform

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

calceus

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

caldera

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

calefaction

calefactory

caliga

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

callee

calligraphy

calliopean

calomel

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

calorimeter

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

calumniate

calvary

calyx

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

Cambodian

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

cambric

cameist

camellia

Camembert

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

cameral

cameraman

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

camorra

campaign

campanologist

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

campanology

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

campesino

n
/ ˌkɑmpəˈsē(ˌ)nō /
L > Sp
a native of a Latin-American rural area; especially : a Latin-American Indian farmer or farm laborer.
The elderly campesino was the village's historian, weather forecaster, and mediator.

campestral

camphoric

campimeter

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

Canaan

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

canal

cancel

cancellation

cancelli

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

cancer

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

candidate

candidly

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

candle

candlelight

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

canepin

canister

cannibals

cannonball

canonicity

canorous

cantabank

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

cantabile

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

canticle

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

cantillate

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

cantina

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

cantle

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

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

canton

n
/ 'kant^ən /
L > Prov > F
[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word.] any one of the spaces in the four corners of a heraldic field.
Each canton of the coat of arms was a different color.

caparisoned

capeador

n
/ kápaä'thòr /
Sp
a bullfighter's aide who uses a cape to distract or excite the bull.
As the capeador teased the bull at the other end of the stadium, Manuela had time to recover from her fall.

caper

n
/ 'kāpə(r) /
L > It
a capricious or madcap escapade : prank, antic.
Roberto's little caper resulted in a three-day suspension from school.

capered

capitol

capitulation

n
/ kə'pichə'lāshən /
L
the act or agreement of one that surrenders to an enemy upon stipulated terms.
The capitulation of the army took place on the battlefield at noon.

capitulum

capote

n
/ kə'pōt /
F
a small Victorian bonnet with tie strings and varied trimmings.
Martha trimmed her capote with colorful embroideries for festive occasions.

capriccio

n
/ kə'prē(,)chō /
It
an instrumental piece in free form usually lively in tempo and brilliant in style.
When feeling depressed, Kate plays a recording of a capriccio to lift her spirits.

caprices

n pl
/ kə'prēsəz /
L > It > F
sudden impulsive apparently unmotivated changes of mind.
Ms. Lawrence understands the caprices of children and thus has a high tolerance for their whims.

capriole

capsheaf

n
/ 'kap.shēf /
L > E + E
the crowning point : acme, climax.
Ingrid thought the stranger's insult to his benefactor was the capsheaf of folly.

captain

caption

captious

capture

carambola

n
/ karəm'bōlə /
Marathi > Pg
[Note: Could be confused with carambole.] a green to yellow usually somewhat acid fruit that is much used in Chinese cookery : star fruit.
The slices of carambola on the fruit tray disappeared rapidly as the guests passed by the food table.

carapace

n
/ 'karə.pās /
Sp > F
a bony or chitinous case or shield covering the back or part of the back of an animal (as the upper shell of a turtle, the shell of an armadillo, or the shell of a crab).
Glenda saw an armadillo carapace for the first time when her family went to Florida on vacation.

caravel

carbine

carbon

carbuncle

n
/ 'kär.bəŋkəl /
L > F > E
a painful local inflammation of the skin and deeper tissues, usually accompanied by fever.
Dr. Morton applied a topical antibiotic to the carbuncle on Jason's neck.

carcajou

n
/ 'kärkə.jü /
Algonquian > F
a northern North American carnivorous mammal that is blackish with a light brown band on each side of the body and that is noted especially for its strength : wolverine.
Over soft, deep snow the large feet of the carcajou enable it to catch its reindeer prey.

carcinogenic

adj
/ 'kärs^ən(,)ō'jenik /
Gk + Gk
producing or tending to produce cancer.
Thorald pointed out to his daughter Sam that thousands of naturally occurring chemicals have carcinogenic effects.

cardiogram

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

carditis

n
/ kār'dīd'ās /
L

inflammation of the heart muscle.
Carditis is one of the manifestations of rheumatic fever.

careen

v
/ kə'rēn /
L > It > F

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

career

carefree

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

careless

caress

caret

cargador

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

Caribbean

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

caribe

caricatured

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

caries

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

carination

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

carioca

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

cariogenic

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

caritative

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

carmagnole

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

carmine

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

carnauba

carol

Carolingian

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

carom

carpentry

carpet

carpetbagger

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carrosserie

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

cartographers

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

cartridge

cartwheel

cartwright

casein

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

cashmerette

casket

casque

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

cassation

cassette

cassideous

Cassiopeian

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

cassock

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

cassollette

castellan

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

castellate

castellated

castle

cataclasm

catacombs

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

catafalque

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

catalineta

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

catalysis

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

catamnesis

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

cataplexy

catarrhal

catastrophic

catbird

catchpenny

catchword

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

catechistic

adj

/ˌkədəˈkistik /

Gk > L

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

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

catena

n

/kəˈtēnə /

L

a connected series of related things.

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

catheter

caulicle

n

/ˈkɒləkəl /

L

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

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

caulicolous

adj

/kəˈlikələs /

L

growing on the stems of other plants.

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

cauliflorous

caulome

causable

causative

cautious

cavity

caxon

cayenne

n

/kɪˈen /

French Guiana geog name

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

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

ceaselessly

cebell

cedar

celebrate

v

/ˈseləbrāt /

L

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

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

celebratory

adj

/ˈseləbrəˌtɔrē /

L

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

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

celerity

celesta

n

/səˈlestə /

L > F

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

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

celestina

cellar

cellblock

celluloid

n

/ˈselyələɪd /

trademark

motion-picture film.

The celluloid used for the movie weighed about 300 pounds.

Celsius

adj

/ˈselsēəs /

Sw name

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

Normal human body temperature is 37 degrees Celsius.

cembalist

cementitious

cenote

n

/səˈnɒdē /

Maya > Sp

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

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

censer

n

/ˈsen(t)sə(r) /

L > F > E

a vessel for burning incense.

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

ensorship

censure

centrally

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centuple

centurion

n
/ sen't(y)ūrēən /
L

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

cephalic

adj
/ sə'falik /
Gk

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

Cerberean

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

cerberus

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

cerci

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

cerebellum

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

cerebral

cerebrate

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

cerebriform

ceremonious

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

ceremony

ceriman

certain

certificate

certitude

cervine

cession

cetacean

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

chablis

chafe

chairborne

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

chaise

chalconyx

chaldron

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

chalet

chalkography

challenging

chamade

chameleon

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

chameleonic

adj

/ kəˈmɛləˈɪnɪk /

Gk > L > F > E

like a chameleon in changeability;
assuming varying hues.

*The military hopes to develop
chameleonic suits so soldiers can
blend in with different
backgrounds.*

champion

adj

/ ˈtʃæmpɪən /

Gmc > L > F > E

acknowledged as supreme over
contestants or rivals.

*Scott is the champion golfer in his
age group at his country club.*

chanceman

chancery

n

/ ˈtʃan(t)s(ə)rē /

L > F > E

a record office for the collection,
arrangement, and safekeeping of
public archives and ecclesiastical,
legal, or diplomatic proceedings.
*The diocese requires that each
pastor submit a financial report to
the chancery at least once a year.*

chandler

chandlery

n

/ ˈtʃændlərē /

L > F > E + Ecf

a place where candles are kept.
*The altar boy spent the afternoon
reorganizing the chandlery.*

changa

n

/ ˈtʃæŋgə /

Sp

a large brown mole cricket.
*The changa is a destructive pest to
crops.*

changer

chanoyu

n

/ ˌtʃänōˈyü /

Jpn

an elaborate Japanese tea
ceremony.

*Mariko performed the chanoyu for
her guests with serene grace.*

chaperonage

chapiter

chaplain

chapter

characin

charade

charades

n pl

/ ʃəˈrɑːdz /

Prov > F

a game in which a group is divided
into two sides each alternately
devising words represented in
riddling verse or by pictures or
dramatic action to be guessed by
the other.

*The dinner party was
complemented by a most animated
evening of charades.*

charcuterie

n

/ (ˌ)ʃärˌküdəˈrē /

L > F

a delicatessen in France
specializing in dressed meats and
meat dishes (as cold cuts and
sausages).
*Lorraine stopped at the charcuterie
and bought a smoked chicken for
supper.*

chard

chardonnay

charisma

n

/ kəˈrɪzmə /

Gk

a personal magic of leadership
arousing special popular loyalty or
enthusiasm for a public figure.

*John F. Kennedy is often named as
a leader with charisma.*

charismatic

adj

/ ˌkərəzˈmɑːdɪk /

Gk

of or relating to the religious
movement that emphasizes the
extraordinary power (as of healing)
given a Christian by the Holy
Spirit.

*The charismatic movement in
American religion began in the
early 1960s, when a California
minister announced to his
congregation that he had been
given the gift of tongues.*

charitable

charitarian

Charleston

n

/ ˈtʃärlztən /

US geog name

a ballroom dance in which the
knees are twisted in and out and the
heels are swung sharply outward on
each step.

*Jana has an old photograph of her
great-grandmother doing the
Charleston.*

Charybdis

n

/ kəˈrɪbdɪs /

Gk > L

a destructive peril—usually used as
the alternative to Scylla.

*Whether to tell the truth or to lie is
sometimes a choice between Scylla
and Charybdis.*

chasten

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

chastise

v
/ 'chɑːstɪz /
L > F > E
censure severely in an attempt to correct or improve.
Ms. Stanton protested a form of government that she believed gave a man the power to chastise and imprison his wife.

chastisement

n
/ cha'stɪzmənt /
L > F > E
punishment.
Hazel's mother required her to spend an hour in her room as chastisement for disobeying.

chatelaine

n
/ 'ʃadəl.æn /
L > F
[has homonym: chatelain] an ornamental chain or clasp usually worn at a woman's waist to which trinkets, keys, a purse, or other articles are attached.
Melissa has an antique chatelaine that her great-grandmother used to hold her needle case, magnifying glass, and a small pair of scissors.

chaton

chatterbox

n
/ 'chadə(r).bäks /
E
one who talks incessantly and idly.
Before the party, Alex had no idea that Serena was such a chatterbox.

chattering

v
/ 'chadə(r)ɪŋ /
imit > E
uttering rapidly succeeding sounds somewhat like language but inarticulate and indistinct.
The squirrel was chattering furiously at the magpies who had stolen its food.

chauffeuse

chechia

n
/ 'ʃəʃh.yä /
Per geog name > Maghribi > F
a cylindrical brimless cap of Arab origin often having a tassel on the crown.
When Gordon arrived in Morocco, he was greeted by a tour guide wearing a red chechia.

checkered

cheddar

cheerful

adj
/ 'chɪrfəl /
G? > L? > F > E
full of good spirits arising from a carefree attitude and a bright lively disposition.
Linda appeared relaxed and cheerful as she began skating for the judges.

chef

n
/ 'ʃef /
L > F > E
one skilled in food preparation who has charge of the kitchen and kitchen personnel in a large establishment (as a hotel or restaurant).
Before he became a famous television personality, Emeril Lagasse was a chef at several fine restaurants.

cheka

n
/ 'chä(ɪ)kä /
Russ
secret police (as of the former U.S.S.R.) having virtually unrestrained power over life and death.
The dissidents were detained and tortured for months by the cheka.

chela

n
/ 'kēlə /
Gk
a pincerlike organ or claw borne by certain of the limbs of Crustacea and Arachnida.
Rush cracked open the lobster's chela and feasted on the meat inside.

chemical

chemise

chemisette

n
/ ,ʃemē'zet /
F
a woman's vestlike outer garment or undergarment.
For his wife's birthday present, Ted bought a silk chemisette embroidered with roses.

chemosphere

chemurgy

cherries

cherubic

chervil

chest

n
/ 'chest /
E
the part of the body enclosed by the ribs and breastbone.
Herman has a mole right in the middle of his chest.

chevalet

chevaline

chevon

n
/ 'shevən /
F + F > E
the flesh of the goat used as food.
To many inhabitants of the tropics, chevon is as palatable as mutton.

chevron

chewy

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

chiack

chiaroscuro

n
/ ˌkyärə'sk(y)ürəst /
L > It
an artist who uses the arrangement or treatment of the light and dark parts in a pictorial work of art.
The chiaroscuroist deftly conveyed the mood in black and white.

chiaroscuro

chiasmus

n
/ kī'azməs /
Gk
the inversion of the order of syntactical elements in the second of two juxtaposed and syntactically parallel phrases or clauses.
Chiasmus is frequent in Greek and Latin poetry.

chic

chickaree

chief

chifforobe

chilblain

childishly

chiliast

chiliastic

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

chinoiserie

n
/ ˌshēn.wäz(ə)'rē /
F
a style in art (as in decoration) reflecting or felt to reflect Chinese artistic motifs.
Chinoiserie was popular in 18th-century English furniture design.

chippendale

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

chipper

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

chiromancy

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

chiromancer

chiromegaly

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

chiroplasty

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

chiropody

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

chiropractor

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

chirp

chirr

chistka

chitin

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

chloasma

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

chlore

chlorinator

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

chloroform

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

chlorosis

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

chocolaty

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

chogset

choice

cholangitis

chondral

chopine

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

chord

chore

choreograph

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

choreutic

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

choriamb

chorine

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

chose

chouette

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

chrismatory

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

chromatin

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

chromatosis

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

chrome

chromometer

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

chromophobe

chromosphere

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

chronicler

chronograph

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

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

chronologize

v
/ krə'nälə,jīz /
Gk

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

As a history assignment, Mrs.

Griffin had the students

chronologize the events leading up to the Revolutionary War.

chrysoberyl

chrysochlorous

adj
/ ,krisə'klōrəs /
Gk

[has near homonym: Chrysochloris] of the color golden green.

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

chrysography

chub

chubby

chuckle

chulo

chummage

chumming

chylocaulous

adj
/ ,kīlə'kōləs /
Gk > G + Ecf
having fleshy or succulent stems.
Many desert plants are chylocaulous.

cicatrize

cichlid

ciconine

cilia

n pl
/ 'silēə /
L

[has near homonyms: coelia and sillier] hairlike processes found on many cells that are capable of vibratory movement and that serve as organs of locomotion.
The bacterium's cilia fluttered as it came into view under the microscope.

ciliary

adj
/ 'silē.ērē /
L + Ecf
of or relating to minute hairlike processes found on many cells.
Careful inspection revealed the microbe's movement was ciliary, not flagellary, in nature.

cimetidine

Cimmerian

adj
/ sə'mirēən /
Gk
[has near homonym: Sumerian]
marked by intensity of darkness or gloom : stygian.
Gina's parents became concerned when she wanted her room to have a Cimmerian appearance.

cinctured

v
/ 'sɪŋ(k)chə(r)d /
L
girded, encircled.
The valley, cinctured with mountains, is home to about 25 families who lead a lifestyle reminiscent of yesteryear.

cinderella

n
/ ,sində'relə /
fairy tale name
one suddenly lifted often fortuitously from obscurity and neglect to honor and significance.
After its football team won the state championship in a huge upset, Fremont High became the school district's cinderella.

cinematheque

n
/ ,sɪnəmə'tek /
Gk > F
[Note: Could be confused with cinematic.] a small movie theater specializing in avant-garde films.
The local cinematheque was showing a new French film last week.

cinophile

n
/ 'sɪnə.fil /
Gk > F
[has homonym: sinophile] a devotee of motion pictures.
The cinophile had mixed reactions to the latest Star Wars movie.

cinquain

cinque

n
/ 'sɪŋk /
L > F > E
[has homonym: sink] five; especially : the number five in dice or cards.
The highest card that Lou held was only a cinque of diamonds.

circa

prep
/ 'sərkə /
L
about, around.
The children enjoyed seeing the photographs of their grandparents taken circa 1940.

circline

circumflex

circumlunar

adj
/ ,sərkəm'lünə(r) /
L + L
revolving about or surrounding the Moon.
Sailors say a circumlunar halo foretells rainy weather.

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

circumnavigate

v
/ ˌsɜrkəmˈnavəɡāt /
L

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

circus

circusiana

n pl
/ ˌsɜrkəsēˈānə /
L

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

cirque

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

cirrocumulus

cirrus

cispontine

cissoid

civics

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

civil

civilian

civility

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

clairaudient

clairsentience

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

clambake

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

clamber

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

clammy

clamorous

clamp

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

clandestinely

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

clangorous

clapboard

clarain

clarification

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

clarity

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

clarkeite

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

classicist

n
/ 'klasisəst /
L

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

classicistic

classification

n
/ ,klasəfə'kāshən /
L > F

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

clavacin

n
/ 'klavəsən /
L > F
harpsichord.

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

clavilux

clavis

claymore

cleanser

cleat

cleavability

clergy

n
/ 'klərjē /
F > E
a body of religious officials prepared and authorized to conduct religious services and attend to other religious duties.
Abby sought comfort and counsel from a member of the clergy.

clergyman

n
/ 'klərjəmən /
F > E + E
a member of those duly ordained to the service of God in the Christian church.
Sabrina resented the fact that she was often called a clergyman.

clerical

clerihew

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

client

climactic

climb

climber

clinical

clinometer

cliometrics

clipboard

clipping

cliquism

clobber

clochard

clockwork

cloddiness

cloddish

cloth

clothes

cloudburst

n
/ 'klaüd.bərst /
E + E
a sudden copious rainfall as if a whole cloud had been precipitated at once.
Following the spectacular cloudburst, the stream overflowed and flooded the roadway.

cloven

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

clover

cloverleaf

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

cloying

cloze

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

coadunate

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

coagulability

n
/ kōagyələ'bilədē /

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

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

coagulum

coaptation

coarse

adj
/ 'kō(ə)rs /

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

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

coarsely

coati

n
/ kə'wädē /

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

When foraging, the coati often climbs trees for fruit.

coaxation

cobalt

n
/ 'kō.bōlt /

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

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

cobbler

n
/ 'käblə(r) /

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

cobblestone

cocainize

cochlea

cockpit

cockroach

n
/ 'kä.krōch /

Sp
any of an order (Blattaria) of insects with long antennae and a flat, soft body.
The cockroach is one example of a highly adaptable insect which can be found all over the world.

cocksure

coctile

coda

coden

codger

codify

coefficient

coercible

adj
/ kō'ərsəbəl /

L + Ecf
capable of being restrained, controlled, or dominated.
Previously coercible, James has learned to ignore the threats of the class bullies.

coffepot

coffer

cogency

cognosce

cognoscenti

coiffure

coincide

cokery

colander

colcannon

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

colectivo

coleopterist

coleopterous

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

coleslaw

colicky

collaborate

collapse

collar

collarbone

collards

collation

collectanea

collector

collegiate

adj
/ kə'lēj(ē)ət /
L
relevant to the life of college students often on the nonacademic side.
Students who participate in major collegiate sports usually have been outstanding high school athletes.

colliculate

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

collide

colligate

v
/ 'kälə,gāt /

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

colligation

collimate

collocate

v
/ 'kälə,kāt /

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

colloquialism

colloquium

n
/ kə'lŏkwēəm /

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

collunarium

n
/ .kälə'na(a)rēəm /

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

collutorium

n
/ .kälə'tŏrēəm /

L
mouthwash.
Every few minutes the dental hygienist offered her patient a collutorium.

colobus

n
/ 'käləbəs /

Gk > L
any of a genus of slender long-tailed African monkeys.
In the colobus the thumb is either absent or greatly reduced in size.

colonial

colonnaded

adj
/ .kälə'nādəd /
L > It > F
having a series of columns placed at regular intervals.
The colonnaded royal palace was the city's shining architectural jewel.

colony

n
/ 'kälənē /
L > F > E
a group of persons united by a common characteristic or interest living in a limited section surrounded by others not so united.
Members of the colony occasionally left the compound to purchase food, medicine, and fuel.

colored

colorfast

colorimeter

n
/ .kälə'rīmədə(r) /
L + Gk
an instrument for determining and specifying colors by reference to other colors and giving results not independent of abnormalities in the observer's color vision.
A colorimeter and a spectrophotometer are actually quite different, although they both measure colors.

coloristic

colorless

adj
/ 'kälə(r)ləs /
L + Ecf
transparent and not distinguished by any hue.
Gary was able to list several colorless gases without much thought: nitrogen, carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide, and oxygen.

colossally

colossus

colt

colugo

n
/ kə'lügŏ /
Malay?
either of two arboreal nocturnal mammals that are about the size of a cat and that have a broad fold of skin extending from the neck to the tail on each side that forms a parachute used in making long sailing leaps.
The colugo lives in the rain forest and feeds on the leaves, buds, shoots, and flowers of trees.

comandancia

n
/ .kämən'danch(ē)ə /
Sp
a province or district under military control.
Soldiers patrolled the streets enforcing the curfew in the comandancia.

combination

combust

v
/ kəm'bäst /
L
cause to undergo any chemical process accompanied by the evolution of light and heat, being typically a vigorous union of substances with oxygen.
Sue's assignment was to combust hydrogen and estimate the resulting change in enthalpy.

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combustible

comedian

n
/ kə'mēdēən /
Gk > F
[has homonym: comedienne] an actor who plays in dramas of light or amusing character and typically with a happy ending.
The comedian in the movie was played by an actor who was better known for his dramatic roles.

comedy

comestibles

n pl
/ kə'mestəbəlz /
L
items suitable to be eaten.
A wide variety of comestibles was on display at the gourmet shop.

comic

comity

commandeer

commemoration

n
/ kə.memə'rāshən /
L
something that calls to remembrance (as by speech, statue, or ceremony).
The city council voted to have a parade in commemoration of the city's 150th anniversary.

commemorative

commensal

adj
/ 'kə'men(t)səl /
L
of or relating to those who habitually eat together.
Having pizza on Friday night is a commensal tradition among Carrie and her friends.

comminatory

comminution

n
/ ,kāmə'n(y)ūshən /
L
gradual lessening by the removal of small particles at a time : wearing away.
Frost promotes the comminution of stone to small particles.

commiserative

commissariat

commissioner

n
/ kə'mish(ə)nə(r) /
L
the officer in charge of a department or bureau of the public service.
The police commissioner awarded the officer a medal for his heroic rescue of a child.

commissure

commit

committal

n
/ kə'mid·l /
L
the consignment or sentencing to confinement (as in a prison or mental hospital).
After hearing all the testimony, the judge decided that committal to a psychiatric hospital would be appropriate for the defendant.

committee

commodiously

commodities

commodity

commodore

communard

n
/ 'kämyə'närd /
F
an adherent of a principle or system of organization in which the major social or political units are local self-governing communities.
A communard is an individual who wishes for an extreme development of local government.

communiqué

commutator

comoid

compact

adj
/ kəm'pakt /
L > E
suggesting firmness, soundness, and a degree of strength.
The bulldog's compact frame contrasts sharply with the greyhound's lanky build.

companionship

company

n
/ 'kəmp(ə)nē /
L > F > E
an organization of performers.
The Dance Theater of Harlem is a famous modern dance company.

comparability

comparison

compass

compathy

compensation

compensatory

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

competitive

adj
/ kəm'petədɪv /

L
of or relating to a contest between rivals.

The competitive spirit of the two musicians rings loud and clear when they play the tune "Dueling Banjos."

complacency

complaint

n
/ kəm'plānt /
F > E

the act or action of expressing protest, censure, or resentment.
The employees' major complaint was that their work hours were not flexible enough.

complaisant

complementary

adj
/ ˌkæmplə'mentərē /
L

[has homonym: complimentary]
supplementing and being supplemented in return.
Susan and Stuart's complementary talents of artistry and business acumen made their boutique a success.

complex

adj
/ kām'pleks /
L

having many varied interrelated parts, patterns, or elements and consequently hard to understand.
Caroline brought an unbelievably complex camera on the trip and was forever changing lenses.

complexus

compliance

complicated

adj
/ 'kæmpləˌkædəd /

L + EcF
complex : not simple to fabricate or comprehend.

Mary's piano teacher assigned her a complicated piece and asked her to master the first page before the next lesson.

complicity

n
/ kəm'plisədē /
L

association or participation in or as if in guilt.

The complicity between the two thieves goes back to their early shoplifting escapades.

compliment

comply

composite

composition

compost

composure

compotator

compound

n
/ 'kām.paʊnd /
L > F > E

a large fenced or walled-in area (as in a prison or detention camp).
POWs wandered around the compound, hoping and praying for rescue.

comprehensive

compressed

adj
/ kəm'prest /
L > E + EcF

condensed : reduced in volume by pressure.
Carolyn filled her scuba tanks with compressed air.

comprimario

compromise

compulsion

n
/ kəm'pəlʃən /

L
a driving by force, power, pressure, or necessity.

Jake was acting under compulsion, not on his own free will.

computable

concealment

conceited

adj
/ kən'sēdəd /
E + EcF

entertaining an excessively or unjustifiably high opinion of oneself.

Dennis is so conceited that he would rather have stones thrown at him than not be noticed.

conceitedness

n
/ kən'sēdəd'nəs /
E

the quality or state of entertaining an excessively or unjustifiably high opinion of oneself.

The diva had trouble with her fellow singers because of her boundless conceitedness.

conceive

v
/ kən'sēv /
L > F > E

form in the mind.
Alec tried to conceive a solution to his problem but couldn't think of anything.

concentus

conceptual

conceptualize

v
/ kən'sepchə(wə).līz /
L

form a thought, idea, or notion of.
Nowadays it is difficult to conceptualize a world without telephones.

concert

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

conchetto

conche

conchoidal

conchology

concise

conclave

n
/ 'kän.klāv /

L > F > E

the body of cardinals especially when considered in respect to their electoral function.

A puff of white smoke signified that the conclave had elected the new pope.

conclude

v
/ kən'klüd /

L > E

reach a final determination or judgment about.

The numbers forced Nina to conclude that she should close up shop.

concur

condensation

n
/ .kän.den'sāshən /

L

transition of a substance from the vapor to the liquid phase.

Raindrops are formed by the condensation of water vapor onto specks of dust.

condense

v
/ kən'den(t)s /

L

undergo transition from the vapor to the liquid phase.

When molecules condense, they lose some of their kinetic energy.

condensed

condescendent

condolences

n pl
/ kən'dölən(t)səz /

L > F

expressions of sympathy with another in sorrow or grief.

At the funeral, Rafael offered his condolences to the Martinez family.

condominium

conduct

conelrad

confectioner

confer

conference

conferred

v
/ kən'fərd /

L

held conversation on important, difficult, or complex matters : consulted, deliberated.

The referees conferred for a few minutes and then rendered a decision that was unpopular with the home team.

confess

v
/ kən'fes /

L > F > E

acknowledge (one's sins) especially to God or a priest in order to receive forgiveness.

In the Hitchcock movie I Confess, a frightened murderer is moved to confess his sin to a priest, who cannot break the sanctity of the confessional.

confession

confide

confidence

n
/ 'känfədən(t)s /

L

a relation or state of trust between persons who confide in each other.

When the entire class knew of her crush on Wes, Emily regretted having taken Jane into her confidence.

confident

configure

confined

confirmable

confiscatory

conflict

confrere

n
/ kō'fre(ə)r /

L > F > E

colleague : a fellow worker (as in a profession or in a field of study).

Fran's study is so specialized that the nearest confrere in her field is halfway across the country.

congelation

n
/ .kän.jə'lāshən /

L

the action or process of alteration (as by freezing) from a fluid to a solid or semisolid state.

Ice is the result of the congelation of water.

congelative

congelifract

congeniality

n
/ kən.jēnē'alədē /

L

affinity of spirit or temperament : mutual agreeableness.

Captain Schreiner fostered a spirit of congeniality between the officers and the enlisted men.

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

congestion

n
/ kən'jes(h)chən /
L > F

clogging.

Byron decided to be tested for allergies after years of suffering with nasal congestion.

conglutinant

adj
/ kən'glüt'nənt /
L

causing to adhere.

Used chewing gum was the conglutinant substance that held the papers together.

congratulations

n pl
/ kən.grachə'lāshənz /
L

expressions of sympathetic pleasure.

In a 1783 address to Congress, General George Washington offered his congratulations on the departure of British troops from American soil.

congregation

n
/ .kəngrə'gāshən /
L > F > E

an assembly of persons : gathering; especially : an assembly of persons met for the worship of God and for religious instruction.

The pastor asked the congregation to support the upcoming blood drive.

conical

conjecture

v
/ kən'jekchə(r) /
L > F > E

form opinions concerning on grounds confessedly insufficient for certain conclusions.

His fellow workers would often conjecture playfully about the cause of Lou's frequent tardiness.

conjugate

adj
/ 'kənjəgət /
L

yoked or joined together especially in pairs : acting as if joined.

In mathematics and physics, problems usually have conjugate solutions.

conjugation

conjunction

n
/ kən'jəŋ(k)shən /
L

a configuration in which two celestial bodies have their least apparent separation.

Some New Age doomsayers predict a calamity when Earth and Mars come into conjunction.

conjunctivitis

n
/ kən.jəŋ(k)tə'vīdəs /
L

inflammation of the mucous membrane that lines the inner surface of the eyelids.

In common parlance, conjunctivitis is known as "pinkeye."

conjure

v
/ 'kənjər /
L

invent, contrive.

Tony will rely on Jason to conjure up a reason for both of them to leave class early.

conjury

connective

adj
/ kə'nektiv /
L

tending to join, fasten, or link together, usually by means of something intervening.

Ducks have a connective membrane on their feet that enables them to swim very quickly.

conniption

n
/ kə'nipshən /
unknown

a fit of rage, hysteria, or alarm.

Dad had a conniption when he discovered that someone had stolen the radio from his car.

connive

connotations

n pl
/ .kənə'tāshənz /
L

things implied or suggested by a word or sometimes by a thing : implications.

Calling Carl's behavior juvenile had negative connotations for him.

consanguineous

adj
/ .kənsəŋ'gwinēəs /
L

descended from the same person (as a father) or the same ancestor.

Although Ron and Bill have different mothers, they have the same father, and are therefore consanguineous.

consent

n
/ kən'sent /
L

compliance or approval especially of what is done or proposed by another : permission.

The group assembled to protest against a form of government existing without the consent of the governed.

consequently

adv
/ 'kən(t)səkwentlē /
L

as a result.

The verbs founder and flounder are often confused and consequently misused.

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

consider

v
/ kən'sidə(r) /
L > F > E

think about with a degree of care or caution.

Had Vince taken time to consider the consequences of his behavior, he would have acted differently.

consideration

consigned

consilient

adj
/ kən'silyənt /
L

in accord with a set of inductive laws of distinct derivation.
The biologist Edward O. Wilson argues that natural sciences and social sciences are consilient in the study of human evolution.

consist

consistency

consolation

consolatory

adj
/ kən'sōlə,tōrē /
L

designed or intended to bring comfort and solace.
The fireman offered a few consolatory remarks before rescuing Ann's kitten from the tree.

consolidate

consolidator

consonant

consort

n
/ 'kän.sört /
L

one that shares the company of another, as a wife or husband.
The queen attended the festival with her consort, Prince Reginald.

conspirator

conspirators

consternation

n
/ känztə(r)'nāshən /
L

grievous exasperation or distraction.

The two, father and son, stared at each other in consternation, and neither knew what to do.

constituency

n
/ känz'tichəwənsē /
L > F
a body of citizens or voters that is entitled to elect a representative to a legislature or other public body.
The representative asked his constituency for opinions on the issue.

constrictor

consul

consume

contagion

n
/ kən'tājən /
L
the process by which disease is transmitted from one person to another by direct or indirect means.
Frequent hand washing has been found to be effective in disrupting the contagion of the common cold.

contagiosity

containing

contaminant

contemplated

contemporary

contemptuous

contemptuously

contention

contentious

context

continent

contingency

continual

contortion

n
/ kən'tōrshən /
L
a twisting into abnormal or grotesque shape.
When the demon appeared on stage, the hero assumed a position of painful contortion.

contradict

contradictory

contrapposto

contrecoup

contrive

v
/ kən'trīv /
L > F > E
devise, plan, plot.
Nona tried to contrive a valid excuse for her absence but finally admitted she had overslept.

controlled

controversial

contumelious

contumely

n
/ kən't(y)üməlē /
L > F > E
the suffering of insult : humiliation.
Dan's ability to ignore insults gave him an endless capacity for bearing contumely.

conundrum

convalesce

v
/ känvə'les /
L
recover health and strength gradually after sickness or weakness.
Mrs. Davis is going to convalesce at her son's house.

conventionally

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

converge

convince

convoluted

adj

/ kənvə'lüdəd /

L

complicated and involved.

Stuart's convoluted blackjack system is so difficult as to be useless.

convulsively

adv

/ kən'vəlsəvlē /

L

in a manner producing or accompanied by an unnatural, violent, and involuntary contraction or series of contractions of the muscles.

As Edna listened to the details of her son's accident, she dropped into a chair and sobbed convulsively.

coolant

cooper

n

/ 'küpə(r) /

D or G > E

a maker or repairer of wooden casks or tubs.

Ned watched a cooper making barrels at Sturbridge Village.

coparcener

n

/ kō'pārsənər /

L + L > F

a joint heir.

In accordance with the will, each coparcener is to receive an equal amount from the sale of the parents' property.

copolymer

coppice

copyist

n

/ 'kăpēəst /

L > F

one who is employed to make copies.

Four hundred years ago, one might have had to hire a copyist in order to obtain sheet music.

coquettish

coquillage

coquille

n

/ kō'kil /

F

a shell-like dish in which food is served.

Emily baked the scallops in a coquille.

coral

adj

/ 'kōrəl /

Gk > L > F > E

[has homonym: choral] of a strong pink color that has a hint of dark yellow.

The seashell, coral when wet, was almost white after it dried.

coralene

cordage

cordate

cordial

cordovan

n

/ 'kō(r)dəvən /

Sp geog name

a variable color averaging a dark grayish red.

The cordovan of Kathy's purse does not match the cordovan of her penny loafers.

coreopsis

n

/ .kōrē'äpsəs /

Gk + Gk

a plant of a genus of herbs which have showy flower heads with bracts in two distinct series of eight each.

The name coreopsis means "bug-appearance" and refers to the bug-like shape of the plant's seed.

cornerstone

cornhusking

corolla

corona

n

/ kə'rōnə /

L

something suggesting a crown.

Perhaps the lampshade's gold color and frilly edges made Roald imagine that it was a corona.

coronal

adj

/ kə'rōnəl /

L

[has homonym: coronel] of or relating to a corona or crown.

The king had to swear a coronal oath which required his assent to the laws passed in parliament.

coronation

n

/ .kōrə'nāshən /

L

the ceremony of investing a sovereign or consort with the royal crown.

The prince and his consort rode to their coronation in a gilded carriage.

corporal

corporeity

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

corps

n
/ 'kɔ(ə)r /
L

[has homonyms: cor, core, kor] the ensemble or chorus of a ballet company as distinguished from soloists and principals.

Even the most famous ballerinas have spent some time as members of the corps.

corpuscles

corrade

correct

correlate

correlation

correspondence

corrigendum

corroboration

n
/ kəˈrəbəˈrāshən /
L

evidence that confirms the truth of something.

Two witnesses provided corroboration of the suspect's alibi.

corrode

v
/ kəˈrɒd /
L

undergo a gradual wearing away or alteration by a chemical or electrochemical essentially oxidizing process.

The picture of a harbor in Sandy's book was accompanied by an explanation of how ship hulls corrode.

corrodible

adj
/ kəˈrɒdəbəl /
L + Ecf

capable of being worn away or converted into an easily disintegrated substance.

Lemon juice should not be stored in a corrodible container.

corrosive

corte

cortege

n
/ kɔrˈtezh /
L > It > F

a procession of mourners at a funeral.

Representatives of various charities the princess had supported made up her official cortege.

corticoid

coruscated

v
/ 'kɔrə.skātəd /
L

gleamed with intermittent flashes : glittered, sparkled.

The leaves shimmered and the grass coruscated in the early morning sunlight.

corydora

cosmetic

cosmetologist

n
/ .kəzməˈtäləjəst /
Gk

one who gives beauty treatments (as to skin and hair).

Mrs. Shelton worked for 22 years as a cosmetologist at Belk's Department Store.

cosmic

adj
/ 'kəzmik /
Gk

of, from, or relating to the extraterrestrial vastness in contrast to Earth alone.

In his spare time Steven likes to read science fiction tales of cosmic exploration.

cosmozoic

cossette

n
/ kə'set /
F

[has homonyms: cassette, cosset] a strip or slice (as of sugar beet or potato) : chip.

Each cossette was dropped in very hot fat for browning and then moved to a lower temperature for final cooking.

costliness

costume

n
/ 'kə.st(y)üm /
L > It > F

the distinctive dress of a particular period, locality, or occupation worn in the drama or for festivals.

During the intermission the tenor had to change into another costume.

costumery

cotehardie

cottage

cottonseed

couac

couchette

coulomb

n
/ 'kü.läm /
F name

the practical meter-kilogram-second unit of electric charge equal to the quantity of electricity transferred by a current of 1 ampere in 1 second.

Jenna found that 1 coulomb of electricity changed the potential between two plates of a capacitor by 1 volt.

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

coulombs

n pl

/ 'kü.lämz /

F name

units of electric charge equal to the quantity of electricity transferred by a current of one ampere in one second.

An ordinary flashlight battery delivers a current that provides a total charge flow of approximately 5,000 coulombs.

council

counselee

counterfeiter

n

/ 'kaüntə(r).fidə(r) /

L > F > E

one that forges or makes fraudulent imitations of current money.

Special paper, ink, and watermarks are used for making currency to foil the counterfeiter.

counterinsurgency

counterpoise

counterspy

country

countryfolk

coupe

coupling

courage

n

/ 'kərij /

L > F > E

mental or moral strength enabling one to venture, persevere, and withstand danger, fear, or difficulty firmly and resolutely.

The boys argued about whether the crocodile hunter showed true courage or just foolhardiness.

courageous

courser

n

/ 'kōrsər /

F > E

[has homonym: coarser] a swift or spirited horse : war-horse.

The foaming courser threw his rider headlong to the ground.

courtesy

courtier

n

/ 'kōrdēər /

F > E

a gentleman attendant of a sovereign's residence or establishment.

Travis will perform the part of the king's courtier in the play.

courtliness

courtly

adj

/ 'kōrtlē /

L > F > E

marked by highbred polish, stateliness, and ceremony.

Lord Darnley removed his feathered hat and addressed the queen with a courtly bow.

coutil

couturier

couturiere

n

/ kü'türē.e(ə)r /

F

[Note: Could be confused with unisex couturier.] a female proprietor of or designer for an establishment engaged in designing, making, and selling fashionable expensive custom-made women's clothing.

The couturiere Coco Chanel is considered by many to be the 20th century's single most important arbiter of fashion.

couvade

coverlet

n

/ 'kəvə(r)lăt /

L > F > E

a bedspread sometimes quilted or of heavy material.

Kasey drew the coverlet up to her neck to seek relief in the drafty room.

covert

covet

covetous

covinous

cowardly

cowed

v

/ 'kaüd /

E

intimidated with threats, show of strength, or impressiveness : dispirited into inactivity or submission.

The cowed convicts did not dare to antagonize the vengeful guards.

cowhide

cowl

n

/ 'kaül /

Celt? > L > E

a hood especially of a monk.

At the monastery Sheila was greeted by a man wearing the long brown robe and cowl of a friar.

cowling

cozen

cozening

crabby

adj

/ 'krabē /

E

cross, churlish, ill-natured.

The crabby driver did not allow any talking on the school bus.

crackleware

cracknel

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

cradled

craftiness

craftsman

crag

n

/ 'krag /

Celt > E

a rough broken cliff or projecting point of rock.

A favorite children's movie begins and ends with the king of beasts standing on a crag, overlooking his kingdom.

crambo

cranberry

cranially

cranoscopy

n

/ ,krānē'āskəpē /

Gk > L + Gk > L

observations on or examination of the human skull.

The team's physician advised a cranoscopy for the batter who had been beamed by a wild pitch.

cranium

n

/ 'krānēəm /

Gk > L

the part of the skull that encloses the brain.

The carelessly tossed book encountered Zelda's cranium with a thud.

crassitude

crater

n

/ 'krādə(r) /

Gk

any of thousands of formations on the lunar surface ranging in size from small pocks less than a mile in diameter to walled plains nearly 150 miles across.

Buzz set down the lunar lander just beyond the rim of a huge crater.

cratered

cravat

n

/ krə'vat /

G or Serbo-Croatian > F

a band or scarf of fine cloth worn around the neck : necktie.

The flamboyant poet showed up for the interview wearing a cravat over a tie-dyed T-shirt.

crayon

creaking

creamery

credence

creditable

creditor

credo

n

/ 'krē(,)dō /

L

a confession of faith said or sung in Christian liturgies.

Bach's B Minor Mass contains a famous credo.

creedmore

creepage

n

/ 'krēpij /

E

the slow spreading or movement of a substance.

The creepage of rust across the bumper betrayed the car's age.

crenature

crepitae

crept

v

/ 'krept /

E

entered stealthily and secretly.

Mary crept softly across the room to look.

crestfallen

adj

/ 'krest.fələn /

L > F > E + E

marked by a sense of personal defeat : dispirited, dejected.

Margaret was crestfallen when she got only a C on her essay.

cretify

cretin

crevice

n

/ 'krevəs /

L > F > E

a narrow opening of some depth caused especially by a split.

The hiker's compass fell into a crevice in the rock and will probably never be seen again.

crew

cricket

n

/ 'krikət /

F imit

any of certain leaping insects that are also noted for the chirping notes produced by the males.

The male cricket produces sound by rubbing together parts of the fore wings.

crickety

criminal

criminologist

n

/ ,krimə'näləjəst /

L

one that specializes in the scientific study of crime as a social phenomenon, of criminal investigation, of criminals, and of penal treatment.

Nicole asked her guidance counselor if she needed an advanced degree to be a criminologist.

crinal

crinet

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

cringing

adj
/ 'krinjɪŋ /
E

that shrinks in fear or servility.
Cringing at the sight of the bear in the distance, the children gathered their courage and backed slowly toward their car.

crinkle

crinkly

criollo

n
/ krē'ol(y)ō /
Sp

[Note: Could be confused with feminine form criolla.] a person of pure Spanish descent born in Spanish America.
The anthropologist noted in her report that only one criollo answered her genealogical survey.

crispation

n
/ kri'spāshən /
L + Ecf

the act or process of curling : the state of being curled.
Al pointed out the crispation of the leaves on the infested plant.

crisscross

criterion

crith

n
/ 'krith /
Gk
the weight of a liter of hydrogen at 0 degrees Celsius and 760 millimeters pressure (0.08987 gram).
As a unit of mass, the crith was a precursor to the mole.

crocheted

crocheter

crocodile

crocodilian

adj
/ ,kräkə'dilēən /
Gk > L
false, insincere.
Claire's crocodilian grief over the death of her brother's pet snake did not fool anyone.

crocuses

n pl
/ 'krōkəsəz /
Semitic > Gk > L
bulbs, plants, or flowers of the genus *Crocus*.
Crocuses were peeking through the snow in the Goulds' yard.

crooked

croquembouche

n
/ krökä'büş /
F
a cone-shaped stack of cream puffs coated with caramelized sugar.
A croquembouche is a traditional type of French wedding cake.

crossbow

n
/ 'kròs.bō /
E
a weapon having a short bow mounted crosswise that fires an arrow lying in a groove in the stock.
The crossbow was a particular favorite of the weaponsmaster.

crosswind

n
/ 'kròs.wind /
ON or Old Ir > E + E
a wind blowing in any direction not parallel to a course.
A strong crosswind made it difficult for Carla to land her Cessna 150.

crotalic

crotalid

adj
/ 'krōd'ələd /
Gk > L
typical of a pit viper.
Crotalid venom, while not usually fatal, can cause severe discomfort.

croupon

crowd

n
/ 'kraüd /
E
a large number of persons especially when collected into a somewhat compact body without order : throng.
The crowd on the football field chanted, "We're number one!"
crucially

cruciform

adj
/ 'krüsə.fōrm /
L + Ecf
forming or arranged in a cross.
The cruciform blossom of the dogwood has inspired a well-known legend.

cruciverbalist

n
/ 'krüsə.vərbələst /
L
a person skillful in creating or solving crossword puzzles.
Angela was named Cruciverbalist of the Month by her crossword club.

cruel

adj
/ 'krüəl /
L > F > E
[has homonym: crewel] stern, rigorous, and grim.
The cruel reality is that Justin will be expelled for his wrongdoing regardless of how remorseful he is.

cruelly

cruise

crumpet

n
/ 'krəmpət /
E?
a small round cake made of rich unsweetened batter cooked on a griddle and usually served split and toasted.
Pierre thinks no English crumpet can hold a candle to a delicious French croissant.

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

crushable

crutch

cryogenics

cryonics

n pl

/ krī'āniks /

Gk

the practice of freezing a dead diseased human being in hopes of restoring life at some future time when a cure for the disease has been developed.

The premise of Rudolph's movie script involved an experiment in cryonics gone awry.

crypt

cryptanalysis

n

/ .kriptə'naləsəs /

Gk

the theory of solving writing that is in cipher or code : the art of devising methods for such solving.
Through cryptanalysis the Allies were able to decode the enemy's secret messages.

cryptogenic

cryptophyte

crystallize

ctetology

cub

n

/ 'kəb /

unknown

a young person; especially : an awkward or ill-mannered boy.
Mr. Downes called every student that passed through his classroom a "young cub."

cubature

cubit

n

/ 'kyübət /

L

any of various ancient units of length based on the length of the forearm from the elbow to the tip of the middle finger and usually equal to about 18 inches.

Helen couldn't understand why more things weren't measured by the cubit, since it was a readily available measure.

cubomancy

cucumber

cuerda

n

/ 'kwerdə /

Gk > L > Sp

a Puerto Rican unit of land measure equal to 0.97 acre.

Raul farmed a small patch of land—less than a cuerda—during the off season.

cuisine

n

/ kwə'zēn /

L > F

manner of preparing food : style of cooking.

Jackie traveled to Lyons to take a two-week course in French cuisine.

culicide

n

/ 'kyüləsīd /

L

a substance that destroys mosquitoes.

The town's inhabitants were advised to stay indoors for two hours after the culicide was sprayed.

culicidologist

culottes

n pl

/ 'k(y)ü.läts /

F

a garment having a divided skirt.
When bell-bottom jeans came back into style, Janine was afraid that culottes would, too.

culpability

culver

culvert

n

/ 'kəlvə(r)t /

unknown

a transverse waterway (as under a road, railroad, or canal).

Gina's cat ran from the dog and hid in the culvert for several hours.

culvertage

cumulocirrus

n

/ .kyümyə(,)lō'sirəs /

L

a small billowy cloud form found at high altitudes and characterized by a white delicacy.

Denny's plane flew through a cumulocirrus that looked just like cotton candy.

cuneate

adj

/ 'kyünē.āt /

L

shaped like a wedge : narrowly triangular with the acute angle toward the base.

The forest floor was a strange mix of pine needles and cuneate leaves.

cunette

cunning

cupcake

cupola

curarize

curassow

curettage

curia

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

curie
n
/ 'kyūrē /
F name
a unit of radioactivity equal to 37 billion disintegrations per second.
While studying nuclear engineering, Melissa learned to use the curie to quantify radioactive decay.

curiosity
n
/ ,kyūrē'āsədē /
L
a desire to know.
The locked box aroused immense curiosity in Maxine.

curmudgeonly

curricule

cursorial
adj
/ ,kər'sōrēəl /
L
having limbs adapted to running.
Horses, zebras, and other members of the genus Equus are cursorial mammals.

curtail
v
/ ,kər'tāl /
L > F > E
shorten in duration or scope :
abridge, reduce.
The students were warned their grades would be affected if they didn't curtail their extracurricular activities.

cushioned
v
/ 'kūshənd /
L > F > E
provided or equipped with a pad or pads.
Gil and Terry cushioned the hard wooden train seats with their coats.

cuticolor

cutigeral
adj
/ kyü'tijərəl /
L + L
bearing skin.
Starbuck was limping because of the infection in the cutigeral cavity of his left front hoof.

cutlery

cyanide
n
/ 'sī.ənīd /
Gk + ISVcf
a compound of cyanogen usually with a more electropositive element or radical.
Ions of cyanide are extremely toxic because they bind almost irreversibly with cytochrome oxidase, a key enzyme in metabolic processes.

cyanophilous

cyclamate

cyclometer
n
/ sī'klāmədə(r) /
Gk + Gk
a contrivance for recording the revolutions of a wheel and often used for registering distance traversed by a wheeled vehicle.
Just for fun, Chris attached a cyclometer to his daughter's tricycle.

cyclorama
n
/ ,sīklə'rämə /
Gk + Gk
a curved curtain or wall used as a background of a stage set to suggest unlimited space.
The cyclorama provided the illusion of being in a huge ballroom.

cyclothymia

cymbal
n
/ 'simbəl /
Gk > L > F > E
[has homonym: symbol] a large concave brass plate producing a brilliant clashing tone of indefinite pitch.
The percussionist grimaced after he struck the cymbal at the wrong time.

cymbalist

cymbiform
adj
/ 'simbə,fōrm /
Gk > L + Lcf
boat-shaped.
While discussing the skeletal system, Mr. Gray called the students' attention to a small cymbiform bone in the wrist.

cynical

cynicism
n
/ 'sīnə,sīzəm /
Gk
the quality or state of being prone to faultfinding.
Tom's cynicism has become tiresome to all his friends.

cynodont

cyrillic
adj
/ sō'rīlik /
Slavic name
constituting or written in the alphabet used for Russian and many other Slavic languages.
Sven puzzled over the cyrillic writing on the Moscow subway station sign.

cytologist

cytolysis
n
/ sī'täləsəs /
Gk
the dissolution or disintegration of cells.
The researchers experimented with various chemicals to bring about the cytolysis of tumor cells.

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

cytoplasm

dabbing

dabblingly

dactyl

dactylic

adj
/ dak'tilik /
Gk

of or consisting of a metrical foot of three syllables, the first being stressed and the last two being unstressed.

Homer's two epics are written in dactylic meter.

dactylion

n
/ dak'tilē.än /
Gk

the tip of the middle finger.

As Ruth was restitching a seam, she ran the sewing machine needle through the dactylion of her left hand.

daft

dagger

daguerreotypes

n pl
/ də'gerə.tips /
F name + Gk > F
photographs produced on a silver plate or silver-covered copper plate.
Ike treasured the daguerreotypes of his great grandparents.

dailiness

dainty

dairy

Dallas

adj
/ 'daləs /
Am geog name
of or from the city of Dallas, Texas.
Sue could not find a winter parka in any of the Dallas stores.

Daltonism

n
/ 'dɒlt'n.izəm /
E name
red-green color blindness, named after John Dalton, who first detailed a description of color blindness from which he and his brother suffered.
Danny's parents didn't realize that he suffered from Daltonism until he attended pre-school.

damascened

adj
/ 'daməs.ēnd /
Syrian geog name > Gk > L
decorated with inlaid work of precious metals.
Francine admired the delicate scrollwork on the damascened chest in the Museum of Decorative Arts.

dampproof

damson

danceable

adj
/ 'dan(t)səbəl /
L? > F > E + Ecf
suitable for dancing.
When a danceable song began playing, Lars asked Anita if she knew how to waltz.

dandruff

dandruffy

dank

dansant

n
/ də'n.sä'n /
L? > F
an informal or small dance.
Sally's friends held a dansant in her honor before her departure for China.

Daphnean

adj
/ 'dɒfnēən /
Gk
shy, bashful.
Sally's Daphnean personality causes her to look away from the camera whenever her picture is being taken.

dapperling

darcy

n
/ 'därsē /
F name
a unit of porous permeability in physics.
Geologists use the darcy as a measure of how easily water will permeate a given type of rock.

daresay

Darjeeling

n
/ dār'jēliŋ /
Beng geog name
high quality tea grown especially in northern India.
Anthony's mother always purchased her Darjeeling from an importer in Chicago.

darken

darkle

v
/ 'därkəl /
E
grow dark : fade into darkness.
Agnes watched the last bright-colored daylight darkle slowly against the hills.

darkness

n
/ 'därknəs /
E
the absence in whole or in part of light.
Mia fumbled in the darkness of the cave to replace the failing flashlight batteries with new ones.

darnel

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

dasyure

n
/ 'dasē.yù(ə)r /
Gk > L

an arboreal carnivorous marsupial of Australia and Tasmania that somewhat resembles a weasel.

The spotted-tailed dasyure is commonly known in Australia as the tiger cat.

dative

adj
/ 'dādiv /
L

of chemical bonds : formed by contribution of a pair of electrons by one atom.

Although the properties of a dative bond do not differ from those of a normal covalent bond, in which each atom contributes an electron, the distinction is useful for keeping track of valence electrons.

daubster

daughter

daven

v
/ 'dävən /
Yiddish

recite the prescribed prayers in the daily and festival Jewish liturgies.

Shmuel watched his father daven and tried to copy him exactly.

davenport

davit

dawn

v
/ 'dön /
E

begin to grow light in the morning.
Every night Delia thanked God for her good fortune and prayed that she be able to watch the next day dawn.

dawned

daze

dazzlement

n
/ 'dazəlmənt /
ON > E

the action of impressing or exciting admiration by being brilliant and splendid.

The dazzlement of the Paris fashion show left Suzette speechless and wide-eyed.

deadline

deaceration

n
/ .dēa(ə)'rāshən /
L + Gk > L

the act or process of removing air or gas (as oxygen) from something.

The packaging company reduces the volume of powders by deaceration before they are put into bags.

dealkalize

deathin

deathwatch

debauch

debellation

n
/ .dābə'lādē.ō /
L

complete subjugation of a belligerent nation usually involving loss of sovereignty.

The Punic Wars ended with the Roman debellatio of Carthage.

debellation

debilitate

debilitated

v
/ dā'bilə.tādəd /
L

impaired the strength of : weakened, enfeebled.

Disease had so debilitated Kate's sister that she required constant care in a nursing home.

debouchure

debt

debtor

deburr

decadal

decadence

n
/ 'dekədən(t)s /
L

[has homonym: decadents] the quality or state of being marked by decay or decline (as from an earlier condition of excellence or vitality).
The family mansion's decadence is an embarrassment to Clarissa.

decahydrate

decalage

decalcomania

n
/ (i)dē.kalkə'mānēə /
L > F + Gk > L > F

the art or process of transferring pictures and designs typically from specially prepared paper to china, glass, or marble and permanently fixing them thereto.

Most tourist centers use decalcomania to turn cheap china and glass into expensive souvenirs.

decamorous

adj
/ dā'kamərəs /
Gk + Gk

having ten parts or divisions—usually used of a flower.

Nelson chose only decamorous flowers for his girlfriend's bouquet.

decapitation

decathlon

n
/ dā'kath.län /
Gk

a ten-event athletic contest.

The motivational speaker Bruce Jenner is famous for having won a gold medal in the 1976 Olympic Games decathlon.

deceased

decency

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

decennary

n
/ də'senərē /

L
period of ten years.
Peace was finally restored after a decennary of unrest.

decent

deciare

deciliter

n
/ 'desə.lēdər /
L > F + Gk > L > F
a metric unit of capacity equal to 1/10 liter.
At fashionable Paris boutiques, some brands of perfume are sold by the deciliter.

deciphering

decision

declarative

declare

declination

n
/ ,deklə'nāshən /
L
angular distance from the celestial equator measured along a great circle passing through the celestial poles.
Declination and right ascension together define the position of an object in the sky.

declivity

decolletage

decorate

decorative

decorum

decrease

decrement

n
/ 'dekrəmənt /
L
the act or process of gradually becoming less : decrease.
The game warden explained that a deer herd suffers no decrement if the legal hunting take is not permitted to exceed 20 percent of the total herd.

decrepit

decrepitude

n
/ də'krepət(y)üd /
L > F
a state of decay, ruin, or dilapidation.
Far from falling into decrepitude, the town was on a spree of building construction.

decryptograph

decubital

decubitus

decumary

decumbent

dedicate

dedimus

n
/ 'dedēməs /
L
a writ giving a private person permission to act as a judge.
In the course of her legal studies, Anna found only five instances of the issuance of a dedimus.

deduce

v
/ də'd(y)üs /
L
derive by logical process.
From the tracks and the spoor, Tule was able to deduce that the elephants left the watering hole when the lions arrived.

deducible

deem

v
/ 'dēm /
E
[has homonym: deme] come to view, judge, or classify after some consideration.
Robert was frustrated that his trainer did not deem him ready for the fight.

deerstalker

n
/ 'di(ə)r.støkə(r) /
E + E
a close-fitting cap with a visor at the front and the back and with earflaps that may be tied up or down.
Sherlock Holmes without his deerstalker and pipe? Seems sacrilegious, doesn't it?

deet

defalcation

n
/ (,)dē.fəl'kāshən /
L
misappropriation of money in one's keeping.
The treasurer was charged with defalcation when it was learned that he was diverting funds for his personal use.

defamation

n
/ ,defə'māshən /
L > F
the act of harming another's reputation by any slanderous communication.
The corporation sued the journalist for defamation, claiming lost business as a result of his article.

defective

defensible

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

deference

n
/ 'def(ə)rən(t)s /
L
a yielding of judgment or preference out of respect for the position, wish, or known opinion of another.
Special hunting and fishing rights are given to Alaskan natives in deference to their tribal traditions.

defiantly

adv
/ də'fiəntlē /
L > F
in a bold, insolent, or unafraid manner.
Though she had been grounded, Vera defiantly rode to the bowling alley on her bicycle.

deflagrate

deflationary

deflead

deflocculate

defoliant

defunct

adj
/ də'fʌŋ(k)t /
L
having finished the course of life or existence : dead, deceased, extinct.
The advent of the pocket calculator made the mechanical adding machine defunct.

degerminate

deglaciation

n
/ .dē,glās(h)ē'āshən /
L
the process whereby a glacier or ice sheet shrinks to disappearance.
The deglaciation period at the end of the Ice Age lasted for several years.

degrade

degustator

dehumidify

dehydration

deixis

n
/ 'dīksəs /
Gk
the specifying action of some words (as definite articles and demonstrative pronouns).
An example of deixis is the word there in the sentence "I left the car over there."

dejectedly

adv
/ də'jektədlē /
L
in a depressed manner : sadly.
"It seems to me that almost everything is a waste of time," he remarked one day as he walked dejectedly home from school.

delaine

n
/ də'lān /
L > F
a lightweight dress fabric of wool or wool and cotton.
Sarah chose to make her sundress out of a floral print delaine.

delator

deliberate

v
/ də'libə.rāt /
L
ponder or think about with measured careful consideration.
Speed chess rewards the player who needs little time to deliberate.

delicate

delineation

n
/ də'linē'āshən /
L
accurate and precise graphic representation as distinguished from that which is careless or sketchy as to details.
The architect presented Ruth and Bob with a delineation of the house plan.

deliquesces

delirium

deltohedron

deluginous

delusory

delved

v
/ 'delvd /
E
dug into : explored by or as if by digging.
As an amateur archaeologist, Vernon delved into many creek beds for artifacts.

demagoguery

demantoid

demarche

n
/ də'mārsh /
F
course of action : maneuver.
With his approval ratings plummeting, the leader wondered what demarche would be the most effective.

demerit

demesmerize

demiurge

n
/ 'demē.ərj /
Gk > L
something (as an institution, idea, or individual) conceived as an autonomous creative force or decisive power.
It is surprising how many people tend to regard a computer as a demiurge.

demonstration

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

demotic

adj

/ də'mädik /

Gk

of, belonging to, or connected with the form of Modern Greek that is based on colloquial use.

Everyone in Callista's ancestral village spoke demotic Greek except the priest, who usually spoke a more classical form of the language.

demure

adj

/ də'myü(ə)r /

F? > E

marked by quiet modesty, sedate reserve, restraint, or sobriety : retiring, shy.

Sondra's classmates mistook her demure conduct for standoffishness.

dendrochronology

n

/ .den(,)drökrə'näləjē /

Gk

the science of dating events, intervals of time, and variations in environment in former periods by study of the sequence of and differences between rings of growth in trees and aged wood.

Jennifer's biology class attempted to use dendrochronology to chart climactic changes.

dendrologist

n

/ den'dräləjəst /

Gk

a specialist in the study of trees.

The dendrologist decried the continuing deforestation of the rain forests.

denier

n

/ də'ni(ə)r /

L > F > E

a unit of fineness for silk, rayon, or nylon yarn equal to the fineness of a yarn weighing 0.05 gram for each 450 meters of length.

Silk is usually quite strong, resisting breakage even when subjected to weights of about 4 grams per denier.

denigration

n

/ .denə'grāshən /

L

a sully of reputation or character.

The candidate's denigration of her opponent backfired in the election.

denigratory

denim

denticulate

adj

/ den'tikyə.lāt /

L

having small teeth : covered with small pointed projections.

The archaeologist unearthed a denticulate tool that early humans used for shredding food.

dentist

n

/ 'dentəst /

L > F

one whose profession it is to treat diseases of the teeth and associated tissues.

Mrs. Caleb asked the dentist to remove her sweet tooth.

denunciate

deodorant

adj

/ də'ödərənt /

L + L + Ecf

destroying or masking offensive smells.

Penny used a deodorant carpet cleaner to get rid of the dog smell in the apartment.

depauperate

depiction

depilant

deplinish

deplorable

deposit

depot

depravity

n

/ də'pravədē /

L > F > E

the quality or state of being marked by debasement, corruption, perversion, or deterioration.

The young man spent his college years making a concentrated study of depravity.

depreciate

depredation

depressant

depression

n

/ də'presən /

L

a region of low barometric pressure surrounded by higher pressures.

The size of a depression can vary from a few hundred feet in a tornado to several hundred miles in a tropical cyclone.

deprivation

n

/ .deprə'vāshən /

L

the act of taking away.

Earl suffered some brain damage as a result of oxygen deprivation.

depth

deputize

derby

n

/ 'dərbē /

E name

a stiff felt hat with a dome-shaped crown and a rather narrow somewhat rolled brim—called also “bowler.”

Alfred wore his new suit and high-crowned derby to the horse race.

derisible

adj

/ də'rízəbəl /

L

worthy of ridicule, mockery, or scorn.

Fans were appalled at the boxer's derisible behavior in the ring.

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

derisively

derivation

dermabrasion

dermal

adj

/ 'dɜrməl /

Gk

of or relating to skin, especially to the dermis : cutaneous.

Various reptiles have small bones or concretions within their skin called "dermal ossicles."

dermatoglyphics

dermatology

n

/ ,dɜrmə'täləjē /

Gk + Gk

a branch of science that is concerned with the skin, its structure, functions, and diseases.
The cosmetics company employed only individuals knowledgeable in dermatology to assist in its laboratory.

dermatophyte

n

/ (,)dɜr'madəfit /

Gk + Gk

a fungus parasitic upon the skin or skin derivatives (as hair or nails) of humans or lower animals.

The skin disease ringworm is caused by a dermatophyte.

derogation

n

/ ,dɜrə'gāshən /

L

disparagement : detriment.

While the word childlike is usually used in a favorable sense, the word childish is usually used in derogation.

derogative

dervish

n

/ 'dɜrvish /

Per > Turk

a Muslim monk who performs certain devotional exercises such as concerted movements leading to a trance or ecstasy.

The dancing dervish moved from side to side as he chanted his prayers.

desacralize

v

/ dɛ'sākɹə,līz /

L

divest ceremonially of supernatural qualities or a taboo and render nonsacred.

The reformers wanted to desacralize much of the church's traditional liturgy.

descending

adj

/ ,dɛ'sendɪŋ /

L + L + Ecf

moving or directed downward.

The principal listed the amounts contributed by the classes in its descending order.

descriptive

descrip

deseccration

n

/ ,dɛsə'krāshən /

L

the act or an instance of violating the sanctity of something by diverting from sacred purpose, by contaminating, or by defiling.

Congress debated a bill to ban the deseccration of the American flag.

desert

desertification

n

/ dɛ'zɜrdəfə'kāshən /

L

the process of becoming arid land or desert.

Environmentalists warn that significant portions of the United States could undergo desertification if there is a marked climate change.

desiccant

n

/ 'dɛsəkənt /

L

a drying agent (as sulfuric acid, silica gel).

The desiccant packed with Vern's camera lens bears the warning "Do Not Eat."

desideratum

n

/ dɛ'sidə'rādəm /

L

something that is sought for or aimed at.

A traditional Roman desideratum was "a sound mind in a sound body."

designate

desinence

desipient

desirous

desperately

adv

/ 'dɛsp(ə)rətlē /

L

with an intensified or all-out last-ditch effort in refusing to give up a struggle or purpose.

Firefighters tried desperately to rescue every person in the burning house.

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despondent

adj

/ də'spændənt /

L

discouraged, dejected, or depressed.

Elizabeth tried earnestly to keep her ailing brother from becoming despondent.

despondently

adv

/ də'spændəntlē /

L

in an extremely discouraged, dejected, or depressed manner.

After he was laid off, Larry despondently searched the "Help Wanted" section of the classified ads.

despot

despotic

dessert

dessertspoonful

n

/ də'zərt.spünfəl /

L > F + E

a unit of measure equal to about 2½ fluidrams.

Paige's secret recipe calls for a dessertspoonful of almond extract.

destination

n

/ destə'nāshən /

L

a place which is set for the end of a journey or to which something is sent.

The newest game show gives amateur travelers an itinerary every day but no sense of their final destination.

destitute

adj

/ 'destə.ti:t /

L

lacking possessions and resources; especially : lacking the necessities of life.

The tornado left many families absolutely destitute.

destitution

desultor

detach

détente

deteriorable

determinant

determine

v

/ də'tərmən /

L > F > E

come to a decision about by investigation or reasoning.

Ross's attempts to determine who his parents are were stymied by a fire that burned all the records.

deters

v

/ də'tərz /

L

turns aside, discourages, or prevents from acting by fear or consideration of dangerous circumstances.

Nothing deters a good man from doing what is honorable.

detestable

adj

/ də'testəbəl /

L

very odious : deserving abhorrence.

Manners that are passable in youth are detestable in later age.

detract

detrimental

adj

/ .detrə'mentl /

L + Ecf

harmful, damaging.

There is little doubt that smoking is detrimental to one's health.

deuterogamy

n

/ .d(y)üdə'rägəmē /

Gk

a legal second marriage after the termination of a first marriage.

After Gordon's wife passed away, he expressed his opinion that a deuterogamy was out of the question.

devastavit

developer

devious

devise

v

/ də'vīz /

L > F > E

formulate by thought : contrive, invent.

It is possible to devise motors much smaller than the head of a pin with microtechnology.

devoid

devoir

devour

devouring

v

/ də'vaü(ə)riŋ /

L > F > E

eating up with greediness : consuming ravenously.

The squirrels are devouring the seeds meant for the birds.

dewdrop

n

/ 'd(y)ü.dräp /

E + E

a drop of moisture condensed upon a cool surface, especially at night.

The bird put his tiny head on one side and looked up at him with his soft bright eye which was like a black dewdrop.

dewfall

n

/ 'd(y)ü.fəl /

E + E

the amount of moisture deposited as dew during one period.

The dewfall quickly evaporated as the Sun rose.

dextral

adj

/ 'dekstrəl /

L

right-handed.

Little Lucas kept trying to use dextral scissors with his left hand but was always frustrated.

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

diabolical

diacritic

diacritical

diadromous

diagnosis

n
/ .dīəg'nōsəs /
Gk

investigation or analysis of the cause or nature of a condition, situation, or problem.
After the doctor's grim diagnosis, Harvey's family went looking for a second opinion.

diagrammatic

adj
/ .dīəgrə'mad:ik /
Gk
being or relating to a drawing that shows arrangement and relations (as of parts to a whole, origins and development, chronological fluctuations).
A family tree is a diagrammatic representation of the various relationships in a family.

dialectic

dialectician

diamond

dianoia

diapasons

diaper

diaphoresis

n
/ .dīəfə'rēsəs /
Gk
perspiration.
Dr. Grady explained that Simon's diaphoresis was one of the symptoms of his high blood pressure.

diastole

diastrophe

n
/ dī'astrəfē /
Gk
a deformation of Earth's crust.
Part of Anita's master's thesis in geology deals with the different causes of diastrophe.

diatessaron

n
/ dīə'tesərən /
Gk
the interval of a fourth in ancient Greek music.
While practicing with her high school choir for the Classics Festival, Louise had problems singing the diatessaron in her solo correctly.

diathermy

diatom

n
/ 'dīə.tām /
Gk
any of the unicellular or colonial algae having a silicified cell wall that persists as a skeleton after death and forming a large part of the plankton of both fresh and salt water.
Griff examined the diatom through the microscope and drew a quick sketch of it in his lab notebook.

diatomaceous

diatonic

diazepam

n
/ dī'azə.pam /
ISV + unknown
a synthetic tranquilizer used especially to relieve anxiety and tension and as a muscle relaxant.
The patient's seizure subsided after treatment with diazepam.

dicey

dichondra

n
/ dī'kändrə /
Gk
a chiefly tropical perennial herb with tiny leaves and flowers that is commonly used as a ground cover in the southern United States.
Mr. Dupree doesn't like to mow, so he planted his yard with dichondra instead of grass.

dichotomous

Dickensian

adj
/ dī'ken(t)sēən /
E name
characteristic of or having the qualities of the writings of Charles Dickens with respect to humor and pathos in the portrayal of character types.
The Dickensian slums of London were perfectly portrayed in the television movie.

dictator

diction

dictum

dieffenbachia

diener

dieseling

dieter

difference

differentiable

differentials

differentiate

v
/ .dīfə'renchē.āt /
L
express the specific difference of.
The order of red and yellow stripes helps differentiate deadly coral snakes from benign species.

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diffraction

n
/ dâ'frakshən /
L

a modification which light undergoes in passing by the edges of opaque bodies or through narrow slits in which the rays appear to be deflected and produce fringes of parallel light and dark or colored bands.

One consequence of diffraction is that sharp shadows are not produced.

diffractionmeter

n
/ .di.frak'tämədə(r) /
L + Ecf + Gk

an instrument for measuring the diameters of small particles in a microscope field by means of the diffraction rings which appear to surround them.

Lance used a diffractionmeter to measure particles collected in the air filter.

diffuser

n
/ dâ'fyüzə(r) /
L

a device to distribute the light from a concentrated source uniformly.

To replace the burnt-out bulb, Adam had to remove the diffuser from the light.

diffusion

n
/ dâ'fyūzhən /
L

spreading, dispersion.

Dr. Packman is investigating the effect of temperature on the diffusion of light in various crystals.

digest

v
/ di'jest /
L

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

appropriate or assimilate mentally.
The teacher told James that she found it difficult to digest the main idea of his recent essay.

digit

diglossia

dignified

digoneutic

digression
n
/ di'greshən /
L

the act of turning aside from the main subject of attention in a discourse or literary work.

Lou felt that they were wandering from the point, and that in digression Alexandra might unnerve him.

dihedral

adj
/ di'hēdrəl /
Gk + Gk
having or formed by two plane faces.
The dihedral angles in a cube measure 90 degrees.

dijudicate

v
/ di'jüdəkāt /
L
make a judicial decision.
Judge Flanders will dijudicate in the civil case between Victoria and her insurance company.

dilatancy

dilate

dilated
v
/ 'di.lādəd /
L
expanded or became wide.
Slowly the pupils of Joan's eyes dilated until they were back to normal.

dilatorily

diluvial

dimmer

n
/ 'dimə(r) /
E
a device for causing an electric light to burn less brightly.
Sara turned the dimmer down and lit the candles in the dining room.

dimorphism

n
/ di'môr.fizəm /
Gk
difference (as of form, color, size) between two individuals or kinds of individuals that might be expected to be similar or identical.
Screech owls exhibit color dimorphism, being either gray or reddish.

dined

dingbat

dingo

n
/ 'diŋ(,)gō /
Australian name
a wild dog of Australia.
Many Australian farmers erect high fences to protect their sheep against the dingo.

dingy

adj
/ 'dinjē /
unknown
dirty, soiled, discolored.
The bird flapped its dingy wings and flew off in a cascade of dust and dirt and fuzz.

diocesan

dioscuric

adj
/ diə'skyürik /
Gk
twin.
The dioscuric children greatly enjoyed switching identities to annoy their teachers.

diphthongize

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

diphyllous

adj

/ dī'filəs /

Gk

having two leaves.

In her description of the flower, the botanist noted that its calyx was diphyllous.

diploe

diploid

diplomacy

dipper

dipsas

dipsomaniac

dipteral

diptote

dire

director

n

/ dā'rektə(r) /

L

one that supervises the production of a show (as for stage or screen) with responsibility for action, lighting, music, and rehearsals.

While the producer is responsible for the finances and publicity of a show, the director is responsible for the show itself.

dirge

dirk

disadvantage

disagreeable

adj

/ .disə'grēəbəl /

L > E + F > E + Lcf > Ecf

causing discomfort, displeasure, or repugnance.

Mary was so disagreeable that after the first day or two nobody would play with her.

disappear

disappearance

n

/ .disə'pīrən(t)s /

L

removal from sight : vanishing.

With the disappearance of the snow, the sleds and skates were replaced with bicycles.

disappoint

disapprobation

disarray

disaster

n

/ dā'zastə(r) /

Gk > L

a sudden and unfortunate event that causes much damage : calamity.

The violent hail storm was the disaster that ruined the wheat crop.

disavowed

v

/ .disə'vaüd /

L > F > E

denied responsibility for, approval of, or validity of : disowned.

Although the manager disavowed the illegal actions of his subordinates, he was held responsible and was fired.

disbursement

n

/ dās'bərsmənt /

L > F + Gk > L > F + Ecf

the act of expending, especially from a public fund : paying out.

The officer in charge of disbursement gave the builders the final payment.

discept

discernible

dischargeable

discigerous

disciple

discombobulate

v

/ .diskəm'bäb(y)əlāt /

L + unknown

upset, confuse, or disconcert.

Changing the rules just before the game was bound to discombobulate the team.

disconsolate

adj

/ dā'skän(t)s(ə)lāt /

L

hopelessly sad : being beyond comfort.

After she received her report card, Gretchen was disconsolate for the rest of the day.

discordancies

n pl

/ dā'skōrd'n(t)sēz /

L

disagreements.

Emma insisted to Mr. Knightley that their discordancies always arose from her being in the wrong.

discountenance

discourage

discrete

adj

/ dā'skrēt /

L

[has homonym: discreet] possessed of definite identity or individuality : separate.

As a member of a large family, Emily sometimes finds it difficult to establish a discrete identity at school.

discriminant

discrimination

n

/ dā'skrīmən'nāshən /

L

the act, practice, or an instance of differentiating categorically rather than individually.

Several women waged lifelong campaigns to end discrimination against females.

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

discursively

adv
/ də'skərsəvlē /

L
in a manner passing from one topic to another.

In her book on modern art Rosalind discusses the various movements discursively.

discuss

discussion

n
/ də'skəʃən /

L
a consideration of a question in open usually informal debate.
A lively discussion followed Ms. Poole's speech.

disease

disematism

disembark

v
/ disəm'bärk /

F
go ashore out of a ship or boat : leave a ship.
"Please hold the railing as you disembark," Simi cautioned the passengers.

disgruntle

disgusting

disheartening

adj
/ dəs'härt'niŋ /
Lcf > Ecf + E + Ecff
inducing discouragement or dejection.
Wally's attempts to learn ice-skating were disheartening.

dishevel

dishonest

disillusion

v
/ disə'lüzən /

L
deprive of hopes previously held : disenchant.

If you believe that you'll win the lottery, why should I disillusion you?

disinherit

disinterred

v
/ ,disin'tə(r)d /

L
dug out of the ground : taken out of a place of burial.
The body of the victim was disinterred after a long legal battle with the next of kin.

dismayed

v
/ də'smād /
(L + Gmc) > F > E
upset, perturbed, alarmed.
Many veteran teachers were dismayed to learn that they had to pass a test in order to continue to teach in public schools.

dispel

v
/ də'spel /

L
clear away : cause to disperse or disappear.
Dr. McKellar's explanation of the surgical procedure did not dispel his patient's fear.

dispensary

disperse

dispersed

v
/ də'spərst /

L
caused to break up and go in different ways.
The high wind dispersed the seeds in the milkweed pods throughout the neighborhood.

disposed

disquietude

n
/ dəs'kwīə.tüd /
L > Ecf + L + L > Ecf
lack of peace or tranquillity : anxiety.
Groans and disquietude followed Mr. Collins's announcement of a pop quiz.

disrupt

dissect

dissecting

v
/ də'sektɪŋ /
L
cutting into parts or sections.
The science kit was equipped with a knife for dissecting.

dissension

dissentious

disservice

disseverance

dissevered

v
/ də'sevə(r)d /
L
disunited.
If the group dissevered, it could not hope to win the campaign.

dissidence

n
/ 'disədən(t)s /
L
[has homonym: dissidents]
difference of opinion : disagreement.
The tyrannical dictator did not tolerate any political dissidence.

dissimulate

v
/ dəs'ɪmyə.lāt /
L
hide under a false appearance with intent to deceive.
In the preface to his autobiography, the author said that he refused to dissimulate the facts of his life.

dissipate

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

dissipative

dissociate

dissolute

adj
/ 'disə'lüt /
L
unrestrained or lawless in conduct.
The board deplored the dissolute behavior of one of its members.

dissolution

n
/ ,disə'lyushən /
L
[has near homonym: disillusion]
termination or destruction by breaking down, disrupting, or dispersing.
King Henry VIII ordered the dissolution of the monasteries in England primarily to obtain their wealth.

dissonance

dissonantly

adv
/ 'disənəntlē /
L
in a manner marked by a mingling of discordant sounds.
When the table was overturned, the plates and silverware crashed dissonantly to the floor.

dissuasion

distal

adj
/ 'distəl /
L
located away from the center of the body.
The professor asked the students to identify the distal and proximal ends of several bones.

distemper

n
/ dəs'tempə(r) /
L
a highly contagious virus disease of some animals.
The sick animals had distemper and were given medicine by the veterinarian.

distichous

adj
/ 'distəkəs /
Gk
divided into two distinct segments.
The entomology student was puzzled over insects with distichous antennae.

distilland

distillery

distinct

adj
/ dəs'tɪŋ(k)t /
L > F > E
capable of being easily perceived.
As the dense fog lifted, the mountains again became distinct.

distinctive

adj
/ dəs'tɪŋ(k)tɪv /
L
characteristic, peculiar : special.
The distinctive odor of natural gas comes from an additive designed to make leaks easier to detect.

distinctly

distingue

distinguishable

adj
/ dəs'tɪŋwɪshəbəl /
L
recognizable as separate : discernible.
King snakes and coral snakes are distinguishable by the order of their red, yellow, and black stripes.

distractible

adj
/ dəs'træktəbəl /
L
having one's attention readily diverted.
The highly distractible student was diagnosed as having attention deficit disorder.

distraught

adj
/ dəs'trɔt /
L > E
beset with doubt or mental conflict : deeply troubled.
For four days distraught friends and relatives waited for news of the lost skiers.

distressing

v
/ dəs'tresɪŋ /
L > F > E
subjecting to great strain or difficulties.
Ulrich had a distressing day at the office.

distributary

disturbance

disturbed

adj
/ dəs'tɜrbd /
L > F > E
deprived of mental or emotional peace : upset, agitated.
The movie's villain was a brilliant but emotionally disturbed scientist.

disunify

ditch

dithering

dittography

diurnation

diuturnal

adj
/ ,dɪyü'tɜrnəl /
L
of long continuance : lasting.
In geologic time, the Paleozoic Era was relatively diuturnal.

divan

divergence

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

divers

pron pl
/ 'dīvə(r)z /
L

[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word. In addition, word has near homonym: diverse.] an indefinite number more than one (as of persons or objects).
Divers of the enemy were captured.

diversion

diverticulum

n
/ .dīvə(r)'tikyələm /
L

an abnormal pouch or sac opening from a hollow organ (as the intestines or bladder).
The examination began rather casually, but at the first sight of a diverticulum the doctor became much more serious.

divertimento

n
/ dā.vərdə'men(,)tō /
L > F > It

an instrumental musical composition having from four to ten movements that is written as a chamber work.
The conductor chose a divertimento by Mozart for the evening's performance.

diverting

v
/ dā'vərdɪŋ /
L + Ecf

turning or drawing (as the mind or attention) from one concern to another : distracting.
The program on television was diverting Vera's attention from her homework.

divide

dividend

divination

divvy

dizzyingly

doab

doable

docible

docile

docket

dockization

doctorate

doctrine

dodderer

doddery

dodecarchy

n
/ 'dōdə.kärkē /
Gk
a ruling body of 12.
The rebels overthrew the dodecarchy and established an independent kingdom.

dodecuplet

dodgery

doeskin

doffed

v
/ 'däft /
E
lifted the hat.
When he reached the car, the figure doffed his cap.

dogged

doily

doldrum

doldrums

n pl
/ 'dōldrəmz /
E?
a spell of listlessness or despondency : blues.
Siobhan, who lives in Alaska, explained that she often experiences the doldrums in the winter.

dolefully

dollarwise

dollhouse

dolmen

n
/ 'dōlmən /
L > Bret > F
[has homonym: dolman] a prehistoric monument consisting of two or more upright stones supporting a horizontal stone slab found especially in Britain and France and thought to be a tomb.
Connor made a model of a dolmen enclosed by a stone circle as part of his English history project.

dolomite

n
/ 'dōlə.mīt /
F name
a limestone or marble rich in magnesium carbonate.
Geologists suspected a deposit of dolomite lay just beneath the next rock layer.

doloroso

dolt

domesticate

dominate

dominigene

dominion

donation

donee

donkey

donnybook

doohickey

doombook

doorjamb

doornail

dopester

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dormer

dormice

dormitory

dormouse

dorsal

adj

/ 'dɔrsəl /

L

belonging to or situated near or on the back of an animal.

From the scar near the salmon's dorsal fin, Ako knew it had been attacked by a lamprey.

dorsiferous

dote

dottiness

doublet

n

/ 'dəblət /

L > F > E

a quilted undergarment reinforced by rings of mail and worn under armor.

The knight's life was saved by the doublet he had reluctantly worn.

doubletone

doubloon

doubloons

n pl

/ .də'blünz /

L > Sp

old gold coins of Spain and Spanish America worth 16 pieces of eight.

"Hang it, Pew, we've got the doubloons!" grumbled one pirate to the other.

dough

doughtily

adv

/ daüdə'lē /

E

in a manner marked by fearless resolution and by stoutness in contest or struggle.

The district attorney doughtily persevered in his efforts to bring the crime bosses to justice.

dour

adj

/ 'daü(ə)r /

L

[has homonyms: doer, dower] marked by gloomy silence or ill humor : sullen.

The usually dour senator was advised to smile more if he wanted to get reelected.

dourness

dovetail

n

/ 'dəv.tāl /

E + E

something (as a flaring tenon, tongue, or machine part) felt to resemble a dove's tail in shape; especially : dovetail joint.

The cabinetmaker taught his apprentice to use a dovetail to join the pieces of wood.

dovetailed

adj

/ 'dəv.tāld /

E + E

joined with or as if with a flaring tenon or tongue.

Norm Abram showed the TV audience the carefully dovetailed joints on the sideboard.

dowdily

downcast

adj

/ 'daün.kast /

E + ON > E

low in spirit : depressed, dejected.

After striking out, the downcast batter returned to the bench.

downdraft

n

/ 'daün.draft /

E + E

a downward current of air.

A strong downdraft sent the airplane into a sudden steep descent.

downpour

n

/ 'daün.pō(ə)r /

E + E

a pouring or streaming downward; especially : a heavy rain.

The town's sewage system was unable to handle the tremendous downpour.

downright

downtrodden

doze

dragonfly

dragoon

v

/ drə'gün /

F

compel or attempt to compel into submission by violent measures : harass, persecute.

Gerald's so-called friends tried to dragoon him into quitting school, but he would have none of it.

drakelet

dramatize

v

/ 'dram.ə.tīz /

Gk

exhibit graphically in such a manner as to show forth qualities, attributes, or aspects likely to be overlooked.

To dramatize the plight of Third World children, the charity executives decided to film their commercial in a squalid back alley.

dramaturge

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

drams

n pl

/ 'dramz /

Gk > L&F > E

avoirdupois units, each equal to 27.343 grains.

The doctor prescribed 2 drams of the medicine to be taken three times a day.

drapery

drastically

drawer

drawl

drawloom

drearily

drippage

drizzle

n

/ 'drizəl /

E

a fine misty rain; specifically : a light rain of very small drops.

The rain increased suddenly, pounding hollowly against the umbrella, then just as suddenly faded back to a drizzle.

drogher

droll

adj

/ 'drɔl /

D > F

having a whimsical, humorous, or odd character.

Steve says things so droll his parents can't respond for laughing.

drolly

dromic

adj

/ 'drämik /

Gk

of, relating to, or in the form of a racecourse.

Many Eastern churches exhibit the dromic form.

dromond

Drosophila

n

/ drō'säfələ /

Gk > L

a genus of small two-winged flies that have been used extensively in experiments to study basic mechanisms of inheritance.

The fruit fly is of the genus Drosophila.

drown

drowsily

adv

/ 'draüzəlē /

E? + Ecf

in a sleepy manner.

Ali drowsily took the message for his roommate but forgot to give it to him.

druid

n

/ 'drüəd /

Gaulish > L

a member of a priesthood in ancient Gaul, Britain, and Ireland whose members are said to have studied the natural sciences and later appeared in legends as magicians and wizards.

The tour guide speculated that Stonehenge had been built by a lone druid seeking immortality.

druidism

drumlin

n

/ 'drəmlən /

IrGael + E

an elongate or oval hill of glacial drift.

Last summer the cousins built a bonfire atop the drumlin on Granddad's farm.

drunkard

dryad

n

/ 'dri:əd /

Gk > L

one of the minor divinities of nature in Greek and Roman mythology that are represented as beautiful maidens dwelling in the forests.

Sally likes to sit in her tree house and pretend that she is a dryad.

dryness

dual

adj

/ 'd(y)üəl /

L

[has homonym: duel] consisting of two parts or elements : twofold.

Mark practiced whistling until he was able to consistently produce a dual tone.

dualistic

dubious

dubiously

adv

/ 'd(y)übēəslē /

L + Ecf

in a manner expressive of doubt, hesitation, or suspicion.

"Are you sure the shot won't hurt?" Sarah dubiously asked the doctor.

dubonnet

ducal

adj

/ 'd(y)ükəl /

L > F

of, belonging to, or befitting a duke or dukedom.

The ducal palace stood in the middle of a beautiful garden.

ductility

n

/ .dək'tilədē /

L > F

the quality or state of being capable of being drawn out into wire.

The ductility of platinum is such that it has been drawn into a wire less than two thousandths of an inch in diameter.

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duenna

n
/ d(y)ü'enə /
L > Sp
an elderly woman serving as governess and companion to the younger ladies in a Spanish or a Portuguese family.
The governor's daughter was never allowed to leave the house without her duenna.

dugong

n
/ 'dü.gäŋ /
Malay&Tagalog > L
an aquatic herbivorous mammal that has a two-lobed tail and in the male upper incisors altered into short tusks, is related to the manatee, and inhabits warm coastal regions.
The dugong grazes on green algae and sea grasses and is able to remain submerged for up to 10 minutes.

dulcimer

dulcinea

n
/ .dəlsə'nēə /
L > Sp name
sweetheart.
Wesley called his girlfriend his "dulcinea" because it sounded more romantic.

dulosis

n
/ d(y)ü'lōsəs /
Gk > L
enslavement by an insect that captures and rears the larvae or pupae of another species.
Some ants practice dulosis in order to enlarge their army of workers.

duly

duncical

adj
/ 'dən(t)səkəl /
Scottish name + Ecff
stupid.
Warren's patience ran out when he had to walk his neighbor's duncical dog.

dunderfunk

dundrearies

n pl
/ .dən'drɪrēz /
E name
long flowing side whiskers.
Dundrearies were a popular adornment of men in the latter half of the 19th century.

duodenary

adj
/ d(y)üə'denərē /
L
containing 12.
The radical new government planned to hold its elections on a duodenary cycle of years.

duologue

duopsony

dupes

n pl
/ 'd(y)üps /
F
puppets or tools especially of a powerful person or idea.
In his "Four Freedoms" speech, Franklin D. Roosevelt warned about the presence of secret agents and their dupes.

duplicate

adj
/ 'd(y)üpləkət /
L
[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word.] of, relating to, or being a card game in which all players play identical hands in order to allow a comparison of scores.
Joe and Lisa spent the weekend at a duplicate bridge tournament.

duplicator

dusky

adj
/ 'dəskē /
E
somewhat dark in color.
Dustin described the bird's plumage as a dusky brown tinged with yellow.

dutiful

duumvirate

n
/ d(y)ü'əmvrət /
L
two people associated in high office or position.
The rebellion's leader and the army colonel formed a powerful duumvirate that controlled all traffic to and from the capital.

dwindled

v
/ 'dwind'ld /
E
became steadily less : diminished in size, amount, or quality.
Above them the trees of the mountain dwindled, and then vegetation ceased entirely.

dyeing

dynamic

adj
/ dī'namik /
Gk
forceful, energetic.
The soccer team praised their dynamic coach for his untiring efforts.

dynamo

n
/ 'dīnə.mō /
Gk
a direct-current generator.
The old car had a dynamo powered by the front tire.

dyne

n
/ 'dīn /
Gk > F
[has homonym: dine] the unit of force in the centimeter-gram-second system equal to the force that would give a free mass of 1 gram an acceleration of 1 centimeter per second per second.
Mr. Hill tried to give examples illustrating the force of 1 dyne, but the students were still confused.

dysarthria

dyscrasia

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dysesthesia

dysgraphia

dyslexiac

dysphagia

n
/ də'sfāj(ē)ə /
Gk + Gk
difficulty in swallowing.
Doug experienced dry mouth and dysphagia as adverse reactions to the medication he was taking.

dysprosium

dystrophy

n
/ 'distrəfē /
Gk
any of several neuromuscular disorders.
Shayna was diagnosed with muscular dystrophy the summer before she began elementary school.

eagerness

earnestly

adv
/ 'ərnəstlē /
E
with intent and serious manner.
Gerald performed his job so earnestly that his co-workers teased him by asking if he thought he was saving the world.

earring

ease

easel

easelback

easily

adv
/ 'ēz(ə)lē /
E
without difficulty, discomfort, or reluctance : readily.
Thomas easily solved the first set of math problems, but the second set required great effort.

easterly

eavesdropper

Ebenezer

n
/ .ebə'nēzə(r) /
Heb
a commemoration of divine assistance.
The city swimming pool is a millionaire's Ebenezer, celebrating his recovery from a childhood bout of polio.

eburnean

adj
/ ə'bərnēən /
L
resembling ivory in color.
Charlie pleaded with his dentist to improve the appearance of his eburnean teeth.

ecce

interj
/ 'e(.)chā /
L
interjection used to call attention often to one persecuted unjustly.
At the end of his speech the defense attorney screamed "Ecce" and pointed at his client.

eccyclema

ecdysis

ecdysone

n
/ 'ekdə'sōn /
Gk
any of several arthropod hormones that in insects trigger molting and metamorphosis.
The insecticide Mary uses in her garden inhibits ecdysone, the hormone that enables some insects to metamorphose.

echard

n
/ 'e.kärd /
Gk
the soil water that is unavailable to plant organisms.
The echard forms a part of the total moisture content of the soil.

echelette

n
/ .eshə'let /
L > F
a reflection grating made by ruling parallel V-shaped grooves in a polished metal plate so that light is reflected from the corresponding faces of successive grooves.
If cut properly, an echelette can reflect almost as much light as a mirror.

echeveria

echidna

n
/ ə'kidnə /
Gk
a spiny-coated toothless burrowing egg-laying mammal of Australia having a tapering snout and long tongue for eating ants.
To frustrate its enemies, an echidna may roll itself into a ball and dig straight down in loose soil.

echinacea

n
/ .ekə'nāshēə /
Gk
the dried rhizome, roots, or other parts of any of three composite herbs used in folk medicine and some patent medicines especially for a supposed beneficial effect on the immune system.
Some people take echinacea to prevent colds and flu.

echinate

adj
/ ə'kinət /
Gk > L
[Note: Could be confused with noun echinite.] densely covered with stiff bristles or spines : prickly like a hedgehog.
Not many animals interfere with the echinate porcupine.

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echinus

n
/ ɛ'kɪnəs /
Gk
the rounded molding forming the bell of the Greek Doric capital of a column.
The tour guide pointed out the echinus of the capital to Nancy's group.

echo

echolocation

n
/ ˌe(ɪ)kəlɔ'kæʃən /
Gk + L
a process of animal orientation and navigation that involves emission of high-frequency sounds that are reflected back from environing surfaces and thus indicate the relative distance and direction of such surfaces.
Contrary to popular fiction, Erin learned that bats never get tangled in people's hair because their system of echolocation is so accurate.

echoppe

n
/ ɛ'shəp /
L > F
an engraver's needle beveled to an oval facet at the end and used to reopen previously incised lines.
Kermit carefully worked the echoppe through the broad strokes of the engraving.

ecize

eclair

ecliptical

ecocide

economic

economy

ecstasiate

ecstatically

ectocranial

ectoparasite

n
/ ˈektə.pərə.sɪt /
Gk
a parasite that lives on the exterior of its host.
The flea is a common ectoparasite on dogs and cats.

eczema

edaphic

adj
/ ɛ'dafɪk /
Gk
of or relating to the soil.
Kate's research project on the effects of local edaphic variations on agriculture won a silver medal in the state science fair.

eddy

eddying

v
/ ˈedɪŋ /
ON? > E
causing to move contrary to the main current.
Yolanda let her fly drift into the eddying water at the edge of the stream.

edger

edgily

edibility

edition

editor

educand

education

educe

cellike

eeriness

n
/ ˈiːrənəs /
E
the quality or state of being unusual or unnatural to such a degree as to inspire fear.
The abandoned mansion's eeriness sent a shiver down Joachim's spine.

effective

effectuality

effervescence

effervescently

effervescible

efficient

effigial

effortless

eggnog

eglantine

n
/ ˈeglən.tɪn /
L > F > E + Ecf
an Old World rose with stout recurved prickles and white to deep rosy pink single flowers.
The eglantine, noted for its fragrant foliage, can grow to a height of six feet.

ego

egotistical

adj
/ ˌægə'tɪstɪkəl /
L + Eeff
boastful or arrogant : referring unduly to oneself.
Paul wrote an egotistical letter to the editor of the newspaper.

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Egyptian

adj

/ əˈjɪpshən /

Gk > L

of or relating to Egypt, its inhabitants, or its language.

The pyramids at Giza are huge spectacular monuments of Egyptian Old Kingdom architecture.

eigenvalue

n

/ ˈɪɡən.vəlyü /

G + L > F > E

any of the permissible values of a parameter in the solution of a differential equation satisfying specified conditions.

Nina spent an hour finding the final eigenvalue that satisfied the assigned physics problem.

eighth

einkanter

n

/ ˈɪn.käntə(r) /

G

a stone with a single sharp edge worn by wind-driven sand.

Joseph cut his knee on a large einkanter at the beach.

eisegesis

n

/ ˌɪsəˈjɛsəs /

Gk

the interpretation of a text (as of the Bible) by reading into it one's own ideas.

The biblical scholar noted that eisegesis is often unavoidable because our lives have a strong impact on how we learn.

elaborative

adj

/ əˈlabə.rədɪv /

L

tending to expand something in detail.

Each topical heading was followed by elaborative paragraphs giving details.

eland

n

/ ˈɛlənd /

Lithuanian > G > D > Afrikaans

either of two large African antelopes of which both male and female have short spirally twisted horns.

In some areas of Africa the eland has been domesticated for use as a draft animal on farms.

elaphine

elapse

elastique

elated

adj

/ əˈlædəd /

L

elevated in spirit : excited especially with pride.

The scientist was elated on hearing that he would be awarded the Nobel Prize.

elaterid

n

/ əˈlædəɪd /

Gk > L

click beetle.

Sandy was surprised to hear a clicking noise when the elaterid flipped itself to an upright position.

elbowroom

elder

elderly

adj

/ ˈeldə(r)lɪ /

E + Ecf

rather advanced in years.

An elderly lady lived in a huge old house on the edge of town and never came out except for food and church.

electioneer

electorate

n

/ əˈlekt(ə)rət /

L

a body of people entitled to vote.

The electorate favored allowing the independent candidate to participate in the presidential debates.

electrify

electroencephalograph

n

/ əˌlektroʊnˈsefələɡraf /

Gk > L

an apparatus for detecting and recording brain waves.

The technicians installed the new electroencephalograph at the hospital.

electroluminescence

n

/ əˌlek.trōˈlüməˈnesˈn(t)s /

Gk + L + Lcf

an emission of light resulting from a high-frequency discharge through a gas or from application of an alternating current to a layer of phosphor.

Stan was surprised to find that his friend knew what electroluminescence is.

electrolyte

n

/ əˈlektroˌlɪt /

Gk

a substance (as an acid, base, or salt) that when dissolved in a suitable solvent (as water) or when fused becomes an ionic conductor.

The veterinarian recommended that Mo use the product Pedialyte to get an electrolyte or two into Daisy, his sick chimp.

electron

electroretinograph

n

/ əˌlektroˈretˈnəɡraf /

Gk + L + Gk

an instrument for recording electrical activity in the retina.

The security device in the sci-fi film involved an electroretinograph, but the details were vague.

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elegance

elegiac

adj
/ ˌeləˈjiæk /
Gk

consisting of two dactylic hexameter lines the second of which is often felt to be pentameter.
Gonda could not figure out how to scan the elegiac couplet.

elegy

n
/ ˈeləjē /
Gk > L
a poem expressing sorrow or lamentation.
The English poet Thomas Gray wrote perhaps the most famous elegy.

element

elenchus

elevation

n
/ ˌeləˈvāshən /
L
the angular distance of a celestial object above the horizon.
Simon measured the Moon's elevation with a protractor, a straw, a string, and a washer.

elevator

elvon

elicit

elicitation

elicitor

eligibility

elocutionary

elope

n
/ ˈælōzh /
Gk > L > F
a panegyric funeral oration.
Mourners wept at the rabbi's moving elege.

elongate

eloquent

adj
/ ˈeləkwənt /
L
adept at skilled easy pleasing communication of a thought, idea, or feeling.
A gifted toastmaster is not only eloquent but also entertaining.

eloquently

elucubrate

elude

elusive

eluvium

n
/ ˈɛˈlʊvēəm /
L
rock debris produced by weathering.
After many years the wind and water made eluvium of the limestone.

elysium

n
/ ˈɛˈlɪz(h)ēəm /
Gk > L
the dwelling place of happy souls after death as conceived by the ancient Greeks and Romans.
Greek tales about the afterlife seem to focus more on Hades than on elysium.

elytra

n pl
/ ˈeləˌtrə /
Gk > L
the thickened sclerotized anterior wings in beetles and some other insects that protect and cover the posterior wings.
At least 250,000 species of insects have hardened wing covers called "elytra."

emaciation

n
/ ˌəˌmāshēˈāshən /
L
the state of being made lean by impairment (as from hunger).
Disease was the major cause of the emaciation of the children in the African village.

email

n
/ ˈāˈmī /
F
a moderate bluish green to greenish blue.
Email, also called "bleu Louise," is a common color of enamel used in cloisonné.

emanatory

emancipatory

embarrassing

embergoose

n
/ ˈembə(r)ˌgiəs /
Norw&E + E
common loon.
The embergoose is a large fish-eating aquatic bird that spends most of its time in open water.

embezzled

v
/ ˌəmˈbezəld /
F > AF > E
appropriated fraudulently to one's own use (as property entrusted to one's care).
The bank employee embezzled hundreds of thousands of dollars before the authorities discovered the crime.

emblema

emboss

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embosser

n
/ ɛm'bäsə(r) /
F

a punch used for striking metal on the reverse side to raise the relief.
Mandy used an embosser to form a design on a thin piece of copper sheeting.

embracing

v
/ ɛm'brāsiŋ /
F

encircling, enclosing, encompassing.
Calvin flung his arms out wide, as though he were embracing Meg and her mother—the whole house.

embroidered

v
/ ɛm'brɔɪdə(r)d /
F > E + Ecf
ornamented with needlework.
Grandma embroidered the tablecloth with a floral motif.

embryogenesis

n
/ ɛmbrɪˈdʒənəsəs /
Gk + Gk
the formation and development of the animal organism in the early stages of growth and differentiation.
During early embryogenesis cells differentiate to form various types of tissue.

emerald

eminence

emit

v
/ ɛ'mit /
L
throw or give off or out (as light, heat, gases, or charged particles).
“Neon” signs are actually made with neon, krypton, and argon, which emit different colors of light.

emmetropia

n
/ ɛmə'trɒpɪə /
Gk > NL
the normal refractive condition of the eye in which with accommodation relaxed parallel rays of light are brought accurately to a focus upon the retina.
There are new kinds of laser surgery that bring the eyes of nearsighted people back to a state of emmetropia.

emotion

emperor

emphasize

empiricism

employed

emptiness

empyrean

emulator

emulsify
v
/ ɛ'məlsəfi /
L
convert into a mixture of two incompletely miscible liquids.
Monika used a hand mixer to emulsify the eggs and oil for her special salad dressing.

enamelware

enatic

adj
/ ɛ'nadik /
L + Ecf
descended from the same mother : related on the mother's side.
George and Isabel are enatic cousins.

encaustic

n
/ ɛn'kɒstik /
Gk
a paint mixed with melted beeswax and after application fixed by heat.
Encaustic gave Gerard's painting an appealing texture.

enceinte

n
/ ɛn'sant /
L > F
a line of fortification enclosing a castle or town.
The attacking army used artillery to breach the town's enceinte.

encephalon

n
/ ɛn'sefələn /
Gk
the vertebrate brain.
The encephalon is divided into the hindbrain, the midbrain, and the forebrain.

enchanted

v
/ ɛn'chantəd /
L > F > E
influenced by or as if by charms and incantation : bewitched.
The dominant spirit that has haunted and enchanted this region is a figure on horseback.

encincture

encipherment

encoignure

encolure

encomiastic

adj
/ ɛn.kɒmɛ'astik /
Gk
of, belonging to, or bestowing praise.
The opera's composer wrote an encomiastic letter to the conductor commending his performance.

encompass

encourage

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encouraged

encroaching

v
/ ɛn'krōchiŋ /
Scand > F > E + Ecf
entering by gradual steps or by stealth into the possessions or rights of another.
Mr. Bickett's garden was encroaching on his neighbor's lawn year by year.

enculturate

v
/ ɛn'kəlchərāt /
L
modify or condition by the process by which an individual learns the traditional content of a culture and assimilates its practices and values.
The Romans intended to enculturate the vanquished people as quickly as possible.

endear

endearment

endive

endocardial

adj
/ ɛndō'kārdēəl /
Gk + Gk
situated within the heart.
With a stethoscope the physician listened for endocardial murmurs.

endocrinopathy

endogenous

adj
/ ɛn'dājənəs /
Gk + Gk
arising from internal structural or functional causes.
Rhythmic biological behavior governed by an endogenous clock is widespread in the animal kingdom.

endoradiosonde

n
/ ɛn.dō'rādēō.sänd /
Gk + L + F
a microelectronic device introduced into the body to record physiological data.
Dr. Lennon warned Tonya not to use a portable telephone while her endoradiosonde was in place.

endotracheal

adj
/ ɛndō'trākēəl /
Gk
placed within or passed inside of the windpipe.
The physician had to insert an endotracheal tube to help the patient breathe.

endurance

n
/ ɛn'd(y)ūrən(t)s /
L > F
an instance of long-suffering (as hardship or tribulation).
On his sad face was an expression of suffering and endurance.

enemy

energumen

enforceable

adj
/ ɛn'fō(ə)rsəbəl /
F > E
capable of being enforced.
A law must be enforceable if it is to have any effect.

enfranchise

engagement

engagingly

engine

engorge

engross

enjoin

enjoyable

enkindle

v
/ ɛn'kindl /
L + ON > E
set on fire.
Light concentrated by a magnifying glass will enkindle dry grass or paper.

enlivened

v
/ ɛn'līvənd /
L > F > E + E
made sprightly, gay, or cheerful.
The dancers were immediately enlivened by the swing music.

ennoble

v
/ ɛ'nōbəl /
L > F > E
elevate in degree or excellence.
Thad is living proof that spending time with virtuous people can ennoble those of lesser character.

enoptromancy

enormous

adj
/ ɛ'nō(r)məs /
L + Ecf
[Note: Speller should not confuse with obsolete form enormous.]
marked by extraordinarily great size, amount, number, degree, scope, intensity, or significance.
The documentary depicted the enormous task of building the Panama Canal.

enraptured

v
/ ɛn'rapchə(r)d /
L
filled with delight : gratified completely.
As Timmy entered the room, he was enraptured by the sight of the tree and the many presents.

enshroud

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ensteel

v
/ ɛnz'tē(ə)l /
E

make hard and strong.
Mr. Simpson explained that one step in making silver jewelry is to hammer the metal well to ensteel it.

ensuant

entelechy

enthalpy

n
/ 'en.thalpē /
Gk

a thermodynamic quantity that is the sum of the internal energy of a body and the product of its volume multiplied by the pressure—called also “heat content.”
To help determine the change in enthalpy, Gruen carefully specified the physical states of all the reactants and products.

enthusiasm

enthusiast

enthusiastic

adj
/ ɛn.th(y)üzē'astik /
Gk

having an ardent, receptive, responsive temperament.
Myron's enthusiastic nature infected the rest of the students.

enticement

entirely

entirety

entomb

entrammel

entrapment

n
/ ɛn'trapmənt /
F

the luring by an officer of the law of a person into the commission of a crime in order that the person may be prosecuted for the offense.
The jury felt that the evidence indicated police entrapment, so they acquitted the defendant.

entrechat

n
/ ɛntrə'shă /
L > It > F

a leap during which a ballet dancer repeatedly crosses the legs.
The audience watched in fascination as Nureyev performed a seemingly effortless entrechat.

entrée

entrepreneurial

entresol

entropy

n
/ 'entrəpē /
Gk

the ultimate state reached in the degradation of the matter and energy of the universe.
The laws of physics state that all things tend toward entropy.

enumerated

v
/ ɛ'n(y)ümə'rādəd /
L

related one after another : listed.
When the waiter had enumerated the dessert choices, making a single selection was difficult.

enunciatively

envious

environ

environment

envision

v
/ ɛn'vizhən /
L + L

have a mental picture of especially in advance of realization.
When she was a child, Calinda would often envision her life as a famous writer or painter.

envoy

n
/ 'en.vôi /
F

any person delegated to represent one sovereign or government in its relations with another.
The Enterprise conveyed the envoy to the peace conference without incident.

eohippus

n
/ ˌeə'hipəs /
Gk + Gk

an animal or fossil of a genus of small primitive 4-toed horses of the Lower Eocene of the western United States.
Modern horses are descended from the eohippus.

eolith

epaxial

adj
/ e'paksēəl /
Gk

located above or on the dorsal side of a straight line with respect to which a body, figure, or system of points is either radially or bilaterally symmetrical.
The epaxial muscles along the human spine are relatively large.

epenthesis

n
/ ɛ'pen(t)thəsəs /
Gk

the insertion of a letter in a word to make the spelling conform to the pronunciation.
The word nymel became nimble by epenthesis.

epergne

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epexegetis

n
/ ˌe.pɛksəˈjɛsəs /
Gk + Gk

an explanation following a word or larger part of a text that limits its application or clarifies its meaning.
An epexegetis is often set off from the rest of a sentence by commas or parentheses.

ephelis

ephemerally

ephemerid

n
/ əˈfɛm(ə)rəd /
Gk

a mayfly.
An ephemerid has membranous wings that fold flat over the back.

epibiont

epic

adj
/ ˈɛpɪk /
Gk
[has near homonym: epoch]
extending beyond the usual or ordinary especially in size or scope.
The movie's epic scale succeeded brilliantly according to most critics.

epicardia

n
/ ˌɛpəˈkɑrdɪə /
Gk
the short part of the esophagus extending from the diaphragm to the stomach.
The medical student was asked to identify the patient's epicardia during surgery.

epicenter

n
/ ˈɛpəsɛntə(r) /
Gk > L
the part of Earth's surface directly above the focus of an earthquake.
An earthquake whose epicenter is on the ocean floor may cause a tsunami.

epidemiologist

n
/ ˌɛpəˌdɛmɪˈɒləjɪst /
Gk
a specialist in the science that deals with the incidence, distribution, and control of disease in a population.
The epidemiologist strongly recommended that all children be inoculated with the chicken pox vaccine.

epiglottis

n
/ ˌɛpəˈglɑdɪs /
Gk
the fold of tissue that covers the airway during the act of swallowing.
Breathing opens the epiglottis and allows free passage of air to the lungs.

epiglottitis

epigonism

n
/ əˈpɪɡəˌnɪzəm /
Gk + Ecf
artistic, literary, or intellectual imitation especially by a later generation.
The Pre-Raphaelite movement in the mid-19th century arose from epigonism of the artistic principles of the 14th century.

epigrammatic

epigraph

epilithic

adj
/ ˌɛpəˈlɪθɪk /
Gk + Gk
growing on stone or stonelike material.
Some species of snails feed on epilithic lichen.

epinephrine

epipelagic

adj
/ ˌɛpəˈpəˈlajɪk /
Gk
of or relating to the part of the oceanic zone into which enough light for photosynthesis penetrates.
Creatures living below the epipelagic zone are often blind.

epiphanic

adj
/ ˌɛpəˈfanɪk /
Gk
of or having the character of a sudden manifestation or perception of the essential nature or meaning of something.
Oliver had the epiphanic realization that his cat had gained weight because she was about to have kittens.

epiphora

n
/ əˈpɪfərə /
Gk + Gk
a watering of the eyes due to excessive secretion of tears or to obstruction of the lacrimal passages.
Blocked tear ducts were determined to be the cause of the patient's epiphora.

epiphyte

n
/ ˈɛpəˈfɪt /
Gk
a plant that derives its moisture and nutrients from the air and rain and grows usually on another plant.
Spanish moss is a ubiquitous epiphyte on trees in the South.

epistaxis

n
/ ˌɛpəˈstaksəs /
Gk
nosebleed.
During his illness, Henri had frequent bouts of epistaxis, so he learned to keep a box of tissues handy at all times.

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epistemic

adj

/ ˌepəˈstēmik /

Gk

of, having the character of, or relating to knowledge or knowing as a type of experience.

Sol thought the self-evidence of it all was epistemic justification enough for his belief that the world existed.

epistolography

n

/ ˌɒpɪstəˈlɑːgrəfi /

Gk

the art or practice of writing epistles : letter writing.

The widespread use of e-mail has revived a form of epistolography.

epithelium

n

/ ˌepəˈthēlēəm /

Gk + Gk

a cellular animal tissue consisting of one or more layers of cells that serves to enclose and protect the other parts of the body.

Humans have about 26 million sensory cells per square inch of olfactory epithelium.

epollicate

epopt

n

/ ˈe.pəpt /

Gk

one instructed in a secret system.

Because Ivan was an inexperienced investor, he treated his stockbroker like an epopt.

epos

n

/ ˈe.pəs /

Gk

a body of poetry expressing the tradition of a people.

The ancient epos survived in later literature.

epsilon

equalize

equatable

equational

equerry

n

/ ˈekwərə /

L&F

an officer of princes or nobles charged with the care of their horses.

The royal equerry had his men prepare the horses for the fox hunt.

equestrian

adj

/ ˌɛkwɛstrēən /

L + Ecf

[has near homonym: equestrienne] of, relating to, or featuring horseback riding.

The artist was best known for his equestrian paintings.

equidistant

adj

/ ˌɛkwəˈdɪstənt /

L

being of the same measure apart.

The neighborhood grocery and video stores are equidistant from Josh's home.

equipollence

n

/ ˌɛkwəˈpälən(t)s /

L + L

the quality or state of being equal in force, power, or validity.

One form of paradox consists in the apparent equipollence of two propositions, one of which is the negation of the other.

equipollent

equitation

equivocal

equivocation

n

/ ˌɛkwɪvəˈkāshən /

L

the act or an instance of making a statement that deviates from or misconstrues the truth.

Felicity knew that equivocation about the matter would keep her out of trouble, but she was forthright in her response.

eraser

eration

eremic

adj

/ ˌɛrēmik /

Gk

of or relating to deserts or sandy regions.

Georgia O'Keeffe painted several famous eremic landscapes.

eremitic

erg

n

/ ˈɜːrg /

Gk

an absolute centimeter-gram-second unit of work representing the work done by a force of 1 dyne acting through a displacement of 1 centimeter in the direction of the force.

Dr. Young planned to introduce the erg in his next physics lesson.

ergonomist

n

/ (ˌ)ɜːrˈɡänəmɪst /

Gk

a specialist in biotechnology.

David ordered a desk chair specially designed by an ergonomist to prevent discomfort from prolonged sitting.

ergophobia

erimeter

eristic

adj

/ ˌɛrɪstɪk /

Gk

characterized by disputatious often subtle and specious reasoning.

The debater used eristic double-talk to impress the judges.

erode

erose

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

erosion

n
/ ɔˈrɒʒhən /
L

land destruction and simultaneous removal of particles (as of soil) by running water, waves and currents, moving ice, or wind.

In some hilly areas terraces are built to protect soils from erosion.

errant

erroneously

adv
/ ɔˈrɒnɪəsli /
L > E

in a manner deviating from what is true, correct, right, or wise.

The noun phenomena is sometimes used erroneously with a singular verb.

error

eruciform

adj
/ ɔˈrʊsəfɔrm /
L

of an insect larva : having a soft cylindrical body with a distinct head and usually short thoracic legs : caterpillarlike.

Fred knew that the eruciform larva would spin a cocoon from which a butterfly would emerge.

erythema

n
/ ɛrəˈθɛmə /
Gk > L

abnormal redness of the skin due to capillary congestion (as in inflammation).

A small area of erythema on the back of Hillary's hand demarcated the burn.

erythrocyte

erythrophobia

n
/ ɔˈrɪθrəˈfɒbiə /
Gk

fear of blushing.

Marvin's erythrophobia is so severe that speaking in public is torture for him.

erythrophia

n
/ ɛrəˈθrɒpsɪə /
Gk

a visual disturbance in which all objects appear reddish.

Cyrus erroneously thought that the expression "seeing the world through rose-colored glasses" had something to do with erythrophia.

escabeche

n
/ ɛskəˈbɑːtʃə /
Ar > Sp

fish or chicken fried in oil then marinated in a spicy sauce and served cold.

Elena's recipe for escabeche came from her mother's favorite Spanish cookbook.

escalate

escapade

escapement

n
/ ɔˈskɑːpmənt /
L > F

the device in a timepiece which controls the motion of the train of wheelwork.

The use of an escapement in clocks dates back to the 14th century.

escarole

n
/ ɛskəˈrɒl /
L > It > F

an annual or biennial herb widely cultivated as a salad plant.

Helga tossed a salad of escarole, mushrooms, and tomatoes.

escharotic

eschatological

eschatology

n
/ ɛskəˈtɒlədʒi /
Gk

a study or science dealing with the ultimate destiny or purpose of humanity and the world.

Min's doctoral thesis in philosophy addresses the development of eschatology among Asian cultures.

escheator

esclavage

escolar

esculent

escutcheon

esne

n
/ ˈɛznə /
E

a laborer or man of the lower classes among the Anglo-Saxons.

While working in the fields, the esne dreamed of marrying the master's daughter and living in the manor house.

espousal

n
/ ɔˈspaʊzəl /
L > F > E

a taking up or adopting as a cause or belief.

The senator's espousal of a national health program has not wavered during his three terms.

esquamulose

esquisse

essay

essayist

n
/ ˈɛsəɪst /
L > F

a writer of analytic, interpretative, or critical literary compositions.

As an essayist, Emerson can hardly be surpassed.

essential

estafette

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

estate

n
/ ˈɛːstāt /
F > E

the aggregate of property or liabilities of all kinds that a person leaves for disposal at his or her death.

The estate of the deceased billionaire has been tied up in lawsuits for over 12 years.

estimate

v
/ ˈestə.māt /
L

judge the value of.
Arthur asked a real estate appraiser to estimate the house.

estrangle

etching

ethereal

ethics

ethnocentric

ethylene

n
/ ˈethəl.ēn /
Gk > ISV
a colorless flammable gas found in coal gas or obtained from petroleum hydrocarbons and used to ripen fruits or as an anesthetic.
When ethylene is polymerized, the product is polyethylene, a plastic material used for making containers.

etymological

adj
/ ˌetə.məˈlāj.əkəl /
Gk
belonging to, based on, or in accord with the history often including the prehistory of a linguistic form (as a word or morpheme).
The etymological meaning of the word hippopotamus is “river horse.”

etymologicon

Eucharist

n
/ ˈyūk(ə)rəst /
Gk
a central rite in many Christian churches in which bread and wine are consecrated by the officiating member of the clergy and consumed as symbols for the realization of a spiritual union between Christ and communicant or as the body and blood of Christ.
The Eucharist is considered by most Christian churches to be the central act of the worship service.

eucharistic

adj
/ ˌyūkəˈristik /
Gk > L
manifesting or expressing praise and thanksgiving.
Bianca composed a eucharistic poem for the festival.

eucrasia

n
/ yūˈkrāzh(ē)ə /
Gk + Gk
a normal state of health : physical well-being.
To the ancient Greeks, eucrasia resulted from the appropriate balance of the four humors: blood, yellow bile, black bile, and phlegm.

eudiometer

n
/ ˌyüdēˈämədə(r) /
Gk
an instrument for the volumetric measurement and analysis of gases that involves the explosion of one of the components of the mixture by the passage of an electric spark.
Rodney managed to set the chemistry lab on fire because he did not understand how to use the eudiometer.

eugenics

n pl
/ yūˈjeniks /
Gk + Gk
a science that deals with the improvement of hereditary qualities in a series of generations of a race or breed.
Using eugenics to create a super20race of human beings is a common theme in science fiction.

eulogistic

euonym

euphemize

euphenics

n pl
/ yūˈfeniks /
Gk + Gk
a science that deals with the biological improvement of human beings after birth.
Many people believe that euphenics will be as common as dentistry in the next century.

euphonious

adj
/ yūˈfōnēəs /
Gk
[Note: Could be confused with euphonous.] pleasing in sound.
Allison is noted for her euphonious voice and clear enunciation.

euphonium

n
/ yūˈfōnēəm /
Gk + Ecf
a tenor tuba similar in shape, pitch, and range to the baritone but with a larger bore, a mellower tone quality, and often a double bell.
Rocky's mom made him practice his euphonium in the barn.

euphony

euphoria

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

euphuism

n
/ 'yüfyə.wizəm /
Gk > E name
[has near homonym: euphemism]
artificial and excessive elegance of
language : high-flown diction.
*Eli's penchant for euphuism is kept
in check by his English teacher, Dr.
Holquist.*

eupraxia

Euripidean

adj
/ yə.ripə'dēən /
Gk name
of, relating to, or characteristic of
the Greek playwright Euripides or
his tragedies.
*In Euripidean tragedy, the chorus
provides charming interludes of
song and dance.*

European

adj
/ ,yürə'pēən /
Gk
of, relating to, or belonging to
Europe or its inhabitants.
*Since John, an Englishman, has a
European Union passport, he is
allowed to work in France.*

euryphagous

eustachian

adj
/ yü'stāshən /
It name
of or relating to the bony and
cartilaginous tube connecting the
cavity of the middle ear with the
nasopharynx.
*As he began his dive, John pinched
his nose, closed his mouth, and
attempted to blow out to allow his
eustachian tubes to equalize the
pressure in his ears.*

eutely

evacuate

evadable

evanesce

evangel

n
/ ə'vanjəl /
Gk
a doctrine regarded as having
special grace, sanction, or efficacy.
*Elizabeth Cady Stanton called for a
new evangel of womanhood to exalt
purity, virtue, and morality.*

evangelist

evaporation

n
/ ə.vapə'rāshən /
L
the change by which any substance
is converted from a liquid state into
and carried off in vapor.
*The Mediterranean Sea loses much
water through evaporation, leaving
behind extra-salty water that sinks
to the bottom.*

evection

n
/ ə'vekshən /
L
perturbation of the Moon's motion
in its orbit due to the attraction of
the Sun.
*Herman's tidal calculations didn't
account for evection; as a result, he
was left high and dry.*

evenhanded

evermore

evidence

n
/ 'evədən(t)s /
L
something legally submitted to a
competent tribunal as a means of
ascertaining the truth of any alleged
matter of fact under investigation
before it.
*The suspect's fingerprints on the
murder weapon were sufficient
evidence for his arrest.*

evil

evolution

evolvable

evulsion

ewe

ewer

exacerbation

n
/ ig,zasə(r)'bāshən /
L
the act of making more violent,
bitter, or severe.
*Vigorous exercise can lead to acute
exacerbation of asthmatic
symptoms.*

exaggeration

n
/ ig,zajə'rāshən /
L
the act of enlarging beyond bounds
or the truth : overstatement.
*Uncle Joe's description of the fish
he caught was a gross
exaggeration.*

examen

n
/ ig'zāmən /
L
a critical study (as of a writer or a
phenomenon).
*Vera's research was a sound,
brilliant examen of the most
powerful English poet of this
century.*

examination

examine

v
/ ig'zamən /
L > F > E
inquire into the state of especially
by introspective processes.
*Shumin's father told her to examine
her conscience first and then
consider how her action might look
to other people.*

exanthematic

adj
/ eg,zan(t)thə'madik /
Gk
of or relating to an eruptive
disease—used especially of those
attended with fever (as in measles,
smallpox, and scarlatina).
*Mrs. Hu decided that Wilson's rash
was not exanthematic, so she let
him go out to play.*

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

exasperate

exasperated

adj

/ ɪgˈzəspəˌrædəd /

L

irritated or annoyed especially to the point of injudicious action.

The movie star became so exasperated with the photographers that he hurled his shoe at them.

excavation

excavator

n

/ ˈɛkskəˌvædər /

L

a worker who digs out material or digs cavities (as in quarrying or for building construction).

The excavator gasped when the side of the pit gave way to reveal a dark chamber.

exceed

v

/ ɪkˈsēd /

L > F > E

[Note: Alternate pron has near homonym: accede.] go beyond a limit set by (as an authority or privilege).

Drivers who exceed the speed limit in the construction zone will be fined a minimum of 200 dollars.

excel

exception

n

/ ɪkˈsɛpʃən /

L

the act of excluding or omitting.

The librarian made an exception and permitted Sandy to take a reference book out of the library.

excerpt

excipient

exclusive

adj

/ ɪkˈsklʊsɪv /

L

barring from participation : snobbishly aloof.

The exclusive dog show allowed only registered dogs to participate.

excogitate

v

/ ɛkˈskəjət /

L

examine mentally with thoroughness and care so as to obtain thorough grasp and comprehension of.

Lindsay tried to excogitate the topic thoroughly and outline his thoughts.

excrecency

excrescential

excruciating

adj

/ ɪkˈskrʊʃēˌeɪɪŋ /

L

very intense : extreme.

An excruciating toothache kept Marcel from enjoying the camping trip.

execrable

adj

/ ˈɛksəkrəbəl /

L

deserving to be declared evil or detestable.

For his execrable cruelty to the victim, the assailant was given the maximum prison sentence.

executive

exegesis

exegetical

adj

/ ɛksəˈjɛdəkəl /

Gk

relating to critical interpretation of a text or portion of Scripture.

The theologian was praised for his exegetical commentaries on the Old Testament.

exemplify

exemplum

exempt

exequies

n pl

/ ˈɛksəkwēz /

L > F > E

funeral rites or ceremonies.

The late king's exequies were solemnized with great pomp.

exergue

exfoliative

adj

/ ɛkˈsfɒlēˌeɪv /

L

causing or characterized by the peeling of the outer layer of the skin.

Phil's rash was diagnosed as exfoliative dermatitis.

exhalation

n

/ ɛks(h)əˈlāʃən /

L > F > E

something that is given off or that rises in the form of gas, fumes, or steam.

The wind carried a foul exhalation from the nearby marsh to the Ackrill's house.

exhaust

n

/ ɪgˈzɔst /

L

an arrangement (as of fans) for withdrawing undesirable fumes, dusts, or odors from an enclosure (as a factory room or a kitchen).

The safety inspector told Sharon that the greasy residue on the kitchen exhaust was a fire hazard.

exhausting

adj

/ ɪgˈzɔstɪŋ /

L

depriving wholly of strength, patience, or resources.

Robert's exhausting exercise routine left him not only very tired but also very hungry.

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

exhibited

v
/ ɪg'zɪbədəd /
L
presented to view : showed,
displayed.
*Elizabeth Ellen brought her
decorated cake into the room and
exhibited it quite proudly.*

exhilarated

v
/ ɪg'zɪləˈrādəd /
L
made cheerful : enlivened.
*The sailor felt exhilarated as his
boat headed into the wind.*

exhume

v
/ ɪg'zʊm /
L
dig out of the ground : take out of a
place of burial.
*No matter where the bone is
buried, the dog will be able to
exhume it.*

exigencies

n pl
/ ˈeksəjənsēz /
L
requirements in a particular
situation.
*The Supreme Court supported the
theory of presidential power to
meet national exigencies.*

existence

exogenous

adj
/ ɛk'səjənəs /
Gk + Gk
originating from or due to external
causes.
*The politician argued that the labor
strife in his city was exogenous in
nature.*

exonumia

exorcism

exostosis

n
/ ˌɛk.sə'stōsəs /
Gk
a spur or bony outgrowth from a
bone or the root of a tooth.
*The exostosis on Bertha's big toe
had to be surgically removed.*

expectant

adj
/ ɪk'spektənt /
L
characterized by anticipation :
waiting.
*The expectant crowd outside the
palace gates had been in place
since before dawn.*

expedient

expediently

adv
/ ɪk'spēdēntlē /
L
in a manner characterized by
suitability, practicality, and
efficiency.
*It is the responsibility of the
customer service representative to
handle all complaints expediently.*

expedite

expel

experiential

adj
/ ɪk.spirē'enchəl /
L
derived from, based on, or relating
to experience : empirical.
*Although based on experiential
procedures and findings, many
great scientific discoveries involve
a degree of intuition and luck.*

experiment

expertise

n
/ ˌɛk.spər'tēz /
L
specialized skill or technical
knowledge in a particular field.
*Jonathan's expertise in database
management netted him an
excellent job.*

expiration

n
/ ˌɛkspə'rāshən /
L > E
the action or process of releasing
air through the nose or the mouth.
*Mrs. Burnet's expiration was
strained after her operation.*

expired

explanation

explement

expletive

explicit

explore

v
/ ɪk'splɔ(ə)r /
L
search through or into.
*"Dr. Craven had indeed begun to
wonder if it might not be wise to
send some one out to explore the
garden paths."*

explosible

exponentially

adv
/ ˌɛkspə'nenchəlē /
L
in a manner indicating variation in
which one variable factor depends
upon another variable factor,
characterized by an extremely rapid
increase (as in size or extent).
*For the past decade, sales of video
games have been growing
exponentially.*

expound

v
/ ɪk'spaʊnd /
L > F > E
make a statement : present a view :
comment.
*The interviewer asked Shana to
expound on the new park proposal.*

expression

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

expropriate

v
/ ek'sprɒprɛ.āt /

L
take out of the possession of another : transfer (the property of another) to one's own possession.
Roy was startled to find that the government had the right to expropriate his land if he didn't pay taxes.

expurgate

v
/ 'ekspə(r).gāt /

L
cleanse of something morally harmful, offensive, or erroneous.
Before publishing the manuscript the editors will expurgate it of any slanderous material.

expurgatory

excise

extension

n
/ ik'stɛnʃən /

L
a dance movement in which the leg is extended at an angle to the body.
Lily's teacher told her she would have to work on her extension until it was perfect.

extent

extenuate

v
/ ik'stɛnyə.wāt /

L
lessen or try to lessen the real or apparent seriousness of (as a crime, offense, or fault) or extent of by making partial excuses.
No excuse can extenuate Kevin's trying to pass off Adam's work as his own.

extenuations

n pl
/ ik'stɛnyə'wāʃənz /

L
acts of partial justification.
Jason's letter of apology conveyed many extenuations that were comforting to Julia.

exterminated

v
/ ik'stɜrmə.nādəd /

L
gotten rid of.
The Grubbs have exterminated the rats in the cellar with rat poison.

extirpation

n
/ .ekstə(r)'pāʃən /

L
the act of destroying totally : extermination.
Expanding settlements have resulted in the extirpation of vast forests.

extortion

n
/ ik'stò(ə)rʃən /

L
[has homonym: extorsion] the act or practice of obtaining something from an unwilling or reluctant person by physical force, intimidation, or the abuse of legal or official authority.
The gang leaders were arrested for their extortion of money from local merchants.

extra

n
/ 'ekstrə /

L
an additional worker hired for a motion picture or stage production to augment the number of people in a crowd or group scene.
When he was in China, Mark was an extra in a film requiring a crowd of Western Europeans.

extradition

n
/ .ekstrə'dishən /

F + L
the surrender of an alleged criminal usually under the provisions of a treaty or statute by one authority (as a state) to another having jurisdiction to try the charge.
Mrs. Thorpe was arrested in Arkansas but is fighting extradition to Missouri, where she allegedly assaulted a sales manager.

extrados

extraordinaire

adj
/ ik.strò(r)d'n'e(ə)r /

L > F
markedly exceptional.
The Iowa Department of Education honored Mrs. Ledgerwood, a math teacher extraordinaire.

extrasensory

adj
/ .ekstrə'sen(t)s(ə)rē /

L
residing beyond or outside the ordinary senses.
Reading someone else's thoughts is an example of extrasensory perception.

extremity

n
/ ik'stremədē /

L > F > E
an outlying or terminal part, section, or point.
The state's westernmost extremity is nothing but flat open prairie.

extrinsic

adj
/ ek'strinzik /

L
of or relating to the outside of.
The nondescript extrinsic appearance of the old building belied the architectural wonders within.

extrorse

adj
/ 'ek.stròrs /

L
turned away from the axis of growth.
When the anther of a flower turns away from the pistils and toward the petals, it is said to be "extrorse."

exude

v
/ ig'züd /

L
undergo diffusion : emanate.
Sweet odors exude from the shrubs around Myra's patio.

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

exultant

adj
/ ɪg'zʌltənt /
L

filled with extreme joy.
The racer was exultant when she crossed the finish line first.

exultantly

adv
/ ɪg'zʌltəntlē /
L

in a manner filled with extreme joy.
She laughed exultantly when her practical joke worked and her brother was covered in paint.

exuviate

v
/ ɪg'zʊvē.āt /
L

molt.
When a snake begins to exuviate, it rolls over several times to loosen the skin covering its head.

eyebrow

eyewitness

n
/ ˈɪwɪtnəs /
E + E

one that sees or has seen an occurrence or an object with his or her own eyes and so is able to give a firsthand report on it.
An eyewitness gave the detective a helpful description of the robber.

fabaceous

fable

fabric

fabulist

n
/ ˈfabyələst /
L

[Note: Could be confused with fabulous.] a creator or writer of fables, especially those that carry a moral lesson.
Aesop is frequently called "history's greatest fabulist."

facetiously

factor

factual

faculty

facundity

n
/ fə'kændədə /
L

[Note: Could be confused with fecundity.] eloquence.
Lincoln's Gettysburg Address is a shining example of facundity.

fadeaway

faena

n
/ fä'änə /
L > Catal > Sp
the series of final passes by the matador with sword and muleta leading to the kill.
Many members of the audience left the bullfight hastily when the matador began the faena.

failure

n
/ ˈfälyə(r) /
F
lack of satisfactory performance or effect.
The candidate's failure to address the people's complaints resulted in his losing the election.

fain

adv
/ ˈfān /
E
[has homonym: feign] happily, joyfully : with glad preference.
The feisty cat would fain have chased the dog from his yard.

fainness

fainthearted

faintly

adv
/ ˈfäntlē /
F > E
slightly, indistinctly.
There was a low fire glowing faintly on the hearth.

fairground

fairway

faja

n
/ ˈfä(,)hā /
L > Catal > Sp
a wide bright sash worn around the waist.
Don Roberto wore his lucky faja every time he ran with the bulls.

falciform

adj
/ ˈfalsə.förm /
L
having the shape of a scythe or sickle.
Roderick drew a somber night scene dominated by a falciform moon.

falconry

n
/ ˈfalkənre /
Gmc? > L > F > E
the art of training falcons to pursue and to attack wild fowl or game.
The king's oldest servant was a master of falconry.

falling

falsifier

falter

v
/ ˈföltə(r) /
Scand? > E
[has homonym: fault] speak brokenly or weakly : hesitate, stammer.
Stefan recited seven verses of the poem before he began to falter.

familiarity

familiarization

famine

fanciest

fanciness

fancywork

fanfare

fanged

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

fanglement

fantasque

fantasticality

fantastically

adv

/ fan'tastək(ə)lē /

Gk > L > F > E + Ecff

unbelievably, extremely.

Lillian wore her fantastically expensive diamond necklace to the governor's ball.

farce

farcicality

fare

farfetched

farina

n

/ fə'rēnə /

L

the coarsely ground bolted endosperm of wheats other than durum, free from fine flour or bran.

Before rice cereal for babies became widely available, cereal made from farina was often used.

farrier

farriery

fascicular

fascination

fascinator

n

/ 'fas'nādə(r) /

L

a woman's light head scarf usually of crochet or lace.

Doris appeared at the door wearing a long cloak and a candy-striped fascinator over her dark hair.

fascist

adj

/ 'fashəst /

L > It

of or relating to any program for setting up a centralized autocratic national regime with severely nationalistic policies, exercising regimentation of industry, commerce, and finance, rigid censorship, and forcible suppression of opposition.

Fascist ideology shares with liberalism an opposition to big business, trade unions, and the socialist state.

fascistization

fasten

v

/ 'fas'n /

E

cause parts which are separate to hold together : make fast and secure.

The kindergarten teacher spent two weeks teaching the children how to fasten their clothing.

fastener

fastidiously

adv

/ fa'stidēəsle /

L + Ecf

in a manner that reflects a meticulous, sensitive, or demanding attitude.

Vera's insistence on dressing fastidiously for every occasion precluded her going anywhere on short notice.

fastigate

fastuous

fatally

fate

n

/ 'fāt /

L

[has homonym: fete] ultimate lot or disposition : final outcome.

Hans Van Ripper now began to feel some uneasiness about the fate of poor Ichabod.

fatuously

adv

/ 'fachəwəsle /

L

in a foolish, stupid, absurd, or silly manner.

The clown performed fatuously to the children's delight.

faultless

faulty

faun

faustian

fauve

fear

v

/ 'fi(ə)r /

E

be afraid of.

Only after she saw its teeth and claws did Severine begin to fear the cute little raccoon.

fearsome

adj

/ 'fi(ə)rsəm /

E

arousing or likely to arouse fear, fright, or terror.

Kim spent a fearsome night in the woods.

feast

n

/ 'fēst /

L > F > E

an elaborate meal.

Susan had packed a basket which held a regular feast this morning.

feathery

febrile

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

February

n
/ 'febrə.werē /

L
the second month of the Gregorian calendar.
Kevin's car quit for good in February.

feculent

federation

feeble

fei

felicitations

feline

felinity

feloniously

adv
/ fə'lɒnēəslē /
L > F > E
in a manner having the nature of or involving a grave crime.
Garcia was feloniously relieved of his boombox by a couple of hoodlums.

felony

n
/ 'felənē /
F
a serious crime usually punishable by a sentence heavier than that for a misdemeanor.
Filing a false income tax return is a felony punishable by imprisonment and a fine.

femerell

feminie

feminize

femur

fenster

n
/ 'fenztə(r) /
L > G
an erosional opening down through overthrust rock exposing the underlying rock.
Gabe took a long hike in the national park to find the large fenster mentioned in his guidebook.

feodary

ferity

n
/ 'ferədē /
L
[has homonym: ferety] the state of being undomesticated : wildness.
Even after several years in a zoo, the lion occasionally displayed its ferity.

ferment

fermiere

adj
/ fermyeer /
F
of a food : prepared in plain country style.
The signature dish at the quiet country inn was pot roast fermiere.

fernbrake

ferny

feroce

ferociously

adv
/ fə'rōshəslē /
L + Ecff
in a manner characterized by wild or extreme rapacity, cruelty, acrimony, or destructiveness.
A large cat ferociously snarled at Beth's puppy.

ferocity

ferried

ferriferous

adj
/ fə'rɪf(ə)rəs /
L
containing iron.
Hematite and magnetite are ferriferous minerals.

ferrotype

n
/ 'ferə.tɪp /
L + Gk
a positive photograph made by a collodion process on a thin iron plate and having a darkened surface.
A 19th-century ferrotype depicting Supreme Court Justice Levi Woodbury sold at auction for \$24,000.

ferrumination

ferry

ferryboat

fertile

fervently

fervor

festinate

adj
/ 'festənāt /
L
hasty.
Jeremy had a hard time keeping up with Noah's festinate gait as the two boys neared the movie theater.

festival

festoonery

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

festschrift

n
/ 'fest.shrift /
G
a usually miscellaneous volume of writings from several hands for a celebration; especially : one of learned essays contributed by admirers to honor a scholar on a special anniversary.
The retiring Dr. Mayer was presented with a festschrift that included a piece by a former student who had won a Pulitzer Prize.

feta

fete

v
/ 'fāt /
F
[has homonyms: fait, fate] honor (a person) or commemorate (an event) with a festive celebration.
Mr. Armstrong's employees voted to fete him with a black-tie dinner.

fetid

fetidness

n
/ 'fedədnəs /
L + Ecf
the state or condition of having an offensive smell.
For some people, Limburger cheese's fetidness is directly proportional to its tastiness.

fetter

v
/ 'fedər /
E
bind (a thing or person) to another as if with a chain.
The young mother had to fetter her active three-year-old with a child harness to take him shopping.

fettuccelle

feudal

feuilleton

feverish

feverishly

adv
/ 'fēv(ə)rishlē /
L > E + Ecff
in an agitated manner.
Jay lay sleepless and feverishly went over the day's events.

fiador

fiat

fibrated

fibrillogenic

fibrinogen

n
/ fī'brinəjən /
L + ISV + Gk
a globulin that is produced in the liver and is converted into a protein during clotting of blood.
Proteins in the blood include albumin, hemoglobin, and fibrinogen.

fibula

n
/ 'fībylə /
L
the outer and usually the smaller of the two bones between the knee and ankle in most birds and many mammals including humans.
After breaking his fibula while sliding into second base, Roderick knew his season was over.

fictional

fiddle

fidget

fidgeted

v
/ 'fijətəd /
E + Ecf
moved uneasily one way and another.
The longer the speech went on, the more Kevin fidgeted.

fidgetiness

fidgeting

v
/ 'fijətiŋ /
E?
moving uneasily one way and the other.
The teacher told Caleb to either stop his fidgeting or go do his work at a desk outside the classroom door.

fidgety

field

fielder

n
/ 'fēldə(r) /
E
a player positioned in the outer portion of the playing area (as in baseball or cricket).
The fielder moved all the way back to the warning track to catch the fly ball.

fiends

n pl
/ 'fēn(d)z /
E
infernal beings : demons.
The fiends portrayed in the painting represented greed and ambition.

fiercely

adv
/ 'fi(ə)rslē /
L > F > E
in a manner without mercy.
The hurricane fiercely hit the coastal town, leaving many beach cottages and business establishments in ruin.

fife

fifer

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

fight

v
/ 'fit /
E

contend physically for victory with vigor, fierceness, and determination.

Soldiers continued to fight on the ridge until nightfall.

figment

figurable

figure

v
/ 'figyə(r) /
L > F > E

compute, reckon.

Erwin tried to figure his grocery bill in his head, but he kept losing track of the numbers.

figurine

filamentary

adj
/ .filə'mentərə /
L > F

having the characteristics of a long thin flexible object.

The filamentary leg probably had belonged to a camel cricket or a daddy longlegs.

filar

filbert

filiality

n
/ .filē'alədē /
L

the relation or attitude of a child to a parent.

Although Tom and his father often disagreed, the bonds of filiality always held firm.

filiopietistic

filipendulous

adj
/ .filə'penjələs /
L

suspended by or strung upon a thread.

The glittering filipendulous stars were very effective when the ballroom lights were dimmed.

filly

filmography

n
/ fil'mägrəfē /
E + Gk

a list of motion pictures featuring the work of a prominent motion picture figure (as an actor or director) or relating to a particular topic.

The biography of the director provided a complete filmography.

filmwright

filthily

fimbriate

fimbriation

n
/ .fimbri'āshən /
L

a narrow border to a heraldic design.

The family's coat of arms depicted a griffon within a blue fimbriation.

fimbrillate

adj
/ 'fimbɾəlāt /
L

[Note: Could be confused with fibrillate.] bordered with a minute fringe.

Deb examined the fimbrillate petals under the microscope.

finale

finally

financial

finespun

finial

Finlandization

n
/ .finləndə'zāshən /
geog name
a foreign policy of neutrality.
Finlandization has its roots in the neutrality policy of Finland.

fipple

firearm

firebreak

firefly

n
/ 'fi(ə)r.flī /
E + E

a winged nocturnal insect usually producing a bright soft intermittent light.

When the light of the captured firefly started to dim, Nell decided it was time to set the bug free.

fishery

fishmonger

fishplate

fissionable

fissiped

adj
/ 'fisə'ped /
L

having the toes separated to the base :

cloven-footed.

Goats and pigs are some of the most common fissiped mammals.

fistful

fistiana

n
/ .fistē'anə /
E + Ecf

the world of boxing.

Muhammad Ali set fistiana on its ear when he defeated George Foreman in Zaire.

fistmele

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

fixedly

adv
/ 'fiksədɪl̩ /
E + Ecff
in a stationary or immovable manner.
Barry stared fixedly at the hail damage to his car.

fizgig

fizzwater

fjeld

flabbergast

flabellum

flagellate

flagellatory

adj
/ 'flæjələtɔːrē /
L
relating to the act of flogging or beating.
The sailors were warned that disruptive behavior would result in flagellatory punishment.

flagrant

adj
/ 'flægrənt /
L
extremely, flauntingly, or purposefully conspicuous usually because of uncommon evil, unworthiness, unpleasantness, or truculence.
Horace's flagrant disregard of the club rule about wearing cowboy hats got him kicked out peremptorily.

flailing

v
/ 'flāɪŋ /
E
moving, swinging, or beating as though wielding a threshing implement.
The novice skier tumbled down the hill, his arms flailing desperately in the air.

flamboyant

flamethrower

flaming

adj
/ 'flāmiŋ /
L > F > E + Ecff
blazing.
The flaming crackling fire could be seen throughout the valley.

flannelmouth

flapdoodle

flareless

flary

adj
/ 'fla(a)rē /
unknown + Ecff
showy and bright.
Pam's orange dress seemed too flary compared to the attire of the others at the funeral.

flashcube

n
/ 'flæʃ.kyüb /
imit E + Gk > L > F
a plastic cube containing four flashbulbs that fits into the top of a camera and revolves after each shot.
Franklin forgot to bring a flashcube, so he couldn't take any pictures at the party.

flask

n
/ 'flæʃ /
Gmc > L > Sp > F
[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word.] a unit of weight for mercury equal to 76 pounds.
Marcie explained that the amount of mercury in a thermometer was a tiny fraction of a flask.

flatcar

flattery

flaunt

flavescent

flavid

flavorless

fleabag

fleece

fletching

n
/ 'flechiŋ /
F > E
the feathers on an arrow.
An arrow will not fly straight if the fletching is crooked.

fleuron

flexible

flicker

flight

flippancy

flipper

n
/ 'flipə(r) /
imit
a broad flat usually rubber shoe with the front expanded into a paddle used in skin diving and other aquatic sports.
Doug got his flipper snagged in the coral and had to leave it behind.

flivver

floccose

floeberg

flooey

floraison

floral

adj
/ 'flɔːrəl /
L
of, relating to, or associated with a flower.
The floral emblem of the state of Tennessee is the iris.

floribunda

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

florigen

n
/ 'flōrəjən /
L + Gk
a hormone that induces flowering.
The horticulture expert explained how pinching back dead blossoms stimulated the production of florigen.

florin

n
/ 'flōrən /
L > It > F > E
an old gold coin first struck at Florence in 1252 weighing about 54 grains and noted for the purity of its gold.
The pride of Valentine's coin collection is a florin supposedly once the property of Christopher Columbus.

floristry

flounder

flourishes

n pl
/ 'flōrīshəz /
L > F > E
ostentations in the performance of something often intended to call forth or fix attention or admiration.
Todd stood up after his piano recital and, with many bows and flourishes, slowly left the stage.

flowage

n
/ 'flōij /
E
an overflowing (as of a stream or impoundment) onto adjacent land.
The flowage from a nearby creek into Mr. Goog's basement ruined his stamp collection.

fluffy

fluke

flump

fluorine

fluoroscope

flurries

n pl
/ 'flərēz /
imit?
sudden showers or snowfalls with a gust of wind.
The forecast was for intermittent flurries with no measurable accumulation.

flurry

fluster

fluttering

v
/ 'flədə(r)ɪŋ /
E + Ecf
moving with quick vibrations or undulations.
With his clothes bagging and fluttering about him on a windy day, he might be mistaken for some scarecrow escaped from a cornfield.

fluviate

fluviology

n
/ 'flüvə'äləjē /
L
a science dealing with watercourses.
Oliver needs one course in fluviology in order to get his professional civil engineering license.

flysch

n
/ 'flīsh /
G
a thick and extensive deposit largely of sandstone that is formed in a geosyncline adjacent to a rising mountain belt and is especially common in the Alpine region of Europe.
The geologist analyzed samples of the flysch to determine when the rock was formed.

foaming

focusable

fodient

adj
/ 'fōdēənt /
L
fitted for digging or burrowing.
The aardvark is a well-known fodient animal in South Africa.

foil

n
/ 'fōil /
L > F > E
[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word.] a fencing weapon that resembles an épée but has a flat guard and a lighter, more flexible blade that tapers to a blunt point.
The instructor showed Bella how to back her opponent into a corner with a few quick movements of her foil.

foldout

foliation

folio

folkloric

adj
/ 'fōk.lōrɪk /
E + E
of, resembling, or characteristic of traditional customs, beliefs, dances, songs, tales, or sayings preserved among a people or group.
The Slovakian dance troupe performed a folkloric dance wearing colorful costumes.

folklorist

folletto

n
/ fə'led(ɪ)ō /
F > It
imp, goblin, fairy; especially : a supernatural being who is a survival in popular form of an ancient Etruscan or Roman deity.
Nancy jokingly blamed her actions on an imaginary friend, a folletto who sat on her shoulder and gave her advice.

follicle

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

foment

fomites

Fomorian

n
/ fō'môrēən /
IrGael
one of a race of sea robbers in Celtic legend who were probably originally gods representing the powers of evil and darkness.
Caitlin wrote a fable about a Fomorian who emerged periodically from the sea off the coast of Ireland.

fondant

fondue

n
/ fän'd(y)ü /
F
[has homonym: fondue] a lowering or sinking down of the body in ballet dancing by bending the knee of the supporting leg.
Fondue was a difficult movement for Orson before his knee surgery.

foolhardily

foolhardiness

foolhardy

adj
/ 'fül.härdē /
F > E
daring but lacking judgment : foolishly adventurous and bold.
The high dive from the cliffs looked foolhardy, but Ellen knew that the water beneath was deep and clear.

footage

n
/ 'füt.ij /
E
the total number of running feet of motion-picture film used for a complete story or for one or more scenes or for any subject.
The director told the film editors that they would have to cut out enough footage to keep the movie under 2 hours.

footman

n
/ 'füt.mən /
E
a servant in attendance upon the passengers in a carriage.
Mary saw that it was a stylish carriage and that it was a stylish footman who helped her into the carriage.

foozled

foppery

n
/ 'fäp(ə)rē /
E
folly, absurdity.
There was an air of foppery and nonsense in Mr. Churchill's action of which Emma could not approve.

forb

forbiddance

forbivorous

forcible

forcibly

forcipiform

forearm

foreground

n
/ 'fō(ə)r.graünd /
Ecf + E
the part of a scene that is nearest to and in front of the spectator.
Although there were many actors in the scene, the main action was taking place in the foreground.

foreign

foreigner

n
/ 'fōrənə(r) /
E
a person belonging to or owing allegiance to another land : alien.
Everyone in New Prague liked the foreigner who moved into the Simpsons' old house.

foreknowledge

foresee

foresightedly

adv
/ 'fōr.sīd.ədlē /
E
with a view toward the future.
The state foresightedly created state parks and reservations along the seashore so as to preserve its natural beauty.

forest

forestall

v
/ fōr'stòl /
E
[has near homonym: forestal]
exclude, hinder, or prevent by prior occupation or by measures taken in advance.
By traveling to his vacation spot incognito, the film star hoped to forestall rumors of his arrival.

forester

n
/ 'fōrəstə(r) /
F > E
a person who supervises the development, care, and management of timberland.
The forester showed the class his list of sightings of endangered wildlife species.

foreyard

forciciform

adj
/ fōr'fisə.förm /
L
shaped like a scissors.
The jeweler's forciciform tweezers gave her a better grip on the tiny watch parts.

forgeability

n
/ .fō(ə)rjə'bilədē /
L > E
suitability for being formed by heating and hammering.
Some alloys exhibit greater forgeability than others.

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

forgetfulness	foully	fragrance n / 'frāgrən(t)s / L > F a pleasant odor. <i>The fragrance of mulled cider wafted down the hallway.</i>
forgettable	fountain	
formalization	fourberie	
formally	fourfold	
formatore	fourplex	
formicarium	fowl	frail n / 'frāl / F > E [Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word.] the quantity (as 32, 56, or 75 pounds) of raisins contained in a shipping basket. <i>While working in the agricultural records office, Wanda learned that a frail is used to measure raisins.</i>
formicine	frabjous adj / 'frabjəs / unknown wonderful. <i>Vonda thought happily that her graduation party was the final event of a simply frabjous day.</i>	
formula		framboise
formulate v / 'förmyələt / L + Ecf plan out in an orderly fashion. <i>The board decided to call in a consultant to help formulate plans for the new factory.</i>	fractal n / 'fraktl / L any of various extremely irregular curves or shapes that repeat themselves at any scale on which they are examined and that are assigned fractional dimensions. <i>Julia's science project demonstrated that the shape of a snowflake is a fractal.</i>	franchisal
formulator		Franciscan adj / fran'siskən / It name of or relating to the various religious foundations established by St. Francis of Assisi. <i>The Franciscan church in Basel, Switzerland, was used for a long time as a warehouse for salt.</i>
fortississimo	fractionally	
fortitudinous	fractious	
fortress n / 'fötrrəs / L > F > E a fortified place : stronghold. <i>The refugees began to feel safe once they were deep within the fortress.</i>	fractography	Francoist n / 'fran'kōəst / Sp name an advocate of or adherent to the political or social policies of the Spanish dictator Francisco Franco. <i>The Francoist claimed that if they had waited any longer to rise against the Republic, a Bolshevik revolution would have broken out.</i>
fortuitously	fracturable	
forum	fracture n / 'frakchə(r) / L the breaking of hard tissue (as bone). <i>Mike's fall off the ladder resulted in the fracture of his thighbone.</i>	Franconian adj / fraŋ'kōnēən / G geog name of or relating to the West Germanic dialects of the Franks. <i>The earliest Franconian written documents belong to the late 8th or early 9th century.</i>
forward		
foster	fragility	
fother n / 'fäthə(r) / E [has homonym: father] a modern unit of weight for lead equal to 19½ hundredweight. <i>Scott celebrated when his new company recovered its first fother of refined lead from recycled scrap.</i>	fragmentary	
	fragmentize	

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frangibility

n
/ ˌfrʌŋjəˈbɪlədē /
L + Ecff

the quality or state of being breakable.

Winnie appreciates the beauty of glass ornaments so much that their frangibility does not discourage her from buying them.

Franglais

n
/ fräˈŋɡlā /
F

French marked by a considerable number of borrowings from English.

Even after three years of French lessons and a year as an exchange student in Cannes, Peter still speaks Franglais.

frappe

fraternity

frazil

frazzle

freesia

n
/ ˈfrēzh(ē)ə /
G name + Lcf
any plant of a genus of sweet-scented herbs with narrow tubular red, white, or yellow flowers.
The most colorful flower in Davida's bouquet was the freesia.

freestyle

freezing

adj
/ ˈfrēziŋ /
E
very cold.

After the first freezing night of the season, Greg unhappily discovered that his car battery had died.

freighter

freiyo

frenular

adj
/ ˈfrenyələ(r) /
L

of or relating to a connecting fold of membrane serving to support or restrain.

After Gary took his classmate's dare and licked the frozen pump handle, the frenular tissue under his tongue hurt for a week.

frenzied

frequency

frequently

freshet

fretful

fretum

fribble

v
/ ˈfrɪbəl /
unknown
act in a trifling or foolish manner.
Mr. Atkinson told the students not to fribble during study hall but to read and write quietly.

friction

n
/ ˈfrɪkshən /
L
resistance to the relative motion of one body sliding, rolling, or flowing over another with which it is in contact.
The friction of the large door against its frame kept Janice tugging on it for several long seconds.

friezing

frighten

v
/ ˈfrɪtʰn /
E + EcF
markedly disturb with fear.
Gary did not realize how much his Halloween mask would frighten his little brother.

frightened

adj
/ ˈfrɪtʰnd /
E

made afraid : scared.

The frightened child was calmed by his mother's embrace.

frightening

frightful

frigid

adj
/ ˈfrɪjəd /
L
markedly lacking heat or warmth : very cold.
The mountain climbers wore extra layers of clothing to combat the frigid conditions.

frigidarium

frijoles

friseur

n
/ frēˈzər /
F
[Note: Could be confused with freezer.] hairdresser.
Fernando plans to name his beauty shop "Fernando the Fantastic Friseur."

fritter

n
/ ˈfrɪdə(r) /
L > F > E
a small quantity of batter often containing fruit or meat and fried in deep fat or sautéed.
Eddie and George each ate a large apple fritter at the carnival.

frond

frons

n
/ ˈfränz /
L
[has near homonym: fronds] the upper or the anterior part of the head capsule of an insect : the forehead of the insect head.
Simple eyes of an insect are usually located on the frons.

frontier

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

frontolysis

frostbitten

adj
/ 'frɒst.bɪt̩n /
E + E
injured, nipped, or withered by the process of freezing.
The skier's mask saved him from getting a frostbitten nose.

frostbow

fructose

n
/ 'frʌk.tʊs /
L
a sugar that occurs especially in fruit juices and honey.
Fructose is a common ingredient in many baked goods found in stores.

frugivorous

adj
/ frʊ'jɪvərəs /
L + L
feeding on fruit.
Monkeys and apes are among the best-known frugivorous mammals.

frumentaceous

adj
/ 'frʊmən'tæʃəs /
L
made of or resembling wheat or other grain.
The seeds of many frumentaceous plants such as corn and oats can be ground into meal.

fuchsias

n pl
/ 'fyʊʃəz /
G name
any of numerous decorative shrubs with pendulous tetramerous flowers often cultivated as potted plants.
Grandma lined her windowsill with fuchsias.

fuel

fugacity

n
/ fyü'gasədē /
L
lack of enduring qualities : transience.
The movie star soon experienced the fugacity of public adoration.

fugitives

n pl
/ 'fyüjədɪvz /
L
individuals who run away from a master or employer or from uncongenial surroundings.
Sojourner Truth, one of the many fugitives from slavery, became as famous for advocating women's rights as she was for denouncing human bondage.

fulgent

adj
/ 'fʊljənt /
L
dazzlingly bright : radiant.
Sophia's diamond earrings were fulgent in the sunlight.

fulgurous

fulmar

fulminating

adj
/ 'fʊlmə.nātiŋ /
L > E
coming on suddenly and with great severity : characterized by a rapid and severe course.
Dr. Lane dreaded telling his patient the diagnosis of pancreatic cancer, a fulminating disease.

fumblingly

adv
/ 'fəmbliŋlē /
Scand? + Ecff
in a manner marked by groping or clumsiness.
Katie fumblingly related her excuse to her father.

fumigation

n
/ .fyümə'gāshən /
L > F > E
the act or process of treating with a gas in order to disinfect or destroy pests.
When Deedee saw a cockroach, she called the exterminator and arranged for the fumigation of her new apartment.

fumulus

n
/ 'fyümyələs /
L
a thin cloud resembling a veil and forming at any level.
The sky was clear except for a fumulus over the distant mountains.

function

functional

fundamental

fundamentally

funerary

fungible

adj
/ 'fənjəbəl /
L
of such a kind that one specimen or part may be used in place of another specimen or equal part to satisfy an obligation—used of things that can be counted, weighed, or measured and are consumed or alienated by use (as food, coal, oil, lumber).
When fungible goods of different countries of origin are mixed together, it is not practical to identify the origin of one sample of the product.

funipendulous

adj
/ .fyünə'penjələs /
L
suspended by a rope or cord.
Daniel jokingly called his tire swing a "funipendulous recreational facility."

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funnel

n
/ 'fʌnəl /
L > OProv > E
a utensil that has typically a hollow cone with a tube extending from the point and is designed to catch and direct the flow of a liquid or other substance.
Mary Ann used a funnel to direct the oil into the bottle.

furbelow

n
/ 'fərbə.lə /
F > E
ruffle; specifically : a flounce on women's clothing.
Delia sewed a furbelow to the hem of her skirt.

furcate

adj
/ 'fər.kæt /
L
branching like a fork.
The toddler held the furcate twig up to his mom and whispered the letter y.

furioso

furiously

adv
/ 'fyʊrē.əs.lē /
L > F > E + Ecf
in an impassioned manner : angrily.
The soldiers furiously pursued the raiders but could not catch them.

furl

furlong

n
/ 'fər.lŋ /
E
a unit of distance equal to 1/8 statute mile.
The horses named "Katie's Delight" and "Going for Gold" were neck and neck through the entire last furlong of the race.

furlongs

n pl
/ 'fər.lŋz /
E
units of distance, each being equal to 220 yards.
The second race, for fillies only, is six furlongs.

furnace

furrows

v
/ 'fər(ɪ).ŋz /
E
shapes into alternate ridges and grooves; specifically : makes wrinkles in (the brow).
When Mr. Burns furrows his brow in puzzlement, he reminds his students of a shar-pei.

furuncle

n
/ 'fyʊ.rŋkəl /
L
a localized inflammatory swelling of the skin and underlying tissues that is caused by infection by a bacterium in a hair follicle or skin gland and that discharges pus and a central core of dead tissue.
A painful furuncle developed inside Amy's elbow.

fury

n
/ 'fyʊrē /
L
violent anger : rage.
George's sadness changed to fury, and he stalked about the room feeling as if he would explode.

fustigate

v
/ 'fəstə.gāt /
L
criticize severely.
Many restaurants withdrew their advertising when the newspaper's food critic began to fustigate them.

fusuma

futon

n
/ 'fʊ.tən /
Jpn
a mattress filled usually with cotton that is placed on the floor or in a raised frame for use as a bed.
Many people whose living and sleeping quarters are in the same room find that a futon meets their needs nicely.

futurama

fuzzy

gabarit

gabby

gabelle

gabfest

gable

gadarene

adj
/ 'gadə.rēn /
Palestinian geog name
rushing precipitously forward : engaged in headlong flight.
As the department store opened, a crazed gadarene horde of shoppers rushed headlong to the sales tables.

gadgetry

n
/ 'gəjdətrē /
unknown
usually small and often novel mechanical or electronic devices or contrivances.
Anyone who loves gadgetry would have enjoyed the recent Inventor's Expo.

Gaelic

adj
/ 'gālik /
ScGael & IrGael
of, relating to, or characteristic of the language of the Gaels or especially of the Celtic Highlanders of Scotland.
Steve struggled through the Gaelic program for the Highland Games before he discovered the English translation.

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

gaffer

n
/ 'gafə(r) /
E?

an electrician in charge of the lighting of motion-picture or television sets.

The gaffer tried various lighting techniques to see which would be most consistent with the mood of the scene.

gaillardia

gaiters

n pl
/ 'gɑːdə(r)z /
Gmc > F

[has homonym: gators] cloth or leather leg coverings reaching from the instep to ankle, mid-calf, or knee, usually fastened by buttons or buckles, and held by a strap under the shank of the shoe.

The bishop was hard at work fastening the lower buttons of his gaiters as the service was ready to begin.

galactose

galah

Galahad

n
/ 'galəˌhɑd /
E name

a man marked by unusual purity and self-sacrificing devotion to a noble cause.

A true Galahad, Jim has spent his entire life trying to find solutions to the problem of poverty.

galanterie

galantine

galaxies

n pl
/ 'galəksēz /
Gk

large systems of stars that make up the universe.

The Milky Way is just one of the universe's countless galaxies.

galbulus

n
/ 'galbyələs /
L

a spherical closed fleshy cone of thickened or fleshy peltate scales (as in the cypress).

As we moved through the swamp, an occasional galbulus fell into our canoe.

gale

n
/ 'gāl /
unknown
[has homonym: Gael] a strong current of air; specifically : a wind having a speed from 32 to 63 miles per hour.

Despite the fierce gale and high seas, the Coast Guard set out to rescue the shipwreck survivors.

galena

n
/ gə'lēnə /
Gk
a mineral consisting of native lead sulfide occurring in cubic or octahedral crystals, bluish gray in color with metallic luster.
Paul gave his brother a near-perfect cube of galena for his mineral collection.

galenical

n
/ gə'lenəkəl /
Gk name
a standard medicinal preparation (as extract, tincture) containing usually one or more active constituents of a plant and made by a process that leaves the inert and other undesirable constituents of the plant undissolved.
A galenical was a common type of medicine in the Middle Ages.

Galilean

adj
/ ,galə'lāən /
Ital name
of or relating to Galileo Galilei, founder of experimental physics and astronomy.
Opera glasses are a modified version of the Galilean telescope.

galimatias

gallant

adj
/ 'galənt /
Gmc > F > E
marked by a blend of the high-spirited, brave, dashing, and chivalrous.
The press conference featured speeches in praise of the gallant adventurers who had rescued the lost hikers.

galley

Gallinazo

adj
/ ,gä(y)ē'nä(,)sō /
L > Sp
of or relating to an ancient culture of northern Peru characterized especially by negative-painted pottery, irrigation, and textiles.
Patty applied for a grant to study Gallinazo pottery at an excavation in Peru.

Gallionic

adj
/ ,galē'ānik /
L
marked by indifference or easygoing carelessness or irresponsibility.
Randall's Latin teacher told him that his Gallionic attitude toward homework would negatively affect his grade.

galvanic

adj
/ gal'vanik /
It name
of, relating to, or producing direct electric current by chemical action.
Myra constructed a galvanic cell using a bar of zinc, a bar of copper, two beakers, a U-shaped tube, and solutions of zinc and copper sulfate and potassium chloride.

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

galvanometer

n
/ ˌgalvəˈnämədə(r) /
It name > F + Ecf + Gk
an instrument for detecting or measuring a small electric current by movements of a magnetic needle or of a coil in a magnetic field.
The lie detector's galvanometer indicated that the subject was lying.

gambrel

gamester

gamier

adj
/ ˈgāmēə(r) /
E + Ecff
more malodorous.
The smell in the hut was gamier than Maria could tolerate.

gamin

gammon

ganancial

ganglionitis

gangly

gangrenous

gangway

gannet

gape

gaping

adj
/ ˈgāpiŋ /
ON > E
wide open.
The giant raised his hand toward his gaping mouth, and the Humbug shut his eyes tightly and clasped both hands over his head.

garbage

garbologist

garbure

garganey

gargoyle

garibaldi

n
/ ˌgarəˈböldē /
It name
a woman's blouse copied from the red shirt worn by the Italian patriot Garibaldi.
Antonio followed his mother through the crowded market, keeping a sharp eye on her bright garibaldi.

garlicky

garment

garner

garnet

n
/ ˈgärnət /
F > E
a brittle mineral usually red in color and occurring mainly in crystals and used as a semiprecious stone and as an abrasive.
Alice asked the jeweler to suggest a setting for the garnet she inherited from her great aunt.

garnish

v
/ ˈgärnish /
Gmc > F > E
add decorative or savory touches to.
Rita used fresh dill to garnish the platter of smoked salmon.

garniture

n
/ ˈgärnəchə(r) /
F
the material in fireworks that produces stars, fiery rain, or other display after explosion.
Lin Yu calculated how much garniture would be needed to create the special fireworks for the Independence Day celebration.

gasket

gaslight

gasohol

gasp

n
/ ˈgasp /
E
catch the breath convulsively and audibly.
Mary caught her breath in a short gasp and felt herself turn pale.

gasped

gastrostomy

n
/ ɡəˈsträstəmə /
Gk
the surgical formation of an opening through the abdominal wall into the stomach to serve for the introduction of food.
The doctor recommends a gastrostomy as the best solution to keeping Alice alive during her coma.

gateado

n
/ ˌgädēˈä(,)dō /
L > Sp
a tropical American timber tree that yields a hard dense black-streaked wood used to make furniture.
The antique library table was made from gateado.

gatepost

gatherum

n
/ ˈgathərəm /
E + Ecf
a collection of miscellaneous items.
Alan referred to his assortment of beach glass and driftwood as a "gatherum," but his mother called it "Alan's junk."

gaud

n
/ ˈgòd /
L > F > E
[has homonym: god] ornament; especially : a showy or flashy bit of jewelry or finery.
The blackbird was attracted by the red glass gaud pinned to the shirt of the scarecrow.

gaudery

gaudify

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

gaudy

gaullist

gaunt

adj

/ 'gənt /

Scand? > E

thin and angular.

On a high podium in front stood the conductor—a tall, gaunt man with dark deep-set eyes.

gauzy

gavage

n

/ gə'vəzh /

F

introduction of material (as nutrients) into the stomach by means of a stomach tube.

Gavage is a common method of feeding babies who are unable to swallow enough for good nutrition.

gavel

gawkins

gbo

gear

geisha

geishas

gelid

adj

/ 'jeləd /

L

extremely cold : icy.

When Frank was in Finland, he took a memorable swim in gelid water.

gelignite

n

/ 'jeləg.nīt /

L

a gelatin dynamite in which the adsorbent base is largely potassium nitrate or a similar nitrate usually with some wood pulp.

Gelignite was used to blast a passage through the rocks for a roadway.

gemination

Gemini

gemmary

n

/ 'jemərə /

L

the science of precious or sometimes semiprecious stones cut and polished for ornament.

Perry has written many articles on gemmary for jewelers' trade magazines.

genealogical

adj

/ jēnē'äləjəkəl /

Gk

of or relating to an enumeration of ancestors and their descendents in the natural order of succession.

A family tree is a representation of genealogical relationships.

generalize

generator

n

/ 'jenə.rādə(r) /

L

a machine by which mechanical energy is changed into electrical energy.

The generator at the cabin ran on gasoline.

genes

genetic

genialize

v

/ 'jēnyəlīz /

L + Ecf

cause to be marked by sympathetic cheerfulness, warmth, and friendliness.

Kim's goal as president is to genialize club members and thus minimize their cliquish behavior.

genius

n

/ 'jēnyəs /

L

[has near homonym: genus] a strongly marked capacity or aptitude : notable talent.

Although he always means well, Cedric has a positive genius for getting into embarrassing situations.

genotype

n

/ 'jənə.tīp /

Gk + Gk

the totality of specific transmitters of hereditary characters possessed by an individual or group.

Because Richard's blood type is O, he knows that his genotype is recessive.

gentlest

genuine

genus

n

/ 'jēnəs /

L

a class, kind, or group marked by one or more common characteristics.

The housefly belongs to the genus Musca.

geocentric

adj

/ jēō'sentrik /

Gk + Gk + Ecf

taking or based on Earth as the center of perspective and evaluation.

The most highly developed geocentric system was that of Ptolemy of Alexandria.

geographical

geologist

n

/ jē'äləjəst /

L

a specialist in the history of Earth and its life especially as recorded in rocks.

The geologist conducted a survey of the rock masses and mineral resources of the area.

geology

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

geometrically

adv

/ ˌjēə'metrək(ə)lē /

Gk

in a manner relating to or according to the principles of geometry.

The art gallery is displaying a collection of geometrically based abstractions.

geophagy

n

/ ˌjē'äfəjē /

Gk + Gk

the practice of eating earthy substances (as clay) in an attempt to supply elements lacking in an unbalanced diet.

Research in geophagy reveals that some who practice it are protecting themselves against plant toxins and others are trying to meet an increased need for minerals.

geostrophic

adj

/ ˌjēō'sträfik /

Gk

of or relating to deflective force due to the rotation of Earth.

Geostrophic winds in the upper troposphere often reach high velocities.

gerenuk

n

/ 'gerə.nük /

Somali

a long-necked antelope native to eastern Africa.

The film showed a gerenuk gracefully rising on its hind legs to reach the leaves it feeds on.

geriatrician

n

/ ˌjerēə'trɪshən /

Gk

a specialist in a branch of medicine that deals with the problems and diseases of old age and aging people.

A geriatrician was consulted to find out how to treat Grandpa's grumpiness and loss of appetite.

germicial

germinate

v

/ 'jərmə.nāt /

L

begin to grow : sprout—used especially of a spore or seed.

The beans were allowed to germinate in the greenhouse before being transferred to outdoor soil.

germproof

gerontology

n

/ 'jerən'täləjē /

Gk

a scientific study of the phenomena of aging and of the problems of the aged.

Kathy's research in gerontology was complemented by weekly visits with retirement center residents.

gerrymandered

gestation

n

/ ˌje'stāshən /

L

the carrying of young usually in the uterus from conception to delivery : pregnancy.

The Indian elephant's period of gestation can be as long as 22 months.

geta

n pl

/ 'ge(ɔ)tä /

Jpn

Japanese wooden clogs for outdoor wear.

Yukio wore his clunky geta to the public baths.

getaway

gethsemane

geusioleptic

adj

/ ˌgyüzēō'leptik /

Gk

having or characterized by pleasant flavor.

Drug companies have put much effort into producing geusioleptic medicines for children.

geyser

geyserite

n

/ 'gīzərīt /

ON > Icelandic

a hydrous silica that constitutes one variety of opal and is deposited around some hot springs and geysers in white or grayish concretions.

While at Yellowstone National Park, Kyle took several pictures of the gray mounds of geyserite.

gherkin

ghost

ghostly

adj

/ 'gōstlē /

E

of or relating to a mark or visible sign left by something dead, lost, or no longer present.

The fog gave commonplace objects a ghostly appearance.

giantess

gibbet

n

/ 'jɪbət /

F > E

a frame usually of two upright posts and a crossbeam from which is suspended the rope with which criminals are executed by hanging.

Only through the queen's mercy was the pirate able to escape the gibbet.

gibbon

n

/ 'gɪbən /

F

any of a genus of tailless apes of southeastern Asia that are the smallest of the arboreal anthropoid apes.

Its powerful upper limbs enable the gibbon to swing from tree to tree through the forest canopy.

gibbosity

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

Gibraltar

n
/ jə'brɒltə(r) /
Iberian geog name
an impregnable stronghold.
Louis viewed his private club as a Gibraltar of civility.

gibus

n
/ 'jɪbəs /
F name
a man's collapsible top hat—called also "opera hat."
In the 19th century, men often wore a gibus to formal occasions.

giddily

giddiness

n
/ 'gidɪnəs /
E
the quality or state of being exuberant, impulsive, or thoughtless.
The soccer team's giddiness resulted from winning the match.

gigabyte

gigahertz

n
/ 'gɪgə.hɜrts /
Gk > ISV + G name
a unit of frequency equal to 1 billion cycles per second.
A radio signal with a frequency of 1 gigahertz lies in the microwave range.

gigantean

giggle

v
/ 'gɪɡəl /
imit
laugh in an affected or silly manner.
Although she could not see the boys, Mrs. Rowe heard them giggle behind the sofa.

gigue

n
/ 'zhɛg /
F
[Note: Could be confused with jig.] a lively dance movement having compound triple rhythm and consisting of two sections, each of which is repeated.
The gigue is a major part of several European folk dances.

gilded

adj
/ 'ɡɪldəd /
E
covered or tinged with gold or a golden color.
The gilded icons in the church's transepts were ruined by vandals last weekend.

gimbal

n
/ 'ɡɪmbəl /
L > F > E
[has homonym: gimble] a contrivance that permits a body to incline freely in any direction or suspends something so that it will remain level when its support is tipped.
A rusty gimbal caused the compass to remain fixed while the boat listed.

ginger

adj
/ 'dʒɪŋjə(r) /
Skt? > Gk > L > E
having the reddish brown color of the spice ginger.
Mrs. Collins would die if anyone knew that her ginger hair is actually gray.

girder

gisarme

gist

gitano

n
/ hē'tä(ɪ)nō /
Gk geog name > L > Sp
a Spanish male gypsy.
A strolling gitano played folk songs on his violin for the restaurant patrons.

giusto

glaciarium

gladdened

v
/ 'ɡladʰnd /
E
made happy or cheerful.
The aging king was gladdened by the birth of an heir.

gland

glandular

glare

v
/ 'ɡla(a)(ə)r /
E
shine especially by reflection with a harsh uncomfortably brilliant light.
Late afternoon sun tends o glare off the windows across from Joan's apartment.

glary

adj
/ 'ɡla(a)rē /
E
shining with or reflecting a harsh uncomfortably bright light.
Jeremy had a difficult time driving east in the glary early morning hours.

gleam

v
/ 'ɡlēm /
E
shine with subdued emitted or reflected light.
Captain Cook watched the moon gleam on the water in the harbor.

glean

gleanings

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

gleefully

glengarry

n
/ glen'garē /
Scot geog name
a woolen cap of Scottish origin
typically having a crease in the
crown from front to back and edges
bound with ribbon that ends in the
back in two small streamers.
*Each bagpiper was wearing a
glengarry, a kilt, a sporran, and
spats.*

glessite

glint

v
/ 'glint /
E
shine usually by reflection :
sparkle.
*Some rhinestones glint almost as
brightly as diamonds.*

glitch

glittering

adj
/ 'glidəriŋ /
ON > E
resplendent, brilliant.
*Maxine's glittering Mardi Gras
mask was the hit of the party.*

gloaming

n
/ 'glōmiŋ /
E
twilight, dusk.
*Bart heard the robins singing in the
gloaming.*

globalization

n
/ glōbələ'zāshən /
L + Ecff
the act of making something
worldwide in scope or application.
*One of the nation's goals is the
globalization of democracy.*

gloom

n
/ 'glüm /
E
an appearance or atmosphere of
melancholy and despondency.
*The overhanging trees cast a gloom
over the dilapidated house.*

glossolalia

n
/ ˌgläsə'lälēə /
Gk + Gk
ecstatic speech that is usually
unintelligible to hearers and is
uttered in worship services of
various contemporary religious
groups laying great stress on
religious excitation and emotional
fervor.
*Both glossolalia and healing by the
laying on of hands were
commonplace at the tent revival.*

glossopathy

glottalize

Gloucester

n
/ 'glästə(r) /
E geog name
a hard cheese resembling derby.
*Garrett topped his ham sandwich
with a slice of Gloucester.*

glummost

adj
/ 'gləməst /
E
most dismal, dreary, or gloomy.
*At his glummost, Terry could still
crack a joke.*

glut

gluten

glutinous

adj
/ 'glüt(ə)nəs /
L
having the physical properties of
glue.
*When Matthew's mother told him
to eat his stewed okra, he dropped
his fork in the glutinous mass and
burst into tears.*

glutton

glyceride

glycerinated

v
/ 'glis(ə)rənādəd /
Gk + F + Ecff
treated with or preserved in
glycerin.
*The ointment contained gelatin that
had been glycerinated.*

glycogenolysis

n
/ ˌglīkəjə'näləsəs /
Gk
the breakdown of animal starch
especially to glucose in the animal
body.
*Low blood sugar triggers
glycogenolysis in the liver, which
produces the needed glucose.*

glycolytic

adj
/ ˌglīkə'lid-ik /
Gk
of, relating to, or inducing the
enzymatic breakdown of glucose
and other carbohydrates, with the
release of energy.
*Athletes often eat foods like pasta
to counter glycolytic effects.*

glyph

glyptic

n
/ 'gliptik /
Gk
the art or process of carving or
engraving especially on gems.
*The amber was enhanced by a
beautiful example of glyptic.*

gnarled

gnarly

gnash

gnat

gnatcatcher

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

gnathic

adj

/ 'nathik /

Gk

of or relating to the jaw.

The zoology students compared the gnathic features of various animals.

gnathonic

gnawed

gneiss

n

/ 'nīs /

G

[has homonym: nice] a laminated or foliated metamorphic rock corresponding in composition to granite.

The geologist easily identified the rock sample as a form of gneiss.

gnomonics

n pl

/ nō'māniks /

Gk

the art of using or making dials, especially sundials.

Gnomonics had its beginning when the ancient Egyptians started using shadows for measuring time.

gnostic

adj

/ 'nästik /

Gk

of or relating to knowledge or cognition : intellectual.

Georgina's teacher said that her gnostic abilities were far greater than her grades indicated.

gnu

n

/ 'n(y)ü /

Bushman

[has homonym: new] any of several large African antelopes with a head like that of an ox, short mane, long tail, and horns that curve downward and outward and then up.

The brindled gnu, sometimes called a wildebeest, is one of the fastest animals in southern Africa.

goad

goateed

adj

/ (.)gō'tēd /

E

having a small trim pointed or tufted beard on the chin.

The portly, goateed restaurant owner stopped by each table to ask how everything was.

goatherd

goblet

goblins

n pl

/ 'gäblənz /

Gk > L > F > E

ugly or grotesque sprites.

Remembering all the stories of ghosts and goblins influenced his imagination to run wild.

gobo

n

/ 'gō(.)bō /

unknown

a portable black cloth-covered screen used to shield a camera from unwanted light.

Flora adjusted the gobo before the next take.

goddess

n

/ 'gädəs /

E

a female god.

The Hindu goddess Devi was the subject of a recent exhibit at the Smithsonian.

godsend

goggles

goldenfleece

goldfinch

Goldwynism

n

/ 'gōldwə'nizəm /

US name

a phrase or expression (as include me out) involving a grotesque use of a word.

One well-known Goldwynism is the saying "A verbal contract isn't worth the paper it's printed on."

golgotha

n

/ gäl'gäthə /

Heb > Aram > Gk > L

a place of burial : cemetery.

A chill ran down Henrietta's spine as she walked through the old golgotha.

gomphosis

goneness

goner

gonitis

goodies

goosey

googolplex

gopher

n

/ 'gōfə(r) /

unknown

any of several burrowing rodents.

"The old man was as spry as a gopher," said his grandson.

goracco

gorge

gorgio

gorgon

goshenite

gossoon

gouache

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

Gouda

n
/ 'güdə /
Netherlands geog name
a whole-milk mild-flavored cheese shaped in flattened spheres and usually covered by a red protective coating.
The Gouda and grapes were a hit at Marcy's party.

gourmand

government

governor

grabble

v
/ 'grabəl /
D
move the hand (as in searching) in a groping fashion.
Every morning Tiffany has to grabble for her glasses.

gracefully

adv
/ 'gräsfələ /
L + Ecff
in a manner marked by fitness and proportion of line or movement.
Fred Astaire danced gracefully up the wall and across the ceiling.

gracilis

n
/ 'grasələs /
L
the most superficial muscle of the inside of the thigh.
At the bodybuilding contest the judges were so critical that they insisted on seeing if every muscle, including the gracilis, was developed.

gracioso

gradeability

graduate

adj
/ 'graj(ə)wət /
L
of, relating to, or engaged in studies that go beyond the first or bachelor's degree and are usually specialized or professional.
Although he is only a junior in college, Cecil is taking several courses on the graduate level.

gradus

Grail

n
/ 'grāl /
L > F > E
the cup or platter which according to medieval legend was used by Christ at the Last Supper, was brought to Britain, and thereafter became the object of knightly quests.
The Holy Grail is sometimes referred to as "the silver chalice."

grainy

graminivorous

grammatical

grampus

n
/ 'grampəs /
L > F > E
a cetacean of temperate and tropical seas having a blunt snout and teeth in the lower jaw only.
Squid and octopus are the main foods of the grampus.

granary

grandee

grandeeship

grandiloquent

adj
/ gran'diləkwənt /
L
marked by a lofty, extravagantly colorful, pompous, or bombastic style, manner, or quality especially in language.
The senator dedicated the monument with an entertainingly grandiloquent speech.

Grandisonian

adj
/ ,grandə'sōnēən /
E name
of, relating to, or befitting a model gentleman of the 18th century.
In a wig and knee britches, Jonathan played the part of the Grandisonian earl perfectly.

grandomania

granitic

adj
/ gra'nid:ik /
L > It + Ecff
resembling an igneous crystalline rock formation in austere inflexibility.
Rowan's boss has a terrifying granitic personality.

granivorous

adj
/ grə'niv(ə)rəs /
L
feeding on seeds or grain.
Ursula reinforced the silo to protect it from granivorous pests.

granular

granulation

n
/ ,granyə'lāshən /
L
the act or process of forming or crystallizing into grains or small masses.
The granulation of sugar is an important development in the history of food.

grapefruit

graphic

adj
/ 'grafik /
Gk
written, drawn, or engraved.
The graphic symbols of Linear A, a Cretan script, have not yet been deciphered.

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

graphologist

n
/ gra'făləjəst /
Gk

a specialist in the study of handwriting especially for the purpose of character analysis.
When Claire signed the form, she was not told that a graphologist would be analyzing her signature.

graphorrhea

grasp

v
/ 'grasp /
E

comprehend : understand.
Victor was able to grasp the new concept the first time it was presented.

grasshopper

grateful

gratification

gratis

adv
/ 'gradəs /
L
without charge or recompense.
Some restaurants no longer provide water gratis.

gratitude

n
/ 'gradətüd /
L
thankfulness.
Tim's parents make many sacrifices so that he can train for the Olympics, but he shows them little gratitude.

grattoir

gratuitously

adv
/ grə'tüədəsle /
L
without involving a return benefit, compensation, or consideration.
The travel agency gratuitously provided the family with transportation to and from the airport.

graustark

Graustarkian

adj
/ grau'stärkēən /
fictional name
of or relating to an imaginary place of high romance.
Dr. Furter's castle was far from the Graustarkian ideal.

grave

adj
/ 'gräv /
L > F
having a serious, sedate, and dignified appearance or demeanor.
The judge appeared grave and impassive as she pronounced sentence on the convicted felon.

gravid

adj
/ 'gravəd /
L
pregnant.
The gravid mare seemed to give a sigh of relief as her rider dismounted.

gravimetry

n
/ grə'vimətrē /
L + Gk + Ecf
the measurement of weight or density.
Arleen's physics book has a chapter devoted to the study of gravimetry.

gravitational

adj
/ ,gravə'tāshən'l /
L
of or relating to a force manifested by acceleration towards each other of two free material particles or bodies.
If the gravitational force of Earth were turned off momentarily, we would all get a free ride into space.

gravity

gravure

gravy

n
/ 'grävē /
F > E
any of several thickened sauces served especially with meat or potatoes.
The so-called "red-eye" gravy often served with ham and biscuits is usually made with strong coffee or cola.

graywacke

graze

great

greave

n
/ 'grēv /
E
[has homonym: grieve] armor for the leg below the knee.
Memnon removed the soldier's greave, exposing the wound underneath.

grebe

Grecian

adj
/ 'grēshən /
Gk > L
of, relating to, or characteristic of Greeks.
Grecian cuisine famously includes octopus and squid.

grecize

v
/ 'grēsīz /
Gk > L > F
make Greek or Hellenistic in quality, traits, or cultural characteristics.
The locals wouldn't allow invaders to grecize their culture.

greedy

greenbrier

greengage

greenhouse

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

greenness

n
/ 'grēnnəs /
E

the quality or state of being green.
The clear little stream ran quite merrily along on its narrow way through the luscious damp greenness.

gremlin

grenade

grenadierial

grenadine

griddle

n
/ 'gridl /
L > F > E

a flat surface on which food is placed to be cooked by dry heat.
Dad makes buttermilk pancakes on the griddle every Sunday morning.

gridiron

n
/ 'gri.dī(ə)rn /
(L > F > E) + E
[Note: Although the definition provided is the original sense, it is not the one most commonly associated with this word.] a grated metal frame for grilling food over coals.
Sara's hot dog rolled off the gridiron and fell on the ground.

grievances

n pl
/ 'grēvən(t)səz /
F > E
causes of uneasiness or distress felt to afford rightful reason for reproach, complaint, or resistance.
During his new-employee orientation, Stan was briefed on the procedure for filing grievances.

griffonage

n
/ grifə'nāzh /
F

[Note: Could be confused with griffinage.] careless handwriting : a crude or illegible scrawl.
The pharmacist assured us that what looked like griffonage was simply a string of Latin abbreviations.

grimy

grip

n
/ 'grip /
E

[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word. In addition, word has homonym: grippe.] a worker who moves the scenes in a theater.
Til worked as a grip at the Country Dinner Playhouse.

grippe

grisard

griseofulvin

grissino
n
/ grə'sē(,)nō /
It

a long slender crusty breadstick usually of Italian style or origin.
For a mid-afternoon snack, a grissino was all that Amelia needed.

grivoiserie

grobianism

grok

v
/ 'grāk /
US literary name
understand profoundly and intuitively : establish deep compassionate rapport with.
Robert Heinlein's most popular books are about a character who could grok his friends in a profound way.

grope

v
/ 'grōp /
E

search about blindly or uncertainly.
The daydreaming student had to grope for an answer when the teacher asked him a question.

gross

n
/ 'grōs /
L > F > E
[has near homonym: grows] an aggregate of 12 dozen things; specifically : a lot made up of 12 dozen usually relatively small and substantially identical commercial objects.
Mrs. Lin ordered a gross of gel pens to use for special rewards.

grotesqueness

n
/ grō'tesknəs /
F&It
the quality or state of being comically incongruous or ridiculously ugly.
Each horror movie seems to be trying to outdo the others in grotesqueness.

grotto

grottoed

adj
/ 'grädōd /
L > It
enclosed in or made into a natural covered opening in the earth.
The gangsters fled to their grottoed hideaway.

grouchiness

groundless

groundsel

n
/ 'graün(d)səl /
E
an herb of the genus *Senecio* sometimes used for medicinal purposes.
Groundsel is found in swamps and meadows from Newfoundland to Ontario.

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

grouper

grouse

grout

n
/ 'graʊt /
E
thin mortar fluid enough to be poured and used for filling in spaces as in the joints of masonry or brickwork.
Randy carefully spread new grout and set the tiles into the counter top.

growthy

grubstake

grudgingness

n
/ 'grʌʃɪŋnəs /
Gmc > F > E
the quality or state of being unwilling, reluctant, or ungenerous.
With some grudgingness, Ron came to accept Sam as his daughter's fiancé.

gruine

gryllus

gryposis

n
/ grə'pōsəs /
Gk
abnormal curvature especially of the fingernail.
When one of Sarah's fingernails exhibited gryposis, her doctor removed it surgically.

guarantee

guaranteed

v
/ ,garən'tēd /
Gmc > F
given or furnished security to.
Results are not guaranteed, but if not perfectly satisfied, your wasted time will be refunded.

gudgeon

n
/ 'gʌʃən /
L > F > E
an iron pin for fastening together blocks of stone.
The stoneworker selected a heavy gauge of iron for the gudgeon that would hold together the parts of the granite park bench.

guenon

n
/ gə'nōn /
F
any of various long-tailed chiefly arboreal African monkeys.
The guenon is a favorite zoo monkey because of its bright markings, good nature, and its habit of grimacing at observers.

guest

guichet

guidance

guilelessness

n
/ 'gī(ə)llāsnəs /
Gmc > F > E + Ecff
the quality or state of being innocent, naïve, and unsophisticated.
Mrs. Waldron said that she loved teaching young children because of their natural guilelessness.

guiltsick

guilty

guinea

Guinean

adj
/ 'gīnēən /
African geog name
of, relating to, or characteristic of the region of Guinea, West Africa.
Guinea pigs are paradoxically not Guinean animals: They originate in South America.

guise

guitarist

gulag

n
/ 'gü.läg /
Russ acronym
the penal system of the former Soviet Union consisting of a network of labor camps.
Stalin chose a 15th-century monastery as the site for the first labor camp of the gulag.

gules

n
/ 'gyülz /
F > E
the heraldic color red.
One is never allowed to change a coat of arms, since even the use of gules has a certain meaning.

gulp

n
/ 'gəlp /
D or G > E
the amount taken in a single large swallow.
Soot took the entire half of a buttered crumpet and decided to swallow it all joyfully in one gulp.

gumdrop

gunpowder

gunrunning

guppy

gurgitation

gurry

n
/ 'gərē /
unknown
[has homonym: ghurry] the refuse from cutting up a whale and extracting the oil.
The captain ordered the younger crewmen to clear the deck of gurry.

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

gusset

n
/ 'gʊsət /
F > E

a usually triangular or diamond-shaped insert (as of cloth or leather) placed in a seam to give ease or expansibility.

Eileen sewed a gusset into the waistband of her hiking pants.

guttate

adj
/ 'gʊd.ət /
L

resembling a drop or having spots that resemble drops.

Symptoms of Janet's illness included a high fever and guttate skin lesions.

guyot

gyascutus

gymnast

gymnure

n
/ 'jim.n(y)ù(ə)r /
Gk

a small whitish insectivorous mammal of southeastern Asia having a long snout and a long naked tail.

The gymnure, also called the moonrat, is usually black with whitish head, but some individuals are all white.

gynecocentric

adj
/ ˌɡɪnəkō'sentrik /
Gk

dominated by or emphasizing feminine interests or point of view.
Lucy enjoyed the movie mostly for its gynocentric plot.

gynecocracy

gynecology

gyration

gyrocompass

gyromancy

n
/ 'jɪrə.man(t)sē /
Gk + Gk

divination in which one walking in or around a circle falls from dizziness and prognosticates from the place of the fall.

In one form of gyromancy, a circle is marked with the alphabet so that words may be formed as the diviner falls on the letters.

habit

n
/ 'hæbət /
L > F > E

a behavior pattern acquired by frequent repetition.

It is a Yorkshire habit to say what you think with blunt frankness, and old Ben Weatherstaff was a Yorkshire moor man.

habitable

habituated

adj
/ hæ'bɪchə.wādəd /
L

made familiar through use or experience : accustomed.

Although now habituated to a comfortable life, Edna never forgot the pain of her poverty-stricken childhood.

habitué

haddock

hafnium

haggardly

hagiographer

n
/ ˌhæɡē'ægrəfə(r) /
Gk

one who writes about the life of a saint.

Most biographies of the saints are anonymous, but some are attributed to a particular hagiographer.

hagiolith

hailstones

n pl
/ 'hāl.stōnz /
E + E

balls or lumps of ice falling from a cloud.

The hailstones damaged the finish of many cars in the neighborhood.

haircut

hairdo

hairiest

adj
/ 'ha(a)rēəst /
E

the most covered with or as if with hair.

"That's the hairiest baby I've ever seen!" exclaimed Mr. Feeney.

halfback

hallucinations

hallucinatory

hallux

n
/ 'hæləks /
L

the innermost digit (as the big toe) of the hind limb : big toe.

The football player became afflicted with an arthritic hallux that affected his mobility.

halogen

n
/ 'haləjən /
Gk

any of the five elements fluorine, chlorine, bromine, iodine, and astatine forming group VII A of the periodic table.

A halogen normally appears in the free state as a diatomic molecule.

halter

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

hambo
n
/ 'häm(,)bü /
Sw geog name
a Swedish round danced to various melodies in triple time.
Joel learned to dance the hambo when he visited relatives in Sweden.

hammer

hamotzi

hamper

hamster

handbill

handicap
n
/ 'handē.kap /
E
an advantage given a weaker contestant or a disadvantage imposed upon a stronger contestant in order to equalize chances of winning.
Mr. Shore's golf handicap has remained unchanged after six years of play.

handicapper

handiwork

handkerchief
n
/ 'hæŋkə(r)chəf /
E + F > E
a piece of cloth that is used for various personal purposes or as a costume accessory.
Mr. Van Deventer bought a matching tie and handkerchief off the bargain rack.

handsome

hangar

hangdog
adj
/ 'hæŋ.dɒg /
E + E
dejected, cowed, pitiful.
When asked why he had such a hangdog look, the little boy replied that he couldn't find his puppy.

hangul
n
/ 'hængəl /
Kashmiri
a deer of Kashmir closely related to the red deer of Europe.
The deer hunter pointed out his most recent trophy — the mounted head of a hangul.

haori

hapchance

haphazardry

happenstance
n
/ 'hæpənz(,)tan(t)s /
E + L
a circumstance regarded as being due to chance.
By happenstance, Gloria found herself in the position of being a witness to a robbery.

haptic
adj
/ 'hæp.tɪk /
Gk
relating to or based on the sense of touch.
The human body's haptic sensor is the skin.

harassment
n
/ hə'rasmənt /
F
the act or an instance of vexing, troubling, or annoying continually or chronically.
The employee sued the company for harassment that occurred over a period of two years.

hardihood

hardscrabble

hariolation

harmfully

harmless
adj
/ 'härmləs /
E
lacking capacity or intent to injure.
The snake was a harmless little thing that would not hurt anyone and seemed in a hurry to get out of the room.

harmony

harpy
n
/ 'härpē /
Gk > L
a predatory monster in chiefly classical mythology represented as having a woman's head and body and claws of a vulture and as being an instrument of divine vengeance.
Mrs. Byrd did not realize that the harpy Jill drew to illustrate Roman mythology had personal significance.

harras

harried
v
/ 'harēd /
E
kept under constant attack or threat of attack : harassed.
A mosquito harried Charlie as he tried to sleep.

harrow

harrowing
adj
/ 'ha(,)rɔɪŋ /
E
acutely distressing or painful : agonizing.
Laura worried that a trip to the South Dakota badlands would be a trip through miles of harrowing and hazardous countryside.

harvester

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

hastate

adj

/ 'hɑːstāt /

L

shaped like a spear or the head of a spear.

Michael has a letter opener with a hastate blade that looks like a Neolithic weapon.

hastener

hastilude

hastily

adv

/ 'hāstəlē /

F > E

hurriedly.

The hastily executed maneuver saved the ship from the rocks.

hatched

haul

haunches

n pl

/ 'hɒnchəs /

Gmc > F > E

hips : hindquarters.

The guard dog sat on his haunches and growled a warning to all who came near.

hausfrau

Havarti

n

/ hə'vārtē /

Danish geog name

a semisoft Danish cheese with a mild to sharp flavor.

Rivka served raw vegetables and mild Havarti with crackers to her party guests.

Hawaiian

adj

/ hə'wāyən /

Hawaiian

of or relating to the island, state, or Territory of Hawaii, the Hawaiian islands, or the inhabitants of Hawaii.

Maureen won a Hawaiian vacation on a game show.

hawk

hawker

n

/ 'hɒkə(r) /

G&E

one that sells wares especially in the streets : peddler.

Sabrina tried to ignore the hawker as he extolled the virtues of beef jerky.

hawse

hawser

n

/ 'hɒzə(r) /

L > F > E

[Note: Could be confused with Hausa, houser.] a large rope for towing or mooring a ship or securing it at a dock.

Jody passed the hawser around the mooring post and disembarked from the boat.

hawthorn

hayloft

n

/ 'hā.lɒft /

E + ON > E

a loft or scaffold for hay.

Uncle Albert forbade the children from playing in the hayloft.

hazard

haziness

hazing

headpiece

headset

hearse

heartburn

heartthrob

heathenness

heaven

heavyweight

hebdomadal

hebephrenia

n

/ .hēbə'frēnēə /

Gk

a form of schizophrenia that is characterized by silliness, delusions, hallucinations, and regression and that has an early insidious onset.

The prognosis for hebephrenia, which presents itself initially during youth, is unfavorable.

hebetudinous

hecatomb

n

/ 'hekə.tōm /

Gk

a large number or quantity.

The hecatomb of soldiers slain in the War Between the States makes this war the deadliest conflict in our country's history.

heckle

hector

v

/ 'hektə(r) /

Gk name

harass, intimidate, bully, or domineer by bluster, scolding, or personal pressure.

Some seniors like to hector underclassmen on the first day of school.

hedebo

hedge

hedgehopper

hedgerow

n

/ 'hej.rō /

E

a row of shrubs or trees enclosing or separating fields.

The property belonging to the estate extended from the hedgerow at the left of the house to the stone pillar one mile down the road.

hedonic

heedful

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heedless

hefty

adj
/ 'heftē /
E

impressively large.

Little Jolene sat on several hefty books in order to reach the desktop.

heiferette

heighten

heist

heliacal

adj
/ hə'liækəl /
Gk

relating to or near the Sun—used especially of the last setting of a star before and its first rising after invisibility due to conjunction with the Sun.

The Egyptian rural year was determined by the heliacal rising of Sirius.

helical

heliciform

adj
/ hə'lisə.fɔrm /
Gk + Ecf
spiral.

Emmett picked up several small heliciform shells while playing on the beach.

helicline

heliocentric

adj
/ 'hēlēō.sentrɪk /
Gk

having or relating to the Sun as the center.

Copernicus proposed in the 16th century a heliocentric theory of planetary arrangement.

heliophyte

n
/ 'hēlēə.fɪt /
Gk + Gk
a plant thriving in or tolerating full sunlight.
The cactus is a good example of a heliophyte.

heliosis

n
/ .hēlē'ōsəs /
Gk
sunstroke.
Ben stayed indoors for a week following his bout with heliosis on the rafting trip.

heliport

helix

n
/ 'hēlɪks /
Gk > L
something spiral in form.
Each tendril of a grape vine forms a helix.

hellebore

helmet

n
/ 'hɛlmət /
Gmc > F
any of various protective head coverings usually made of a hard material to resist impact.
The steel helmet protected the soldier from shrapnel.

helminthoid

adj
/ həl'mɪn.thɔɪd /
Gk
resembling a parasitic worm (as a roundworm, tapeworm, or leech).
The calves' emaciation and stunted growth were found to be a result of infestation by helminthoid organisms.

helpful

hemera

n
/ 'hemərə /
Gk
a stratigraphic zone comprising the time range of a particular fossil species.
Work on the excavation stopped when the workers accidentally unearthed a wide, rich hemera.

hemic

adj
/ 'hēmɪk /
Gk
of or relating to blood.
Hemic problems caused Ron's breathing difficulty.

hemiplegia

hemiplegic

adj
/ .hemə'plējɪk /
Gk
marked by paralysis of one lateral half of the body or part of it resulting from injury to the motor centers of the brain.
Marc's automobile accident left him in a hemiplegic condition.

hemlock

hemochromatosis

n
/ .hēmō.krōmə'tōsəs /
Gk
a disease characterized by widespread deposition of iron-containing pigments in the tissues resulting in bronzing of the skin, associated with cirrhosis of the liver and pancreas.
"Bronze diabetes" is the common name for hemochromatosis.

hemodialysis

n
/ .hēmōdɪ'aləsəs /
Gk + Gk + Gk
the process of removing blood from an artery (as of a kidney patient), purifying it, adding vital substances, and returning it to a vein.
Mr. Barnes is glad that his hemodialysis can be done at home instead of at the hospital.

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hemolymph

n
/ 'hēməlim(p)f /
Gk > L > E
the circulatory fluid of various invertebrate animals that is functionally comparable to the blood and lymph of vertebrates.
The hemolymph of insects is usually green, yellow, or colorless.

hemophilic

hemostat

n
/ 'hēməstat /
Gk
an instrument for compressing a bleeding vessel.
A hemostat is an indispensable tool in surgery.

hennery

n
/ 'henərə /
E + Ecf
[has near homonym: henry] an enclosure or house for poultry.
Bill painted the small hennery and put fresh straw inside it for the chickens.

heortology

n
/ .hē.ò(r)'täləjē /
Gk + Gk
a study of religious calendars; especially : a study of the history and the meaning of the seasons and festivals of the church year.
Barbara's thesis on medieval Italian heortology was published last year to modest critical acclaim.

hepatectomy

hepatomegaly

n
/ .hepədə'megəlē /
Gk + Gk
enlargement of the liver.
An accumulation of glycogen in the liver can result in hepatomegaly.

heptachord

heptagonal

heptastich

herald

heraldry

n
/ 'herəldrē /
Gmc > F > E
a branch of knowledge that deals with the history and practice of bearing and displaying armorial ensigns and with the art of describing them.
When she began studying heraldry, Jenny realized that she would have to learn a dictionary full of specialized terms.

herb

herbal

herbicide

herbivore

herbivorous

adj
/ ı(h)ər'bivərəs /
L
feeding on plants.
Most insects are herbivorous and feed on virtually every part of a plant, from the flower to the root.

herbs

n pl
/ '(h)ərbz /
L > F > E
plants or plant parts valued for their medicinal, savory, or aromatic qualities.
Karl guarded carefully the secret of which herbs he put in his barbecue sauce.

hereafter

hereinbelow

heresimach

n
/ hə'rēzəmak /
Gk
an active opponent of heresy and heretics.
During the Inquisition, Torquemada was Spain's most zealous heresimach.

heretofore

heritably

hermetic

hero

heroism

heron

herpetofauna

hesitate

hessian

hesychast

n
/ 'hesəkast /
Gk
one of a set of Eastern Orthodox monastics practicing a solitary meditative form of prayer.
A monk who is a hesychast seeks inner stillness through prayer.

heterodyned

v
/ 'hedərədınd /
Gk
combined (a radio frequency) with a different frequency so that a beat is produced.
The incoming radio signals had to be heterodyned down to 150 kilohertz for recording with a tape recorder.

heterogeneity

n
/ .hedərəjə'nēədē /
Gk + Lcf
the quality or state of differing in kind.
Sherman was amazed at the heterogeneity of the fraternity members.

heteronomy

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

heteronym

n
/ 'hedərənim /
Gk
one of two or more words spelled alike that differ in pronunciation and meaning.
Each of the words spelled b-a-s-s in the following sentence is a heteronym: The fisherman in his bass voice cried out that he had caught a bass.

heterotrichosis

n
/ .hedərōtrə'kōsəs /
Gk
a condition of having hair of variegated color.
When Granny saw rainbow-colored hair for the first time, she wondered if she were seeing a freakish case of heterotrichosis.

heterozygote

n
/ .hedərō'zīgōt /
Gk
an animal or plant that contains genes for both members of at least one pair of alternative Mendelian characters such as whether or not one can roll one's tongue.
Certain genetic disorders are asymptomatic in the heterozygote.

hew

v
/ 'hyü /
E
[has homonym: hue] shape, form, create, or bring into being with or as if with hard rough blows or efforts.
Dr. King told his listeners that with faith they would be able to "hew out of the mountain of despair a stone of hope."

hewgag

hewn

adj
/ 'hyün /
E
felled, cut, or shaped by hewing (as with an ax).
From the hewn stump in the front yard new shoots began to sprout.

hexafoos

hexagonal

adj
/ hek'sagən'l /
Gk + Ecf
having six angles and six sides : six-sided.
A cell of a honeycomb is one of many hexagonal forms in nature.

hexameter

n
/ hek'samədə(r) /
Gk
a line of six metrical feet.
Gil read the difficult hexameter without pause or problem, to the astonishment of Professor Winterbottom.

hexerei

hideaway

hideosity

hidrosis

highbinding

highlight

highroad

n
/ 'hī.rōd /
E + E
the best approach : an easy way.
The highroad to the lodge was very scenic.

hilarity

hinder

hindquarter

hindrance

hindsight

hintingly

Hippocratic

adj
/ .hip'kradik /
Gk name
of or relating to Hippocrates or to the school of medicine that took his name.
Dr. Owens takes the Hippocratic oath literally.

hippocrepiform

hirsuteness

hirsutism

n
/ 'hərsüt.izəm /
L
excessive growth of hair of normal or abnormal distribution.
Hirsutism is often the result of a hormonal imbalance in the body.

histogenesis

histogeny

n
/ hi'stājənē /
Gk
the formation and differentiation of tissues.
The 19th-century physiologist Theodor Schwann was renowned for his pioneering study of histogeny.

historian

historicize

Hitchcockian

adj
/ hich'kākēən /
American name
of, relating to, or suggestive of the cinematic style or technique of Alfred Hitchcock.
One Hitchcockian mark was to put himself in the background of a scene in the film, usually when the audience would least expect to see the director.

hither

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

hitherto

adv

/ 'hiθə(r).tʊ /

E

up to this time.

Frieda discovered an opening to a hitherto unknown cave.

Hitlerian

adj

/ hit'liɹiən /

G name

of, relating to, or suggestive of dictator Adolf Hitler or his regime in Germany.

The regime's Hitlerian disregard of human life and human rights repulsed and disgusted the commission.

hittable

adj

/ 'hidəbəl /

ON > E + L

capable of being struck.

The batter cursed himself for missing a perfectly hittable ball.

hobbyist

hobgoblin

hobnail

hobnob

hodad

hoedown

n

/ 'hō.daʊn /

E + E

a lively old-time dance.

Pamela enjoyed the hoedown tremendously.

hoggish

hogshead

n

/ 'hōgz.hed /

E + E

a U.S. unit of capacity equal to 63 gallons.

We grew enough apples in our backyard this year to yield 1 hogshead of cider.

hogwash

hokum

holcodont

holdall

holiday

holistic

Hollerith

n

/ 'hāl.ərɪθ /

name

a code for representing alphanumeric information on punch cards.

Billy started programming back when mainframe computers still had special readers for Hollerith.

hollygrape

holography

holometabolous

adj

/ hālō.mə'tabələs /

Gk > L + Ecf

of an insect : characterized by development with complete metamorphosis.

Most beetles, butterflies, and moths are holometabolous insects.

holophrasis

holophrastic

adj

/ .hālə'frastɪk /

Gk + Gk

expressing a complex of ideas in a single word.

Holophrastic utterances are one of the first stages in children's acquisition of speech.

holozoic

holster

homage

n

/ '(h)ämɪj /

L > F > E

reverential regard : respect, deference.

The Lord Chancellor demanded homage wherever he went.

hombre

n

/ 'äm(ɪ)brā /

L > Sp

[has homonym: ombre] man, fellow, guy.

Tex was too fast to let that hombre get the drop on him.

homebound

homeopathy

Homeric

adj

/ hō'merɪk /

Gk name

of or relating to the Greek poet Homer, his age, or his writings.

The Homeric portrayal of death is pessimistic and offers no unambiguously attractive hope of a reward for a good life.

homestretch

homiletic

hominivorous

hominoid

n

/ 'hämə.nɔɪd /

L + Ecf

resembling the family of mammals to which humans and their ancestors belong.

Chewbacca has markedly hominoid features.

homogeneous

adj

/ 'hōmə.jēnēəs /

Gk

relating to, occurring in, or being a system that contains no internal physical boundaries.

Roger's lecture was about the homogeneous catalytic role that chlorine plays in the depletion of the ozone layer.

homonymous

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

homophone

n
/ 'häməfōn /
Gk
one of two or more words pronounced alike but different in meaning or derivation or spelling.
When Andrew's mom was in school, a homophone was called a "homonym."

homuncular

adj
/ .hō'məŋkyələr /
L
resembling or characteristic of a little man, specifically one artificially produced by an alchemist.
The three-dimensional gingerbread man that Jana baked had a homuncular quality.

honcho

hone

honestly

honestone

honeycomb

n
/ 'hənē.kōm /
E
a mass of hexagonal prismatic wax cells built by bees as a nest and store of food.
A swarm of bees covered the large honeycomb.

honeypot

honeysuckle

honor

honorarium

n
/ .änə'rerēəm /
L
an honorary payment or reward usually given as compensation for services.
Dr. Ferraro donated the honorarium she received for her speech at the Rotary Club to a local animal shelter.

hoodlum

n
/ 'hüdləm /
unknown
a criminal usually belonging to a gang : thug.
The young hoodlum was arrested for vandalism.

hooley

hooper

hooroosh

hooves

hopper

hopperdozer

horizontalize

hornpipe

n
/ 'hò(ə)r.n.pīp /
E
a lively folk dance of the British Isles.
A musical instrument called "the hornpipe" gave its name to a popular sailors' dance.

horologist

n
/ hə'räləjəst /
L
a maker of clocks or watches.
After working as a watch repairman for seven years, Matt decided to become a full-fledged horologist.

horoscope

horoscopic

horrible

adj
/ 'hòrəbəl /
L
likely to arouse fear, dread, or abhorrence.
A horrible sound came from inside the fall festival's haunted house.

horrid

horrifically

adv
/ hò'rífək(ə)lē /
L
in a manner inspiring horror or fear.
The real consequences of a nuclear war could be horrifically worse than previously imagined.

horrified

horrify

horsehair

horst

horticultural

hostile

adj
/ 'häst'l /
L
[has homonym: hostel] offering an unpleasant or forbidding environment.
The snow and ice-covered mountains presented a hostile picture of the next segment of the journey.

hostilely

hovel

howbeit

howled

v
/ 'haüld /
E
uttered or emitted a loud sustained doleful sound or outcry characteristic of dogs and wolves.
The wind howled cruelly in an effort to tear them loose.

hox

hoydenish

adj
/ 'höid'nish /
D? + EcF
lively, tomboyish, unladylike.
Mrs. Taylor remarked that even a die-hard feminist would consider Zoe's behavior hoydenish.

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

hubristic

adj

/ hyü'bristik /

Gk

insolent, vain, arrogant.

Without question, Rick was the most hubristic intern Dr. Hallberg had ever encountered.

huckaback

huckster

hue

n

/ 'hyü /

E

gradation of color.

An inspired painter reveals mood through the use of hue and shade.

hueless

hula

v

/ 'hülə /

Hawaiian

perform a sinuous mimetic

Polynesian dance of traditional

form and topical adaptation,

usually accompanied by chants and rhythmic drumming.

Leilani was invited to hula for the guests at the luau.

hulking

adj

/ 'həlkiŋ /

Gk > L > E + Ecf

of great size or powerful build.

One look at the hulking guard would cause anyone to think twice about making him angry.

humaniora

n pl

/ (h)yü.manē'örə /

L

the branches of learning regarded

as having primarily a cultural

character and usually including

languages, literature, history,

mathematics, and philosophy.

Mateo received his degree in general studies or, as he likes to call it, "humaniora."

humanitarian

n

/ (i)hyü.manə'terēən /

L + Ecf

a person who is actively concerned in promoting human welfare and especially social reform.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. will always be remembered as a great humanitarian.

humbly

adv

/ 'həmblē /

E

in a modest or meek manner.

Anita humbly protested that her work did not deserve to hang on the museum's walls.

humdinger

humid

humidity

n

/ hyü'midədē /

L

a moderate degree of wetness

especially of the atmosphere.

In addition to the heat and humidity, the hikers had to deal with pesky mosquitoes.

humiliate

humility

n

/ hyü'milədē /

L

the quality or state of being humble

in spirit : freedom from pride or

arrogance.

We all need humility in the face of what we do not understand.

humiture

n

/ 'hyümə.chü(ə)r /

L&L

an integer average of temperature

and humidity.

When the temperature is 85 degrees Fahrenheit and the relative humidity is 90, the humiture is 88.

hummingbird

hummocky

humstrum

humus

n

/ '(h)yüməs /

L

[Note: Could be confused with adjective humorous. Also, has near homonym: hummus.] the organic portion of soil.

Mario's compost heap provides an annual supply of humus for his garden.

hunching

v

/ 'hənchiŋ /

unknown

assuming a bent or crooked posture.

After hours of hunching in the car, Huey was glad for an opportunity to stretch at the rest stop.

hundred

hundredweight

n

/ 'həndrəd.wāt /

E + E

a unit of weight equal to 100 pounds—called also "short hundredweight."

Ronnie may be teased for only being a hundredweight, but he is respected for his quickness.

Hungarian

n

/ .həŋ'ga(a)rēən /

European geog name

a native or inhabitant of Hungary, a

country in central Europe.

Many a Hungarian has settled happily in the United States.

hungry

hurdle

n

/ 'hərdl /

E

an artificial barrier over which horses leap in a race.

Gordon's mount cleared the last hurdle with ease and won the race.

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hure

n
/ 'hyü(ə)r /
F > E

[has homonym: hewer] a close-fitting cap.
The 15th-century painting depicted a peasant wearing a gray hure.

hurling

v
/ 'hərliŋ /
imit? E
impelling with great vigor.
For lack of something better to do, Simon spent the afternoon hurling stones into the creek.

hurriedly

adv
/ 'hərədlē /
E? + Ecff
quickly, hastily.
Jennifer dressed hurriedly in the cold room.

husbandry

n
/ 'həzbəndrē /
ON > E
the cultivation or production of plants and animals : agriculture, farming.
The barn was well stocked with tools of husbandry.

husky

hustings

n pl
/ 'həstɪŋz /
ON > E
an election platform : stump.
After the political conventions, the election heated up as each party's nominee took to the hustings with renewed zeal.

hustle

v
/ 'həsəl /
D
move or act with vigorous speed.
"You'd better hustle if you want to make your train!" Betty shouted.

hydra

n
/ 'hīdrə /
Gk > L
a many-sided problem or obstacle that presents new difficulties each time one aspect of it is solved or overcome.
The problem was a hydra of immense proportion.

hydroacoustic

adj
/ .hī(,)drə'küstik /
Gk
of or relating to the transmission of sound in water.
Whales use a form of hydroacoustic communication.

hydrocortisone

n
/ .hī(,)drə'kò(r)ḑə.sōn /
Gk + L
a crystalline hormone that is used in the treatment of certain allergic diseases.
At one time available only in compounds prescribed by doctors, hydrocortisone is now found in many over-the-counter medications.

hydrological

adj
/ .hīdrə'lājəkəl /
Gk
of or relating to the study of water on the surface of the land, in the soil and underlying rocks, and in the atmosphere.
The hydrological cycle includes the evaporation of oceanic water into the atmosphere and its eventual return as precipitation.

hydropathy

hydrophobia

n
/ .hīdrə'föbēə /
Gk
an acute viral disease of the nervous system of warm-blooded animals that is fatal when untreated and is transmitted with infected saliva usually through the bite of an animal : rabies.
In recent years many raccoons have succumbed to hydrophobia.

hydroponics

n pl
/ .hīdrə'päniks /
Gk
the growing of plants in nutrient solutions with or without sand, gravel, or other inert medium to provide mechanical support.
Hydroponics is invaluable in regions having poor or no soil.

hydroxyzine

hyetometer

n
/ .hīə'tämədə(r) /
Gk
rain gage.
Ambrose set up a hyetometer in the front yard as part of his science fair project.

hygeian

adj
/ hī'jēən /
Gk name
[Note: Could be confused with hygiene.] of or relating to health or medical practice.
Janice does not know which hygeian career she will pursue, but she is currently very interested in nutrition.

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

hygienic

adj

/ ˌhɪjēˈenɪk /

Gk

of, relating to, or conducive to health or the science which deals with the establishment and maintenance of health in the individual and the group.

The minister reported that better hygienic conditions had reduced infant mortality significantly over the past ten years.

hygienically

hygrometer

n

/ hɪˈɡræməðə(r) /

Gk

any of several instruments for measuring the humidity of the atmosphere.

Eileen wondered what would happen if she took the hygrometer into the shower with her.

hygroscope

hyoid

n

/ ˈhɪ.ɔɪd /

Gk

a bone or complex of bones situated at the base of the tongue, supporting the tongue and its muscles.

X rays showed damage to the patient's larynx and hyoid.

hypallage

n

/ hɪˈpələ(ɹ)jē /

Gk

the interchange in syntactic relationship between two terms.

The sentence "you are become dead to the law" is hypallage for "the law has become dead to you."

hyperborean

adj

/ ˌhɪpə(r)ˈbɔrēən /

Gk

of, relating to, or inhabiting an extreme northern region : frigid.
Polar bears are among the few animals that can survive in hyperborean regions.

hyperkalemia

hyperopia

n

/ ˌhɪpəˈrɒpēə /

Gk

a condition in which visual images come to a focus behind the retina and vision is better for distant than for near objects : farsightedness.
Mom attributed her difficulty in reading fine print to hyperopia.

hypertonic

hyphenic

hypnosis

hypocaust

n

/ ˈhɪpō.kɒst /

Gk

a central heating system of an ancient Roman building consisting of an underground furnace or fire chamber and a series of tile flues for distribution of the heat.
Jessamyn pointed out the remains of the hypocaust that had heated the public baths.

hypochlorite

n

/ ˌhɪ(ɹ)pōˈklɔr.ɪt /

Gk

a salt or ester of a weak acid used chiefly as an oxidizing agent, bleaching agent, disinfectant, and chlorinating agent.
Sodium hypochlorite is the primary ingredient in commercial laundry bleaches.

hypocrite

hypopharynx

n

/ ˌhɪ(ɹ)pōˈfariŋ(k)s /

Gk

a thickened fold on the floor of the mouth of many insects that resembles a tongue.
In a chewing insect the hypopharynx secretes digestive juices.

hypotactic

adj

/ ˌhɪpəˈtaktɪk /

Gk

of, relating to, or exhibiting syntactic subordination (as by conjunction).

Yun loved the complicated hypotactic prose of academic German.

Hypotheria

n pl

/ ˌhɪpōˈθɪrēə /

Gk

a hypothetical order including the as yet undiscovered ancestors of the mammals.

Speculation about the ancestors of the mammals will remain just that until a member of the order Hypotheria is discovered.

hypothermia

hypothesize

v

/ ˌhɪˈpəθə.sɪz /

Gk

make an assumption in order to draw out its logical or empirical consequences.

We can hypothesize that every statement is true, but then we will have to accept contradictions as truth.

hypoxemia

hypozeuxis

hypsonometer

n

/ ˌhɪpˈsämədə(r) /

Gk + Gk

any of various instruments used to determine the height of trees by triangulation.

Being a forester, Steve was an expert at using a hypsonometer.

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hyrax

n
/ 'hɪraks /
Gk > L

any of a family of small thickset mammals with short legs and ears, feet with soft pads and broad nails, and a rudimentary tail.

The hyrax feeds on a wide variety of plants and can digest fiber very efficiently.

hysterics

hysterogenic

ibex

n
/ 'ɪbeks /
L

one of several wild goats living chiefly in high mountain areas and having large recurved horns.

While on a ski trip in the Swiss Alps, Pierre spotted an ibex.

ibidem

ibuprofen

n
/ ɪbyʊ'prɒfən /
ISV

a nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug used to relieve pain and fever.

Because aspirin upsets her stomach, Angela takes ibuprofen to relieve minor pains.

iceberg

icebound

adj
/ 'ɪs.baʊnd /
E + E

surrounded with ice so as to be incapable of advancing.

The harbor was icebound during much of the winter.

ichor

ichorous

adj
/ 'ɪkərəs /
Gk

[has near homonym: Icarus] thin, watery.

In severe psoriasis the skin becomes hard and then cracks, and from the cracks there is an ichorous discharge.

ichthyic

ichthyism

ichthyologist

ichthyosaur

n
/ 'ɪkθēɔ.sə(ə)r /
Gk + Gk

any of an order of extinct fishlike reptiles of the Mesozoic era having a long snout and a large caudal fin.

Its streamlined body and paddle-like limbs enabled the ichthyosaur to move swiftly through the water.

ickiness

iconoclasm

iconoduly

iconographer

n
/ ɪkə'nəgrəfə(r) /
G

a maker or designer of figures or drawings especially of a conventional or mechanical type.

The congregation was quite pleased with the inspirational scene depicted by the iconographer.

icotype

icteric

adj
/ 'ɪk.terɪk /
Gk > L

of, relating to, or affected with jaundice.

Hepatitis A is one common disease that has an icteric stage lasting from days to weeks.

ictus

idealist

idealize

v
/ ɪ'dē(ə).lɪz /
Gk

make into a perfect example.

Greer tends to idealize her friends.

ideate

v
/ ɪ'dē.āt /
Gk + Ecf

remember, imagine, or think of when not in the presence of.

Painters often rely on their ability to ideate a landscape or a face.

ideological

idiasm

n
/ ɪ'dē.azəm /
Gk

an individual mannerism (as in literary style).

James Joyce's main idiasm was his penchant for writing in stream of consciousness.

idiom

idiomatic

idiomatically

adv
/ ɪ'dē'mad-ə(ə)lē /
Gk

in a manner conforming to the language peculiar to a people or to a district, community, or class.

The immigrant student quickly learned to speak English idiomatically.

idiopathic

adj
/ ɪ'dē'pathɪk /
Gk

arising spontaneously or from an obscure or unknown cause.

After carefully examining Leila, the doctor announced that her sudden hearing loss was idiopathic and might disappear with time.

idiophone

idiosyncrasies

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idiosyncrasy

idle

adj
/ ˈɪdəl /
E
[has homonyms: idol, idyl, idyll]
given to rest or ease.
Not one to be idle, Ben assists others whenever he completes his assigned tasks.

idol

idolization

n
/ ɪdˈɒləˈzāʃən /
Gk > L > F > E
the act of loving or revering to excess, or the state of being revered to excess.
The public's idolization of celebrities inevitably causes them to change the nature of their public contacts.

idunit

n
/ ɪˈdʊnət /
E
an autobiographical or confessional account usually of a sensational character.
Everyone expected the colorful Wall Street broker to write an idunit after his conviction for embezzlement.

ignescence

ignition

ignore

illaudable

illeist

illfare

illimitable

adj
/ ɪ(l)ˈlɪmɪdəbəl /
L
not capable of being restricted or bounded.
The capacity of human beings to absorb what they wish to absorb and to ignore the rest seems to be illimitable.

illiteracy

n
/ ɪ(l)ˈlɪdəɾəsē /
L
inability to read or write.
The administration promised to launch a campaign against illiteracy.

illogical

illogicality

n
/ (ɪ)lɪˈlɒjəˈkælədē /
Gk + Ecff
the quality or state of reasoning unsoundly through ignorance or negligence of logic.
The English teacher pointed out the illogicality in saying "My cup is fuller than yours."

illuminable

illuminometer

n
/ ɪˌlʊməˈnæmədər /
L + Ecf + Gk
a photometer for measuring the illumination of surfaces.
Houston and Kennelly called their invention an illuminometer.

illustrious

adj
/ ɪˈlæstrəs /
L + Ecf
notably or brilliantly outstanding.
The ambassador's illustrious achievements are known throughout the land.

imagine

v
/ ɪˈmajən /
L > F > E
form an idea of.
Louis became dizzy when he tried to imagine himself sky-diving or hang-gliding.

imago

n
/ ɪˈmā(ɪ)gō /
L
an insect in its final adult mature usually winged state.
A butterfly has a caterpillar stage and a chrysalis stage before it emerges as an imago, or butterfly.

imbibition

imbroglio

imitate

immanent

adj
/ ɪˈmənənt /
L
remaining or operating within the subject considered : indwelling.
Stefan told a story about a forest god immanent in the large redwood near our camping spot.

immaterial

immeasurable

immeasurably

adv
/ ɪ(m)ˈmez(ə)rəblē /
L > Ecf + L + L > F > E
in a manner that is incapable of being measured.
A two-volume index adds immeasurably to the usefulness of the encyclopedia.

immediacy

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

immemorial

adj
/ i(m)mə'mōrēəl /
L > F

not within the reach of memory, record, or tradition : indefinitely ancient.

Daring teenagers have been climbing Devil's Rock since time immemorial.

immerge

immigrant

immiscibility

n
/ i(m)'misə'bilədē /
L

inability to mix or become homogeneous.

Rain falling on an oil slick demonstrates the immiscibility of the two liquids.

immitigable

immittance

immobile

immobilize

v
/ i(m)'mōbəlīz /
L > F

interfere with or prevent freedom of movement or effective use of.

The general planned to use his secret weapon to immobilize enemy forces.

immortelle

immund

immune

adj
/ ə'myün /
L

protected, guarded.

Wearing her heavy parka made Judith immune to the cold wind.

immunity

immunize

immunology

impartiality

n
/ im.pärshē'alədē /
L

freedom from bias or favoritism.

Justice is often personified with a blindfold and scales to represent impartiality.

impartible

impassionate

impatient

impeach

impeachment

n
/ əm'pēchmənt /
F > E

conviction of misconduct and usually removal from office.

Faced with almost certain impeachment, Richard Nixon became the first United States president to resign from office.

impel

v
/ əm'pel /
L

urge or drive by force or constraint.

Contrary to the best calculations of policy, the nation will impel its government to war.

impenitently

impercipient

adj
/ impə(r)'sipēənt /
L

lacking intuitive recognition or insight.

The critic complained that the novel's characters were so impercipient that no one could possibly care about them.

imperfect

imperil

v
/ əm'perəl /
L > F > E

expose to danger of imminent harm or loss.

The investigation into fund-raising efforts could imperil the candidate's political future.

imperilment

imperious

imperiously

impermeable

impertinent

impetrated

v
/ 'impə.trədəd /
L

obtained by request or entreaty : procured.

Lisa impetrated a bottle of Dijon mustard from the couple at the next table and spread some on her sandwich.

impetuous

impignorate

impingement

impious

impish

adj
/ 'impish /
E

relating to a person who behaves mischievously.

Troy's impish behavior was not tolerated at his new school.

impishness

implicate

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

implosion

n
/ ɒm'plɒzhən /

L
the action of bursting inward.
Judd's chemistry experiment created a small implosion after the oxygen was consumed.

impluvium

impof

impolite

adj
/ ɪmpə'līt /

L
lacking in politeness, in etiquette, or in consideration of others.
"All I meant was that perhaps it isn't too important," Milo repeated, trying not to be impolite.

imponderable

importunate

adj
/ ɒm'pɔrchənət /

L
troublesomely urgent : overly persistent in request or demand.
Peter's importunate requests for assistance cause people to ignore and also avoid him.

importune

v
/ ɪmpər'tün /

L&F
press or urge with frequent or unreasonable requests or troublesome persistence.
The political organization was asked not to importune shoppers to sign petitions in front of the store.

imposing

adj
/ ɒm'pɔziŋ /

L > F + Ecf
impressive because of size, scope, bearing, dignity, or grandeur.
The imposing statues at the temple's entrance awed the visitors.

imprecate

v
/ ɪm'prɛkāt /

L
invoke evil upon : curse.
The defendant's attorney expects that the angry plaintiff may imprecate her during cross-examination.

imprecatory

impreg

impregnable

adj
/ ɪm'pregnəbəl /

L > F > E
incapable of being taken by assault.
Three feet of densely packed snow enveloping Dieter's fort rendered it impregnable.

impressive

adj
/ ɒm'presiv /

L + Ecf
tending to arouse the strong interest or admiration of another.
The singer's vocal range is very impressive.

improvement

improvident

improving

improvisation

n
/ (ɪ)m'prävə'zāshən /

L > F
the act of creating an extemporaneous composition (as of music or poetry).
Joel found he had a real gift for improvisation on his saxophone.

improvisational

adj
/ ɪm'prävə'zāshən'l /

L
composed extemporaneously.
Patrick enjoys improvisational dancing but not ballroom dancing.

impudent

adj
/ ɪm'pyədənt /

L
disrespectful, insolent.
The bully stood before the principal with an impudent and haughty look in his eye.

impugnable

adj
/ ɒm'pyünəbəl /

L
capable of being called into question.
Although the senator's loyalty was never doubted, his judgment was certainly impugnable.

impugnement

impuissant

imu

inability

inaccessible

adj
/ ɪnɪk'sesəbəl /

L
not capable of being reached, entered, or approached.
Damian remodeled his store's entrance because it was inaccessible to people in wheelchairs.

inadequacy

n
/ ɪn'adəkʷəsē /

L
the state of being not fully sufficient for a specified or implied requirement.
The psychologist spoke about the feelings of failure, powerlessness, and inadequacy that overwhelm people in a society obsessed with success.

inadvertently

adv
/ ɪnəd'vɛrtəntlē /

Ecf + L + Ecf
unintentionally.
Grace inadvertently locked her keys in the trunk of her car.

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inamissible

inappetence

inaudible

inaugurate

inaugurator

n
/ ɪˈnɒɡyəˌrædʌ(r) /
L

a person who begins or brings about the beginning of something.
Geoffrey of Monmouth is credited as the inaugurator of the legends of King Arthur.

incalescent

incandesce

incantations

n pl
/ ɪn.kənˈtæʃənz /
L

uses of spells or verbal charms spoken or sung as part of ritual or magic.
The priest pronounced barely audible incantations over the sick man.

incarnadine

incavation

incentive

inched

incinerated

v
/ ɪnˈsɪnəˌreɪdəd /
L

caused to burn to ashes.
Janna incinerated her love letters in the wood stove.

incipiently

incise

incision

incisive

adj
/ ɪnˈsɪsɪv /
L
having a cutting edge or piercing point.
Mr. Cunningham's wit was as incisive as the stroke of a fang.

incisor

incite

v
/ ɪnˈsaɪt /
L
[has near homonym: insight] move to a course of action : stir up : urge on.
Patrick Henry's goal was to incite his listeners to rebel.

inclemency

inclinometer

inclusion

incogitant

incognita

n
/ ɪn.kəɡˈnɛdə /
L
[has near homonym: incognito] a woman in disguise; especially : one concealing her real quality or state under some unobtrusive appearance.
Though her employers knew her as Jane Swanson, the incognita was really a dangerous terrorist named Carmen Leblanc.

incoherently

adv
/ ɪnkəˈhɪrəntlē /
L
in a manner lacking orderly continuity or relevance.
The distraught woman explained rather incoherently that she couldn't find her three-year-old daughter.

incommensurate

adj
/ ɪnkəˈmen(t)s(ə)rət /
L
not equal in measure or extent.
Stephanie's expenditures are incommensurate with her salary, so she is looking for a higher-paying position.

incommoding

v
/ ɪnkəˈmɒdɪŋ /
L
giving inconvenience or distress to.
Mr. Elton offered to take the drawing to London, and Emma did her best to pack it as to ensure its safety without much incommoding him.

incommunicado

incompatible

adj
/ ɪnkəmˈpədəbəl /
L
incapable of harmonious combination.
Marriage would not do for Emma; it would be incompatible with what she owed to her father.

incompletable

incomplete

inconcinnity

n
/ ɪn.kənˈsɪnədə /
L
lack of suitability or congruity : awkward or unsuitable form or character.
There was an obvious inconcinnity between the lawyer's offense and the penalty imposed by the judge.

incongruent

inconsolable

adj
/ ɪnkənˈsɒləbəl /
L
incapable of being consoled : grieved beyond comfort.
A friend advised the inconsolable widow to consider going to live with her daughter for a while.

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

inconvenient

adj

/ ɪnkən'vɛnyənt /

L

giving trouble, uneasiness, or annoyance.

Rachel's mom complains that the location of the kitchen in relation to their garage is terribly inconvenient.

incorporeal

incorporeity

n

/ ɪn.kɔ(r)pə'rɛədē /

L

the quality or state of having no material body or form.

The students in the introductory physics class were puzzled by the incorporeity of the photon.

incorruptible

adj

/ ɪnkə'rəptəbəl /

L

incapable of being bribed or changed from good to bad in morals, manners, or actions.

The local police force prided itself on being incorruptible.

incrassate

incredulous

incremental

adj

/ ɪŋkrə'mentl /

L > E

of, relating to, constituting, or resulting from slight or imperceptible augmentations.

Though Nathan's day-to-day growth was incremental, he grew eight inches in a year's time.

incriminate

incroyable

incunabula

incur

incurable

adj

/ ɪn'kərəbəl /

L

[has near homonym: incurable] liable to be brought down upon oneself.

When laws are violated, penalties are incurable.

indecisively

adv

/ ɪndə'sɪsəvlē /

L + Ecf

indistinctly, vaguely.

Tim's answer was given indecisively.

indefectible

indehiscent

indelibly

index

indexically

indignant

adj

/ ɪn'dignənt /

L

filled with or marked by intense resentment.

Mrs. Calloway was indignant over the committee's decision.

indignity

n

/ ɪn'dignədē /

L

something humiliating or injurious to one's self-esteem : insult, outrage.

The prisoners were forced to suffer one indignity after another.

indirect

indirectly

indirubin

indiscreet

indispensable

indisputable

adj

/ ɪndə'spyüdəbəl /

L

that is beyond argument : unquestionable.

Geraldo considered the result of his experiment indisputable.

indistinguishable

adj

/ ɪndə'stingwɪshəbəl /

L

incapable of being perceived as being separate or different.

Mom could not be conned into believing that margarine is indistinguishable from butter.

individual

individuality

individually

indivisible

adj

/ ɪndə'vɪzəbəl /

L

not separable into parts.

Democritus postulated the existence of the atom, which he thought was the smallest indivisible unit of matter.

inducible

industry

inebriacy

inebriety

n

/ ɪnə'brɪədē /

L

drunkenness.

Arthur saw very little humor in the comedian's feigned inebriety.

inedita

ineffaceable

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

inefficient

adj
/ inə'fɪʃənt /
Ecf + L
wasteful of time or energy in performing work.
Measuring once and cutting twice is more inefficient than measuring twice and cutting once.

ineligibility

ineligible

adj
/ in'eləjəbəl /
L
not qualified to be chosen.
According to the rules, last year's champion is ineligible to compete this year.

inerrant

adj
/ in'erənt /
L
free from error or mistake.
The minister expressed staunch commitment to the inerrant authority of Scripture.

inescapable

inesculet

adj
/ in'eskyələnt /
L
not suitable for use as food especially for human beings : inedible.
Gary was sick for several days after eating an inesculet mushroom.

inessential

adj
/ inə'senchəl /
L
not necessary : dispensable.
The soldier claims that enforcement of inessential regulations is petty harassment of the weak by the strong.

inestimable

adj
/ in'estəməbəl /
L
too valuable or excellent to be measured or appreciated.
The soldier died in battle, unaware of the inestimable service he had performed for his country.

inevitability

n
/ (i)in'evədə'bɪlədē /
L
the quality or state of being incapable of being avoided or evaded.
The character rages throughout the play at the unfairness of life and the inevitability of death.

inexcusable

inexcusably

adv
/ in'ik'skyüzəblē /
L + Ecf
not justifiably, not apologetically.
Toby is inexcusably late for his violin lesson.

inexhaustible

adj
/ in'ig'zɒstəbəl /
L
incapable of being used up : unfailling.
After her visit to Third World countries, Jody realized that she lived in a land that had an inexhaustible wealth in agriculture.

inexpensiveness

infallibility

infamous

infanticide

n
/ ən'fəntəsɪd /
L
a killing of a newly or recently born child.
In ancient Rome the head of the family had the right to commit infanticide.

infantry

infatuate

infatuated

adj
/ ən'fəʃəwədəd /
L
possessed with or marked by a strong attachment or foolish or unreasoning love.
The young man, infatuated with his first love, was blind to her faults.

infer

v
/ ən'fər /
L
derive by reasoning or implication.
The reader was left to infer what Jojo's crime was.

inference

inferential

infidel

n
/ 'ɪnfədel /
L > F
an unbeliever in respect to a particular religion.
Ann's favorite painting in the museum is a 17th-century portrait entitled Conversion of the Infidel.

infiltration

infirmary

infirmity

n
/ ən'fərm(ə)rē /
L
a hospital or place where the sick are lodged for treatment.
The camp nurse confined Jason to the infirmary after he fainted.

infirmity

n
/ ən'fərmədē /
L
feebleness, frailty.
Fortunately Grandpa Edgar's infirmity of body is not accompanied by mental infirmity.

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

inflammable

adj
/ ɒn'flaməbəl /
L

capable of being easily set on fire.
Inflammable hair products carry a warning label.

inflexible

adj
/ in'fleksəbəl /
L > E

rigid.
Nature's laws are more inflexible than iron.

inflorescence

influence

influenceable

influential

infralittoral

infrared

adj
/ ˌɪnfɹə'red /
L + E
lying outside the visible spectrum at its red end.
The sun's infrared radiation is responsible for the warmth felt in direct sunlight.

infrastructure

n
/ ˌɪnfɹə'strækʃə(r) /
L
the underlying foundation or basic framework (as of an organization or a system).
Martin's economics project required him to set up a city government, complete with infrastructure.

infrigidate

infundibular

infuriated

v
/ ɒn'fyūrē.ātəd /
L
enraged, maddened.
The traffic jam infuriated those drivers with little or no patience.

ingenuity

ingots

ingravesence

ingredient

n
/ ɒn'grēdēənt /
L
something that enters into a compound or is a component part of any combination or mixture.
Grandma refuses to reveal the secret ingredient that makes her chocolate cake so delicious.

ingress

ingurgitate

v
/ ɒn'gərjə.tāt /
L
swallow, devour, or drink greedily or in large quantity.
Even if Fran's dog has recently been fed, he will ingurgitate anything that is put in front of him .

inhaust

inherent

inhospitable

adj
/ ˌɪnhə'spɪdəbəl /
L
providing no shelter or sustenance.
Deserts seem to be inhospitable to frogs, yet 23 species live in Australia's arid regions.

inhumanness

inion

n
/ ˌɪnē.än /
Gk
the external occipital protuberance of the skull.
The coroner determined that the cause of the hitchhiker's death was a blow to the inion.

inirritability

initiate

inject

injudiciously

inkblot

inlier

innate

innavigable

adj
/ i(n)'navəgəbəl /
L
not deep enough or wide enough to afford passage to ships.
Since the dam was built, the Green River has been innavigable.

innocuously

innnoxious

innuendo

inoculum

v
/ ɒ'näkyələm /
L
material (as spores, bacteria, or contaminated fluids) used or suitable for use as an immunity-inducing agent.
Dr. Srinivasan administered the diphtheria inoculum quickly and placed a small bandage over the spot.

inordinate

adj
/ ɒ'nó(r)dənət /
L
exceeding in amount, quantity, force, intensity, or scope the ordinary, reasonable, or prescribed limits.
Andrew thought Amanda was taking an inordinate amount of time getting ready for her date.

inosculate

v
/ ɒn'äskyələt /
L
unite or join so as to become or make as if one : blend.
Through surgery Dr. Manning will inosculate the torn tissues.

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

insatiate

adj
/ in'sāsh(ē)ət /
L

not satisfied.

The pirates were fierce fighters, hardy seamen, and insatiate plunderers.

inscription

inseam

insecticolous

insectival

insectivorous

adj
/ in.sek'tiv(ə)rəs /
L + Ecff
feeding on insects : depending on insects as food.
Some birds and spiders are insectivorous.

inselberg

n
/ 'in(t)səl.bərg /
G
an isolated mountain partly buried by the debris derived from and overlapping its slopes.
The bare, rounded inselberg of rock stands like an island in a sea of vegetation.

insensate

adj
/ in'sen.sāt /
L
unfeeling : cruel, harsh.
Brian despised and protested the insensate strategy of the war.

insensitive

adj
/ in'sen(t)sədɪv /
L > F > E
lacking feeling.
Only a thoroughly insensitive person would not respond to a child's cry for help.

inseparably

adv
/ in'sepərəblē /
L
in a manner so as not to be separated or disjoined.
The city of Las Vegas is inseparably associated with gambling.

insignificant

adj
/ in.sig'nifəkənt /
L
of little size or importance.
Marcella told her brother not to let an insignificant quarrel with his best friend spoil the friendship.

insincerity

n
/ in.sən'serədē /
L
the quality or state in which one is not what one appears to be or does not express what one appears to express.
George's apology oozed with insincerity.

insinuator

insinuating

insistence

insolation
n
/ in(t)(.)sō'lāshən /
L
[has near homonym: insulation]
solar radiation that has been received (as by Earth).
Insolation can cause a lake's temperature to rise by several degrees in a matter of hours.

insoluble

inspection

inspector

inspissate

installation

instantaneity

instantly

instep

instigator

n
/ 'inz.tə.gādə(r) /
L
one that provokes or incites.
The substitute teacher named Verne as the instigator of the disruption.

instinct

instinctively

adv
/ inz'tɪŋ(k)təvle /
L + Ecff
in a manner determined by natural impulse or propensity.
Instinctively Josey knew that he had taken a wrong turn at the corner.

institute

instructed

instructible

instrument

insufferable

insufflator

insular

insulate

v
/ 'in(t)sə.lāt /
L
separate or shield from conducting bodies by means of nonconductors so as to prevent transfer of electricity, heat, or sound.
The material used to insulate the music department's practice rooms was ineffective.

insuperable

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

insuppressible

adj

/ ɪnsəˈpresəbəl /

L > Ecf + L + L > Ecf

impossible to put down or out of existence.

The crowd's anger proved insuppressible, and the police had to be called.

insurgency

n

/ ɪnˈsərjənsē /

L + Ecf

a condition of revolt against a recognized government that does not reach the proportions of an organized revolutionary government and is not recognized as belligerency.

Installation of a puppet government resulted in widespread insurgency.

insurgents

n pl

/ ɪnˈsərjən(t)s /

L

[has homonym: insurgence]

persons who rise in revolt against civil authority or an established government.

To strengthen, perpetuate, and extend slavery was the object for which the insurgents would rend the Union even by war.

integer

integral

adj

/ ˈɪntəgrəl /

L

of, relating to, or serving to form a whole.

Political and economic independence are integral to one another.

integrand

integrity

intellectualism

intellectualize

v

/ ɪntˈlɛkchə(wə)līz /

L + Ecf

give rational form or content to.

Sometimes Marie tries so hard to intellectualize her problems that she loses track of what she really feels.

intelligentsia

intemperance

intenerate

v

/ ɪnˈtenəˌrāt /

L

make sympathetic or sensitive : soften.

The captive's pleas served to intenerate the victor's heart.

intense

adj

/ ɪnˈten(t)s /

L

existing in a strained or extreme degree.

Mr. Siberell's slight twitch was a sign of intense anxiety.

intensification

intensively

adv

/ ɪnˈten(t)səvlē /

L

zealously, eagerly.

This summer Jeremy is studying intensively for the Utah bar exam.

intercut

interested

interferant

interfere

interference

n

/ ɪntə(r)ˈfɪrən(t)s /

L

the act of meddling in or hampering an activity or process.

Rachel's contribution to the group project turned out to be interference, not help.

interfering

v

/ ɪntə(r)ˈfɪ(ə)rɪŋ /

L + Ecf

entering into or taking a part in the concerns of others.

Gladden thought his older brother was interfering in his decision to attend Ohio University.

interferon

interfluve

intergalactic

interim

interject

v

/ ɪntə(r)ˈjekt /

L

interpose, interpolate.

Jared tried without success to interject a comment at the meeting.

interlace

v

/ ɪntə(r)ˈlās /

F > E

unite by or as if by weaving or twining together.

The counselor showed the campers how to interlace leather cords to make a lanyard.

interloper

intermediate

intermission

n

/ ɪntə(r)ˈmɪʃən /

L

a planned interruption in a program.

During the intermission the lobby was filled with patrons discussing the first act.

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

internecion

n
/ ɪntər'neshən /

L
[Note: Could be confused with
internecine.] mutual destruction :
massacre.

*The Civil War Battle of Antietam is
the bloodiest single-day battle in
American history, an internecion
that claimed more than 23,000
lives.*

interosseous

adj
/ ɪntə(r)'æsēəs /

L
situated between bones; especially :
lying between the bones of the leg
or forearm.

*When Kate fell, she damaged the
interosseous membrane of her right
forearm.*

interpretant

interpretation

interrogate

v
/ ɪn'terəgāt /

L
question typically with formality,
command, and thoroughness for
full information and circumstantial
detail.

*Ms. Chapin called Darina to the
office to interrogate her about the
missing bicycle.*

interstices

interstitial

intertrigo

n
/ ɪntə(r)'tri(,)gō /

L
inflammation produced by chafing
of adjacent areas of skin.

*The shirtless runner developed
intertrigo along his sides from
pumping his arms while running.*

interval

interveinal

interwrought

intestate

intimidated

v
/ ɪn'timədādəd /

L
made timid or fearful : frightened.
*Jerry's dog is intimidated by loud
noises and hides under the bed
during thunderstorms.*

intimidator

intolerant

intonaco

intonation

n
/ ɪntə'nāshən /

L
a pitch phenomenon in speech that
makes a syntactical or emotional
distinction.

*Molly judged from Luke's
intonation that he was more
disappointed than he would admit.*

intrados

n
/ 'intrədäs /

L + F
the interior curve of an arch.
*Maryanne believed that the arched
doorway of her new home needed
some decoration, so she stenciled
the intrados.*

intramontane

intraneous

intravasation

intricacy

intriguingly

introspect

v
/ 'intrəspekt /

L
look within (as one's own mind).
*Bokeem likes to sit on the edge of
the pond in his aunt's backyard and
introspect.*

introuvable

intrude

intruder

intuition

intuitive

intussusception

inunction

inunctum

invadable

invariably

adv
/ ɪn'verēəblē /

L > F
without exception or change :
always, consistently.
*He invariably leaped before he
looked and never cared where he
was going as long as he knew why
he shouldn't have gone to where
he'd been.*

invasion

invention

inverness

inversion

n
/ ɪn'vərzən /

L
a reversal of normal atmospheric
temperature gradient : increase of
temperature of the air with
increasing altitude.
*Rapid cooling of Earth's surface
causes an inversion wherein the
lower levels of air are colder than
the higher levels.*

invertibrate

n
/ ɪn'verdəbrāt /

L
an animal having no backbone or
internal skeleton.
*Carla's example of an invertibrate
was the jellyfish that she found on
the beach last summer.*

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

inverted

adj
/ ɪn'vɜrdəd /
L

turned upside down or inside out.
The blood rushed to his head as he zoomed across the field in inverted flight.

investiture

n
/ ɪn'vestə.chù(ə)r /
L

the ceremonial conferral of symbols of office or honor.
The new archbishop arrived at his investiture with a letter of appointment from the pope, then donned his miter and offered a homily.

invigorating

inviscate

v
/ ɪn'vi.skāt /
L

encase in a sticky substance : make viscid.
When Lauren learned that some hunters smear birdlime on branches to inviscate birds, she became enraged.

invisible

adj
/ ɪn'vizəbəl /
L

of such small size as to be hardly noticeable.
Isaiah felt invisible sitting in the back of the lecture hall.

invite

involute

n
/ 'ɪnvəl.ükə(r) /
L

a rosette of bracts surrounding a composite flower head.
The florist pointed out the involucre around the daisy's flower head.

involuntary

involute

adj
/ 'ɪnvəl.lüt /
L

curled spirally.
Seashells are generally either involute or orbicular.

involve

iodopsin

n
/ ɪə'däpsən /
Gk

a photosensitive violet pigment in the retinal cones of most animals that is important in daylight vision.
The cone cells in the human eye contain three types of iodopsin that respond to red, blue, and green.

iridaceous

adj
/ ɪrə'dāshəs /
Gk > L
resembling an iris.
The showy iridaceous flowers were the hit of the exhibit.

iridesce

v
/ ɪrə'des /
Gk
show colors like those of the rainbow especially in shifting patterns of hues and shades that vary with a change of light or point of view.
Fini sat on the dock watching the gasoline spill iridesce on the water.

iridescence

iridescently

iridium

iridize

v
/ 'ɪrədiz /
L + Ecf
make to show colors like those of the rainbow.
Mohandas proceeded to iridize the polished metal surface by applying heat to it.

irksome

adj
/ 'ærksəm /
E
causing annoyance or vexation : irritating.
Gary found the speaker's nasal voice irksome.

iroko

n
/ ɪ'rō(,)kō /
Yoruba
a very large timber tree of tropical western Africa with strong durable streaky lustrous brown wood that is extremely resistant to termite attack and often used as a substitute for teak.
Logs of iroko were shipped to Mystic Seaport from Ghana for the building of the Amistad replica.

ironclad

ironically

ironworker

irony

irrebuttable

adj
/ ɪrə'bədəbəl /
Ecf + F > F + Ecf
impossible to refute or contradict.
The researchers were convinced that their findings were irrebuttable.

irrefutable

irremeable

irremediable

irremovable

irreproachable

adj
/ ɪrə'prəchəbəl /
L + F > E
blameless, faultless, impeccable.
The Seeing Eye dog's behavior during the airplane flight was irreproachable.

irreption

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

irresponsible

irretrievable

adj

/ ɪrəˈtriːvəbəl /

Ecf + F > E + Ecf

impossible to recoup, repair, or overcome.

By not going to college when he had the opportunity, Jack suffered an irretrievable loss.

irreverent

adj

/ ɪˈrev(ə)rent /

L

not proceeding from or expressing honor or respect.

Mother considers it irreverent to leave church before the service is over.

irrision

n

/ ɪˈrɪzhən /

L

a laughing at a person or thing.

When Mrs. Scott's hat blew off, the class broke out in irrision.

irritable

adj

/ ɪˈrɪdəbəl /

L

likely to become impatient, angry, or disturbed.

Caleb is especially irritable when he is tired.

irritator

n

/ ɪˈrɪ.təˈdɪə(r) /

L

one that aggravates or incites displeasure.

Calvin is the class irritator and likes to make the teacher shout at him.

isarithm

n

/ ɪˈsə.rɪθm /

Gk

[has homonym: isorhythm] a line drawn on a chart or map to connect points having equal numerical values (as of temperature, elevation, or density of population).
Noelle traced the elevation isarithm from the topographical map onto her hiking map.

iscariotic

ischium

isentropic

adj

/ ɪsˈnˈtrəpɪk /

Gk

taking place without change of the amount of energy in a system not available for doing work.

If steam could be expanded in a turbine with no friction or other losses, expansion would be isentropic.

island

islay

isobar

n

/ ɪˈsɒbär /

Gk > ISV

an imaginary line on a map connecting places on the surface of Earth with equal barometric pressure.

Ned noted that the weather map's isobar passed directly through his hometown.

isochronal

adj

/ ɪˈsäkrənəl /

Gk

uniform in time : recurring at regular intervals.

Even early humans realized that sunrise was isochronal and not randomly recurring.

isochronous

isocracy

isogenous

isogloss

n

/ ɪˈsɒ.gläs /

Gk

a boundary line between places or regions that differ in a particular linguistic feature.

The shape of the isogloss confirmed Matilda's theory about regional dialects.

isolate

isolation

isolationist

adj

/ ɪsəˈlāsh(ə)nəst /

L > It > F + Ecff

of, characterized by, or favoring a policy directed towards keeping a nation apart from other nations by a deliberate abstention from alliances and other international and economic relations.

Isolationist sentiment has often been strong in the United States.

isometric

isometrics

n pl

/ ɪsəˈmetrɪks /

Gk + Gk

exercise or a system of exercises involving contraction of the muscles against resistance.

On January first, Maggie began an ambitious program of isometrics.

isonomy

isothermal

Israelite

n

/ ɪzrēəl.ɪt /

Heb > Gk

a member of one of the ten Hebrew tribes anciently inhabiting the northern part of Palestine.

On his trip through the valley Jacob met an Israelite tending a small flock of sheep.

issuance

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

issue	jacopever	jejunum
italicize	jacqueminot	jellify
ivied adj / 'ivēd / E covered with ivy. <i>The ivied ruins attested to the magnificence of the original cathedral.</i>	jaded	jeopardous
iwan	jagged	jersey
jabber	jailbird	jessamine
jackboot n / 'jak.büt / nickname + E a laceless military boot reaching to the calf. <i>The jackboot has come to symbolize cruel military oppression.</i>	jangling v / 'jɑŋɡliŋ / Gmc > F > E sounding harshly or discordantly. <i>Though Hector's alarm clock was jangling, he remained fast asleep.</i>	jessamy
jackdaw	japonaiserie n / zhɑ.pònez(ə)'rē / F a style of art reflecting Japanese qualities or motifs. <i>The restaurant's ambience was enhanced by the use of japonaiserie.</i>	jetbead
jackhammer	jarana n / hə'rænə / Sp a couple dance of Yucatan that is performed with waltz and zapateado steps. <i>In Cancun one still sees couples dancing the jarana.</i>	jettisonable
jackrabbit	jasm	jetty
jackroller	jasminewood	jewel
Jacksonian adj / jak'sɒnʃən / American name of or relating to Andrew Jackson, his views or policies, or his era. <i>The politician preached his brand of Jacksonian politics in all the town squares through which he passed.</i>	jazz	jewels n pl / 'jüəlz / F > E ornaments of precious metal often set with gems. <i>"The last rays of sun were falling through a glade of the wood and were shining bright as jewels on the flowery mantle of the wreck," Sam read aloud.</i>
Jacobin n / 'jakəbən / L member of an extremist political group advocating equalitarian democracy and famous for its terrorist policies during the French Revolution of 1789. <i>The Bostonian Federalists grew up under the impression that a Jacobin was a repulsive creature.</i>	jealous	jimmies n pl / 'jimēz / unknown tiny rod-shaped bits of variously flavored candy often sprinkled on ice cream and pastry. <i>Carol order vanilla ice cream with chocolate jimmies.</i>
	jeans	jingle
	jejunely adv / jə'jünlē / L in an immature or juvenile manner. <i>Although the colors of the painting were unusual and bold, Sam guessed that the brushstrokes had been executed jejunely.</i>	jingly
		jingoish adj / 'jiŋ(,)gōish / proper name? + Ec marked by arrogant nationalism. <i>Senator Clark's jingoish foreign policy recommendations were roundly denounced by his colleagues.</i>
		jitney
		jockey

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

jodhpurs	joyfully adv / 'jɔɪf(ə)lē / E in a happy or jubilant manner. <i>At the age of six Malachy joyfully began school.</i>	juror
jogger		jury
join		justified
jollity		justify
jordanon n / 'jɔ(ɹ)dʰn.ən / F name + Gkcf a small usually localized population slightly but effectively differentiated from related forms. <i>The Himalayan blackberry plant is a very aggressive jordanon that can spread over a radius of 10 feet in a year.</i>	joyous adj / 'jɔɪəs / L > F > E + Ecf happy, joyful. <i>Jeremy was utterly joyous as he revealed his latest work of art.</i>	jut
joropo		jute
orum		kale
jounce		Kallikak n / 'kaləkək / Gk > US literary name a stupid person. <i>Andrea's brother teased her by calling her a Kallikak.</i>
journalese n / 'jɜrnəl'ēz / L > F > E + L > Pg&It a style of writing held to be characteristic of newspapers. <i>The word transpired is considered journalese because it rarely occurs outside of newspapers.</i>	judge v / 'jɛj / L > F > E form an authoritative opinion about. <i>An experienced editor can judge the quality of a manuscript from a few sample pages.</i>	kalon
journalist		kamelaukion n / 'kämə'laük.yɔn / Gk a tall brimless hat worn by priests and monks in some Eastern rites. <i>When Kathy visited Crete, a bearded priest in a tall black kamelaukion asked her if she was from Chicago.</i>
jovially adv / 'jɔvēəlē / L in a jolly, good-humored manner. <i>Mr. Edwards jovially donned the Santa Claus suit and took a seat near the children.</i>	judgmental	kamik n / 'kämik / Esk [has homonym: comic] an Eskimo sealskin boot. <i>Among Alaskan natives, the homemade kamik is still the most common footwear.</i>
Jovian adj / 'jɔvēən / L relating to the planet Jupiter. <i>The Jovian magnetic field is much stronger than Earth's.</i>	judicature	kanji n / 'kän(ɹ)jē / Jpn a Japanese system of writing based on the Chinese one and composed principally of characters borrowed or adapted from Chinese. <i>Evan was awarded the university linguistics prize for his paper on the history of kanji.</i>
jowly	juggins	
	jughead	
	juicily	
	julep	
	junco	
	Jungian adj / 'yŋgēən / Swiss name of, relating to, or having the characteristics of the psychological doctrines of Carl G. Jung. <i>Becky showed how the novel Mists of Avalon made extensive use of Jungian archetypes.</i>	
	juration	
	juratory	
	jurimetrics	

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

Kantian

adj

/ 'kantēən /

G name

of or relating to the German philosopher Immanuel Kant.

Professor Smith's lectures betrayed a strong bias toward Kantian metaphysics.

kaolinic

kaolinize

karma

n

/ 'kärmə /

Skt

in Hinduism and Buddhism, the sum total of the ethical consequences of a person's good or bad actions comprising thoughts, words, and deeds.

In Buddhism, harming another being is believed to contribute to bad karma.

karyogamy

karyology

karyotin

karyotype

n

/ 'karēətip /

Gk + Gk

the sum of the specific characteristics of a cell nucleus including chromosome number, form, size, and points of spindle-fiber attachment.

Most male children are of the 46-XY karyotype, which means they have 46 chromosomes including one XY pair.

kathak

n

/ kə'tāk /

Skt > Beng

an intricate dance of northern India that includes passages of narrative pantomime.

The kathak Simon saw in Delhi told the story of an emperor disguised as a poor beggar.

kathakali

n

/ ,kādə'kälē /

Skt > Malayalan

a spectacular lyric dance drama of southern India performed with acrobatic energy and highly stylized pantomime.

The dancers in the kathakali had painted faces and stylized costumes and headwear.

Katmandu

adj

/ ,kat.man'dü /

Nepalese geog name

of or from Katmandu, the capital of Nepal.

Marisa has a Katmandu prayer rug hanging on her wall.

Keatsian

adj

/ 'kētsēən /

E name

of, relating to, or characteristic of the English poet John Keats.

Mr. Gardner criticized the poet's excessive use of Keatsian allusions.

keelage

keenly

adv

/ 'kēnlē /

E

in a manner characterized by intense interest.

The cat watched keenly as the nuthatches came and went from the birdfeeder.

keenness

keitloa

n

/ 'kītłəwə /

Sechuana

a black rhinoceros that has a posterior horn and which has been considered to constitute a distinct species.

While on safari, Roger and Sandy saw a rare keitloa.

kelpfish

Kelvin

adj

/ 'kelvən /

E name

relating to, conforming to, or having a thermometric scale on which the unit of measurement equals the Celsius degree and according to which absolute zero is 0 degrees Kelvin.

The Kelvin scale has been adopted as the international standard for scientific temperature measurement.

kemancha

n

/ kə'mänchə /

Per > Ar

an Arabian violin that has usually a single string and a gourd resonator and is held vertically when played.

When his mother was transferred to the Middle East for her job, Michael took up the kemancha.

kench

kentledge

kerchoo

kernelly

adj

/ 'kərnəlē /

E

[has near homonym: carnally]
having or containing whole grains or seeds.

Jeffrey is quite fond of a certain kind of kernelly bread.

ketone

n

/ 'kē.tōn /

G

any of a class of organic compounds (as acetone) that are characterized by a carbonyl group attached to two carbon atoms.

Certain diseases in humans are marked by the presence of excessive amounts of ketone in the circulatory system.

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

kettle

n
/ 'kɛdəl /
ON > E
a cooking utensil with a bail handle.
A soup kettle hung from a hook in the castle kitchen's enormous fireplace.

kewpie

keyhole

n
/ 'kɛ.həl /
E + E
a hole or aperture for receiving a key.
In the dark, Demmie could not find the keyhole.

Keynesian

adj
/ 'kānzēən /
E name
of or relating to the advocacy of monetary and fiscal programs by government to increase employment.
Professor Rabin is a proponent of Keynesian economics.

keystone

khatun

khedive

kibbutz

n
/ ki'bùts /
Heb
a collective farm or settlement in Israel.
Meredith's pen pal lives on a kibbutz.

kibbutznik

kibe

kick

v
/ 'kik /
E
give impetus to something with a usually fast blow with the foot, generally with the intention of scoring or gaining ground.
Julio could kick the football 75 yards but was uninterested in trying out for the team.

kicksorter

kidney

n
/ 'kidnē /
E
one of a pair of vertebrate organs situated in the body cavity near the spinal cavity that serve to excrete waste products.
In an effort to save his daughter's life, the prisoner sued the state to be allowed to give her his only kidney.

kidskin

kiekie

kier

kilderkin

n
/ 'kildə(r)kən /
(L + D) > E
a cask about half the size of a common barrel and sometimes smaller.
By a 16th-century English statute a kilderkin for beer had to contain 18 gallons; one for ale, 16 gallons.

killarney

n
/ kə'lärnē /
Ir geog name
a moderate yellowish green to green that is stronger than Gretna green.
Seamus said that all the fuss about the difference between killarney and Gretna green was nonsense.

killcrop

killjoy

kiloliter

kilometer

n
/ kə'lāmədə(r) /
Gk > F
a metric unit of length equal to 1,000 meters.
Bob knew he was out of shape when he couldn't run a kilometer without gasping for air.

kilowatts

Kilroy

n
/ 'kil.ròi /
Amer name
an inveterate traveler.
Most of Lyra's postcard collection comes from her uncle Thor, who is quite a Kilroy.

kindhearted

kindred

kingfisher

kinless

kinship

kinsman

kipper

kirimon

kirsch

kirtle

n
/ 'kərdəl /
E
[has homonyms: curdle, curtal] a garment resembling a tunic or coat usually reaching to the knees and worn by men often as the principal body garment until the 16th century.
Ethelred's kirtle snagged as he mounted his steed.

kiteflying

kitten

klavern

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

kleptomania

klezmerim

klipspringer

n
/ 'klip.sprɪŋə(r) /
Afrikaans
a small agile African antelope inhabiting mountainous regions.
Because of its specially adapted hooves, the klipspringer can traverse the mountain crags.

klister

n
/ 'klistə(r) /
G > Norw
[has homonym: clyster] a soft wax used on skis especially for corn snow or crust.
Wary of the spring skiing conditions, Maria applied some klister to her skis.

klompen

klutz

klystron

knack

knavish

kneeboard

knell

knelt

knickknack

knife

knifelike

adj
/ 'nɪf.lɪk /
ON? > E + E
resembling an instrument with a sharp edge.
The tops of the trees created a knifelike silhouette on the horizon.

knitwear

knot

n
/ 'nät /
E
[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word. In addition, word has homonyms: naught, not.] 1 nautical mile per hour—used as a unit of measurement in expressing the rate of speed of airplanes and seagoing ships.
Lester had trouble explaining the difference between a ship moving at 1 knot and a car moving at 1 mile per hour.

knothole

knottiness

known

knucklesome

kobold

koftgari

n
/ 'kɒftgə(,)rē /
Per > Hindi
Indian damascene work in which steel is inlaid with gold.
While on vacation in India, Tyler saw many types of koftgari for sale.

koinonia

n
/ .kɔɪnə'nēə /
Gk
intimate spiritual communion and participative sharing in a common religious commitment and spiritual community.
Karl's book details how koinonia developed among the 12 apostles.

komatik

koshare

n
/ kɒ'sha(a)(ə)r /
Keres
a Pueblo Indian clown society whose members imitate ancestral spirits in ceremonies invoking rain.
While visiting a Pueblo Indian historical site Alan learned about the tribe's different societies, including the koshare.

koto

kouros

kraft

kraken

n
/ 'krækən /
Norw
a fabulous Scandinavian sea monster perhaps imagined on the basis of chance sightings of giant squids.
Granddad has an engraving that depicts a kraken in a fjord.

krakowiak

n
/ krə'kɒvɛ.ɪ.ək /
Pol
a Polish group folk dance that combines elements of the ancient round, the more recent square, and the modern polka.
The krakowiak is a lively dance named for the area of Poland where it originated.

krill

n
/ 'krɪl /
Norw
[has near homonym: creel]
planktonic crustaceans and larvae that constitute the principal food of whalebone whales.
Researchers are studying ways to process protein-rich krill into human food.

krone

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

kugel

n
/ 'kügəl /
G > Yiddish
a baked pudding (as of potatoes, noodles, bread, or cabbage) served as a side dish or dessert.
Natalie often makes a noodle kugel to accompany a roast chicken.

kulak

n
/ kü'lak /
Turkish > Russ
a prosperous or wealthy peasant farmer in 19th-century Russia.
The kulak was a member of the middle class in pre-revolutionary Russia.

kundalini

n
/ .künd'l'ēnē /
Skt
the yogic life-force that is held to lie at the base of the spine until it is sent to the head to trigger enlightenment.
The ultimate goal of a yogi is to awaken the kundalini.

kuru

n
/ 'kü(.)rü /
Fore
a rare progressive fatal disease of the brain that is caused by a slow virus and occurs among tribespeople in eastern New Guinea.
People who have kuru have symptoms similar to those of Alzheimer's disease.

kvetch

kyoodle

v
/ kī'(y)üd'l /
imit
make loud useless noises : holler, yap.
Rover began to kyoodle from the backyard whenever the letter carrier approached the house.

labile

adj
/ 'lābəl /
L
[has homonym: label] readily or continually undergoing chemical or physical or biological change or breakdown.
The problem at the end of the chapter was to explain how a substance can be thermodynamically stable but still labile.

labiovelar

laborer

laburnum

n
/ lə'bərnəm /
L
any plant of a small genus of poisonous shrubs and trees having pendulous racemes of bright yellow flowers.
The laburnum, also known as "golden rain," is often cultivated for Easter decoration.

lacertilian

adj
/ .lasə(r)'tīlēən /
L
of or relating to a lizard.
The zoo's exhibit included serpentine and lacertilian reptiles.

lacery

lacework

laches

lackluster

laconism

lacquer

lacquering

lactoprene

lacustrine

ladybug

lagging

laguna

n
/ lə'günə /
L > Sp
[Note: The pronunciation of this word is close to that of lagoon, which can also be spelled l-a-g-u-n-e.] lagoon, lake, pond.
Water at the bottom of a tropical laguna is almost always foul.

laicize

lakefront

lalopathy

lamentations

n pl
/ .lamən'tāshənz /
L
vocal expressions of sorrow : complaints.
The chorus in the Greek tragedy uttered wild lamentations for the fallen hero.

lamina

laminectomy

lampistry

n
/ 'lampəstrē /
Gk > L > F
the work of a maker or tender of light-giving devices.
Tonia recently completed an apprenticeship in lampistry.

lance

n
/ 'lan(t)s /
L > F > E
a weapon consisting of a long shaft with a sharp steel head.
The joustler settled the lance firmly under his arm and charged at the target.

landlubber

landowner

landwehr

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

langley

n
/ 'lɑŋl̩ /
Am name
a unit of solar radiation equivalent to 1 gram calorie per square centimeter of irradiated surface.
Like many other measurement terms, the langley was named after a prominent scientist.

languidly

languish

v
/ 'lɑŋwɪʃ /
L > F
lose strength or animation : lose force or vividness : fade.
Watching her plants languish in the drought was difficult for the gardener.

lank

adj
/ 'lɑŋk /
E
slender and thin.
Abe Lincoln was tall and exceedingly lank with long arms and legs.

lansquenet

n
/ .lɑn(t)skə'net /
G > F
a card game similar to faro played in central Europe since the 15th century or before.
Unknown to the duke, the duchess was in deep debt from long nights spent playing lansquenet.

lanthanum

laparoscopy

n
/ .lɑpə'ræskəp̩ /
Gk + Gk
visual examination of the interior of the abdomen by using a long slender optical instrument inserted through the abdominal wall.
Modern-day surgeons are well trained in the techniques of laparoscopy.

laparotomy

n
/ .lɑpə'rædəm̩ /
Gk + Gk
surgical cutting of the abdominal wall.
Kevin's appendix was removed via a laparotomy.

lapidarian

adj
/ .lɑpə'da(a)r̩ēən /
L + E
of, relating to, or inscribed on stone.
Janice enjoyed reading the lapidarian epitaphs in the old cemetery.

lapidicolous

adj
/ .lɑpə'dɪkələs /
L + L
living under a stone—used especially of an insect.
As Jake overturned the large stone, he saw hundreds of lapidicolous beetles scurrying about.

lapse

lapwing

n
/ 'lɑ.pwɪŋ /
E
an abundant crested plover that is noted for its slow irregular flapping flight and its shrill wailing cry.
Some species of lapwing have wing spurs for use in fighting.

largamente

larghissimo

adv
/ lār'gēsə.m̩ /
L > It
in as slow a manner as possible—used as a direction in music.
During the dream scene the orchestra was told to play larghissimo.

larkspur

larnax

n
/ 'lār.naks /
Gk
a chest usually of terra cotta and often ornamented that was used in ancient Greece especially as a sepulchral chest.
Francis saw a larnax in Greece that was said to contain the remains of a general in Alexander the Great's army.

larvarium

lase

v
/ 'lāz /
E back-formation
emit coherent light.
When excited by an electric current, the rube crystal began to lase.

lasque

latch

latchet

n
/ 'lachət /
L > F > E
a narrow strap especially of leather by which a shoe or sandal is fastened upon the foot.
Nora used a nylon shoelace to replace her sandal's leather latchet.

latent

laterite

latifundia

latke

n
/ 'lät̩kə /
Gk > Russ > Yiddish
griddle cake; especially : one made from grated raw potato.
Mary preferred her latke without onion.

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

latterly

adv

/ 'ladə(r)lē /

E + EcF

coming after something else : later.

Margo was a fishing guide for a while and latterly a mechanic.

latticed

adj

/ 'ladəst /

Gmc? > F > E

furnished with a framework made by crossing laths or other thin strips so as to form a network.

Cyrus fashioned a latticed roof for his tree house.

latticework

latticinio

lauan

n

/ lə'wän /

Tag

any of various Philippine timbers that are moderately close-grained and rather stringy and of moderate strength and durability.

The contractor told Mrs. Zemeckis that hollow-core doors with a veneer of lauan were the most economical choice for her new home.

laudanum

laugh

laundry

laureate

laureateship

n

/ 'lôrēət.ship /

L + E

the office of poet laureate.

In Britain, the poet laureateship is awarded by the sovereign on the recommendation of the prime minister.

lavabo

n

/ lə'vä(ɪ)bō /

L

a washbasin and a tank with a spigot that are both fastened to a wall.

Alessandra purchased an antique lavabo shaped like a lion's head and installed it in her garden.

lavish

lavishly

lawyer

laziness

lazuline

leaflet

leakage

lean

leapfrog

n

/ 'lēpfrog /

E + E

a game in which one player bends down on all fours and another places his hands on the first player's shoulders or back and leaps over him.

Only children under the age of 13 were allowed to enter the leapfrog races.

learnable

leash

n

/ 'lēsh /

F > E

[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word.] a set of three animals (as greyhounds, foxes, bucks, or hares).

A leash of borzois was on the trail of a wolf.

lebbek

lebensraum

leberwurst

lecture

lecturer

ledge

ledger

leech

leewardly

adj

/ 'lüə(r)dle /

E + E + EcF

tending to fall off away from the wind.

She was such a leewardly vessel that the captain was more than once forced to anchor on a lee shore.

lefse

legal

legalese

legatee

legato

adv

/ lə'gä(ɪ)tō /

L > It

in a manner that is smooth and connected between successive tones.

The opposite of legato in musical direction is staccato.

legendary

leggings

legionary

legitimately

adv

/ lə'jɪdəmətlē /

L

according to law or rules.

Mabel legitimately owned the automobile, even though she couldn't locate her title or registration.

legroom

lekvar

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

lemma

lengthwise

adv

/ 'leŋ(k)th.wīz /

E + E

in the direction of the length.

The subway passenger opened his paper and expertly folded it lengthwise.

lepidote

adj

/ 'lepə.dōt /

Gk

covered with flakes or scurfy scales.

Lepidote rhododendrons have tiny scales on the undersides of their leaves.

leporid

lepper

leprechaun

leprosarium

lerot

lesions

letterhead

leucocholy

leukergy

lever

levitate

lexical

lexigraphy

liar

libation

liberal

libertarian

n

/ .libə(r)'terēən /

L > F > E + Ecff

one who upholds the principles of individual freedom of thought and action.

A libertarian would cut down constitutional authority to the smallest proportions, while an authoritarian leaves but little scope for private judgment.

liberty

libration

n

/ lī'brāshən /

L

an oscillation in the apparent aspect of a secondary body (as a planet or a satellite) as seen from the primary object around which it revolves.

The latitudinal libration of the Moon occurs because its axis is tilted slightly.

libri

n pl

/ 'lī.brī /

L

books of records (as of deeds or wills).

Working among the old, dusty libri all day gave Curtis a sinus headache.

licentious

licitation

lido

lieblich

lierre

lifeguard

lifemanship

ligation

lightfastness

n

/ 'lit.fastnəs /

E + E + Ecff

resistance to fading or change of color by light.

Oleanna was satisfied with the lightfastness of the dyes.

lighthouse

n

/ 'lit.haüs /

E + E

a tower or other building equipped to guide navigators by means of a powerful light.

The damage done to the lighthouse was repaired as soon as possible after the storm.

lighttight

adj

/ 'lit.tīt /

E + Scand > E

impenetrable by light.

Brother Stephen made sure that the room was lighttight.

lignite

likelihood

likely

likewise

lilies

lilt

limacine

limbless

limbo

n

/ 'lim.bō /

L > E

a West Indian acrobatic dance that involves bending over backward and passing under a horizontal pole which is lowered slightly for each successive pass.

The limbo is often enjoyed at informal backyard parties.

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

limeade

n
/ 'li.mād /
Ar > F > E
a drink made with lime juice, sugar, and water.
Gertrude served chilled limeade and sugar cookies.

limelight

n
/ 'lim.lit /
E + E
the white light produced by a stage lighting instrument in which an oxyhydrogen flame is directed on a cylinder of lime.
The limelight followed the actor as he paced back and forth across the stage.

limen

limequat

limicolous

limited

limned

Limoges

n
/ lē'mōzh /
F geog name
a superior variety of china.
On Thanksgiving Mother set the table with Limoges.

linden

lineage

n
/ 'linēij /
F > E
a group of persons (as a family or clan) tracing descent from a common ancestor who is regarded as its founder.
Marcel can trace his lineage to two passengers on the Mayflower.

lineaments

n pl
/ 'linēāmənts /
L
[has near homonym: liniments] the distinguishing or characteristic features of something immaterial.
Frieda decided to entitle her thesis "The Lineaments of Democracy."

linearity

n
/ .linē'arədē /
L + Ecf
the quality or state of involving measurement in one dimension only.
When he graphed the data, Gus was pleased with the linearity.

lineolate

lingual

linguipotence

linguistics

n pl
/ liŋ'gwistiks /
L
the study of human speech in its various aspects (as the structure of a language including such factors as phonetics, accent, syntax, semantics, grammar, and the relation between writing and speech).
The professor of linguistics spent more time in class on word formation than he had originally allocated.

linkage

linnet

linsang

n
/ 'lin.səŋ /
Malay
either of two nocturnal chiefly forest-dwelling Asian mammals that are related to the mongooses, civets, and genets.
The linsang has a yellowish coat with dark spots in one species and dark bands in another species.

lintel

n
/ 'lintl /
L > F > E
a horizontal architectural member spanning and usually carrying the load above an opening.
The lintel over the front door of the sea captain's house was decorated with a carving of a pineapple.

lioness

lionized

v
/ 'liō.nīzd /
Gk > L > F > E + Ecf
treated or regarded as a celebrity or object of interest.
The Olympic gold medalist was lionized by her proud hometown.

lipogenous

adj
/ lə'pājənəs /
Gk
producing or tending to produce fat.
The veterinarian advised Beth to feed Fluffy a less lipogenous diet.

lipogram

n
/ 'lipə.gram /
Gk
a writing composed of words not having a certain letter.
Samantha used the search function of her word processing program to ensure that her lipogram was accurately constructed.

lipogrammatism

n
/ .lipə'gram.ə.tizəm /
Gk
the practice of writing something composed of words not having a certain letter.
As an exercise in lipogrammatism, the writer wrote a novel without once using a word with an e in it.

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

lipolytic

adj

/ˌlɪpəˈlɪdɪk/

Gk + Gk

of, relating to, causing, or resulting from the hydrolysis of fat.

The taste of rancid butter is caused by the action of lipolytic microorganisms.

liquation

liquefacient

liquefy

liquor

listener

literacy

n

/ˈlɪdəˌræsē/

L+ Ecf

the quality or state of being able to read and write.

Barbara and Laura Bush are both very active in promoting literacy in our country.

literatim

lithe

lithely

lithoglyph

lithophane

lithophyte

n

/ˈlɪθəˌfaɪt/

Gk + Gk

a plant or a plantlike organism that grows on the surface of rocks.

Lichen is a very common type of lithophyte.

litigate

litigious

litigiously

litter

n

/ˈlɪdə(r)/

L > F > E

[has near homonym: *lidder*] the offspring at one birth of a multiparous animal.

All the pups except one in Daisy's litter are black and white.

littlish

liturate

liturgiologist

livelong

livery

n

/ˈlɪv(ə)rē/

F > E

distinctive dress (as of an organization, profession, occupation).

The hotel doorman's spotless livery was green with gold braid.

livestock

lizard

llanero

n

/ləˈne(ɪ)rō/

Sp

a cowboy or herdsman in Spanish America.

The llanero stared curiously as the revolutionary army sped past.

llano

loathe

v

/ləʊθ/

E

[Note: Adjective can be spelled *loath*, *loth*, *loathe*.] feel strong aversion for : detest, abhor.

Practically all the students at Ridgeview Middle School loathe the vice-principal.

lobbyist

n

/ˈləbēəst/

Gmc > L + Ecf

a person who conducts activities with the objective of influencing public officials and especially members of a legislative body.

The firm employed an experienced lobbyist to make their case to the legislators.

lobster

localitis

locoweed

n

/ˈləkō.wēd/

Sp + E

any of several wild larkspurs of western North America that are poisonous to livestock.

A cow that has eaten locoweed behaves very strangely.

locution

lodge

loftily

loge

logopedics

n pl

/ˌləɡəˈpēdɪks/

Gk

the scientific study and treatment of speech defects.

Many children with speech defects have been successfully treated at the center for logopedics.

logrolling

loitering

v

/ˈləɪdə(r)ɪŋ/

D > E

frittering away time in the course of doing something or proceeding somewhere.

Amanda would have been ready to meet the bus if she hadn't been loitering in front of the TV.

loneliest

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

longeron

longirostrine

longitude

loose

loquat

lorcha

lord

lotic

lotion

lottery

louche

adj

/ 'lʊʃ /

L > F

[has near homonym: luge] devious, perverse, sinister.

After she caught the boys who had teased her poodle, Miss Vorrell told them she had never seen such "louche behavior."

louse

n

/ 'laʊs /

E

[has homonym: Laos] any of various small wingless usually flattened insects that are parasitic on warm-blooded animals.
The sucking louse has piercing and sucking mouthparts and lives on blood and tissue fluids of mammals as an external parasite.

lousicide

lousy

louvar

lovelorn

lucarne

n

/ lü'kärn /

OFRk > F

dormer window.

Violette waved to her father before closing the lucarne.

luciform

adj

/ 'lʊsə.fɔrm /

L

of, relating to, or having the characteristics of light.

Some Platonists held that the soul is luciform.

lucifugous

adj

/ lü'sifyəgəs /

L

avoiding light.

Owls and bats are lucifugous creatures of the night.

lucigen

n

/ 'lʊsəjən /

L + Gk

a lamp or torch giving a bright light by burning a mixture of oil mixed with hot air.

Mr. Hannay of Glasgow invented the lucigen, which can be used to light large, open spaces.

lucre

n

/ 'lʊkə(r) /

L

[has near homonym: (trademark word) luger] monetary gain : profit, reward.

Sarah was eager to be a runner for the investment firm because of the contacts she could make, not for the lucre the job would bring.

luff

luggage

lugubriously

lulled

v

/ 'ləld /

E imit?

made quiet.

The sound of Debby crooning to him usually lulled Roger to sleep quickly.

lumbago

n

/ ,ləm'bā.gō /

L

muscular rheumatism involving the muscles of the lower back and usually accompanied by pain.

Because of his father's lumbago, Tim had to do all the snow shoveling.

lumberjack

lumbriciform

adj

/ ,ləm'brɪsə.fɔrm /

L + L

resembling an earthworm.

The anteater, with its elongated snout and lumbriciform tongue, is well adapted to licking up insects.

lumbricoid

luminance

n

/ 'lʊmənən(t)s /

L + Ecf

the quality or state of emitting a steady suffused light from within.

The luminance of the 25-watt bulb was not great enough for reading the map.

luminarism

n

/ 'lʊmənə.rɪzəm /

L > F + Ecf

the concern with or skill in the portrayal of effects of light and shade in painting.

The painter Joseph Turner was a pioneer of luminarism.

luminoscope

n

/ 'lʊmənə.skɒp /

L + Gk

an instrument used for detecting rare metals in the soil by means of ultraviolet light.

The survey team used a luminoscope and other devices to determine the composition of various soils.

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

lumpen

adj

/ 'lʌmpən /

G

of, relating to, or being an amorphous group of dispossessed and uprooted individuals set off by their inferior station from the economic and social class with which they are identified.

Though he was a member of the Communist Party, Jerome considered himself an intellectual, not one of the lumpen proletariat.

lumpkin

lunar

adj

/ 'lʊnə(r) /

L

of, taking place on, or relating to the Moon.

The Babylonian calendar was based on the lunar cycle.

lunation

lunette

n

/ lʊ'net /

L > F

the figure or shape of a crescent moon.

The wiper formed a lunette of visibility on the rain-speckled windshield.

lupine

adj

/ 'lʊ.pɪn /

L > E

of, relating to, or resembling a wolf.

The stray dog had a lupine look to it.

lurid

adj

/ 'lʊrəd /

L

wan and ghastly pale in appearance.

Jessie was frightened by the lurid figures at Madame Tussaud's wax museum, especially that of Jack the Ripper.

lurking

v

/ 'lɜrkiŋ /

E

lying in ambush : prowling.

Patrick's runaway imagination pictured a monster lurking under his bed or in his closet.

lusciously

adv

/ 'ləʃəsli /

E

in a manner that is richly luxurious or highly appealing to the senses.

The colors of the silk carpet glowed lusciously in the firelight.

lutaceous

adj

/ lʊ'tāʃəs /

L + EcF

formed from or having the fine texture of mud : clayey—used of conglomerate rock.

Nina dug a fossil shell out of the lutaceous river bluff.

luteovirescent

Lutz

n

/ 'lʊts /

Swiss name

a figure-skating jump in which the skater takes off from the back outside edge of one skate, rotates counterclockwise, and lands on the back outside edge of the other skate.

Nancy Kerrigan demonstrated a perfect Lutz in the instructional skating video.

luxuriate

lyddite

lying

lymphocyte

n

/ 'lim(p)fə.sɪt /

Gk

a colorless weakly motile cell that is produced in lymphoid tissue.

When a lymphocyte recognizes a virus in a cell, it will attempt to kill that cell.

lyncine

lyophilize

lyrebird

lyric

adj

/ 'lɪrɪk /

Gk

characterized by or expressive of direct usually intense personal emotion.

The lyric quality of Sue-Lynn's poetry is tremendously powerful.

lyrical

lyricism

lyricist

lysis

n

/ 'lɪsɪs /

Gk

the gradual decline of a disease process.

The lysis of Hugh's fever was swifter than Dr. Quinley expected.

lyssa

maar

n

/ 'mār /

G

a more or less circular volcanic crater that is produced by explosion.

Jenny had always pictured a volcano as a conical mountain topped by a maar, but while visiting Hawaii she learned that there are several other shapes.

mabe

macaroons

n pl

/ .makə'rʊnz /

It > F

small cakes composed chiefly of egg whites, sugar, and ground almonds or coconut.

Joel serves tea and macaroons to the hotel guests at three o'clock every afternoon.

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

mace

machinate

v
/ 'makə.nāt /

Gk > L

scheme or contrive to bring
(something undesirable) about :
plot.

*Robert feared that one of his
coworkers would machinate to
have the entire accounting
department replaced.*

machinery

machismo

n
/ mächēz(ə)mō /

Sp

a strong sense of masculine pride :
an exaggerated masculinity.
*The Olympic boxer raised his fist to
the crowd in a display of
machismo.*

machtpolitik

macilency

n
/ 'masələnsē /

L

leanness of body : emaciation.
*It seems that now, as in the early
'60s, macilency is important to
fashion models.*

mackereler

maco

macrodont

adj
/ 'makrō.dänt /

Gk

having large teeth.
*Little Red Riding Hood found it
strange that her grandmother had
become a macrodont creature since
their last visit.*

macron

macrophagous

adj
/ mə'kräfəgəs /
Gk + Gk

[Note: Could be confused with
microphagous.] feeding on
relatively large particulate matter.

*The textbook described the
macrophagous tissue cell.*

macroscopic

macrotia

macrotous

macrurous

maculacy

macumba

n
/ mə'kümbə /
Pg

a Brazilian ritual or cult that is
largely of African origin and
combines sorcery with dancing,
drumming, and chanting.
*The tourists were invited to see an
exhibition of macumba in Rio de
Janeiro.*

madrás

maduro

mage

n
/ 'māj /
Gk > L > E
magician.

*The mage muttered a few words,
waved his hand, and disappeared.*

magical

magician

n
/ mə'jishən /
Gk > L > F > E
one who entertains an audience by
tricks of illusion and sleight of
hand.
*The magician specialized in card
tricks.*

magma

magnate

n
/ 'mag.nāt /
L > E

[Note: Alternate pronunciation has
homonym: magnet.] a person
prominent in the management of a
large industry or enterprise.

*The oil magnate bequeathed his
fortune to the local university.*

magnesium

magnificence

magnificently

adv
/ mag'nifəsəntlē /
L + Ecf

grandly, impressively.

*At her coronation the queen was
magnificently dressed in a robe of
purple velvet and ermine.*

magnify

magniloquent

magnitude

n
/ 'magnətüd /
L > E

greatness of size or extent :
vastness.

*The magnitude of the shift from
previous policies left all members
of the organization unsure of their
roles.*

magnum

maguey

mahimahi

n
/ 'mähē'mähē /
Marquesan, Tahitian, & Hawaiian
a spiny-finned fish which is widely
distributed in tropical and
temperate seas and is esteemed as
food.
*Today's special is mahimahi
marinated in a soy-ginger sauce.*

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

maieutic
adj
/ mā'yüd·ik /
Gk
of or relating to the dialectic method practiced by Socrates in order to elicit and clarify ideas of others.
Instead of giving lectures, Professor Ewing used maieutic dialogs to get students to think for themselves.

maim

Mainer
n
/ 'mānə(r) /
American geog name
a native or resident of Maine.
The old Mainer tried his hand at raising buffalo.

mainprise

majestic

majorette

makeshift
adj
/ 'māk.shift /
E
serving as a temporary expedient.
Until he could afford something better, Mr. Gray made makeshift bookshelves out of boards and milk crates.

malacology

maladroitly
adv
/ .malə'drōitlē /
F + Ecf
in a manner marked by a lack of dexterity or skill : clumsily.
The driving instructor reached for the wheel when his student maladroitly steered the car onto the shoulder.

malapert

malar

malarial

malcontent

maledictory

maleficence

malevolently

malfeasance

malfunction

malicious

malignancy

malison
n
/ 'maləsən /
L > F > E
malediction, curse.
Jared muttered one malison after another when he took a look at his algebra test grade.

malleation

Malthusian
adj
/ mal'th(y)üzhən /
E name + Ecf
of or relating to doctrines holding that population tends to increase at a faster rate than its means of subsistence, resulting in poverty and degradation unless the population is checked by moral restraint, disease, or war.
The candidate's Malthusian suggestion that the epidemic was a blessing in disguise was poorly received by voters.

maltreat

mamba

mamelon

mammalian

mammon
n
/ 'mamən /
Aram > Gk > L
material wealth or possessions especially having an evil power or debasing influence : wealth, money.
After becoming a millionaire, Mr. Wei renounced mammon and entered a monastery.

mammonism

mana

manacles
n pl
/ 'manəkəlz /
L > F > E
something used as a restraint.
Dr. King's "I Have a Dream" speech delineated how many lives were still "sadly crippled by the manacles of segregation and the chains of discrimination."

manageability
n
/ .manijə'bilədē /
L > It + Ecff
the quality or state of being capable of being managed or controlled.
After shampooing her hair, Milly applied a conditioner for manageability.

mancinism

mandala
n
/ 'məndələ /
Skt
a graphic mystic symbol of the universe that is typically in the form of a circle enclosing a square and often bearing symmetrically arranged representations of deities and is used chiefly in Hinduism and Buddhism as an aid to meditation.
The lama took three days to construct an elaborate mandala from colored sand and then destroyed it.

mandibular

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

mandir

n
/ 'mən.dɪr /
L > Hindi
a Hindu temple.
The 900-year-old mandir at Angkor Wat is the object of a massive restoration project that has lasted several decades.

mandlen

mandorla

n
/ 'mändɔr.lä /
L > It
a panel or contour in the shape of an almond.
At the top of the altarpiece Christ is depicted seated within a mandorla full-face and holding a book.

mane

manes

n pl
/ 'mä.nās /
L
the spirits of the dead and gods of the lower world in ancient Roman belief.
Roman household members were expected to call on the manes of their ancestors for comfort and guidance in their daily lives.

mania

n
/ 'mānēə /
Gk
excessive or unreasonable enthusiasm.
During half time at the Super Bowl, one sportscaster reported on the mania of many of the fans.

maniac

maniacally

manicurist

manifold

adj
/ 'manə.fəld /
E
marked by diversity or variety : numerous and varied.
Andrew is intrigued by the manifold opportunities in the field of engineering.

manipuri

n
/ .manə'pürē /
Indian geog name
a dance form associated with the Manipur region of northern India and characterized by a gentle lyrical style.
Rajiv is writing his thesis on the history of the manipuri.

mankind

manometer

n
/ mə'nämədə(r) /
Gk + Gk
an instrument for measuring the pressure of gases and vapors.
Mr. Glazebrook used a manometer to measure the densities of the currents on either side of the partition.

manor

n
/ 'manə(r) /
L > F > E
[has homonym: manner] the house or hall of an estate : mansion.
The lord of the manor was a gracious man, giving the servants good food and plenty of time off.

manse

mantilla

n
/ man'tē(y)ə /
Sp
a light scarf often of black lace worn over the head and shoulders especially by Spanish and Latin American women.
Before leaving for church, Angela covered her long black hair with a lacy mantilla.

mantissa

manual

manually

manufacture

manzanilla

manzanita

n
/ .manzə'nēdə /
L > Sp
an evergreen tree or shrub of the Pacific coast of North America that has a smooth bark, thick shiny leaves, and edible red berries.
Steven took many photographs of the large manzanita standing alone on the windswept cliff.

mapped

maquette

marathon

n
/ 'marə.thän /
Gk geog name
a footrace usually 26 miles 385 yards in length.
Ernie's goal is to become a successful long-distance runner and win at least one big marathon.

marathoner

marcasite

marcottage

n
/ 'mär.kädi /
L? > F
a form of plant propagation in which the rooting medium is bound to the plant rather than enclosed in a pot or other container.
Philip's nursery is widely known for its successful marcottage using sphagnum.

maremma

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

marginalia

n pl

/ˌmɑrjəˈnālēə/

L

notes written in the border of a page.

Gordon was excited to find some historically interesting marginalia in his great-grandfather's law books.

marginality

mariculture

marigold

marigolds

n pl

/ˈmarəˌɡɔldz/

E name + E

any of numerous yellow-flowered plants.

Paul planted a border of marigolds around his vegetable garden.

marimba

marinade

n

/ˈmarənād/

L > It

a brine or pickle usually containing vinegar or wine, oil, spices, and herbs in which a food (as meat or fish) is soaked to enrich its flavor.

Elise added chili oil to the marinade.

marinara

marinate

v

/ˈmarənāt/

L > It?

[Note: Could be confused with marinade.] season (as meat or fish) by steeping in a brine usually containing vinegar or wine, oil, spices, and herbs.

Becky will marinate the pork in Italian dressing overnight for a spicy effect.

marionettes

marital

marlin

marmoraceous

marmorate

marmoration

n

/ˌmɑrməˈrāshən/

L

variegation resembling that of marble : marbling.

The interior decorator showed Jonathan how to use two colors of paint, a sponge, and a feather to create marmoration.

marmot

n

/ˈmɑrmət/

F

a stout-bodied short-legged rodent that has coarse fur, a short bushy tail and very small ears, lives in burrows, and hibernates in winter.

When sensing danger, the marmot sits upright and gives an alarm whistle.

maroon

marque

n

/ˈmɑrk/

It > F

a brand or make of a product—used especially of sports cars.

The car salesman made a face when Derek drove up in a coupe of a competing marque.

marten

n

/ˈmɑrtɪn/

Gmc > F > E

[has homonym: martin] any of several slender semiarboreal carnivorous mammals chiefly of the Northern Hemisphere that are larger than the related weasels.

The marten is an opportunistic hunter, thriving on mice, squirrels, rabbits, and grouse.

Martian

adj

/ˈmɑrshən/

L

of or relating to the planet Mars or its hypothetical inhabitants.

The Martian year is approximately 687 Earth days.

martin

n

/ˈmɑrtɪn/

F name

[has homonym: marten] a small European swallow.

Although a martin is a small bird, it is often the terror of hawks, crows, and eagles.

martyrolatry

martyrs

n pl

/ˈmɑrdərz/

Gk > L > E

those who sacrifice their life, station, or what is of great value for the sake of principle.

Many early Christians became martyrs in the Roman Coliseum.

Marxist

adj

/ˈmɑrksəst/

G name

of, relating to, or having the characteristics of Karl Marx's doctrine based on the definition of all value as being created by labor.

Lenin was influenced by Marxist thought when he developed his communist theory of government.

mascot

masochistic

adj

/ˌmasəˈkɪstɪk/

G name + Ec f

relating to, marked by, or given to taking pleasure in physical or mental suffering inflicted on one by oneself or by another.

Runners have long endured derisive comments from nonrunners about their apparently masochistic tendencies.

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

massive

adj

/ 'masiv /

L > F > E

weighty, heavy.

The Neanderthal's massive, sturdy limbs were much stronger than the Cro-Magnon's.

massotherapy

masthead

matchbook

materfamilias

materialist

materialize

v

/ mə'tirēə.līz /

L + Ecf

come into actual existence :

develop into something tangible.

The skill of the artist was evident as the portrait began to materialize.

materially

maternal

matriculate

v

/ mə'trikyə.lāt /

L

become admitted to membership in a body, society, or institution (as a college or university) and have one's name officially registered after having previously met entrance requirements.

Meredith received a letter inviting her to matriculate at MIT.

matrifocal

adj

/ .matrə'fōkəl /

L + L

gravitating toward or centered upon the mother.

A matrifocal culture, for example, is one where a newlywed couple is expected to move to the bride's mother's village.

matripotestal

adj

/ .matrē.pō'testəl /

L

of, relating to, or being the power exercised by a matriarch.

Even the queen's matripotestal authority was not enough to save the prince's marriage.

mature

maud

maunder

v

/ 'mōndə(r) /

L > F > E

move or progress slowly and uncertainly without definite aim or course.

Ken and Barb maunder down the boulevard every Sunday.

maxillae

n pl

/ mak'silē /

L

the mouthparts posterior to the mandibles in insects.

In most insects the pair of maxillae is used to manipulate the food.

maxillary

maxixe

n

/ mə'shēsh(ə) /

Pg

a ballroom dance of Brazilian origin roughly like the two-step.

The maxixe became a popular dance in Europe and the United States in 1914.

mazer

meadowwink

meagerness

n

/ 'mēgə(r)nəs /

L > F > E + Ecf

the quality or state of being small, thin, or inadequate.

The meagerness of supporting evidence rendered the politician's book and speeches unconvincing to Albert.

meaningful

meanness

meant

meantime

meanwhile

measure

v

/ 'mezʰə(r) /

L

ascertain a unit quantity.

The class spent an entire hour trying to measure the Dawson twins to see who was taller.

mechanic

medalet

medevac

n

/ 'medə(,)vak /

L + L

emergency evacuation of the sick or wounded (as from a combat area).

During the simulated battle the lieutenant called for medevac of his platoon's wounded soldiers.

mediastinum

mediator

medicaster

medicate

mediocrity

meditate

v

/ 'medə.tāt /

L

dwell in thought; especially : practice religious contemplation.

Eileen likes to meditate in the chapel every morning before breakfast.

medius

medley

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

medusa

n
/ məd(y)üsə /
Gk

[Note: Could be confused with medusan.] a small hydrozoan jellyfish.

The medusa propels itself through the water by contracting its bell-shaped body and ejecting water from under the bell.

meekness

meeting

megalopolitan

megathere

n
/ 'megəthi(ə)r /
Gk + Gk

a member of the genus Megatherium of ground sloths of the Pliocene and Pleistocene epochs.
The movie Jurassic Park would have been much less exciting if the scientists had cloned a megathere rather than giant reptiles.

megaton

n
/ 'megə.tən /
Gk + E

an explosive force equivalent to that of a million tons of TNT.
The latest military creation is a bomb that will deliver 1 megaton of explosive force directly to the target specified without any error whatsoever.

megrims

n pl
/ 'mēgrəmz /
F > E

low spirits : the blues.
Whenever Ben got the megrims, he would play a recording of the William Tell Overture to revive his spirits.

meiobars

n pl
/ 'mīə.bärz /
Gk

regions of low barometric pressure.
On most weather maps, meiobars are indicated by the letter L.

meiosis

Meistersinger

n
/ 'mīstə(r).sɪŋə(r) /
G

a member of a German guild in the 15th and 16th centuries formed for the cultivation of poetry and music.
Mr. Heinz can trace his family tree back to a Bavarian Meistersinger born in 1498.

melange

melanocamous

melanoma

n
/ .melə'nōmə /
Gk > L

a malignant skin tumor that starts as a black mole and metastasizes rapidly.
People who have black moles are encouraged to check them regularly for signs of a melanoma.

meld

n
/ 'meld /
G

[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word.] a card or combination of cards that has scoring value in a game.
After drawing a seventh ace in canasta, Lauren could hardly suppress her smile as she laid the meld down on the table.

melichrous

meliorate

melis

melismatic

adj
/ .meləz'madik /
Gk

relating to or having melodic embellishment or ornamentation.
The chorus embroidered the anthem with melismatic lines.

melittologist

n
/ .melə'täləjəst /
Gk

an entomologist specializing in the study of bees.
It was a big breakthrough for the melittologist who discovered how bees communicate with each other.

melleous

adj
/ 'melēəs /
L

resembling or containing honey.
The beekeeper cut a melleous chunk of honeycomb from the hive and put it in a jar.

melody

melon

membrante

membrane

membranous

adj
/ 'membrənəs /
L > F

thin, pliable, and often somewhat transparent.
The dragonfly's membranous wings seemed very delicate.

memoirs

memorize

v
/ 'memə.rīz /
L

learn something in a manner that can be remembered.
Camille used flashcards to memorize the multiplication tables.

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

menaced

v
/ 'menəst /
F > E

made a show of intention to harm :
made a threatening gesture,
statement, or act against.

*Rosemary watched as a blue jay
and a stray cat menaced and
threatened each other in her back
yard.*

menacing

menald

Menckenes

n
/ .menkə'nēz /
Amer name
the peculiarly vigorous racy
flamboyant and often caustic style
characteristic of the journalist H.L.
Mencken.
*It is difficult to read through a
daily paper without finding a
feature writer who employs
Menckenes.*

menckesian

mendelevium

menhaden

mensh

mental

mentalist

menticide

mephitic

mercantile

mercantilist

adj
/ 'mər.kən.tēlist /
L > It > F
of or relating to the theory or
practice of an economic system
intended to increase a nation's
power and especially monetary
wealth by a strict governmental
regulation of the entire national
economy.
*In pursuit of a "favorable balance
of trade," the mercantilist policy
put strict limits on imports of
foreign goods.*

mercaptan

n
/ mər'kaptən /
L > D > G
any of a class of compounds that
are analogous to the alcohols and
phenols but contain sulfur instead
of oxygen and have very
disagreeable odors.
*A mercaptan is added to odorless
natural gas so that leaks can be
detected.*

mercerize

v
/ 'mərsə.rīz /
E name + Ecf
give (cotton yarn or cloth) luster,
strength, and receptiveness to dyes
by treatment under tension with
caustic soda.
*English cloth manufacturers began
to mercerize cotton in the 1860s.*

mercifully

mercury

meretricious

merfolk

meridienne

merino

n
/ mə'rē.nō /
Sp
[Note: Could be confused with
marina.] a fine wool and cotton
yarn used for knitwear.
*Darcy decided to use the leftover
skein of merino to knit a pair of
mittens.*

merit

meritable

meritorious

meropia

mesa

n
/ 'māsə /
L > Sp
a usually isolated hill or mountain
having abrupt or steeply sloping
sides and a level top.
*The hikers planned to have their
picnic on top of the faraway mesa.*

mesentery

n
/ 'mes'n.terē /
Gk
a membranous tissue or one of the
membranes that envelop and
support visceral organs (as the
intestines).
*The mesentery attaches parts of the
small intestine to the posterior wall
of the abdomen.*

mesmerized

v
/ 'mezmə.rīzd /
Austrian name + Ecf
spellbound : hypnotized.
*Tracy gazed at the screen saver,
mesmerized by the changing
patterns.*

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

mesomorph

n
/ 'mezō.mōrf /
Gk

an intermediate or average type of human body.
Students classified the mummy as a mesomorph.

Mesopotamian

adj
/ .mesəpə'tāmēən /
Gk

of, relating to, or characteristic of Mesopotamia, a region between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers.
The Code of Hammurabi and Gilgamesh are famous Mesopotamian literary documents.

mesotherm

Mesozoic

adj
/ .mezə'zōik /
Gk

of or relating to a division of geological history that includes the time between the Permian and the Tertiary periods.
Dinosaurs and evergreen trees arose during the Mesozoic era.

messaline

messenger

mestizo

n
/ me'stē()zō /
L > Sp

a person whose ancestors belonged to two or more races.
The tour guide, a mestizo himself, spoke at length about the culture of his South American ancestors.

metabolize

v
/ mə'tabə.līz /
Gk

subject to the processes by which a particular substance is handled in the living body.
Tooth decay results from the lactic acid produced when bacteria metabolize sugar.

metacarpal

adj
/ medə'kärpəl /
Gk + Gk
of or relating to the part of the hand or forefoot between the wrist and the digits or fingers.
When the car door slammed shut on her hand, Sara suffered an injury to one of her metacarpal bones.

metage

n
/ 'mēdij /
E
the official measuring of contents or weight (as of coal or grain).
Arrangements must be made with respect to the metage of grain in the port of London.

metallurgy

n
/ 'med' l.ərjē /
Gk > L
a science and technology that deals with the extraction of metals from their ores, refining them, and preparing them for use and includes processes and the study of the structure and properties of metals.
Several experts in metallurgy testified in the lawsuit regarding the failure of welds at the steam plant.

metalworking

metamorphose

v
/ .medə'mōr.fōz /
Gk > F?
change into a different physical form.
The witch had a potion which could metamorphose a man into a mouse.

metanoia

n
/ .medə'nōi(y)ə /
Gk
a fundamental transformation of mind or character; specifically : a spiritual conversion.
After years of dissolute living, Augustine experienced a metanoia and became a leading ecclesiastical figure.

meteor

n
/ 'mēdēə(r) /
Gk
[has homonym: meatier] a streak of light in the night sky produced by the passage through Earth's atmosphere of one of the countless small particles of solid matter in the solar system.
Hans accidentally captured a meteor on film as he was trying to take pictures of lightning.

meteorologist

n
/ .mēdēə'räləjəst /
Gk
a specialist in a science that deals with the atmosphere and its phenomena.
Most television stations employ a meteorologist to deliver weather forecasts.

metheglin

n
/ mə'thegl̩n /
W
a beverage usually made of fermented honey and water and often spiced or medicated.
When Mr. Galen lost his voice, Glynnis said that a cup of her metheglin might be just what he needed.

methuselah

meticulously

metrical

metrology

n
/ mə'träləjē /
Gk
the science of weights and measures.
Nobody as a child really plans a career in metrology; like lexicography, it comes into one's life by chance.

metropolis

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

metropolitan

adj

/ .metrə'pälətən /

Gk

of, relating to, or characteristic of an important city.

One advantage of living in a metropolitan area is the abundance of cultural offerings.

miasmic

micaceous

adj

/ mī'kāshəs /

L

consisting of or containing any of a group of minerals that crystallize in monoclinic forms readily separating into very thin leaves.

The class divided into small groups to examine the micaceous minerals under the microscope.

Micawberish

adj

/ mə'kób(ə)rish /

E name

being habitually expectant of an upturn in one's fortunes.

True to his Micawberish nature, Buddy spent his last dollar on a lottery ticket.

Michigander

n

/ .mishə'gandə(r) /

Algonquian + E

a native or resident of Michigan.

Jack called himself a

"Michigander" with a note of pride in his voice.

microbial

microburst

n

/ 'mīkrō.bərst /

Gk + E

a violent short-lived localized downdraft that creates extreme wind shears at low altitudes that is usually associated with thunderstorms.

A microburst causes a condition known as "wind shear," a quick change in the wind's speed or direction.

microcircuitry

microfilm

microhmmeter

n

/ 'mī.krōm.mēdə(r) /

Gk + G name + Gk

a sensitive ohmmeter for measuring very small resistances.

In the physics lab Mr. McGurk demonstrated the use of a microhmmeter to ascertain minute electrical resistances.

micrometer

microns

n pl

/ 'mī.kränz /

Gk

units of length, each equal to 0.001 millimeter or about 0.000039 inch.

A human hair is about 100 microns thick.

microphakia

n

/ .mīkrō'fākēə /

Gk

abnormal smallness of the lens of the eye.

Mr. Hurst's vision is somewhat impaired by his microphakia.

microphone

n

/ 'mīkrə.fōn /

Gk + Gk

an instrument whereby sound waves are caused to generate or modulate an electric current usually for the purpose of transmitting or recording sound (as speech or music).

Each of the principal singers has a cordless microphone attached to his or her costume.

microscopic

adj

/ .mīkrə'skăpik /

Gk + Gk + Ecf

invisible without the use of a magnification device.

The crime lab technician found microscopic traces of blood on Wolfgang's shoelaces.

midday

n

/ 'mid.dā /

E

noon.

The clocktower bells chime every midday.

midget

mightily

adv

/ 'mīd'lē /

E

in a powerful manner.

The rebels triumphed mightily over the dictator's military forces.

mighty

adj

/ 'mīdē /

E

having or wielding great power or authority.

Will fancied himself one of the more mighty and well-heeled men in town.

migrate

v

/ 'mī.grāt /

L

pass periodically from one region or climate to another for feeding or breeding.

Some birds migrate south to find warmer weather during winter.

migratory

adj

/ 'mīgrə.tōrē /

L

marked by periodic movement from one region or climate to another.

The migratory monarch butterflies travel long distances southward in the fall, and those that survive return in the spring.

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

mihrab

n
/ 'mērəb /
Ar

a niche or chamber in a mosque indicating the direction of Mecca and usually containing a copy of the Koran.

A rich mosaic decorates the mihrab of the mosque that Mahmoud attends.

mileage

milieu

milinch

militarize

miljee

milkman

milliampere

millibars

n pl
/ 'milə,bärz /
L > ISV + Gk > ISV
units of atmospheric pressure, each equal to 0.001 bar or 1,000 dynes per square centimeter.
A record low pressure of 870 millibars was measured in the eye of a typhoon near Guam in October 1979.

millicurie

milline

Miltonic

adj
/ mil'tānik /
E name
characteristic of or relating to the English poet John Milton or his work.
A reading of those critics who have attempted an analysis of the Miltonic simile reveals a complete and far-reaching difference of opinion.

mimetic

adj
/ mə'medik /
Gk
characterized by or exhibiting a superficial resemblance to other organisms or to natural objects and thereby securing concealment, protection, or some other advantage.
A butterfly's mimetic coloration protects it against many predators.

mimetically

mimicked

mimotype

minareted

adj
/ .minə'redəd /
Ar > Turk > F
having or characterized by a slender lofty tower such as that attached to a mosque.
The outline of a large minareted palace appeared as the train approached Istanbul.

minefield

miniacious

minim

n
/ 'minəm /
L
a U.S. unit of liquid capacity equivalent to 0.003759 cubic inch.
Ms. Brock told us to add a minim of reactant to our acid solution, but she didn't tell us how to measure it out.

minimum

minion

n
/ 'minyən /
Celt? > F
[has homonym and near homonym: minyan and mignon] an obsequious or servile dependent.
The candidate's most devoted minion has high hopes of being offered a prominent cabinet post.

minister

minium

minnow

minstrels

n pl
/ 'min(t)strəlz /
L > F > E
professional musical entertainers of a kind originating in medieval times.
Off to one side a group of minstrels sang songs that delighted both the young and old.

minute

n
/ 'minət /
L
a unit of time equal to the 60th part of an hour and containing 60 seconds.
Mary believes she could have finished all the exam questions if she had had one more minute to work.

minyan

n
/ 'minyən /
Heb
[Word has homonym: minion. Also, word might be confused with mignon.] the number of participants necessary for conducting Jewish public worship, defined by the rules of Mishnah as not fewer than ten males above the age of 13.
Until Mr. Green arrived at the synagogue, not enough people were present to constitute a minyan.

miombo

n
/ mī'äm(,)bō /
E Afr name
a sparse open deciduous woodland characteristic of dry parts of eastern Africa.
The Oyondi family lived near a small grove in the miombo, where there was some shade from the hot sunshine.

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mirages

n pl

/ mə'räzhəz /

L > F

optical phenomena that are often observed on still days over deserts or hot pavements and that have the mirrorlike appearance of a quiet lake or pool in which distant objects are seen inverted by reflection though usually distorted.
Janet explained that mirages are illusions, which are not real.

mirth

mirthful

adj

/ 'məɪthfəl /

E + Ecf

full of gladness or gaiety.

The stand-up comedian quickly put his audience in a mirthful mood.

miscegenation

misconception

n

/ mɪskən'sepʃən /

E + L

a wrong or inaccurate thought, idea, or notion.

That a cactus plant never needs water is a misconception.

misconstrued

miscreants

miser

miserabilism

misery

mishap

misinterpreted

misogamist

n

/ mə'sägəməst /

Gk

one who hates marriage.

Ben explained that although he enjoys being a bachelor, he is not a misogynist.

missal

Mississippian

n

/ .mɪsə'sɪpēən /

E name

a native or resident of Mississippi.
As a native Mississippian, Drew thought he had an obligation to defend his state.

misspell

misspelling

n

/ mɪ(s)'speliŋ /

E + Gmc > F > E + Ecf

an incorrect sequence of letters composing a word.

Mr. Sommerstein was willing to overlook the occasional misspelling or silly mistake, but he could not tolerate comma splices.

misstatement

n

/ mɪ(s)'stātment /

Ecf + L > F > E + Ecf

a false or incorrect declaration or remark.

Jessie stands by her claim that her misstatement was unintentional.

misstep

n

/ 'mɪsstep /

E

a wrong step.

Higher and higher they climbed up frightful crumbling cliffs and along desperately narrow ledges where a single misstep meant only "good-bye."

mistiness

n

/ 'mɪstēnəs /

E

the quality or state of being obscured by or covered with water in the form of particles suspended in the atmosphere.

A heavy mistiness hung in the valley and obscured the mountains.

mitomycin

mitosis

mixture

mizzenmast

mnemonically

adv

/ nē'mänək(ə)lē /

Gk + Ecf

in a manner assisting or intended to assist memory.

The word homes is often used mnemonically to name the Great Lakes.

mobile

moccasin

moch

modern

modernization

modify

modulation

modulo

prep

/ 'mäjələ /

L

with respect to a number that divides the difference of two other numbers without leaving a remainder.

Betsy's date calculation program uses modulo seven arithmetic.

moist

molar

adj

/ 'mōlə(r) /

L

[has homonym: moler] containing 6.023×10 to the 23rd power molecules of solute in one liter of solution.

To make 3.40 molar potassium nitrate, Eileen put 3.40 moles of potassium nitrate into one liter of the solution.

molehill

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

moline
adj
/ 'mōlən /
L > F > AF
(of a cross) having the end of each arm forked and recurved.
There are twelve families of millers who bear crosses moline on their family crests.

mollycoddle

moloch

molybdenite

momentary

monandry

monarchically

monastic
adj
/ mə'nastik /
Gk > L
secluded from earthly concerns and devoted to religion.
Though many people enjoy a period of retreat from materialism and worldliness, real commitment to a monastic life is rare.

monaural
adj
/ män'ōrəl /
L
of, relating to, affecting, or designed for use with one ear.
Tom's doctor referred him to a specialist to have his monaural and binaural hearing tested.

moneyless

moniliform

monition

monitory
adj
/ 'mäñə.tōrē /
L
giving a friendly reproof, warning, or reminder.
Randall spoke gently to his nephew, but the monitory tone was unmistakable.

monoceros

monochromat

monofilament

monogram

monolater

monolithic

monophagous

monoplegia

monopolization
n
/ mə.näpələ'zāshən /
Gk
the quality or state of having or getting exclusive ownership or control through legal privilege, command of supply, or group action.
The corporation was prosecuted for participating in a conspiracy for the purposes of restraint of trade and monopolization.

monoprint

monorail

monostich

monosyllable

monsieur

monster

monte
n
/ 'mäntē /
L > It > Sp
a card game in which players select any two of four cards faced in a layout and bet that one of them will be matched before the other as cards are dealt one at a time from the pack.
On the long bus trip Olivia taught her little sister how to play monte.

Montessorian
adj
/ .mäñtə'sōrēən /
It name
of, following, or relating to a system for training young children emphasizing free physical activity, informal and individual instruction, early development of writing and reading, and extended sensory motor training.
The Montessorian learning environment contains materials for all levels of children's readiness.

monticle

monture
n
/ 'mänchə(r) /
F
a frame or setting especially for a jewel.
The diamond's monture was platinum, but the band was gold.

monument

monumental
adj
/ .mänyə'mentl /
L
having impressive bulk or size.
The entrance to the library was flanked by monumental statues of lions.

moonlet
n
/ 'münlət /
E
[has near homonym: moonlit] a small natural or artificial satellite of Earth or of another celestial body.
Each particle in the rings of Saturn is a moonlet.

mooring

moquette

moral

morale

morcellation

mordant

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

morganite

Mormon

adj
/ 'mɔrmən /
name of a book
of or relating to members of the
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-
day Saints.
*Mormon houses often have enough
preserved food in them to feed an
army.*

Mornay

n
/ .mɔr'nā /
F name?
[has homonym: morné] a cheese-
flavored cream sauce.
*Mornay can be served with seafood
or vegetables.*

morpheme

n
/ 'mɔr:fēm /
Gk > F
a meaningful linguistic unit that
contains no smaller meaningful
parts.
*One morpheme that carries
meaning but does not stand on its
own is the plural ending -s.*

mortadella

n
/ .mɔ(r)də'delə /
L > It
a smoked sausage made of chopped
beef, pork, and pork fat and
seasoned with pepper and garlic.
*Barbara made a sandwich of
Italian bread, provolone cheese,
and sliced mortadella.*

mortally

mortiferous

adj
/ mɔ(r)'tɪf(ə)rəs /
L + L
deadly, fatal.
*In the 14th century the mortiferous
black death wiped out about a third
of the population of Europe.*

mortification

n

/ .mɔ(r)dəfə'kāshən /
L
a sense of humiliation and shame
caused by something that wounds
one's pride or self-respect.
*Sandy's low test score filled him
with mortification.*

mosaicism

moselle

moss

moth

motherly

motif

motile

motitation

n
/ .mɔd-ə'tāshən /
L
a quivering movement.
*Laurie could tell by the motitation
of her brother's lower lip that he
was about to start sobbing.*

motivate

motive

motto

n
/ 'mäd(,)ō /
L > It
a short suggestive expression of a
guiding principle.
*Elaine's personal motto is
"Fortune favors the bold."*

moue

mountebankery

mourning

v
/ 'mɔ(ə)rniŋ /
E
[has homonym: morning] feeling
sorrow or grief for.
*Jacob was mourning the loss of his
turtle until a neighbor found it and
returned it to him.*

movie

movimento

moxie

Mozarabic

adj
/ mɔ'zarəbik /
Ar > Sp
of, relating to, or used by Spanish
Christians in the period of Muslim
domination of Spain.
*The talk on Mozarabic poetry at
seven o'clock interfered with
Mica's dinner plans.*

muckraking

n
/ 'mək.rākiŋ /
E
the action or practice of
investigating with the purpose of
digging up scandal.
*Uncle Woody accused the
candidate for mayor of engaging in
muckraking as a substitute for
proposing an intelligent policy.*

mucronate

muddledom

muishond

n
/ 'mīs.hänt /
D > Afrikaans
either of two southern African
weasels that emit a fetid odor when
disturbed.
*Within two yards of his foot, Jerry
saw a striped muishond with its two
front feet firmly planted on a black
cobra.*

mule

n
/ 'myül /
L > F
[Note: The definition provided is
not the one most commonly
associated with this word. In
addition, word has homonym:
mewl.] a shoe or house slipper
without quarter and often with a
low heel.
*As Dorothy was about to thrust her
foot into the velvet mule, she
noticed a tear in her stocking.*

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

multiloquence

multiphyletic

multiple

multiply

v

/ 'mʌltə.pli /

L

increase in number especially greatly or in multiples.

Before the printing press there was no way to multiply an original manuscript except by handwritten copies.

multivious

mummify

v

/ 'mʌmə.fi /

Per > L > E + Ecf

make into or like a mummy.

Ancient Egyptian embalmers used resin and linen strips to mummify their subjects.

mundane

mundungus

n

/ .mən'dʌŋgəs /

Sp

tobacco having an offensive smell.

Hank preferred his own blend of mundungus and refused to try any other.

munificent

murder

murderer

n

/ 'mɜrdərər /

E

one who commits the crime of unlawfully killing a person especially with malice aforethought.

The convicted murderer continued to claim that he acted in self-defense.

murmuration

Muses

n pl

/ 'myüzəz /

Gk > L > F > E

[has homonym: meuses] the nine sister goddesses associated with the Graces in Greek mythology and regarded as presiding over learning and the creative arts (as poetry and music).

The Muses gave the poet his song and sang it through his lips.

musette

musket

musketeer

muskrat

n

/ 'mə.skrat /

Algonquian?

an abundant aquatic rodent found throughout the United States and Canada living in holes in the banks of ponds or streams.

Gloria shrieked as the muskrat sank its teeth into her ankle.

mustang

n

/ 'mə.staŋ /

L > Sp

the small hardy naturalized horse of the western plains directly descended from horses brought in by the Spaniards.

Veronica's father explained that a wild mustang would not be a good house pet.

Mustelidae

n pl

/ .mə'stelə.dē /

L

a large family of rather small lithe active carnivorous mammals including many important furbearers and some destructive predators and varying greatly from the weasel to the wolverine.

Karen thinks that of all the Mustelidae, the otter is the most fascinating to watch.

musteline

mustiness

n

/ 'məstēnəs /

F + Ecff

the quality or state of smelling of damp and decay.

Todd found the basement's mustiness too much to bear.

mutagenic

mutagenicity

n

/ .myüdəjə'nisədē /

L + Gk

the capacity to induce mutations.

The newly developed artificial sweetener was studied for evidence of mutagenicity.

mutation

n

/ myü'tāshən /

L > F > E

an often abrupt major change.

The appearance of spots marked a mutation in the plant species.

mutely

adv

/ 'myütlē /

L > F > E + Ecf

in a manner characterized by the inability to speak.

Nino sat by mutely as we conversed in the parlor.

mutineer

n

/ .myüt'n'io(r) /

L > F

one that refuses to obey or observe authority.

The sailors protested that the very person who was accusing them was the ringleader and chief mutineer.

mutiny

n

/ 'myüt(°)nē /

L > F

insurrection against or willful refusal to obey constituted, recognized, or traditional authority.

Captain Bligh, unable to suppress the mutiny, was set adrift in a rowboat.

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muzzle

n
/ 'məzəl /
L > F > E
the projecting jaws and nose of an animal : snout.
Sam's dog was always poking its muzzle into everything.

mycetismus

n
/ .mīə'tizməs /
Gk
mushroom poisoning.
In the Babar series of children's books, Babar succeeds the King of the Elephants, who has died from a case of mycetismus.

mycophile

mydriatic

myeloma

n
/ .mīə'lōmə /
Gk
a primary tumor of the bone marrow.
A combination of radiation and drugs is being used to treat Carla's myeloma.

myosin

myotonia

n
/ .mīə'tōnēə /
Gk
tonic spasm of one or more muscles; also : a condition characterized by such spasms.
The crash victim will be kept in the emergency room until the doctors know what is causing the myotonia.

myriacanthous

adj
/ .mīrē'kan(t)thəs /
Gk
having numerous spines or prickles.
The prickly pear is Tina's favorite myriacanthous plant.

myriad

myringa

myrmidons

myrtle

mystic

adj
/ 'mistik /
Gk
baffling or incomprehensible to the understanding.
Reason cannot traverse the mystic gulf between god and man.

mystify

mytacism

myth

n
/ 'mith /
Gk
a traditional story that is usually of unknown origin and that serves to explain some practice, belief, institution, or natural phenomenon.
The Greek myth about Persephone explains the coming of winter weather.

mythopoeia

mythopoeic

adj
/ .mithə'pēik /
Gk + Ecf
creating or tending to create myth or myths.
Mythopoeic humans attempted to explain natural phenomena, such as the rising and setting of the sun.

myths

myxomatosis

n
/ mik.sōmə'tōsəs /
Gk
a severe virus disease of rabbits that is marked by fever and subcutaneous tumors, is transmitted by mosquitoes, and has been used in biological control of rabbits in plague areas.
The warren of rabbits was decimated by an outbreak of myxomatosis.

myxovirus

n
/ .miksə'vīrəs /
Gk + L
any of a group of rather large RNA-containing viruses that includes the influenza viruses.
Upon returning from the pediatrician's office, Kelly frightened her father by announcing that she had a myxovirus.

nadiral

nagging

nahcolite

naillike

naivete

nanization

nanogram

naphtha

n
/ 'nafthə /
Iranian > Gk
any of various volatile often flammable liquid hydrocarbon mixtures used chiefly as solvents and diluents and as raw materials for conversion to gasoline.
On the fractionation column used for separating the components of crude oil, naphtha lies between gasoline and kerosene.

naphthalated

adj
/ 'nafthə.lāḏəd /
Iranian > Gk > L
cleaned with solvents to preserve strength and resiliency.
Peggy had her wool coat naphthalated for the coming winter season.

naphthalene

naphthalenic

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

naphthene

n

/ 'naf.thēn /

Iranian > Gk + ISV

any of a series of saturated cyclic hydrocarbons that occur in various kinds of petroleum, in shale, and in tar oil.

Naphthene is an important part of all liquid refinery products.

napkin

napoleon

n

/ nə'pōlyən /

F name

a man's high boot worn especially in the 19th century.

The artist asked the huntsman to wear a black napoleon as his boot for the painting.

naprapath

narcissism

n

/ 'närsə.sizəm /

Gk name > L

overevaluation of one's own attributes or achievements or of those of one's own group.

The once successful politician fell victim to narcissism and eventually became less effective.

narcissist

narcohypnia

narial

adj

/ 'na(a)rēəl /

L

of or relating to the nostrils.

There are several different sorts of septa, but perhaps the best known is the narial septum.

naris

n

/ 'na(a)rəs /

L

the opening of the nose or nasal cavity of a vertebrate.

The biology book had an illustration showing how a naris is connected to the throat by a passageway.

narrator

nasaump

nasute

adj

/ nā'süt /

L

having a well-developed proboscis.

For Halloween, Emma wore a nasute rubber mask and large ears made of gray felt.

national

nativistic

adj

/ .nād-ə'vistik /

L > F > E + Ecff

of, being, or having the characteristics of a movement advocating the perpetuation of native cultural traits and a removal of foreign culture elements.

The group's nativistic efforts included the renunciation of the use of electricity and fossil fuels.

natte

naturally

naught

naughty

naumachia

n

/ nō'mākēə /

Gk

an ancient Roman spectacle representing a naval battle.

To celebrate the naval victory the emperor ordered an elaborate naumachia.

nauseously

navel

n

/ 'nāvəl /

E

[has homonym: naval] a mark or depression in the middle of the abdomen, marking the point of attachment of the umbilical cord.

John asked his religion teacher whether Adam had a navel.

navicella

navicular

adj

/ nə'vikyələ(r) /

L + EcF

[Note: Could be confused with navicula.] resembling or having the shape of a boat.

While discussing the skeletal system, Mr. Gray called the students' attention to a small navicular bone in the wrist.

navigate

navigator

naysay

neap

Neapolitan

adj

/ .nēə'pälət'n /

Gk > L

of, relating to, or characteristic of Naples, Italy, or its residents.

Merri enjoys going to an Italian restaurant where the waiters sing Neapolitan folk songs.

nebbish

nebulosity

n

/ .nebyə'läsədē /

L

the quality or state of being unclear, hazy, or indistinct.

The author's nebulosity invited several different interpretations of his work.

necessitous

necessity

nectarivorous

adj

/ .nektə'riv(ə)rəs /

Gk > L + L

feeding on nectar.

Samantha's colorful flower garden attracts many nectarivorous birds and insects.

needlecraft

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

nefandous

nefariously

negligence

negotiability

n

/ nəˌɡɒʃh(ē)əˈbɪlədē /

L

the quality or state of being successfully traversed or otherwise successfully managed.

Department of Transportation officials explained that road design, negotiability of curves, and other factors determine speed limits.

neighborly

neither

neoclassicist

neodymium

neonatal

neoned

adj

/ ˈnē.änd /

Gk + Ecf

of, equipped with, or lighted by neon lamps.

The museum installation was neoned, which produced an eery bluish-white glow.

neophiliac

n

/ .nēōˈfɪlē.ak /

Gk

one who has a love of or enthusiasm for what is new or novel.

A true neophiliac, Vince visits trade shows at every opportunity.

neoprene

n

/ ˈnē.ə.prēn /

Gk + ISV

a synthetic rubber characterized by resistance to the elements.

To waterski on the chilly lake, Susan and Ed wore wetsuits made of neoprene.

neoterism

n

/ nēˈädə.rɪzəm /

Gk

a newly invented word or phrase.

Cineplex is a neoterism recently added to the dictionary.

nephritic

adj

/ nəˈfrɪdɪk /

Gk

arising from, originating in, or affecting the kidneys.

Al's nephritic inflammation alarmed the doctor.

nephritis

nephrolith

n

/ ˈnefrə.lɪθ /

Gk + Gk

a kidney stone.

Physicians can now disintegrate a nephrolith by shock waves.

nephrolithotomy

n

/ .nefrələˈθädəmə /

Gk + Gk + Gk

the surgical operation of removing a solid concretion from the kidney.

Mr. Case regrets that a nephrolithotomy rather than shock-wave therapy is the necessary treatment for his kidney stones.

neptunium

Nereid

n

/ ˈnirēəd /

Gk name

an often malevolent nymph of Greek folklore dwelling in springs or trees as well as in the sea.

In the adventure movie set in Atlantis, one Nereid after another swam by as the film began.

neritic

adj

/ nəˈrɪdɪk /

Gk > L > ISV

of, relating to, or constituting the belt or region of shallow water adjoining the seacoast and usually considered to extend from low-tide mark to a depth of 100 fathoms.

The neritic zone is home to a large number of species such as corals, oysters, and algae.

Neronian

adj

/ nəˈrɒnēən /

L name

of or relating to the Roman emperor Nero or his times.

Neronian rule was marked by tyranny.

nervy

nestle

netherworld

netsuke

n

/ ˈnetskē /

Jpn

a small object carved in wood or ivory or wrought in metal, pierced with holes, and used by the Japanese as a toggle to fasten a small pouch or purse to the kimono sash.

Hiroko cherished her grandmother's ivory netsuke.

neurasthenia

neurergic

neuritis

neuroticism

n

/ n(y)üˈrädə.sɪzəm /

Gk > L

a condition, character, or trait related to nervous dysfunction.

The critic observed that narcissism and neuroticism are the trademarks of many TV sitcoms.

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

neurotogenic

adj

/ n(y)ü.rädə'jenik /

Gk + Gk

tending to produce a functional disorder of the central nervous system usually manifested by anxiety, phobias, obsessions, or compulsions.

Abby is being treated for neurotogenic problems resulting from interpersonal conflicts.

neutrino

n

/ n(y)ü'trē(,)nō /

L > It

an uncharged elementary particle that comes in two forms associated respectively with the electron and the muon.

The neutrino is the most penetrating of the subatomic particles.

newfangled

newlywed

newscaster

newsworthy

newton

n

/ 'n(y)üt'n /

E name

the unit of force in the meter-kilogram-second system of physical units that is of such size that under its influence a body whose mass is 1 kilogram would experience an acceleration of 1 meter per second per second.

Monica learned that 1 newton equals 100,000 dynes.

Newtonian

adj

/ n(y)ü'tōnēən /

E name

of, relating to, or following Sir Isaac Newton, his discoveries, or doctrines.

Perhaps the best known Newtonian discovery is his theory of gravitation.

nibble

v

/ 'nibəl /

unknown

bite lightly.

Deer nibble on the leaves of plants.

nibbling

niccolite

nickel

nickname

nicotine

nidulation

n

/ .nijə'lāshən /

L

nest-building.

Carla is writing a book on varieties of nidulation among small mammals.

nighttime

nihilistic

nimble

nimbostratus

n

/ .nim(,)bō'strādəs /

L

a low dark gray rainy cloud layer.

The day was dreary with the nimbostratus blocking the rays of the Sun completely.

nimbus

n

/ 'nimbəs /

L

a luminous vapor, cloud, or atmosphere about a god or goddess when on Earth.

Detecting a nimbus about the stranger, Sir Sidney treated her with extraordinary deference.

nineteen

adj

/ nīn'tēn /

E

being one more than 18 in number.

Nineteen years is a long life for a cat.

ninnyish

ninth

niobium

n

/ nī'ōbēəm /

Gk name > L

a platinum-gray ductile metallic element that occurs combined in various rare minerals but almost always is associated with tantalum and that is used in alloys to inhibit corrosion.

Niobium is a hypoallergenic metal used in many items such as artificial joints, dental implants, and the posts of pierced earrings.

nirvana

n

/ nir'vānə /

Skt

a place or state of rest, harmony, or pleasure.

Fiona's idea of nirvana is a weekend at her lakeside cabin.

nitrogation

nitrogenous

adj

/ nī'trājənəs /

Gk > L > F

of, relating to, or containing nitrogen in combined form (as in nitrates or proteins).

Every year farmers add nitrogenous fertilizers to the soil for better crop production.

noblest

noctambulous

noctilucent

adj

/ .näktə'lüs'nt /

L

visible or glowing at night.

Noctilucent clouds are thin sheets of ice crystals that form so high that the Sun can illuminate them at night when it is well below the horizon.

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

noctilucous

adj
/ ˌnɒktəˈlʊkəs /
L

shining at night : phosphorescent.
The noctilucous algae turned the stream into a shining path through the trees.

noctovision

nodular

noisette

noisy

nomadic

nominalism

nominate

nomocracy

n
/ nɒˈmɑkrəsi /
Gk
government in accordance with a system of law.
Several Middle Eastern countries are governed according to Muslim nomocracy.

nomographer

n
/ nɒˈmɑgrəfə(r) /
Gk
a writer of laws.
During his term as a state senator, Wilbur became an experienced nomographer.

nonchalantly

adv
/ ˌnɒnʃəˈlæntl̩ /
L > F
with an air of jaunty unconcern or indifference.
Ron's cat lay nonchalantly in the most highly trafficked area of his house.

nonchitinous

noncombatant

adj
/ ˌnɒnkəmˈbɑːnt /
L
not usually engaged in or assigned to duties that directly forward conflict or controversy.
The red cross on the side of the panel truck signaled that it was a noncombatant vehicle.

nonentity

n
/ ˌnɒnˈentəd̩ /
L
a person who is totally undistinguished or unimpressive in mind, character, or achievement : one of small or mediocre talents.
For years treated as a nonentity by recording companies, the singer now has a hit single and is well on the road to fame.

nonexistent

adj
/ ˌnɒnɪˈzɪstənt /
L
not having the state common to physical objects, living beings, objects of thought, and anything else.
The map is so old that some of the indicated landmarks are now nonexistent.

nonfeasance

nonnative

adj
/ ˌnɒnˈnɑːɪv /
L
not born in the place or region to which reference is had.
Metropolitan areas typically have relatively large proportions of nonnative population.

nonnuclear

adj
/ ˌnɒnˈn(y)ʊkl̩ə(r) /
Ecf + L > F
not involving the use of atom bombs : conventional.
General Williams believes that the worst kind of nonnuclear war is preferable to the mildest nuclear war.

nonrepatriable

nonvolatile

adj
/ ˌnɒnˈvɒləd̩l /
L > F > E
not readily becoming a vapor at a relatively low temperature.
Meteoric matter provides much information about the abundance of nonvolatile elements in space.

noodledom

noosphere

n
/ ˈnɒʊ.sfi(ə)r /
Gk
the realm of human consciousness and mental activity especially in regard to its influence on the biosphere and in relation to evolution.
Professor Morrison gave his theoretical biology class a timeline of the history of the noosphere.

Nordic

adj
/ ˈnɔːrdɪk /
F
of or relating to the Germanic peoples of northern Europe.
The Nordic languages, especially Old Norse, borrowed important words from Anglo-Saxon.

normal

Norwegian

adj
/ nɔː(r)ˈweɪjən /
L geog name
of, relating to, or characteristic of Norway.
Paul bought a pound of Norwegian smoked salmon.

nosegay

n
/ ˈnɒz.gə /
E + E
a small bunch of flowers suitable to be worn on the person.
As the princess entered the theater, a small child in a colorful peasant costume offered her a nosegay.

nosography

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Nostradamus

n
/ .nästrə'dāməs /
F name
one professing to foretell future events.

Wally consulted the local Nostradamus for football predictions.

notacanthous

adj
/ .nōdə'kan(t)thes /
Gk
having spines on the back.
Paleontologists have found evidence that some dinosaurs were notacanthous.

notch

noticeable

adj
/ 'nōdəsəbəl /
L + Ecff
likely to attract attention : conspicuous.
The bank teller reported that the only really noticeable thing about the robber was his tiny mustache.

notify

notochordal

notornis

notturno

nougatine

nourishing

adj
/ 'nərishɪŋ /
L > F > E + Ecff
nutritious.
Fresh fruits and vegetables are thought to be more nourishing than canned fruits and vegetables.

nourishment

nouveau

novachord

novelese

novelist

n
/ 'nävēləst /
L
a writer of prose narratives of considerable length and a certain complexity that deal imaginatively with human experience through a connected sequence of events involving a group of persons in a specific setting.
As a novelist, Margaret specializes in science-fiction stories.

novelistic

adj
/ .nävē'listik /
L > F > E + Ecff
of, relating to, or characteristic of a long prose narrative that usually portrays imaginative characters and events.
Sandy preferred reading novelistic fiction over the short-story form.

novena

novenary

adj
/ 'nävē.nerē /
L
of or relating to the number nine : based on the number nine.
Mischievous Buttons did not attain the novenary life expectation associated with her species.

novillero

n
/ .nōvē'ye(ə)(r)ō /
Sp
a bullfighter aspiring to become a matador.
All summer the novillero practiced in the pasture with young bulls.

nowhere

nozzle

nuances

nucleolus

n
/ n(y)ü'klēələs /
L
a spherical body in a cell nucleus that is associated with a specific part of a chromosome and contains much ribosomal RNA.
The nucleolus is that part of the cell in which protein-producing ribosomes are formed.

nucleus

nudicaulous

adj
/ .n(y)üdə'köləs /
L
having leafless stems.
Nudicaulous glassworts are plants common in tidal marshes.

nullify

numen

numerical

numismatics

n pl
/ .n(y)üməz'madɪks /
Gk > F > L
the study of coins, tokens, medals, paper money, and objects closely resembling them in form or purpose.
An individual well known in the field of numismatics gave a lecture on wampum to the class in Native American history.

nuptial

nuque

nursery

nurturance

n
/ 'nərçərən(t)s /
L
affectionate care and attention.
Children who receive adequate nurturance often are friendly and outgoing.

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nutate

v
/ 'n(y)ütāt /
L

wobble so as to cause a small irregularity in the precession of the equinoxes.

The plane of the Moon's orbit around Earth is tilted by about 5 degrees, causing Earth to nutate.

nutcracker

nuthatch

n
/ 'nɒt.hach /
E

a small bird that creeps over the trunk and branches of trees and has habits similar to those of the titmouse and creeper.

The tiny bird crawling headfirst down the tree is probably a nuthatch.

nutmeg

nutria

n
/ 'n(y)ütrēə /
L > Sp

the fur of an aquatic water rodent that is treated to resemble beaver.

While windowshopping Lorene stopped to look at a set of earmuffs made from nutria.

nutritious

nyctinasty

nylon

oafish

oafishly

oath

n
/ 'oθ /
E

a usually formal affirmation made solemn by being coupled with the invocation of something viewed as sacred.

Deirdre made Tom take an oath of silence before telling him her secret.

obduced

v
/ äb'd(y)üst /
L

covered : enveloped.

Melanie saw that the cells were obduced by a thin membrane.

obduracy

obedience

obediential

obeliscal

obelus

obey

obituarist

n
/ ɔ'bichə.werəst /
L + Ecf
the writer of a record or notice of a person's death.

The obituarist composed a balanced assessment of the artist's achievements.

objectivity

objurgate

oblast

n
/ 'ä.bläst /
OSlav > Russ
a governmental subdivision of the former USSR corresponding to an autonomous province or state.
Krasnoyarsk Province is a large oblast in central Russia.

oblation

obliged

adj
/ ə'blɪjd /
L > F > E
constrained by physical, moral, or legal force.
Calvin will feel obliged to behave ethically even if he does not sign the honor code.

obliterable

adj
/ ə'blidərəbəl /
L

capable of being removed from existence or destroyed.

Fortunately, the actor's flubbed lines were obliterable from the videotape.

oblivescence

oblivionize

v
/ ə'blivēə.nīz /
L > E

relegate to a state of being forgotten.

Larry wondered if hypnosis might help him oblivionize his feelings for his former girlfriend.

oblong

obnoxiously

obnubilate

v
/ äb'n(y)übə.lāt /
L
cover or obscure by or as if by clouds : becloud.
Strong emotions can often obnubilate sound reasoning.

oboe

n
/ 'ɔbō /
F

a wooden double-reed wind instrument.

Tommy introduced his mother to his friend who played the oboe in the orchestra.

obscure

adj
/ əbz'kyù(ə)r /
L > F > E
not readily understood.
The idea the paragraph was trying to convey was expressed in an unnecessarily obscure way.

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obsequy

n
/ əb'sekwədə /

L
the quality or state of being compliant to excess.
The server waited on the diners with great obsequy.

obsequy

observatory

n
/ əb'zərvətōrē /

L
a building or place given over to or equipped for observation of natural phenomena.
Slowly, the roof of the observatory opened to afford a clear view for the great reflecting telescope within.

obsessional

obsidional

obtestation

obtrude

obtruncate

v
/ əb'trənʃkāt /

L
cut the head or top from.
George's decision to obtruncate the pin oak might be bad for the tree in the long run.

obturator

n
/ 'əbt(y)ə.rādə(r) /

L
a device for preventing the escape of gas through the breech mechanism of a breech-loading gun.
A faulty obturator was the cause of the backfire from the Civil War reenactor's gun.

obtuse

obtusely

obvolute

obvelation

n
/ ˌäbvə'lāshən /

L
[Note: Could be confused with obligation.] an act or instance of covering with or as if with a veil : concealment.
A prophecy is often an obvelation as well as a revelation.

Occident

n
/ 'äksədənt /

L
regions or countries lying to the west of a specified or implied point of orientation.
Jane knows where "the Orient" is, but she has not heard the term Occident.

occupancy

n
/ 'äkyəpənsē /

L > F
the condition of residing in a building as an owner or tenant.
The contractor promised the owners that their house would be ready for occupancy in two more weeks.

occupation

occupied

oceanfront

oceanodromous

oceanography

n
/ ˌōshə'nägrəfē /

Gk
a science that deals with the whole body of salt water that covers nearly three-fourths of the surface of the globe.
Recent advances in oceanography include the use of electronic echo sounders to monitor the structure and movement of currents.

ochlocracy

ochronosis

octagon

octahedron

n
/ ˌäktə'hēdrən /

Gk
a solid bounded by eight plane faces.
Tanya bought a music box in the form of an octahedron for her new grandson.

octameter

octarchy

octogenary

octopodous

oddity

odiferous

adj
/ ˌō'dif(ə)rəs /

L > E
having a strong gamy often acrid smell.
Mahmud stood in a doorway as the long odiferous line of camels passed by.

odontalgic

odori

n
/ ˌō'dōr.ē /

Jpn
any lively Japanese folk or theater dance characterized by rapid footwork.
The dancers in the odori were extraordinarily light on their feet.

odoriferous

adj
/ ˌōdər'rif(ə)rəs /

L
bearing or yielding an odor.
Perfumes are composed of solvents, fixatives, and odoriferous elements.

odorless

oenomel

oenophilist

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oersted

n
/ 'ər.stəd /
Dan name
the centimeter-gram-second
electromagnetic unit of magnetic
intensity equal to the intensity of a
magnetic field in a vacuum in
which a unit magnetic pole
experiences a mechanical force of 1
dyne in the direction of the field.
*The oersted is used to measure
magnetic induction.*

offal

offensive

adj
/ ə'fən(t)sɪv /
L
making attack : relating to or
characterized by attack.
*The offensive team is the one in
possession of the ball.*

offertory

n
/ 'ɒfə(r).tɔːrē /
L
an antiphon, anthem, or other
musical selection sung or played
during a religious service in which
monetary gifts are received from
the congregation.
*Linda and Mike sang a duet for the
offertory during last week's church
service.*

officiate

officially

officious

adj
/ ə'fɪʃəs /
L
volunteering one's services where
they are neither asked nor needed :
meddlesome.
*The officious busybodies offered
help just to satisfy their curiosity.*

often

ogival

Ogygian

adj
/ ɔː'jɪjēən /
Gk name
ancient, primeval.
*The sailors found the uncharted
island in an Ogygian state of
wilderness.*

ohmmeter

n
/ 'ɒ(m).mēdə(r) /
G name + Gk
an instrument for indicating
directly electric resistance.
*Brent showed Aru how to use an
ohmmeter to test the resistance of a
circuit.*

oily

olecranon

n
/ ɔː'lekrənən /
Gk > L
the large process of the ulna that
projects behind the elbow joint and
forms the bony prominence of the
elbow—called also “funny bone.”
*When the arm is extended, the
olecranon fits into a depression in
the humerus.*

oleiferous

adj
/ ɔːlē'ɪf(ə)rəs /
L + L
producing oil.
*The oleiferous castor beans are the
source of castor oil.*

olfactometry

n
/ ɔːl.fak'tämətrē /
L + Gk + Ecf
the testing and measurement of the
sensitivity of the sense of smell.
*When Godfrey couldn't smell any
aromas from foods, his doctor
recommended that he undergo
olfactometry.*

olfactorily

olid

adj
/ 'äləd /
L
having a strong disagreeable smell.
*An olid sticky liquid was seeping
from under the door of the
cloakroom.*

oligemia

adj
/ ɔːlə'gēmēə /
Gk > L
a condition in which the total
volume of the blood is reduced.
*One of the health seminar sessions
explores the relationship between
oligemia and migraine headaches.*

oligophagous

adj
/ ɔːlə'gäfəgəs /
Gk
eating only a few specific kinds of
food—used especially of an insect.
*Oligophagous insects feed upon
only a limited number of usually
related plants.*

oligophrenic

oligopoly

oligopsony

n
/ ɔːlə'gäpsənē /
Gk
a market situation in which each of
a limited number of buyers is
strong enough to influence the
market but not strong enough to
ignore the reaction to such
influence by his competitors.
*Buyers of expensive printing
presses constitute an oligopsony,
since there are only a few dozen in
the whole world.*

olivaceous

adj
/ ɔːlə'vāshəs /
Gk > L > F > E + L + Ecf
of the color olive or olive green.
*While walking through the salt
marsh, Janice came upon a
laughing gull's nest of three
olivaceous eggs.*

olive

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olpe

ombrology

ombrophobe

n
/ ˈämbɹə.fəb /

Gk + Gk

a plant incapable of withstanding long-continued rain.

Excessive rain can cause the leaves of an ombrophobe to decay and fall.

omen

omens

n pl
/ ˈömənz /

L

occurrences believed to portend or show the character of a future event.

Losing his lucky coin and spilling the salt were omens that pointed to a bad day ahead for Nick.

ominously

omniphibious

omphaloskepsis

onegite

oneiromancy

oneness

onomastic

adj
/ ˈänə.mastik /

Gk

[Note: Could be confused with onomastics.] of, relating to, or consisting of a name or names.
Pape's onomastic lexicon is immeasurably useful to students of ancient Greece.

ontological

onychophagia

n
/ ˌänəkəˈfāj(ē)ə /

Gk

nail-biting.

Resa applied a bitter substance to her nails in hopes of curing her onychophagia.

onymous

oolite

oolong

oomycete

n
/ ˌoʊ.mī.sēt /

Gk + Gk

a fungus of a subclass of parasitic or saprophytic fungi that includes water molds, white rusts, and downy mildews.

A new fungicide has been developed to combat the oomycete causing root rot in many crops.

ooporphyrin

n
/ ˌoʊ.pō(r)fərən /

Gk + Gk

a pale brown pigment in eggshells (as of the domestic hen).

Julia explained to her young daughter that the ooporphyrin in brown-shelled eggs in no way alters their quality.

ooze

n
/ ˈüz /

E

a stretch or piece of muddy ground.
Without a moment's hesitation they started through a puddle of sticky ooze, which quickly became ankle-deep.

opacate

v
/ ˈɒ.pākāt /

L

make impervious to the rays of visible light.

Because even a small amount of daylight awakens Scott, he uses special shades that opacate his windows.

opal

opaleye

opaquely

openness

opera

operable

operant

operate

operetta

operose

operoseness

n
/ ˌäpəˈrōsnəs /

L + EcF

the quality of requiring or involving effort or labor.

The diplomat was not discouraged by the operoseness and slowness of the negotiations.

ophidian

adj
/ ˈɒ.fidēən /

Gk

of, relating to, or resembling that of snakes : snakelike.

Medusa's ophidian hairdo is a tidbit from mythology that many students never forget.

ophiophagous

opinionator

opisometer

opium

opponent

opportunistic

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

oppress

v
/ ə'pres /
L

burden spiritually or mentally as if by pressure : weigh heavily upon.
Feelings of failure oppress Candice from time to time.

oppressive

adj
/ ə'presiv /
L

overpowering or depressing to the spirit or senses.
The troops battled the oppressive heat by drinking large amounts of water.

opsimath

n
/ 'äpsə.math /
Gk

a person who begins to learn late in life.
The opsimath earned his high school diploma at 77 and his college degree at 80.

optician

n
/ äp'tishən /
Gk > L > F

one that grinds spectacle lenses to prescription and dispenses spectacles.
The new optician in town is offering a special price on prescription sunglasses.

optics

n pl
/ 'äptiks /
Gk

a science that deals with light.
In the antiquarian shop, Liza found a 125-year-old book on optics.

optimum

optometer

oracular

adj
/ ò'rakyələ(r) /
L

resembling an authoritative or wise expression especially in solemnity of delivery.
Oz's oracular pronouncement impressed Dorothy and her friends.

oracy

orangelo

oration

oratorio
n
/ ò'rə'tōrē.ō /
L > It

a musical composition having a libretto based usually on a scriptural subject and consisting typically of recitatives, arias, choruses, orchestral interludes and accompaniment, and sometimes spoken dialogue but having no action, scenery, or costume.
Handel's oratorio Messiah is performed annually at the cathedral.

oratory

orbicularity
n
/ ò(r).bikyə'larədē /
L

the quality or state of resembling or having the form of an orb or globe.
The geologist noted the stone's highly unusual orbicularity.

orbiculate

orchestrate

orchestrelle

ordain

ordered

ordinable

ordinal

n
/ 'ord(ə)nəl /
L

a number designating the place (as first, second, third) occupied by any item in an ordered sequence.
The ordinal for the number one is first.

ordinance

orenda

n
/ ò'rendə /

Wyandot
extraordinary invisible power.
The medicine man relied on his orenda to control others.

orexis

n
/ ò'reksəs /
Gk > L

the feeling and striving aspect of mind as contrasted with the intellectual.
Anyone who has watched a baby learn to walk knows that the human orexis is innately strong.

organic

adj
/ ò(r)'ganik /
Gk

being, containing, or relating to carbon compounds.
Fadela's science fiction novel starts with the discovery of organic compounds on Jupiter.

organization

organophyly

organza

organzine

orguINETte

oriental

originated

orinasal

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

orismology

n
/ ˈɔːrəz'mäləjē /
Gk + Gk
the science of defining technical terms.
At the conference of botanists, problems relating to orismology were discussed with reference especially to terms used in plant pathology.

ornithoid

adj
/ ˈɔː(r)nəˌθɔɪd /
Gk
birdlike.
The ornithoid statue in Walcott Park is always covered with pigeons.

ornithology

ornithoscopy

orography

orthic

orthoepist

orthophoria

orthopterology

n
/ (ˌ)ɔː(r)thäptə'räləjē /
Gk > L
the study of insects with mouthparts fitted for chewing, two pairs of wings or none, and an incomplete metamorphosis.
The study of crickets and grasshoppers, cockroaches, mantises, and stick insects is included in orthopterology.

ortolan

ortstein

n
/ ˈɔːrt.stīn /
G
a cemented or compacted and often clayey layer in soil that hampers root penetration and may be caused by repeated plowing to the same depth.
The local soil contains so much clay that the farmers have had to use special techniques to avoid turning their fields to ortstein.

oryzivorous

oscillate

oscillometer

n
/ ˌä.səˈlämədə(r) /
L + Gk
an instrument for measuring the changes in pulsations in the arteries.
Some blood pressure instruments are equipped with an oscillometer to measure the pressure fluctuations within the bag.

oscitancy

n
/ ˈäsədənsē /
L
drowsiness usually demonstrated by yawns.
By the third day of testimony on blood types, oscitancy had swept the courtroom.

osier

n
/ ˈɔːzhə(r) /
L > F > E
any of various willows whose pliable twigs are used for furniture and basketry.
The children wove many small baskets with the twigs of the osier.

Osirian

adj
/ ˈɔːsɪrēən /
Egyptian name
of or relating to Osiris, ancient Egyptian god of the underworld.
Thanks to Plutarch, the Osirian legend was recorded for posterity.

osmoscope

n
/ ˈäzmə.skɔp /
Gk
an instrument for detecting and measuring odors.
The inspector used an osmoscope to find the gas leak in the basement.

osseous

adj
/ ˈäsēəs /
L
[has near homonym: Aussies]
composed of or resembling bone : bony.
The oyster is protected by its osseous shell.

ossificatory

adj
/ əˈsɪfəkəˌtɔrē /
L
of or involving the process of bone formation.
A poor diet can easily interfere with the ossificatory process.

ossify

osteogenesis

osteomyelitis

osteopath

n
/ ˈästēəˌpəθ /
Gk
a practitioner of a system of medical practice based on the theory that diseases are due chiefly to a loss of structural integrity in the tissues.
If Dr. Fletcher can't cure Reba's headaches, she plans to consult an osteopath.

osteopathy

osteophyte

n
/ ˈästēəˌfɪt /
Gk
a small pathological bony outgrowth.
George's back pain was caused by an osteophyte on one of his vertebrae.

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

osteoplasty

osteotomy

ostium

n
/ 'ästēəm /
L

one of the lateral slits in the heart of an arthropod by which the blood enters from the pericardium.
The ostium allows blood to reenter the insect's heart from the insect's one blood vessel, which runs dorsally the length of its body.

otherworldly

otiose

adj
/ 'ōshē.ōs /
L

being at leisure or at ease : idle, unemployed.
The otiose travelers slept until nearly noon.

otioseness

otiosity

n
/ ōshē'äsədə /
L > F

the quality or state of lacking use, effect, or function.
Mr. Simmons advised that complaining about the power outage would be an exercise in otiosity, because nothing could be done about it.

otorhinolaryngology

n
/ ōdərīnō.larən'gäləjē /
Gk

a branch of medicine that deals with the ear, nose, and throat and their diseases and disorders.
The Cleveland Clinic's department of otorhinolaryngology examined a rock group and found that all its members suffered from laryngitis.

otoscope

n
/ 'ōdə.skōp /
Gk + Gk
an instrument fitted with lighting and magnifying lens systems and used to facilitate visual inspection of the auditory canal and ear drum.
Dr. Jamison peered through the otoscope into Kayla's ear.

ounce

n
/ 'aūn(t)s /
L > F > E
a unit of weight equal to 1/16 avoirdupois pound.
To understand why gold is sold by the ounce and silver is sold by the pound, check the prices.

oust

v
/ 'aüst /
L > F > AF
put out of possession : eject, dispossess from, or deprive of an inheritance.
The rebels met in secret and voted to oust the king by force if necessary.

outbreak

outdoorsy

outmoded

outrance

outsert

outvote

ouvert

adj
/ ü've(ə)r /
F
having an open stance or movement in ballet.
The prima ballerina demonstrated an ouvert plié to the class.

ovality

ovary

ovenware

overcapitalize

overindulgent

oversight

overwhelm

v
/ ōvə(r)'(h)welm /
E
overthrow and bury beneath : engulf completely.
Mudslides can overwhelm entire communities in a matter of minutes.

overwrought

adj
/ ōvə(r)'rōt /
E
suffering from or revealing nervous strain : agitated.
Randy's parents are overwrought by his desire to get a tattoo.

ovibos

n
/ 'ōvəbäs /
L
a heavyset shaggy-coated wild ox now confined to Greenland and the barren northern lands of North America—called also “musk ox.”
The horns of the ovibos grow sideways from the skull, curving downward at the sides of the head and then upwards at the ends.

ovine

adj
/ 'ō.vīn /
L
of, being, or relating to sheep.
Selena wrote a paper on infectious ovine diseases for the veterinary journal.

ovularian

owlet

oxblood

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

oxford

n
/ 'äksfə(r)d /
E geog name
a low-cut usually laced shoe
coming to the instep.
*The salesclerk suggested a saddle
oxford as a comfortable everyday
shoe.*

oxidization

n
/ 'äksədə'zāshən /
Gk > F
the act or process of chemically
adding oxygen to.
*Oxidization is part of the process of
releasing energy during the
metabolism of carbohydrates.*

ozone

n
/ 'ō.zōn /
Gk > G
an allotropic triatomic form of
oxygen that is normally a faintly
blue irritating gas with a
characteristic pungent odor.
*While browsing through the
magazine, Ken learned that ozone
is formed in the atmosphere by a
process involving diatomic oxygen
and solar radiation.*

ozostomia

pacemaker

pachisi

pachymeter

n
/ pə'kimədə(r) /
Gk
an instrument for measuring
thickness (as of paper).
*The paper mill's superintendent of
quality control finally ordered an
electronic pachymeter.*

pachysandra

pacifism

packet

pact

paddle

padlock

padre

n
/ 'pä(,)drā /
L > Sp or It or Pg
a military chaplain.
*Father Mulcahey, the base
chaplain on the television series
M*A*S*H, was often referred to as
"the padre."*
paduasoy
n
/ 'pajəwəsōi /
It geog name + F
a rich heavy corded silk fabric for
clothing and upholstery.
*The Venetian prince wore a tunic of
embroidered paduasoy.*

paganism

paginate

pahoehoe

n
/ pə'hōē.hōē /
Hawaiian
cooled hard lava marked by a
smooth often billowy shiny surface.
*The geologist showed the class
samples of different types of lava,
including pahoehoe.*

paillard

pair

palatalize

v
/ 'paləd'līz /
L + Ecf
pronounce with the front of the
tongue near or touching the hard
roof of the mouth.
*English speakers palatalize the first
n in the word onion.*

paleface

paleography

n
/ .pālē'ägräfē /
Gk
the study of ancient modes of
writing including inscriptions.
*The museum turned over the
mysterious stone tablets to a
specialist in paleography.*

Paleozoic

adj
/ .pālēə'zōik /
Gk
of or relating to a division of
geological history from the
beginning of the Cambrian to the
close of the Permian periods.
*Seed-bearing plants and
amphibians first appeared in the
Paleozoic era.*

pales

n pl
/ 'pālz /
L
[Note: The definition provided is
not the one most commonly
associated with this word. In
addition, word has homonym:
pails.] slats fastened to a rail at top
and bottom for fencing : pickets.
*They now walked on together
quietly till within view of the
vicarage pales.*

palette

palfrey

n
/ 'pɒlfrē /
(Gk + Gaulish > L) > F > E
a saddle horse other than a war-
horse having a light, easy gait.
*With his war-horse lame, the knight
had no other choice but to ride a
palfrey.*

palingenesis

n
/ .palən'jenəsəs /
Gk
renewal by or as if by rebirth, as
the doctrine of reincarnation.
*The discussion of palingenesis
started with the illustration of an
oak tree producing acorns, which,
in turn, produce oak trees.*

palisade

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

palisado

n
/ ˌpaləˈsādō /
L > OProv > Sp
a fence of stakes used especially for defense.
Irwin's group walked along the fort's entire palisado while the tour guide talked endlessly.

palladian

adj
/ pəˈlādēən /
Gk > L
of or relating to wisdom or learning.
Ike tries to strike a balance between palladian pursuits and recreational activities.

palliasse

palliatory

pallid

adj
/ ˈpaləd /
L
lacking in brightness or intensity : pale—used of a color or a colored object.
Today's pallid sky contrasts sharply with yesterday's brilliant blue one.

pally

palmary

palmetto

palmistry

palpably

palpus

n
/ ˈpal.pəs /
L
a segmented process attached to a mouthpart of an arthropod, usually having a tasting or feeling function.
Jack found a species of grasshopper with an unusually large palpus.

palter

paludicolous

adj
/ ˌpalyəˈdikələs /
L
living or thriving in a marshy environment.
The campers were not used to the nightly cacophony of the nearby paludicolous frogs.

palynological

adj
/ ˌpalənəˈlājəkəl /
Gk
concerned with pollen or pollen grains.
Dr. Wickes hopes that her palynological research will some day help many who suffer from allergies.

pampas

n pl
/ ˈpampəz /
Quechua&Aymara > Sp
extensive generally grass-covered plains of temperate South America east of the Andes.
Morrie dreams of being a gaucho on the Argentine pampas.

pamper

pampero

n
/ pamˈperō /
AmerSp
a strong cold wind from the west or southwest that sweeps over the pampas of South America from the Andes.
The cattle were huddled together with their backs turned into the pampero.

pamphletize

panachage

n
/ ˌpanəˈshāzh /
F
a variation of the list system that allows a voter to redistribute names from several party lists into a list having names in an order of his or her own choice.
Harry proposed panachage as an alternative to the old procedure.

panached

adj
/ pəˈnasht /
F
variegated with stripes of color.
Donna planted a bed of red and white panached tulips.

panama

n
/ ˈpanə.mä /
Tupi > Central American geog
name
a fine lightweight hat of natural-colored straw hand-plaited of narrow strips from the young leaves of the jipijapa.
While on a tropical vacation, Mr. Pease bought a white, hand-woven panama to shade his head.

panchreston

n
/ panˈkrestən /
Gk
a broadly inclusive and often oversimplified thesis that is intended to cover all possible variations within an area of concern.
Michael's doctoral advisor gently explained that his thesis was a panchreston and needed to be more focused.

panchromatic

pancosmism

pancreas

pandowdy

n
/ panˈdaüdē /
unknown
a deep-dish apple dessert that is spiced; sweetened with sugar, molasses, or maple syrup; and covered with a rich biscuit crust and baked.
Mother serves pandowdy, our favorite dessert, whenever visitors stay for dinner.

panegyrical

panegyrist

panforte

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

Panglossian

adj

/ pan'gläsēən /

(Gk + Gk) > F literary name marked by the view that "all is for the best in this best of possible worlds."

The coach's Panglossian attitude lifted his team's sagging spirits.

pangolin

n

/ 'pangəlɪn /

Malay

any of a family of Asian and African toothless mammals having the body covered with large overlapping horny scales and feeding chiefly on ants.

Because of its overlapping scales, the pangolin is sometimes called a walking artichoke.

panhandle

panicky

panjandrum

panophobia

n

/ ,panə'fɒbēə /

L + Gk

a condition of vague nonspecific anxiety : generalized fear.

For several days after the earthquake, Rachel experienced a mild panophobia.

panoplied

panoply

n

/ 'panəplē /

Gk

a magnificent or impressive array.

The panoply of wildflowers in the meadow took away Carla's breath.

panorama

Pansil

n

/ 'pan(t)səl /

Skt > Pali > Singhalese

[Note: Could be confused with pencil.] the rite in Hinayana Buddhism of undertaking ceremonially a set of five precepts of morality.

Pansil is taken individually before a Buddhist shrine or collectively at the beginning of a Buddhist meeting of any kind.

pansit

n

/ 'pän(t)sət /

Tag

a Chinese noodle dish of the Philippines.

As more and more ethnic restaurants open, Americans are becoming familiar with dishes such as pansit.

pantalooney

pantheon

n

/ 'pan(t)thē.än /

Gk

a temple dedicated to all the gods.

The pantheon in Rome has survived remarkably intact since ancient times.

pantometer

n

/ pan'tämədə(r) /

Gk > F

a device for measuring all angles.

The pantometer can be used to measure all sorts of angles, lengths, and heights.

panzer

panzootic

papagallo

papal

paparchical

papaverine

papered

papillote

n

/ 'papəlɒt /

L > F

a greased paper wrapper in which food is cooked and served.

Harvey carefully peeled the colored papillote from his chocolate cupcake.

papyraceous

parabola

n

/ pə'rabələ /

Gk + Gk

a plane curve generated in such a manner that it is equal to a conic section formed by the intersection of a cone with a plane parallel to an element of the cone.

The high fly ball described a parabola in the air.

parachronism

paradigms

paradoxical

paragoge

n

/ 'par.əgōjē /

Gk

the addition of a sound or syllable to the end of a word.

By paragoge, the word golden was formed from the word gold.

paragon

paralogism

n

/ pə'raləjizəm /

Gk

a reasoning contrary to logical rules or formulas.

The debate team was defeated once its paralogism was exposed.

paralyze

paranee

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

parapetless

adj

/ˈparəˌpɛtləs/

L > It + Ecf

not having a wall, rampart or elevation designed to protect soldiers.

The castle was parapetless, the two towers having been destroyed by cannon fire a century earlier.

paraphrase

paraphrasia

parapraxia

n

/ˌparəˈpraksɪə/

Gk

a faulty act (as a slip of the tongue or of memory) : blunder, lapse.

One parapraxia after another caused Mr. Aiken to wonder if he was in the early stages of senility.

parapsychology

n

/ˌparəˈsɪˌkələʒi/

Gk

a science concerned with the investigation especially by experimental means of events that are considered to be evidence of mental telepathy, clairvoyance, and psychokinesis.

Those claiming to be experts in parapsychology find it easy to gain attention in the tabloid press.

paraquat

n

/ˈparəkˌwät/

Gk + L

an herbicide that is used especially as a weed killer.

The DEA officials sprayed paraquat on the marijuana fields.

parasoled

paratactic

adj

/ˌparəˈtæktɪk/

Gk

of, relating to, or exhibiting coordinate ranging of clauses, phrases, or words one after another without coordinating connectives.

Herodotus was cited as an example of an author who used a paratactic style.

parazonium

parchment

pardon

paregoric

parentage

n

/ˈpa(r)əntɪj/

L > F + Ecf

descent from ancestors : lineage.

The earl asked his valet, "Can you tell me anything of the parentage of the lady in this photo?"

parental

parenthesis

parenthetic

pargetry

n

/ˈpærjətrē/

E

ornamental plaster or stucco relief work applied to a flat surface.

The corridors of the mansion were ornamented with a variety of pargetry.

pariahism

parish

n

/ˈparɪʃ/

Gk > L > F > E

[has near homonym: perish] the ecclesiastical unit of area committed to one pastor; collectively : the residents of such area or the members of one church.

Father Johnson bought a car so he could visit everyone in his parish.

parka

parliamentary

adj

/ˌpɑrləˈmentərē/

F > E

of, relating to, or having the nature of a supreme legislative body of a usually major political unit.

Members of the Senate were asked not to delay parliamentary business with lengthy speeches.

parlous

parmesan

n

/ˈpɑrməˌzæn/

It geog name

a very hard dry cheese with a sharp flavor that is cured for several years and used grated to season other foods (as spaghetti and sauces).

Clem sprinkled a mound of parmesan atop his vermicelli.

parolee

n

/ˌpɑrəˈlɪ/

Gk > L

one granted a conditional and revocable release from prison.

Vanessa hoped that giving the parolee a job would help to keep him from becoming a repeat offender.

paronomasia

n

/ˌparənəˈmāzh(ē)ə/

Gk > L

a play upon words in which the same word is used in different senses or words similar in sound are set in opposition : pun.

Harold is usually quite clever with his puns, but this time his paronomasia was purely silly.

paronymous

parquetry

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

parricide
n
/ 'parəsɪd /
L
[has near homonym: parasite] one that murders his or her father, mother, or a close relative.
The judge ordered a psychiatric evaluation of the accused parricide.

parried
v
/ 'parəd /
L > Prov > F
warded off a weapon or blow by means of a defensive action.
Neither fencer scored as they parried for several minutes.

parrot

parrotlet

parsimonious

parsley

partage

partan

partial

partiality

participation

participle

particular
adj
/ pə(r)'tɪkylər /
L
distinctive among others of the same kind : out of the ordinary : worthy of notice.
Was there a particular reason that you overslept today?

parure

parvanimity

parvitude

paseo
n
/ pə'səʊ /
Sp
a leisurely stroll : promenade.
Florrie and Georgia took an afternoon paseo down the boulevard.

paskha
n
/ 'pəskə /
Gk > Russ
a molded Russian dessert made of cheese, cream, raisins, candied fruit, and nuts and traditionally served at Easter.
Basking in the admiration of her family, Tatiana proudly brought the paskha to the table.

passably

passade

passgang

passim

passimeter

passionately
adv
/ 'pash(ə)nətlē /
L + EcF
with great feeling : enthusiastically.
"Now let me see," Mrs. Whatsit pondered. "I'm passionately fond of Russian caviar."

pastel
adj
/ pa'stel /
L > It > F
pale and light in color : lacking in brilliance and intensity.
Mrs. Cooper selected bold rather than pastel colors for her new baby's bedroom decor.

pastime

pastor

pastoral

pastoralism

patas

patchy

patently
adv
/ 'patəntlē /
L
clearly, obviously, plainly.
The marketing company was sued because some parts of its infomercial were patently untrue.

paterfamilias
n
/ ,padə(r)fə'milēəs /
L
the male head of a household.
Kevin declared himself paterfamilias for the day and took his younger siblings to the baseball game.

pathetic
adj
/ pə'thedɪk /
Gk > L
evoking tenderness, pity, sympathy, or sorrow : affecting, pitiable.
The pathetic man, whose clothes were worn and tattered, had once been a prominent community leader.

pathology
n
/ pə'thələjē /
Gk
the study of diseases; their essential nature, causes, and development; and the structural and functional changes produced by them.
Carla, a second-year medical student, was considering choosing pathology as her specialty.

pathways
n pl
/ 'path.wāz /
E + E
tracks specially constructed for a particular use (as walking).
Another open green door revealed bushes and pathways between beds containing winter vegetables.

patina

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

patio

n
/ 'padēō /
L > OProv? > Sp
a recreation area adjoining a dwelling, often paved, and adapted especially to outdoor dining.
Rachel's birthday party was held on the sunny patio.

patioed

patisserie

patriline

patronize

patroons

n pl
/ pə'trūnz /
L > F
the proprietors of the tracts of land granted to members of the Dutch West India Company.
Most of present-day New York and New Jersey was once owned by patroons.

patten

n
/ 'pat'n /
L > F > E
[has homonym: paten] a clog, sandal, or overshoe often with a wooden sole or metal device to elevate the foot and increase the wearer's height or aid in walking in mud.
Jack kicked aside the muddied patten that Marsha had left on the porch.

pattern

paulopost

paunch

paunchy

pauper

pauperize

v
/ 'pöpə'rīz /
L + Ecf
reduce to abject poverty.
Afraid that another market dip would pauperize him, Soren sold his shares in dot-com companies.

pawned

payable

payola

n
/ pə'olə /
L > F > E + E?
an undercover or indirect payment for a commercial favor.
The disc jockey was fired when it became known that he received payola from a record company.

payroll

peabody

n
/ 'pē.bādē /
E name
a fast ballroom dance in open position.
The Lowensteins surprised everyone at the Opera Ball when they danced the peabody.

peacetime

peacock

peameal

pearl

pebbled

peccancy

n
/ 'pekənsē /
L
the quality or state of being guilty of a moral offense.
The stockholders decided to overlook the CEO's peccancy and reelected him to another term.

peccavi

n
/ pe'kä(,)vē /
L
a humble acknowledgment of sin or error : confession.
The leader stood in front of his followers and uttered a tearful peccavi, hoping that they would forgive and forget.

pecksniffian

adj
/ pek'snifēən /
fictional E name + Ecf
unctuously hypocritical : selfish and corrupt behind a display of seeming benevolence.
The pecksniffian humbug in charge of the charity event took on the job merely as a public relations stunt.

pectoral

adj
/ 'pekt(ə)rəl /
L
of, related to, situated or occurring in or on, or worn on the chest.
Turning a so-called "painted" turtle over reveals beautiful orange and green patterns on its pectoral plates.

peculiarities

n pl
/ pə'kyül'yarədēz /
L
qualities or states belonging exclusively or especially to a person or group.
Among her less endearing peculiarities is a penchant for always arriving late.

peculiarly

adv
/ pə'kyülyə(r)lē /
L > E
particularly, unusually.
Lucille was peculiarly grumpy during lunch.

pedagogy

peddle

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pedestal

n
/ 'pedəstəl /
It > F
the base of an upright structure (as a statue, vase, or lamp).
Because tourists did so much damage to the statue in the town square, it was moved to a much higher pedestal.

pediculosis

n
/ pə'dikyə'lōsəs /
L
infestation with lice.
The school nurse explained that about five percent of elementary school children are affected with pediculosis.

pedigerous

adj
/ pə'dijərəs /
L
having feet : footed.
The insect had three pedigerous segments.

pedigreed

pediment

pedodontics

peerage

n
/ 'pirij /
L > F > E
the rank or dignity of nobility.
The war hero's name was submitted to the king for a peerage.

peevish

adj
/ 'pēvish /
E
marked by ill temper.
The nurse showed great patience and forbearance toward her peevish patient.

pegasus

n
/ 'pegəsəs /
Gk name
a fabulous winged horse; especially : the winged steed thought of as bearing a poet in flights of fancy.
Monique drew a picture of Mother Goose riding on a pegasus instead of a goose.

peignoir

n
/ pān'wä(r) /
L > F
a woman's loose negligee or dressing gown.
Betty's black peignoir fluttered as she walked past the air conditioner.

Pekingology

n
/ ,pē(,)kiŋ'äləjē /
Chinese geog name
the study of the policies and practices of Communist China.
Professor Chen was an expert in Pekingology.

pelean

adj
/ pə'lēən /
Martinique geog name
of, relating to, or resembling volcanic eruptions characterized by violent expulsion of clouds or blasts of incandescent volcanic ash.
The pelean eruption of Mount St. Helens filled the Toutle River with many tons of ash.

pelelith

pelerine

pellet

pellucidity

n
/ ,pelyə'sidədē /
L
the quality or state of permitting one to see through to a remarkable degree.
The pellucidity of the water in the bay attracted many scuba divers.

pellucidly

pelmatogram

n
/ pel'madə,gram /
Gk + Gk
an impression of the sole of the foot.
Joan picked up the bronzed pelmatogram and reminisced about the time when her son was a baby.

pelorus

pelota

peloton

n
/ 'pelə.tän /
F
a European ornamental glass.
There was a large display of peloton in the window of the antique shop.

penalize

pendentive

pendicle

pending

adj
/ 'pendiŋ /
L + Ecf
not yet decided : in continuance.
Most of the cases pending before the honor council deal with cheating.

pendulosity

penitent

n
/ 'penədənt /
L
a person regretful of sin : one sorrowful because of his transgressions.
St. Francis of Assisi spent several years as a penitent at the beginning of his conversion.

penny

penologist

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

penology

n
/ pē'näləjē /
Gk + Gk
a branch of criminology dealing with prison management and the treatment of offenders especially with regard to their rehabilitation.
In his course in penology, Jake studied the procedures for probation and parole.

pensionnat

pentacle

n
/ 'pentəkəl /
L > It
a five-pointed star producible by one continuous line.
The man who came to the door wore a necklace with a bronze pentacle on it.

pentagonal

pentastich

n
/ 'pentə.stik /
Gk + Gk
a unit, stanza, or poem consisting of five lines.
Eric recited a limerick as an example of a pentastich.

Pentateuchal

adj
/ ,pentə'tükəl /
Gk
of or relating to the first five books of the Old Testament.
The synagogue's guest lecturer was a world-famous Pentateuchal scholar.

penthouse

n
/ 'pent.häüs /
L > E
a dwelling built on a roof.
Lyla lives in the penthouse of a chic new apartment building.

penultimate

adj
/ pə'nältəmät /
L
next to the last.
In the word ammunition, the stress falls on the penultimate syllable.

peonage

peppermint

peppery

adj
/ 'pep(ə)rē /
E
hot, pungent, piquant.
The peppery smell coming from the wok almost made Josh choke when he entered the kitchen.

peradventure

n
/ ,pə.rəd'venchə(r) /
L > F > E
an opinion based on guesswork : surmise.
Thinking that Phil's favorite color is red just because he purchased a red car is a peradventure.

percale

percaline

perceived

v
/ pə(r)'sēvd /
L > F > E
became aware of through the senses.
Through the mist, Steve perceived the shape of a house.

perceptibly

adv
/ pə(r)'septəblē /
L
in a manner so as to be perceived.
When Laura entered the supermarket, the air was perceptibly cooler.

perch

percheron

perciatelli

n
/ ,perchə'te(l)lē /
It
long tubular pasta slightly thicker than spaghetti.
The specialty at Antonio's restaurant was perciatelli with meatballs.

percolator

perdition

n
/ pə(r)'dishən /
L
the place of eternal punishment in the future state.
Overly remorseful for his minor wrongdoing, Bryce felt sure that a place in perdition was reserved for him.

perdure

peregrination

n
/ ,perəgrə'nāshən /
L
an excursion especially on foot or to a foreign country : journey.
Julie's peregrination to Italy opened her eyes to the splendors of Renaissance art.

peremptorily

perennially

perfectibilism

perfidiously

adv
/ pə(r)'fidēəslē /
L
in a dishonest or disloyal manner.
Paul has a reputation for behaving perfidiously and should not be given confidential information.

perfunctory

adj
/ pə(r)'fəŋ(k)t(ə)rē /
L
characterized by routine or superficiality : cursory.
The bureaucrat gave the teenager a perfunctory smile and continued to ignore her.

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pergola

pericardium

n
/ ˌpɛrəˈkɑrdᵻəm /
Gk > L
the conical sac of serous membrane that encloses the heart.
The bullet wound narrowly missed piercing Officer Callahan's pericardium.

pericope

perigloea

periglottis

perilous

adj
/ ˈpɛrələs /
L > F > E
full of, attended with, or involving danger.
Karen covered her eyes frequently during the movie, unable to watch her favorite actor face one perilous pitfall after another.

periodic

periodontal

adj
/ ˌpɛrᵻdᵻˈdɒntəl /
Gk
of or affecting the tissues or regions surrounding a tooth.
The closeup photographs of advanced periodontal disease made Kara want to floss her teeth.

periosteal

adj
/ ˌpɛrᵻˈɒstᵻəl /
Gk
situated around bone or produced external to existing bone.
The bone scan revealed periosteal inflammations around the tibia in both legs.

periphyton

n
/ pəˈrɪfᵻtən /
Gk
organisms that live attached to underwater surfaces.
Periphyton, such as certain algae, live on submerged plant stems and leaves.

peripteral

adj
/ pəˈrɪpt(ə)rəl /
Gk
having a row of columns on all sides.
The Parthenon in Athens is a peripteral temple, and most of its columns are still standing.

periscope

perished

adj
/ ˈpɛrɪʃt /
L > F > E + EcF
deadened or weakened by exposure.
The perished cotton crop was a result of the severe hail storm during the night.

peristyle

peritonitis

n
/ ˌpɛrᵻtᵻˈnɪdəs /
Gk
inflammation of the membrane that lines the cavity of the abdomen of a mammal.
The cause of Beth's abdominal pain was bacterial peritonitis.

peritus

n
/ pəˈrᵻdəs /
L
an expert who acts as an adviser at a Vatican council.
When the council reached an impasse, the peritus was called upon for advice.

periwig

n
/ ˈpɛrᵻwɪɡ /
F
one of several wigs popularly worn from the 17th century to the early 19th century.
The museum exhibited an imposing portrait of King Louis XIV wearing an elaborate periwig.

permafrost

permanent

permeability

n
/ ˌpɛrmᵻəˈbɪlədᵻ /
L + EcFF
the quality or state of being passable, penetrable, or pervious—used especially of a substance that allows the passage of fluids.
The permeability of Larry's tent to the rain resulted in a wet evening for the campers.

permissible

permit

n
/ ˈpɛr.mɪt /
Sp > E
[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word.] a large up to three feet long blue and silver pompano found especially off the West Indies and Florida.
The game warden wouldn't allow Vince to catch a permit without a fishing license.

permitted

perpend

v
/ pə(r)ˈpɛnd /
L
weigh carefully in the mind.
He retired to the inn to write notes and perpend his situation.

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perpendicularly

adv
/ ˌpɜrpən'dikyələrlē /
L

exactly vertical or upright.
Because he was so frightened, Paul could not sit perpendicularly upon the horse.

perpension

perpetrator

n
/ ˌpɜrpə'trədə(r) /
L

one that commits an offense or crime.
The perpetrator was apprehended after a high-speed car chase by police.

perpetuity

perplex

perplexed

persistent

personage

n
/ ˌpɜrs(ə)niːj /
L > F > E
an eminent man or woman; especially : one distinguished for presence and personal power.
Winston Churchill, a personage most widely known for his leadership during and after World War II, was also an accomplished artist.

personalia

personify

v
/ pə(r)'sänəfī /
Etruscan > L > F
be the embodiment of.
Zoltan strove to personify the perfect Boy Scout.

perspective

n
/ pə(r)'spektiv /
L
the appearance to the eye of objects in respect to their relative distance and positions.
Perspective made the long rows of machines seem almost to meet.

perspicacity

perspiry

adj
/ pə(r)'spīrē /
L > F + Ecff
sweaty.
In the muggy weather Kendall wears lightweight clothing so as not to become perspiry.

perstringe

v
/ pə(r)'strinj /
L
find fault with : censure, criticize.
"Why must you perstringe everything I do?" cried Emma.

persuasion

persuasively

adv
/ pə(r)'swāsəvlē /
L + Ecff
in a manner influencing the mind by arguments or reasons.
The puppy looked longingly at the boy's cookie and wagged its tail persuasively.

pertaining

perturb

v
/ pɜr'tɜrb /
L
[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word.] cause (a planet or other celestial body) to deviate from a theoretically regular orbital motion usually as a result of extraordinary gravitational pull.
The black hole's great density caused it to perturb a nearby star.

pertussis

n
/ pə(r)'təsəs /
L
whooping cough.
In the United States, babies are routinely immunized against pertussis.

pesade

n
/ pə'sād /
L > It > F
a dressage maneuver in which a horse is made to raise his forequarters while keeping his hind feet on the ground without advancing.
The pesade is the first lesson taught a horse in order to bring him to curvets.

pessimism

pessimistic

adj
/ ˌpesə'mistik /
L > F
marked by disbelief, distrust, or a lack of confidence, hope, or joy.
The senator was pessimistic about the passage of any tax-cutting bills this year.

pestiferous

petard

petechial

adj
/ pə'tēkēəl /
L > It
marked by minute reddish or purplish spots containing blood that appear in skin or mucous membranes especially in some infectious diseases.
Dr. Owens told Boris to let him know if the petechial rash on his hand did not disappear in a couple of days.

petite

adj
/ pə'tēt /
F
small and trim of figure : little.
For such a petite woman, Alana has a surprisingly resonant voice.

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petition

n
/ pə'tishən /
L

the act or action of formally asking or humbly requesting.

The students, through their right of petition, have helped bring about changes in the school cafeteria's menu.

petitioner

petrel

petronella

n
/ ,petrə'nelə /
name?

a Scottish country dance of the 19th century.

Fiona and Brian learned the petronella on the Isle of Skye.

petticoat

pettifog

v
/ 'pedē.fäg /

G name
quibble over insignificant details.
You can expect Aunt Dana and Aunt Elizabeth to pettifog over every family story they can remember.

pettish

pewter

pfeffernuss

n
/ 'fefə(r).nüs /

G
a small hard highly spiced cookie made traditionally for the Christmas holidays.

The aroma of pfeffernuss in the oven brought back memories of Christmas to the old man.

phaeochrous

adj
/ fē'äkrəs /

Gk
dusky.

A phaeochrous cloud hovered over the city for several hours following the earthquake.

phalangeal

adj
/ fə'lanjēəl /
Gk > L
of or relating to the digital bones of the hand or foot of a vertebrate.
Gert's phalangeal joints were swollen with rheumatism.

phalarope

phantasmagoria

phantom

pharmaceuticals

n pl
/ färmə'südäkəlz /
Gk > L
medicinal drugs.
Congress reviewed the laws governing the importation of experimental pharmaceuticals.

pharmaceutics

n pl
/ färmə'südiks /
Gk
the science of preparing, using, or dispensing medicines.
A degree in pharmaceutics is one of the requirements for a job in the drug research laboratory.

pharmacist

pharmacology

n
/ färmə'käləjē /
Gk > L
the study of drugs, their composition, effects, and use in medicine.
Having done well in both biology and chemistry courses, Phyllis decided to pursue a degree in pharmacology.

pharmacy

pharyngeal

pharyngology

phasic

phatic

phenol

phenomenally

philamot

adj
/ 'filəmät /
F
of the color of a dead leaf or brownish orange.
When Ken called Vicky's coat a lovely shade of philamot, she had no idea his remark was an insult.

philanderer

philanthropist

philanthropy

n
/ fē'lan(t)thrəpē /
Gk
goodwill expressed through active efforts to promote human welfare : humanitarianism.
A few individuals with a well-developed sense of philanthropy can do wonders for society.

Philomel

n
/ 'filəmel /
Gk name
nightingale.
The Philomel usually sings at night.

philosophize

v
/ fē'läsə.fīz /
Gk + Ecf
seek a rational basis for fact and experience : reflect, theorize.
Jermain's chemistry teacher encouraged him to philosophize about the nature of the elements.

phobia

phobic

adj
/ 'fōbik /
Gk
of, relating to, characterized by, or arising from an exaggerated and often disabling fear usually inexplicable to the subject.
A phobic person's fear serves to protect the ego from anxiety arising from unexpressed aggressive impulses.

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phonation

phoneme

phonetic

adj

/ fō'nedik /

Gk > L

of or relating to spoken language or speech sounds.

Carmen asked me to write the phonetic spellings next to the difficult words.

phonics

phosgene

phosphorescent

adj

/ ˌfäsfə'res'nt /

Gk + Lcf

exhibiting or characterized by luminescence.

The phosphorescent glow of decaying wood lit up the forest.

phosphoric

phosphorus

n

/ ˈfäsfərəs /

Gk > L

a nonmetallic element of the nitrogen family that occurs widely in combined form especially as inorganic phosphates in minerals, soils, natural waters, bones, and teeth and as organic phosphates in all living cells.

Photographers used to burn powdered phosphorus to create a flash.

phosvitin

photic

adj

/ ˈfōdik /

Gk + Ecf

of, pertaining to, or caused by light.

When a clam is placed on its side, it will tightly close its valve in response to both tactile and photic receptors.

photobiology

n

/ ˌfōdō.bī'äləjē /

Gk > ISV

a branch of biology that deals with the effects on living beings of light and other forms of radiant energy.

Part of Prof. Sanford's grant was to study the photobiology of aquatic plants.

photochromic

adj

/ ˌfōdō'krōmik /

Gk

capable of changing color on exposure to radiant energy (as light).

Gail doesn't need sunglasses anymore because her new prescription lenses are photochromic.

photocopy

photoelectric

adj

/ ˌfōdō.ə'lektrik /

Gk > ISV

relating to or utilizing any of various electrical effects due to the interaction of light and other radiation with matter.

Prof. Minchin showed by experiment the photoelectric current set up by a beam of light falling on a sheet immersed in a solution of acid carbonate of calcium.

photoflood

n

/ ˈfōdō.fləd /

Gk + E

an electric lamp using excess voltage to give intense sustained illumination for taking photographs.

The photoflood blew the fuse in the old house.

photoing

v

/ ˈfōdōɪŋ /

Gk + Ecf

obtaining an image with a camera.

While she was photoing, Darcy bound her hair back with a barrette.

photometeor

n

/ ˈfōd(,)ō.mēdēə(r) /

Gk > ISV

a temporary luminous phenomenon in the sky.

Many UFO sightings can be explained as some sort of naturally occurring photometeor.

photometer

n

/ ˈfō'tämədə(r) /

Gk + Gk

an instrument for measuring luminous intensity by comparison of two unequal lights from different sources.

Astronomer Edward Charles Pickering invented a photometer to measure the brightness of stars.

photomicroscope

n

/ ˌfōdō'mīkrō.skōp /

Gk

a combined microscope, camera, and suitable light source.

Florio set up a photomicroscope to take pictures of the protozoa he found in the pond.

photomontage

photon

n

/ ˈfō.tän /

Gk

a massless elementary particle with one quantum unit of spin that is the carrier of radiant energy (as light or X rays).

The concept of the photon originated in Einstein's explanation of the photoelectric effect.

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photovoltaic

adj

/ˌfōdōvāl'tāik/

(Gk + It name + E) > ISV

of, utilizing, or relating to the generation of an electromotive force when radiant energy falls on the boundary between certain dissimilar substances in close contact.

A photovoltaic effect can be produced with cuprous oxide and copper or with an electrode and an electrolyte.

phrase

phreatic

adj

/frē'adik/

Gk

of or relating to a well—used of underground waters reachable by drilling.

Kathryn's data indicate that there is a large phreatic source of water six miles northeast of the city.

phrenic

adj

/ˈfrenik/

Gk

of or relating to the mind.

Julia was more concerned with her son's phrenic development than with his physical skills.

phrenicectomy

phrontistery

n

/ˈfräntə.sterē/

Gk

a place for thinking or study.

On warm spring afternoons the backyard gazebo was Grandfather's favorite phrontistery.

Phrygian

adj

/ˈfrijēən/

Gk geog name

of, relating to, or characteristic of the ancient country of Phrygia.

In Rome the Phrygian cap was worn by emancipated slaves as a symbol of their freedom.

phugoid

adj

/ˈfyü.gōid/

Gk

of, relating to, or representing variations in the longitudinal motion or course of the center of mass of an airplane in flight.

Glider designers study phugoid theory to develop stable aircraft.

phylic

phyllomancy

phyllotaxy

phylogeny

n

/fiˈlājənē/

Gk

the history or course of the development of an immaterial thing.

It would be difficult for phylogeny to explain the emergence of so many different world philosophies.

phylum

n

/ˈfīləm/

Gk > L

one of the usually primary divisions of the animal kingdom.

Insects belong to the phylum Arthropoda.

physical

physiology

phytopathogen

n

/ˌfīd(,)ōˈpathəjən/

Gk + Gk + Gk

an organism parasitic on a plant host.

Biochemists have developed antibiotic compounds to eradicate the bacterial phytopathogen.

phytoplankton

n

/ˌfīdəˈplāŋktən/

Gk

the floating plant life of a body of water consisting largely of minute plants (as diatoms and blue-green algae).

Phytoplankton are at the bottom of the ocean's food chain, which means that they are vital to all marine animals.

piaffe

piano

picador

pickerel

Pickwickian

adj

/pikˈwikēən/

E name + Ecf

marked by simplicity and generosity of character or by an appearance and manner suggesting these qualities.

Matilda wishes that her principal were more like the Pickwickian headmaster of Tom's school.

picnic

picotee

picry

pictograph

picudo

n

/pəˈkü(,)dō/

AmerSp

a boll weevil.

After the picudo ravaged cotton crops in 1916, many cotton farmers diversified and raised peanut crops.

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piebald

adj

/ 'piːbɔld /

L > F > E + E

spotted or blotched with black and white.

Young blue herons acquiring adult plumage have a piebald appearance.

pied

adj

/ 'piːd /

L > F > E

variegated; also : wearing or having a parti-colored coat.

Jenna's favorite story is about the pied piper who took revenge when the townspeople failed to pay him for ridding their town of rats.

piedmont

adj

/ 'piːd.mənt /

It geog name

lying or formed at the base of mountains.

Alma thinks that North Carolina's piedmont region is heaven on Earth.

pierced

Pierian

adj

/ piː'riːən /

Gk geog name

of or relating to learning or poetry.

Once a month the local Pierian society sponsors a poetry reading.

pierrot

n

/ 'piːrɔ /

F name

a standard comic character of old French pantomime usually with a whitened face and loose white clothes.

Hanna studied the painting of the pierrot to get an idea for her pantomime costume.

piezometer

piffling

pigeonhole

pigeonwing

pigment

pigmentation

pigpen

pigsty

pilcrow

pileum

n

/ 'piːləm /

L

the top of the head of a bird from the bill to the nape.

The woodpecker's pileum was a brilliant red crest and looked to be two inches high.

pilfer

pilfery

pilgrim

pillage

v

/ 'piliː /

L > F > E

strip of valuables : loot.

After the battle, opportunists came from outside the city to pillage its neighborhoods.

pilosity

pilot

n

/ 'piːlət /

Gk > It > F

one who flies or is qualified to fly an airplane.

Hugh is the pilot of a huge transport plane.

pilpul

pimpernel

n

/ 'pimpər.nəl /

L > E name

a common herb having scarlet, white, or purplish flowers that close at the approach of rainy or cloudy weather.

One variety of pimpernel is also known as "poor man's weatherglass."

pinched

pincushion

pincushions

n pl

/ 'pin.kʊʃənz /

E + L > F > E

small cushions in which pins may be stuck ready for use.

Kathryn has several pincushions in her sewing cabinet.

pinkeye

pinnate

adj

/ 'piːnət /

L

resembling a feather especially in having similar parts arranged on opposite sides of an axis like the barbs on the spine of a feather.

The chick-pea plant bears pinnate leaves.

pinyin

n

/ 'piːn.yin /

Chinese

a system for romanizing Chinese ideograms in which tones are indicated by diacritics and unaspirated consonants are transcribed as voiced.

Our newspapers adopted pinyin for spelling the names of Chinese officials.

pipable

piping

pipit

piquant

pique

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

piquette

pirarucu

Pisces

n
/ 'pī(,)sēz /
L

the 12th sign of the zodiac.

Pisces falls between Aquarius and Aries.

piscivorous

pisco

pisiform

adj
/ 'pīsəfōrm /
L

resembling a pea in size or shape.

Johan purchased three cubic yards of pisiform gravel for his new driveway.

pistil

n
/ 'pistl /
L

[has homonym: pistol] the ovule-bearing organ of a seed plant.

The lily has but one pistil; the daffodil has several.

pistilloid

pitch

v
/ 'pich /
E

toss so as to cause to fall at or near a particular mark.

On warm summer evenings Dad likes to pitch horseshoes in the backyard.

pitchblende

n
/ 'pich.blend /
G

a brown to black mineral that has a distinctive luster, contains radium, and is the chief ore-mineral source of uranium.

A German chemist discovered uranium in pitchblende in 1789.

pitchfork

pithecan

adj
/ pə'thēkən /
Gk
of, relating to, or resembling apes, especially the anthropoid apes.
The unearthed skull exhibited many pithecan characteristics.

pithos

pitiful

pitiless

adj
/ 'pidēləs /
E
devoid of or unmoved by compassion.
The pitiless tornado bore onward, ripping up everything in its path.

placards

n pl
/ 'plākārdz /
F > E
posters, signs.
The demonstrators carried placards protesting the use of animals for pharmaceutical testing.

placate

v
/ 'plākāt /
L
soothe or mollify especially by making concessions : appease.
The labor relations team worked hard to placate the factory workers to avoid a strike.

placeholder

placement

placid

placidly

adv
/ 'plāsədlē /
L
calmly, serenely.
The once-violent river now flows placidly along.

plafond

plage

plagiarist

plague

n
/ 'plāg /
L > F > E
[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word.] a destructively numerous influx or multiplication of a noxious animal.
Although only a foolish optimist could deny the dark realities of our country in 1941, we were stricken by no plague of locusts.

plaguing

plaid

plaidoyer

plainsong

n
/ 'plān.sŏŋ /
L > F > E + E
the ancient nonmetrical monophonic chant of the church service.
The psalm was chanted in plainsong.

plainspoken

plaintful

adj
/ 'plāntfəl /
L > F > E
mournful.
Plaintful over the loss of her pet rabbit, Jennifer decided not to get another pet.

plaintive

plaintively

adv
/ 'plāntəvlē /
F > E
in a manner expressive of grief or sadness.
Three-year-old Jamie asked plaintively for his lost teddy bear.

planeload

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

plangency

n
/ 'planjənsē /
L

an expressive especially plaintive quality.

Regret and grief were expressed in the plangency of the singer's voice.

plangent

plangorous

planish

plantain

n
/ 'plantēn /
L > F > E
the starchy fruit of the plantain tree that is distinguished from the ordinary banana by its angular shape and green color.
Fried chips of plantain are a common snack in the Caribbean.

plantigrade

adj
/ 'plantəgrād /
L
walking on the sole with the heel touching the ground.
Most primates are not plantigrade.

plaque

n
/ pla'ket /
D > F
a metal stamping die that is cut in relief and used to decorate the sides of leather bookbindings.
Lars was required to make his own plaque to earn a merit badge for bookbinding.

plasma

n
/ 'plazmə /
Gk > L > G
an ionized gas (as in the atmosphere of stars) containing about equal numbers of positive ions and electrons and differing from an ordinary gas in being a good conductor of electricity and in being affected by a magnetic field.
"The thing that looks like a blue donut on your handout is an illustration of how magnetic rings are used in confinement of plasma," said Professor Rooki.

plastron

plateau

n
/ pla'tō /
F
land area having a relatively level surface raised sharply above adjacent land on at least one side.
The Columbia lava plateau is located in eastern Washington and Oregon.

platform

n
/ 'plat.fōrm /
F
a shoe having a usually thick layer (as of cork or wood) between the inner sole and outer sole.
In the '70s, the platform was the shoe associated with bell-bottoms and long skirts.

platina

adj
/ plə'tēnə /
Sp
of the color platinum—used especially of pale bluish gray furs.
The platina fur coat was the most expensive garment in the store.

platitude

platitudinal

adj
/ ,pladə'tüd(ə)nəl /
F
having the characteristics of a thought or remark that is stale, dull, trite, or weak.
The old pastor's homilies were usually portentously platitudinal.

platitudinize

v
/ ,pladə'tüd'nīz /
F + Lcf > Fcf + Ecff
utter remarks that are flat, dull, trite, or weak.
The politician's tendency to platitudinize belies the fact that he has innovative ideas.

Platonic

adj
/ plə'tānik /
Gk name
being in accordance with or in the manner of the Greek philosopher Plato and his works.
Iris Murdoch has written modern Platonic dialogues.

platoon

platycrania

platypodia

n
/ ,pladē'pōdēə /
Gk
flat-footedness.
Platypodia no longer disqualifies an applicant from joining the army.

platysma

n
/ plə'tizmə /
Gk > L
a broad thin layer of muscle on each side of the neck.
Cory's training for his massage therapy license included learning the names of the muscles of the neck and back, including the platysma, the trapezius, and the intracostal.

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plausibility

n
/ ˌplɒzəˈbɪlədē /

L
the quality or state of being superficially worthy of belief.
Half-truths, because of their plausibility, are frequently more dangerous than outright lies.

plausibly

pleasurable

plebeian

plebiscitary

plebiscite

plectrum

pledge

pleiotropic

adj
/ ˌpliəˈtrɒpɪk /
Gk + Gk
producing more than one effect—used of a gene.
The subject of David's research is a pleiotropic gene that induces shortening of the ear and reduces general body size in the mouse.

plenipotent

pleodont

pleuropneumonia

n
/ ˌplʊrən(y)üˈmɒnyə /
Gk
inflammation of the lungs and their membranous sacs.
Parasitic microorganisms can cause pleuropneumonia in sheep and goats.

pliable

plicatile

plight

plotless

ploy

plumbery

n
/ ˈpləmərē /
L
the business or work of one who installs, repairs, and maintains piping, fittings, and fixtures involved in the distribution and use of water in a building.
While Paul was in vocational school, he demonstrated a strong aptitude for plumbery.

plummeted

v
/ ˈpləmədəd /
L > F > E
dropped sharply and abruptly.
The San Francisco street plummeted down toward the bay.

plumose

adj
/ ˈplü.mōs /
L
having feathers or plumes : feathered.
Emily's plumose mask was a hit at the Mardi Gras party.

plunder

plunderbund

n
/ ˈpləndə(r).bünd /
G + G
a league of commercial, political, or financial interests that exploits the public.
Some people think the Internet has become nothing more than a glorified plunderbund.

plundered

pluperfect

pluricellular

plutocratic

adj
/ ˌplüdəˈkradɪk /
Gk
of, relating to, or characterized by rule or dominion of wealth or of the rich.
The suburb had clean air, good schools, and a plutocratic city government.

plutonium

pluviosity

n
/ ˌplüvᵛəsədē /
L
the quality of being marked by or regularly receiving heavy rainfall.
High pluviosity is a characteristic of most places along the equator.

plywood

pneumectomy

n
/ n(y)üˈmektəmē /
Gk
the surgical removal of lung tissue.
The surgeon happily announced that the pneumectomy was completely successful.

pneumococci

n pl
/ ˌn(y)üməˈkɑːkɪ /
Gk + Gk
bacteria that cause acute pneumonia involving one or more lobes of the lung.
Penicillin-resistant pneumococci are also usually resistant to erythromycin and tetracycline.

pneumococcus

pneumonia

pneumonic

adj
/ n(y)üˈmänɪk /
Gk
of or relating to the lungs.
Pneumonic diseases like asthma and bronchitis are more prevalent in heavily polluted areas.

pneumothorax

n
/ ˌn(y)ümōˈthɔːraks /
Gk
a state in which air or other gas is present in the pleural cavity.
The paramedic acted quickly to prevent a potentially debilitating pneumothorax in the accident victim.

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

pochette

n
/ pō'shet /
F

kit : handbag.

Tanya carried her money and keys in a small silk pochette that matched her evening dress.

pochismo

n
/ pō'chēz(,)mō /

Sp

a term of U.S. origin borrowed into Mexican Spanish.

Juan believes that not a single pochismo adds to the beauty of the Spanish language.

pocketbook

pocketing

pockmark

podagra

n
/ pə'dagrə /
Gk

a painful condition of the big toe caused by gout.

George's podiatrist recommended changes in his diet to relieve his podagra before resorting to medication.

podium

pogamoggan

pogonotomy

pogrom

poi

poignancy

poimenics

n pl
/ poi'meniks /
Gk

the study or application of pastoral theology.

Rather than compete with traditional theology programs, the university has started a graduate program in poimenics.

pointe

n
/ 'pwä"t /
L > F

the extreme tip of the toe.

The teacher told the students to stand on pointe while she evaluated their form.

poises

n pl
/ 'pwäzəz /

F name

centimeter-gram-second absolute units of viscosity, each equal to 1 dyne-second per square centimeter.

After melting and conditioning, glass is delivered to a forming machine in a manageable shape at a viscosity of approximately 10,000 poises.

poison

pokal

polarimeter

n
/ ,pōlə'rīmədə(r) /
L + Gk

an instrument for determining the amount of polarization of light.

Cagney required a very accurate polarimeter for his experiments.

polariscopic

polarizable

pole

policeman

policy

poliorcetics

polished

v
/ 'pälišt /
L > F > E

made smooth and glossy by a mechanical process usually by friction.

The wizard polished a small object vigorously on his robe.

polissoir

politely

political

politician

politicization

politicize

politico

politics

poll

pollards

n pl
/ 'pälə(r)dz /
G > E

trees that have been cut back to the trunk to promote the growth of a dense head of foliage.

Emma's frequent walks along Vicarage Lane soon acquainted her with the hedges, gates, pools, and pollards of that part of Highbury.

polling

adj
/ 'pōliŋ /
E

of or relating to the registering or casting of votes.

Harry got off work early to vote on polling day.

polychotomous

polycyclic

polygrapher

n
/ pə'ligrəfər /
Gk

one skilled in the use of an instrument for making a graphic record of the changes in blood pressure and pulse and respiration rate of someone being questioned under or as if under suspicion of guilt.

The law holds that the opinions of a polygrapher regarding the veracity of a person are not admissible evidence.

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

polymer

n
/ 'päləmə(r) /
Gk

a natural or synthetic chemical compound or mixture of compounds consisting essentially of repeating structural units.
Fascinated by the polymer they had created, the students tossed it from one side of the lab to the other.

polymerize

polyonymous

polypropylene

n
/ 'pälē'prōpəlēn /
Gk + ISV
a polymer of propylene; especially : such a polymer used chiefly in making fibers, films, and molded and extruded products.
Much of today's indoor-outdoor carpeting is made of woven polypropylene.

polyptych

n
/ 'päləptik /
Gk
an arrangement of four or more panels (as of a painting) usually hinged and folding together.
Pauline used an antique polyptych as a room divider.

polystyrene

n
/ 'pälē'stī.rēn /
Gk
a rigid transparent thermoplastic that has good physical and electrical insulating properties and is used chiefly in making containers and other molded products and sheet materials.
Some restaurants have stopped using polystyrene cups because they are not biodegradable.

polysyndeton

n
/ ,pälē'sindətən /
Gk
repetition of conjunctions in close succession.
"We have our passports and our money and our tickets and our luggage, and the tank is full of gas," said Mother Gazda in unconscious polysyndeton.

polyvinyl

pomeridian

adj
/ ,pōmə'ridēən /
L
blossoming after noon.
A common pomeridian garden plant is the four-o'clock that blossoms late in the afternoon.

pomiferous

pompeii

n
/ pä'm'pā /
It geog name
a moderate to deep reddish brown.
Nancy's favorite earth tone is pompeii.

pomposity

n
/ pä'm'päsədə /
L
a self-important demeanor, speech, or action.
Though he had much power, the leader exhibited no trace of pomposity.

ponceau

n
/ pä'n'sō /
L > F
a strong red to reddish orange.
The artificial poppies worn on Veterans' Day are of the distinct color ponceau.

poncelet

n
/ 'pän(t)slət /
F name
a unit of power in physics equal to the amount of power obtained from an output of 100 kilogram-meters per second.
Kristin's advanced physics class spent an entire week learning about units of measurement such as the poncelet, the rankine, and the barn.

poncho

ponderal

ponderance

ponderosity

ponderously

adv
/ 'pänd(ə)rəslē /
L > F > E + Ecf
in an oppressively heavy manner.
A statue of Zeus sits ponderously atop the small pavilion.

ponerology

n
/ ,pä'nə'räləjē /
Gk
a branch of theology dealing with the doctrine of evil.
Ponerology still made a lot of sense to Damian despite everything he had been taught about genetics and the influence of environment.

ponor

n
/ 'pō.nō(ə)r /
Serbo-Croatian
a steep-sided sinkhole.
Ms. Ventura cautioned the Scouts to avoid the ponor at the edge of the old quarry.

pontal

pontifical

pontoon

poolroom

popinjay

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

poplar	posit	potency
popular	positron	adj 'pɒtənsē / L force, power, authority. <i>Massed action and individual effort each has its own potency.</i>
populate	post	potentiality
population	n 'pɒst / E [has near homonym: posed] a piece of timber or other solid substance (as metal) fixed or intended to be fixed firmly in an upright position especially as a stay or support. <i>The first step in constructing a fence is to dig a hole for each post.</i>	potentially
pore	postmortem	adv 'pə'tenchəlē / L + Ecf in a possible state or condition : with a possibility or capacity of becoming actual. <i>The rash on Henrietta's arm could potentially spread if not treated.</i>
poroscopy	n pɒs(t)'mɔrtəm / L + L an examination of a body after death to determine the cause of death or the character and extent of changes produced by disease. <i>The postmortem revealed that the cause of death was asphyxiation.</i>	potentiometer
porous	postnuptial	potiche
porphyous	adj pɒst'nəpʃəl / L made or happening after marriage. <i>The bride and groom posed for postnuptial photographs.</i>	potoroo
portable	postponable	n 'pɒd-ə'rū / Australian name any of various small Australian and Tasmanian kangaroos that are no larger than a rabbit. <i>The rabbit-sized potoroo forages at night for grass, tubers, and underground fungi, which it digs up with its forepaws.</i>
portent	postulancy	potsherd
n 'pɔrt.ənt / L something that foreshadows a coming event : omen. <i>The seer viewed the blood-red moon as a portent of evil.</i>	potamologist	pounce
portfolio	n 'pəd-ə'mäləjəst / Gk a specialist in the study of rivers. <i>Fran, who knew many rivers like the back of her hand, was a potamologist.</i>	v 'paʊn(t)s / E suddenly seize, grab, attack. <i>Stanley watched the owl pounce on the rat.</i>
n pɔrt'fɒlē.ɔ / L > It a flat portable case for carrying papers or drawings. <i>Mr. Barnstone set his portfolio behind the door as he entered the house.</i>	potash	pour
portico	n 'pəd.əʃ / D potassium carbonate. <i>In colonial days potash was used to make soap.</i>	powdery
n 'pɔrd-ə-kō / L > It a colonnade or covered walkway. <i>The pair entered the shaded portico for a private conversation.</i>		power
portion		
portulaca		
n 'pɔrchə'lakə / L any plant of a genus of mainly tropical succulent herbs having usually yellow, pink, red, white, or purple ephemeral flowers with four to six petals. <i>A hanging pot by Linda's front door contained a portulaca with yellow flowers.</i>		

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powwows

n pl

/ 'paʊ.waʊz /

Algonquian

meetings or conferences for discussion : sessions.

The team holds daily powwows before practice.

practical

practitioner

pragmatic

adj

/ prag'madik /

Gk > L

practical, matter-of-fact.

Edmund took a pragmatic stance on most things in his life, especially his finances.

pragmatically

prairie

n

/ 'prerē /

L > F

a meadow or tract of grassland.

The prairie stretched out broad and flat to the horizon in every direction.

prairillon

n

/ prā'rilyən /

F

a small meadow or tract of grassland.

Baron Munchausen's ranch turned out to be a two-room shack and a weed-covered prairillon.

praiss

pralltriller

prancer

prankster

prase

prate

prattle

n

/ ,pradʒl /

G

trifling or empty talk or chatter.

The endless prattle on the bus ride annoyed Mr. Danton.

preaudit

precarious

precariously

adv

/ prē'ka(a)rēəslē /

L

in a manner characterized by a lack of security or stability.

Teddy balanced precariously on the chair as he attempted to extract the last Oreo from the cookie jar.

precede

precedes

v

/ prē'sēdz /

L

[has near homonym: proceeds] goes before in order of time : occurs before with relation to something.

A certain stillness precedes a tempest.

precentor

preceptor

precession

n

/ prē'seshən /

L

[has near homonym: procession] a comparatively slow gyration of the rotation axis of a spinning body.

Precession of Earth's axis will make Vega our North Star in about 13,000 years.

precessional

preciosities

precious

precipitancy

precipitant

precipitate

v

/ prē'sipətāt /

L

cause a substance to separate from a solution in a concrete state as a result of a chemical or physical change.

Calcium and magnesium ions in hard water can precipitate calcium and magnesium carbonate, often a problem in domestic water pipes.

precipitated

v

/ prē'sipətādəd /

L

caused to move or act very rapidly.

The completion of the railroad precipitated the demise of waterborne transport.

precipitation

n

/ (,)prē'sipə'tāshən /

L

a deposit on Earth of hail, mist, rain, sleet, or snow; also : the quantity of water deposited.

Low-pressure areas normally bring clouds and precipitation.

precise

adj

/ prē'sīs /

L > F

devoid of anything vague, equivocal, or uncertain.

Mr. Rouse is quite precise about everything, and he has never been known to joke with a student.

preclude

v

/ ,prē'klüd /

L

prevent or hinder by necessary consequence or implication.

Being a movie star did not preclude Ronald Reagan from having a successful political career.

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preconditioned

v
/ ˌprēkən'dishənd /
L + L + Ecf
put in proper or desired condition in advance of some intended treatment.
Before new wood is painted it should be preconditioned with a primer.

predecease

predicament

n
/ prē'dikəmənt /
L
a difficult, perplexing, or trying situation.
Miss Bates, though having much public favor, stood in the very worst predicament in the world: She was neither young, handsome, rich, nor married.

preemptive

adj
/ prē'em(p)tiv /
L
being or related to a first military strike made to gain an advantage when a strike by the enemy is believed imminent.
The ability to launch a preemptive strike against a possible aggressor is a major factor in the theory of nuclear deterrence.

preemptory

prefabricate

prefabrication

preface

preferred

prehensility

prehistory

n
/ prē'hist(ə)rē /
Lcf + Gk
an account comprising a chronological record of the preceding circumstances of an event or situation.
The prehistory of the tension between the boss and his employees includes some family issues.

prelapsarian

adj
/ ˌprē.lap'sa(a)rēən /
L + Ecf
characteristic of or belonging to the time before the fall of man.
The painting depicted Adam and Eve in prelapsarian paradise.

prelude

n
/ ˈprälüd /
L
a musical section or movement introducing the theme or chief subject.
Tycho arrived at the concert after the prelude was over.

premature

prematurely

adv
/ ˌprēmə'tü(ə)rlē /
L + Ecf
before the proper time : too soon.
Not wanting to tire prematurely, the rowing crew began the race by pulling easily.

prenuptial

prepaid

prepare

preparations

n pl
/ ˌprepə'rāshənz /
L
actions or processes of making something ready for use or service.
Tina's preparations for the party included decorating the room and baking the cookies.

preponderance

preposition

prepossessing

adj
/ ˌprēpə'zesiŋ /
L
tending to please or arouse confidence : creating a favorable impression.
With her impeccable carriage and her prematurely white hair, Lydia was a prepossessing figure at the political convention.

preprandial

adj
/ prē'prandēəl /
L
of, relating to, or suitable for the time immediately before dinner.
Before the main course, Benito served a preprandial soup.

prerequisite

n
/ prē'rekwəzət /
L
something that is mandatory beforehand.
A Juris Doctor degree is a prerequisite for the practice of law.

presbyopia

Presbyterian

adj
/ ˌprezbə'tirēən /
Gk
of, relating to, or constituting a Protestant church that is governed by a graded system of representative ecclesiastical bodies and is traditionally Calvinistic in doctrine.
While in college, William grew interested in becoming a Presbyterian minister.

prescribe

prescriptive

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

preserve

v
/ prē'zərv /
L

can, pickle, or similarly prepare (as fruits or vegetables) for future use.
Beverly hurried to preserve her bumper crop of peaches before they became overripe.

pressurization

prestigious

presumptuous

presylvian

pretender

preterient

preterlabent

adj
/ ,prēd-ə(r)'lābənt /
L

flowing beside or by.
Mr. Ross pumped water from a preterlabent stream to irrigate his vegetable garden.

prettier

pretzel

n
/ 'pretsəl /
L > G

a glazed usually salted bakery product made of a rope of dough typically twisted into a form resembling the letter B.
Brian munched on a large pretzel as he watched his favorite television program.

prevail

v
/ prē'vāl /
L

be or become effective or effectual : be successful.
The attorney was confident that justice would prevail in the case.

prevailing

prevaricator

previous

prevocalic

prey

v
/ 'prā /
L > F > E
make raids for the sake of booty.
Pirates prey on the coastal shipping off Somalia's coast.

prickle

priggish

primacy

primatial

primatologist

n
/ ,prīmə'täləjəst /
L + Gk
a specialist in the study of members of the order Primates especially other than recent humans.
Jane Goodall's many years of studying chimpanzees has made her the world's most famous primatologist.

primero

primeval

primogeniture

n
/ ,prīmō'jenə.chù(ə)r /
L
the state of being the firstborn of the children of the same parents.
In British law, male primogeniture is used to determine inheritance of real estate and titles.

princely

principle

prionodont

priority

priory

priscan

adj
/ 'priskən /
L + Ecfr
dealing with or existing in ancient times.
Professor McCowan is an expert on druidism and other priscan religions of Britain.

prism

n
/ 'prizəm /
Gk > L
a transparent body that is bounded in part by two nonparallel plane faces and is used to refract or disperse a beam of light.
The prism cast an array of colors on the tablecloth.

prisoner

n
/ 'priz(ə)nə(r) /
L > F > E
a person held under arrest or in prison.
For good behavior at the penitentiary, the prisoner was released after serving one-third of his sentence.

privet

n
/ 'privət /
unknown
an ornamental Eurasian and northern African shrub that is used extensively for hedges and has half-evergreen leaves and small white flowers.
Oliver planted privet along the edge of his front yard.

privileged

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

privileges

n pl
/ 'priv(ə)lijəz /
L

various fundamental rights considered as peculiarly guaranteed and secured to all persons (as the enjoyment of life and liberty and the right to pursue happiness).
Patrick Henry was convinced that the colonists must fight if they wished to preserve inviolate the privileges for which they had been contending.

privy

adj
/ 'privē /
L > F > E

privately aware as one participating secretly.
Although she was not privy to their secrets, Alice could guess what her sisters were up to.

probability

probation

n
/ prə'bāshən /
L

the action of suspending the sentence of a convicted offender and giving the offender freedom during good behavior under the supervision of a probation officer.
Because of the extenuating circumstances, the judge decided on probation instead of a prison sentence.

probationer

probity

n
/ 'prɒbədē /
L

uprightness, rectitude.
Mr. C. Z. Armand is a man of indisputable probity.

procacious

procacity

procathedral

processus

proclaim

procrastination

procrypsis

prodigy

prodromal

adj
/ prə'drōməl /
Gk
precursory; especially : of, relating to, or marked by warning symptoms of a disease.
Half of the people who have heart attacks have had prodromal symptoms ranging from nausea and dizziness to chest pressure.

production

profert

professional

professor

professorial

adj
/ ,prɒfə'sɔːrēəl /
L
didactic, learned.
The eminently professorial volume on verb tenses in English was impractical for those learning English as a foreign language.

proffer

proficient

adj
/ prə'fɪshənt /
L
[has near homonym: perficient]
well advanced in an art, occupation, skill, or a branch of knowledge.
Many educators feel that it is imperative for grade school children to become proficient in more than one language.

profile

profligate

adj
/ 'præfləɡət /
L
completely given up to wild extravagance or excess.
Lord Kensington's profligate spending was the reason for the meeting with his banker.

progenitors

n pl
/ prə'jenədə(r)z /
L
ancestors in the direct line : forefathers.
The land had been in the hands of Mr. Williamson and his progenitors for several generations.

prohibit

projectile

n
/ prə'jektɪl /
L
a self-propelling weapon (as a rocket, torpedo, or guided missile).
The sensing device will detect any projectile larger than a football.

projicient

prolepsis

n
/ prə'lepsəs /
Gk
a figure in which a matter is set forth in summary before being stated in detail.
Putnam begins with a prolepsis, but that does nothing to ruin the suspense as the plot unfolds.

proliferate

v
/ prə'lɪfəˌrāt /
L > F
grow by rapid or repeated production of new parts or of buds or offspring.
Blackberry vines will proliferate very quickly if they are not cut back.

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

prolocutor

n
/ prō'lăkyədə(r) /
L

one who speaks, pleads, or interprets for another.

The prolocutor for the department of public works explained that the bridge would be under repair for the next several weeks.

prolong

Promethean

adj
/ prə'mēthēən /
Gk > L

daringly original.

Daryl's success as an inventor is largely the result of his Promethean approach to problem solving.

promising

promissory

promotion

prompter

n
/ 'präm.(p)tə(r) /
L > E

one who reminds another of the words to be spoken next; specifically : one responsible for reminding actors during performance.

The prompter was surprised that none of the actors required a cue during the performance.

prone

adj
/ 'prōn /
L > E

having the face, chest, or abdomen turned toward the ground, floor, or other supporting surface.

The paramedics turned the prone victim over so that they could administer CPR.

pronoun

pronouncement

n
/ prə'naʊn(t)smənt /
L > F > E

a usually formal declaration of opinion or judgment.

The whole town anxiously awaited Judge Milburn's pronouncement.

propellable

prophecy

prophesy

prophet

n
/ 'präfət /
Gk
[has homonym: profit] one who speaks for God or a deity : a divinely inspired revealer, interpreter, or spokesperson.
Abraham is considered a great prophet by several different religions.

propitiatory

propound

proprietary

proprieties

n pl
/ prə'prīədēz /
L > F > E
the customs and manners of polite society : conventionally correct behavior.
Not one to bother with proprieties, Luke is considered by most people to be downright rude.

propriety

proprioceptive

adj
/ .prōprēə'septiv /
L + L
activated by, relating to, or being stimuli produced within the organism.
Daniel's study tested whether blindfolded subjects could use proprioceptive feedback to move one arm a prescribed distance.

propylene

n
/ 'prōpəlēn /
Gk > ISV
a flammable gaseous hydrocarbon obtained by cracking petroleum hydrocarbons and used chiefly in organic synthesis.
Propylene is an important constituent of automobile antifreeze.

prorate

prosaic

proscription

n
/ 'prō'skripshən /
L
an imposed restraint or restriction : prohibition.
Judith's consulting contract includes a six-month proscription against working for a competing firm.

prosecutor

n
/ 'präsə.küdə(r) /
L
an attorney who conducts proceedings especially of a criminal nature in a court on behalf of the government.
The prosecutor asked the judge for permission to approach the bench.

proselytize

proselytizer

prosopography

prosperous

prostaglandin

n
/ .prästə'glandən /
L > E + L > E + Ecf
any of various oxygenated unsaturated cyclic fatty acids of animals that perform a variety of hormonelike actions (as in controlling blood pressure or smooth muscle contraction).
All aspirinlike analgesics inhibit synthesis and release of prostaglandin.

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prosthesis

n
/ präs'thēsəs /
Gk

an artificial device to replace a missing part of the body.
After losing his right foot in an accident, Stan had to learn to walk again with a prosthesis.

prostrate

adj
/ 'prä:strät /
L

extended in a horizontal position.
Jeremy lay prostrate on the dock and watched the fishes in the water.

prostration

n
/ prä'strāshən /
L

complete physical or mental exhaustion.
When Chris came down with the flu, she suffered from chills, fever, and prostration.

protégé

Proterozoic

adj
/ ,prädərə'zōik /
Gk

of or relating to a division of geological time from the beginning of the Huronian to the close of the Keweenawan.
Annelid worms and blue-green and brown algae lived during the Proterozoic era.

protervity

proton

protoplasm

n
/ 'prōdəplazəm /
(Gk + Gk) > G
organized living matter : the more or less fluid colloidal complex making up each cell.
Under a microscope protoplasm exhibits a variety of appearances.

protostar

protractor

proven

provender

provenience

providence

providential

adj
/ ,prävə'denchəl /
L
of, relating to, or determined by divine guidance.
Arthur's arrival in the nick of time seemed providential.

providing

province

provolone

prowl

v
/ 'praül /
E
move about or wander stealthily in the manner of a wild beast seeking prey.
Captain Andrews and his submariners were ordered to prowl the North Atlantic.

prudence

prudently

adv
/ 'prüd'ntlē /
L > F > E
in a wise or judicious manner.
Hakim prudently put suntan lotion on his ears.

pruner

pruritus

n
/ prü'rüdəs /
L
localized or generalized itching due to irritation of sensory nerve endings.
Alice applied an ointment on the rash to relieve the pruritus.

psalmist

psalterer

psammite

psammon

psammophile

pschent

n
/ '(p)skent /
Egypt > Gk
the headdress of the later Egyptian pharaohs formed of the two crowns worn by the respective pharaohs of Upper Egypt and Lower Egypt before the union of the country under one rule.
The pharaoh's statue stood 66 feet high from the feet to the pschent covering his head.

psephology

n
/ sē'fäləjē /
Gk
the scientific study of elections.
The pollster claims that prudent psephology indicates that Liberals may lose a few seats in the next election.

pseudodoxy

n
/ 'südō,däksē /
Gk
an erroneous belief; also : the holding of erroneous beliefs.
The pseudodoxy that walking under a ladder will bring bad luck is still held by many reasonable people.

pseudonym

pseudonymity

n
/ ,süd'n'imədə /
Gk + Ecf
the fact or state of being signed (as a book or other writing) with a fictitious name.
To avoid becoming a celebrity, Professor Stanton hid his science-fiction writings under the cloak of pseudonymity.

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

pseudoptics

n pl

/süd'äptiks/

Gk + Gk

the study of optical illusions.

The aspiring magician was very much interested in the field of pseudoptics.

pseudosyllogism

psittacism

n

/süd-ä.siz-əm/

Gk > L

automatic speech without thought of the meaning of the words spoken.

Daniela was alarmed that her pledge of allegiance to the flag had become mere psittacism.

psittacosis

n

/süd-ä'kōs-əs/

Gk > L

an infectious disease of birds that is transmissible to man.

Vincent's doctor has had him under observation since his macaw was diagnosed with psittacosis.

psychagogy

psychalgia

psychoanalysis

psychology

psychotogenic

psyllium

n

/sül'ē-əm/

Gk

[has homonym: cilium] an Old World plantain having seeds that swell and become gelatinous when moist and that are used as a mild laxative.

When a laxative is needed, health professionals recommend products that contain psyllium, a natural fiber.

pteric

adj

/terik/

Gk

resembling a wing.

Hundreds of pteric maple seeds were wafting through the air in George's backyard.

Ptolemaic

adj

/täl-ä'mäik/

Gk

of or relating to Ptolemy, the geographer and astronomer.

Galileo got into big trouble by challenging the Ptolemaic view of the universe.

ptyalin

n

/täl-än/

Gk > ISV

an enzyme found in the saliva of many animals including humans but not in that of horses, dogs, or cats.

Ptyalin helps in the digestion of starches.

publicist

n

/pəbləs-əst/

L > F

an agent employed by an individual, organization, or group to establish and maintain good public relations.

The author of the tell-all book once worked as a publicist for several rock stars.

puccoon

pueblo

n

/pwe(ı)blō/

L > Sp

a type of town founded by Mexican Spanish settlers in the southwestern United States.

Sadly, the ancient pueblo has been abandoned by residents who have chosen to move to larger cities.

puffin

pugnacity

pulchritudinous

adj

/pəlkrätüd'nəs/

L

beautiful.

The hallway in the Fall Creek Theatre is lined with posters of pulchritudinous movie stars.

pulka

n

/pəl-kə/

Finn&Lapp

a one-person Lapp sledge shaped like half a canoe and resting on a broad board or several runners.

Timmy tried in vain to harness the St. Bernard to the pulka.

pulley

pullulation

pulpiteering

pulpitry

n

/pül.pitrē/

L

preaching.

Jack is reading a book on the art of pulpitry.

pulque

pulsate

pulsebeat

pulverized

v

/pəlvə.rīzd/

L > F

destroyed by or as if by smashing into fragments : disintegrated, demolished.

The nightly news began with footage of beach homes pulverized by Hurricane Fran.

pumicite

n

/pəmə.sīt/

L

a type of volcanic dust used for abrasive purposes.

The instructions recommended using pumicite to smooth the metal.

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pumpkin

puncheon

punctiliar

puncture

pundonor

punish

punster

puny

adj

/ 'pyünē /

F

slight or inferior in size.

No one would ever guess that the strong and stocky wrestler was puny as a child.

pupa

n

/ 'pyüpə /

L

an insect in an intermediate form that is between the larval and the imaginal stages.

The pupa inside the beautiful jade shell with golden dots will soon transform into a monarch butterfly.

pupillometer

puppeteer

purblind

adj

/ 'pər.blɪnd /

L > F > E + E

lacking in vision, insight, or understanding.

Tom was despotic and purblind to the feelings of his wife and children.

purchase

purga

Purim

n

/ 'pürəm /

Heb

a Jewish festival celebrated on the 14th of Adar in commemoration of the deliverance of the Jews from the massacre plotted by Haman.

Purim has its roots in the book of Esther.

puritanical

adj

/ ,pyürə'tanəkəl /

L + Ecff

morally rigorous, strict.

Mrs. Langley is a puritanical woman who tolerates no nonsense from her students.

purl

v

/ 'pərl /

unknown

do knitting in a stitch that creates a swirling appearance.

Claire's mom will teach her to purl now that Claire has mastered the basic knitting stitch.

purplish

purport

purported

adj

/ pər'pō(ə)rdəd /

L > F > AF

suspected of being : rumored.

The purported spies were held in custody without being provided legal assistance.

purslane

n

/ 'pəslən /

L > F > E

an annual herb widely distributed in both hemispheres whose fleshy succulent leaves are used in cooking and salads.

At the vegetarian café, Roberta ordered a delicious salad of purslane and other greens.

pursuant

pursuantly

adv

/ pə(r)'süəntlē /

L > F + Ecff

consequently.

Laura put all her effort into her writing classes; pursuantly, she won the Metzger Prize for best student journalist, but nearly failed calculus.

pursue

pursuing

pursuit

n

/ pə(r)'süt /

F > AF > E

a chasing with haste.

One of the others who was nearest the door leaped up and started in pursuit.

pursuivant

n

/ 'pərs(w)əvənt /

F > E

the lowest rank of one learning the profession of heraldry.

After studying for a year, James earned the right to be called a pursuivant.

purview

putative

adj

/ 'pyüdədɪv /

L

commonly accepted or supposed.

The putative owner of the vicious dog claimed to have never seen the animal before.

putrefaction

putrilage

n

/ 'pyütrəlɪj /

L

matter that is rotting.

The pile of putrilage squirmed with maggots and insects.

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

puzzle

v
/ 'pʊzəl /
unknown
bewilder mentally.
Mark told Mary to stop trying to puzzle his sad brains.

pyelitis

pyramidoidal

pyrexia

n
/ pɪ'reksɪə /
Gk
elevation of body temperature to an abnormal level : fever.
The veterinarian was concerned about the dog's pyrexia because it could be an indication of distemper.

pyrography

n
/ pɪ'rəgrəfi /
Gk
the art or process of producing designs or pictures by burning or scorching with hot instruments.
Bone and ivory form good grounds for fine pyrography.

pyrolatry

pyrometer

n
/ pɪ'rəmədə(r) /
Gk
an instrument for measuring temperatures.
The pyrometer is often used to measure temperatures beyond the range of a mercurial thermometer.

pyrophile

n
/ 'pɪrəfil /
Gk + Gk
one who is enthusiastic over fire or fireworks.
Being a pyrophile, Brian eagerly awaited the Fourth of July fireworks display.

Pythagorean

adj
/ pə'thagə'reən /
Gk name
of or relating to the Greek philosopher Pythagorus or his philosophy.
The Pythagorean theorem states that in a right triangle, the square of the hypotenuse is equal to the sum of the squares of the other two sides.

Pythian

n
/ 'pɪθiən /
Gk
of or relating to the ancient Greek god Apollo especially as patron deity of Delphi.
The museum at Delphi contains many Pythian statues from the temple of Apollo.

pythonist

quadragenary

quadratic

quadrigamist

quadrillion

quadroon

quadrumana

quadrumvirate

quadruped

adj
/ 'kwädrəped /
L
having four feet : using four limbs when walking.
Sally's apartment lease restricts the weight of any quadruped pets.

quaff

quaffingly

quaintness

quake

qualify

qualmish

quantal

quantimeter

quantitate

quarterback

n
/ 'kwɔrdə:bək /
L > F > E + E
a backfield player in football who usually lines up behind the center, calls the signals, and directs the offensive play of his team.
The Denver Broncos quarterback John Elway led his team to a Super Bowl championship in 1998.

quarterdeck

quarterly

quartile

quartzite

quasiquicentennial

n
/ kwäskwɛ'sen'tenɪəl /
L
a 125th anniversary.
The city of Corner Brook, founded in 1873, is hosting a large celebration for its quasiquicentennial this summer.

quattrocento

n
/ kwättrə'tʃen(ɪ)tō /
L > It
the 15th century; specifically : the 15th-century period in Italian literature and art.
Lorenzo De Medici was one of the chief supporters of Italian art during the quattrocento.

quaver

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

quavers

n pl
/ 'kwāvə(r)z /
E

tremulous uncertainties of tone (as in the voice due to emotion).

The quavers in Leslie's voice increased as she related the accident.

quavery

quayage

queensware

quemadero

querencia

querist

quesadilla

n
/ 'kāsə'dēyə /
L > Sp

a turnover made usually with a cheese filling.

Joyce usually eats a quesadilla as an afternoon snack.

questionable

queued

quiaquia

n
/ 'kēə.kēə /

Sp
a small fusiform carangid fish of the western Atlantic related to and often included among the mackerel scads.

The quiaquia is a food fish frequently caught in the Caribbean.

quibbling

quicksand

quicksilver

quiddities

quiescently

adv
/ kwī'es⁰ntlē /
L

in a manner marked by inactivity or repose.

The virus insinuates itself into selected cells, where it may reside quiescently for prolonged periods of time.

quiet

quila

n
/ 'kēlə /

Araucan > Sp

a grass of the southern part of South America that resembles bamboo, is used as forage, and has a fiber used in making paper.

Josefina knows how to make paper from quila.

quilt

quince

quindene

quinquevir

n
/ 'kwinkwə.vi(ə)r /
L

one of a commission, council, or ruling body of five (as in ancient Rome).

When Karen was a quinquevir of her school's Student Council, she learned firsthand that too many cooks can spoil the stew.

quintal

n
/ 'kwint⁰l /
Ar > L > F > E

a metric unit equal to 100 kilograms.

It always makes Fred feel better to say that he weighs only 1 quintal.

quintuplet

quixote

n
/ 'kwiksōt /
Sp name

an idealistic and utterly impractical person marked by rash lofty romantic ideas or chivalrous action doomed to fail.

Because of his grandiose but unrealistic plan to eliminate poverty, the dictator has been called a "quixote."

quixotically

quixotism

quiz

quizmaster

quoddy

n
/ 'kwädē /
American geog name
an open sloop-rigged sailboat once used especially for fishing along the Maine coast.
Julia runs a business in Bar Harbor, taking tourists fishing in her quoddy.

quoit

rabanna

n
/ rə'banə /
Malagasy
a coarse matting handwoven from raffia fibers in Madagascar.
The village woman sat on a mat of rabanna and watched the children playing.

rabbinal

rabble

rabboni

rabies

racetrack

rachitogenic

racial

rackettail

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

radiation

radiator

radically

radiculous

radiesthesia

radiogoniometer

radiology

radiometer

n
/ ˌrædēˈämədə(r) /
L + Gk

an instrument for detecting and measuring the intensity of electromagnetic or acoustic radiation.

The Crookes radiometer in the form of a rotating toy survives in jewelers' windows as a supposed perpetual motion device.

radiosonde

n
/ ˌrædēō.sänd /
L + L > F > E

a miniature radio transmitter that is carried aloft (as by an unmanned balloon) with instruments for broadcasting the humidity, temperature, and pressure.

The National Weather Service uses thin neoprene balloons to raise the radiosonde to great heights.

radish

radome

radon

radzimir

raffle

rafter

raggedy

ragwort

n
/ ˈrag.wò(ə)rt /
E

any of several herbs with heads composed of flowers.

Ragwort can grow in very poor soil.

railbed

rainbow

adj
/ ˈrān.bō /
E

having the colors of the spectrum.

The chorus wore glittering robes and shiny, rainbow wings for the Christmas pageant.

rainspout

rainstorm

n
/ ˈrān.stò(ə)rm /
E + E

a storm of or with rain.

The sudden rainstorm caused flooding at many of the city's intersections.

rainy

adj
/ ˈrānē /
E

wet, showery.

After a long dry spell, the rainy weather was welcomed by everyone.

raisin

raj

rale

rallentando

rambunctiously

adv
/ ˌrɑmˈbən(k)ʃəs.lē /
L? > E

in an excessively exuberant manner.

The children were warned that if they behaved rambunctiously in the restaurant, they would not be allowed to have dessert.

ramentum

ramify

rampart

n
/ ˈrɑm.pärt /
L > Prov > F

a broad embankment raised as a fortification.

With the army in retreat, the invaders surged over the rampart and into the village.

ramuscle

ranche

randomize

ranine

adj
/ ˈrā.nīn /
L

of or relating to frogs.

The ceaseless ranine chirping from the pond kept Marcus awake all night.

ranunculus

n
/ ˌrənŋkyləs /
L

any plant of a large and widely distributed genus of herbs that have simple or variously lobed leaves and mostly yellow flowers.

Patsy planted a ranunculus in a pot beside the kitchen door.

rapacity

n
/ ˌrəˈpasədə /
L

the quality or state of being urgently eager for food.

Despite his rapacity, the freed prisoner limited his food intake so as not to endanger his life.

rapidity

rappee

rappel

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

rarefaction

n
/ ˌra(a)rəˈfakʃən /
L

the act or process of making rare, thin, porous, or less dense.
The rarefaction of air can be accomplished with a vacuum pump, but it is very difficult to achieve a true vacuum.

rarefy

rareripe

rariora

n pl
/ ˌra(a)rēˈōrə /
L

unusual collectors' items.
The old man's study contained a whimsical mixture of rariora.

rasbora

rascal

n
/ ˈraskəl /
F? > E
a mean, unprincipled, or dishonest person.
The children cheered during the movie when the rascal fell to his doom.

rasher

rasorite

raspingly

adv
/ ˈraspiŋlē /
F
in a grating harsh manner.
"Don't try me," he said in a raspingly mean voice.

ratel

n
/ ˈrādˌl /
D > Afrikaans
any of several powerful nocturnal carnivorous mammals resembling the badger and having the pelt ash gray above and black beneath.
The ratel uses its strong claws for breaking open beehives to get its favorite food, honey.

rationalize

v
/ ˈrashənˈlīz /
L > E
give an explanation of that conforms with reason.
Chauvinists try to rationalize racial prejudice.

rattail

rattletrap

raucity

n
/ ˈrōsədē /
L
the quality or state of being disagreeably harsh or strident.
Fed up with the raucity of urban street life, the Hamiltons moved to a quiet suburb.

raucously

raunchy

raven

adj
/ ˈrāvən /
E
[has homonym: ravin] of the color or sheen of the raven, a large glossy-black bird.
Callie's little sister had her heart set on the doll with raven curls.

rawhide

razor

reactionary

readily

readjourn

v
/ ˌrēəˈjərn /
L > F > E
put off further proceedings of again.
When the court reconvened at two o'clock, the defense attorney immediately asked the judge if she would readjourn the trial until the next day.

reagent

n
/ rēˈājənt /
L
a substance used for various purposes (as in detecting, examining, or measuring other substances, in preparing material, in developing photographs) because it takes part in one or more chemical reactions or biological processes.
Stuart explained that the substance used up first in the experiment is called a "limiting reagent."

realgar

realia

reamer

reassurance

n
/ rēəˈshūrən(t)s /
L > Ecf + L > F > E
the action of inspiring or tending to inspire confidence again.
The coach's reassurance was all the encouragement Debbie needed to feel confident.

Reaumur

adj
/ ˈrēə.myū(ə)r /
F name
relating or conforming to a thermometric scale on which under standard atmospheric pressure the boiling point of water is at 80 degrees above the 0 of the scale and the freezing point is at 0.
Cecelia converted Celsius degrees into Reaumur degrees by multiplying by four and dividing by five.

rebidable

reblochon

rebuff

rebuke

recalcitration

recamier

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

recant

v
/ rə'kant /
L

withdraw or repudiate (a statement or belief) formally and publicly.
The witness decided to recant her testimony when she was shown the photograph of the suspect at the scene of the crime.

recede

v
/ rə'sēd /
L

move back or away.
Buck watched the water recede as the tide went out.

receivable

recency

reception

recession

recessional

recessive

reclamation

reclusive

adj
/ rə'klusiv /
L
marked by seclusion or retirement : solitary.
The reclusive movie star had not given an interview for years, but the media camped out in her driveway nonetheless.

recollective

recommend

recommended

v
/ rekə'mendəd /
L
advised, counseled.
The doctor recommended that Robert get more sleep.

recommitment

n
/ ˌrɛkə'mɪtmənt /
L + EcF
the act of pledging again to give support to some policy or cause.
The president urged a recommitment of the United Nations to the basic principles of human welfare.

recompensable

reconcilable

recoup

v
/ rē'küp /
F
compensate (as oneself) for something (as expenses, losses).
Dorene did not expect to recoup her day-trading losses immediately.

recrement

n
/ 'rekrəmənt /
L
superfluous matter separated from that which is useful.
Slag is the recrement produced in smelting iron ore.

recriminate

v
/ rə'krimənāt /
L
make a counter accusation : charge back a fault or crime against an accuser.
Though she believed her accuser to be the guilty party, Chelsea refused to recriminate.

recriminatory

adj
/ rə'krimənə.tōrē /
L
having the character or nature of a counter accusation.
When charged with insubordination, the soldier filed recriminatory charges against his commanding officer.

recruit

rectification

n
/ ˌrɛktəfə'kāshən /
L
the act or process of making or setting right (as by correcting an error or amending a fault).
Todd called the newspaper's editor to seek rectification of the erroneous article.

rectifier

n
/ 'rɛktəfɪ(ə)r /
L
a device for converting alternating current to direct current.
A vacuum tube can act as a rectifier in electronic machinery.

rectirostral

adj
/ ˌrɛktə'rästrəl /
L + L
having a straight beak.
Dowitchers are rectirostral shore birds that feed in mud or shallow water.

rectitude

n
/ 'rɛktə.tüd /
L
strict observance of standards of integrity and honesty.
Abraham Lincoln was renowned for his moral rectitude.

rectitudinous

recumbent

adj
/ rə'kəmbənt /
L
lying down.
Several sheep, recumbent in the field, were roused and herded into their pen for the night.

recumbentibus

n
/ ˌrɛkəm'bentəbəs /
L
a knockdown blow.
The little old lady gave the purse snatcher a recumbentibus that stunned witnesses and made her a folk hero.

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

recuperation

n
/ rə'k(y)ü.pə'rāshən /
L

restoration to health or strength.
The doctor told Ernesto that his recuperation after the skiing accident would take about two months.

recurs

v
/ rə'kərz /
L

happens or takes place again.
Nikki has made great progress in stopping her nail biting, but it is a problem that recurs now and then.

recyclable

adj
/ rē'sīk(ə)ləbəl /
L + Gk + Lcf
capable of being processed in order to regain material for human use.
Each office in the building has its own receptacle for recyclable paper.

redaction

n
/ rə'dakshən /
L
an act or instance of putting into a different written form.
Cindy did not realize that the musical was a redaction of an 18th-century novel.

redeeming

redemption

redivivus

redolence

redouble

redound

redowa

n
/ 'redəwə /
Czech > F > F
either of two popular Bohemian ballroom dances of the 19th century.
To Erica's complete surprise, Ronald danced the redowa very skillfully.

reduce

redundant

adj
/ rə'dəndənt /
L
exceeding what is necessary or normal : superfluous.
The newspaper article proved to be more redundant than informative, stating the same facts in several different ways.

reek

v
/ 'rēk /
E
give off a strong, often offensive odor.
Antiperspirant ads create the impression that the human body will reek with sweat if the advertised product is not used.

reeled

reenactment

n
/ rēə'nak(t)mənt /
E
the process of performing again.
The evening performance featured a reenactment of the role the actor had made famous.

refectory

n
/ rə'fekt(ə)rē /
L
a dining hall in a monastery, convent, or religious college.
Brother Neil returned to the refectory for dinner.

refer

referendum

n
/ .refə'rendəm /
L
a popular vote on a measure passed upon or proposed by a legislative body or by popular initiative.
A referendum in Clay County raised the minimum age for purchasing alcohol to 21.

referral

referred

reflect

v
/ rə'flekt /
L
think quietly and calmly.
Jimmy took time to reflect on his life goals.

reflector

reflorescence

reflorescent

refractor

n
/ rə'fraktə(r) /
L
a telescope in which the principal focusing element is a lens that is usually an achromat with crown glass and flint glass components.
The world's largest refractor has an aperture of 40 inches.

refrain

refrigerate

refrangent

refugee

refugeeism

refund

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refurbish

v
/ rē'fərbish /
L > F > E + Gmc > F > E
brighten or freshen up : renovate.
Jeanne decided to refurbish her bedroom with handmade curtains and a new coat of paint.

refusal

refute

v
/ rə'fyüt /
L
overthrow by argument, evidence, or proof.
Try as he might, Richie could not refute his parents' decision that he could not attend the party.

regaled

regelation

regiminal

regisseur

n
/ ˌrəʒhē'sər /
L > F
director : one that supervises the production of a show with responsibility for action, lighting, music, rehearsals, and generally for giving substance to the conception of the author.
The regisseur met with the lighting manager to discuss various ways of using light to convey the mood of the scene.

register

registered

registration

reglementary

regnant

regressive

regular

rehabilitant

reify

v
/ ˈrēə.fī /
L
regard an abstraction or mental construction as a thing : convert mentally into something concrete or objective.
Success in advanced mathematics may depend on the ability to reify abstract concepts.

reign

reimbursable

adj
/ ˌrēə'm'bərsəbəl /
L
subject to repayment.
Agatha's medical insurance company did not consider a face-lift a reimbursable expense.

reins

n pl
/ ˈrānz /
L > F > E
[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word. In addition, word has homonyms: rains, reigns.] position of command.
For some who have held the reins for so long, it is difficult to give up power.

rejoinder

rejuvenescent

relative

relaxed

relentlessly

adv
/ rə'lentlāslē /
E
in a mercilessly hard or harsh manner.
Frank relentlessly teased his sister.

relevant

relieve

religion

relinquished

v
/ rə'liŋwɪʃd /
L > F > E + EcF
let go of physically : stopped holding : released.
When the sled came to a stop, Bowser relinquished his hold on Brian's snow jacket.

relinquishing

reliquiae

n pl
/ rə'likwə.ē /
L
remains of the dead : organic remains : relics.
Years after the war in Vietnam, reliquiae are still being sent back to the United States.

reliquian

reluctantly

adv
/ rə'ləktəntlē /
L
unwillingly, grudgingly.
Elena reluctantly shared her candy bar with her little brother.

rem

n
/ ˈrem /
acronym
the dosage of any ionizing radiation that will cause the same amount of biological injury to human tissue as 1 roentgen of X-ray or gamma-ray dosage.
The rem takes into account the relative biologic effectiveness of ionizing radiation.

remanence

rembrandt

n
/ ˈrem.brant /
D name
a dark grayish brown that is slightly less strong than average chocolate brown.
The color rembrandt is similar to the dark backgrounds of paintings by the artist of the same name.

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remediless

adj

/ 'remədēlās /

L + Ecf

having no relief or cure : irreparable.

Maria's whining can make the slightest difficulty seem remediless.

remember

v

/ rə'membə(r) /

L > F > E

bring to mind again : think of again.

Lonny could not remember the time of his haircut appointment.

remigrant

reminder

remittent

remittent

remittitur

remnant

remonstrance

remonstrate

remontant

adj

/ rə'mänt'nt /

F

flowering again.

Gretchen bought several remontant roses for her garden.

remora

n

/ 'remərə /

L

any of a family of marine fishes that have the front upper fin modified into a suction disk by means of which they cling especially to other fishes.

While receiving a free ride on the shark, the remora rid it of the parasites on its skin.

remorseless

adj

/ rə'mó(ə)rslās /

L > F > E + Ecf

having no distress arising from guilt for past wrongs.

The vandals seemed to be remorseless, for they laughed when the judge sentenced them.

remote

remuda

n

/ rə'müdə /

L > Sp

the herd of saddle horses from which are chosen those to be used for the day by the ranch hands : a relay of remounts.

The foreman told Jorge to go to the corral and choose another horse from the remuda.

remunerate

remunerative

adj

/ rə'myünə.rədīv /

L

serving to pay an equivalent for a service, loss, or expense.

The governor instituted a new program to help welfare recipients into remunerative employment.

renal

adj

/ 'rēnəl /

L

of, relating to, or involving the kidneys.

Renal arteries divide into four or five branches and enter the hilum of the kidney.

renascent

rend

v

/ 'rend /

E

divide (as a nation) into parties.
The dispute over the need for a new educational wing will probably rend the church's congregation permanently.

rendition

renegade

n

/ 'renə.gād /

L > Sp

an individual who rejects the restraints of law or convention.

Shana wanted people to think she was a renegade, so she dyed her hair purple.

renewal

reniform

adj

/ 'renə.fōrm /

L

resembling a mammalian kidney in shape;
specifically : bean-shaped in outline.

Highest on the preschool teacher's wish list was a reniform table.

renovate

renowned

adj

/ rə'naund /

E

celebrated.

Lake Geneva is a renowned inland sea.

renunciant

renunciatory

reparative

repartimiento

repatriate

repatriation

repeal

repeater

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repentant

adj
/ rə'pent'nt /
L

experiencing contrition for one's sins together with the dedication of oneself to the abandonment of unworthy purposes and values and to the amendment of one's life.
When Scarlett O'Hara finally understood what Rhett Butler meant to her, she was repentant for the many wrongs she had done him.

repercuss

repercussion

n
/ ˌrɛpə(r)'kæʃən /
L

an impact, action, or effect given or exerted in return : a reciprocal action or effect.
Danny kicked Raul out of the club without fear of repercussion.

repetend

repetiteur

n
/ ˌrɛ.pədə'tɔr /
L > F

a singing coach; especially : one who coaches singers in operatic roles.
As part of her comeback strategy, the diva hired a famous repetiteur.

replete

adj
/ rə'plēt /
L

fully or abundantly provided : well supplied.
The test preparation booklet is replete with examples of various types of questions.

replicate

v
/ 'repləkāt /
L

duplicate, repeat.
For an experiment to be considered valid, scientists must be able to replicate it independently.

repose

n
/ rə'pōz /
L

a state of rest.
Caleb headed for the hammock, hoping he could enjoy a few hours of much-needed repose.

representative

n
/ ˌreprə'zentədɪv /
L > F > E
one that serves a constituency as a member of a governing body.
Brady felt honored when he was elected to be his homeroom's representative to student council.

reproachable

repugnant

repugnatorial

repulsion

reputable

reputation

n
/ ˌrepyə'tāʃən /
L
a particular character in popular estimation or ascription.
The old dilapidated house had a reputation for being haunted.

reputed

adj
/ rə'pyüdəd /
L
held in estimation.
Frans hails from one of the most reputed law firms in the state.

requesting

requisition

n
/ ˌrekwə'zishən /
L
a written request for something (as materials, supplies, or personnel) authorized but not made available automatically.
The teacher filled out a requisition for the supplies to be requested on a purchase order.

requital

reredos

resupper

rescissible

rescission

n
/ rə'sizhən /
L
an act of annulling or of cancelling.
Bob's comment about his mom's rescission of his restrictions is wishful thinking.

rescissory

reservoirs

resignation

resiliently

resolute

resolvancy

resolve

v
/ rə'zälv /
L
find an answer to, clear up, or successfully deal with.
Blair's role as a professional mediator is to resolve disputes between two or more parties.

resonant

adj
/ ˈrez(ə)nənt /
L
continuing or capable of continuing to sound.
Rory marveled at the resonant tone of the church bells.

resorcinol

n
/ rəz'örsə.nəl /
(L + It? + Lcf + L?) > ISV
a soluble crystalline acidic compound obtained from various resins or artificially and used especially in making dyes, pharmaceuticals, and resins.
Resorcinol is now commonly used in making adhesives for wood.

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resort

resourcefulness

n
/ rē'sō(ə)rsfəlnəs /
L > F + Ecff
fertility in devising ways and means.
Ingmarie's resourcefulness made up for her lack of artistic experience.

respectable

respirometer

n
/ .respə'rämədə(r) /
L + Gk
an instrument for studying the character and extent of the consumption of oxygen.
Eggs and seeds have been studied using a respirometer.

resplendent

responsible

restaurant

n
/ 're.strənt /
L > F
an establishment where refreshments or meals may be procured by the public : a public eating house.
Health inspectors visited Nellie's restaurant three times before they would allow it to reopen.

resurgency

resurrect

v
/ .rezə'rekt /
L > E
raise from the dead : restore to life.
Emily hopes to resurrect the plans for the Junior-Senior Banquet.

resurrected

v
/ .rezə'rekdəd /
L
brought to view, attention, or use again.
Martha made a dessert from a resurrected recipe in a newspaper clipping from the 19th century.

resuscitable

adj
/ rə'səsədəbəl /
L
capable of being revived from apparent death or from unconsciousness.
The rescued swimmer was unconscious but considered resuscitable.

retainer

retaliate

retaliator

retaliatory

reticent

retinitis

retorts

n pl
/ rə'tò(ə)rts /
L
quick sharp witty cutting or severe replies.
Alison's retorts quickly got on Mrs. Turner's nerves.

retributive

retrieval

retrocede

v
/ .retrə'sēd /
L
give back (a territory or jurisdiction) usually by treaty.
In 1783 Great Britain agreed to retrocede to Spain all the territory that Spain had turned over to Great Britain in 1763.

retrograde

adj
/ 'retrə.grād /
L
moving, directed, or tending in a backward direction.
The soldiers fought a retrograde action.

retroussage

revehent

revelatory

adj
/ rə'velə.tōrē /
L
serving to disclose something (as character or conditions).
Revelatory interviews with gang members brought to light their goals, routines, and mentality.

revelrous

revelry

n
/ 'revəlrē /
E
boisterous merrymaking.
The revelry at campaign headquarters began after the arrival of the winning candidate.

revendicate

v
/ rə'vendəkāt /
L > F
recover by a formal demand for restoration.
After German reunification, many who had emigrated to the West during the Cold War attempted to revendicate their former homes.

reverberance

review

v
/ rē'vyü /
F
[has homonym: revue] study anew.
Isidora did not have time to review her lecture notes before the exam.

revision

revisory

revivalist

revivifier

revolution

n
/ .revə'lüşən /
L
completion by a celestial body of an orbit or elliptic course.
The year is defined as the time it takes for Earth to make one revolution around the Sun.

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revolver

revolving

revuist

revulsion

reward

rhabdoid

adj

/ ˈrəb.dɔɪd /

Gk + Gk > Ecf

shaped like a rod.

Tests indicated that Jeremy had a rhabdoid tumor in his kidney.

rhadamanthine

adj

/ ˌrædəˈmæn(t)θən /

Gk name

rigorously just.

Though the students did not always like Mrs. Moss's decisions, they respected her rhadamanthine judgment.

rhagadiform

rhapsodic

adj

/ rapˈsædɪk /

Gk

extravagantly emotional :

rapturous.

The singer grew rhapsodic as he sang of the virtues of his beloved.

rhapsodize

rhapsody

rhathymia

rheostatic

rhesus

n

/ ˈrēsəs /

Gk > L

a pale brown Asian monkey often used in medical research.

A rhesus was the first monkey to be rocketed into the stratosphere.

rhetorical

rhetorically

adv

/ rəˈtɒrək(ə)lē /

Gk + Ecff

in a manner using the art of expressive speech or discourse.

Susan threw up her hands and asked rhetorically what would happen to her next.

rheum

n

/ ˈrüm /

Gk

[has homonym: room] a watery discharge from the mucous membranes especially of the eyes or nose.

Catarrhs and colds are marked by rheum as well as other symptoms.

rhinal

adj

/ ˈrɪnəl /

Gk

of or relating to the nose.

The rhinal cavity lies between the cranium and the roof of the mouth and extends from the nostrils to the pharynx.

rhinencephalon

n

/ ˌrɪn.ənˈsefələn /

Gk

the anterior inferior part of the forebrain that is chiefly concerned with the sense of smell.

An electrode was inserted into the rhinencephalon during the experiment.

rhinologic

rhinoplasty

rhinorrhagia

n

/ ˌrɪnəˈrɑːj(ə) /

Gk > L

nosebleed.

After the fifth round the boxer had to be treated for rhinorrhagia.

rhinoscopy

rhinotracheitis

rhizomatous

adj

/ ɹɪˈzəmədəs /

Gk > L

having the characteristics of or resembling a somewhat elongate usually horizontal subterranean plant stem.

Canna, certain types of iris, and the calla lily are all rhizomatous.

rhizome

rhodopsin

n

/ ɹōˈdäpsən /

Gk + Gk

a red photosensitive pigment in the retinal rods of marine fishes and most higher vertebrates that is important for vision in dim light.

A deficiency of vitamin A results in a loss of rhodopsin and could lead to night blindness.

rhonchus

n

/ ˈræŋkəs /

Gk > L

a whistling or snoring sound heard on auscultation of the chest when the air channels are partly obstructed.

When the doctor detected a rhonchus with his stethoscope, he suspected pneumonia.

rhyparography

rhythmic

adj

/ ˈrɪθmɪk /

Gk

marked by pronounced rhythm : regularly recurrent.

The rhythmic movements of the waltz were very soothing to Laurie after dancing the mashed potato.

rhythmical

rhytidome

rhyton

ria

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<p>riant adj / 'riənt / L pleasingly mirthful. <i>The riant hostess spread good cheer from guest to guest throughout the evening.</i></p> <p>ribaldry</p> <p>ribbon</p> <p>rickety</p> <p>rickey</p> <p>riddle</p> <p>riddling</p> <p>ridiculousity</p> <p>ridiculously adv / rə'dikyələslē / L > F in an absurd, laughable, or preposterous manner. <i>The professor was ridiculously absent-minded and became the butt of many jokes.</i></p> <p>rifamycin</p> <p>riffraff</p> <p>righteousness</p> <p>rightfully</p> <p>rigidify</p> <p>rimosely</p> <p>rimulose adj / 'rimyə.lōs / L having small chinks or fissures. <i>With a magnifying glass the rimulose structure of the lichen became apparent.</i></p> <p>rimy</p> <p>rinseau</p> <p>rind</p>	<p>rinderpest</p> <p>ringent</p> <p>ringleader</p> <p>rinse</p> <p>riot</p> <p>rioter</p> <p>riotous</p> <p>rippling adj / 'rip(ə)liŋ / Flemish? having a fretted or highly ruffled surface. <i>The rippling stream held plenty of trout, beaver, and crayfish.</i></p> <p>ripsnorter</p> <p>riptide</p> <p>risibles</p> <p>risorgimento n / (,)rē.sò(r)jə'men(,)tō / L > It a time of renewal or renaissance : revival. <i>During the Victorian Age the English novel experienced a risorgimento.</i></p> <p>ritardando adv / rē.tār'dän(,)dō / L > It with a gradual slackening in tempo. <i>"Again! You must play that passage ritardando," the conductor exhorted.</i></p> <p>ritual n / 'rich(ə)wəl / L the forms of conducting a devotional service especially as established by tradition : the prescribed order and words of a religious ceremony. <i>The Passover seder is filled with spoken ritual and symbolic foods.</i></p>	<p>ritualistic</p> <p>ritzy</p> <p>rivalless adj / 'rival(l)əz / L + Ecf being without a competitive equal. <i>The young Russian couple was considered rivalless in the world of ice dancing.</i></p> <p>riverbank</p> <p>rivet n / 'rivət / F > E a headed pin or bolt of some malleable material used for uniting two or more pieces. <i>Mr. Churchill placed a rivet in Mrs. Bates's spectacles, which have never been at fault since.</i></p> <p>riviera n / ,rivē'ərə / L > F > Mediterranean geog name a coastline much frequented as a resort area and usually having a mild climate. <i>Students flocked to the Florida riviera during spring break.</i></p> <p>roadster</p> <p>robbery n / 'rāb(ə)rē / F > E the act of stealing by violence or threat of violence. <i>The FBI was called in to help solve the armored car robbery.</i></p> <p>robust</p> <p>rocketry</p> <p>roguery</p>
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2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

roguish

adj

/ 'rɒgɪʃ /

unknown

dishonest, unprincipled.

The roguish salesman tried to convince Barbara that the car was in perfect condition.

roguishly

roister

rollicking

romaine

romantic

romeo

n

/ 'rɒmē.ɒ /

Shakespearean name

a man's slipper or shoe with a high backing quarter, high front, and usually U-shaped elastic gores at the sides.

The romeo on display was made of one piece of black felt.

rondeau

n

/ 'ræn(,)dɔ /

F

[has homonym: rondo] a fixed form of verse usually of 15 lines.
Shona sat up half the night polishing the rondeau she would read the next day aloud to the class.

rookery

n

/ 'rʊkərē /

F > E

a breeding ground or common haunt of gregarious birds or animals (as rooks, herons, penguins, or seals); also : a colony of such birds or animals.
Construction of the factory will jeopardize the rookery.

roque

n

/ 'rɒk /

F

croquet played on a hard-surfaced court having a raised border used as a cushion in bank shots.

The city athletic club allows members to play roque on the roof.

rorqual

n

/ 'rɔrkwəl /

ON > Norw > F

any of a family of large baleen whales (as a blue whale or humpback whale) having the skin of the throat marked with deep longitudinal furrows.

A rorqual filters its food out of the water by means of baleen plates growing down from the roof of its mouth.

rosaceous

adj

/ rɔ'zāshəs /

L

of, relating to, or resembling a rose, especially in having a five-petaled regular corolla.

Apple, pear, peach, and cherry trees have rosaceous blossoms.

roseate

adj

/ 'rɔzēət /

L

overly optimistic or pleasing.

The commentator seemed roseate as he predicted a quick end to the strike.

roseleaf

roseroot

n

/ 'rɔz.ɹūt /

Gk > L > E + ON > E

a perennial fleshy herb whose subterranean parts have a floral odor.

Lorna planted roseroot along the sidewalk.

rosette

rosinante

rosorial

rotatable

rote

rottweiler

n

/ 'rät.wī.lə(r) /

G geog name

a dog of the breed of tall vigorous black cattle dogs having short hair, tan or brown markings, a short tail, and small drooping ears.

Sam's rottweiler was an imposing guard dog.

rotunda

roturier

rouleau

n

/ rü'lɔ /

F

[Note: Plural form can be pronounced identically.] a roll of coins put up in paper.

Rhea counted her dimes and found that she had enough for a rouleau.

rounce

roundabout

adj

/ 'raʊndə.baʊt /

E + E

deviating from a straight line or course.

The storm forced the pilot to take a roundabout path.

roundlet

n

/ 'raʊndlət /

F > E

a 15th-century hat for men with a round padded edge and loose drapery forming the crown and hanging over the edge.

Fashionable men in the mid-15th century wore pleated, fur-trimmed tunics, fitted hose, and on their heads, the roundlet.

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roundsters

n pl
/ 'raʊn(d)ztə(r)z /
E + Ecff
the privilege in marbles of shooting from any point on the ring line.
If your shooter goes outside the ring line, you may take roundsters.

rouse

v
/ 'raʊz /
E
kindle to intensity : excite, inflame.
The producer of the documentary on poverty hopes to rouse passion among many viewers for the long term.

rousing

roussette

rout

route

routine

n
/ rʉ'tēn /
F
a standardized piece of entertainment or showmanship; specifically : a theatrical number.
An emcee introduced each routine in the variety show.

routinely

routinize

roux

n
/ 'rʉ /
F
[has homonyms: roo, rue] a mixture of flour and fat cooked sometimes until the flour browns and used to thicken soups and sauces.
After deglazing the pan with white wine, Graham added a roux made of flour and butter.

rowdyism

royale

royalty

rubble

n
/ 'rəbəl /
E
broken fragments of stone and other matter resulting from the decay or destruction of a building.
The unkempt man sitting on a pile of rubble is a reporter who is doing a feature story on the homeless.

rube

rubescence

rubicelle

Rubicon

n
/ 'rübəkän /
L
a bounding or limiting line; especially : one that when crossed commits a person to an irrevocable change or decision.
Alta put off choosing a college major because she felt that to do so would be crossing the Rubicon.

rubify

rubricated

v
/ 'rübəkādəd /
L
provided with a heading distinguished by being done in a color (as red) different from the rest of the text or by some other device.
Mr. Byas was certain that the rubricated manuscript was written by Celia, an especially creative student.

rubrofugal

ruction

n
/ 'rəkshən /
L?
a noisy rough-and-tumble fight.
A fierce ruction broke out in the angry crowd, and the police had to intervene.

ruddy

adj
/ 'rədə /
E
having or marked by a reddish color associated with the glow of good health or a suffusion of blood (as from exercise, excitement, exposure).
Working in the sugarcane fields has given Caleb a ruddy complexion.

rudenture

rudiments

n pl
/ 'rüdəmənts /
L
fundamental skills taught or learned (as in an elementary school).
Reading, writing, and arithmetic are the rudiments of elementary school education.

rued

v
/ 'rüd /
E
[has homonyms: rood, rude] felt regret for.
How many a man has committed himself on a short acquaintance and rued it all the rest of his life!
rueful
adj
/ 'rüfəl /
E
feeling or expressing sorrow or pity : mournful.
Grandpa grew a bit rueful as he recalled the missed opportunities of his life.

rufescent

adj
/ rʉ'fesənt /
L
reddish.
Minga decided to apply more sunscreen to her shoulders when she saw how rufescent they looked.

ruffianize

ruffianly

ruffled

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

rugged

adj

/ 'rəgəd /

Scand > E

harsh, ungentle.

The welder's rugged demeanor belied his warm heart.

rumfustian

runic

adj

/ 'rʌnik /

ON&E + Ecf

relating to an alphabet of angular characters used for inscriptions and magic signs by the Germanic peoples from about the 3rd to the 13th centuries and especially by the Scandinavians and Anglo-Saxons. *Runic research in the '30s and '40s was so tainted by Nazi ideology that the information from this period is considered useless to any serious student of Teutonic lore.*

rupicolous

adj

/ rʌ'pɪkələs /

L + L

living among, inhabiting, or growing on rocks.

The crayfish is a rupicolous crustacean.

rustication

rustling

n

/ 'rəs(ə)lɪŋ /

E

[has near homonym: wrestling] the stealing of cattle.

When the sheriff was informed about the rustling, he assembled a posse to round up the thieves.

rutherford

n

/ 'rʌθə(r)fə(r)d /

E name

a unit strength of a radioactive source corresponding to 1 million disintegrations per second.

Avery could easily calculate radioactive strength to the nearest rutherford, but it was difficult for him to conceive just how fast 1 million disintegrations per second really was.

ruthful

ruthless

adj

/ 'rʊθləs /

E

merciless, pitiless.

Thomas was ruthless in the honesty with which he declared his opinions.

rutile

rutted

adj

/ 'rʌtəd /

F?

having or marked by tracks worn by a wheel or by habitual passage of anything.

He guided them along one of five narrow ledges, all of which led to a grooved and rutted plateau.

rye

sabin

n

/ 'sābən /

Am name

[Note: Alternate pronunciation has homonym: sabine.] a unit of acoustic absorption equivalent to the absorption by 1 square foot of a perfect absorber (as an open window).

In sound absorption, calculations measured by the sabin, reverberation time, and volume of the room are critical factors.

sabot

n

/ sa'bō /

F

a wooden work shoe worn in various European countries.

An ill-fitting sabot can cause painful blisters.

saccharimeter

saccharine

saccharinity

n

/ ,səkə'rinədē /

Skt > Pali > Gk > L+ Ecf

the quality or state of being sweet : sweetness.

Amy said that she couldn't finish her chocolate dessert because its saccharinity was too much for her taste.

saccharoid

sackbut

sackcloth

sacrament

sacred

adj

/ 'sākṛəd /

L

devoted exclusively to the service or use (as of a particular person, purpose, or group).

The fund organizers promised that all the monies collected would be sacred to charity.

sacrilegious

sacristan

n

/ 'sākṛəstən /

L

an officer of a church in charge of the room where the sacred utensils and vestments are kept.

The sacristan counted the communion plates at the end of the service and stacked them on a shelf.

sadiron

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

sadistic

safeguard

n
/ 'sāf.gärd /
F > E

a means of protection against something undesirable.
The police wore bulletproof vests as a safeguard against terrorist attacks.

saffian

saga

n
/ 'sägə /
ON
an episodic story centering about a usually heroic figure of earlier ages.
Rubin traced the motif to a 13th century Icelandic saga.

sagely

adv
/ 'säjlē /
L > F > E
in a wise or prudent manner.
Vera invested her savings sagely.

saiga

n
/ 'sīgə /
Jagatai > Russ
a sheeplike antelope of Siberia and eastern Russia having ringed horns and tufts of long hair beneath the eyes and ears.
The most outstanding feature of the saiga is its swollen snout with downward-directed nostrils.

sailboat

sala

salariat

salary

n
/ 'sal(ə)rē /
L
fixed compensation paid regularly for services.
When Henrik switched over to a salary, he earned less than when he was paid by the hour.

saliferous

adj
/ sə'lif(ə)rəs /
L
producing, impregnated with, or containing salt.
The tour guide recommended that the tourists resist the urge to taste the saliferous formations in the mine.

sallow

adj
/ 'sa(,)lō /
E
of a grayish greenish yellow color suggesting sickliness—usually used of the skin or complexion.
Neil's lethargy and sallow skin alarmed his mother.

saloon

saltatory

adj
/ 'saltə.tōrē /
L
of or relating to dancing.
Tiffany, dressed in her new leotard, took a few saltatory steps around the living room.

saltcellar

saltimbocca

n
/ ,söltim'bä(k)kə /
It
scallops of veal prepared with sage, slices of ham, and sometimes cheese and served with a wine sauce.
Connor took a second serving of saltimbocca from the buffet.

saltire

salubrious

salutatorian

n
/ sə.lüdətōrēən /
L + Ecf
the graduating student who is usually second highest in rank and who in some institutions delivers the salutatory oration.
No one was more surprised than Sharonne when she was named salutatorian of her class.

salute

salvageable

adj
/ 'salvijəbəl /
L > F + Ecf
capable of being rescued or saved especially from wreckage or ruin.
After the tornado hit their neighborhood, the residents returned to look for anything salvageable.

samara

sameness

sanative

sanatory

sanctimony

sanctuary

sandbar

sandhi

sane

sanglier

sangria

sanicle

n
/ 'sanəkəl /
L > F > E
[has near homonyms: cenacle, cynical] any of several plants reputed to have healing powers.
A sanicle by the name of "black snakeroot" yields a drug that is used to treat St. Vitus's dance.

sanity

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

Santeria

n
/ ˌsanteɪˈrēə /

AmerSp

a religion practiced originally in Cuba.

Santeria identifies Yoruba deities with Roman Catholic saints.

sapajou

n
/ ˈsapəˌjü /

Tupi > F

a long-tailed South American monkey with the hair on its crown resembling a monk's cowl—called also “capuchin.”

Some zoologists believe that the sapajou is the most intelligent of the New World monkeys.

sapient

sapling

saponify

v
/ səˈpəniˌfaɪ /

L > F

convert (as a fat or fatty acid) into soap.

The chart indicated that 12 ounces of lye would completely saponify an ounce of the fat in question.

saponin

n
/ ˈsapənən /

L > F

any of numerous glycosides that occur in many plants (as soapbark, soapwort) that are characterized by their properties of foaming in water.

The hiker found some soapbark, pounded it underwater with a rock to release the saponin, and used the resulting suds for a satisfying bath.

sapphirine

sappy

sapremia

saprogenic

saprophytic

sarcastic

sarcolysis

n
/ sərˈkələsəs /

Gk

the disintegration or dissolution of muscular tissue.

Examination of the patient's heart revealed areas of advanced sarcolysis.

sarcoma

n
/ sərˈkōmə /

Gk

a malignant tumor arising in connective tissue and especially in bone, cartilage, or striated muscle.

The sarcoma in Pat's arm was treated early enough to prevent serious impairment.

sarcophilous

sardonically

adv
/ ˌsərˈdānək(ə)lē /

Gk > F

in a manner characterized by derision or scorn : with an attitude disdainfully or skeptically humorous.

Nancy remarked sardonically that the best economic situation for the country would be a major war.

Sardoodledom

n
/ sərˈdüdˈlɒdəm /

F name

mechanically contrived plot structure and stereotyped or unrealistic characterization in drama : melodrama.

Excellent acting and directing masked the play's Sardoodledom.

sarrusophone

sashimi

n
/ ˈsəshəməɪ /

Jpn

raw fish served as an appetizer and usually accompanied by a condiment.

At the reception, waiters in black tie passed trays of sashimi and other hors d'oeuvres.

Sasquatch

n
/ ˈsɑːkwəʃ /

Halkomelem

a large hairy humanlike creature that is reported to exist in the northwestern United States and western Canada—called also “bigfoot.”

Periodically, someone reports that they have seen Sasquatch.

satisfactorily

satisfy

satori

n
/ səˈtōrē /

Jpn

sudden enlightenment and a state of consciousness attained by intuitive illumination representing the spiritual goal of Zen Buddhism.

The primary method of achieving satori is through the use of koans—riddles that enhance meditation.

saturator

Saturnian

n
/ səˈtərnēən /

L

a hypothetical inhabitant of the planet Saturn.

A Saturnian was the villain in Margaret's story about life in space.

saturnism

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

sault

n
/ 'sü /
L > F > E
[has homonyms: Sioux, sou, sue] a fall or rapid in a river.
The canoeists, taken by surprise, barely made it through the sault.

sauna

sauntered

v
/ 'söntə(r)d /
E
walked about idly and in a leisurely manner.
Count von Saurau sauntered along the shore with not a care in the world.

saurophagous

sauterelle

savagely

adv
/ 'savijlē /
E
in a ferocious manner.
Nora struck her father savagely with her little fists.

savant

sawdust

sawyer

saxifrage

n
/ 'saksəfrij /
L
a member of a genus of plants with showy five-part flowers and usually with leaves growing in tufts close to the ground.
Many types of saxifrage grow well in rocky alpine soil.

saxifragous

scabbling

scabrid

scaffolding

scagliola

n
/ skal'yōlə /
Gmc > It
an imitation of ornamental marble used for floors, columns, and other ornamental interior work.
After a few years the scagliola in the hotel lobby began to look shabby.

scalable

scalare

scalariform

scald

v
/ 'sköld /
L > F > E
bring (a liquid) to a temperature just below the boiling point.
To make perfect cocoa, first scald the milk.

scalded

scalepan

scallion

scalper

scanty

scapegoat

scarabaeiform

adj
/ ,skarə'bēə.fōrm /
L + E
resembling a family of stout-bodied beetles of subsocial habits (as the tumblebugs).
One or more scarabaeiform beetles were regarded by the ancient Egyptians as symbolic of resurrection and immortality.

scarcely

scatheless

adj
/ 'skāthləs /
ON > E
[Note: Speller might confuse first component with scath.] being without injury or damage : unharmed.
Fortunately, the Wagner family survived the earthquake scatheless.

scattered

scavenger

scenarist

scene

scenery

schapping

schedule

schematic

schematically

schloss

n
/ 'shlōs /
G
a German castle or manor house.
Gretchen and Anders returned to the schloss after a hard day of skiing.

schnauzer

schneider

n
/ 'shnīdə(r) /
G
failure of the loser of a game of gin rummy to score any point.
If the loser has failed to score, the game is a shutout, or schneider, and the winner's total score is doubled.

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scholar

n
/ 'skälə(r) /
Gk
[has near homonym: sculler] one who has engaged in advanced study and acquired the minutiae of knowledge in some special field along with accuracy and skill in investigation and powers of critical analysis in interpretation of such knowledge.
Darlene's goal is to be a renowned Shakespeare scholar.

scholarship

scholastic

scholium

school

n
/ 'skül /
Gk > L > E
[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word.] a large number of one kind of fish or other aquatic animals swimming or feeding together.
A school of dolphins surfaced alongside the yacht and accompanied it for about five minutes.

schuyt

scissel

scissile

sclerodermatous

adj
/ ,sklirō'dərmədəs /
Gk + Gk
having a hard external covering (as of bony plates or horny scales).
The armadillo is a good example of a sclerodermatous animal.

scobiform

scoff

scopolamine

n
/ skə'pälə.mēn /
It name + G > ISV
an alkaloid occurring in certain plants that is used in the prevention of motion sickness.
Cindy took scopolamine before the long car trip.

scorched

scordatura

scorekeeper

scornfully

adv
/ 'skô(ə)rmfələ /
Gmc > F > E + Ecff
contemptuously, disdainfully.
When Ken complained that he was too tired to continue playing, the others scornfully called him a "baby."

scorpion

scotoma

scoundrelly

scourged

v
/ 'skərjd /
L > F > E
subjected to severe criticism or satire.
Even Tom's friends found his campaign speech, which scourged the school administration, inappropriate.

scramasax

scrape

n
/ 'skrāp /
ON > E
[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word.] a bare place or hollow made by scratching or digging.
Carrie watched in awe as a doe and four baby rabbits emerged from a scrape.

scraper

scrapie

scrawl

scree

n
/ 'skrē /
Scand
a heap of stones or rocky debris lying on a slope or at the base of a cliff.
The climbing instructor cleared the slope of scree before allowing the novices to begin their ascent.

screwdriver

scribbative

scribbled

scribe

scrimpy

adj
/ 'skrimpē /
Scand
small or barely sufficient in size or quantity.
The living room was too scrimpy for a couch.

scripophily

n
/ skri'päfələ /
L + Gk
a collection of old stock and bond certificates.
The rarest item in Jill's scripophily is a General Motors stock certificate from 1918.

scripture

scrivenery

scrobiculate

adj
/ skrō'bikyələt /
L
having numerous shallow grooves or depressions : pitted.
A golf ball is scrobiculate.

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

scrofulous

adj
/ 'skrɒfjələs /
L

having a diseased run-down appearance.

The mayoral candidate promised to rehabilitate the city's scrofulous neighborhoods.

scrounge

scrubbing

scrumptiously

scruple

scrutable

scrutiny

n
/ 'skrɪt(ə)nē /
L

a searching study or inquiry : investigation.

Close scrutiny revealed that the new edition of the textbook was not significantly different from the old edition.

scuba

scudded

v
/ 'skədəd /
Scand?
moved or ran swiftly especially as if driven forward.
Behind the trees, clouds scudded frantically across the sky.

scullion

n
/ 'skəlyən /
L > F > E
a kitchen helper.
Dru's first job was working as a scullion in a local restaurant.

scumble

v
/ 'skəmbəl /
D > E
soften the lines or colors of (a drawing) by rubbing lightly (as with a finger).
The art teacher showed her students how to scumble an area of canvas to achieve a softer effect.

scurried

scurviness

scutage

n
/ 'skyüdij /
L
a tax or fine levied against one who does not render required military service.
The young man resolved to pay the scutage rather than join the duke's army.

scuttle

Scylla

n
/ 'silə /
Gk name
a destructive peril—usually used as the alternative to Charybdis.
With no good outcome possible, Chester found himself caught between Scylla and Charybdis.

scythestone

n
/ 'sɪθ.stən /
E + E
a whetstone for sharpening a scythe.
The scythestone was cut from a fine-grained porous sandstone.

seagirt

searingly

adv
/ 'siəriŋlē /
E + Ecf
in a manner causing withering or drying.
The noonday sun blazed searingly on the withered corn.

seaweed

seaworthiness

secant

secesh

secluded

seclusive

secrecy

n
/ 'sekɾəsē /
L > E
the habit or practice of maintaining privacy or concealment.
Secrecy seems to be inherent in government administration.

secret

secretary

secrete

secretory

secretum

sect

n
/ 'sekt /
L
a group within an organized religion whose adherents recognize a special set of teachings or practices.
The Dead Sea Scrolls were written by a Jewish sect that split from the mainstream over matters of sacrifices and ritual purity.

sectator

secular

secured

sedan

sedate

sedative

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sederunt

n
/ sə'dirənt /
L

a prolonged sitting (as for relaxation, reading, or discussion).
The seat under the vine trellis is Mark and Linda's favorite place for an evening sederunt.

seemingly

seepage

segetal

segment

segmentate

adj
/ 'segmən.tāt /
L
composed of constituent parts into which a body is or may be divided : section, division.
The segmentate abdomen of an insect may have as many as 11 divisions.

segno

segregable

segregate

seidel

seigneur

n
/ sən'yər /
L > F
[has near homonyms: saner, senior, senor] a lord or gentleman.
Phillip's expensive clothes and imposing personality gave him the air of a grand seigneur.

seismic

seize

seized

sejunction

selenium

n
/ sə'lēnēəm /
Gk
a nonmetallic toxic element that is related to sulfur and tellurium and resembles them chemically.
Selenium is used chiefly as a pigment and in photoelectric cells, rectifiers, and other electronic devices.

selfish

selfless

adj
/ 'selfləs /
E
having no concern for self.
Gail's selfless actions during the flood earned her the gratitude of all her neighbors.

semainier

n
/ sə'men(,)yā /
L > F
a tall chest with seven drawers for use in a bedroom or dressing room.
Sylvia purchased an antique semainier and used it for storing her hosiery and undergarments.

semantic

semanticist

semantics

n pl
/ sə'mantiks /
Gk > F
the study dealing with the relations between signs and what they refer to, the relations between the signs of a system, and human behavior in reaction to signs.
A student survey revealed that the topic of body language was the most interesting aspect of the course in semantics.

semblance

semicircle

seminar

n
/ 'semənär /
L
a group of advanced students studying a subject under a professor, each doing some original research, and all exchanging results by informal lectures, reports, and discussions.
Competition for acceptance in the spy novel seminar was intense.

semiotics

n pl
/ ,se.mē'ädiks /
Gk
a general philosophical theory of signs and symbols that deals especially with their function in both artificially constructed and natural languages.
Dr. Perry's paper on semiotics was well received at the linguistics seminar.

semitropical

adj
/ ,semē'trəpəkəl /
L + Gk > L + Ecf
of, relating to, or being the regions bordering on the tropical zone.
The Conways are planning to spend their retirement years in semitropical Florida.

sempiternal

semplice

senatorial

senescing

senility

n
/ sə'nیلəḋē /
L
the loss of mental faculties associated with old age.
Grandpa Wilson's confused mental state and lapses of memory were taken to be signs of encroaching senility.

senium

sensation

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sensational

sensile

sensitometer

sensorium

sensuous

sentimentality

separability

n
/ ˌsep(ə)rəˈbɪlədē /

L
the quality or state of being capable of being detached or disassociated.
One of the most widely held religious beliefs is the separability of the soul from the body.

separation

separatory

sepiment

septennate

septic

adj
/ ˈseptɪk /

Gk
characterized by or producing bacterial decomposition.
Septic action takes place at the bottom of a septic tank.

septicennial

septifragal

Septuagint

n
/ sepˈt(y)üəjənt /

L
a Greek translation of the Jewish Scriptures prepared in the third and second centuries B.C. by about 70 Jewish scholars.
The Septuagint was intended to satisfy the needs of the Greek-speaking Jews of Egypt whose knowledge of Hebrew was inadequate.

septum

n
/ ˈseptəm /
L
the bony and cartilaginous partition between the nasal passages.
Morris complained of a sharp pain in his septum.

sequitur

n
/ ˈsekwədə(r) /
L
an inference that follows from a premise.
Given that there is no water on Mars, a sequitur that can be drawn is that on Mars there is no life as we know it.

sequoia

serendipity

n
/ ˌserənˈdɪpədē /
Ar geog name
an assumed gift for finding valuable or agreeable things not sought for.
In the movie Paris When it Sizzles, Audrey Hepburn's character defines serendipity as "waking up in the morning and seeing there's a whole new day and going absolutely ape."

serenely

adv
/ səˈrēnlē /
L + Ecf
in a calm or peaceful manner.
The balloon ride was serenely smooth.

serenity

n
/ səˈrenədē /
L
the quality or state of being calm or peaceful.
Nothing ruffled the serenity of her expression.

serial

n
/ ˈsirēəl /
L
[has homonym: cereal] a motion picture or radio or television play presented in a number of successive installments or continued indefinitely.
Mom has for years been a devotee of the serial Days of Our Lives.

sericulture

n
/ ˈserəkəlchə(r) /
L + E
the production of raw silk by raising silkworms.
About A.D. 550 two Persian monks smuggled silkworms out of China in their hollow bamboo canes, and sericulture was begun in Constantinople.

serious

adj
/ ˈsirēəs /
L > F
[has homonyms: cereous, Cereus]
grave in disposition, appearance, or manner.
Even the perennially serious clergyman showed some lightheartedness at the church picnic.

seriously

serotonin

n
/ ˌsirəˈtōnən /
L + L
a brain chemical that serves as a neurotransmitter, the lack of which may cause depression.
In animal studies, scientists discovered that low serotonin levels may be associated with impulsive or risky behavior.

serpentarium

serpentine

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

serpentine

adj
/ 'sərpən.tēn /

L
winding or turning one way and another.
All the tourists love to drive down the steep serpentine street.

sertulum

n
/ 'sərchələm /
L
a collection of scientifically studied plants.
The health food experts designed a sertulum of all cruciferous vegetables.

serval

n
/ 'sərvəl /
L > Pg > F
[has homonym: servile] a long-legged African wildcat having large ears and a tawny black-spotted coat.
The serval is a nocturnal hunter, preying on birds, rodents, and hares.

servant

service

n
/ 'sərvəs /
L > F > E
[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word.] the act of putting the ball in play in any of various net or court games (as tennis).
Serena foot-faulted twice during the service.

servitor

servomotor

n
/ 'sər(ɪ)vō.mōdər /
L
a power-driven mechanism that supplements a primary control operated by a comparatively feeble force.
The servomotor that powers Sassan's toy robot burns out frequently.

sesame

sesamoid

adj
/ 'sesə.mōid /
Gk
of, relating to, or being a nodular mass of bone or cartilage in a tendon especially where the tendon passes over a joint or some bony prominence.
The doctor decided that the sesamoid mass was not impairing the use of Maria's elbow and did not need to be surgically removed.

sesquilateral

sessile

adj
/ 'sesəl /
L
permanently attached : not free to move about.
Sea anemones are sessile and must wait for their food to come to them.

seston

n
/ 'se.stən /
Gk > G
minute material moving in water and including both living organisms (as plankton and nekton) and nonliving matter (as plant debris or suspended soil particles).
The high concentration of seston in the lagoon gave it a cloudy appearance.

seta

n
/ 'sedə /
L
any of numerous slender typically rigid or bristly and springy parts of animals or plants.
The microscope made each seta on the body of the caterpillar stand out.

setaceous

setigerous

setscrew

settee

settleable

settlement

settlers

n pl
/ 'sed'lə(r)z /
E
those who first move into a new region : colonists.
The settlers sat about on the wooden sidewalks in the little town and complained about the land and the weather.

several

adj
/ 'sev(ə)rəl /
L > F > E
consisting of an indefinite number more than two and fewer than many usually of the same class or group.
The grade distribution on the final exam was two A's, several B's, and one C.

severe

adj
/ sə'vi(ə)r /
L
strict or uncompromising in judgment, discipline, or government.
Archibald's temper was severe and arbitrary.

sevillana

n
/ ,sāvē(l)'yänə /
Sp
the seguidilla as played or danced in Seville.
As a child, Margarita learned to dance the sevillana.

sexagenarian

sextant

n
/ 'sekstənt /
L
an instrument for measuring altitudes of celestial bodies from a moving ship.
Chaucer was an expert in the use of the sextant.

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

sfumato

n
/ sfü'mä()tō /
L > It

the definition of form without abrupt outline by delicate gradation from light to shadow.

The museum guide pointed out Leonardo's use of sfumato.

shabbiness

shadowy

adj
/ 'shadəwē /

E
fleeting, imaginary, unsubstantial.
Rob awoke to see a shadowy figure recede into his closet.

shaggy

shaky

shaman

n
/ 'shämən /
Russ or Tungus
a priest-doctor who uses magic to cure the sick, to divine the hidden, and to control events that affect the welfare of the people.
The modern-day shaman is a community healer.

shamateurism

shameful

shapely

shavetail

Shavian

adj
/ 'shävēən /
Latinized E
of, relating to, or characteristic of the British writer George Bernard Shaw or his writings.
Lucinda's acting in the role of a Shavian heroine amazed her parents.

sheath

sheathing

sheepishly

sheldrake

shellacking

shepherd

shiatsu

n
/ shē'ät()sü /
Jpn
a massage with the fingers applied to those specific areas of the body used in acupuncture.
Ramona's acupuncturist recommended regular sessions of shiatsu to keep her neck muscles relaxed.

shield

shimmery

shine

v
/ 'shīn /
E
emit rays of light.
In the mountains the stars shine brighter than they ever do in the city.

Shinto

n
/ 'shin.tō /
Jpn
the indigenous religion of Japan characterized by the reverence of deified nature spirits and sprits of ancestors and its great antiquity but lack of an historical founder or organized teachings.
The sun goddess is regarded as the chief deity of Shinto.

shipmate

shipyard

shirr

shirring

n
/ 'shəriŋ /
unknown
a decorative gathering of material as at the top of a drapery.
Rachel was happy to see that her new sewing machine had an attachment for creating shirring.

shoaly

shoddiness

shoddy

adj
/ 'shädē /
unknown
employing, consisting of, or made by hasty or unsound methods.
The nuclear reactor will be put on line despite rumors of shoddy construction.

shogi

n
/ 'shōgē /
Jpn
Japanese chess played on a board of 81 squares with 40 pieces to the set.
Alexander's grandparents like to play shogi on the handmade set they bought in Kyoto.

shogunate

shoji

n
/ 'shōjē /
Jpn
a paper screen serving as a wall, partition, or sliding door.
Teruko bought a beautifully painted shoji for her mother.

shoofly

shoplifter

shortsighted

shovel

shovellike

showery

adj
/ 'shaü(ə)rē /
E
abounding with frequent showers of rain.
November turned out to be a dismally cold and showery month.

shredder

shrewd

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

shrewish

adj
/ 'shrüish /
E

resembling or having the characteristics of an ill-tempered, scolding woman.

Because Della is naturally ill-tempered, she had no difficulty acting the part of the shrewish neighbor.

shrillness

shroff

shroud

shrubbery

n
/ 'shrəb(ə)rē /
E

a growth of low usually several-stemmed woody plants : hedge.
When the child had passed through the gate in the shrubbery, she found herself in great gardens.

shuttle

shuttlecock

n
/ 'shədʹl.käk /
E + E

a feathered object with a rounded base that is volleyed back and forth with rackets in badminton.
With a quick flick of her wrist, Jenna sent the shuttlecock flying across the net.

shyster

sialic

sialoid

adj
/ 'sīə.lōid /
Gk > L

resembling saliva.
The many snails in the garden have left a map of sialoid trails across the walkway.

siamang

n
/ 'sēəmən /
Malay

a black gibbon of Sumatra that is the largest of the gibbons and has the second and third toes partially united by a web.

A remarkable feature of the siamang is its expandable throat sac that is used to produce a resonant, booming call.

siderography

sidewalk

sierra

n
/ ,sē'erə /
L > Sp

a mountainous region.
Mountain goats constitute the largest animal population in the high sierra.

sieve

sigh

n
/ 'sī /
E

[has homonym: psi] a deep and prolonged audible inspiration and expiration of air especially when involuntary and expressing some emotion or feeling (as grief, yearning, weariness, or relief).
The teacher's deep sigh was a sign that she would tolerate no more nonsense.

sighingly

sight

sigillate

sigillation

sigillography

sigmatism

sigmoid

adj
/ 'sig.mōid /
Gk

curved like the letter c.
The flower had a round sigmoid stem.

significance

Sikhism

n
/ 'sē.kizəm /
Skt > Hindi

a monotheistic religion of India founded about A.D. 1500 and marked by rejection of idolatry and caste.
The last month of the world religion class was devoted to Sikhism.

silo

silverite

silvicolous

simian

simianity

similiter

similitude

n
/ sə'milə.tüd /
L

a visible likeness : image, semblance.
Federal law prohibits anyone from making a copy or document that is a similitude of U.S. currency.

simoniacal

simony

n
/ 'sīmənē /

Biblical name
the buying or selling of a church office or ecclesiastical preferment.
In the late 11th century, church reformers railed against the practice of simony.

simperer

simplicity

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

simulate

v
/ 'simyə.lāt /

L
give the appearance or effect of :
imitate.

*Pegs in oak flooring simulate
pioneer construction.*

sincerely

sinewy

sinfonietta

n
/ ,sinfən'yedə /
It

an orchestral musical composition
of less than standard length or for
fewer instruments.

*While the audience was returning
to their seats we encouraged them
with a brief sinfonietta.*

singe

v
/ 'sinj /
E

burn (something) superficially or
lightly as to remove the hair or
down from (an animal or fowl) by
passing over a flame.

*Kate's grandmother recalled the
days when her job was to singe
chickens after they had been
plucked.*

singultus

sinister

sinistrocular

sinkhole

sinologist

siphonapterology

n
/ ,sifənaptə'räləjē /
Gk > L + Ecf

a branch of entomology that is
concerned with fleas.
*Siphonapterology has discovered
that the rabbit flea and the shrew
flea limit their infestation to only
the one particular host species.*

sippet

siren

sirenian

n
/ sī'rēnēən /
L

[has homonyms: cyrenaeen,
cyrenian] any of an order of aquatic
herbivorous mammals including
the manatee, dugong, and Steller's
sea cow.

*The future of the sirenian in
Florida is in doubt because of the
increasing boat traffic.*

sish

sitcom

site

situated

sitzmark

sixsome

n
/ 'siks.səm /
E + E

a group of six persons.

*The sixsome performed an
interesting roundelay of medieval
origin.*

skandhas

skating

skeet

skeeter

skein

skeiner

sketch

n
/ 'skech /
It > D

a slight theatrical piece having a
single scene; especially : a comic
often burlesque variety act typically
developed around a mishap and
involving a small cast or a single
performer.

*The most hilarious sketch in the
show was the one on a driving
lesson.*

skeuomorph

n
/ 'skyüə.mōrf /
Gk

an ornament or design representing
a utensil or implement.

*Eve's favorite pin has a
skeuomorph of a garden spade and
rake.*

skiagram

n
/ 'skī.ə.gram /
Gk

a shadowgraph made by X rays : an
X-ray photograph.

*The breaks in Jody's left tibia and
fibula showed up clearly in the
skiagram.*

skiagraphy

skiffling

skimpy

skinnery

skipjack

skirreh

skull

skycap

n
/ 'skī.kap /
ON > E + L > E

one who is employed to carry hand
luggage at an airport.

*Furley called for a skycap after he
had retrieved his suitcase.*

skylight

n
/ 'skī.līt /
ON > E + E

the general background of
illumination of the nighttime sky
that includes light from both
natural and artificial forces.

*The skylight was too intense in the
city to see many stars.*

skyscraper

slapdashery

slatterly

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

slaughter

slaughterous

adj
/ 'slɒdərəs /
Scand > E
of, relating to, or characterized by mass killing and bloodshed.
After the slaughterous battle the remaining invaders retreated to their ships.

slavery

slavish

adj
/ 'slāvish /
Slav > Gk > L > F > E
requiring hard work : laborious.
"A slavish concern for the composition of words is the sign of a bankrupt intellect," roared the Humbug.

sleeve

sleeveless

sleigh

slender

adj
/ 'slendə(r) /
E
not fleshy or large of bone.
Because Waldo had such a slender build, he never tried on anything but the slim sizes when he went clothes shopping.

slenderize

v
/ 'slendə.rīz /
E + Ecf
make narrow in circumference or width in proportion to the length or height.
Peter used a lathe to slenderize the candlestick.

slentando

slide

slimy

adj
/ 'slīmē /
E
of, relating to, resembling, or being slime : viscous, glutinous.
Many people mistakenly think that snakes have slimy skin.

slingshot

slippery

slithery

slope

sluggard

smalto

smaragdine

adj
/ smə'ragdən /
L
of or relating to emerald : yellowish green in color like an emerald.
Legend has it that Alexander the Great found a smaragdine tablet containing 13 sentences considered to be basic principles in Greek alchemy.

smarmy

smelt

smirky

smitham

smithereens

n pl
/ .smɪθə'rēnz /
IrGael
bits, fragments.
Elden's mother refuses to allow him to play video games in which people or things are blown to smithereens.

smock

smooth

smother

v
/ 'sməθə(r) /
E
destroy the life of by depriving of air.
The firefighter warned that the toxic smoke in the building would smother anyone in a matter of seconds.

smudgily

smuggle

snappish

snatch

snazziness

sneakiness

sneeze

v
/ 'snēz /
E
make a sudden spasmodic expiration of breath through the nose.
Kaye refused to read magazines containing scented ads for perfumes because the strong fragrances made her sneeze.

sneezeweed

snidery

sniffle

snippet

snobbery

snooperscope

snooper

snoove

snore

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

snort

v
/ 'snɔ(ə)rt /
E
force air violently through the nose
with a rough harsh sound.
*As many cartoons depict, the bull
really does snort and paw the
ground when he is angry.*

snouch

snowbound

snowdrift

n
/ 'snəʊ.drɪft /
E + E
a bank of drifted snow.
*The snowdrift completely covered
the fire hydrant.*

snowstorm

n
/ 'snəʊ.stɔ(ə)rm /
E + E
a storm of falling snow.
*The overnight snowstorm caused a
two-hour delay of the school's
opening.*

snubbed

snuffle

v
/ 'snʌfəl /
E
draw in forcibly through the
nostrils especially audibly and
repeatedly.
*A hungry dog will sometimes
snuffle and gulp vigorously when
fed, seeming to inhale its food.*

soakage

soapbox

n
/ 'səʊ.p.bɔks /
E + Gk > L > E
an improvised platform used by a
self-appointed, spontaneous, or
informal orator.
*Ned needed no encouragement to
leap upon his soapbox and hold
forth on any subject.*

soapstone

soave

soberingly

sobriety

n
/ sə'brɪədē /
L
the quality or state of being free
from the influence of intoxicating
beverages.
*At times the drunkard wished he
could lead a life of sobriety.*

socialite

societal

adj
/ sə'siədəl /
L > F + Ecf
of or relating to a community with
common interests.
*Both candidates promised to cure
the most vexatious societal woes.*

society

sociocracy

n
/ .səʊs(h)ē'əkrəsē /
L + Gk
the application of scientifically
determined principles promoting
the interests of society as a whole.
*Graham insisted that sociocracy
was the answer to most of modern
society's problems, while Melissa
argued that increased philanthropy
would accomplish more faster.*

sociocrat

sociogenesis

sociologist

n
/ .səʊsē'äləjəst /
L + Gk
a specialist in the science of
society, social institutions, and
social relationships.
*The pioneering sociologist Emile
Durkheim was born in France in
1858.*

sociology

Socratic

adj
/ sə'krad-ik /
Gk name
of or relating to the philosopher
Socrates or his philosophy or his
followers.
*The Socratic method of instruction,
simply put, enables the learner to
express what he already knows.*

sodden

sodium

soilure

soily

soiree

n
/ swä'rā /
L > F
an evening party or reception.
*When the band's new album was
released, the record company
sponsored a soiree to celebrate the
occasion.*

sojourn

solar

adj
/ 'səʊlər /
L
[has homonym: soler] of, derived
from, or relating to the Sun and its
effects especially on Earth and
other celestial bodies.
*A solar diagonal is an attachment
for a telescope which permits
observation of the Sun by
discarding most of the unwanted
heat and light.*

solarium

sole

soleiform

soleil

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

solemn

adj
/ 'säləm /
L

marked by full realization and acceptance of all that is involved.
Donald looked solemn as he apologized to the class.

solemnly

solenoglyph

solenoid

n
/ 'sölə.nóid /
Gk

a coil of wire commonly in the form of a long cylinder that carries a current.
It took a long time to trace the power failure to a faulty solenoid.

soleprint

solfeggio

solicit

solicitude

n
/ sə'lisə.tüd /
L

uneasiness of mind due to fear.
Having few wants, he had little cause for solicitude.

solipsist

n
/ 'söləpsəst /
L + L

an adherent or advocate of an extreme version of subjective idealism.
To Traci, the sculptor was nothing more than an affected solipsist, pawning off junk as art.

solitary

adj
/ 'sälə.terē /
L

single, individual, sole.
The road raced ahead in a series of gentle curves that began to look familiar, and off in the distance a solitary tollbooth appeared.

solmizate

v
/ 'sälmə.zāt /
L > F

sing using a set of syllables to denote the tones of a musical scale.
In the musical The Sound of Music, Maria composes a song called "Do Re Mi" to teach her young pupils to solmizate.

soloist

n
/ 'söləwəst /
L > It + Ecf
one who performs with no partner or associate.
Charles is an occasional soloist in his school's modern dance performances.

Solomonic

adj
/ .sälə'mänik /
Heb name
marked by notable wisdom, reasonableness, or discretion especially under trying circumstances.
Naeem's Solomonic solution to a workplace disagreement earned him a reputation as a peacemaker.

solution

solve

v
/ 'sälv /
L > E
find an answer, solution, or explanation for.
The algebra teacher asked her class to solve five word problems, but only one student got a perfect score.

solvency

n
/ 'sälvənsē /
L
the quality or state of being able to pay all legal debts.
After Jack's financial setbacks, he determinedly struggled back to solvency.

somatotonic

adj
/ sə'madə.tīp /
Gk
exhibiting a pattern of aggressiveness, love of physical activity, vigor, and alertness.
With his somatotonic personality, Brian gets more done before nine in the morning than most people get done all day.

somatotype

n
/ 'sömadə.tīp /
Gk
body type : physique.
Considering Phil's thin, slight build, the physician classified his somatotype as ectomorphic.

sombra

n
/ 'sämbərə /
L > Sp
the shady side or section of a bullfight arena.
Richard was glad he had a seat in the sombra.

sommelier

n
/ .söməl'yā /
L > Prov > F
a waiter in a restaurant who has charge of wines and their service.
The sommelier at L'Escoffier is famous for his knowledge of rare and unusual European wines.

somniferous

adj
/ säm'nif(ə)rəs /
L
tending to induce sleep.
For most of July the city baked in somniferous heat.

somnipathy

n
/ säm'nipəthē /
L
abnormal or disordered sleep (as in a hypnotic state).
Sleeping with open eyes is normal for Aaron, not some sort of somnipathy.

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

somnolent

adj
/ 'sämnələnt /
L

tending to induce drowsiness or sleepiness.
Jeff could feel his eyelids getting heavier as he listened to the somnolent sermon.

sonable

sonata

sonnet

n
/ 'sänət /
L > OP
a fixed verse form of Italian origin consisting of 14 lines.
Thomas remembered memorizing in high school a sonnet about Triton and a wreathed horn.

sonobuoy

n
/ 'sänäbüi /
L + Gmc > F > E
a float equipped with a hydrophone for detecting underwater sounds and an automatic radio transmitter for transmitting the sounds.
The airman dropped a sonobuoy over the submarine's last known location.

sontag

sophomoric

adj
/ ,säf(ə)'mōrik /
Gk
exhibiting a firm and often aggressive conviction of knowledge and wisdom and being unaware of limitations and lack of maturity.
Cora's sophomoric analysis irritated the other board members.

sorbefacient

sorbitol

sordid

sorehead

sorely

adv
/ 'sō(ə)rlē /
E
severely, violently.
Mongo was sorely vexed when faced with criticism.

soricine

sororal

adj
/ sə'rōrəl /
L + Ecf
of, relating to, or being in the relationship of a sister.
Due to their strong sororal bond, Melanie and Lynette are aware of each other's emotions, even though they live in different parts of the country.

sororate

sorrow

sorrowful

adj
/ 'sārōfəl /
E
full of or characterized by uneasiness or anguish due to loss (as of something loved or familiar).
The author described his mother as a sorrowful, pathetic soul, plagued by bad luck.

sortilege

soterial

adj
/ sō'tirēəl /
Gk
of or relating to salvation.
After the offertory the choir sang a soterial hymn.

soul

soundproof

soupcon

source

sourly

adv
/ 'sau(ə)rlē /
E
in an unpleasant distasteful manner.
Lee sourly puckered up his mouth and walked away.

sovereign

sowback

soybean

sozzle

spaceport

spadiceous

adj
/ spā'dishəs /
Gk > L
of a bright clear brown or a chestnut color.
Madeline found a spadiceous feather, which she thought was from a hawk.

spanspek

spar

spareribs

n pl
/ 'spa(a)(r).ribz /
G > E
a cut of pork ribs and breastbone separated from the bacon strip.
Today's featured items in the cafeteria are spareribs and peach pie.

sparkler

sparring

sparrow

spasm

spasmodic

spasmodic

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

spasms

n pl

/ 'spazəmz /

Gk > L > F > E

sudden violent and temporary activities : bursts.

The spasms of pain Terry is experiencing are caused by a spinal injury.

spasticity

spathe

spatiography

spearhead

n

/ 'spi(ə)r.hed /

E + E

the sharp, pointed tip of a long, thin hurling weapon.

Ada found an ancient spearhead near the riverbank.

specialize

specie

specific

adj

/ spə'sifik /

L

[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word.] being any of various arbitrary physical constants and especially one relating a quantitative attribute to unit mass, volume, or area.

Specific gravity is defined as the ratio between the weight of a substance and the weight of an equal volume of water at 4 degrees Celsius.

specificity

n

/ ,spesə'fisədē /

L + Ecff

the quality or state of being free from ambiguity.

Mr. Spence values specificity in his students' essays.

speciosity

speckled

spectacles

n pl

/ 'spektəkəls /

L

glasses that are supported by the ears.

The pair of spectacles in the antique shop were very small with round lenses and gold frames.

spectacular

adj

/ spek'takyələr /

L

of, relating to, or constituting a remarkable or noteworthy sight.

The fireworks launched from the river barge displayed a spectacular scene for the thousands watching.

spectrometer

n

/ spek'trämədə(r) /

L + Gk

an instrument designed for the examination and measurement of chemical compounds.

The mass spectrometer is used to sort atoms and molecules according to their atomic masses.

spectroscope

speculate

v

/ 'spekyəlāt /

L

ponder a subject in its different aspects, relations, and implications.

Despite all his efforts to speculate as to the outcome of his venture, Art was not at all prepared for what happened.

speculative

specus

speiss

speleology

n

/ ,spēlē'äləjē /

Gk + gk

the scientific study or systematic exploration of caves.

Dale's research in speleology takes him to spectacular natural features around the world.

spellbinder

spencer

n

/ 'spen(t)sə(r) /

E name

a woman's fitted jacket of waist length or shorter.

Miss Bates got her bonnet and spencer on and was ready to come outside.

Spencerian

adj

/ spen'sirēən /

American name

of, relating to, or characteristic of a form of slanting handwriting developed by American calligrapher Platt Rogers Spencer.

The documents in the attic trunk were written in Spencerian script.

spendthrift

n

/ 'spen(d).thrift /

E + ON > E

one that spends or uses wastefully or improvidently.

The legislator resented being called a spendthrift at the public trough.

sphere

sphericity

n

/ sfə'risədē /

Gk

the quality or state of being spherical : roundness; especially : the degree of perfection of the surface of a sphere.

By circumnavigating Earth, Magellan confirmed Earth's sphericity.

spherometer

n

/ sfə'rämədə(r) /

Gk

an instrument for measuring the curvature of a spherical object.

The invention of the spherometer substituted the sense of sight for that of touch in the measurement of curved objects.

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

sphingine

adj

/ 'sfɪn.jɪn /

Gk

resembling a sphinx.

The writer described the Mona

Lisa's enigmatic look as

"sphingine."

sphragistic

adj

/ sfrə'jɪstɪk /

Gk

relating to seals and signets.

The author discussed and

illustrated the successive styles of

English sphragistic art.

sphygmie

adj

/ 'sfɪgmɪk /

Gk

of or relating to the circulatory pulse.

An instrument measured the

patient's sphygmie changes during

the operation.

sphygmomanometer

n

/ ,sfɪg(ɪ)mŏmən'namədə(r) /

Gk

an instrument for measuring blood pressure and especially arterial blood pressure.

The nurse-practitioner checked

Siggie's blood pressure with a

sphygmomanometer.

spiccato

adj

/ spə'käd(ɪ) /

It

performed with springing bow—

used as a direction in music for

stringed instruments.

The cellist excelled in playing the

spiccato passages of the movement.

spiculiferous

adj

/ ,spɪkɪə'lɪf(ə)rəs /

L + L + L

bearing small fleshy points or appendages.

The shape of the sponge is

maintained by its spiculiferous skeleton.

spidery

adj

/ 'spɪdərē /

E

resembling or suggesting a spider web; especially : composed of fine threads or lines in a weblike arrangement.

The spidery lines on Joan's leg are broken capillaries.

spikiness

spinose

adj

/ 'spɪ.nōs /

L

full of spines : armed with spines.

The spinose porcupine has little to fear from most predators.

spintherism

spirit

spiograph

n

/ 'spɪrə.graf /

L + Gk

an instrument for recording respiratory movements commonly consisting of a spirometer together with a suitable recording device.

Dr. Martinez scanned the spiograph for any irregularities before making his diagnosis.

spirogyra

n

/ ,spɪrə'jɪrə /

L > Gk > L

any plant of a genus of freshwater green algae forming slimy masses in still water and slow streams.

The shallow pool was completely covered with spirogyra.

spirulate

spite

spiteful

spittoon

spitz

splanchnic

splanchnology

n

/ splaŋk'näləjē /

Gk

a branch of anatomy concerned with the internal organs of the body.

Professor Adams supplemented his lectures in splanchnology with graphic slides of the spleen, liver, and intestines.

splendiferous

splenomegaly

n

/ ,splēnə'megəlē /

Gk

enlargement of the spleen.

Patients affected with malaria generally exhibit splenomegaly.

splice

v

/ 'splɪs /

D

unite two ropes or two parts of one rope by sticking or tucking the strands of one rope or part between or around each other.

Barton knew how to splice the old rope to the new one so skillfully that the join could hardly be seen.

splintered

splochy

spoiler

spondean

adj

/ spän'dēən /

Gk + Ecf

having, consisting of, or characterized by metrical feet of two long or stressed syllables.

Poets occasionally use spondean feet to break or slow down the predominant rhythm of a poem.

spondylitic

adj

/ ,spändə'lɪdɪk /

Gk

affected with inflammation of the vertebrae.

The spondylitic patient was treated with anti-inflammatory drugs.

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

sponge

sponsor

spoof

spoofery

sporadic

adj

/ spə'radik /

Gk

occurring occasionally, singly, or in scattered instances.

Mr. Gifford warned Katie that completing her homework could not be a sporadic activity if she wanted to pass the class.

sporadicity

sprawling

v

/ 'sprɒliŋ /

E

lying or sitting with arms and legs stretched out carelessly or awkwardly.

The bucking of the horse sent the cowboy sprawling on the ground.

sprightly

sprinkling

n

/ 'sprɪŋk(ə)liŋ /

E

a limited quantity or amount : a slight portion : modicum.

Portia complained that she had received only a sprinkling of outstanding instruction in her first year of college.

spritzer

spruce

n

/ 'sprüs /

F > E

a variable color averaging a dark grayish green.

Mrs. Kim says that for her Christmas dinner tablecloth, the perfect shade of green to go with red napkins is spruce.

spunky

spurrier

spy

squabash

squabble

squally

adj

/ 'skwɒlə /

Scand?

marked by sudden violent winds often accompanied by rain or snow.

When the weather became squally, the fishing boats headed back to port.

squalor

squamaceous

squamulose

adj

/ 'skwamyələs /

L

covered with minute scales.

Squamulose lichens cover the seaside rocks.

squandermania

n

/ ,skwändə(r)'mānēə /

unknown + Gk > L

the practice of spending money extravagantly especially by a government.

The mayoral candidate promised to halt the city's squandermania if elected.

squawker

squawking

squdge

v

/ 'skwəj /

imit?

ooze.

Stacia drove slowly along the muddy road, worried that the mud would squdge into every crevice of the car.

squeaker

n

/ 'skwēkə(r) /

E

a contest won by a narrow margin.

The Raiders triumphed over the Rams in a 7-6 squeaker.

squealer

squeeze

squeg

squelcher

squibbery

n

/ 'skwɪbərə /

unknown

the utterance or composition of short, humorous, satiric, or lampooning writing or speech.

The opponents exchanged squibbery as if throwing darts at each other.

squidgy

squiggle

n

/ 'skwigəl /

(imit? + E) > E

a short wavy twist or line : curl.

David made a long squiggle on his paper while he daydreamed.

squire

n

/ 'skwɪ(ə)r /

L > F > E

a shield bearer or armor bearer of a knight.

During a lull in the battle, each knight's squire came forward with food, water, and replacement weapons.

squirm

stabilization

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

stade

n
/ 'stād /
Gk > L > E
[has homonyms: staid, stayed] any of various ancient Greek units of length equal to 600 Greek feet.
The footrace in the ancient Olympic Games at Olympia was exactly a stade in length.

stadimeter

stadium

n
/ 'stādēəm /
Gk > L > F > E
a large usually unroofed structure with tiers of seats for spectators and enclosing a field usually for sports events.
The new sports stadium will be named after a large corporation thanks to a big contribution to cover construction costs.

stadthouse

stagecraft

n
/ 'stāj.kraft /
L > F > E + E
the art or practice of effective management of theatrical devices or techniques.
The critic praised the opera not only for the singing but also for its effective stagecraft.

stagehand

n
/ 'stāj.hand /
L > F > E + E
a stage worker who handles scenery and properties.
The stagehand tripped and fell with a loud thud during the performance.

stagestruck

staggered

stagnicolous

stagnum

staid

adj
/ 'stād /
L > F > E
[has homonyms: stade, stayed] sober, grave, sedate.
Scrooge was a stingy, staid curmudgeon.

staircase

stakemaster

stalemate

n
/ 'stāl.māt /
F > AF > E + F > E
a drawing position in chess in which only the king can move and although not in check can move only into check.
Sasha and Vanya played to a stalemate in the Moscow city chess championship.

staleness

n
/ 'stāl.nəs /
E
the quality or state of being altered in quality through the action of natural processes.
The bread's staleness did not stop hungry Herbie from eating it.

stallion

n
/ 'stalyən /
Gmc > F > E
a mature male of any equine mammal.
The zoo has one zebra stallion and three mares.

staminiferous

stammeringly

standardization

standpatter

stannary

staphylococcus

staphyloma

n
/ ,stafə'lōmə /
Gk
a protrusion of the cornea or sclera of the mammalian eye.
The ophthalmologist surgically removed the staphyloma in Stella's left eye.

starboard

n
/ 'stərbərd /
E
the right side of a ship or airplane looking forward.
The tour guide pointed to starboard when porpoises began leaping in the water.

stargazer

starry

adj
/ 'stärē /
E
abounding with stars.
Noel marveled at how much more starry the sky appeared when he was away from the city.

startle

v
/ 'stärd·l /
E
move or jump suddenly as in surprise, fear, or alarm.
Some babies startle easily.

starvation

static

stationarily

statuary

n
/ 'stachə.werē /
L
a branch of sculpture dealing with three-dimensional figures.
In her study of ancient Greek statuary, Hillary was surprised to learn that figures had often been brightly painted.

statue

statute

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

statutorily

staurolatry

n
/ stò'rälətrē /
Gk

worship of the cross or crucifix.
After the missionaries left, many natives turned what they had learned into a primitive form of staurolatry.

staypak

stealthily

stealthy

steamroller

n
/ 'stēm.rōlə(r) /
E

a steam-driven road roller.
The cartoon character was flattened by a huge steamroller.

steed

n
/ 'stēd /
E

horse.
The slow-moving steed could not be coaxed or forced to move any faster.

steepchase

n
/ 'stēpəl.chās /
E + L > F > E

a horse race across country and over barriers ridden by a number of participants.
Bonnie won the steepchase handily.

steerage

steeved

stein

stench

n
/ 'stench /
E

a malodorous smell.
Georgette attributed her nausea to the stench emanating from the chemical factory.

stencilization

stenecious

stentorian

adj
/ sten'tōrēən /
Gk name + Ecf
extremely loud : capable of powerful utterance or sound.
Herman's stentorian boom box annoyed everyone on the bus.

stephanotis

n
/ ,stefə'nōdās /
Gk
any plant of a genus of Old World tropical woody vines with fragrant white flowers.
Madagascar jasmine is a stephanotis that is used as an ornamental in warm regions and in greenhouses.

stereophonic

adj
/ ,sterēə'fānik /
Gk + Gk
giving, relating to, or constituting a three-dimensional effect of perspective attained or experienced through hearing.
Most television sets now are equipped with stereophonic speakers.

stereotomist

n
/ ,sterē'äd-əmāst /
Gk
a practitioner of the art of stonecutting.
A stereotomist will carve a gargoyle for the new library.

stereotomy

sterilant

n
/ 'sterələnt /
L
a sterilizing agent; especially : an herbicide designed to completely eliminate a kind of plant and to have a rather persistent residual effect in the soil.
A sterilant was sprayed on the brick walk to prevent the growth of weeds.

sterlet

stern

adj
/ 'stərn /
E
having a serious and strict manner.
Darryl always looks more stern when he wears glasses.

sternocostal

sternutatory

stet

v
/ 'stet /
L
annotate with the word stet or otherwise mark to nullify a previous order to delete or omit.
Every time Harry tried to get rid of part of a dictionary entry, the chief editor would stet the deletion.

steward

stichic

adj
/ 'stikik /
Gk
of, relating to, or consisting of lines that are rhythmic units : arranged or divided by lines : serial in succession or recurrence.
Ancient Greek dramatists used stichic form for spoken dialogues.

stichometry

stickum

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

stifling

adj

/ 'stɪf(ə)lɪŋ /

F > E

producing suffocation or repression.

The stifling smell of cigar smoke killed Ashley's appetite.

stigmatism

stigmatization

stile

n

/ 'stɪ(ə)l /

E

steps or rungs to assist a person over a fence while remaining a barrier for livestock.

Gigi had trouble getting over the stile into the field.

stillatitious

stimulogenous

stingy

stipiform

stipule

stirpiculture

stoat

n

/ 'stōt /

E

ermine; broadly : any of various weasels that have a black-tipped tail—used especially of the animal when in the brown summer coat.

The stoat was closing in on the rabbit, which seemed unaware of the danger.

stochastically

adv

/ stə'kastək(ə)lē /

Gk

in a random manner.

The company's quality control involved testing its products stochastically.

stockade

n

/ stä'kād /

(Gmc + L) > Sp

an enclosure usually surrounded by barbed wire in which prisoners are kept.

The insubordinate soldier was sent to the stockade for the rest of his enlistment.

stockholders

stodgily

stoic

stolidity

stomach

stomacher

n

/ 'stəmākə(r) /

Gk

the center front section of a waist or underwaist or a usually heavily embroidered or jeweled separate piece for the center front of a bodice.

If Jane but sends her aunt the pattern of a stomacher or knits a pair of garters for her grandmother, one hears of nothing else for a month.

stomatology

stoneware

stooge

n

/ 'stüj /

unknown

a subordinate participant in a comic act or dialogue whose function is to carry on repartee in such manner as to enable a principal comedian to make humorous remarks or appear in a humorous light.

In the western, Smiley played the sheriff's naïve stooge.

storage

n

/ 'stōrij /

L > F > E

space for collecting as a reserved supply.

When we designed the new garage, extra space was allotted for general storage.

storyless

stowaway

straight

straightedge

strategize

v

/ 'strədə,jīz /

Gk

devise a plan.

The board met to strategize for expanding the company's foreign markets.

strategy

n

/ 'strədə,jē /

Gk

a careful plan or method.

At halftime the coach outlined a new defensive strategy.

stratificate

stratification

stratified

v

/ 'strədə,fɪd /

L

formed, deposited, or arranged in layers.

Mike pointed out the stratified sedimentary rock formations revealed by erosion.

stratocracy

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

stratocumulus

n
/ ˌstrədʊˈkyūmyələs /
L

stratified cumulus consisting of large balls or rolls of dark cloud which often cover the whole sky especially in winter.
The satellite picture revealed a large deck of stratocumulus off the coast of California.

stratose

adj
/ ˈstrā.tōs /
L

arranged in layers.
The stratose limestone was quite visible where the hillside had been cut during highway construction.

stratosphere

streamline

stremmatograph

strengthen

strenuosity

strenuous

adj
/ ˈstrenyəwəs /
L
arduous, rigorous.
Paul relaxed after a strenuous day's work.

stretch

v
/ ˈstrech /
E
extend in length.
Sam got up to stretch his legs and get a snack.

stretchy

strewn

v
/ ˈstrün /
E
spread by scattering.
Yellow seed-cucumbers were strewn about the dry garden patch.

striated

adj
/ ˈstri.ād.əd /
L
marked with threadlike lines or narrow bands.
Marcus found an interesting striated rock lying in the dry creekbed.

stridulated

v
/ ˈstrijəl.ād.əd /
L
made a shrill often vibrating noise.
The locusts stridulated so loudly that the campers could hardly hear each other without raising their voices.

stridulatory

adj
/ ˈstrijələ.tōrē /
L + Ecff
used in the act of producing a shrill often vibrating noise.
Most crickets tune up their stridulatory organs at about twilight and keep them going all night.

strisciando

strobe

stromuhr

strongylosis

n
/ ˌstränjəˈlōsəs /
Gk
infestation with or disease caused by any of a family of parasitic roundworms.
An outbreak of strongylosis caused the deaths of thousands of game birds.

strontium

struck

structure

struggle

struggling

strychninism

stubble

n
/ ˈstəbəl /
L > F > E
a short growth of beard.
The unusual appearance of stubble on Bob's face must mean he's trying to grow a beard.

stubbornly

stuccoed

student

n
/ ˈst(y)üd.ənt /
L
one devoted to learning, as one enrolled in a class or course in a school, college, or university.
No student at Andrew's school had 100 percent attendance last year.

stulm

stumble

stupa

n
/ ˈst(y)üpə /
Skt
a hemispherical or cylindrical mound or tower artificially constructed of earth, brick, or stone, surmounted by a spire or umbrella, and containing a relic chamber.
The stupa was said to contain a relic of the Buddha.

stupulose

sturnine

style

stymie

v
/ ˈstīmē /
E
block, check, thwart.
Brock's negative attitude will stymie his ability to maximize his potential.

stymied

stypticity

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

styrene

suave

adj

/ 'swäv /

L

smoothly affable or polite though often without deep interest or sincerity.

José had a suave way of treating his guests.

subclavate

subclavian

adj

/ ,səb'klāvēən /

L

located under the collarbone.

Leonard has a small subclavian scar from a long-ago skateboard accident.

subimago

n

/ ,səbə'mā(,)gō /

L

a stage in the development of some insects between the nymph and the adult in which the insect is able to fly but becomes mature only after a further molt.

The mayfly subimago flies from the surface of the water to some sheltered resting place nearby, where it will shed its skin and emerge as an adult.

subito

adv

/ 'sübēd(,)ō /

L > It

immediately, suddenly—used as a direction in music.

It was the desire of the composer—not the director—to play the passage subito forte.

subjectable

sublimation

n

/ ,səblə'māshən /

L

the action or process of passing from the solid to the vapor state by the action of heat.

Steamy dry ice is an excellent example of the process of sublimation.

sublime

v

/ sə'blīm /

L > F > E

pass directly from the solid to the vapor state.

Causing naphthalene to sublime rids it of impurities.

subliminal

sublittoral

submarine

submit

subordinate

adj

/ sə'bōrd(ə)nət /

L

holding a lower or inferior position.

The soldier was ordered to spend three hours digging a ditch to help him learn that he was subordinate to the leader.

subornation

n

/ (,)sə.bó(r)'nāshən /

L

the crime of procuring a person to commit perjury.

The mobster was arrested and charged with subornation of a key witness.

subrogate

v

/ 'səbrō,gāt /

L

put in the place of another : substitute.

In an act of financial selflessness, Louis decided to subrogate his assets for his brother's debt.

subsattellite

subsequent

adj

/ 'səbsəkwənt /

L > E

following in time : coming or being later than something else.

The earthquake and subsequent aftershocks devastated the city.

subservience

n

/ (,)səb'sərvēən(t)s /

L

[Note: Could be confused with plural noun subservients.]

excessive willingness to submit to the control or demands of another.

The columnist chided the Congressmen for their subservience to wealthy and well-organized lobbies.

subsided

v

/ səb'sīdəd /

L

let oneself settle down : eased, sank.

After barking at the stranger for several minutes, the dog subsided next to Julio.

subsidiaries

subsidize

v

/ 'səbsə.dīz /

L > E + Ecf

aid or promote (as a private enterprise) with public money.

The fact that taxpayers subsidize some tobacco growers continues to irritate many nonsmokers.

subsidy

subsonic

substantiable

substantial

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

substantiate

v
/ səbz'tanchē.āt /
L
prove, confirm, verify.
The suspect was unable to substantiate his whereabouts at the time of the crime.

substitution

subterete

subtlety

suburb

subversion

succade

succedaneum

n
/ .səksə'dānē.əm /
L
one that comes next after or replaces another in an office, position, or role.
If the president and the vice-president of the United States die while in office, the Speaker of the House of Representatives is their succedaneum.

succeed

succeeding

v
/ sək'sēdɪŋ /
L + Ecf
following after another especially in a natural, prescribed, or necessary order.
The senior class built a trail on the mountain behind the school to enable succeeding students to appreciate the flora.

success

succinctly

adv
/ sək'sɪŋ(k)tlē /
L + Ecf
with concise and precise brevity.
The English teacher stressed the importance of expressing ideas clearly and succinctly.

succor

succory

succussatory

adj
/ sə'kəsə.tōrē /
L > E
characterized by up-and-down vibrations of short amplitude—used of an earthquake.
Fortunately, the earthquake's succussatory movements caused only minor damage to the buildings.

succussion

suction

n
/ 'səksən /
L
the act or process of exerting a force upon a body by means of reduced air pressure over part of its surface.
To demonstrate suction, Alan used a drinking straw to lift a piece of paper.

suffragette

n
/ .səfrə'jet /
L + F > Ecf
a woman who militantly advocates giving women the right to vote.
Sheldon's great-aunt was a famous English suffragette who was finally able to vote at the age of seventy-two.

suffusive

suicidology

suint

suitcase

suitor

sullen

adj
/ 'sələn /
L > F > E
ill-humoredly unsociable : gloomily or resentfully silent.
When her name was called, Judy looked up in sullen resentment.

sultana

Sumatran

adj
/ sə'mätrən /
geog name
of, relating to, or characteristic of the island of Sumatra.
The Sumatran rhinoceros is becoming rare in Malaysia.

sumi

summa

sunbow

n
/ 'sən.bō /
E + E
an arch resembling a rainbow.
A sunbow was clearly visible through the mist at Niagara Falls.

sunglo

n
/ 'sʊŋ'lō /
Chin geog name
[has near homonym: sunglow] a green Chinese tea characterized by large loosely rolled leaves.
The monks offered their visitor a cup of sunglo.

sunshiny

adj
/ 'sən.shīnē /
E + E
bright with or as if with the rays of the Sun.
Because Saturday was such a sunshiny day, Mom spent most of her time gardening.

superb

adj
/ sü'pərb /
L
stately, lordly.
The statue of the king conveyed his superb demeanor well.

supercentrifuge

supercilium

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

supererogation

n
/ ˌsüpə.rerə'gāshən /

L
the act or process or an instance of performing more than necessary to complete an undertaking.
The teacher asked for a three-page essay on insects, but in a burst of supererogation, Duane wrote six pages.

superfluity

superjacent

superlative

adj
/ sə'pərlədɪv /
L
most eminent of its kind : having no peers.
Austin's superlative skill as a violinist makes him the clear choice for concertmaster.

supernaculum

supernal

adj
/ sü'pərnəl /
L
of a heavenly or spiritual character.
Fran's essay defends her belief that humankind will never penetrate the supernal wisdom by which God governs the universe.

supernova

n
/ ˌsüpə(r)'nōvə /
L
one of the rarely observed nova outbursts in which the maximum intrinsic luminosity may reach 100 million times that of the Sun.
The supernova of 1054 was bright enough to be seen during the day.

supersede

supersessive

adj
/ ˌsüpə'sesiv /
L
tending to take the place of or cause to be supplanted.
Jimmy is afraid the new baby will prove supersessive in his parents' affections.

superstition

n
/ ˌsüpə(r)'stishən /
L
a fixed irrational idea : a notion maintained in spite of evidence to the contrary.
Harvey believes in the superstition that breaking a mirror brings seven years of bad luck.

supervene

supervenient

adj
/ ˌsüpə(r)'vēnyənt /
L
coming or occurring as something additional, extraneous, or unexpected.
A corporation's lawyers must keep abreast of all supervenient changes in corporate laws.

supervise

supineness

supplanter

supple

adj
/ 'səpəl /
L
characterized by ease in bending or other actions.
Ballet and other forms of dancing make their participants more supple.

supplement

suppliantly

adv
/ 'səplēəntlē /
L > F > E
in a humble imploring manner.
The servant suppliantly entreated his employer to forgive his negligence.

supposition

suppress

v
/ sə'pres /
L
put down or out of existence by or as if by authority, force, or pressure.
Despite much effort, Martha could not suppress her hiccups.

suppuration

supralapsarian

supremacy

n
/ sə'premāsē /
L
final authority or power.
Americans are wasting their breath if they question the supremacy of the Constitution.

surette

surface

surmise

v
/ sə(r)'mīz /
L > F > E
form a notion of on slight proof : guess, suppose.
It was not hard to surmise from Pedro's evasive answer that he had not completed the report.

surmounted

v
/ sə'r'maüntəd /
F > E
stood at the top of : remained on the top of.
A steeple surmounted the church.

surname

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

surpass

v
/ sə'pas /
F
become better, greater, or stronger than.
Jay's semester grades will surpass even his parents' high expectations.

surplice

surprise

surrender

surrendered

v
/ sə'rendə(r)d /
F
gave or delivered up possession of upon compulsion or demand.
Clem surrendered his weapon without a fight.

surreptitiously

survey

surveyor

n
/ ,sə'r'vāər /
F > E
one whose occupation is finding and representing the contours, measurements, and position of a part of Earth's surface.
In preparation for the Olympic games, a surveyor measured all the tracks and marked out the individual areas for each event.

survival

susceptibility

suspense

suspiciously

adv
/ sə'spishəslē /
L
in a manner arousing or intending to arouse distrust : questionably.
Conrad's story sounded suspiciously like one his older brother had written two years ago.

sussultatory

adj
/ sə'səltə,tōrē /
L > It
characterized by up-and-down vibrations of large amplitude—used of an earthquake.
The sussultatory patterns on the seismograph warned everyone that Arizona was about to become beachfront property.

sustentacular

svabite

swaddle

swagger

v
/ 'swagə(r) /
Scand
conduct oneself in an arrogant manner.
Dave seemed to swagger slightly as he got up from his final exam.

Swahili

n
/ swā'hēlē /
Ar
a Bantu language of East Africa.
Swahili was originally spoken in Zaire and is now a trade language in much of East Africa and the Congo.

swartback

swarthy

swashbuckler

swather

sweater

sweatshop

swelter

swerve

v
/ 'swərv /
E
move from a straight line or course.
The driver had to swerve to avoid hitting the dog.

swidden

swindler

n
/ 'swind(ə)lə(r) /
G
one that deprives a person of money or property by fraud or deceit.
The swindler was arrested after he sold an undercover policeman a fake Rolex watch for \$500.

syllabify

sylvestrian

sympathetic

sympathetically

adv
/ ,sɪmpə'thedək(ə)lē /
Gk + Ecff
in a manner marked by compassion, kind friendly feeling, and sensitivity to others' emotions.
Roald wrote sympathetically of the migrant workers' plight.

symphony

symphonette

n
/ ,sɪm(p)fə'net /
Gk > L > F + Ecf
a symphony orchestra reduced in personnel and typically playing ensemble and salon music in addition to the standard orchestral literature.
The symphonette was just the right size to play the baroque pieces.

symphonious

symphysis

symptoms

n pl
/ 'sɪm(p)təmz /
Gk
subjective evidence of disease.
Headaches and fevers are symptoms of many different diseases.

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

synchronism

n
/ 'sɪŋkrənɪzəm /
Gk > L + Ecf
concurrence of acts, events, or developments in time : simultaneousness.
Motion-picture cameras are devised to ensure good synchronism between sound and picture.

synchroscope

n
/ 'sɪŋkrəskɒp /
Gk
a device for showing whether two moving parts are moving in time with each other or for giving an indication of their relative phase.
The rotary synchroscope is used to parallel two alternators.

synchrotron

n
/ 'sɪŋkrətrɒn /
Gk
an apparatus for imparting very high speeds to charged particles (as electrons, protons) by means of a combination of a high-frequency electric field and a low-frequency magnetic field.
The high-energy radiation from a synchrotron has been used in the attack on viruses.

syncopated

syncretic

adj
/ sɪn'kredɪk /
Gk
characterized or brought about by the reconciliation or union of conflicting (as religious) beliefs.
Voodoo is a syncretic religion that developed in Haiti with influences from many parts of Africa.

syncretism

n
/ 'sɪŋkrətɪzəm /
Gk
flagrant compromise in religion or philosophy : eclecticism that is illogical or leads to inconsistency : uncritical acceptance of conflicting or divergent beliefs or principles.
Alice mistook her church's ecumenical ideas for syncretism.

syncytium

syndicator

syndrome

synergize

v
/ 'sɪnərjɪz /
Gk
exhibit cooperative action such that the total effect of discrete agencies is greater than the sum of the two or more effects taken independently.
The pharmacist explained that a muscle relaxant and an anti-inflammatory could synergize to reduce Arnold's shoulder pain more effectively.

synergy

synonymy

n
/ sə'nänəmē /
Gk
the quality or fact of being alike or nearly alike in meaning.
The words destroy, annihilate, demolish, and wreck are related by synonymy.

synoptic

adj
/ sə'näptɪk /
Gk
relating to or displaying atmospheric and weather conditions as they exist simultaneously over a broad area.
Synoptic meteorologists study information on air pressure, temperature, humidity, and wind velocity in preparing weather forecasts.

synovial

adj
/ sə'nōvɛəl /
Gk > L
secreting a transparent viscid lubricating fluid.
Healthy synovial tissue provides nutrients to surfaces of the body's joints and ensures that these surfaces are lubricated.

synovitis

synthesize

v
/ 'sɪnthə.sɪz /
Gk + Gk + Ecf
produce a chemical compound by the union of elements or simpler compounds or by the degradation of a complex compound especially by laboratory or industrial methods.
Fritz Haber developed a process to synthesize ammonia using atmospheric nitrogen.

synthesizer

synthetic

adj
/ sɪn'thedɪk /
Gk
produced by artificial processes : man-made.
To reduce calories, the sugar content of some foods is replaced by synthetic sweeteners.

synthetically

syntrophism

n
/ 'sɪntrə.fɪzəm /
Gk
mutual dependence for the satisfaction of nutritional needs.
The two bacterial strains exhibit syntrophism, with each strain synthesizing the growth factor needed by the other.

syrinx

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

syrphid

n
/ 'sɜrfəd /
Gk > L
a fly of the family Syrphidae :
syrphus fly.
*The syrphid is also known as the
“flowerfly” because it is so active
in pollinating flowers.*

syssarcosis

n
/ ,sɪsər'kōsəs /
Gk
the junction of two or more bones
by means of attached muscles.
*The dentist explained that there
was an abnormality in the way the
syssarcosis of Thomas’s jaw
functioned.*

systematic

adj
/ ,sɪstə'madɪk /
Gk
marked by or manifesting method
or orderly procedure.
*Maria’s systematic approach to
drawing stunts her creativity.*

systematician

systole

tabard

n
/ 'tabə(r)d /
F > E
a tunic with or without short
sleeves worn by a knight over his
armor and emblazoned with his
arms.
*At the Renaissance Fair, the knight
wearing the white tabard won the
jousting contest.*

tabletop

tacan

tachistoscope

n
/ tə'kɪstə'skōp /
Gk + Gk
an apparatus for the brief exposure
of visual stimuli that is used in the
study of learning, attention, and
perception.
*The teacher used a tachistoscope to
encourage the students to read
faster.*

tachycardia

n
/ ,takə'kɑrdēə /
Gk
relatively rapid heart action
whether physiological or
pathological.
*Cardiologists have successfully
used electrical shocks to treat
severe ventricular tachycardia.*

tachymetry

tachyon

n
/ 'takē.än /
Gk
a hypothetical particle held to
travel faster than light.
*The tachyon plays a large role in
science fiction stories that involve
time travel.*

tachytely

tacit

Tacitean

adj
/ ,tasə'tēən /
L name
of or relating to the Roman
historian Tacitus or resembling his
style of writing.
*The biting Tacitean brevity of the
Senator’s speech had more impact
than the rambling casual style of
his opponent.*

tackle

tacky

taco

tactical

tactility

taction

taeniate

taffeta

tagliatelle

n
/ ,tälyä'tel(,)ā /
L > It
pasta in the shape of noodles.
*Last night’s dinner was a simple
tagliatelle with pesto.*

tahini

n
/ tə'hē(,)nē /
Ar
a smooth paste made from sesame
seeds.
*Joyce made a dip with tahini for
her guests to eat with crackers and
vegetables.*

taiaha

tailleur

tailory

taint

taipan

talapoin

n
/ 'talə'pōin /
Mon > Pg > F
a western African monkey that is
greenish above and whitish beneath
with a black face and yellowish
whiskers.
*The talapoin is one of the smallest
of all African monkeys, weighing
only about three pounds.*

talaria

n pl
/ tə'la(a)rēə /
L
winged shoes fastened to the ankles
and chiefly used as an attribute of
the god Hermes or Mercury of
classical mythology.
*The talaria symbolize the speed
with which Hermes acts as the
messenger of the gods.*

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

talc

talcky

adj

/ 'tɹalkē /

Ar > L > F + Ecf

of, relating to, or containing talc.

Benedict noticed that the rocks scattered on the path had a talcky appearance.

talent

n

/ 'tɹələnt /

Gk > L > E

[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word.] any of several ancient units of weight, as a Babylonian unit equal to 3,600 shekels.

The talent, probably of Babylonian origin, was the basic unit of weight among the ancient Hebrews.

taligade

talipot

n

/ 'tɹələpət /

Skt > Beng

a showy fan palm bearing a crown of gigantic fan-shaped leaves that are used as umbrellas and fans and when cut into strips as a substitute for writing paper.

The illustrator's beautiful collages made of talipot earned the book the Caldecott Medal.

talkfest

tallage

n

/ 'tɹaliʃ /

E

a toll or fee paid by a feudal tenant to his lord.

The farm family paid their annual tallage to their lord in fresh fruit and vegetables.

tallyho

talons

n pl

/ 'tɹəlɒnz /

L > F > E

the claws of a bird of prey.

The eagle's beak and talons are indeed a formidable sight.

tamarin

n

/ 'tɹəmərən /

Galibi > F

[has near homonym: tamarind] any of numerous small chiefly South American monkeys that are related to the marmosets and have silky fur, a long tail, and lower canine teeth that are longer than the incisors.

When put on the defense, the lion tamarin raises its golden mane.

tamarind

n

/ 'tɹəmərənd /

Indian geog name > Ar > Pg&Sp

the fruit of a widely cultivated tropical tree that has seeds that are cooked and also ground into meal.

After dinner, Ravi offered his visitors some sweets made from tamarind.

tamarisk

n

/ 'tɹəmərəsk /

L > E

a shrub or tree having tiny narrow leaves and masses of minute flowers.

Since its importation, tamarisk has become the dominant plant along streambeds in many western states.

tambouriens

tambourin

n

/ 'tɹəmbərən /

Per > Ar > F

[has near homonym: tambourine] a lively old Provençal dance originally accompanied by a long narrow drum.

Madeleine, a student of dance history, taught herself the tambourin from an old book.

Tammanyism

n

/ 'tɹəmənē.izəm /

Amer name

the principle or practice of seeking municipal political control through corruption and bossism.

Tammanyism was rife in New York City politics in the 1870s.

tamper

tanager

tanbark

tandoori

adj

/ tænd'ðu(ə)rē /

Hindi

cooked in a cylindrical clay or earthenware oven over charcoal.

Meera made tandoori chicken and vegetables for Sanjay's birthday dinner.

tangemon

n

/ tænd'jemən /

geog name + Ar > L > F > E

the fruit of a hybrid between the tangerine and the lemon.

At the farmers' market Pauline bought a pint of strawberries, a tangemon, and a papaya to make a fruit salad.

tangent

tangential

adj

/ tænd'jenchəl /

L

acting on or lying on a line that touches something at only one point.

Sharif wrote the equation on a line tangential to the circle.

tangentially

tangibility

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

tangle

v

/ˈtæŋɡəl/

Scand > E

involve so as to hamper, obstruct, or embarrass.

Corinna found herself more and more involved in a bureaucratic and administrative tangle.

tango

n

/ˈtɑŋ(ɡ)ɡō/

African > Sp

a ballroom dance of Spanish-American origin in three-quarter time characterized by posturing, frequent pointing positions, and a great variety of steps.

Ned and Naomi learned the Argentine tango while in college.

tangoreceptor

tankard

tannin

tanning

tapia

tapioca

n

/ˌtɑpēˈōkə/

Tupi > Pg&Sp

a preparation of cassava starch processed into granular, flake, pellet, or flour form and used as a thickening agent in liquid foods, as pudding, soups, or juicy pies.

Sam's recipe for blueberry pie calls for two tablespoons of quick-cooking tapioca.

tappable

tappet

taraxein

tardily

tarogato

tarot

tarpon

tarriance

tarsier

n

/ˈtārsē.ā/

L > F

any of a family of small chiefly nocturnal and arboreal carnivorous primates of the Malay Archipelago that have large round eyes, long legs, and a long nearly hairless tail.

Its large eyes and acute hearing enable the tarsier to find its prey at night.

tarsus

n

/ˈtārsəs/

Gk > L

the part of the vertebrate's foot between the metatarsus and the leg : ankle.

When the orthopedist said Joanne had a medial fracture of the tarsus, he meant that she had a broken ankle.

Tasmanian

adj

/ˌtazˈmānēən/

Pacific geog name
of or belonging to the southern Pacific island of Tasmania.

The Tasmanian wolf is a marsupial animal that used to live in Australia as well as Tasmania.

tattle

tautologous

tavern

tawny

adj

/ˈtōnē/

E

of a brownish orange to light brown color.

In the well-known children's story, the tawny scrawny lion loves carrot stew.

taxeme

taxiway

taxonomically

adv

/ˌtaksəˈnāmək(ə)lē/

Gk > F + Ecff

with regard to the principles of scientific classification.

On the biology final the students were shown photographs of five common plants and animals and were asked to identify them taxonomically.

taxonomist

teachable

adj

/ˈtēchəbəl/

E

capable of being taught.

Socrates had no doubt that virtue was teachable if he could only figure out what it was.

teak

teal

n

/ˈtēl/

E

[has homonyms: teal, til] a variable color averaging a dark greenish blue.

In the mid '90s teal was a popular color for new motor vehicles.

teammate

tearstain

technicality

n

/ˌtekənəˈkalədē/

Gk + Ec f

a detail that has meaning only for the specialist.

Because of a legal technicality, a mistrial was declared and the defendant had to be retried for the offense.

technician

tectonics

tectorial

tediously

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

teemed

v
/ 'tēmd /
E
[has homonym: teamed] abounded.
The fort, which teemed with historic interest before the area flooded, will eventually be reconstructed.

teeter

teetotal

teetotum

tegmentary

teknonymy

n
/ tek'nänəmē /
Gk + Gk
the custom of naming the parent after the child.
Some cultures employ teknonymy, while in the United States children are often named for their parents.

teledu

n
/ 'telədū /
Malay
a small carnivorous mammal of the mountains of Java and Sumatra resembling the badger and like the skunk secreting an offensive fluid which it can expel a short distance.
A teledu infected the region of a whole village with its offensive odor.

telefacsimile

telegenic

telegram

telegrammic

telegraphic

telemark

n
/ 'telə.märk /
Norw geog name
a turn in which the ski that is to be on the outside of the turn is advanced considerably ahead of the other ski and then turned inward at a steadily widening angle until the actual turn.
Jason, still a novice skier, marveled at the beautiful form of Astrid's telemark.

teleology

n
/ telē'äləjē /
Gk + Gk
the use of design, purpose, or utility as an explanation of any natural phenomenon.
The theory of evolution relies heavily on teleology.

telepathic

adj
/ .telə'pathik /
Gk + Gk
of or relating to apparent communication from one mind to another other than through the channels of sense.
The twins seemed to have some sort of telepathic mode of communication.

telepathist

telescope

n
/ 'telə.skōp /
Gk
an optical instrument for viewing distant objects by means of the refraction of light rays through a lens.
Through the telescope Jorge watched the lunar eclipse.

televangelist

n
/ .telə'va(a)njələst /
Gk
a preacher who conducts regularly televised religious programs.
The prominent televangelist liked to recall his days as an itinerant revival preacher.

television

n
/ 'telə.vizhən /
Gk + L
a medium of communication whereby images and sounds are broadcast to receiving sets.
If it weren't for television, Jack wouldn't know what was going on in the world.

telos

n
/ 'tē.läs /
Gk
an ultimate end or object.
Finding the Holy Grail was the telos of Sir Galahad's quest.

telyn

tempeh

n
/ 'tem.pā /
Jav
an Asian food prepared by fermenting soybeans.
Lauren suggested that Celia crumble some tempeh in the enchilada casserole for some extra protein.

temperamental

adj
/ .temp(ə)rə'mentl /
L
marked by excessive sensitivity and sudden impulsive and often explosive changes of mood.
When the temperamental player disputed the umpire's call, he was ejected from the game.

temperance

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

temperature

n
/ 'tempə(r).chū(ə)r /

L
degree of hotness or coldness measured on one of several arbitrary scales based on some observable phenomenon (as the expansion of mercury).
In Washington, D.C., the average temperature ranges from about 30 degrees in winter to about 86 degrees in summer.

temporal

adj
/ 'temp(ə)rəl /
L
of or relating to time as opposed to eternity.
Temporal matters concerned Mr. Poke much more than philosophical questions about his soul.

temporarily

temporary

tempt

temptation

tenancy

tendril

n
/ 'tendrəl /
L? > F
a portion or the whole of a leaf or stem that is modified into a slender spirally coiling sensitive organ serving to attach a plant.
The tendril of the grapevine wrapped itself so tightly around the gate's lock that it was difficult to open the gate.

tendu

adj
/ tã"dtē /
L > F
extended in a taut manner, as a leg in ballet.
Jordan did a series of leg exercises in a tendu position.

tenebrism

n
/ 'tenə.brizəm /
L + E
a style of painting typically associated with the painter Caravaggio that submerges most of the forms depicted in shadow but dramatically illuminates the remaining forms by a beam of light.
The photographer created a photographic sort of tenebrism.

tenebrous

tentacled

adj
/ 'tentəkəld /
L
having elongate flexible simple or branched processes that are borne by animals chiefly on the head or about the mouth.
All tentacled animals fascinate Kevin, but jellyfish are his favorite.

tentativeness

n
/ 'tentəd'ivnəs /
L
the quality or state of being uncertain or hesitant.
The immense importance of the game accounted for much of the players' tentativeness and overdeliberateness.

tenuity

tephra

tepidity

terete

adj
/ tə'rēt /
L
approximately cylindrical but usually tapering at one or both ends.
Chi Ming looked up from the sea bottom and saw the terete form of a barracuda silhouetted against the Sun.

termagant

terminal

terminate

termite

n
/ 'tər.mīt /
L
any of numerous pale-colored, soft-bodied, small to medium-sized social insects with a highly developed caste system of the order Isoptera.
A termite has two pairs of membranous wings nearly equal in size.

ternary

adj
/ 'tərnərē /
L
[has homonyms: ternery, turnery] containing, consisting of, or relating to three different parts (as elements, atoms, radicals, or components).
Dave listed sulfuric acid, which consists of hydrogen, sulfur, and oxygen, as an example of a ternary acid.

terpsichorean

adj
/ ,tərp.sikə'rēən /
Gk
of or relating to dancing or choreography.
Geoffrey is interested in the terpsichorean arts and wants to major in dance when he goes to college.

terrene

adj
/ tē'rēn /
L
[has homonym: terrine] of or relating to this world or life : mundane.
The missionary feels that all this attention is out of place for such a terrene creature as himself.

terrestrially

terrier

territory

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

terror

n
/ 'terə(r) /
L

a state of intense fright or apprehension : stark fear.

Franklin D. Roosevelt warned, "The only thing we have to fear is fear itself—nameless, unreasoning, unjustified terror which paralyzes needed efforts to convert retreat into advance."

terrorism

terrorist

n
/ 'terərəst /
L > F

an advocate or practitioner of terror as a means of coercion.

When the former terrorist came to power, he immediately denounced the use of terror as a political tool.

terse

tertian

tessaraglot

tessellation

tesseract

n
/ 'tesə.rakt /
Gk + Gk
the four-dimensional analogue of a cube.
"Going beyond the fourth dimension to the fifth dimension would be a tesseract," explained Mrs. Whatsit.

testament

testator

n
/ 'te.stədə(r) /
L

a person who leaves a will or testament in force at his death.
When the wishes of the testator were made known, the local public library was a half million dollars richer.

testify

v
/ 'testə.fī /
L

make a solemn declaration under oath for the purpose of establishing a fact (as in a court).

A psychiatrist was called on to testify regarding the mental state of the defendant.

testy

adj
/ 'testē /
L > F > E
[has homonym: testee] easily annoyed : irritable.
The mayor became quite testy when asked about his private financial dealings.

tether

n
/ 'tethə(r) /
Scand? > E
something (as a rope or chain) by which an animal is fastened so that it can range or feed only within the radius allowed.
Joan used Rover's leash as a tether to tie him to the bike rack before she went into the supermarket.

tetherball

n
/ 'tethər(,)bəl /
Scand? + ON > E
a game which is played with a ball suspended by a string from an upright pole and in which the object of each contestant is to wrap the string around the pole by striking the ball in a direction opposite to the other.
Paula was injured playing tetherball when she was accidentally struck by the ball.

tetragrammaton

n
/ .tetrə'gramətən /
Gk
the Hebrew word of four letters constituting a name of God usually transliterated as YHWH or YHVH.
Out of reverence or for fear of desecration, some pious Jews do not pronounce or write the tetragrammaton.

tetraploid

tetrapodous

adj
/ te'trapədəs /
Gk + Gk
having four feet or walking appendages.
Tetrapodous animals are usually referred to as "quadrupeds."

textile

thalassocrat

n
/ thə'lasə.krat /
Gk
one who has maritime supremacy.
In Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea, Captain Nemo is the perfect thalassocrat.

thallophyte

n
/ 'thalə.fīt /
Gk + Gk
any plant of a primary division of the plant kingdom including the algae and fungi.
A fungus is a non-chlorophyll-bearing thallophyte.

thalpotic

thanatology

n
/ .thanə'täləjē /
Gk
the description or study of the phenomena of somatic death.
Thanatology is concerned with the notion of death as popularly perceived.

thatch

thatching

theatrocracy

thelygenic

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theologaster

n
/ thē'äləgastə(r) /
Gk + Lcf
a shallow theologian; especially :
one who pretends to possess great
knowledge relating to the
presentation of the traditional
doctrines of a religion or religious
group.
*The bishop warned his flock to
beware of the theologaster who
would subvert the word of God with
his vain imaginings.*

theology

n
/ thē'äləjē /
Gk
the study of God and his relation to
humans and the world.
*Though Max is not personally
religious, she is fascinated by
theology.*

theomachy

n
/ thē'äməkē /
Gk + Gk
a battle or strife among the gods.
*In the Iliad and the Odyssey,
Homer relates many instances of
theomachy in which humans are
the unfortunate victims.*

theorbo

n
/ thē'ör(,)bō /
Turkish > Slovenian > It
an obsolete 17th century musical
instrument like a lute but having
two necks.
*The young bard played a madrigal
on the theorbo.*

theorem

theoretician

n
/ thēərə'tishən /
Gk
one who formulates theories (as to
account for perceived phenomena).
*Dr. Freud's work as a theoretician
in psychoanalysis earned him an
international reputation.*

theorize

v
/ thēərīz /
Gk
speculate or generalize from facts.
*Dr. Ahmad tried to theorize an
explanation for his data.*

theory

theosophy

theremin

n
/ 'therəmón /
Russ name
a purely melodic instrument of the
electronic family typically played
by moving the right hand between
two projecting electrodes with the
left hand controlling dynamics and
articulation.
*Paula was asked to play her
theremin at the electronic music
festival.*

theriatrics

n pl
/ 'thirē'atriks /
Gk
the science of veterinary medicine.
*Joanna bewildered all her friends
when she said that her father, a
veterinarian, is a specialist in
theriatrics.*

theriomorphic

adj
/ 'thirē'mōrfik /
Gk
having an animal form.
*Lydia's boutique displayed
theriomorphic creamers in the
forms of a cow and a hippo.*

theriomorphism

therm

n
/ 'thərm /
Gk
100,000 British thermal units.
*Gas utilities frequently use the
therm as a measure of gas
consumption.*

thermal

n
/ 'thərməl /
Gk > L
a rising body of warm air.
*Steve watched a couple of red-
tailed hawks soaring upward in a
thermal.*

thermoammeter

thermolabile

thermolysis

n
/ (,)thər'mäləsəs /
Gk + Gk
the dissipation of heat from the
living body.
*Thermolysis is accomplished by
evaporation, excretion, and
radiation.*

thermophilous

adj
/ (,)thər'mäfələs /
Gk + Gk
of, relating to, or being an organism
growing at a high temperature.
*Thermophilous bacteria can
flourish at temperatures exceeding
140 degrees Fahrenheit.*

thermos

therophyte

n
/ 'thirəfīt /
Gk
an annual plant that overwinters as
a seed.
*Because a therophyte can endure
unfavorable conditions as a seed, it
can survive in deserts.*

thersitical

thew

thickener

thief

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

thievery

n
/ 'thēv(ə)rē /
E

the act, practice, or an instance of stealing.

Videocameras were installed throughout the warehouse to prevent thievery by the workers.

thieves

thievish

thighbone

thigmoreceptor

thimble

thimbleful

thionic

thirtieth

thixotropic

adj
/ 'thiksə'trāpik /
Gk + Gk
of, relating to, or exhibiting the property of a gel that becomes fluid when shaken or stirred and settles again to a gel when left undisturbed.
Mayonnaise is an example of a thixotropic fluid.

tholobate

Thomism

n
/ 'tō.mizəm /
It name
a theological theory deriving from the Italian theologian Thomas Aquinas.
Thomism teaches that philosophy and theology have separate spheres that reach conclusions that support each other.

thooid

thorough

adj
/ 'thər(ɪ)ō /
E
marked by sound systematic attention to all aspects and details.
A thorough music practice session for Keith usually takes about an hour.

thoughtful

thrasonic

threadiness

thremmatology
n
/ 'thremə'täləjē /
Gk
the science of breeding animals and plants under domestication.
The dog breeder's bookshelf contained several textbooks on thremmatology.

threptic

adj
/ 'threptik /
Gk
of or relating to the feeding or rearing of offspring especially among ants or other social insects.
Although ants share many physical and social traits, distinct varieties differ in their colonizing and threptic methods.

thrice

adv
/ 'thrīs /
E
three times.
Harold does his exercise regimen thrice weekly.

throbbed

v
/ 'thräbd /
imit? > E
pulsated or vibrated in a rhythmic manner.
The school bus driver's temples throbbed after he had been driving noisy children for two hours.

throes

n pl
/ 'thrōz /
E
[has homonym: throws] a condition of struggle, anguish, disorder, or confusion characteristic of a transitional period (as the active phase of creation of some new thing).
In the throes of a search for a new superintendent, the school board ignored major problems that deserved its attention.

thrombolytic

thrombophlebitis

throttle

thrush

thuggery

thumbscrew

n
/ 'thəm.skri /
E + L > F > E
a screw whose head is flattened at the side so that the screw may be turned by the thumb and forefinger.
Lois tightened the last thumbscrew on her new computer desk.

thunderclap

n
/ 'thəndər.klap /
E + E
a sudden crash of thunder.
The thunderclap sent Mom scurrying about the house to close windows.

thurification

n
/ .th(y)ūrəfə'kāshən /
Gk > L > F > E
the act, process, or an instance of censuring.
Prayers were offered and a thurification was performed around the body of the deceased.

thurm

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

thwarted

v
/ 'thwɒ(ə)rðəd /
ON > E
opposed successfully.
The dog was not easily thwarted when it attempted to go into the house with Brian.

Thyestean

adj
/ θiˈestēən /
Gk name
cannibal.
The 1992 film about a Thyestean doctor known as "Hannibal the Cannibal" won five Academy Awards.

thymus

thyroiditis

n
/ .θiːrɔɪˈdɪdəs /
Gk + Lcf
inflammation of the endocrine gland which produces a hormone affecting growth, development, and metabolic rate.
Dr. Dowd explained that Gary's thyroiditis was caused by his having the mumps.

tiara

ticketer

ticklenburg

tidal

tiddledies

tiers

n pl
/ 'ti(ə)rz /
F
[has homonym: tears] rows, ranks, or layers of articles; especially : rows arranged one above another.
The top two tiers of Gina's wedding cake got smashed in transport to the reception.

tiffin

tige

tigerish

tight

tighten

v
/ 'tiːn /
Scand > E
[has homonym: titan] fix more securely in place.
Lisa tried to tighten the cap on the soda bottle so that it wouldn't leak inside the cooler.

tightwad

tignum

till

tillage

tilleul

n
/ tə'yəl /
L > F
a pale greenish yellow.
The tinge of tilleul on Carla's face convinced her mother that she really was sick.

timbale

n
/ 'timbəl /
F
[has homonyms: timbal, tymbal] a creamy mixture (as of chicken, lobster, cheese, or fish) cooked in a drum-shaped mold or in individual molds or cups.
After the salad dishes were cleared, Max served a curried chicken timbale.

timbrel

timeliness

timid

timocracy

timoneer

tinamou

tinctured

v
/ 'tiŋ(k)chə(r)d /
L
tinted or stained with a color.
Kirsten picked a blossom tintured with deep blue.

tinge

v
/ 'tiŋ /
L > E
color with a slight shade or stain : tint.
Seeing the rainbow tinge the sandy beach is Lauren's most vivid memory of her vacation.

tiniest

adj
/ 'tinɛəst /
E
most small or diminutive.
Mrs. Yost said, "Whatever we learn has a purpose and whatever we do affects everything and everyone else, if even in the tiniest way."

tintinnabulary

adj
/ .tɪntə'nabyələre /
L + Ecf
of, relating to, or characterized by bells or their sounds.
The bell ringers gave a tintinnabulary rendition of "Winter Wonderland."

tippee

tippet

n
/ 'tipət /
E
a shoulder cape of fur or cloth often with hanging ends.
Mrs. Weston begged Jane to put on her tippet so that she would not catch cold.

tiqueur

n
/ tē'kər /
F
one subject to a convulsive motion of some muscles, especially of the face.
Mary had become a tiqueur, with a constant twitch near her eye.

tiredness

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

tiresome

adj
/ 'tɪ(ə)rsəm /
E + Ecf
possessing a quality that bores or annoys : irritatingly tedious.
The lecturer went into so many details that listening to him was tiresome.

tissuey

titan

n
/ 'tɪtən /
Gk
[has homonym: tighten] one that stands out among others of a group especially for greatness of stature or achievement.
Frank Lloyd Wright was and is a titan in furniture design and architecture.

titanic

adj
/ tɪ'tanɪk /
Gk
colossal, gigantic.
World War II brought political change on a titanic scale to Europe.

titanism

tithable

adj
/ 'tɪθəbəl /
E
subject or liable to payment of tithes.
The church asked for a tenth of each parishioner's tithable property.

titillate

titubant

titular

tivoli

n
/ 'tɪvəlē /
It geog name
a game resembling bagatelle and played on a special oblong board or table.
June and Monty learned to play tivoli on their aunt's antique game table.

toadstool

toehold

tofu

n
/ 'tō(,)fū /
Jpn
bean curd.
Charmagne ordered Thai rice noodles with tofu.

toggle

n
/ 'tægəl /
unknown
a wood or metal pin inserted in a nautical knot to make it more secure or easier to slip.
Noah pulled the toggle to loosen the knot in the anchor rope.

toile

n
/ 'twäl /
L > F
an upholstery and drapery fabric.
When their new couch arrived, Martin and Linda were horrified to find that it was upholstered in a flowery toile instead of plain blue denim.

toilsome

adj
/ 'töilsəm /
F > AF > E + E
marked by or full of effort.
Tula set herself the toilsome job of cleaning the garage.

tolerable

tolerate

tollgate

toluene

n
/ 'täljəwēn /
ISV
a liquid aromatic hydrocarbon that is used as a solvent, in organic synthesis, and as an antiknock agent in gasoline.
Toluene is used as a raw material for organic compounds such as TNT and some dyes and pharmaceuticals.

tomahawk

tomatillo

n
/ ,tōmə'tē(,) (y)ō /
Nahuatl > Sp
any of several solanaceous plants with fruits resembling small tomatoes.
The television chef explained that the tomatillo is rich in vitamins A and C.

tomato

tomboyish

tombstones

n pl
/ 'tüm.stōnz /
Gk > L > AF > E + E
inscribed stones placed over graves.
Vandals had removed tombstones as a Halloween prank.

tonette

tongawalla

tongs

tonic

n
/ 'tänik /
Gk
something that invigorates, restores, refreshes, or stimulates.
A glorious sunrise can work as a tonic and uplift downcast spirits.

tonnage

tonneau

tonsils

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

topepo

topogaphize

toque

n
/ 'tɔk /
Sp > F
[has homonym: toke] a woman's small brimless hat made in any of various soft close-fitting shapes.
Margo buttoned her jacket and adjusted her blue velvet toque in front of the mirror.

toquilla

torero

n
/ tɔ're(ɪ)rɔ /
L > Sp
a bullfighter.
Pepe dreamed of being a famous torero like his uncle Luis.

toreutics

n pl
/ tɔ'ri:diks /
Gk
the art or process of working in metal especially by embossing or engraving.
Archaeological artifacts attest to the ancient Celts' excellence in toreutics.

torii

tormented

adj
/ 'tɔr.məntəd /
L
distressed.
The tormented hypochondriac finally decided to seek help from a psychotherapist.

tormentil

n
/ 'tɔ(r)mən.til /
L > E
[Note: Could be confused with tormentilla.] a yellow-flowered Eurasian herb with a root that contains an astringent and is used sometimes in tanning and dyeing.
The hillside was ablaze with the bright color of tormentil.

tornado

n
/ tɔr'nā(ɪ)dɔ /
L > Sp
a violent destructive whirling wind accompanied by a funnel-shaped cloud that progresses in a narrow path over the land.
In a few moments of unforgettable terror, a tornado roared into the Texas town, killing three people and destroying about 300 houses.

torpedo

torpid

adj
/ 'tɔrpəd /
L
sluggish in functioning or acting.
Eric's parents told him that too many hours watching television would make his mind torpid.

torporific

adj
/ .tɔ(r)pə'rifik /
L
producing mental or spiritual sluggishness or apathy.
Ben's allergy medicine had a torporific effect, robbing him of energy.

torque

Torquemada

n
/ .tɔ(r)k(w)ə'mädə /
Sp
one who harasses in a manner to injure, grieve, or afflict usually because of some difference of outlook or opinion : oppressor.
The new police chief has been described as a ruthless Torquemada.

torquemeter

n
/ 'tɔ(r)k.mɛd-ə(r) /
L > F + Gk
an instrument to measure or record a force that produces or tends to produce rotation or torsion.
A torquemeter is used to measure the power delivered by airplane propellers, jet engines, and other rotating machinery.

torr

n
/ 'tɔ(ə)r /
It name
[has homonyms: tor, tore] a unit of pressure equal to 1/760 of an atmosphere and very nearly equal to the pressure of a column of mercury 1 millimeter high at 0 degrees Celsius and standard gravity.
Jill learned that 1 torr is an extremely small amount of pressure.

torrenicole

torrone

n
/ tɔ'rɔnɛ /
L > Sp > It
a candy made of honey and almonds.
For the holidays the catalog offers a variety of Italian confections, including panettone and torrone.

torsion

torte

n
/ 'tɔrdə /
L > It? > G
[has homonym and near homonym: torta and tort] a cake or pastry made of many eggs, sugar, and often grated nuts or dry bread crumbs in place of flour and baked in a large flat form, being sometimes filled with jam and usually covered with a rich frosting
Luke baked a chocolate torte for his sister's birthday.

torus

totalitarian

adj
/ (ɪ)tɔ.talə'terɪən /
L + Ecff
of or relating to centralized control by an autocratic leader or hierarchy.
Totalitarian theory and practice are solidly opposed to any institutional division of power.

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

totem

n
/ 'tɒdəm /
Ojibwa
[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word.] a dark reddish orange—called also “Mars red.”
Jessica’s fiery personality perhaps explains why she wants to paint her room totem.

totipalmate

totipotency

n
/ tɒ'tipədənsē /
L + L
ability to generate or regenerate a whole organism from a part.
Certain cells from tadpoles have been shown to have developmental totipotency.

tottered

v
/ 'tɒdə(r)d /
E
staggered, wobbled.
“Don’t look down,” advised Milo as the bug tottered upward on unsteady legs.

toucanet

n
/ 'tükə.net /
Tupi > Pg > F
any of several small South and Central American toucans predominantly green in color.
While visiting her cousin in Costa Rica, Carla enjoyed the company of her pet toucanet.

tough

adj
/ 'təf /
E
[has homonym: tuff] extremely difficult to cope with or comprehend.
The questions on the final exam were so tough that only the well-prepared students got a passing grade.

tourlourou

tourniquet

towhead

townsite

toxicity

toxicology

n
/ 'tāksə'käləjē /
Gk
a science that deals with poisons and their effect on living organisms and with the clinical, industrial, legal, or other problems involved.
Dr. Krause quickly consulted his textbook on toxicology to find the antidote.

toxoid

trabeated

adj
/ 'trābē.ādād /
L
designed or constructed of horizontal beams or lintels.
A trabeated structural form gives a building a solid, boxy shape.

tracheitis

n
/ ,trākē'īdās /
Gk
inflammation of the main trunk of the system of tubes by which air passes to and from the lungs in vertebrates.
Because of the singer’s tracheitis, many of her concerts had to be canceled.

tracheole

n
/ 'trākē.əl /
Gk > L
one of the minute delicate endings of a branched air-conveying tubule of an insect.
In the respiratory system of insects, oxygen diffuses through the tracheole to enter the body cells.

trachodon

n
/ 'trakədän /
Gk + Gk
a dinosaur of a genus comprising large duck-billed dinosaurs of the Upper Cretaceous that have a broad spatulate snout.
The trachodon had several hundred blunt teeth and fed on twigs, seeds, fruits, and pine needles.

traction

tractor

tradal

trademark

tradition

traffic

tragic

adj
/ 'trajik /
Gk
disastrous, fearful.
It is hard to conceive of the tragic significance of the atomic bomb’s very existence.

tragopan

trainable

traineau

n
/ trā'nō /
F
sledge, sleigh.
During the winter, guests at the lodge are met at the station by a long, horse-drawn traineau.

trait

traitor

traitorous

tramontane

trample

tranquil

tranquillo

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

transaction

transcendent

transceiver

transcript

transcutaneous

adj
/ˌtranzkyü'tānēəs/
L

passing or entering through the skin.

Transcutaneous electrical nerve stimulation was used to relieve Kim's chronic back pain.

transept

transfer

transfixed

v
/tranz'fikst/
L
affixed, fastened, or held motionless by or as if by piercing especially with an absorbing emotion or interest.
They were all transfixed by the Trivium's soothing voice.

transform

transhumance

n
/tranz'hyümən(t)s/
L > Sp > F
[has homonym: transhumants]
seasonal movement of livestock and especially sheep between mountain and lowland pastures.
Transhumance remains an essential pastoral activity in many sheep-raising areas.

transilient

transistor

n
/tran'zistə(r)/
L
a tiny electronic device that amplifies, oscillates, or switches the flow of current.
If the transistor had not been invented, today's handheld electronic devices would not exist.

transistorize

transitory

adj
/ˌtranzə'tōrē/
L
marked by the quality of passing away : evanescent, transient.
Last week's homily emphasized the transitory nature of material wealth.

transliterate

translucently

adv
/tran(t)'slüs'ntlē/
L + Ecf
in a manner permitting the passage of light and diffusing it so that objects beyond cannot be clearly distinguished.
The frosted glass in the window let the sunlight in translucently.

transmittal

n
/tran(t)'smid'əl/
L
an act, process, or instance of giving or conveying (a disease or infection) to another person or organism.
Washing one's hands is an effective method of preventing the transmittal of germs.

transparency

transparent

adj
/tranz'pa(a)rənt/
L
having the property of transmitting light so that bodies lying beyond are entirely visible.
Because the protective book cover was transparent, the colorful book jacket could be seen through it.

transpicuous

transpierce

transportee

transposable

adj
/tranz'pōzəbəl/
L
capable of being interchanged.
In the early 1950s geneticists discovered that transposable genes may change their position on the chromosome.

transposition

transtracheal

adj
/tranz'trākēəl/
L + Gk
extending or effected through the trachea or windpipe.
Oxygen had to be supplied to the patient through a transtracheal tube.

transversal

trapezoidal

trapunto

n
/trə'pün(,)tō/
L
a decorative quilted fabric design in high relief.
The oldest coverlet in the museum's collection features a central medallion worked in trapunto and embroidery.

traumatic

adj
/trō'madik/
Gk
of, relating to, or resulting from an injury or wound to the human body caused by the application of external force or violence.
It took Marsha years to get over her traumatic experience with the revolving door.

travail

traveler

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

traverse

v
/ trə'vərs /
L

go or travel across or over.
The minivan will traverse the middle of the state during the tornado watch.

treacle

n
/ 'trēkəl /
Gk > L > F > E

a blend of molasses, sugar, and corn syrup used as a table syrup.
Put a small amount of treacle or a bit of sugar on your porridge.

tread

treadle

n
/ 'tredəl /
E

a swiveling or lever device pressed by the foot to drive a machine.
Janna set a basket of magazines on the antique sewing machine's treadle.

treasurable

treasurer

treaty

trebly

trellises

tremble

trembling

v
/ 'tremb(ə)liŋ /
L > F > E

quaking with or as if with fear or other emotion.
She found him trembling from fright in a corner with a gun in each hand.

tremellose

tremolo

n
/ 'tremələ /
L > It

a perceptible rapid variation of pitch in the voice especially in singing.
Tremolo in vocal music and vibrato in instrumental music are similar sound effects.

trenchancy

trepak

n
/ trə'pāk /
Russ

a fiery Ukrainian folk dance performed by men and featuring an extension of the legs alternately from a squatting position.
Olga's favorite characters in The Nutcracker are the Cossacks who dance the trepak.

trephone

trespassing

trevally

triacetate

triannulate

triaxial

tribology

n
/ trī'bäləjē /
Gk

a study that deals with the design, friction, wear, and lubrication of interacting surfaces in relative motion to each other (as in bearings or gears).
After getting an undergraduate degree in mechanical engineering, Jeff studied for a master's degree in tribology.

triceratops

n
/ trī'serətäps /
Gk

any animal or fossil of the huge herbivorous dinosaurs having a skull with two large horns above the eyes, a median horn on the nose, and a great bony hood or transverse crest over the neck.
Of all Angela's stuffed dinosaurs, the triceratops is her favorite.

trichologist

trichotillomania

n
/ ,trikə,tilə'mānēə /
Gk + Gk + Gk

abnormal desire to pull out one's hair.
Susan has been diagnosed with trichotillomania, which explains her lack of eyebrows and eyelashes.

trichotomized

v
/ trī'kädə,mīzd /
Gk

divided into three parts, elements, or classes.
Sigmund Freud trichotomized the mind into id, ego, and superego.

tricolette

tricolor

tricot

tricuspid

tridactylous

adj
/ trī'daktələs /
Gk

having three fingers or toes.
The museum exhibit included the fossilized footprint of a tridactylous dinosaur.

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

tridental

adj

/ trɪˈdɛntəl /

L

having the form of a three-pronged scepter or spear serving in classical mythology as the attribute or symbol of a sea god.

It is easy to see that Paul's tridental prop is actually a modified pitchfork.

triduum

trifecta

n

/ trɪˈfɛktə /

L + L

a betting pool in which the bettor must pick the first, second, and third finishers in a specified race or contest in the correct order.

Grandmother liked to bet the trifecta on her weekly visit to the racetrack.

trifid

trifle

trifling

trifurcate

v

/ ˈtrɪfər.kæt /

L

fork or divide into three branches.

Under consideration is a proposal to trifurcate the small nation into Hindu, Muslim, and Buddhist sections.

trigger

triglycerides

n pl

/ trɪˈglɪsə.rɪdz /

Gk + Gk + Ecf

esters formed from glycerol by reacting all three of its hydroxy groups with fatty acids.

Triglycerides, researchers say, significantly contribute to the progression of coronary artery disease.

trijugate

trillado

trimaran

tripartite

adj

/ trɪˈpɑːtɪt /

L

consisting of three parts or divisions.

In Mr. Baker's tripartite system of evaluation, one number represents classroom participation, one number represents homework effort, and one number represents grades.

triphibian

triphibious

triphthong

triptych

triskaidekaphobia

n

/ ˌtri.skɪ.dekəˈfɒbɪə /

Gk

fear of the number 13.

Because of his triskaidekaphobia, Alton called the front desk and asked to be moved from Room 1313.

trismus

tritor

triumphant

adj

/ trɪˈəm(p)fənt /

L > F > E

conquering, victorious.

The triumphant general was given a parade in his honor.

triumvir

trivial

trochee

troching

n

/ ˈtrɒ.kɪŋ /

F > E

[has homonym with regional label: troking] a small point of a stag's antler.

During mating-season fights, it is common for a troching or two to break off of a stag's antler.

trochlea

troglobiont

trombone

tromometer

n

/ ˌtrɒˈmämədə(r) /

Gk + Gk

an instrument for measuring or detecting minute earth tremors.

George's new security system is based on a tromometer that can detect footfalls anywhere in the building.

trophobiosis

n

/ ˌtrɒfɒˈbiːʊsɪs /

Gk

a relation in which an organism of one kind aids and protects an organism of another kind in return for some food product.

The entomologist described the relation between some ants and aphids from whom they obtain sweet secretions as "trophobiosis."

trophly

tropism

n

/ ˈtrɒ.pɪzəm /

Gk

an innate tendency to react in a definite manner to stimuli.

Any type of tropism involves turning toward or away from a stimulus.

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

troposphere

n
/ 'trɒpə.sfi(ə)r /
Gk

the portion of the mass of air around Earth that extends outward about seven to ten miles from Earth's surface.

The temperature of the troposphere decreases with altitude.

trotteur

trottoir

troupe

truancy

truant

trudged

v
/ 'trʌjd /
unknown
marched on foot wearily.
Omar picked up his youngest boy and trudged off down the road, the other three children trotting after him.

trumpeter

truncal

adj
/ 'trʌŋkəl /
L
[has near homonym: truckle] of or relating to the trunk of the body.
The paramedics examined Rob for truncal bruises, but his only injury was a broken finger.

truncheoned

adj
/ 'trʌŋtʃənd /
L > F > E
having a nightstick.
The truncheoned officer saw no need to carry a handgun while walking his beat.

trunnion

truss

v
/ 'trəs /
L? > F > E
[has near homonym: trust] arrange for cooking by binding the wings or legs of (as fowl) close to the body.
The woman on the Thanksgiving turkey hotline told Kay how to truss a turkey properly so that the stuffing wouldn't leak out during roasting.

trypanosomiasis

n
/ trə'panəsō'miāsəs /
Gk > L
an infectious disease spread by certain bloodsucking insects.
American trypanosomiasis occurs primarily in the Central and South American tropics.

tuba

tubercle

tuberculate

tubifacient

tuft

tuition

tumbler

tumbleweed

tumefacient

tumefy

tumid

adj
/ 't(y)üməd /
L
marked by swelling.
Mark had a badly infected tumid leg.

tumming

tumorigenic

tumult

tunic

n
/ 't(y)ünik /
Sem > L
a simple slip-on garment made with or without sleeves and usually knee-length or longer, belted at the waist, and worn as an under or outer garment.
The prince's tunic was embroidered with his coat of arms.

turbidity

turbulent

tureen

turnbuckle

n
/ 'tɜrn.bəkəl /
E + L > F > E
a right-and-left screw link used for tightening a rod or stay.
Each of the tension wires that supported the old tree had a turnbuckle to allow adjustments.

turnip

turquoise

tussle

tutorial

tuxedo

tweezer

twig

n
/ 'twig /
E
a small shoot or branch usually without its leaves.
Dicken could tell when an unpromising bough or twig still had green life in it.

twinkling

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

twinkly

adj

/ 'twɪŋk(ə)lē /

E

beaming with lively feeling.

Beth was quite fond of her twinkly grandpa, who was always ready with a good joke.

twister

n

/ 'twɪstə(r) /

E

a tornado, waterspout, sand column, or dust whirl in which the rotatory ascending movement of a column of air is especially apparent.

By the time people see or hear an approaching twister, they have just a few minutes to find shelter.

twistiness

twitter

v

/ 'twɪd-ə(r) /

E

utter the successive chirping notes of a bird.

The parakeets fill the petstore with song when they twitter.

twoling

tychism

tydie

type

typeface

typical

typographical

tyrant

n

/ 'tɪrənt /

Gk

one who by unfair or unreasonable demands or rigorous exploitation imposes burdens and hardships on those under his or her control.

The Latin teacher, a bitter tyrant, gave his students a huge homework assignment over the holiday break.

ulcer

uliginous

adj

/ yū'lijənəs /

L

growing in wet or swampy ground.

Quentin is making a study of uliginous mosses.

ullaged

ulmin

ulna

ultimate

ultimogeniture

n

/ ˌʌltəmɔ'jenə.chù(ə)r /

L

a system of inheritance by which the youngest son or sometimes daughter or collateral heir succeeds to the estate.

Mr. Case, deciding that his father's adherence to ultimogeniture was unfair, planned to divide the family farm equally among his siblings and himself.

ultrafiche

ultralight

ultramarine

n

/ ˌʌltrəmə'rēn /

L

a vivid blue.

The ultramarine of Billy's eyes is enhanced by tinted contact lenses.

ululate

Ulyssean

adj

/ yū'lisēən /

Gk name

of, relating to, or resembling Ulysses, the hero of Homer's Odyssey.

James Joyce's Ulysses describes a single day in the life of his Ulyssean hero, Leopold Bloom.

umbellulone

umber

n

/ 'əmbə(r) /

L

a brown earthen material highly valued by artists as a permanent pigment.

When umber is ground, washed, and dried, it is called "raw umber."

unaccommodating

unachieved

unadulterated

adj

/ ˌʌnə'dəltə.rād-əd /

Ecf + L

pure, unmixed, uncorrupted.

Children reared in poverty cannot experience the unadulterated happiness of childhood that they deserve.

unanimity

unappreciative

adj

/ ʌnə'prēshəd-iv /

E + L

not having or showing sensitive awareness of worth or aesthetic value.

Tara thought her brother was unappreciative of the help she gave him.

unasked

unassimilable

unatonable

unbowdlerized

unbudgeable

adj

/ ˌʌn'bʊdʒəbəl /

Ecf + L > F

incapable of being moved or shifted.

The poem exemplifies the author's unbudgeable belief in human goodness.

uncanny

unceremoniously

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

unceremoniousness

n
/ ˌən.sə.rəˈmōn.ē.sən.səs /
Ecf + Etruscan? > L + Ecf
state of being informal.
Memories of the disagreement began to fade, and soon Mr. Knightley conducted himself with the unceremoniousness of perfect amity.

unchangeable

adj
/ ˌənˈtʃæn.jə.bəl /
E + F > E
not capable of being changed : immutable.
Mr. Jowett denied that age makes habits unchangeable.

uncial

uncinus

n
/ ˌənˈsī.nəs /
L
a small hooklike structure or process.
An uncinus is one of a set of structures that the mollusk uses to tear up its food and draw it into its mouth.

uncivilly

uncle

uncompliant

uncomplimentary

adj
/ ʌn.kəm.pləˈment.ər.ē /
Ecf + L > E
degrading, derogatory.
Betsy felt sure that her new haircut would elicit many uncomplimentary remarks.

unconcerned

unconscionably

adv
/ ˌənˈkän.ch(ə)nə.blē /
L
in a manner not guided or controlled by conscience.
Nathan behaved so unconscionably in elementary school that his juvenile delinquency surprises no one.

unconscious

uncooperative

adj
/ ʌn.kōˈöp.ər.əd.ɪ.v /
Ecf + L
not marked by willingness and ability to work with others in a common effort.
Mr. Jenkins sighed, "Do you enjoy being the most belligerent, uncooperative child in school?"
uncoquettish

unction

n
/ ˈʌŋ(k)ʃən /
L
the anointing of the sick with oil that is a religious rite of healing.
The Catholic sacrament of extreme unction can be given by a priest to any baptized person who has reached the age of reason.

undecagon

undecided

undecipherable

undergrowth

underlier

underling

underrated

v
/ ˌændə(r)ˈrād.əd /
Ecf + L
undervalued.
The students soon learned that they had underrated the intelligence of their teacher.

understudy

n
/ ˈændə(r).stədē /
E + L
one who stands prepared to act another's part or take over the work or duties of another.
While the leading lady was ill, her understudy performed admirably in her role.

undine

undiscerned

adj
/ ˌændəˈsər.nd /
Ecf + L
unseen.
Many circumstances had passed undiscerned, but the two latest occurrences were witnessed by several individuals.

undisguisable

unequally

unequivocally

unexpugnable

unfastidious

unfathomable

adj
/ ˌənˈfath.ə.mə.bəl /
E
incomprehensible, inscrutable.
Maggie's poker face was completely unfathomable.

unfavorable

adj
/ ˌənˈfävər(ə)bəl /
E + L > E
opposed, contrary.
Willa decided the time was unfavorable for her to tell her mother the news.

unfirmamented

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

unforeseeable

adj

/ ˌʌnfɔːr'siːəbəl /

E

incapable of being foreseen, foretold, or anticipated.

The problem was made worse by a number of unforeseeable complications.

ungregarious

ungrudgingly

unguiferate

ungulate

n

/ ˈɒŋɡjələt /

L

a hoofed typically herbivorous quadruped mammal (as a cow, camel, horse, pig, or elephant).

The elephant is the largest ungulate in existence.

uniaxial

adj

/ ˌjüːnɪˈæksɪəl /

L

having but one axis.

Uniaxial orientation takes place during the drawing of a filament.

unicellular

unideaed

uniformity

unilaterally

adv

/ ˌjüːnəˈlɑːdərəlɪ /

L + L + Ecff

in a one-sided manner.

The dictator unilaterally proclaimed the action a breach of international law and an act of war.

uninterrupted

unionize

uniquity

Unitarian

n

/ ˌjüːnəˈterɪən /

L

a Christian who believes that the deity exists only in one person.

Horace's father was a Unitarian, and his mother was agnostic.

unite

univalve

adj

/ ˈjüːnəˌvəl /

L

having or consisting in one valve.

The aquatic univalve will usually attach its eggs to leaves or sticks.

universality

universe

n

/ ˈjüːnəˌvɜːs /

L

the entire celestial cosmos.

Many a philosopher has pondered the question "Are we alone in the universe?"

university

univocal

unkempt

adj

/ ˌʌnˈkempt /

E

deficient in order or neatness of person : disheveled.

Janice feared that she would look unkempt after her six-hour flight.

unknowable

unlute

unmanacle

unmerciful

unmitigable

adj

/ ʌnˈmɪdʒəbəl /

Ecf + L

not causing to make less severe, violent, cruel, intense, painful.

The traffic jam caused unmitigable anger and frustration in Mr. Nelson.

unmitigated

unnecessarily

adv

/ ˌʌn.nɪsɪˈserəlɪ /

Ecf + L

not in such a way that it cannot be otherwise : to a needless degree.

The taxi ride was unnecessarily long because the driver did not know the best route to take.

unneighborly

unnerve

v

/ ʌnˈnɜːv /

E + L

deprive of courage and physical strength : cause to become weak and ineffective especially from fear.

Only after the rush of adrenaline wore off did the horrible accident unnerve the paramedic.

unobtrusively

adv

/ ˌʌnəbˈtrʊsɪvli /

E + L

in a manner that is not blatant, immodest, or overly aggressive.

The Italian film had English subtitles placed unobtrusively near the bottom of the frame.

unoccupied

unparallelable

unpersuadable

adj

/ ˌʌnpə(r)ˈswādəbəl /

L

not capable of being induced by argument, entreaty, or expostulation into some mental position : adamant.

Both the Mr. Knightleys were as unpersuadable on that matter as Emma.

unperturbed

unpropitious

unpropitiously

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

unregenerate

adj

/ ˌənreˈjen(ə)rət /

E + L

obstinate, stubborn.

Orrin's unregenerate refusal to admit he was wrong angered his wife.

unrehearsed

unreliable

unremitting

adj

/ ˌənreˈmitɪŋ /

E + L

constant, incessant.

Doug was a careful and unremitting student of political thought.

unremunerative

unresolved

unscarred

unseasonable

adj

/ ˌənˈsiːz(ə)nəbəl /

Ecf + L > F > E + Lcf > Ecf

not usual or normal and usually undesirable for the season of the year.

An unseasonable cold snap proved deadly to many of Kate's roses.

unsentimental

adj

/ ˌənˌsentəˈmentl /

E + L

not characterized or dominated by excessive emotion.

Jerome tried to be unsentimental in his assessment of the situation.

unsepulchered

unshunnable

unsympathetic

adj

/ ˌənˌsɪmpəˈthedɪk /

E + Gk

not exhibiting ready comprehension of others' mental states : unresponsive.

Aaron found Mrs. Schubert totally unsympathetic to his ordeal.

untenable

adj

/ ˌənˈtenəbəl /

E + L

not able to be defended or maintained.

Arlen found himself in an untenable position when his boss asked him to lie to the auditors.

untimely

adj

/ ˌənˈtɪml̩ /

E

occurring at an inopportune time.

Slim's untimely arrival interrupted the ceremony.

untraceable

adj

/ ˌənˈtrāsəbəl /

Ecf + F > E + Ecf

not capable of being tracked down.

The armored car was robbed of \$2 million in untraceable bills.

untrammeled

unvaccinated

adj

/ ˌənˈvaksənəd /

Ecf + L

not being inoculated with a vaccine in order to produce immunity.

The injured, unvaccinated horse was given a tetanus antitoxin shot.

unwarrantable

unwearable

unwritten

upbeat

adj

/ ˈʌp.bēt /

E + E

marked by optimism : cheerful, happy.

The students came away from the pep rally in an upbeat mood.

updraft

n

/ ˈʌp.draft /

E + E

an upward movement of air or other gas.

A storm's life and power are determined by the middle atmospheric winds around the central updraft.

upheave

v

/ ˌʌpˈhēv /

E

lift or raise, usually with great force.

The engineer used dynamite to upheave the boulder.

upholsterer

n

/ (ˌ)ʌpˈhɒlzt(ə)rə(r) /

E

one whose occupation is the covering of furniture with padding and fabric.

The upholsterer nearly fainted when he ripped open the lumpy cushion and found it stuffed with rolls of dollar bills.

uppityness

uprighteously

uræus

n

/ yəˈrēəs /

Gk > L

[has homonym and near homonym: ureas and urias] a stylized representation of the sacred asp appearing on the headdress of ancient rulers especially just over the forehead and serving as a symbol of sovereignty.

Robin admired the large golden uræus on the pharaoh's crown.

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

uranium	uveitis n / ,yüv'ē'idəs / L + Ecf inflammation of the portion of the eye composed of the iris and ciliary body together with the choroid coat. <i>Uveitis in horses is sometimes called "moon blindness."</i>	vagabonds n pl / 'vəgəbändz / L > F > E individuals who wander about from place to place. <i>Jill and Jenny enjoyed being vagabonds in Europe the summer after they graduated from high school.</i>
uranography		vagarious
uranometry		vagile adj / 'vajəl / L free to move about. <i>Vagile organisms are inherently difficult to observe, which makes study of their interactions challenging.</i>
urban		
urbane		
urn	uvula	
ursiform	uvular adj / 'yüvyələ(r) / L [Note: Could be confused with uvula.] of or relating to the pendent fleshy lobe in the posterior border of the soft palate; specifically : produced with the aid of this lobe. <i>Try as she might, Joanie could not produce a uvular trill.</i>	
urticaria		vagueness n / 'vāgnəs / L > F + Ecf the quality or state of lacking expression. <i>Roy's little eyes began to shine, and they lost their vagueness.</i>
usage		
usance		vain
usufructuary n / ,yüzə'frəkchə,wērē / L one having the use or enjoyment of something. <i>Although he leased his farm to a large corporation, Silas remained the usufructuary of the wooded sections.</i>	uxoricide n / ,ək'sörəsīd / L + L the murder of a wife by her husband. <i>The police suspected the missing woman was a victim of uxoricide.</i>	vainglorious
usurp	uxoriously	
utile adj / 'yüd·l / L [has homonym: util] practical, useful. <i>Metals such as copper and tin are particularly utile in manufacturing.</i>	vacancy	vair n / 'va(a)(ə)r / L > F > E a heraldic pattern of interlocking shield-shaped panes. <i>Rosalind had a difficult time trying to paint the vair of her family's coat of arms.</i>
utmost	vacant	
utopia	vacillant	valence n / 'vālən(t)s / L the degree of combining power of any element or radical. <i>Iron has a variable valence: two in ferrous chloride and three in ferric chloride.</i>
utricle	vacillatory adj / 'vasələ.tōrē / L characterized by changeableness or indecisiveness. <i>Lacking a strong leader, the committee tended to be vacillatory in regard to budget cuts.</i>	valetudinary
utterable	vacuole	valid
uvala	vacuometer	

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valise

n
/ və'lēs /
It > F

traveling bag.

Mrs. McDonald asked the flight attendant to put her valise in the overhead bin.

valorization

valuable

adj
/ 'valyəbəl /
L > F > E

possessing monetary worth in use or exchange.

After quitting her job, Brenda sold a few valuable articles and took a trip to Australia.

valuta

van

vanadium

n
/ və'nādēəm /
ON goddess

a gray or white malleable ductile polyvalent metallic element that is resistant to air, seawater, alkalies, and reducing acids except hydrofluoric acid.

Vanadium is often used as a dye in ceramics and pottery.

vane

n
/ 'vān /
E

[has homonyms: vain, vein] a movable device attached to a spire, mast, or other elevated object for showing the direction of the wind.

Atop the barn is a metal weather vane in the form of a rooster.

vanillery

n
/ və'nīlērē /
L > Sp > F

a plantation of vanilla.

Juan Aguiar owns a large vanillery north of Guatemala City.

vanishing

vanity

vapid

adj
/ 'vəpəd /
L

lacking flavor, zest, animation, or spirit : uninteresting.

The couple sat through the vapid movie simply because they had paid good money to see it.

vapor

n
/ 'vāpə(r) /
L

diffused matter floating suspended in air and impairing its transparency.

The vapor of exhaust hung thick in the air near the truckstop.

vaporizer

varietal

variety

varioliform

adj
/ ,verē'āləfōrm /
L + EcF

resembling smallpox.

When the relief worker saw the refugee's varioliform lesions, she suspected an experiment in germ warfare had taken place.

variometer

variorum

various

variscite

varlet

n
/ 'vārlət /
F

a low fellow : a base unprincipled person.

Some varlet put his parking ticket on Claudia's car.

varsity

vary

vascular

vasculature

n
/ 'vaskyələchū(ə)r /
L

the disposition or arrangement of blood vessels in an organ or part.

In the biology lab, students are investigating the vasculature of a fetal pig.

vasoconstrictor

vassalage

n
/ 'vasəlij /
L > F > E

a position of subordination or submission (as to a political power or a detrimental influence).

After unifying China, Kublai Khan sent envoys to neighboring kingdoms, obliging them to accept vassalage.

vastitude

n
/ 'vastətüd /
L

immensity.

The vastitude of the proposal held him spellbound.

vaticinal

adj
/ və'tis'nəl /
L

of, relating to, or containing prophecy.

Will just laughed at his grandmother's vaticinal utterances, for none of her predictions ever came true.

vaticination

n
/ və'tis'n'āshən /
L

something foretold : prediction.

The doomsayer's woeful vaticination fell on deaf ears.

vaunted

adj
/ 'vòntəd /
L > E

boasted about : praised to the skies.

Jess was looking forward to the vaunted Hawaiian sunshine, but it rained throughout his vacation.

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

vector

n
/ 'vektə(r) /
L

a course or compass direction, especially of an airplane.
The pilot received the vector for landing from the control tower.

Vedic

adj
/ 'vādik /
Skt
of or relating to the most ancient sacred writings of the Hindus.
Ivy took a class in Vedic Sanskrit in her first year of graduate school.

veering

v
/ 'vi(ə)riŋ /
D or G > E
turning, shifting.
The sharks began veering abruptly when the diver pulled the dead fish from her bag.

vega

vehement

veil

n
/ 'vāl /
L > F > E
[has homonym: vale] a length of cloth worn by women as a covering for the head and shoulders and often especially in Eastern countries for the face.
After arriving at the church, the bride frantically announced that she had forgotten her veil.

veined

velvet

velveteen

n
/ ,velvə'tēn /
L > F > E + Ecf
a clothing fabric usually of cotton in twill or plain weaves made with a short close weft pile in imitation of velvet.
Jenny can't wait to wear her holiday dress made of dark green velveteen.

venality

venatic

venatorial

adj
/ ,venə'tōrēəl /
L
of, relating to, or used in hunting.
As the duck-hunting season begins, Jake can be counted on to retell accounts of his past venatorial successes.

vendue

venenate

venire

n
/ və'nīrē /
L
an entire panel which is drawn for jury duty and from which a jury is to be selected.
On reporting for jury duty, Astrid was directed to join the venire in courtroom 17.

vent

ventilation

ventrally

adv
/ 'ventrəlē /
L
on, near, or in the direction of the belly.
The aquarium fish was striped both ventrally and dorsally.

ventricle

n
/ 'ventrə'kəl /
L
one of the chambers of the heart which receives blood from a corresponding atrium and from which blood is forced into the arteries.
The heart patient's right ventricle is the source of his trouble.

ventricular

ventripotent

venture

n
/ 'venchə(r) /
E
an undertaking involving chance, risk, or danger.
"My heart was beating finely when we two set forth in the cold night upon this dangerous venture," he confided.

verbalize

verbiage

verbigeration

verbose

verbosity

verdigrised

v
/ 'vərdə,grēsd /
L > F > E
covered or coated with a green or bluish deposit especially of copper carbonates formed on copper, brass, or bronze surfaces.
Five years of weathering verdigrised the roof over the bay window from the color of a shiny new penny.

verein

veridical

adj
/ və'ridə'kəl /
L
conforming to the truth : truthful.
The therapist tried to help the patient distinguish veridical perceptions from illusory ones.

veridicality

verify

vermicular

vermiform

adj
/ 'vərmə'fōrm /
L
wormlike.
Some insect larvae are vermiform.

vermilion

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

vermin

verminous

adj
/ 'vɜrmənəs /

L
infested by small animals (as lice, bedbugs, mice) that tend to occur in great numbers, are difficult to control, and are offensive as well as injurious.

Mayor Skopek promised to demolish the verminous abandoned buildings.

vernacularize

v
/ və(r)'nakyələˌrīz /

L
render into or express in a native language or dialect of a country, region, or person.
Vera's attempt to vernacularize the dialog in her novel is requiring more research than she had anticipated.

verruca

version

versus

prep
/ 'vɜrsəs /

L
[has near homonym: verses]
against.
The landmark court case "Brown versus Board of Education of Topeka" paved the way for school desegregation.

verticil

n
/ 'vɜrdəˌsɪl /

L
a circle or whorl of similar body parts (as flowers about a point on an axis).
A verticil of flowers grew at the tip of the plant's stem.

verve

vespetro

vesta

n
/ 'vestə /

L name
a short wooden match.
Robin removed a vesta from the vintage match safe and struck it on the grated exterior.

vestigial

Vesuvian

adj
/ və'süvĕən /
L geog name
marked by uncertainty or sudden outbursts : furious.
Gerald's cardiologist advised him to control his Vesuvian rage lest he jeopardize his health.

veteran

veterans

n pl
/ 'vedərənz /
L
ones skilled through length of service.
The supervisors depended on the veterans to help the novices on the assembly line.

veterinarian

n
/ ,vedərə'nerĕən /
L
one skilled in treating diseases and injuries of animals.
The veterinarian removed a large splinter from Misty's paw.

vettura

vexillary

n
/ 'veksəˌlerĕ /
L
standard-bearer.
If the appointed vexillary fell in battle, it was the duty of the nearest soldier to rescue the standard.

viability

n
/ ,vīə'bilədĕ /
L
the ability to live, grow, and develop.
The viability of the crop was in question after the severe hailstorm.

viaduct

vial

viand

n
/ 'vīənd /
L > F > E
an article of food.
The pantry was so full that there wasn't room for a single viand more.

vibrant

adj
/ 'vībrənt /
L
pulsating with life, vigor, or activity.
The nurse had a vibrant personality that could cheer even the most despondent patient.

vibrissa

vicar

vicarious

vicariously

adv
/ vī'ka(a)rĕəsĭĕ /
L
in a manner experienced or realized through imaginative or sympathetic participation in the experience of another.
Erin loves to read travel magazines so that she can vicariously enjoy trips to exotic lands.

vicinal

vicinity

vicious

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

vicissitudes

n pl
/ və'sisə.tüdʒ /

L
fluctuations in condition (as of wealth, prosperity, or happiness).
One could not have imagined the extreme vicissitudes the Great Depression brought our nation's populace.

videlicet

vidimus

n
/ 'vidəməs /

L
an attested copy of a document.
In purely legalistic terms, a notarized document could be called a "vidimus."

viga

n
/ 'vēgə /

Sp
one of the heavy rafters that is often a log and that supports the roof in the native Indian and Spanish colonial architecture of the Southwest.
At least one termite-infested viga was responsible for the roof's collapse.

vigil

n
/ 'vijəl /

L
a religious service on the morning of the day before a holy day.
Deborah enjoyed the Christmas Eve vigil as a respite from her hectic family life.

vigilant

adj
/ 'vijələnt /

L
alertly or watchfully awake; especially : alert or watchful to discover and avoid danger.
The teachers on bus duty were not very vigilant at their posts, choosing instead to socialize with each other.

vigintillion

vigorish

n
/ 'vigərish /
Russ > Yiddish?

a charge taken (as by a bookie or gambling house) on bets.
David won \$500 at the races but had to pay his bookie a vigorish of \$50.

vigorous

vigorously

adv
/ 'vig(ə)rəslē /

L > F > E
in a manner full of physical or mental strength or active force.
Jesse vigorously objected to the referendum.

vilely

villager

villanelle

n
/ 'vilə'nel /

It > F
a chiefly French poem having typically five tercets and a quatrain.
One of the most striking aspects of the villanelle is its rhyme scheme.

vimineous

adj
/ və'minəəs /

L
of or producing long slender twigs or shoots.
Ryan's backyard is shaded by a huge vimineous willow tree.

vindaloo

n
/ 'vində.lu /
Pg > Indo-Pg > Konkani
a curried meat dish made with garlic and wine or vinegar.
Sweet chutney is a delicious counterpoint to spicy vindaloo.

vindictive

vintage

violaceous

adj
/ ,viə'lāshəs /

L
of the color violet.
The prism cast a violaceous band across Sally's face.

violate

violently

adv
/ 'viələntlē /

L > F > E
in a manner characterized by extreme force.
The hail beat violently against the spring flowers.

violet

virement

virent

virgule

n
/ 'vər.gyül /

L > F
a short, usually slanting stroke or mark used in medieval manuscripts.
In modern times a virgule is often used to divide a date into month, day, and year.

viridity

n
/ və'ridədē /

L
the quality or state of being green : the color of grass or foliage.
Zoysia grass is known for its lack of viridity in cool months.

virility

virtual

virulently

adv
/ 'vir(y)ələntlē /

L + Ecf
in a manner full of bitter malicious hatred.
The campaign turned virulently hostile as the candidates exchanged nasty personal insults.

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

visceral

viscid

adj
/ 'visəd /
L

having an adhesive quality : gluey, sticky.

Katie gazed in fascination at the steaming vat of viscid sap, which would soon be maple syrup.

vise

n
/ 'vīs /
F

[has homonym: vice] any of various tools having two jaws for holding work that close usually by a screw, lever, or cam.

Keith put the copper bar in a vise and hammered the end of it into the desired shape.

visible

Visigothic

adj
/ ,vizə'gäthik /
Gmc > L

of or relating to the western division of the Germanic peoples who invaded the Roman empire beginning in the fourth century and who later established kingdoms between the Loire and Gibraltar.

Herve found several Visigothic artifacts while hiking in the Pyrenees.

visualize

v
/ 'vizhə.līz /
L + E + Ecf

see a mental image of.

Arthur could still visualize the accident down to the smallest detail.

vitality

vitellus

n
/ vī'teləs /
L

the yolk of egg.

In an egg, a ropelike structure called a "chalaza" helps anchor the vitellus and protect it from damage while allowing it to turn easily.

viticetum

n
/ ,vidə'sēdəm /
L

a growth or plantation of vines, especially grapevines.

Mr. Sampson owns the largest viticetum in the county.

viticulture

n
/ 'vidə.kəlchə(r) /
L

the cultivation of grapes.

Whitney has always been interested in viticulture; even as a child she had two grapevines that she grew herself.

vitrailed

viuva

vivacious

adj
/ və'vāshəs /
L

lively in temper or conduct : sprightly.

The vivacious teenager thought nothing of chatting for hours on the telephone.

viviparous

adj
/ vī'vip(ə)rəs /
L

producing living young instead of eggs from within the body in the manner of nearly all mammals, many reptiles, and a few fishes.
Some species of the eelpout lay eggs, while others are viviparous.

vivisection

viviseculture

vocalize

v
/ 'vōkə.līz /
Gk > L > F > E

utter, speak, sing.

Teresa had to relearn how to vocalize some sounds while recovering from a head injury.

vocational

voeu

voile

volador

n
/ ,vōlə'dò(ə)r /
L > Sp

[has near homonym: voladora] any of various flying fishes.

Sammy was proud to have caught a volador on his first day of fishing.

volary

volatilize

v
/ 'välə'd'lız /
L > F > E

cause to pass off into vapor.

Sampson said it would be easy to volatilize the acid by heat.

volcano

n
/ väl'kā(,)nō /
L

a vent in Earth's crust from which molten or hot rock and steam issue.
Is that volcano in Hawaii still active?

volley

v
/ 'välē /
L > F

propel (an object of play) while in the air and before touching the ground.

Cesar won his tennis match by staying close enough to the net to volley hard.

volleyball

voltage

voltolization

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

voluble

volucrine

adj
/ 'vɒlyəkrɪn /

L
of or relating to birds.
The adoption program at the zoo raised more money for the volucrine residents than for any other group of animals.

voluminous

adj
/ və'lūmənəs /

L
bulky, large, swelling.
Sam's chin sank into a billow of his voluminous shirt front.

voluntary

volunteered

v
/ ,vɒlən'ti(ə)rd /
L > F
entered into or offered oneself for any service of one's own free will without solicitation or compulsion : offered.
Milo thought for just a moment and then resolutely volunteered to go.

voluptuous

volutation

vorticity

votary

n
/ 'vɒdərə /

L
a devout or zealous worshiper.
It is said that there are eleven steps, or grades, that lead a Jainist from householder to votary to monkhood.

votive

adj
/ 'vɒdɪv /

L
undertaken or performed in fulfillment of a vow.
This year Sue made her votive pilgrimage to the estate of her favorite performer.

vouchsafe

voussoir

vowelless

adj
/ 'vaʊ(ə)lləs /
L > F > E + Ec
[Note: Could be confused with foulest.] having only consonants.
Winifred amazed her friends by working a vowelless crossword puzzle in less than an hour.

vulcanization

wafflestomper

n
/ 'wäfəl.stämpə(r) /
D + E
a hiking boot with a thick rubber sole with ridges patterned to increase traction.
The typical wafflestomper has a suede upper reaching to the ankle and is lighter than many other boots.

waft

v
/ 'wäft /
D or G > E
bear along on or as if on a buoyant medium.
As the aroma of coffee started to waft into the room, Mory woke up.

wafture

n
/ 'wäfchə(r) /
D or G > E + Ec
a wavelike motion : waft, beckoning.
The wafture of the stadium crowd gave Ebenezer a thrill.

waggery

n
/ 'wagərē /
E
mischievous merriment.
The twins delighted in waggery.

Wagnerian

adj
/ væg'nirēən /
G name
belonging to, characteristic of, or suggestive of the operas of the German composer Richard Wagner.
Star Trek Klingon opera is even more somber than Wagnerian opera.

wahine

wail

wailing

v
/ 'wāliŋ /
Scand > E
expressing sorrow audibly.
The wailing cries of the relatives filled the cemetery.

waistband

waiter

waitress

waiver

n
/ 'wāvə(r) /
F
[has homonym: waver] the act of intentionally relinquishing or abandoning a known right, claim, or privilege.
The attorney explained to her client how a waiver of a jury trial could be to his advantage.

waldhorn

walepiece

walkathon

wallboard

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

walleye

n
/ 'wò.lī /
ON > E

a large vigorous freshwater food and sport fish that has large prominent eyes.

The walleye put up a good fight but nevertheless ended up as dinner for the fisherman.

wallow

walnut

wane

v
/ 'wān /
E
[has homonym: wain] diminish in phase or intensity—used of the Moon and other satellites and inferior planets.
Mercury will begin to wane on June 23rd.

wantwit

wapentake

warble

warbler

wardwite

ware

warily

adv
/ 'wa(a)rə.lē /
E
cautiously.
The toddler approached the puppy warily.

warlock

n
/ 'wòr.lāk /
E
one given to black magic.
The warlock shrieked in rage as the paladin shattered his amulet.

warrant

n
/ 'wòr.ənt /
Gmc > F > E
a writ issued by a magistrate authorizing an officer to make an arrest, a seizure, or a search or to do other acts incident to the administration of justice.
Police officers, armed with a search warrant, entered the suspect's apartment and seized the stolen computers.

warrantee

warranty

n
/ 'wòr.əntē /
F > E
[has homonym: warrantee] a usually written guarantee of the integrity of a product specifying that the maker will for a period of time be responsible for the repair or replacement of defective parts.
Celeste angrily waved the warranty for her refrigerator under the repairman's nose.

wary

adj
/ 'wa(a)rē /
E
marked by keen caution, cunning, and watchful prudence in detecting and escaping danger.
The negotiator's subtle diplomacy and wary tactics were the result of years of experience.

washin

waspish

wassail

wassailry

waterbailage

waterfowl

waterspout

n
/ 'wòd.ə.späüt /
E + E
a slender funnel-shaped or tubular column of rapidly rotating cloud-filled wind on the surface of an ocean or lake.
The photograph is an aerial view of a waterspout about 2000 feet high.

waterwheel

n
/ 'wòd.ə(r).hwēl /
E + E
a hubbed circular frame mounted vertically on an axle and made to rotate by direct action of a liquid.
The gristmill operator opened the gate in the sluice, and the waterwheel creaked and groaned as it began to turn.

waterzooi

n
/ 'wòd.ə.züē /
D > Flem
a stew of chicken or seafood and vegetables in a seasoned stock thickened with cream and egg yolks.
Glen ordered the waterzooi simply because it was the most unusual item on the menu.

watteau

n
/ wä'tō /
F name
[Note: Plural form is pronounced identically.] a hat having a shallow crown and a wide brim turned up at the back to hold flower trimmings.
Betty celebrated the coming of spring by wearing her straw watteau delicately decorated with pink and red roses.

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

watts
n pl
/ 'wäts /
Scot name
[has homonym: what's] absolute meter-kilogram-second units of power, each equal to 1 absolute joule per second : units of power 1/746 horsepower each.
Tom's smile was so bright that photographers began to call it the "smile of a thousand watts."

wavelet

waviness

waybill

waywiser

weakling

wealthy

weapon

weaponry

wear

weatherize

Websterian
adj
/ webz'tirēən /
American name
of, relating to, or characteristic of the lexicographer Noah Webster or his dictionary.
Jack's Websterian skill at defining and familiarity with word origins made him an ideal editor.

wedel
v
/ 'väd'l /
G
[has near homonym: fatal] ski downhill by moving the rear of the skis from side to side making a series of short quick turns while following the fall line.
The ski instructor watched as Ursula began to wedel confidently down the steep slope.

Wednesday
n
/ 'wenz(,)dā /
E
the day following Tuesday.
Most schoolchildren look forward to Wednesday as the day when the school week is half over.

weighbridge

weighhouse

weight

weimaraner
n
/ 'vīməränə(r) /
G geog name
a German breed of large gray, short-haired sporting dogs with pendulous ears and cropped tail.
The trembling and excessive shyness of the weimaraner may be signs of overbreeding.

wejack

weka

Wellington
n
/ 'welɪŋtən /
Brit name
a leather boot having a loose top with the front usually coming above the knee.
The Wellington was introduced into the British army by the Duke of Wellington to replace the jackboot.

weltpolitik

wentletrap

westerlies
n pl
/ 'westə(r)lēz /
E
winds blowing from the west.
Groves of tall trees had been planted to comb the meanness out of California's prevailing westerlies.

westward

whally

whammy

wheelchair

wheeze

wheezed
v
/ 'hwēzd /
Scand > E
breathed with difficulty with a usually audible sibilant or whistling sound.
"Too much too quickly, too much too quickly," wheezed the out-of-shape gentleman, between gulps.

whelked
adj
/ 'hwelkt /
E
formed like the twisted shell of numerous marine mollusks : convoluted.
The antelope had whelked horns that curved inward.

whencesoever

whereas

whereupon

whether
conj
/ '(h)wethə(r) /
E
[has homonyms: weather, wether]—used as a function word followed usually by correlative or or by or whether to indicate alternative conditions or possibilities.
Jill cannot decide whether or not she would like to go to the prom.

whew

why

whyey

whichever

whiffet

whiffle

while

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

whinchat

whinny

whirlpool

whiskery

whiteout

n
/ 'hwīt.əūt /
E + E

a surface weather condition in an arctic area in which no object casts a shadow, the horizon cannot be seen, and only dark objects are discernible.

When the blizzard thickened to a whiteout, motorists pulled off the road and waited until visibility returned.

whitewashed

v
/ 'hwīt.wòsht /
E

washed, treated, or covered with a white liquid composition.

Breanna and Logan whitewashed the fence together.

whitherward

whitster

whittle

wholehearted

wholly

whorl

whosoever

whump

wickawee

wickedness

wicket

n
/ 'wīkət /
Gmc > F > E
[has near homonym: wicked] the period of play in cricket from the commencement of a batter's innings to his or her dismissal.
Edward scored five runs during the fourth wicket of the Eton championship.

widespread

adj
/ 'wīd.spred /
E
generally prevalent.
The widespread Dutch Elm Disease has all but eliminated the old elm trees in our town.

wield

wienerwurst

n
/ 'wēnə(r).wərst /
G
Vienna sausage.
Blaine decided that it was the wienerwurst, not the 14 pickles, that had caused his indigestion.

wiesenboden

n
/ 'vēz²n.bōd²n /
G
any of an intrazonal group of dark brown to black meadow soils rich in organic matter.
The sedge grass thrived in the wiesenboden.

wigan

wigwam

wilco

wildfowl

wile

wiles

n pl
/ 'wīlz /
E
[has homonym: whiles] tricks or stratagems intended to ensnare or deceive.
George Washington believed that nations must ultimately depend on themselves alone and warned against "the insidious wiles of foreign influence."

wiliness

wiliwili

willet

n
/ 'wīlēt /
imit
a large shore bird of the snipe family of the eastern and Gulf coasts and the central parts of North America.
The willet feeds near the mud flats in the summer.

willies

willow

willowware

wimble

wincéd

v
/ 'win(t)st /
Gmc > F > E
shrank back involuntarily.
Waldo winced at the Sun's glare.

winceyette

windblown

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

windchill

n
/ 'wind.chil /
E + E

a still-air temperature with the same cooling effect on exposed human flesh as a given combination of temperature and wind speed.
Winds ripped the air at 60 miles an hour, and the windchill dropped to 50 degrees below zero.

winddog

windlass

windowpane

wingspan

winnable

adj
/ 'win.ə.bəl /
E

able to be won.
The coach knew that the game was winnable, but he watched his team throw it away.

winnow

v
/ 'wi(.)nō /
E

treat so that the result is free of unwanted or baser components.
The superintendent spent all day trying to winnow the immense number of applications for director of special education.

wistful

adj
/ 'wist.fəl /
E

full of timorous longing or unfulfilled desire : melancholy.
Glenn grew wistful as he reminisced about his boyhood friends.

witan

witchcraft

witching

adj
/ 'wich.ɪŋ /
E

of, relating to, or suitable for sorcery or supernatural occurrences.
Tension grew as the clock neared the witching hour of midnight.

withdrawal

withhold

withholding

witticize

wizard

n
/ 'wizə(r)d /
E

magician.
The wizard vowed to use his powers to help the townspeople.

wizened

wizzled

woad

n
/ 'wōd /
E

a blue dye prepared especially formerly from the leaves of a plant of the same name and containing indigo as its essential constituent.
The ancient Picts of England were known to use woad to make body paint.

wokas

wolfsbane

wombat

n
/ 'wäm.bat /
Australian name
any of several stocky Australian marsupials resembling small bears.
The wombat lives in burrows, which it digs with its strong foreclaws.

wonderful

woodburytype

woody

adj
/ 'wūdzē /
E

of, relating to, characteristic of, suggestive of, or of the nature of woods.
The Girl Scout Handbook tells us to "look for trillium and violets in woody, shady spots."

woold

woolliness

wootz

wordle

workaholic

n
/ ,wərkə'hòlik /
E + Ar > Sp > L + Ecf
a compulsive worker.
Beth is a workaholic who hasn't taken a vacation in over six years.

worrywart

worship

v
/ 'wəʃhəp /
E
honor or reverence as a divine being or supernatural power : venerate.
Joe found a Web page for people who worship Athena, the ancient Greek goddess of wisdom.

worsted

n
/ 'wərstəd /
E geog name
any of various closely woven fabrics made from smooth yarn spun from long combed fibers, used especially for suits and tailored garments.
The salesman brought out a jacket made from woolen worsted for Brandon to try on.

worthwhile

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

wounded

adj
/ 'wʊndəd /
E

injured, hurt by, or suffering from an injury to the body consisting of a laceration or a breaking of the skin.

Tommy nursed his wounded arm carefully.

wrangle

v
/ 'ræŋəl /
E

engage in argument, dispute, or controversy.

No matter what the topic is, the MacNeil brothers all love to wrangle.

wrathful

wreck

wrench

v
/ 'rench /
E

twist violently to one side or out of line, shape, or position.

The sudden noise caused Merl to wrench his head around.

wrenched

wresting

wrestling

wrinkly

wristband

writ

n
/ 'rit /
E

a written order held to constitute a symbol of the power and authority of the issuer.

President Kennedy pledged to support the United Nations and to "enlarge the area in which its writ may run."

writhed

v
/ 'rɪθd /
E

moved or proceeded with twists and turns.

A banner writhed in the wind as the storm approached.

writhen

wrote

wrought

wry

wryly

wryneck

wrytail

Xanadu

n
/ 'zænə.dü /

E poetic name

an idyllic, exotic, or luxurious place.

Kerry told her friends that Bali was just the Xanadu she had hoped for.

xanthomelaneous

xanthophyll

xanthosis

xenial

adj
/ 'zɛnɪəl /
Gk + Ecf

of, relating to, or constituting hospitality or relations between host and guest and especially among the ancient Greeks between persons of different cities.

Gene is good at all the xenial niceties, offering his guests food and rest as soon as they arrive.

xenomania

xenon

xenophobic

adj
/ ,zɛnə'fɒbɪk /
Gk + Gk

of, relating to, or characterized by fear and hatred of what is foreign and especially of people of foreign origin.

Roger's xenophobic personality made him unfit for the Peace Corps.

xeroderma

xerophobic

adj
/ zə'ræfəbəs /
Gk + Gk

having little capacity to resist drought—used of a plant.

Knowing how forgetful she can be, Rachel avoided buying any xerophobic plants.

xerophyte

xiphoid

adj
/ 'zɪfɔɪd /
Gk

shaped like a sword.

"The sword plant is so named for its xiphoid leaves," Simon told the botany students.

xoanon

xylary

xylographer

n
/ zɪ'ləgrəfə(r) /
Gk + Gk

one that practices or is skilled in artistic wood carving.

The Chinese xylographer exhibited printings of Buddhist scripture that he had made from woodcuts.

xyloid

adj
/ 'zɪlɔɪd /
Gk

having the qualities or nature of wood.

Twigs and xyloid plants were used for toothbrushes many years ago.

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xylology

n
/ zī'läləjē /
Gk + Gk

a branch of dendrology dealing with the gross and the minute structure of wood.

In xylology, students learn to identify different woods and to distinguish real wood from imitations.

yacca

yakitori

n
/ ,yäki'törē /
Jpn

bite-sized marinated pieces of chicken, beef, or seafood grilled on small bamboo skewers.

Mrs. Saito brought an appetizer of chicken yakitori to the Japanese class's end-of-year banquet.

yamen

yardang

n
/ 'yär.dän /
Turkish

a sharp-crested ridge carved by wind erosion.

A yardang marked the boundary between the sand dunes and the surrounding hillside.

yardarm

n
/ 'yär.därm /
E + E

either end of a long spar set perpendicularly on a mast to support and spread a square sail.
The custom of the Royal Navy is to fly the Union Jack from the yardarm when a court martial is taking place aboard.

yardbird

yardstick

yarmouth

yawmeter

n
/ 'yò.mēdə(r) /
unknown + Gk
an instrument for measuring the angle of yaw of an airplane.
The pilot was sure her yawmeter was malfunctioning.

yaws

yeanning

yearling

n
/ 'yi(ə)rliŋ /
E
one that is a year old; especially : an animal one year old or in the second year of its age.
Although its small size made Ken think the rabbit was a yearling, it was actually closer to three years old.

yearnful

yearning

yellow

yelp

Yiddishkeit

n
/ 'yidish.kīt /
G
Jewish way of life.
Rabbi Cohen answered questions from the Hebrew school pupils about the fundamental values of Yiddishkeit.

yieldable

yielding

yippee

yogism

yoke

yolk

youthful

yperite

zanily

zaniness

zany

zanyism

zarzuela

n
/ zärz'wālə /
Sp
a Spanish opera having spoken dialogue and usually a comic subject.
Linda and Jaime attended an amusing zarzuela on their trip to Barcelona.

zealless

zealotry

n
/ 'zelətrē /
Gk
fanatical devotion.
Terrorists typically justify their violence as acts of zealotry.

zebraic

zebroid

zebu

n
/ 'zē.byü /
Tibetan > F
an Asiatic ox marked by a hump behind the neck and used primarily for draft or riding.
Yasmin used to ride on her family's zebu when she was small, but now she milks it every morning instead.

zeitgeist

n
/ 'tsīt.gēst /
G
the spirit of the time : the general intellectual and moral state or the trend of culture and taste characteristic of an era.
The fact that speed is part of our zeitgeist is one explanation for the popularity of e-mail.

zelkova

zephyrous

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

zero

zerography

zest

zetetic

adj

/ zə'tedɪk /

Gk

proceeding by inquiry.

The class government has its own zetetic justice system.

zigzag

zigzagged

zigzaggedly

zigzaggersy

n

/ 'zɪɡ,zæɡərē /

G > F

a course having sharp turns or angles.

The zigzaggersy of the stitches is an attractive feature of the afghan.

zilch

n

/ 'zɪlch /

unknown

zero, nil.

Eliza told Kevin that the chance of his becoming her sweetheart was zilch.

zillionaire

n

/ 'zɪljənə(a)(ə)r /

E > L > It > F

one whose wealth is of unspecified millions (as of dollars, pounds, or francs).

Nancy wants to start a software company and be a zillionaire, just like Bill Gates.

zinc

zincography

zinfandel

zinnia

zirconium

ziti

n

/ 'zēdē /

It

medium-sized tubular pasta.

The waiter announced that Tuesday's special was ziti in tomato sauce with eggplant and mushrooms.

zocalo

zoic

zoism

n

/ 'zō.izəm /

Gk

belief in animal powers and influences.

Many Native American tribes practice zoism.

Zolaesque

adj

/ zōlə'sk /

F name

of, relating to, or suggestive of Emile Zola or his writings.

The editor accepted two of Sophie's short stories for publication in the literary magazine, declaring them Zolaesque.

zombiism

zonation

zonda

n

/ 'zōndə /

Sp

a hot enervating north wind that sweeps down from the Andes over the Argentine pampas.

The zonda brings hot spells of many days' duration when temperatures can exceed 100 degrees.

zoogenic

zoology

n

/ zō'äləjē /

Gk

a branch of the science of life concerned with the animal kingdom and its members.

It is surprising that Gretchen, an animal lover, dreads her studies in zoology.

zoom

zoomorphic

adj

/ zōə'mɔrfɪk /

Gk > L

having an animal form that often conforms to a style of expression that is extreme in character, not true to the appearance of nature.

The Mayan ruins included altars carved with zoomorphic figures.

zoophagous

zori

n

/ 'zōrē /

Jpn

a flat thonged sandal usually made of straw, cloth, leather, or rubber.

While running on the pier, Terry caught his zori between two planks and pulled out the thong.

zouave

zumbooruk

n

/ zəm'bū.rək /

Per > Ar

a small cannon mounted on a swivel; especially : one fired from a rest on the back of a camel.

The desert nomads were proud of their marksmanship with the zumbooruk.

zwinger

n

/ 'tsɪŋə(r) /

G

a fortress protecting a city.

The assailing army was unable to breach the zwinger.

zygodactylous

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zygoneure

zymoscope

n

/ 'zīməskōp /

Gk > ISV

an apparatus for determining the fermenting power of yeast by measuring the amount of carbon dioxide evolved from a given quantity of sugar.

The brewer used a zymoscope to assess the yeast varieties.

zymosis

zymurgy

n

/ 'zī.mərjē /

Gk

a branch of applied chemistry that deals with fermentation processes.

The chemist had performed many experiments in zymurgy before taking the job at the brewery.

zythum