

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

paunchiness

paupiette

n
/ pə'pyet /
F
a thin slice of meat or fish wrapped around a filling (as of forcemeat).
At the new restaurant Carol enjoyed a veal paupiette stuffed with ham and cheese.

pavement

pavilion

n
/ pə'vilyən /
L > F > E
a large often sumptuous tent.
The servants scurried to set up the queen's pavilion before the Sun went down.

pavonine

adj
/ 'pavə.nīn /
L
of, relating to, or resembling the peacock.
Audrey cooled herself by waving a pavonine fan.

paysanne

adj
/ pə'zɑn /
F
prepared (as with diced root vegetables) in country or simple style.
Errol served a paysanne sauce with the tenderloins.

peaceable

adj
/ 'pēsəbəl /
L > F > E + Ecf
marked by freedom from war, strife, hostilities, or disorder.
Aggressive doctrines are incompatible with any peaceable administration of the government.

pearlescent

pearly

adj
/ 'pərlē /
L > F > E
having the color of a pearl, which is usually white or light-colored.
"Show me your pearly whites," encouraged the photographer.

peccadillo

n
/ ,pekə'di(,)lə /
L > Sp
a slight offense or petty fault.
The defense lawyers lost the case when they tried to classify high treason as a "minor peccadillo."

peccant

adj
/ 'pekənt /
L
guilty of a moral offense : sinning, corrupt.
The council members railed against the peccant mayor.

peculiar

pecuniary

adj
/ pə'kyünē.erē /
L
taking the form of or consisting of money.
Margaret values her grandmother's engagement ring for its sentimental rather than its pecuniary worth.

pedagogist

n
/ 'pedə.gājəst /
Gk
a specialist in education.
It didn't take a pedagogist to know the school was overcrowded.

pedantic

adj
/ pə'dantik /
L? > It > F + Ecf
excessively meticulous.
Frazier's pedantic approach bored the few remaining audience members.

pedestrian

adj
/ pə'destrēən /
L
marked by drabness or dullness : commonplace.
The critic wrote the play off as a pedestrian imitation of Shakespeare.

pedicure

pedodontist

n
/ ,pedō'däntəst /
Gk
a specialist in the branch of dentistry that is concerned with the dental care of children.
The pedodontist recommends that infants and toddlers not be allowed to fall asleep with a bottle of milk or juice in their mouths.

peekaboo

n
/ 'pēkə.bü /
E + cf + E
a game to entertain an infant or young child in which one hides his or her face and then reappears and makes an exclamation.
The photographer finally managed to elicit a smile from the baby when she started playing peekaboo.

peerless

adj
/ 'pi(ə)rləs /
E
matchless, incomparable.
Randy wondered how he could compete against the peerless defending champion.

peevisly

adv
/ 'pēvəshlē /
E
in a manner marked by ill temper.
"There, you see," he said peevisly; "I'm even afraid to make a positive statement."

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

peirastic

adj
/ pīˈrastɪk /
Gk

fitted for trial : experimental.
The new drug has been approved only for peirastic use with patients who volunteer to take it.

pejorative

adj
/ pəˈjɔːrədɪv /
L

having a tendency to make or become worse : depreciatory, disparaging.
The critic's pejorative comments angered the entire cast.

pelagic

pelican

pelisse

n
/ pəˈlɪs /
L > F

[has homonym: police] a woman's loose lightweight cloak with wide collar and fur trimming.
Grandmother's old pelisse was a perfect costume for our production of A Christmas Carol.

pellagra

pellucid

Peloponnesian

adj
/ .peləpəˈnɛzhən /
Gk name + Gk

of or relating to the southern peninsula of Greece.
The Peloponnesian War was between Athens and Sparta.

pemphigoid

penalty

n
/ ˈpenəl̩tē /
L

a disadvantage (as loss of yardage, time, or possession of the ball) imposed for violation of the rules of a contest.
In ice hockey a penalty of two minutes off the ice is frequently given to players who commit minor infractions of the rules.

penance

n
/ ˈpenən(t)s /
L > F > E

[has homonym: pennants] act of self-abasement either voluntarily performed to show sorrow for sin or imposed as a punishment for sin by a church official.
Emma resolved to keep Harriet no longer in the dark and went, the very next day, to undergo the necessary penance of communication.

penchant

n
/ ˈpençənt /
L > F

a strong leaning or attraction; broadly : liking.
While traveling overseas, Brad developed a penchant for Turkish coffee.

penicraft

pendeloque

pendulum

n
/ ˈpenjələm /
L

a body suspended from a fixed point so as to swing freely to and fro under the action of gravity and commonly used to regulate the movements of clockwork and other machinery.
Trina stops the grandfather clock's pendulum each evening so that the chimes will not ring during the night.

penguin

penicillin

n
/ .penəˈsɪlən /
L

a mixture of antibiotic relatively nontoxic acids produced especially by molds of the genus *Penicillium*.
When penicillin did not cure Frankie's ear infection, the doctor prescribed a different antibiotic.

peninsula

n
/ pəˈnɪn(t)s(ə)lə /
L

a portion of land nearly surrounded by water and connected with a larger body by an isthmus.
Florida is actually a very large peninsula.

penitence

n
/ ˈpenədən(t)s /
L

sorrow for sins or faults.
Because of Ella's true penitence, her best friend was quick to forgive her for her breach of confidence.

penitentiary

n
/ .penəˈtɛnʃ(ə)rē /
L > E

a public institution in which offenders against the law are confined for detention or for punishment, discipline, and reformation and in which they are generally compelled to labor.
The judge sentenced the bank robber to 25 years in the state penitentiary.

pennant

n
/ ˈpenənt /
L

a flag or banner.
Whenever the queen was in residence, her pennant was raised on the palace flagpole.

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

pensive

adj
/ 'pen(t)siv /
L > F > E

absorbed or engrossed in or given to sober thoughtfulness.
Lori appeared pensive on the last day of vacation.

pentathlon

n
/ pen'tath.län /
Gk

a contest in the modern Olympic Games involving participation by each contestant in horseback riding, shooting, fencing, swimming, and running.
Miguel is practicing four hours a day for the upcoming pentathlon.

pentecostys

penumbra

n
/ pə'nəmbɾə /
L

a shadow cast (as in an eclipse) where the light is partly but not wholly cut off by the intervening body.
Bert caused a penumbra on the screen when he walked in front of the slide projector.

penurious

penury

n
/ 'penyərē /
L

scantiness.
Jane cited the penury of intelligent conversation at the children's table as her reason for wanting to sit with the adults in the main dining room.

peony

n
/ 'pēənē /
E

any of a genus of perennial often double-flowered plants with large pink, white, red, or yellow showy flowers.
Ben placed a brightly colored peony in a tall vase.

perambulate

v
/ pə'rambyə.lāt /
L

travel over or through especially on foot.
Sid and Amy often perambulate the park on sunny days.

perceive

perceptible

percipient

percnosome

n
/ 'pərknə.sōm /
Gk

a small body occurring in the androcyte of a fern.
Under the microscope, the dark shape of the percnosome was clearly visible.

percolate

v
/ 'pərkə.lāt /
L

prepare by causing (a liquid) to pass through (as coffee) in order to extract the essence.
Sal did not allow enough time to percolate his coffee before he had to go to work.

percussor

n
/ pə(r)'kəsə(r) /
L

a small hammer with a rubber head used as a diagnostic tool by physicians.
Dr. Goldman tested Paula's reflexes with a percussor.

peregrinate

v
/ 'pɛrəgrə.nāt /
L

travel on foot : walk, tour.
Nicki hopes to peregrinate across England in the fall.

peremptory

adj
/ pə'rem(p)t(ə)rē /
L

putting an end to or precluding a right of action, debate, or delay.
Mr. Stone interrupted Cindy's wrong answer by raising his hand in a peremptory gesture.

perennate

v
/ 'pɛrənāt /
L

live over from season to season : persist.
Ornamental banana trees will seldom perennate outdoors north of the subtropics.

perennial

adj
/ pə'renēəl /
L

continuing or lasting through several years—used specifically of a plant that dies back seasonally and produces new growth from a part that lives over from season to season.
The garden is bare of flowers because the perennial plants have been cut down for their winter rest.

perestroika

n
/ (ˌ)pɛrə'strɔɪkə /
Russ

extensive restructuring and reform intended to revitalize the government and economy of the former Soviet Union.
Perestroika was the key that unlocked the former Soviet Union and other Warsaw Pact nations to democratization.

perezone

perfervid

adj
/ ,pɛr'fɛrvəd /
L

extremely or excessively fervent : zealous, impassioned.
In front of the Capitol a man was giving a perfervid speech on the evils of national taxation.

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

perfidious

perfidy

perforate

perfume

n
/ 'pɜːfjʊm /
L > OProv > F
a fluid preparation used for scenting : fragrance.
Some theaters designate a fragrance-free seating area for those persons allergic to perfume and scented lotions.

pergelisol

n
/ pɜː'jeləsəl /
L
permanently or perennially frozen ground : permafrost.
Chan's theory is that there are large oil deposits beneath the pergelisol.

Periclean

adj
/ ,pɜːrə'klɛən /
Gk name
of or relating to Pericles or his age when Athens was at its highest material and intellectual state.
Periclean Athens bequeathed the Parthenon and many other monuments of artistic splendor to the world.

perigee

n
/ 'pɜːrə(j)ɪ /
Gk
the point in the orbit of a satellite of Earth that is nearest to the center of Earth.
As the communications satellite neared perigee, its signal became stronger.

perinatal

peripatetic

adj
/ ,pɜːrəpə'tedɪk /
Gk
performed or performing while moving about : itinerant.
Adrian spent an exciting three years as a peripatetic journalist before settling in Chicago.

peripety

n
/ pə'ri:pədə /
Gk > F
a sudden or unexpected reversal of circumstances or situation in a literary work.
The peripety in the last act of the play stunned the audience.

peripheral

adj
/ ,pɜːrɪf(ə)rəl /
Gk
located away from a center or a central portion.
Although Kerry's main interest lies in literature, she has peripheral interests in art history and psychology.

periphery

n
/ pə'rɪf(ə)rē /
Gk
the external boundary or surface of any body or area.
Many villages dotted the periphery of the extinct volcano.

periphrasis

n
/ pə'rɪfrəsəs /
Gk
the use of a longer phrasing in place of a possible shorter and plainer form of expression.
Frustrated by the document's endless periphrasis, Ludwig threw up his hands in despair.

perishable

adj
/ 'pɜːrəʃəbəl /
L > F > E + Ecf
subject to quick deterioration or spoilage except under proper conditions (as of temperature or moisture content).
The advent of refrigeration changed the way perishable foods are packaged.

peristalsis

n
/ ,pɜːrə'stɔːlsəs /
Gk
successive waves of involuntary contraction passing along the walls of the intestine and forcing the contents onward.
Disruption of peristalsis can lead to digestion problems.

perjury

n
/ 'pɜːrj(ə)rē /
L > AF > E
the voluntary violation of an oath.
One thing is certain after the testimony: Either Mr. Jakes or Mr. Cleveland has committed perjury.

perlustrate

permanence

permeable

permeate

v
/ 'pɜːrmē.āt /
Gk
spread or diffuse through.
Igor wiped up the spill immediately, lest the smell of formaldehyde permeate the room.

pernicious

adj
/ pə(r)'nɪʃəs /
L
highly injurious or destructive : deadly.
The doctors finally eradicated the pernicious infection from the patient's lungs.

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

pernoctate

v
/ (i)pər'nɔkt.ət /
L

stay up or out all night.
Brian knew he would have to pernoctate at least once in order to finish his term paper.

peroration

n
/ .pə'rəʃən /
L

a flowery, highly rhetorical speech.
Trudy's peroration was lost on her audience at the school board meeting.

perpendicular

perpetual

adj
/ pə(r)'pech(əw)əl /
L > F > E

everlasting, eternal.
Shawna expected to enjoy perpetual bliss in heaven.

perplexing

adj
/ pə(r)'pleksɪŋ /
L

that causes an agitated or confused mental condition.
Silvio found English grammar terribly perplexing.

perquisite

n
/ 'pərkwəzət /
L

a privilege, gain, or profit incidental to an employment in addition to regular salary or wages.
A perquisite attractive to many business executives is unlimited use of a cellular telephone.

persecute

v
/ 'pərsə.kyüt /
L

harass in a manner to injure, grieve, or afflict usually because of some difference of opinion.
The revolutionary extremists vowed to persecute the peasants who would not support their cause.

perseverance

n
/ .pərsə'vɪrən(t)s /
L

continued or steadfast pursuit or prosecution of an undertaking or aim.
After much perseverance, Frank induced the most upright female mind in creation to stoop in charity to a secret engagement.

persevere

persevered

v
/ .pərsə'vi(ə)rð /
L > F > E

persisted in spite of counter influences, opposition, or discouragement.
Winston persevered at his post in accordance with his duty.

persiflage

n
/ 'pərsəfləʒh /
F

frivolous bantering talk : a frivolous and somewhat derisive manner of treating a subject.
As the teams moved up and down the court, both benches kept up a constant stream of persiflage.

persillade

adj
/ .pərsē'äd /
F

dressed with or containing parsley.
Marina's dinner guests enjoyed a flavorful sea bass in a persillade sauce.

persimmon

n
/ pə(r)'sɪmən /
Algonquian

a medium-sized tree of the southern and eastern United States with hard fine-grained wood, oblong leaves, and bell-shaped flowers followed by an orange several-seeded berry that is edible when fully ripe but usually extremely astringent when unripe.
Leroy's mouth puckered when he bit into an unripe persimmon.

personification

personnel

perspicacious

adj
/ .pərspə'kəʃəs /
L + Ecf
of acute mental vision or discernment.
The chairman attributed the company's record profits to perspicacious management.

perspicuity

perspiration

persuade

pertinacious

adj
/ .pərt'n'əʃəs /
L

stubbornly unshakable.
There was something mysterious in the moody and dogged silence of this pertinacious companion.

pertinent

pertinently

perusal

n
/ .pə'rüzəl /
L? > E + E

the action of reading through or over with some attention and typically for the purpose of discovering or noting one or more specific points.
The legal advisor's perusal of the proposed contract identified many points of concern.

peruse

v
/ pə'rüz /
L > E

read; specifically : read through or read over with some attention and typically for the purpose of discovering or noting one or more specific points.
Jan plans to peruse several journals in the hope of getting needed material for further research.

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

pervasive

adj

/ pə(r)'vāsiv /

L + Ecf

that permeates or tends to permeate.

The turkey farm had a pervasive odor that clung to clothes.

pervicacious

perwitsky

pessimist

n

/ 'pesəməst /

L > F

one inclined to put the least favorable construction on actions and happenings, to emphasize adverse aspects, conditions, and possibilities, or to anticipate the worst possible outcome.

Being a pessimist made keeping friends very difficult for Mark.

pestilence

n

/ 'pestələn(t)s /

L

a contagious or infectious epidemic disease that is virulent and devastating.

Pestilence has historically been one of society's main causes of death.

pestle

n

/ 'pesəl /

L > F > E

a usually club-shaped implement for pounding or grinding substances especially in a mortar.

Grandma bought a brass mortar and pestle from an antique dealer.

petchary

petechia

petrogeny

n

/ pə'trājənē /

Gk + Gk

the science of the origin of rocks.

A vacation trip to the Grand Canyon sparked Lauren's interest in petrogeny.

petrolage

n

/ 'petrəlɪj /

L > F + Ecf

the treatment of stagnant water with mineral oil so as to exterminate mosquitoes.

The health department was advised to use petrolage every spring to eliminate the mosquitoes.

petroleum

petrophilous

adj

/ pə'trəfələs /

Gk

attached to or living on rock; used especially of algae and crustaceans.

Petrophilous barnacles and limpets can be found along rocky shores.

pettifogger

n

/ 'pedē.fägə(r) /

E + G name?

lawyer whose methods are petty, underhanded, or disreputable.

Unlike the pettifogger who hung out his shingle across the street, Mr. Patterson was a gentleman of the law.

petulance

petulant

adj

/ 'pechələnt /

L

characterized by temporary or capricious ill humor : peevish.

The striking ballplayers were characterized as spoiled, petulant, and self-obsessed.

petunia

n

/ pə'tünyə /

L > F

a common garden plant with funnel-shaped flowers of many colors and patterns.

Russell pulled a purple petunia from the flower bed.

phaeton

n

/ 'fäət'n /

Gk > L

[has near homonym: Phaëthon] an open automobile with two cross seats, usually four doors, and a folding top.

Charles almost bought the 1931 Rolls Royce phaeton at the auction.

phalacrosis

n

/ .falə'krōsəs /

Gk

baldness.

Phalacrosis is an inherited characteristic.

phalanx

n

/ 'fā.ləŋks /

Gk

a group or body in close formation.

Sarah craned her neck in wonder as the phalanx of military jets flew over in tight formation.

phansigar

pharaoh

n

/ 'fe(,)rō /

Egypt > Heb > Gk > L

a ruler of ancient Egypt.

Tutankhamen is one pharaoh whose name most people recognize.

pharisaical

adj

/ .farə'sāəkəl /

Aram > GK > L + E

making an outward show of piety and morality but lacking the inward spirit : hypocritical.

Cardinal Newman spoke of the vast numbers of pharisaical individuals among baptized Christians.

pharmaceutical

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

pharos

n
/ 'fɑːrəs /
Gk

a lighthouse or beacon to guide seamen.

Leland said the restaurant acted like a pharos for all those at sea off the tip of the island.

pharynx

phase

n
/ 'fɑːz /

Gk
[has homonyms: fays, faze] a homogeneous, physically distinct, and mechanically separable portion of matter that is present in a nonhomogeneous physical-chemical system and that may be either a single compound or a mixture.

Water exists in the solid phase as ice, in the liquid phase as water, and in the gaseous phase as vapor or steam.

pheasant

n
/ 'fezənt /

Gk > L > F > AF > E
any of numerous large, often long-tailed, and brilliantly colored Old World birds with legs adapted for running and scratching the ground where most of their food (as seeds or worms) is found.

After a morning of hunting, Larry returned with a pheasant, two rabbits, and a wild duck.

phenomenon

n
/ fə'ni:mənən /
Gk > L

an observable fact or event.

The civil rights movement began as a startling phenomenon to many complacent Americans.

pheon

pheromone

n
/ 'ferəmōn /
Gk

a chemical substance that is produced by an animal and serves as a specific stimulus to other individuals of the same species for one or more behavioral responses.
When attacked by another beetle, the defensive beetle emitted a repellent pheromone.

phew

phial

philatelist

philately

n
/ fə'lɪdʰiːlɪ /
Gk > F
[has near homonym: flatly] stamp collecting.
Philately can be an excellent inexpensive hobby.

philharmonic

n
/ .filə(r)'mænɪk /
Gk > L > It
a musical concert or musical organization (as a society or orchestra).
The philharmonic celebrated the Fourth of July with a program of patriotic music.

philhellene

n
/ fil'he.lēn /
Gk
an admirer or supporter of Greece or of the Greeks.
After one trip to the museum, Lydia became an instant philhellene.

philippic

philippics

n pl
/ fə'lɪpɪks /
Gk
declamations full of acrimonious invective : tirades.
The philippics that the two legislators shot back and forth across the chamber roused the lethargic Senate.

philistine

adj
/ 'fɪlɪstēn /
Heb > Gk
of, relating to, or characterized by crass materialism and insensitivity to aesthetics.
Nineteenth-century essayists derided the English middle class as being vulgar and philistine.

phillumenist

n
/ fə'lɪmənəst /
Gk > L + Ecf
one who collects matchbooks or matchbox labels.
The phillumenist kept a fire extinguisher near his prize collection.

philologist

n
/ fə'lɪləjəst /
Gk
a scholar concerned with human speech as the vehicle of literature and as a field of study that sheds light on cultural history.
Hannah wants to become a philologist and study ancient Russian dialects.

philology

philomath

philosopher

phlebitis

n
/ flə'bɪdɪs /
Gk + Lcf
inflammation of a vein.
If phlebitis is not treated early, a blood clot can form in the inflamed vein.

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

phlebotomize

phlegm

phlegmatic

adj
/ fleg'madik /
Gk

calm, composed, undemonstrative.
Phlegmatic game-show contestants are usually not as entertaining as those who show excitement.

phloem

n
/ 'flō.em /
Gk > G

a complex tissue in the vascular system of higher plants functioning chiefly in distributing food materials but also in support and storage.
Mr. Cartwright pointed out the xylem and the phloem on the newly cut tree.

phlox

n
/ 'flāks /
Gk > L

any plant of a genus of American herbs having red, purple, white, or variegated flowers.
Dean planted phlox along the sidewalk.

phocine

adj
/ 'fō.sin /
Gk > L + Ecf

of, relating to, or resembling seals.
One of the phocine characteristics is having limbs modified into webbed flippers adapted primarily to swimming.

phoenix

n
/ 'fēniks /
Gk

a legendary bird represented by the ancient Egyptians as living five or six centuries in the Arabian desert, being consumed in fire by its own act, and rising in youthful freshness from its own ashes.
The phoenix is a well-known symbol of immortality.

phonasthenia

n
/ .fōnəs'thēnēə /
Gk

weakness or hoarseness of voice.
After the football game some of the cheerleaders complained of phonasthenia.

phoresy

n
/ 'fōrəsē /
Gk > L

the nonparasitic association of one kind of animal with another in order to obtain transportation.
Feather lice accomplish phoresy by clinging to the body hairs of blood-sucking flies.

phosphoresce

v
/ .fās'fə.res /
Gk > L > F

glow especially in the dark.
Emmet's jigsaw puzzle will phosphoresce after being exposed to a strong light source.

photogenic

photogrammetry

photograph

photophygous

adj
/ fō'täfəgəs /
Gk + Gk + Ecf

preferring or thriving in shade.
Ferns and hostas are photophygous plants often used in gardens.

photosynthesis

n
/ .fōdō'sin(t)thəsəs /
Gk + Gk

synthesis of chemical compounds with the aid of light.
Photosynthesis in plants provides them with necessary carbohydrates.

phraseology

n
/ .frāzē'äləjē /
Gk > L

choice of words : vocabulary.
The candidate's careful phraseology avoided any hint of controversy.

phrasing

n
/ 'frāziŋ /
Gk > L

style of expression : wording.
In writing poetry, phrasing is critically important.

phrenology

n
/ frə'näləjē /
Gk + Gk + Ecf

the study of the conformation of the skull as indicative of mental faculties and traits of character.
Phrenology enjoyed great popular appeal well into the 20th century but has been wholly discredited by scientific research.

phylactery

n
/ fə'lakt(ə)rē /
Gk

either of two small square leather boxes containing slips inscribed with scriptural passages and traditionally worn by Jewish males during morning prayer.
Milton explained that a phylactery is worn as a reminder to keep the laws of Judaism.

phylliform

adj
/ 'filə.förm /
Gk + Ecf

having the shape of a leaf.
Every fall, phylliform silhouettes adorn the windows of Mrs. Gaskin's classroom.

phylloporous

adj
/ fə'läf(ə)rəs /
Gk + Gk

producing leaves : leaf-bearing.
Softwoods come from coniferous trees, while hardwoods come from phylloporous trees.

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

phylon

physically

adv
/ 'fizək(ə)lɪ /
Gk + Ecff

in respect to the body.
It was physically impossible for the campers to hike another mile.

physician

physicist

n
/ 'fizəsɪst /
Gk

a specialist in the science of matter and energy and their interactions.
The physicist explained how a laser is used to read what is recorded on a compact disc.

physics

physiognomy

n
/ 'fizē'ä(g)nəmē /
Gk

the technique or art of discovering temperament and character from outward appearance (as from facial features).
The artist's careful study of physiognomy showed up in his brilliant caricatures of politicians.

physique

phytocoenosis

n
/ 'fidōsē'nōsəs /
Gk

the whole body of plants occupying a particular habitat.
William studied the effects of acid rain on the Adirondack phytocoenosis.

phytophilous

adj
/ fɪ'täfələs /
Gk + Gk + Ecf

living or feeding on plants.
The forest fire deprived many phytophilous animals of their habitat and food.

piacular

adj
/ pi'akyələ(r) /
L

of, relating to, or involving sacrifice : sacrificial.
While visiting the island of Patmos, tourists saw an ancient altar where the Greeks burned piacular offerings to the gods.

pianissimo

piazza

n
/ pē'azə /
L > It

an arcaded and roofed gallery that often surrounds an open court.
The tourists ran to the abandoned monastery's piazza when the rain started pouring down.

pica

n
/ 'pikə /
ML

[has homonym: pika] a size of type equivalent to 12 point.
Part of Katie's proofreading job was to add another line of pica to pages that had enough space.

picaresque

adj
/ 'pikə'resk /
Sp

relating to or being a type of prose fiction in which the principal character is a rogue or vagabond and the narrative is a series of incidents or episodes.
In a typical picaresque novel, the hero has many adventures.

picayune

adj
/ 'pikē'yün /
L > Prov > F

of little value : paltry, measly.
The other players chided the halfback for his picayune contribution to the team.

piccalilli

n
/ 'pikə.lilē /
unknown

a relish of chopped vegetables and pungent spices.
Wanda put a dab of piccalilli in her tuna salad.

piccata

n
/ pə'kädə /
F > It

thin slices of meat (as veal) sautéed and served in a lemon and butter sauce.
Julia served veal piccata and asparagus at Jack's birthday dinner.

piccolo

pickelhaube

n
/ 'pikəl.häubə /
G

[Note: Could be confused with pickelhauben.] a spiked helmet formerly worn by German soldiers.
In the chapter on World War I, the history book included a photo of a German general wearing a silver-plated pickelhaube.

pickle

v
/ 'pikəl /
D? > E

[has homonyms: pickel, picol, picul, pikel, pikol] steep in a solution of salt or vinegar for preservation.
Every year, the Johnsons pickle enough onions to give a jar to everyone in the neighborhood.

picnicking

pictorialism

picturesque

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

pidan

n
/ pĕˈdän /
Chinese

[has near homonym: pĭtən] duck eggs preserved in brine to which lime, ashes, and tea are added.
Art's grandmother makes authentic pidan.

piecemeal

adv
/ ˈpiːsmē(ə)l /
Gaulish > L > F > E + E
one piece at a time : little by little.
The magazine published the novel piecemeal for several weeks.

piety

pigeon

n
/ ˈpijən /
L > F > E
[has homonym: pidgin] a bird having a stout body with rather short legs and smooth and compact plumage.
A pigeon fluttered about the eaves of the old barn.

pignorate

pilaster

n
/ pəˈlastə(r) /
Gk > L > It > F
an upright architectural member that is structurally a vertical support but architecturally treated as a column that usually partially projects from the wall and may be load-bearing or merely applied as surface decoration.
The architect explained that because the pilaster was merely a decoration, removing it for the room's renovation would be permissible.

pilchard

n
/ ˈpilchə(r)d /
unknown
a fish related to the herring and sardine occurring in great schools along the coasts of Europe.
The pilchard is the principal fish used for canning by the French and Portuguese.

pilferage

n
/ ˈpɪlf(ə)rɪj /
F > E
the act of stealing stealthily in small quantities.
Pilferage in stores usually leads to increased prices for the customers.

pilgrimage

n
/ ˈpɪlgrəmiːj /
L > F > E
a journey to visit a shrine or a holy place as a devotee.
Felipe made a pilgrimage to Santiago last year.

pillar

pillbox

n
/ ˈpɪlbæks /
L + Gk > L > E
a small round brimless hat; specifically : a woman's shallow hat with a flat crown and straight sides.
Margaret wore her blond hair pinned up under a leopard skin pillbox.

pillion

n
/ ˈpɪljən /
ScotGael or IrGael
a motorcycle or bicycle riding saddle for a passenger.
Denny improvised a pillion in order to give LaToya a ride home.

pillory

n
/ ˈpɪləre /
F > E
a device formerly used for the public punishment of wrongdoers that consists of a wooden frame with holes in which the head and hands can be locked.
Pam took a snapshot of Julian standing by a pillory in the reconstructed colonial village.

piloncillo

n
/ ˌpɛlɔnˈsɛ(ˌ)yɔ /
Sp
unrefined sugar especially when molded into cones or sticks.
Rosita grated piloncillo into a bowl of custard.

pinafore

n
/ ˈpinæfɔ(ə)r /
E
a covering garment worn to protect clothes from soil, made variously as an apron with or without a bib.
Mrs. Dobbins wears a canvas pinafore while working in the potting shed.

pinioned

pinnacle

n
/ ˈpinækəl /
L
a lofty mountain peak.
The clouds obscured the pinnacle from the view of those in the valley below.

pinnigrade

adj
/ ˈpinəgrād /
L
walking by means of fins or flippers.
The seal and the walrus are pinnigrade animals.

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

pinniped

n
/ 'pinə,ped /
L

any of a suborder of aquatic carnivorous mammals (as a seal or walrus) with all four limbs modified into flippers.
Although the pinniped finds its food in the sea, it needs to be on land or ice to give birth to its young.

pinocytosis

pintle

pioneer

adj
/ ,piə'ni(ə)r /
F

of, relating to, or characteristic of early settlers or their time.
Julie worked last summer in a restored pioneer village.

pious

adj
/ 'piəs /
L

devout.
The pious Jewish historian saw in Israel's exile God's punishment for sin.

piquancy

n
/ 'pɛkənsē /
F + Ecf

the quality of being agreeably stimulating to the palate : pleasantly tart.
Colette especially liked the piquancy of Cajun cuisine.

piqued

v
/ pɛkt /
F
[has homonyms: peaked, peeked]
excited or aroused by a provocation, challenge, or rebuff.
The envelope sealed with sealing wax piqued Helen's curiosity.

piracy

n
/ 'piərəsē /
Gk > L

robbery on the high seas.
Charged with piracy, Blackbeard was hunted down by government warships.

pirouette

n
/ ,piərə'wet /
F

a full turn on the toe or ball of one foot in ballet.
The pirouette is one of the most striking movements in a dancer's repertoire.

piscatorial

pistachio

n
/ pə'stəʃiə /
Gk > L > It

the edible green seed of a small tree of southern Europe and Asia
Minor.
Patricia placed a pistachio on each parfait.

piston

n
/ 'pɪstən /
L > It > F

the part of an engine that is forced back and forth inside a cylinder due to combustion.
Kyle learned to identify a piston in the automobile repair class.

pitcher

piteous

adj
/ 'pidɪəs /
E

arousing or deserving pity or compassion.
The piteous kitten stood shivering in the snow.

pitiable

piton

pittance

n
/ 'pɪtə'n(t)s /
L > F > E

a usually small often barely sufficient portion, amount, or allowance.
Gloria was tired of working long hours for a pittance.

pityriasis

n
/ ,pi'dɪə'rɪəsəs /
Gk

one of several skin diseases marked by the formation and peeling of scales.
Uncle Nick's pityriasis prevents him from sleeping well.

pivot

n
/ 'pɪvət /
L > F

a person or thing on or around which something turns or depends : central point.
The pivot of controversy is Roberta's questionable handling of public funds.

pivotally

pizzeria

n
/ ,pi'tɛzə'rɪə /
L > It + Itcf

An establishment (as a bakery, restaurant, shop) where pizzas are made and sold.
Hank waited tables in the pizzeria on weekends.

pizzicato

adv
/ ,pi'tsə'kād(,) /
It

played by plucking with the fingers.
The score called for the violins to play the passage pizzicato.

placable

placatory

placebo

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

placet

n
/ 'plāsət /
L

an expression of approval or vote of assent.

The commander got the placet of the other generals for his coup d'etat.

placidity

n
/ plə'sidədē /
L

the quality or state of being calm or composed.

Not resenting the repeated attention offered to another woman was a degree of placidity which Emma could neither comprehend nor respect.

plagiarism

plagiarize

v
/ 'plājə.rīz /
L + Ecf

present as new and original an idea or product derived from an existing source.

Simon knew that it would be better not to turn in an essay at all than to plagiarize.

plaintiff

n
/ 'plāntəf /
L > F > E

[has near homonym: plaintive] one who commences a personal action or lawsuit to obtain a remedy for an injury to one's rights.

The plaintiff was suing the hospital for negligence because he suffered bacterial infection after surgery.

planetarium

planetary

adj
/ 'planə.tərē /
Gk > L > F > E

global, worldwide.

Deforestation is a planetary concern.

plangi

plantar

planxty

plasticize

platelet

n
/ 'plātlət /
Gk? > L > F > E + Ecf

a minute flattened body.

A blood platelet is a minute protoplasmic disk that plays a role in blood clotting.

platinum

platypus

n
/ 'plədəpəs /
Gk

a small egg-laying aquatic mammal of southern and eastern Australia and Tasmania having a fleshy bill resembling that of a duck, dense blackish brown fur, five-toed webbed feet, and a broad flattened tail.

Cindy has asked for a pet platypus for her birthday.

plaudit

n
/ 'plōdət /
L

strong and openly expressed approval : enthusiastic approbation.

Claudette's report on UFOs was accorded a special plaudit by the professor for its originality.

plauditory

plaustral

playwright

n
/ 'plā.rīt /
E + E

a person who writes a composition arranged for enactment (as by actors on a stage) and intended to portray life or character or to tell a story through the actions and usually dialogue of the enactors.

The playwright based his drama on the struggles between gangs in the ghetto.

pleach

pleiad

n
/ 'plēəd /
Gk > F

[has near homonym: plead] a group of illustrious or brilliant persons or things usually seven in number.

The maestro named a pleiad of pianists who were once his pupils.

plenary

adj
/ 'plənərē /
L

fully attended or constituted : including all entitled to be present.

Because of the important bills to be voted on, the legislature convened a plenary session.

plenilune

n
/ 'plēnəlün /
L > E

the time of full Moon.

Zeke will begin planting after the plenilune.

plenipotentiary

plentiful

adj
/ 'plentəfəl /
L > F > E + Ecf

containing or yielding abundance.

The orange growers are looking forward to a plentiful harvest.

pleonasm

n
/ 'plēə.nəzəm /
Gk

iteration or repetition in speaking or in writing : the use of more words than those necessary to denote mere sense.

Mr. Miller gave the phrase true facts as an example of a pleonasm to be avoided.

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

plethora

n
/ 'plɛθərə /
Gk

excess, profusion.
The jury retired to consider the plethora of evidence presented in court.

pleurisy

n
/ 'plürəsē /
Gk > L > F > E
inflammation of the membrane lining the chest cavity and enveloping the lungs.
Pleurisy, causing fluid to accumulate in Zachary's chest cavity, further complicated his pneumonia.

pleuston

n
/ 'plüstən /
Gk
small but macroscopic floating organisms that form mats or layers on or near the surface of a body of water.
The mat of pleuston floating in the swamp consists mostly of green algae.

plexus

n
/ 'pleksəs /
L
an intricately interwoven combination of elements or parts in a cohering structure.
The transportation board carefully mapped out the plexus of commuter paths across the city.

pliant

adj
/ 'plīənt /
F > E
flexible, workable, lithe.
To make his catcher's mitt more pliant, Gary smeared shaving gel on it and baked it at a low temperature.

plover

n
/ 'pləvə(r) /
L > F > E
any of numerous shore-inhabiting birds having a short hard-tipped bill and a stout compact build.
Taylor could see that the plover circling over the tennis court had spotted upper plumage.

plucky

adj
/ 'pləkē /
E + Ecf
having or marked by courage : spirited, brave, resolute.
Henry was plucky enough to get back on his bicycle although he had just fallen for the seventh time.

plumage

n
/ 'plümij /
L > F > E
the entire clothing of feathers of a bird.
The plumage of the male peacock is more colorful than that of the female.

plumassier

n
/ ,plümə'si(ə)r /
F
one who prepares or deals in ornamental plumes or feathers.
The plumassier showed DeeDee a boa that complemented her recital costume perfectly.

plumbeous

adj
/ 'pləmbēəs /
L
having a dull gray color like that of lead.
The plumbeous core of a so-called "lead pencil" is graphite.

plumber

n
/ 'pləmə(r) /
L > F > E
one who installs, repairs, and maintains piping, fittings, and fixtures that are involved in the distribution and use of water in a building.
The plumber replaced the lead pipes in the Davidsons' house with copper ones.

plummet

plurality

n
/ plü'ralədē /
L
a number of votes cast for a candidate in a contest of more than two candidates that is greater than the number cast for any other candidate but not more than half the total votes cast.
Because all three candidates have strong voter support, the number of votes cast for the winner will probably be a plurality, not a majority.

plutology

n
/ plü'täləjē /
Gk + Gk
the scientific study of wealth : theoretical economics.
Jeremy is using his expertise in plutology to study emerging democracies.

pluvioscope

n
/ 'plüvēəsköp /
L + Gk > L
rain gauge.
Johnny ordered a pluvioscope from the scientific catalog.

pneumatic

adj
/ n(y)ü'madik /
Gk
[has homonym: neumatic] adapted for holding compressed air : inflated with air.
The development of the pneumatic tire was a major advance for the bicycle.

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

pneumatography

poacher

n
/ 'pōchə(r) /
Gmc > F > E
one who kills or takes wild animals (as game or fish) illegally.
The sign at the reservation stated that any poacher would be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

podiatrist

n
/ pə'diətrəst /
Gk
one who practices the care and treatment of the human foot in health and disease.
The podiatrist recommended that Carlita get special inserts for her shoes.

poetaster

n
/ 'pōəd.astə(r) /
L
a writer of worthless or inferior verses.
The poetaster spewed out poem after poem, each worse than the last.

poetic

adj
/ pō'edik /
Gk
of or relating to poets.
Ovid tried to become a lawyer early in life, but his true and natural poetic character would not be suppressed.

pogonip

n
/ 'pägə.nip /
Paiute
a dense winter fog containing frozen particles that is formed in deep mountain valleys of the western United States.
The dense pogonip leaves a sheath of frost crystals on every shrub and blade of grass.

poignant

adj
/ 'pōin(y)ənt /
L > F > E
painfully sharp with regard to the feelings : piercing, keen.
Emma's distress was not poignant enough to keep her from falling asleep, and she awoke feeling somewhat more hopeful.

poinciana

n
/ .pōin(t)sē'anə /
F name + Lcf
an ornamental tropical tree or shrub having bright orange or red flowers.
While in southern Florida, Jake was impressed by the fiery flowers of the poinciana.

poinsettia

n
/ 'pōin'sedēə /
American name
a showy Mexican and South American plant with tapering scarlet petallike leaves that surround small yellow flowers.
The delivery woman brought a poinsettia to Karen's door.

poise

poised

adj
/ 'pōizd /
L > F > E + Ecf
marked by easy composure of manner or bearing.
The poised skater performed her routine with great precision and self-assurance.

poisonous

adj
/ 'pōiz(ə)nəs /
L > F > E + Ecf
having the qualities or effects of a toxin.
The mushrooms looked and tasted great but were devastatingly poisonous.

polarize

v
/ 'pōlə.rīz /
L > F
cause (as light waves) to vibrate in a definite pattern.
Sunglasses that polarize light reflected off water help the wearer see into the water.

polder

n
/ 'pōldə(r) /
Gk
a tract of low land reclaimed from the sea or other body of water.
Leanne and Amy scoured the polder for fossils.

polemic

adj
/ pə'lemik /
Gk
of, relating to, or of the nature of a controversial discussion or argument.
Try as he might, Rupert could not prevent the conversation from turning into a polemic debate.

polemology

n
/ (.)pōlə'mäləjē /
Gk + Gk > E
the study of war.
In polemology, military and naval strategies are studied and discussed.

polemoscope

n
/ pō'lemə.skōp /
Gk
an opera or field glass with an oblique mirror arranged for seeing objects not directly before the eye.
The detective used a polemoscope to observe the suspect unobtrusively.

policize

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

poliomyelitis

n
/ ˌpɒliˈeɪ.mi.əˈliːdɪs /
Gk
an acute infectious viral disease characterized by fever, motor paralysis, and atrophy of skeletal muscles often with permanent disability and deformity.
Up to about 40 years ago, poliomyelitis often meant a lifetime on crutches or in an iron lung.

poliosis

n
/ ˌpɒliˈɔːsɪs /
Gk
loss of color from the hair.
One of the effects of the disease was poliosis.

politesse

n
/ ˌpɒləˈtes /
L > F
formal and cultivated politeness.
The ambassador greatly enjoyed the diplomatic world of pomp and politesse.

polka

n
/ ˈpɒlkə /
Pol > Czech
a lively Bohemian dance in fast duple time that consists of three steps and a hop.
Gwen taught her dance students the polka.

pollen

n
/ ˈpɒlən /
L
the fine, dustlike mass of grains produced by seed plants.
Many hay fever sufferers are bothered by ragweed pollen.

pollutant

n
/ pəˈlʊtənt /
L
any substance that makes the air or water impure or unclean.
Ethylene gas is a pollutant associated with industrial manufacturing and automobile exhaust.

pollute

polonaise

n
/ ˌpɒləˈnɑːz /
L geog name > Pol > F
a stately Polish processional dance fashionable in 19th-century Europe.
Chopin wrote many compositions based on the rhythm of the polonaise.

poltergeist

n
/ ˈpɒltə(r)ˌɡɪst /
G
a noisy and usually mischievous ghost.
Our favorite Halloween story is about a poltergeist who tormented the tenants of a house in which there had previously been a murder.

poltroon

poltroonery

n
/ pɒlˈtrʊn(ə)rē /
L > It > F
cowardice.
The historian said that poltroonery among politicians in an election year is not uncommon.

polychrest

polychromatic

adj
/ ˌpɒləkrɔˈmædɪk /
Gk
showing a variety or a change of colors : multicolored.
It is not unusual for people to drive by Sarah's house simply to admire its polychromatic brickwork.

polydactyly

n
/ ˌpɒləˈdaktəlē /
Gk + Gk
the condition of having more than the normal number of toes or fingers.
The Ernest Hemingway Home and Museum on Key West is home to approximately 60 cats, about half of which exhibit polydactyly.

polyester

n
/ ˈpɒləˌestər /
Gk
a synthetic fiber consisting wholly or chiefly of a complex ester formed by polymerization.
Bridget bought the loudest polyester jacket she could find at the thrift store to wear on Halloween.

polygamous

polyglot

adj
/ ˈpɒləˌɡlɒt /
Gk
containing matter in several languages; especially : composed of correlative text in several languages often arranged in parallel columns.
Products sold in electronics stores often have polyglot instructions.

polygonal

adj
/ pəˈlɪɡənəl /
Gk
having many sides.
Mr. Ewing taught his math class how to find the areas of polygonal figures.

polyphagism

n
/ pəˈlɪfəˌdʒɪzəm /
Gk
the habit of feeding on a variety of plants or animals.
By feeding various kinds of foods to the insects, the researcher could discover which ones exhibited polyphagism.

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

polysaccharide

n
/ ˌpɑlᵊˈsɑkəˌrɪd /

Gk
a carbohydrate that can be decomposed by hydrolysis into two or more molecules of monosaccharides or their derivatives; especially : one of the more complex carbohydrates (as starch or cellulose).
Cellulose is the polysaccharide providing the chief constituent of the framework of plants.

polysemous

adj
/ ˌpɑlᵊˈsɛməs /

Gk + Gk
having many meanings.
Puns are based on the humorous use of polysemous words.

polysyllabic

adj
/ ˌpɑlᵊsəˈlɑbɪk /

Gk > L + Ecf
having three or usually four or more units of spoken language.
Martha often uses polysyllabic words to impress her teachers.

pomaceous

pomade

n
/ pəˈmɑd /

L > It > F
a perfumed ointment.
Mr. Underwood was partial to sweet-smelling pomade.

pomander

n
/ pōˈmɑndə(r) /

L > F > E
a mixture of perfumed or aromatic substances usually made in a ball and enclosed in a perforated bag or box.
Gayle included a pomander in the chest containing her winter clothes.

pomegranate

n
/ ˈpɑm(ə)ˌɡrɑnət /

L > F > E + L
a thick-skinned several-celled reddish berry that is about the size of an orange and has many seeds in a crimson acid pulp.
The bright red splotches on Julia's hands testified to her having eaten a pomegranate.

pomological

adj
/ ˌpōməˈlɑjəkəl /

Gk > L
of or relating to the science of the cultivation of fruits.
Certainly in the pomological sense, one bad apple eventually spoils the whole bunch.

pompadour

n
/ ˈpɑmpəˌdō(ə)r /

F name
a man's style of hairdressing in which the hair is combed back so as to stand up straight.
Chuck spent an hour in front of the mirror preening his pompadour.

pompous

ponderous

adj
/ ˈpɑnd(ə)rəs /

L > F > E
unwieldy or clumsy because of weight and size.
Roy could barely lift the ponderous ancient weapon.

pontificalibus

pontificate

v
/ pənˈtɪfəkət /

L
deliver oracular utterances or dogmatic opinions.
Randy proceeded to pontificate for five minutes on the dangers of listening to loud music.

populous

porcelain

n
/ ˈpɔrs(ə)lən /

L > It > F
[has near homonym: purslane] a hard, fine-grained, white ceramic ware that has a hard paste body, is fired at a high temperature, and is used especially for table and ornamental wares.
Many old houses have doorknobs made of porcelain.

porcine

porcinely

adv
/ ˈpɔr.sɪnᵊl /

L + Ecf
swinishly.
In Wanda's opinion, Bart treated his hosts porcinely.

porcupine

n
/ ˈpɔrkyəˌpɪn /

L > It > F > E
any of various relatively large rodents having stiff sharp erect bristles mingled with the hair.
The yelping dog's snout was covered with quills from a porcupine.

porphyry

n
/ ˈpɔ(r)fərə /

Gk > L
an Egyptian rock consisting of feldspar crystals embedded in a dark red or purple groundmass much used by the ancient Romans.
At the archaeological dig Carlo unearthed a broken urn made of porphyry.

porpoise

n
/ ˈpɔrpəs /

L > F > E
a small, friendly whale with teeth and a short, rounded snout and that somewhat resembles a dolphin.
Miles saw a porpoise at the aquarium.

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

porraceous

adj
/ pŏ'rāshəs /
L

having the clear light green color of leek leaves.

The deep green of the kitchen countertops seemed to tint the walls a porraceous color.

porridge

n
/ 'pŏrij /
F > E

a soft food made by boiling grains or legumes in milk or water until thick.

The campers were extremely hungry, and each consumed a large bowl of porridge.

porringer

portcullis

n
/ pŏrt'kələs /
F > E

a large grating of iron bars or heavy timbers suspended by chains over the gateway of a fortified place and lowered between grooves to prevent passage.

The guard quickly lowered the portcullis after the king and his knights had passed through the gate.

portentous

adj
/ .pŏr'tentəs /
L

of, relating to, or constituting something that foreshadows a coming event : ominous.

Oliver's dream proved portentous.

portiere

portmanteau

n
/ pŏrt'mant(,)ŏ /
L > F

a large traveling bag.

The clown removed an enormous pumpkin from his portmanteau.

portraiture

portrayal

n
/ pŏr'trā(ə)l /
L > F > E

the act of representing something in a drawing or painting.

Vincent used witnesses' descriptions in his portrayal of the criminal.

posology

n
/ pŏ'säləjē /
Gk

a branch of medical science concerned with dosage.

Derek took several classes in posology for his pharmacy degree.

posse

n
/ 'päsē /
L

a detachment or body (as of police) often assigned to or brought together because of a particular emergency.

Noah's favorite part of westerns is when the marshal and his posse corner the bandit.

possessed

v
/ pə'zest /
L

influenced or controlled by something (as an evil spirit or a passion).

During the race the winning horse ran as if he were possessed by a demon.

possessor

posset

v
/ 'päsət /
E

[has near homonym: posit] pamper with delicacies.

Aunt Mimi expects everyone to posset Pedro, her chihuahua.

postcibal

adj
/ pŏs(t)'sibəl /
L

occurring after a meal.

George and Harriet hired a vocalist for the banquet's postcibal entertainment.

posterity

n
/ pä'sterədē /
L > F > E

all succeeding generations : future time.

The seventh grade class put together a time capsule for posterity.

postern

n
/ 'pŏstə(r)n /
L > F > E

a back door or gate.

The thief escaped through the postern without being detected.

posthumous

adj
/ 'päschəməs /
L

published after the death of the author.

Ironically, the novelist's posthumous works were his most popular.

postprandial

adj
/ .pŏs(t)'prandēəl /
L > E

of, relating to, or occurring in the period after a meal.

After the huge dinner, George and Barbara decided to take a leisurely postprandial walk.

posttension

v
/ pŏs(t)'tenchən /
L + L

apply stress to (reinforcing steel) after concrete has set.

The construction crew will posttension the steel in the columns.

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

postulate

n
/ 'päsçhəlät /
L

an underlying hypothesis or assumption.

Most cosmologists base their work upon the postulate of the Big Bang.

posture

n
/ 'päsçhə(r) /
L

characteristic position or bearing of the body.

A dancer's posture is as important in ballroom dancing as it is in ballet.

potable

adj
/ 'pōdəbəl /
L

suitable, safe, or prepared for drinking.

Chemicals are often added to water supplies to make them potable.

potamology

potassium

n
/ pə'tasēəm /
L

an element of the alkali metal group.

Bananas and potatoes are good dietary sources of potassium.

potatoes

n pl
/ pə'tādōz /
Taino > Sp

the edible starchy tubers of plants of the genus Solanum and species tuberosum.

For dinner Harry made roast beef and baked potatoes.

potentate

n
/ 'pōtən.tāt /
L

one who possesses great power or sway : ruler.

Barry acts more like a potentate than a leader in his role as class president.

potpourri

n
/ ,pōpərə /
F

a jar of flower petals mixed with spices and used for scent or perfume.

Stella kept a potpourri on her kitchen windowsill.

poultice

n
/ 'pōltàs /
L

a soft mass usually heated and spread on cloth for application to inflamed areas to supply moist warmth, relieve pain, or act as a counterirritant.

Aunt Julia's remedy for rashes or skin problems of any sort is a mustard poultice.

poultry

pourboire

n
/ pürb'wär /
L > F

a tip or gratuity.

When he checked out of the hotel, Jonathan left a pourboire for the chambermaid.

pourparler

poussette

v
/ pü'set /
F

swing in a semicircle hands joined with one's partner.

The caller instructed the couples to poussette before changing partners.

poussin

n
/ pü'saⁿ /
L > F

a young chicken of about one pound weight for table use : a small broiler.

Celeste was not sure how to season and cook a poussin, so she consulted a cookbook by Julia Child.

praline

n
/ 'prä.lēn /
F name

a round patty of creamy brown sugar containing pecan meats.

The praline is a favorite candy of the southern United States.

precaution

precautionary

adj
/ prē'kōshən.ērē /
L

advising, suggesting, or using caution beforehand.

Vaccinating children against polio is a wise precautionary measure.

precedent

n
/ 'presədənt /
L

something done or said that may serve as an example or rule to authorize or justify a subsequent act of the same or an analogous kind.

As far as Sasha knew, the decision to allow a girl to play on the football team was without precedent.

precept

n
/ 'prē.sept /
L

a command or principle intended as a general rule of action.

Mark owes his success to the precept that it never hurts to ask a question.

precibal

adj
/ prē'sībəl /
L

occurring before meals.

The host graciously proposed a precibal toast to the guest of honor.

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

precinct

n
/ 'prē.sɪŋ(k)t /
L > E

a part of a territory (as a city) having definite bounds or functions and often established for administrative purposes.

In this precinct voters cast their ballots at the middle school.

preciosity

precipice

n
/ 'presəpəs /
L

a very steep, perpendicular, or overhanging place (as the face of a cliff).

Just looking down from the precipice made Gloria dizzy.

precipitately

precisionist

precocious

precocity

n
/ prē'käsədə /
L

exceptionally early or premature development; especially : early development of the mental powers.

The precocity of five-year-old Stella becomes evident after just a few minutes of talking with her.

preconceive

precursor

n
/ prē'kərsər /
L

one that precedes another in an office or process : forerunner.
Greek geometry was the precursor to modern calculus.

precursory

predator

n
/ 'predədə(r) /
L

an animal that preys on or devours other animals for its food.

An insect may be of value because it is a predator on another insect that is a pest to humans.

predecessor

n
/ 'predəsəsə(r) /
L

one who comes before in order of time; especially : a person who has previously occupied a position or office to which another has succeeded.

The employees are hoping that the new CEO is more labor-friendly than his predecessor.

predestine

predilection

n
/ .pred'lekshən /
L

inclination, liking, preference.

Maira has a predilection for bittersweet chocolate.

preeminent

adj
/ .prē'emənənt /
L

having paramount rank, dignity, or importance : first, outstanding, supreme.

The attorney introduced her expert witness as the preeminent researcher in his field.

preen

v
/ 'prēn /
E

trim or dress with or as if with the beak or the tongue.

Kitty liked to sit and preen herself in the afternoon sun.

prefatorily

preferential

prejudicial

adj
/ .prejə'dishəl /
L > E

leading to premature judgment or unwarranted opinion.

The jury was sequestered in order to prevent exposure to any prejudicial material.

preliminary

n
/ prə'limənērē /
L

something introductory or preparatory.

As a preliminary to a video there is usually a warning regarding its use.

premeditation

n
/ prē.medə'tāshən /
L

consideration or planning of an act beforehand that shows intent to commit that act.

The prosecutor's position is that the accused killer acted with premeditation and thus should be charged with first-degree murder.

premonition

n
/ .premə'nishən /
L

anticipation of an event without conscious reason.

Yolanda had a premonition that she would win the lottery.

prepollent

preposterous

prerogative

n
/ prē'rägədɪv /
L

a special right or privilege belonging to a person, group, or class of individuals.

It is the prerogative of the president of the United States to have Air Force One at his disposal.

presage

presbyter

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

prescience

n
/ 'prēsh(ē)ən(t)s /
L

the human faculty or quality of being able to anticipate the occurrence or nature of future events : foresight.
In 1955 the city authorities had the prescience to set aside land for a future park site.

prescient

adj
/ 'prēsh(ē)ənt /
L

having foreknowledge : characterized by foresight.
Carrie seemed unusually prescient as she sat smugly under her umbrella on what was once a clear afternoon.

presentient

adj
/ prē'senchənt /
L

apprehensive in advance : feeling or perceiving beforehand.
Kate was presentient of her lost dog's return.

prestidigitation

prestidigitator

n
/ ,prestə'dijj.tādə(r) /
L&F&It

a performer of sleight of hand.
The prestidigitator mystified the children by making cards appear and disappear.

presumably

adv
/ prē'z(y)üməblē /
L

by reasonable assumption : probably.
Mrs. Janko is presumably going to the Christmas party this year.

presume

v
/ prē'z(y)üm /
L&F > E

accept as true or credible without proof.
If it rains that day, Nancy will presume that our tennis game will be postponed.

pretentious

adj
/ prē'tenchəs /
L > F
making or possessing claims (as of excellence, superiority, greatness).
The pretentious candidate found little support among the common people.

preterition

n
/ ,predə'rishən /
L

the act or an instance of passing by or over without mention, notice, or attention.
"I won't even mention his lesser crimes," cried the orator in preterition.

prevalent

prevaricate

v
/ prē'varəkāt /
L

deviate from the truth : speak equivocally or evasively : lie.
Emmy tends to prevaricate whenever the teacher questions her behavior.

priest

n
/ 'prēst /
Gk > L > E
one who performs sacrificial, ritualistic, mediatorial, interpretative, or ministerial functions especially as an authorized or ordained religious functionary or official minister of a particular religion.
A Greek Orthodox priest, unlike a Catholic priest, is allowed to be married.

primavera

primitive

adj
/ 'primədɪv /
L
of or relating to the earliest age or period of something.
Primitive humans fashioned tools from rocks.

primordial

adj
/ prɪ'mò(r)dēəl /
L
existing at or from the beginning : first created or developed : earliest, primeval.
Blake's story depicted a creature emerging from the primordial ooze.

principal

adj
/ 'prin(t)səpəl /
L
[has homonym: principle] most important, consequential, or influential.
The map showed principal roads, towns and cities, and locations of historic sites.

pristine

adj
/ 'prɪstēn /
L
belonging to the earliest period or state.
The antique chest was in pristine condition.

private

privilege

n
/ 'prɪv(ə)lɪj /
L
a peculiar or personal advantage or right.
Mr. Neng grants his neighbors the privilege of fishing in his pond.

proaulion

n
/ prō'olēən /
Gk
a portico or colonnade that opens into the narthex of a church or temple.
Pine garlands adorned the proaulion.

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

proboscis

n
/ prŏ'bäsəs /
Gk > L
the flexible conspicuously long snout of some animals; especially : the trunk of an elephant.
An elephant's proboscis can support great weight.

probouleitic

procedure

n
/ prə'sējər /
L > F > E
a particular way of doing or of going about the accomplishment of something.
Even though he carefully followed all the steps in the procedure, Jack still couldn't retrieve his messages.

proceed

procellous

adj
/ prŏ'seləs /
L
stormy.
There are many dangers for a small boat on a procellous sea.

proclivity

n
/ prŏ'klivədə /
L
an inclination or predisposition toward something.
After spending a couple of days in Las Vegas, Conan decided he had no proclivity for gambling.

procrustean

adj
/ prŏ'krəstēən /
Gk name > L
marked by complete disregard of individual differences and by violent forcing into conformity with something.
The principal's procrustean attitude left no room for a student government at the school.

proctor

procumbent

procurable

prodigal

adj
/ 'prädəgəl /
L + Ecf
given to reckless extravagance.
Victor has written a memoir of his prodigal youth in Europe.

prodigious

adj
/ prə'dijəs /
L
extraordinary in bulk, extent, quantity, or degree : enormous, immense.
The public works crews were complimented for coping with this year's prodigious job of snow plowing.

producible

proem

n
/ 'prŏ'em /
Gk > L > F > E
a preliminary discourse to a longer piece of writing.
The excited scholar was sure he had found a previously unknown proem to Plato's Republic.

profane

v
/ prŏ'fān /
L
treat as not sacred : desecrate.
Michael was told sternly not to profane the holy water font by throwing pennies in it.

profiterole

profligacy

n
/ 'präfləgəsē /
L
reckless wastefulness and extravagance.
Arno's profligacy during his sophomore year caused him to forfeit his scholarship.

profuse

adj
/ prə'fyüs /
L
overly plentiful : bountiful.
Buttons on the entertainer's suit were so profuse that not another one could be placed anywhere.

progenitor

n
/ prŏ'jenədə(r) /
L
an ancestor in the direct line : forefather.
Tad assumed his unusual height was inherited from a particularly tall progenitor.

progeny

prognosis

n
/ präg'nŏsəs /
Gk
the act or art of foretelling the course of a disease.
Although the patient's surgery was tough and go, Dr. Symm's prognosis was for complete recovery.

prognostication

prognosticator

n
/ (,)präg'nästəkādə(r) /
L
one that forecasts from signs or indications.
The local prognosticator predicted a balmy spring weekend.

prolegomenon

n
/ ,prŏlə'gämənən /
Gk
a reading or group of readings or intellectual exercises leading to further understanding, development, or advance in knowledge or technique in a subject matter field.
Dr. Taylor's course in art history constituted a carefully planned prolegomenon for students who would be choosing art as their major.

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

proletarian

adj
/ ˌprɒləˈteriən /
L

of, relating to, or representative of the lowest social or economic class of a community.

Gina's proletarian background proved to be an asset in her campaign for mayor.

proliferation

prolific

adj
/ prəˈlifɪk /
L > F

occurring or existing in large numbers : abundant, profuse.

The article's prolific footnotes hampered rather than aided Tina's comprehension.

prolix

adj
/ ˈprɒˌlɪks /
L

given to verbosity and diffuseness in speaking or writing : long-winded.

Quentin's prolix style was not well suited to a short-answer exam.

prolonger

n
/ prəˈlɒŋə(r) /
L > E

one who lengthens in time, extends in duration, or draws out.

Dr. Murphy kept his remarks short because he did not want to be the prolonger of the meeting.

prolusionary

promenade

n
/ ˌprəməˈnɑːd /
L > F

a leisurely walk or ride especially in a public place for pleasure, display, or exercise.

After the meeting Gilda and Jaime took a promenade down Main Street.

prominent

promontory

n
/ ˈprɒməntɔːri /
L

a high point of land projecting into a body of water.

The architect designed a home that blended in with the rocky promontory.

promulgate

v
/ ˈprɒməˌɡæt /
L

make known (as a decree, a dogma) by open declaration : proclaim.

The high school principal attempted to promulgate the attendance policy many times, but the seniors mostly ignored him.

pronounceable

adj
/ prəˈnaʊn(t)səbəl /
L > F > E + Ecf

capable of being pronounced.

A word that Dr. Cameron finds easily pronounceable could tie your tongue into knots.

propaedeutic

adj
/ ˌprɒpēˈd(y)ʊdɪk /
Gk

needed as preparation for learning or study.

Reading is a propaedeutic skill.

propaganda

n
/ ˌprɒpəˈɡændə /
L

dissemination of ideas, information, or rumor for the purpose of helping or injuring an institution, a cause, or a person.

In 1941 President Roosevelt warned that the democratic way of life was being assailed by secret spreading of poisonous propaganda.

propagate

v
/ ˈprɒpəˌɡæt /
L

cause to spread out and affect a greater number or greater area : foster the spread of.

Chris uses e-mail to propagate news among his friends.

propensity

n
/ prəˈpen(t)sədē /
L

a natural inclination.

Most cats have a propensity to be curious.

propinquity

n
/ prəˈpɪŋkwədē /
L

nearness in place : proximity.

The roots of the trees in close propinquity to the new sidewalk will soon ruin it.

propitiate

propitious

adj
/ prəˈpɪʃəs /
L > E

being of good omen : auspicious, encouraging, favorable.

Ray's perfect score on his science test was a propitious start for the new school year.

propolis

n
/ ˈprɒpəlɪs /
Gk > L

a brownish resinous material of waxy consistency collected by bees from the buds of trees and used as a cement.

A honeycomb is constructed from beeswax and propolis.

proportion

n
/ prəˈpɔːrʃən /
L

relative size or portion.

The proportion of local, domestic, and foreign news varies considerably on television.

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

proposition

n
/ ˌprɑːpəˈzɪʃən /
L
a project, plan, undertaking, or situation requiring some action.
The highway superintendent presented his proposition for spring street repair to the mayor.

proprietor

propulsion

prorogue

v
/ prəˈrɒɡ /
L > F
defer, postpone.
Parliament decided to prorogue discussion of the bill until after the election.

prosaical

adj
/ prəˈzɑːkəl /
L
of, relating to, or written in the ordinary language of speaking and writing.
Jonathan's Veteran's Day poem was more memorable than the major's 20-minute prosaical speech.

prosateur

n
/ ˌprɒzəˈtɜː /
L > It > F
a writer of prose.
Scott's fountain pen belonged to a famous prosateur of the 19th century.

proscenium

n
/ prəˈsɛnɪəm /
Gk
the wall that separates the stage from the auditorium in a modern theater.
An apron stage juts out from the proscenium.

prosciutto

n
/ prəˈʃiːtʃuː /
L > It
dry-cured spiced ham.
Melon slices wrapped in prosciutto make a classic appetizer.

proselyte

n
/ ˈprɒsəˌlɪt /
Gk > L
one who has been converted from one religious faith to another.
Edith Stein, canonized in 1998 as Saint Teresa Benedicta of the Cross, was a proselyte to Catholicism.

proselyting

v
/ ˈprɒsəˌlɪtɪŋ /
Gk
recruiting members for an institution, team, or group especially by the offer of special inducements.
Though it does not engage in proselyting, the college usually turns out fine basketball teams.

prosody

n
/ ˈprɒsəˌdi /
Gk
the study of versification.
The prosody of Horace's first ten odes was Humbert's downfall on the exam.

prospectus

n
/ prəˈspektəs /
L
a preliminary printed statement describing a business or other enterprise and distributed to potential buyers, investors, or participants.
According to the prospectus, the scooter market increased threefold in the last year.

prospicience

n
/ prəˈspɪʃən(t)s /
L
the act of looking forward : foresight.
Qualities associated with leadership usually include prospicience.

protagonist

n
/ prəˈtɑːɡənəst /
Gk
one who takes the leading part in a drama.
The protagonist was portrayed with his faults as well as his virtues.

protean

adj
/ ˈprəʊˌdiːən /
Gk name
[has near homonym: protein]
readily assuming different shapes or forms.
An amoeba is a protean organism.

protocol

n
/ ˈprɒtəˌkɒl /
Gk + Gk
a rigid long-established code prescribing complete deference to superior rank and strict adherence to due order of precedence and precisely correct procedure.
Lieutenant Griffin was censured for violating protocol after he got up in the middle of the meal without excusing himself.

protuberant

provenance

n
/ ˈprəʊvənən(t)s /
L
place of origin.
The lecturer maintained that Africa was the provenance of all human life.

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

provincial

adj
/ prə'vɪnchəl /
L

exhibiting the ways and manners of a province or rural district : unsophisticated.

Katie's open midwestern friendliness was labeled "provincial" by the snooty big city dwellers.

proviso

n
/ prə'vɪ(ɪ)zō /
L

an article or clause (as in a statute, contract, or grant) that introduces a condition, qualification, or limitation and usually begins with the word provided.

The grant's proviso was that the money would be awarded only if the student maintained an A average in his studies.

provost

n
/ 'prɒ.vɒst /
L > E

a high-ranking administrative officer of an American university.

Professor Myers met with the provost to discuss the new curriculum.

prowess

n
/ 'praʊəs /
F > E

distinguished bravery : gallantry.

The knight's prowess on the battlefield was surpassed only by the king's.

proximity

n
/ præk'sɪmədē /
L > F

the quality or state of being close.

The Fletchers bought the house on Vine Street because of its proximity to neighborhood schools.

prudent

prytanis

psalmody

n
/ 'sɑ(l)mədē /
Gk

the act, practice, or art of singing sacred songs in worship.

Although the New England Puritans did away with church organs and instruments, they kept their psalmody.

psilanthropy

n
/ sɪ'lan(t)θrəpē /
Gk + Gk

a doctrine of the merely human existence of Christ.

A well-known subscriber to psilanthropy was Thomas Jefferson, who regarded Jesus as a great moral teacher but not as a divine being.

psilosis

n
/ sɪ'lɒsəs /
Gk

a falling out of hair.

Jerome's psilosis was a side effect of chemotherapy.

psoriasis

psyche

n
/ 'sɪ(ɪ)kē /
Gk

soul, self, personality.

Brianna loves music so much that she considers it part of her psyche.

psychedelic

adj
/ 'sɪkə'delɪk /
Gk + Gk

very bright in color.

Kate showed Mary a psychedelic Peter Max poster she had saved as a memento of the '60s.

psychiatry

n
/ sə'kɪətrē /
Gk + L

a branch of medicine that deals with the science of treating mental, emotional, or behavioral disorders.

The concept of multiple personalities is of special interest to Helen, who plans to pursue a career in psychiatry.

psychological

psychomachy

n
/ sɪ'käməkē /
Gk > L

a conflict of the soul (as with the body or between good and evil).

Countless novels have as their theme the psychomachy within the hero as he struggles to do right.

psychrometer

n
/ sɪ'krämədə(r) /
Gk + Gk

a hygrometer whose operation depends on two similar thermometers with the bulb of one being kept wet so that it is cooled as a result of evaporation and shows a temperature lower than that of the dry-bulb thermometer.
Greg built a crude psychrometer out of two old thermometers and some cotton gauze.

psychrophilic

adj
/ 'sɪkrɒ'fɪlɪk /
Gk

thriving at a relatively low temperature.

The psychrophilic bacteria died when the refrigerator's compressor failed.

ptarmic

n
/ 'tärmɪk /
Gk > L

a substance that causes sneezing.

Andrea is extremely allergic to dust, an everpresent ptarmic difficult for her to avoid.

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

ptarmigan

n
/ 'tärmägən /
ScotGael
any of various grouses of northern regions having completely feathered feet.
"Why did the ptarmigan cross the road?" asked Martha.

pteridology

pterodactyl

n
/ ,terə'daktəl /
Gk
any of numerous extinct flying reptiles having a featherless wing membrane and a rudimentary tail.
The museum's dinosaur exhibit includes a mechanical replica of a pterodactyl.

ptomaine

n
/ 'tō.mān /
Gk > It
any of various organic bases some of which are poisonous and which are formed by the action of putrefactive bacteria on nitrogenous matter.
About three hours after he had eaten, Dunstan realized that his lunch had been tainted with ptomaine.

ptosis

n
/ 'tōsəs /
Gk
[has near homonym: tussis] a sagging or prolapse of an organ or part; specifically : drooping of the upper eyelid.
The film star had a clear case of ptosis.

publication

puce

pucellas

n pl
/ pyə'seləs /
It
a spring tool resembling tongs and used for shaping molten glass.
With the pucellas the glassblower grasped the lip of the vase and turned it over in a graceful curve.

puchero

n
/ pü'che.rō /
L > Sp
a Latin American boiled dinner or stew containing beef, sausage, bacon, and various vegetables.
Olivia sampled puchero at an Argentine restaurant.

puerile

adj
/ 'pyü(ə)rəl /
L
childish or immature.
Mrs. Yolton was not impressed by Tommy's puerile behavior.

puerilely

adv
/ 'pyü(ə)rəl(l)ē /
L + Ecf
[Note: Could be confused with purely.] in an immature or childish manner.
Hunter reacted puerilely when his mother told him it was time for bed.

pugilist

n
/ 'pyüjələst /
L + E
a professional boxer.
Years as a pugilist took their toll on Leo's coordination.

pugilistic

pugnacious

adj
/ pəg'nāshəs /
L
having a quarrelsome or belligerent nature.
Bushpigs are pugnacious enough to put up a fight against a leopard.

puissance

puissant

adj
/ 'pyüəs'nt /
F
strong, powerful.
Enduring Adria's piano practice called on all of her mother's puissant patience.

pulchritude

pullulate

v
/ 'pəlyələt /
L
swarm, teem.
At rush hour the train station began to pullulate with activity.

pulmonary

adj
/ 'pūlmə.nerē /
L
of, relating to, or associated with the lungs.
Uncle Rob's pulmonary disease requires that he breathe pure oxygen at all times.

pulsatile

adj
/ 'pəlsəd'l /
L
beating, throbbing.
The heart is a pulsatile muscular organ that maintains the flow of blood.

pultaceous

adj
/ ,pəl'tāshəs /
L + Ecf
having a consistency like that of porridge.
Serena dislikes rice pudding because of its pultaceous consistency.

pulverize

pulverulent

adj
/ pəl'veryələnt /
L
consisting of or reducible to fine powder.
Chalk is a pulverulent deposit of calcium carbonate.

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

pumice

n
/ 'pʊməs /
L

[has homonyms: pomace and pumace] hardened volcanic froth.
Ground pumice is sometimes used as an abrasive ingredient in soap.

pumpernickel

n
/ 'pʌmpə(r).nikəl /
G

a sourdough bread made with rye and wheat flours.
Sam's favorite sandwich is ham and Swiss on pumpernickel.

punchinello

punctilious

adj
/ .pʌŋ(k)'tiliəs /
L

marked by precise exact accordance with the details of codes or conventions.
Inflexible people often pay punctilious attention to rules of etiquette.

punctual

adj
/ 'pʌŋ(k)ch(əw)əl /
L

marked by exact adherence to an appointed time.
Everybody was punctual for the wedding, and all behaved charmingly.

punctuation

punditry

pungent

adj
/ 'pʌŋjənt /
L

causing a sharp sensation : pricking, irritating, acrid.
The pungent odor of wet dog sent the guests out for fresh air.

punishment

punitive

purgatory

purlieu

n
/ 'pɜrl(i)yü /
F

a place of resort : haunt.
Vince can be found most evenings in the local pool hall, his favorite purlieu.

purlain

v
/ pə(r)'lɔin /
L > F > E

appropriate wrongfully and often under circumstances that involve a breach of trust.
The district manager was fired when he was caught trying to purlain company earnings.

purportedly

pursued

pursuer
n
/ pə(r)'süə(r) /
E

one that chases or follows after.
By the middle of the race, Gail had outdistanced her nearest pursuer by two yards.

purveyor

n
/ pə(r)'vāə(r) /
L > F > E

one who provides supplies of food or whose business is to make provisions for the table : caterer.
The reception was delayed because the purveyor got stuck in traffic.

pusillanimous

adj
/ .pyüsə'lanəməs /
L

lacking or showing a lack of courage, manly strength, and resolution : marked by mean-spirited and contemptible timidity.
Edgar never forgave his brother's pusillanimous desertion during the war.

putrescent

adj
/ pyü'tres'nt /
L

decaying, rotting.
The disagreeable odor was coming from the putrescent skunk carcass.

putrid

adj
/ 'pyütrəd /
L

in an advanced state of decomposition : rotten.
The putrid heap of kitchen scraps will compost in no time.

putsch

n
/ 'pʊch /
imit G
a secretly plotted and suddenly executed attempt to overthrow a government or governing body.
The right-wing nationalist group plotted a putsch for early September.

putty

n
/ 'pʊdē /
F

[has homonym: puttee] a cement usually made of whiting and boiled linseed oil beaten or kneaded to the consistency of dough and used in fastening glass in sashes and stopping crevices in woodwork.
The window repairman smoothed the new putty and inserted the double-paned glass into the sash.

puzzling

adj
/ 'pʌz(ə)liŋ /
unknown + Ecf
mystifying : difficult to understand.
The puzzling directions in the instruction manual rendered it useless.

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

pylon

n
/ 'pɪ.lən /
Gk

a tower for supporting either end of a wire over a long span.

The steel pylon at the north end of the footbridge was showing dangerous signs of wear.

pylorus

n
/ pɪ'lɔrəs /
Gk > L

the opening in a vertebrate from the stomach into the intestine.

The pylorus regulates the flow of food and liquid from the stomach.

pyramid

n
/ 'pɪrə.mɪd /
Gk

an ancient massive structure of huge stone blocks found especially in Egypt having typically a square ground plan, outside walls in the form of four triangles that meet in a point at the top, and inner sepulchral chambers.

The sight of a pyramid on the desert horizon took Rico's breath away.

pyre

pyrethrum

n
/ pɪ'rɛθrəm /
Gk > L

any of various chrysanthemums with finely divided and often aromatic leaves.

The pyrethrum is a source of a natural insecticide.

pyretogenic

adj
/ .pɪrətə'dʒenɪk /
Gk

inducing fever.

Because Jamie's illness was not pyretogenic, his mom did not initially believe that he was sick.

pyrite

pyrosis

n
/ pɪ'rɔsəs /
Gk

heartburn.

Gill had a wicked case of pyrosis after eating at Billy Joe Bob's Char and Grill.

pyrotechnics

n pl
/ .pɪrə'teknɪks /
Gk

a display of fireworks.

The amusement park had a show including pyrotechnics every night.

Pyrrhic

adj
/ 'pɪrɪk /
Gk > L

[has homonym: pyric] of, relating to, or resembling that of Pyrrhus, a king who sustained heavy losses in defeating the Romans.

When the team's star quarterback broke his leg in the game it won against its toughest rival, the win was indeed a Pyrrhic victory.

pythonic

adj
/ pɪ'thɒnɪk /
Gk > L

of, relating to, or like a python : huge, monstrous.

In classical mythology, the god Apollo killed a pythonic serpent at Delphi.

quackery

quadragenarian

n
/ .kwɒdrə'dʒə'nɑ(a)rɛən /
L

a person who is 40 or more and less than 50 years old.

Evelyn became a grandmother while she was a quadragenarian.

quadrangle

n
/ 'kwɒdrəŋɡəl /
L > F > E

a square or rectangular enclosure or court especially when surrounded by buildings (as in some schools and colleges).

Norm sailed a pie tin across the quadrangle.

quadrant

quadrennial

quadrilateral

n
/ .kwɒdrə'lədərəl /
L

a plane figure of four sides and consequently four angles.

The perimeter of a baseball diamond forms a quadrilateral.

quadrille

n
/ kwə'drɪl /
F

a four-handed form of a card game played throughout Europe in the 17th and 18th centuries.

Mrs. Bates was a very old lady, almost past everything but tea and quadrille.

quadrumanous

adj
/ kwə'drʊmənəs /
L

having four hands.

Luke complained that a bass player would have to be quadrumanous to master the piece he was given to play.

quagmire

n
/ 'kwag.mɪ(ə)r /
unknown + ON > E

a complex or precarious position where disengagement is difficult.

In his position as protocol officer, Russell often found himself in a quagmire of delicate relationships.

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

quail

n
/ 'kwāl /
L > F > E
a migratory game bird of Europe, Asia, and Africa that is about seven inches long.
The vintner decided to name his wine after the quail because the birds were so plentiful on his property.

quaint

adj
/ 'kwānt /
L > F > E
uncommon, old-fashioned, or unfamiliar but often agreeable or attractive in character, appearance, or action.
In the middle of the ultramodern mall was a quaint tearoom that drew customers from miles around.

qualitative

adj
/ 'kwälə.tādiv /
L
of, relating to, or involving quality or kind.
Although the essay was judged to be short quantitatively, it was a qualitative masterpiece.

qualm

quandary

n
/ 'kwänd(ə)rē /
unknown
a state of perplexity or doubt : dilemma.
Taylor's advice left Miriam in more of a quandary than she was in when she sought his help.

quantum

quaquaversal

adj
/ kwāk wə'vərsəl /
L
dipping from a center to all points of the compass.
From the air, the quaquaversal shape of the Indian mound could be seen.

quarantine

quarrel

quarrelsome

adj
/ 'kwör(ə)lsəm /
L > F > E + E
apt or disposed to argue : contentious.
If Angie weren't so quarrelsome, she might have more friends.

quarry

quartz

quash

quasi

quaternion

n
/ kwə'tərnēən /
L
a set of four parts, things, or persons.
The auto parts store offered a special price on a quaternion of tires.

quatorzain

n
/ kə'tör.zān /
F
a poem of 14 lines that resembles a sonnet but lacks strict sonnet structure.
When his English teacher was satisfied with Walter's quatorzain, she encouraged him to write a sonnet.

quatrefoil

n
/ 'kadə(r).föil /
F
a conventionalized representation of a flower with four petals or of a leaf with four leaflets.
The Gothic window featured a quatrefoil at the top of its arch.

quay

quebracho

n
/ kə'bra(ç)chō /
Sp
a tree that is native to Argentina and is used as a source of tannin and in dyeing.
In Argentina grows the quebracho, which literally means "ax-breaker," so named because its wood is so hard.

quell

quellable

adj
/ 'kweləbəl /
E
capable of being quieted or allayed.
The restless crowd proved quellable at the sight of the entertainer they had come to see.

quench

v
/ 'kwench /
E
put out (as a fire or a light).
For three days the firefighters tried to quench the blaze.

quenelle

n
/ kə'nel /
G > F
a ball or oval of meat stuffing cooked in boiling water or stock and served as a garnish or as a separate dish.
Martha served a quenelle of chicken in brown onion sauce as an appetizer.

quercitron

n
/ 'kwər.sitrən /
L
a black oak or the bark of this tree used in tanning and dyeing.
When used as a dye, quercitron turns fabrics yellow.

querimonious

adj
/ kwərə'mōnēəs /
L
habitually complaining.
Luther was known for his querimonious temperament.

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

quern

n
/ 'kwɜrn /
E

a primitive mill for grinding grain consisting of two circular stones with the upper one being turned by hand.

Some Tibetan villagers still grind wheat into flour by using a quern.

querulous

adj
/ 'kwɛr(y)ələs /
L

expressing or suggestive of complaint : fretful, whining.

As the crow fluttered from the tree, it gave a loud, querulous caw.

querulously

query

quest

n
/ 'kwɛst /
L > F > E

an act or instance of searching : expedition, pursuit, venture.

In "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow," the horseman rides forth to the scene of battle in nightly quest of his head.

question

v
/ 'kwɛs(h)ʃən /
L

express doubt about : dispute.

Corporal Sage decided he had to question Sergeant McGonigle's orders.

questionnaire

queue

queuer

quibble

quiche

n
/ 'kɛʃ /
G > F

a baked custard pie usually having an added savory ingredient (as chopped ham, seafood, or vegetables).

Lois served soup and a seafood quiche for lunch today.

quiddity

n
/ 'kwɪdɪtē /
L

the essential nature or ultimate form of something.

The photographer was noted for her ability to capture the quiddity of her subjects.

quidnunc

n
/ 'kwɪd.nʌŋk /
L

one that is avidly curious and given to speculating especially about ephemeral or petty things.

Every neighborhood seems to have a quidnunc.

quiescent

n
/ kwɪ'ɛdɛs /
L

final discharge or acquittance (as from debt or obligation) : final settlement.

The judge is expected to rule tomorrow on a quietus in Mr. Ford's civil case.

quill

n
/ 'kwɪl /
E

a bird's feather; especially : one of the large stiff feathers of a bird's wing or tail.

Jay found a beautiful quill and placed it alongside his mom's antique inkwell on her desk.

quincentennial

quincunx

n
/ 'kwɪŋkən(k)s /
L

an arrangement of five things with one at each corner and one in the middle of a square.

Any nine-block square of a chessboard will include a quincunx of either black or white blocks.

quinine

n
/ 'kwɪ.nɪn /
Quechua > Sp

a bitter alkaloid derived from cinchona bark and used in medicine especially in the form of bitter salts to reduce fever.

Quinine was a common remedy when Dr. Prentice was young.

quinquennial

adj
/ kwɪŋ'kwɛnɪəl /
L + L

occurring at the end of every five years.

The philanthropist makes a quinquennial gift to the school.

quinsyberry

n
/ 'kwɪnzɪ.bɛrɪ /
Gk > L > F > E + E

an Old World black currant.

Edgar mashed a quinsyberry on his sister's new yellow dress.

quintessence

n
/ kwɪŋ'tɛsɪn(t)s /
L

the most typical example or representative : the consummate instance (as of a quality or class).

To be steadfast in the face of mortal danger is the quintessence of courage.

quire

n
/ 'kwɪ(ə)r /
L

four sheets (as of paper) folded together into eight leaves.

The teacher showed the second-graders how to make a book from a quire of paper.

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

quirt

n
/ 'kwɜrt /
L > Sp
a riding whip with a short handle and a rawhide lash.
Eager to get home, Juanita urged her horse on by using the quirt.

quisling

n
/ 'kwizliŋ /
Norw name
a traitorous national who aids the invader of his country and often serves as chief agent or puppet governor.
Many French citizens thought that Marshal Petain, head of the Vichy regime during World War II, was little better than a quisling.

quiver

n
/ 'kwivə(r) /
Gmc > F > AF > E
[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word.] a case for carrying arrows.
The archer slung his quiver over his shoulder and set out in search of deer.

quixotic

quizzical

quizzically

adv
/ 'kwizək(ə)l̩ /
unknown + Ecff
in a questioning, curious manner.
Martin sat with his head quizzically tilted as the algebra teacher was explaining the new concept.

quodlibet

n
/ 'kwɔdl̩bet /
L
a subtle or debatable point; especially : a theological or scholastic question proposed for argument or disputation.
The best students in the philosophy seminar were often given a quodlibet to sharpen their debating skills.

quoits

n pl
/ 'k(w)ɔits /
F > E
a game played with flattened rings of iron or circles of rope that are thrown from a mark toward a pin in an attempt to ring the pin or to come as near to it as possible.
Jordan had never played quoits before but found it very similar to horseshoes.

quokka

n
/ 'kwäkə /
Australian name
a stocky Australian reddish or chestnut brown wallaby with a short tail—called also “short-tailed wallaby.”
Meggie’s pet quokka wanted to follow her everywhere.

quomodo

n
/ 'kwɔmədɔ /
L
means, manner.
Devon claims that he lacks the quomodo to repay Philip before next month.

quondam

adj
/ 'kwɔndəm /
L
having been formerly.
Jared and his quondam stepbrother are still the best of friends.

quorum

n
/ 'kwɔrəm /
L
the number of members of an organization who when assembled can legally transact business in the absence of the other members.
There were not enough members present at the school board meeting to constitute a quorum, so no voting took place.

quotable

adj
/ 'kwɔdəbəl /
L
fit to be repeated or published.
Tonya likes to highlight quotable passages in the books she reads.

quotation

quotidian

adj
/ 'kwɔ'tid̩iən /
L
commonplace, ordinary.
Thelma rebelled against her quotidian existence.

quotient

n
/ 'kwɔʃənt /
L
the number resulting from the division of one number by another.
In the equation $48 \div 4 = 12$, 12 is the quotient.

rabbinate

Rabelaisian

adj
/ 'rəbəl'leɪz̩iən /
F name
marked by or manifesting a gross robust humor or extravagance of caricature, characteristic of the French humorist François Rabelais.
In the 19th century many writers, including Mark Twain, were criticized for having a Rabelaisian view of life.

rachimeter

n
/ 'ræk̩'ɛ'əmədə(r) /
Gk
an instrument for measuring spinal curvatures.
When Kate complained of back problems, her orthopedist used a rachimeter to examine her spine.

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

racketeer

n
/ rakə'ti(ə)r /
imit?
one who extorts money or advantages by threats of violence or blackmail.
The Justice Department was successful in prosecuting the racketeer for tax evasion.

raconteur

n
/ ra.kän'tər /
F
one who excels in telling anecdotes : storyteller.
Mr. Backstrom is the resident raconteur at the county library.

radar

n
/ 'rā.dār /
E acronym
a radio device for locating an object.
With the help of radar, the weather bureau was able to track the storm.

radarscope

n
/ 'rādär.sköp /
E acronym + Gk
the oscilloscope or screen serving as the visual indicator in a radar receiver.
The pilot relied on the radarscope to fly through the storm safely.

radiant

adj
/ 'rādēənt /
L
marked by or expressive of joy, pleasure, love, confidence, or happiness.
Emily looked positively radiant when she saw her newborn sister for the first time.

radical

adj
/ 'radəkəl /
L > E
characterized by a significant difference from the norm: extreme.
The new governor promised radical changes in the state's welfare system.

radicchio

n
/ ra'dikēō /
L > It
a chicory of a red variety with variegated leaves that is used as a salad green.
Instead of lettuce, Angela always uses radicchio in her salads.

radioactive

n
/ rādē.ō'ak.tiv /
L + L
of, relating to, caused by, or exhibiting the emission of radiant energy.
Radioactive materials are carefully tracked and monitored.

radioactivity

radioscopy

n
/ rādē'äskəpē /
L + Gk + Ecf
direct observation of objects opaque to light by means of some other form of radiant energy (as X rays).
Upon radioscopy Thelma's fracture became clearly visible.

radius

ragamuffin

raglan

ragout

n
/ ra'gü /
L > F
meat and vegetables well seasoned in a thick rich usually brown sauce.
The rich ragout made a complete meal.

raillery

n
/ 'rālörē /
F
good-natured ridicule : mockery.
The new students soon became accustomed to the raillery of their dormitory mates.

raiment

n
/ 'rāmənt /
E
clothing, garments.
The stranger's raiment was well-worn but clean and pressed.

raisiny

adj
/ 'rāz'nē /
L > F > E
containing or resembling sun-dried grapes.
Taylor enjoyed the raisiny trail mix.

ramage

n
/ 'ramij /
L > F
the boughs or branches of a tree.
As soon as Buttons got out the door, she disappeared into the ramage of the big poplar.

rambunctious

adj
/ ram'bən(k)shəs /
E
excessively exuberant : wild, uncontrollable.
Nothing pleases a group of rambunctious youngsters more than a good pillow fight.

ramellose

adj
/ 'ramələs /
L
having little branches.
In the biology lab Carla observed the ramellose extremities of freshwater algae.

ramification

n
/ raməfə'kāshən /
L
a resulting development : consequence.
Tina felt that the only negative ramification of accepting the job offer was that she would have to take a pay cut.

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

rampage

v
/ 'rampāj /
Scots
act, rush, or storm wildly or excitedly.
Crazed fans began to rampage in the streets after their team won the championship.

rampant

adj
/ 'rampənt /
F
marked by the absence of check or restraint.
A rampant smallpox epidemic decimated the population.

ramshackle

adj
/ 'ram.shakəl /
ON > E
appearing as if ready to collapse : dilapidated, rickety.
Bonnie heard strange noises coming from the ramshackle house next door.

rancid

adj
/ 'ran(t)səd /
L
having an offensive smell or taste usually from chemical change or decomposition.
After a month at room temperature, most cheese will be rancid.

rancor

n
/ 'ran(kə)r /
L
vehement hatred or ill will.
Samuel's rancor flashed from his eyes.

rancorous

ransack

ransom

rantipole

adj
/ 'rantē.pōl /
D? + G > E?
characterized by a wild unruly manner or attitude.
The antics of the rantipole bear cubs amused the zoo visitors.

rapacious

rapier

rappelled

v
/ ra'peld /
L > F
[has near homonym: repelled]
descended a precipitous cliff by means of a rope.
Simon pushed off with his feet as he rappelled down the precipice.

rappelling

rapport

n
/ ra'pō(ə)r /
F
relation characterized by harmony, accord, or affinity.
Mr. Sanchez works hard to achieve rapport with all his students.

rapprochement

n
/ ra.prōsh'mäⁿ /
F
establishment or a state of cordial relations.
The rapprochement between the country's two religious groups suffered a setback when members of one group bombed a church that belonged to the other group.

rapscallion

raptorial

rapturous

adj
/ 'rapchərəs /
L
feeling, expressing, or marked by ecstasy : ecstatic.
Cecilia always became rapturous during the final movement of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony.

rascette

n
/ ra'set /
Ar > L > F
a line crossing the wrist below the palm of the hand that is sometimes held by palmists to provide additional indication of a strong or weak constitution.
Madame Xantha peered closely at Helen's rascette and told her she would live to be 100.

rasgado

n
/ räs'gä(,)dō /
L > Sp
the arpeggio effect produced by sweeping the strings with the thumb in guitar playing.
Rod ended his guitar solo with a resounding rasgado.

rasorial

raspberry

n
/ 'raz.berē /
unknown + E
any of various usually black or red sweet juicy edible berries.
The raspberry is highly prized for making jams and preserves.

ratafia

n
/ radə'fēə /
F
a small sweet biscuit made from almond paste.
May ate a ratafia with her coffee for breakfast.

rataplan

n
/ radə'plan /
F
the iterative sound of beating (as from a drum or the hooves of a galloping horse).
One verse of the song required the campers around the bonfire to make a rataplan by clapping their hands and slapping each thigh in turn.

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

ratatouille

n
/ rətətüü /
L > F
a stew made of eggplant, tomatoes, green peppers, squash, and sometimes meat.
Marnie used vegetables from her own garden to make the ratatouille.

rathskeller

n
/ 'rät.skələ(r) /
G
a restaurant located usually below the street level and patterned after the cellar or basement of a German city hall.
There are three good restaurants on this block, but college students seem to prefer the rathskeller.

ratification

ratihabition

ratiocinate

v
/ .radē'ōs'n.āt /
L
reason according to a logical process.
A philosopher should ratiocinate strictly and rigorously.

ratiocination

ration

rational

rationale

rattlesnake

n
/ 'rad'ɫ.snāk /
E + E
any of numerous pit vipers that have a series of interlocking joints at the end of the tail which make a sharp rattling sound when vibrated.
Mr. Bergson's valuable stallion died last summer after being bitten by a rattlesnake.

raucous

adj
/ 'rökəs /
L
disagreeably harsh or strident.
Up in one of the elms an old black crow gave its raucous cry.

ravel

ravenous

adj
/ 'rav(ə)nəs /
F
craving for satisfaction or gratification.
The children tore into the meal with a ravenous hunger.

ravigote

n
/ rävē'göt /
L > F
a sauce or dressing colored green with spinach puree and seasoned with vinegar and a mixture of herbs.
The specialty of the seafood brunch was shrimp ravigote.

ravine

ravioli

n
/ .ravē'ōlē /
L > It
alimentary paste made in little shells or cases and stuffed (as with cheese, spinach, or meat).
Fletcher bought a package of frozen spinach ravioli and a jar of tomato sauce.

rawinsonde

rayonnant

adj
/ 'rānənt /
F
depicted with rays darting forth—used especially in heraldry.
The sun rayonnant on the Philippine flag signifies liberty and freedom.

razzia

realize

v
/ 'rēə.līz /
F
bring into existence.
With her inheritance money, Marty was able to realize her dream of owning a small business.

realm

realpolitik

n
/ rā'äl.pōlē'tēk /
(L + Gk) > G
politics based on practical factors as distinguished from theoretical objectives.
Some analysts credit realpolitik for the increase in voter participation.

realschule

realty

n
/ 'rē(ə)ltē /
L > F > E
land and its permanently affixed buildings or other structures together with its improvements and its natural assets (as minerals, crops, waters).
Aurora built a large business in corporate realty.

reappraisal

rebarbative

adj
/ rē'bärbədīv /
L
serving or tending to repel or irritate.
Teresa complained that she found the school play rebarbative.

rebellion

reboant

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

reboation

n
/ ˌrɛbəˈwɑːʃən /

L
a loud reverberation.

The reboation of the ship's foghorn signaled the ship's entrance into the harbor.

rebote

rebus

n
/ ˈrɛbəs /

L
a representation of words or syllables by pictures of objects or by symbols whose names resemble the intended words or syllables in sound.

A popular game show required contestants to solve a rebus to win.

rebuttal

n
/ ˈrɛˈbʊtəl /

F > E
the act of contradicting.

Dennis's convincing rebuttal sent Oscar home in a huff.

recalcitrant

adj
/ ˈrɛˈkalsɪtrənt /

L
obstinately defiant of authority or restraint : stubbornly disobedient.

An extremely recalcitrant adolescent, Tommy rejects everything any authority figure says.

recapitulate

v
/ ˌrɛkəˈpɪtʃələt /

L
repeat the principal points of : restate briefly : give a summary of.
It is customary for Professor Burns to recapitulate his lecture at the end of class.

receipt

receive

recension

n
/ ˈrɛˈsɛnʃən /

L
a critical revision of a text (as of an ancient author) by an editor.
Patricia recently read a modern recension of Dante's Inferno.

receptacle

recess

recidivism

n
/ ˈrɛˈsɪdɪvɪzəm /

L + Ecff
repeated relapse into criminal or delinquent habits.

Unemployment of ex-convicts is at the root of much of the recidivism that leads to overcrowded prisons.

recipe

n
/ ˈrɛsə(ˌ)pē /

L
a formula for cooking or preparing something to be eaten or drunk.
Chuck's chili recipe is a closely guarded secret.

recipient

reciprocal

adj
/ ˈrɛˈsɪprəkəl /

L + Ecf
consisting of or functioning as a return in kind.

James is truly unselfish, always ready to help without expecting reciprocal benefit.

reciprocity

n
/ ˌrɛsəˈpræsədəē /

L
mutual dependence, action, or influence.

A treaty of reciprocity called for the lowering of protective tariffs by both countries.

recital

recluse

n
/ ˈrɛˌklüs /

L
one who leads a retired or solitary life.

Alison was shocked when the old recluse next door called to invite her for tea.

recognizance

n
/ ˈrɛˈkɪgnəzən(t)s /

L > F > E
an obligation of record entered into before a court or magistrate requiring the performance of an act (as appearance in court) usually under penalty of a money forfeiture.

The suspect was arraigned the next morning and released on his own recognizance.

recommendation

reconcile

v
/ ˈrɛkən.səl /

L
obtain agreement between two financial records.

Because he kept such poor records, it often took Evan several hours to reconcile his checkbook to his bank statement.

recondite

adj
/ ˈrɛkən.dīt /

L
very difficult to understand and beyond the reach of ordinary comprehension and knowledge.
Mansur chose the recondite subject of quantum mechanics for his paper.

recreant

recrementitious

recrudescence

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

recrudescence

adj
/ rĕkrü'des'nt /
L

breaking out again : renewing disease or dangerous activity after abatement, suppression, or cessation.

Because of the recrudescence nature of tuberculosis, those who have been exposed to this disease should be tested for it periodically.

recuperate

v
/ rĕ'k(y)üpə.rāt /
L

recover health or strength.

Aaron spent a month in Florida to recuperate after the campaign.

recurrence

recurrent

recusancy

n
/ 'rekyəzənsē /
L

refusal to accept or obey constituted authority : nonconformity.

In post-Reformation England, recusancy was the refusal especially of Roman Catholics to attend the services of the Church of England.

recusant

redingote

redolent

adj
/ red'lənt /
L > F > E

conveying an aura : tending to suggest.

Every page of Ryan's essay is redolent of fine scholarship.

redoppe

n
/ rĕ'döp /
L > It > F

a show-ring movement in which a horse gallops in circles whose diameter never exceeds ten feet.

The last movement in Thunder's performance was a fast redoppe.

redoubtable

adj
/ rĕ'däüdəbəl /
F > E

inspiring awe or reverence : august, eminent.

Mount Rushmore is a fitting memorial to four redoubtable statesmen.

reductase

redundancy

referee

referential

refluence

refocillate

v
/ rĕ'fäsə.lāt /
L

refresh, revive.

Mom hopes that a good watering will refocillate her drooping ferns.

refraction

n
/ rĕ'frakshən /
L

the deflection from a straight path undergone by a light ray in passing obliquely from one medium into another in which its velocity is different.

Mr. Popkin explained that an oar in water is not bent, but that refraction makes it appear bent.

refuge

n
/ 're(.)fyüj /
L > F > E

shelter or protection from danger or distress.

The high hills are a refuge for wild goats.

refugium

refulgent

regale

v
/ rĕ'gäl /
F

entertain (as a person) sumptuously or agreeably : feast with delicacies.

The hostess will regale her bridge club members with a variety of delightful homemade desserts.

regardless

regatta

n
/ rĕ'gädə /
It

an organized series of rowing, speedboat, or sailing races.

The famous rowing regatta at Henley-on-Thames has been held each year since 1839.

reggae

n
/ 'rā(.)gā /
unknown

a popular music of Jamaican origin that combines indigenous styles with elements of rock 'n' roll and soul music and is performed with the accent on the offbeat.

The video travelogue about Jamaica included a soundtrack of reggae.

regicide

n
/ 'rejə.sid /
L

the killing or murder of a king.

The peasants resorted to regicide when their pleas were ignored by the tyrannical monarch.

regime

n
/ rĕ'zhēm /
L > F

the period during which a government or social system prevails.

During the communist regime in Romania, environmental problems were flagrantly ignored.

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

regimen

n
/ 'rɛjəməŋ /
L

a systematic plan designed to improve and maintain health.
Cassandra's regimen includes getting at least seven hours of sleep per night.

regurgitate

v
/ rɛ'gɜrjətāt /
L

throw, cast, or pour back or out again.
Brenda watched the redbird regurgitate food to feed his nestlings.

rehabilitation

n
/ rɛ(h)ə,bilə'tāshən /
L

the process of restoring an individual (as a convict, mental patient, or disaster victim) to a useful and constructive place in society.
The penitentiary employed psychologists and educators to help in the rehabilitation of the prisoners.

rehearsal

n
/ rɛ'hɜrsəl /
E

a private recital or practice session held in preparation for a public appearance.
Roland was somewhat nervous during his first rehearsal with the New York City Ballet.

reindeer

reiterate

v
/ rɛ'ɪdɪə.rāt /
L

say or do over repeatedly.
The new teacher decided to reiterate each point of the lesson at the end of the period so that the students could not claim they missed the information.

rejoice

rejuvenescence

relegate

v
/ 'rɛlə.gāt /
L

[has homonym: religate] degrade, demote.
The coach decided to relegate the quarterback to second string after his poor performance in the game.

reliable

relic

n
/ 'rɛlɪk /
L

an object (as a bone, an article of clothing or of personal use) kept in esteem and veneration because of its association with a saint or martyr.
The Shroud of Turin is the most famous relic in Christendom, in spite of its disputed history.

relinquish

reliquary

remainder

remedial

adj
/ rɛ'mɛdɪəl /
L

concerned with the correction of faulty study habits, the improvement of skills imperfectly learned, and the raising of a pupil's general competence.
The test results indicate that 20 percent of the students in Laura's school need to take a remedial course in math.

reminisce

v
/ rɛmən'ɪs /
L&F

indulge in the practice of thinking about past experiences.
The old photographs prompted Grandpa to reminisce about his youth.

reminiscence

reminiscingly

remuneration

n
/ rɛ'myünə.rāshən /
L

an act of paying an equivalent for a service, loss, or expense : compensation.
Mr. Shimada gave Mitzi two tickets to Disneyland as remuneration for the many errands she had run for him.

renaissance

n
/ .rɛnə'sän(t)s /
L > F

enthusiastic activity along literary, artistic, and cultural lines distinguished by a revival of interest in the past and an increasing pursuit of learning.
In the 1970s, there was a renaissance of interest in organic gardening techniques.

render

v
/ 'rɛndə(r) /
L > F > E

melt down : extract or clarify by melting.
The process of cooking a few strips of bacon can render enough fat to fry several eggs.

rendezvous

n
/ 'rændə.vü /
F

a meeting at an appointed place and time.
The astronauts completed a rendezvous with the orbiting space station.

renege

renitent

adj
/ 'rɛnədənt /
L

resisting pressure, constraint, or compulsion.
Mark's dog proved too renitent to learn any tricks.

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

renounce

v
/ rə'naʊn(t)s /
L

[has near homonym: renowns]
announce one's abandonment of the ownership of : give up, abandon, or resign usually formally (something possessed).
In 1936 Edward, Prince of Wales, decided to renounce his claim to the throne of England and marry American divorcée Wallis Simpson.

renovation

renovator

n
/ 'renə.vədə(r) /
L

one that restores to a former state (as worn or damaged articles).
The Rehmers hired a renovator to work on the old farmhouse they bought.

renvoi

n
/ ren'vɔi /
F

the return by a government of an alien to his own country.
Because of crowded prisons, New York has been practicing renvoi on illegal aliens who have committed a crime.

repaint

reparation

repartee

n
/ repə(r)'tē /
F

a succession of clever retorts.
Susie and Josh's repartee is so excessive that even their friends tire quickly of the constant retorts.

repechage

n
/ .repə'shāzh /
L > F

a second-chance trial heat (as in Olympic rowing) in which losers in the first round of competition are given another chance to qualify for the semifinals.
Luigi fell behind in the first heat of the single sculls, but he hoped to make up for it in the repechage.

repercussions

repertoire

n
/ 'repə(r).twär /
L > F

a list or supply of pieces or parts that a company or person has thoroughly rehearsed and is prepared to perform.
The folk dance troupe has added several Balkan dances to its repertoire.

repertory

n
/ 'repə(r).tōrē /
L

the practice of presenting with a resident company a number of different productions (as plays or dances) during a season either successively or alternately.
The ballet company is presenting four productions in repertory this winter.

repetition

n
/ .repə'tishən /
L

the fact of occurring, appearing, or being said again.
The repetition in the epic poem was anything but boring.

repetitious

adj
/ .repə'tishəs /
L

marked by the act of repeating something already said or done.
Bettina complained that her piano lessons were repetitious.

replaceable

replenish

v
/ rə'plenish /
L

fill up again.
The heavy rain from the hurricane served to replenish the drought-stricken reservoirs of the state.

replevin

n
/ rə'plevən /
L? > F

the return to or recovery by a person of goods claimed to be wrongfully taken or detained upon the person's giving security to try the matter in court and return the goods if defeated in the action.
Before the goods could be moved from the warehouse, the judge issued a writ of replevin.

repository

repoussage

n
/ rə.pü'sāzh /
F

the art or process of hammering out or pressing thin metal from the reverse side.
Fiona bought a brass box decorated with repoussage at the antique shop.

reprehensible

adj
/ .reprə'hən(t)səbəl /
L > E

deserving rebuke or reprimand : censurable.
This amiable, upright, perfect Jane Fairfax was apparently cherishing very reprehensible feelings.

represent

reprieve

n
/ rə'prēv /
F?

a formal suspension of the execution of a sentence especially of death.
Bowing to public pressure, the governor granted a reprieve to the convict awaiting execution.

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

reprimand

v
/ 'reprə.mənd /
L > F
reprove severely : chide for a fault :
censure formally and especially
with authority.
*Dean felt guilty as he began to
reprimand Shirley; was the blame
partially his?*

reprisal

n
/ rə'prɪzəl /
L > It > F > E
an action of retaliation (as for
injury or attack).
*The team captain decided to use a
trick play as a reprisal for the other
team's roughhousing.*

repristinate

v
/ rē'prɪstə.nāt /
L
restore to an original state or
condition : revive.
*Barb and Ray spent the better part
of the summer working to
repristinate the old farm house.*

reproach

v
/ rə'prəʊtʃ /
F > E
rebuke strongly or sternly : scold.
*Van hoped that Mrs. Krishnan
wouldn't reproach him in front of
the whole lunchroom crowd.*

reprobate

v
/ 'reprə.bāt /
L
disapprove of : reject as unworthy
or evil.
*Patty will not be going to the sock
hop because her parents reprobate
dancing.*

reptilian

repudiate

v
/ rə'pyüde.āt /
L
refuse approval or belief to : reject
as untrue or unjust.
*Jacqueline wanted to repudiate her
family's ideas about class
distinction, so she married their
chauffeur.*

repugnance

n
/ rə'pəgnən(t)s /
L
strong dislike, distaste, or
antipathy.
*Mr. Churchill felt deep repugnance
toward his aunt, whose illnesses
never occurred but for her own
convenience.*

Requiem

n
/ 'rekwēəm /
L
a grand musical hymn in honor of
the dead.
*Many orchestras include a
classical Requiem in their
repertoire.*

requiescence

requisite

adj
/ 'rekwəzət /
L
required by the nature of things or
by circumstances or by the end in
view.
*Buried under a calmness that
seemed all but indifference was an
attachment that would have led
either of the two brothers, if
requisite, to do everything for the
good of the other.*

rescind

v
/ rə'sɪnd /
L
repeal.
*The new bill would rescind several
outdated laws.*

rescindable

rescue

v
/ 're(ɪ)skyü /
L > F > E
free from confinement, violence,
danger, or evil : save, deliver.
*Three lifeguards dived into the pool
to rescue the flailing girl.*

reservoir

n
/ 'rezəv.wär /
L > F
a place where water is collected
and kept in quantity for use when
wanted.
*Because of the dry spell, our
reservoir was only half full, and
water restrictions had to be
imposed.*

residential

residual

residue

n
/ 'rezəd(y)ü /
L
the part of a molecule that remains
after the removal of a portion of its
constituents.
*Sondra asked Jeff to analyze and
write out the formula for the
residue in the Erlenmeyer flask.*

residuum

resile

v
/ rə'zɪl /
L
draw back : recoil, retract, recede.
*The rubber bands in Greta's desk
were so old that several had lost
their ability to resile.*

resilience

n
/ rə'zɪlyən(t)s /
L + Ecf
an act of springing back : rebound,
recoil.
*Vera showed her resilience by
recovering so quickly from her
skiing accident.*

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

resiliency

n
/ rə'zilyənsē /
L + Ecff

capability of a strained body to recover its size and shape after deformation caused especially by compressive stress.

A pole vaulter must adjust to the resiliency of his pole.

resilient

resinous

resipiscence

n
/ .resə'pɪsɪn(t)s /
L

change of mind or heart; often : return to a sane, sound, or correct view or position.

The soldier's severe war experience brought about in him a resipiscence marked by much regret for shortcomings in his personal life.

resistible

resolute

adj
/ 'rezəlüt /
L

having or characterized by a decided purpose : determined.

Jody remained resolute in his decision to resign from the committee.

resonance

n
/ 'rezɪnən(t)s /
L

[Note: Could be confused with plural noun resonants.] a phenomenon that is shown by a molecule, ion, or radical to which two or more structures differing only in the distribution of electrons can be assigned.

To illustrate the concept of resonance, Mr. Abadi drew two different Lewis structures of ozone on the board.

respiratory

respite

n
/ 'respət /
L > F

temporary intermission of labor or of any process or operation : interval of rest.

Seeking respite from the arguing of his siblings, Jerold left the table in the middle of their family dinner.

resplendence

n
/ rə'splendən(t)s /
L > E

the quality or state of shining brilliantly.

The resplendence of the sunset over Loon Lake enticed Eric to stay one more day.

restauratrice

n
/ .restərə'trēs /
L

a woman who operates or owns a public eating place.

While Ted and Sue were dining, the restauratrice came to their table to ask for their comments on the food and service.

restitution

restitutory

adj
/ .restə'ti:dərə /
L

of, relating to, or aiming at the return of something to its rightful owner.

The judge's verdict included punitive as well as restitutory features.

resurgence

resurgent

adj
/ rə'sɜ:tʃənt /
L

rising again from an inferior state to a superior state.

The former Soviet republic is experiencing resurgent nationalism.

resurrection

resuscitate

v
/ rə'səsə.tāt /
L

revive from apparent death or from unconsciousness.

A young intern pushed through the crowd to resuscitate the unconscious child.

resuscitation

reticence

n
/ 'redəsən(t)s /
L > F

restraint in speaking or communicating : reserve.

Jordan's usual reticence disappears when he sits at the radio microphone.

reticulated

adj
/ rə'tɪkyələdəd /
L + Ecf
constructed or faced with diamond-shaped stones or square stones placed diagonally.
The hotel lobby's reticulated floor provided stark geometric contrast with the gentle curves of the atrium.

reticule

n
/ 'redə.kyül /
L

a woman's small drawstring bag used as a pocketbook, workbag, or carryall.

Mrs. Bates folded up a letter which she had been reading and returned it into the purple and gold reticule by her side.

retina

n
/ 'retɪnə /
L > E

the multilayered innermost lining of the eyeball that contains various types of photoreceptive cells that are connected to the brain via the optic nerve.

The ophthalmologist treated Mrs. Simpson for a detached retina.

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

retinue

n
/ 'ret'n.(y)ü /
L > F > E
a train of attendants.
The actress obtained coveted awards ceremony tickets for her entire retinue.

retractile

retribution

n
/ .retrə'byüşən /
L
something given or exacted in compensation.
Art felt certain that his fender bender was divine retribution for all the times he had honked his horn impatiently at other drivers.

retrocedence

n
/ .retrə'sēd'n(t)s /
L
the act of ceding back typically by treaty.
In 1997 the British government completed the retrocedence of Hong Kong to China.

retrogress

retrospect

v
/ 'retrə.spekt /
L
practice the act of surveying the past.
Colin's ability to retrospect makes history classes a breeze for him.

revanche

n
/ rə'vānch /
F
the policy of a government intent on the recovery of lost territory.
Under the domination of the USSR, tendencies toward revanche were kept under tight control.

reveille

revenant

adj
/ 'revənənt /
F
coming back : recurring.
The more Rachel tries to put the revenant dream out of her mind, the more often it recurs.

revenue

n
/ 'revə.n(y)ü /
L
the income that comes back from an investment.
The revenue from Maria's rental property enabled her to buy a vacation cabin.

reverberate

v
/ rə'vərbə.rāt /
L
continue or become repeated in or as if in a series of echoes.
Kevin stood on one side of the canyon, yelled as loudly as he could, and waited for his voice to reverberate.

reverberated

v
/ rə'vərbə.rādəd /
L
returned or sent back : echoed.
Loud sounds reverberated throughout the cave.

revere

reverence

reversible

adj
/ rə'vərsəbəl /
L > F > E
made to be worn either side out and often with a different fabric on each side.
Mark's reversible vest matches everything else in his wardrobe.

revictualment

n
/ rē'vid'lmənt /
L + L > F > E + Ecf
the obtaining of fresh stocks of provisions (as by an army).
We cannot go that far into enemy territory without a clear plan for revictualment.

revirescent

adj
/ .revə'res'nt /
L
growing fresh or young again : reviving.
The incumbent surprised his opponents with the revirescent vigor of his campaign.

reviviscent

rhabdomancer

n
/ 'rəbdə.man(t)sə(r) /
Gk
one who practices divination by rods or wands.
With his divining rod in hand, the rhabdomancer set out to find an undiscovered spring of water.

rhapsodical

adj
/ rap'sädəkəl /
Gk
extravagantly emotional : rapturous.
The music critic lavished rhapsodical praise on the Brahms concert.

rheostat

n
/ 'rēə.stat /
Gk
a resistor for regulating a current by means of variable resistances.
The light dimmer has refused to work ever since Henry adjusted the rheostat.

rhetoric

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

rhetorician

n
/ .redə'rishən /
Gk
one who writes or speaks in an inflated or bombastic style.
People tend to ignore Mr. Wade's good ideas because he is such a rhetorician.

rheumatic

adj
/ rü'mædik /
Gk > L > F
of, relating to or characteristic of inflammation, pain, and swelling in and around the joints.
Once Ben had rheumatic fever, and once he had typhoid.

rheumatism

n
/ 'rümətizəm /
Gk
any of numerous conditions characterized by inflammation or pain in muscles, joints, or fibrous tissue.
Shea's grandfather complained of rheumatism whenever the weather was cold and damp.

rheumy

rhinarium

n
/ rī'na(a)rēəm /
Gk > L
the hairless area of roughened skin at the tip of the snout of a mammal.
Vince checked the puppy's temperature by touching its rhinarium.

rhinestone

n
/ 'rīnz.tōn /
geog name + E
a colorless imitation stone of high luster made of glass, paste, or gem quartz.
Basil didn't bother looking for the rhinestone that fell out of his belt buckle.

rhinitis

n
/ rī'nīdēs /
Gk
common cold.
The doctor diagnosed rhinitis and prescribed rest.

rhinoceros

n
/ rī'näs(ə)rəs /
Gk
any of various large powerful herbivorous thick-skinned mammals that have one or two heavy upright horns on the snout.
The videotape showed dramatic footage of a rhinoceros charging a photographer.

rhizotomy

rhodium

rhododendron

n
/ .rōdəd'endrən /
Gk
any of various plants of the genus Rhododendron with persistent leathery leaves and bell-shaped flowers.
Evan's mother plants a rhododendron along the driveway every year on his birthday.

rhodolite

n
/ 'rōd'līt /
Gk + Gk
a pink or purple garnet that is used as a gem.
The gem exhibit included a 75-carat rhodolite from Tanzania.

rhomboid

n
/ 'räm.bōid /
Gk > L > F
a parallelogram in which the angles are oblique and adjacent sides are unequal.
One of our geometry problems was to find the area of a rhomboid.

rhombus

n
/ 'rämbəs /
Gk > L
an equilateral parallelogram.
The most familiar form that a rhombus takes must certainly be a square.

rhubarb

n
/ 'rü.bärb /
(Gk + L) > L? > F > E
a plant having large leaves with thick succulent stems that are often eaten in pies or preserves.
Rhubarb and strawberries make a good combination for a pie.

rhythm

n
/ 'rithəm /
Gk > L > F
the aspect of music comprising all the elements (as accent, meter, time, tempo) that relate to forward movement as contrasted with pitch sequence or tone combination.
Latin American music is usually easily recognizable by its distinctive rhythm.

ribald

adj
/ 'ribəld /
Gmc > F > E
characterized by broad coarse humor.
Sharon's mom was surprised to learn that the ribald tale her daughter was reading was written by Geoffrey Chaucer.

ricochet

n
/ 'rikəshā /
F
a glancing rebound or skipping (as of a flat stone thrown along the surface of water).
Albert and Tyler carefully counted each ricochet in the stone-skipping contest.

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

ricotta

n
/ rĕ'kòdə /
L > It

a white unripened whey cheese of Italian origin that resembles cottage cheese.
Angela's favorite Italian recipe calls for ravioli stuffed with ricotta.

rictus

n
/ 'rĭktəs /
L

a gaping grin or grimace.
Reuben's face was frozen in a rictus of horror during the movie's last scene.

rideau

n
/ rĕ'də /
F

a small ridge or mound of earth.
The cottage was built on a rideau overlooking the marsh.

ridiculous

rifeness

riffler

rift

n
/ 'rĭft /
Scand > E

a divergence (as of interests or beliefs) resulting in disagreement or dispute.
Deciding what the puppy should be named caused a temporary rift between the twins.

rigatoni

n
/ rĭgə'tōnē /
Gmc > It

hollow alimentary paste made in short curved fluted pieces.
Paula served rigatoni stuffed with cheese and diced vegetables.

righteous

adj
/ 'rĭchəs /
E

characterized by uprightness or justice.
The civil rights protesters were fearless in their righteous cause.

rigorous

rime

n
/ 'rĭm /
E

[has homonym: rhyme] a covering of minute ice crystals on a cold surface that is formed by the condensation of atmospheric vapor at temperatures below freezing : frost.
Rime may occur in large, feathery flakes, but they lack the crystalline patterns of snowflakes.

riparian

adj
/ rĕ'pĕrĕən /
L

[Note: Could be confused with riparial.] of, relating to, or living or located on the bank of a watercourse (as a river or stream).
Most wildlife depends on riparian areas for survival.

risibility

n
/ rĭzə'bĭlədē /
L

the ability or inclination to laugh : alertness or sensitiveness to the ridiculous, incongruous, or absurd.
Mary's risibility has earned her the nickname "Giggle Girl."

rissole

n
/ rĕ'sōl /
L > F

[has near homonym: resole] minced meat or fish covered with pastry and fried in deep fat.
Marianne ate a rissole for lunch.

ritziness

riverain

rivulet

n
/ 'rĭvyələt /
L > It

a small stream : brook.
The fast-melting snow gushed down the rivulet to the pond below.

roan

adj
/ 'rōn /

Gothic > Sp > F
[has near homonym: rowan] of an animal's coat : having the base color (as black, red, gray, or brown) muted and lightened by a liberal admixture of white hairs.
The roan pony is the tamest mount at Camp Wannagohome.

roborant

adj
/ 'rābərənt /
L

strengthening.
In China, ginseng has for ages been esteemed for its roborant effects on the body.

rococo

adj
/ rə'kō(,)kō /
F

excessively ornate or intricate.
The rococo decor of Griselda's new house is typical of those built with "new money."

rodomont

n
/ 'rādə.mənt /

It name
a vain or blustering boaster.
James's new roommate is something of a rodomont.

rognon

rogue

n
/ 'rōg /

unknown
a dishonest unprincipled person.
The sheriff warned the newcomers that he would not tolerate a rogue in his town.

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

roleo

n
/ 'rōlē.ō /
L > F > E&E
a logrolling tournament.
A roleo is similar to a rodeo but has floating logs instead of bucking broncos.

romance

rondache

n
/ rän'dash /
F
a small shield carried by a foot soldier.
In medieval warfare the rondache often had a slit in the upper part for seeing through.

ronquil

n
/ 'ränkəl /
Sp
any of several fishes of the northwest coast of North America that resemble the jawfishes.
Sheila caught a ronquil while fishing off the Alaskan coast.

rood

n
/ 'rüd /
E
[has homonym: rude, rued] a unit of land area used in England and Scotland equal to 40 square rods or ¼ acre.
After the uprising, every rood of the estate of Hugh of Thorpe was left burnt and barren.

roommate

roriferous

adj
/ rō'rif(ə)rəs /
L
generating dew.
The cool, roriferous evenings were a pleasant contrast to the hot, dry days.

Rorschach

n
/ 'rō(ə)r.shäk /
Swiss name
a psychological test of personality and intelligence using inkblot designs.
Keesha's responses during the Rorschach caused the examiner to believe that she was trying to make the results unreliable.

rosemaling

n
/ 'rōzə.mäliŋ /
L > ON > Norw + G > Norw
painted or carved decoration (as on furniture, walls, or wooden dinnerware) in Scandinavian peasant style that consists of colorful floral and other designs and inscriptions.
Tad restored the rosemaling on his wife's antique chair.

roseola

rostrum

n
/ 'rästrəm /
L
a pulpit or platform occupied by an orator or public speaker.
Robin stepped up on the rostrum, took a drink of water, and then began her speech.

rotisserie

n
/ rō'tisərə /
F
a cooking appliance with a spit on which food is rotated before or over a source of heat.
Herb cooked the chicken on a rotisserie over his gas grill.

rotogravure

n
/ .rōdəgrə'vyü(ə)r /
L + F
a photogravure process in which the impression is produced by a rotary press.
Rotogravure is used to print the magazine section of the Sunday paper.

rotulet

n
/ 'rächələt /
L
a small scroll or register.
The circuit judge logged all his court business in a rotulet.

rotundity

n
/ rō'təndədē /
L
roundness.
When he looked in the fun-house mirror, Chris was astounded by his rotundity.

rouge

n
/ 'rüz /
L > F
any of various cosmetics that give a red coloring to the cheeks or lips.
Loretta's mother said she was too young to wear rouge.

rough

adj
/ 'rəf /
E
[has homonym: ruff] difficult to travel over or penetrate.
The rough waters off its coast made the island a bane for sailors.

roughhewn

roulette

n
/ rü'let /
L > F
a gambling game in which players bet on which compartment of a revolving wheel a small ball spun in the opposite direction will come to rest in.
Bonita spent the entire time on the riverboat playing roulette.

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

roundelay

n
/ 'raʊndə.lā /

F
a folk or ritual group or couple dance in which participants form a ring and move in a prescribed direction.

The roundelay dates back to prehistoric times, when people danced around a central totem.

rowel

v
/ 'raʊ(ə)l /

F > E
goad with a revolving disk at the end of a spur.
After she rounds the bend, Gabrielle will rowel her horse to a fresh burst of speed.

ruade

rubefacient

n
/ 'rübə'fāshənt /

L
a substance for external application that causes redness of the skin.
Isopropyl alcohol is a well-known rubefacient found in many people's medicine cabinets.

rubella

n
/ rü'belə /

L
an acute contagious disease usually affecting children and young adults and characterized by a red skin eruption, mild symptoms, and a short duration : German measles.
Rubella is especially dangerous when contracted by an expectant mother because it can threaten the health of her unborn child.

Rubenesque

adj
/ 'rübə'nesk /

Flem name
of, relating to, or having the characteristics of the Flemish painter Peter Paul Rubens.
The luxuriant drapery, use of light, and coloration of the painting in the Jones's entryway were Rubenesque.

rubicund

rubicundity

n
/ 'rübə'kændədē /

L
the quality or state of being ruddy or reddish.
The rubicundity of Laura's face was evidence of her embarrassment.

rubric

n
/ 'rü(ə)brɪk /

L
name, title.
The fields of botany, zoology, and geology were once classified together under the rubric of "natural history."

rudimentary

adj
/ 'rüdə'mentərē /

L
basic, fundamental.
Thurston possessed only a rudimentary knowledge of opera.

ruefully

adv
/ 'rüfələ /

E + Ecf
in a pitiable or woeful manner.
Joe ruefully replied that he hadn't been able to bring any lunch with him.

ruminant

n
/ 'rümənənt /

L
any of a suborder of even-toed hoofed mammals (as sheep, giraffes, deer, and camels) that chew the cud and have a complex usually four-chambered stomach.
Microorganisms play an essential role in the digestive system of a ruminant.

ruminate

v
/ 'rümənāt /

L
muse upon : contemplate over and over.
Luke likes to ruminate in the backyard while chewing on a stem of grass.

rumored

rumormonger

n
/ 'rümə(r).mängə(r) /

L + Gk > L > E
one that spreads unconfirmed pieces of information.
If Alfonso doesn't learn to hold his tongue, he's going to earn a reputation as a rumormonger.

runnel

rupestrian

adj
/ 'rü'pestrēən /

L
composed of rock.
The designer of the famous rupestrian monument known as "Mt. Rushmore" died before the 14-year project was completed.

rural

adj
/ 'rürəl /

L
of, relating to, associated with, or typical of the country.
Kevin has always resided in the city and knows little about the rural way of life.

rurigenous

adj
/ rü'rijənəs /

L
born or living in the country.
As the town grew, some of the stores began to neglect their rurigenous customers.

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

ruse

n
/ 'rüs /
F

a stratagem or trick usually intended to deceive.
Little did Carey know that Mrs. Bradley was onto his ruse.

russet

adj
/ 'rəsət /
L > F > E

reddish brown.
Troy's Robin Hood costume featured a russet top and forest green pants.

rustic

adj
/ 'rəstik /
L

naturally simple in character or manners.
Visitors to the village considered the inhabitants rustic.

rutabaga

n
/ 'rüdə.bāgə /
ON > Sw

a turnip with a very large yellowish root that is used as food both for stock and for human beings.
In England, the vegetable Americans know as a rutabaga is called a "swede."

rutch

rutilant

adj
/ 'rüdə'lənt /
L

having a reddish glow : shining.
The evening sun put a rutilant sheen on the sunbathers' skin.

sabbatical

sable

n
/ 'sābəl /
Slav > G > F > E

[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word.] the heraldic color black.
Anita began painting her family's coat of arms by creating a background of sable.

sabotage

n
/ 'sabətəzh /
F

malicious destruction of or damage to property with the intention of injuring a business or impairing the economic system or weakening a government or nation in time of war or national emergency.
When a drug enforcement agency airplane crashed, sabotage was suspected and an investigation was launched.

saboteur

sacalait

n
/ 'sakə.lā /
Choctaw > F

a crappie that is typically smaller and more silvery than the black crappie and that is highly esteemed as a food fish.
Ray and Moira went to the French Quarter to dine on sacalait and cornbread.

saccade

n
/ sa'käd /
F

a small rapid jerky movement of the eye especially as it jumps from fixation on one point to another (as in reading).
Mary felt that her eyes could not take one more saccade, so she closed them during the remainder of the PowerPoint presentation.

saccadic

adj
/ sa'kädik /
F

[has near homonym: psychotic] of or relating to a sudden movement : jerky.
Virginia's saccadic motions were symptomatic of a neurological disorder.

saccharify

sacciform

adj
/ 'sak(s)ə.förm /
L

resembling a pouch.
The squirrel filled its sacciform cheeks with acorns.

sacerdocy

n
/ 'sasə(r).dösē /
L

priesthood.
Will announced in a letter to his sister that he felt a calling to the sacerdocy.

sacerdotal

adj
/ ,sasə(r)'dödəl /
L

of or relating to priests or a priesthood.
Some types of sacerdotal clothing distinguish the clergy from the laity, and some signify rank within the priesthood.

sachem

n
/ 'sächəm /

Narraganset&Pequot the leader of a political party; specifically : one of the 12 governors of the Tammany Society.
William Tweed was a sachem of the political organization known as Tammany Hall.

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

sachet

n
/ sa'shā /
F

[has homonym: sashay] a small bag or packet; especially : a small bag containing a perfumed powder that is used to scent clothes.

Aunt Kate keeps a sachet in her clothes closet.

sacralize

sacrifice

v
/ 'sakra.fis /
L

[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word.] bunt in baseball with fewer than two out, enabling a base runner to advance a base while the batter is put out at first base.

The coach told Marvin to sacrifice because George was on third base and the team needed one more run to win.

sacrificial

sacristy

sacroiliac

sacrosanct

adj
/ 'sakra.sən(k)t /
L

most holy or sacred : inviolable.
The use of loud voices is inappropriate in the sacrosanct temple.

safari

n
/ sə'fārē /
Ar > Swahili

a hunting or other expedition in east Africa, especially on foot.
While on safari, Ariel photographed lions and elephants.

saffron

n
/ 'safrən /
Ar > L > F > E

a deep orange-colored substance consisting of the aromatic pungent dried stigmas of the saffron crocus and used to color and flavor foods.
Saffron is the most expensive spice at Walker's Market.

sagacious

adj
/ sə'gāshəs /
L

possessing quick intellectual perceptions.
The neighbors often came to the sagacious old man for advice about investments.

sagacity

n
/ sə'gasədē /
L

quickness or acuteness of sense perceptions.
Chuck's sagacity made him the finest detective in the arson unit.

sagathy

sagebrush

sagittal

adj
/ 'sajədəl /
L

of, relating to, or shaped like an arrow or arrowhead.
Murray fantasized that the sagittal rock he found in the quarry was an Indian arrowhead.

Sagittarius

n
/ ,sajə'ta(a)rēəs /
L

the ninth sign of the zodiac.
The Moon was in Sagittarius when Sherman was born.

salaam

salamander

n
/ 'salə.mandə(r) /
Gk > L > F > E

a metal disk or plate heated and held over a food (as pastry or pudding) to brown the top of it.
A salamander is often used to caramelize the top of desserts like crème brûlée.

salami

n
/ sə'lāmē /
L > It

a highly seasoned sausage made of pork and beef.
Randy made a sandwich of salami and cheese.

salesclerk

salicetum

n
/ ,salə'sēdəm /
L

a collection or plantation of willows.
The salicetum is Nikki's favorite picnic spot.

salicylate

salient

saline

salivary

salmon

n
/ 'samən /
L > F > E

a variable color of salmon's flesh averaging a strong yellowish pink.
Unable to find a purse in the right shade of salmon, Vera decided to stick with basic black.

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

salmonellosis

n
/ˌsɑlməˈneɪlōsəs/
American name + Lcff
infection with a bacterial disease typically marked by gastroenteritis but often complicated by septicemia, meningitis, and other conditions.
Vaughn contracted salmonellosis while on the cruise.

salon

salsilla

n
/səlˈsɪlə/
L
a tropical American plant with edible roots sometimes used as a substitute for potatoes.
In the West Indies we had our first taste of salsilla.

saltine

n
/sɒlˈtɛn/
E
a thin, crisp cracker sprinkled with salt.
The stale saltine crumbled as the raccoon tried to wash it in the creek.

salutary

adj
/ˈsɑlyətərē/
L
promoting health : curative, restorative.
The long vacation had a salutary effect on Grace's mental health.

salve

n
/ˈsɑv/
E
a healing ointment.
Jason's grandmother prepared a mustard oil salve and told him that if he used it, his troubles would be over in three days.

salvo

n
/ˈsɑl(ə)vō/
L > F > It
a sudden eruption or explosion (as of laughter, cheers, or handclaps).
When the villain met with doom after an intense struggle, the movie theater was filled with a salvo of applause.

samba

n
/ˈsɑmbə/
African > Pg
a Brazilian dance of African origin characterized by a sprightly step pattern in duple time and a bending of the knee at each beat of the music.
The Campbells, who love Latin dancing, went to special classes to learn the samba.

samizdat

n
/ˈsɑmɛz.dɑt/
Russ
the system in the former U.S.S.R. by which government-suppressed literature was clandestinely printed and distributed; also : such literature.
After the fall of communism, numerous small publishers of samizdat found their place in the open market.

samovar

samphire

n
/ˈsɑm.fɪ(ə)r/
F name
a fleshy European coastal plant that is sometimes pickled.
Daphne ordered the salad of samphire and other greens.

sampler

samurai

sanctified

sanctimonious

adj
/ˌsɑŋ(k)təˈmɒnēəs/
L
displaying high-mindedness with intent to impress.
Ronnie's voice took on a sanctimonious tone when he volunteered to give his mother his meal.

sanction

sanctity

sanctum

n
/ˈsɑŋ(k)təm/
L
a sacred place.
The innermost sanctum of the temple in Jerusalem was known as the Holy of Holies.

sandal

n
/ˈsɑndəl/
Gk > L > E
a shoe consisting essentially of a sole fastened to the foot by means of straps or thongs passing over the instep and around the ankle.
Lorraine stopped to refasten the strap of her sandal because her ankle had swollen.

sangaree

sangfroid

n
/sɑŋˈfrwä/
L > F
extraordinary self-possession or imperturbability, especially under strain.
Justin remained calm during the prosecutor's attack and replied to the questions with sangfroid.

sanguinary

sanguine

adj
/ˈsɑŋgwən/
L
marked by eager hopefulness.
Ever sanguine, Kathy said that she would one day win the lottery.

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

sanguinolent

adj
/ san'gwɪnələnt /

L
of, containing, or tinged with blood.

Theo's phlegm became sanguinolent for a while from bronchitis.

sanitary

adj
/ 'sanətərē /

L
for or relating to the preservation of health.

Conditions at Christ Hospital are as sanitary as is humanly possible.

sapiential

adj
/ 'sāpē.ənchəl /

L
characterized by wisdom.
The philosopher's library is filled with sapiential books.

saponaceous

adj
/ ,sapə'nāshəs /

L
soapy.
Talc and soapstone have a saponaceous feel.

saporous

adj
/ 'sapərəs /

L
having flavor; especially : agreeable in taste.
When Dad returned from work, Mom treated him to a saporous beef stew.

sapphire

n
/ 'sa.fī(ə)r /
Skt > Heb > Gk > L > F > E

a precious stone of transparent rich blue corundum of great value.
Sapphire has been highly prized as a gemstone since 800 B.C.

sapphiric

adj
/ sə'fīrɪk /
Skt > Heb > Gk > L > F > E

having the nature of or resembling a sapphire.
Diane's bracelet held a series of sapphiric stones.

saprogenous

adj
/ sə'prājənəs /
Gk + Gk + Ecf

capable of producing decay or putrefaction.
Saprogenous bacteria aid in the decomposition of dead organic matter.

saprophagous

adj
/ sə'präfəgəs /
Gk + Gk

feeding on decaying matter.
While hiking, Ted and Paul passed the carcass of a squirrel that was covered with saprophagous insects.

saran

sarcasm

sarcophagus

sardine
n
/ ,sär'dēn /
Gk? > L > F > E

any of several small or immature fishes preserved for food.
The only way to entice the frightened cat from under the porch was to offer him a sardine.

sardonic

sardonyx

sarong

sarrazin

sarsaparilla

n
/ ,sas(ə)pə'rɪlə /

Sp
a sweetened carbonated beverage similar to root beer with the predominant flavor from birch oil and saffras.
Sylvester's yen for sarsaparilla is well known to cartoon aficionados.

sartorial

adj
/ sär'tōrēəl /
L

of or relating to dress or to tailored clothes.
Sandy, who longed to be a sartorial rebel, sometimes went to class wearing purple tights under her uniform.

sashay

v
/ sa'shā /
F > E

[Note: Could be confused with chassé. Also, word has homonym: sachet] strut in an ostentatious or conspicuous manner.
Tommy and Suzanne tried to sashay as the caller instructed, but they both tripped and fell.

Saskatchewan

adj
/ sə'skəchəwən /
Cree > Canad geog name
of or from the province of Saskatchewan, Canada.
Among the Saskatchewan flora is the saskatoon, a sweet purple berry.

saskatoon

n
/ ,saskə'tūn /
Canadian geog name
a juneberry of the northern and western United States and adjacent Canada.
The purple fruit of the saskatoon is eaten eagerly by birds.

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

sassafras

n
/ 'sas(ə).fras /
Sp > L

the dried bark of the root of an aromatic tree used as a diaphoretic, a flavoring agent, an aromatic stimulant, or as a source of an aromatic volatile oil used in perfumes.

Alba's family has a recipe for medicinal tea that contains sassafras.

satchel

satellite

n
/ 'səd˰l.i.t̩ /
Etruscan? > L > F

a celestial body orbiting another of larger size.

Earth has only one natural satellite—the Moon.

satiate

satiety

n
/ sə'ti:əd̩ /
L > F

the quality or state of being fed to or beyond capacity.

Nell wondered if her beagle puppy would ever reach satiety.

satire

n
/ 'sa.ti(ə)r /
L

a usually topical literary composition holding up human or individual vices, folly, abuses, or shortcomings to censure by means of ridicule, derision, burlesque, irony, or other method sometimes with an intent to bring about improvement.

Gulliver's Travels is a scathing satire of political and religious hypocrites.

satiric

satirical

adj
/ sə'ti:rəkəl /
L > F

characterized by caustic or ironic comment.

Ned's cartoons have a sharp, satirical edge.

saturate

v
/ 'sachə.rāt /
L

infuse thoroughly or cause to be pervaded.

The aroma of a turkey roasting in the oven began to saturate the entire house.

saturnine

adj
/ 'səd(ə)r.nīn /
L

of a moody or surly character : morose, sullen.

Shirley's father-in-law is a saturnine person with a quick temper.

saucer

sauciness

n
/ 'sôsē.nəs /
L > F + Ecf

the quality or state of being amusingly or unobjectionably forward or impertinent.

Emma felt they were friends again, and the conviction gave her at first great satisfaction, and then a little sauciness.

sauerbraten

n
/ 'sau(ə)r.brät̩n /
G

oven-roasted or pot-roasted beef marinated in a vinegar solution with peppercorns, garlic, onions, and bay leaves before cooking.

Phil's favorite German restaurant features sauerbraten during Oktoberfest.

sauger

saunter

saurian

sausage

n
/ 'sôsij /
L > F > E

highly seasoned chopped or ground meat that is used either fresh or cured.

Harry's favorite pizza is topped with sausage and onions.

savagism

savorous

adj
/ 'sāv(ə)rəs /
L > F > E

pleasurable to the taste : flavorful.

Mabel prepared a savorous Thanksgiving dinner for her family.

savory

adj
/ 'sāv(ə)rē /
F

fragrant.

Guido bought a savory wooden bowl smelling of rich cedar and varnish.

savvy

n
/ 'savē /
L > Sp

expertness in a particular field based on experience and native ability.

Officer Ramos's street savvy was a great help in apprehending drug dealers.

saxophone

sayonara

n
/ .sâyə'närə /
Jpn

good-bye.

Charlene found it hard to bid Nagano sayonara at the end of the 1998 Winter Olympics.

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

scabbard

n
/ 'skabə(r)d /
G > AF > E

a usually leather or metal sheath in which the blade of a sword, dagger, bayonet, or other cutting weapon is enclosed when not in use.

The knight began to pull his sword from its scabbard, but a look from the queen stopped him.

scabrous

adj
/ 'skabrəs /
L

rough to the touch : having small raised dots, scales, or points.

The leaf's scabrous texture was caused by insect attacks.

scaffold

scalene

adj
/ 'skā.lēn /
Gk

having the sides unequal—used of a triangle.

The boat's sail formed a scalene triangle.

scallopini

scalpel

n
/ 'skalpəl /
L

a small straight knife with a thin keen blade used especially for dissecting.

In surgery the scalpel is now often replaced by a laser beam.

scampi

scandal

scansion

n
/ 'skanchən /
L

the analysis of a rhythmic structure (as a verse) so as to show the elements or units of which its rhythm is composed.

There are three major types of English scansion: the graphic, the musical, and the acoustic.

scaphoid

adj
/ 'ska.fōid /
Gk > L

shaped like a boat.

Terence found a scaphoid depression in the rock.

scarce

adj
/ 'ske(ə)rs /
L > F > E

not plentiful or abundant.

Lettuce became scarce and expensive after the recent flooding.

scarcity

scarifier

n
/ 'ska(a)rə.fī(ə)r /
Gk > L > F

an implement or machine that tears up the surface of a road prior to resurfacing.

Paul operates a scarifier for the Highway Department.

scarlatina

n
/ 'skärlə'tēnə /
L

an acute contagious disease marked by fever.

Diseases such as scarlatina were once the scourge of childhood.

scarlet

adj
/ 'skärlət /
Per > L > F

having the face reddened by emotion (as embarrassment, anger) : red-faced.

Jill turned scarlet with rage when she discovered her sister was wearing her new sweater.

scaturient

adj
/ skə'türēənt /
L

gushing forth : effusive, overflowing.

The explorers followed the river to its scaturient source.

scavenging

scelidosaur

scenario

n
/ sə'na(a)rē.ō /
Gk > L

an outline or synopsis of a play.

After the actor read the scenario, he decided that he was not right for the leading role.

scenewright

n
/ 'sēn.rīt /
Gk > L + E

a designer and maker of theatrical sets.

The scenewright worked closely with the playwright to create the appropriate backgrounds for each act.

scentless

adj
/ 'sentləs /
L > F > E + Ecf

emitting no odor.

Gerald prefers scentless soap.

scepter

n
/ 'septə(r) /
Gk > L > F > E

a staff or baton borne by a sovereign as a ceremonial emblem of authority.

When Ben played Henry VIII in the school play, his mother made him a scepter.

schadenfreude

n
/ 'shäd'n.frōidə /
G

enjoyment obtained from the mishaps of others.

Morgana claimed to be sympathetic, but the schadenfreude was all too obvious.

scheduling

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

schefflera

n
/ 'sheflərə /
G name > L

any of several shrubby tropical plants that are cultivated for their showy foliage.
When frost was predicted, Demont covered the schefflera with a blanket.

scheme

v
/ 'skēm /
Gk

accomplish by clever contriving.
Walter resolved to scheme out a way to get a new bike.

schemer

n
/ 'skēmə(r) /
Gk

one that forms plots or intrigues.
Joe was a schemer who always had big plans to get rich.

scherzando

adj
/ skert'sän(,)dō /
Gmc > It

playful, jesting—used as a direction in music indicating style and tempo.
The Flight of the Bumblebee was played with scherzando lightness.

scherzo

schiafone

schipperke

schism

schismatic

adj
/ siz'madik /
Gk > L
of, relating to, or characteristic of division, separation, or discord.
The book describes numerous schismatic movements in church history.

schizoid

schizophrenia

schnitzel

n
/ 'shnitsəl /
G

a veal cutlet variously seasoned and garnished.
The Bavarian restaurant's menu included sauerbraten, sausages, and schnitzel.

scholarly

adj
/ 'skälə(r)lē /
Gk > L

characteristic of one who is devoted to learning : studious.
Nathan's scholarly habits earned him a spot on the honor roll.

schooner

schottische

n
/ 'shäd-ish /
G

a round dance in duple time characterized by gliding and hopping steps and similar to but slower than the polka.
After an hour of dancing the schottische, Ed and Sarah wearily headed for the soda machine.

schuss

n
/ 'shüs /
G

a straightaway skiing course.
In a tucked position Kira followed the schuss all the way to the bottom.

schussboomer

n
/ 'shüs.bümər /
G + imit

one who skis usually straight downhill at high speed.
When the schussboomer lost control, he somersaulted and rolled to the foot of the slope.

scialytic

adj
/ .sīə'lidik /
Gk > L

dispersing or dispelling shadows.
After a long night of ghost stories, Erma welcomed the scialytic dawn.

sciamachy

n
/ sī'aməkē /
Gk

a fighting with a shadow or an imaginary enemy.
Engaging in sciamachy helped the boxer prepare for his next match.

sciatica

n
/ sī'adəkə /
Gk > L

pain along the course of a sciatic nerve or its branches and especially in the leg.
As Alicia struggled out of bed, she complained of sciatica in her left leg.

scientific

adj
/ .sīən'tifik /
L

concerned with or treating of a branch or department of systematized knowledge that is or can be made a specific object of study.
Alain's scientific training landed him a job at Dow Chemical.

scientist

scilicet

scintilla

scintillate

v
/ 'sint'lāt /
L

gleam or emit quick flashes as if throwing off sparks.
Mom's eyes scintillate whenever she is joyously excited.

scintillation

n
/ .sint'l'āshən /
L

rapid changes in the brightness of a celestial body caused by turbulence in Earth's atmosphere.
The stars' scintillation is less pronounced at higher altitudes.

scintiscan

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

sciolistic

adj
/sīə'listik/
L

of or relating to superficial knowledge or to one whose knowledge is superficial.
The students' sciolistic conversation amused Professor Pickett.

sciosophy

scissors

sclerosis

n
/sklə'rōsəs/
Gk

pathological hardening of tissue produced by overgrowth of fibrous tissue and other changes or by increase in interstitial tissue.
Sclerosis is often a consequence of old age.

scofflaw

n
/'skäflə/
E + E

a contemptuous lawbreaker; especially : one who ignores parking tickets.
The scofflaw tore up his ticket in front of the police officer and was subsequently fined \$500.

sconce

n
/'skän(t)s/
L > F > E

an ornamental electric light fixture for a wall that resembles a bracket candlestick or group of candlesticks.
Tamara bought an elaborate sconce for her hallway.

scopate

adj
/'skō.pāt/
L + E

resembling a brush.
Some cacti have scopate flowers.

scotopia

n
/skə'tōpēə/
Gk + Gk > L

vision in dim light with dark-adapted eyes believed to be mediated by the rods of the retina.
Astronomers rely on scotopia to resolve detail in images.

scoundrel

n
/'skaüdrəl/
unknown

a bold selfish person who has very low ethical standards.
The treasurer of the company was fired when he was found out to be an opportunistic scoundrel.

scourge

n
/'skərj/
L > F > E

a social evil.
Much of the city's crime is attributed to the scourge of recurrent unemployment.

scraggly

scramble

v
/'skræmə/
D?

prepare (eggs) by stirring during frying.
After she burned the meatloaf, Arlene decided to scramble some eggs for dinner.

scrawny

adj
/'skrōnē/
unknown
marked by an appearance of undernourishment : skinny and bony.
The scrawny kitten mewed plaintively in the tree.

screenplay

n
/'skrēn.plā/
D > F > E + E

the written form of a story prepared for motion-picture production including description of characters, details of scenes and settings, dialogue, and stage directions.
The director, with screenplay in hand, was ready for the day's filming.

scrimmage

n
/'skrimij/
Gmc > E

practice play between a team's various squads.
Today's exciting scrimmage is a good indication that both squads are ready for the upcoming season.

scrimshaw

n
/'skrim.shō/
unknown

any of various carved or engraved useful or decorative articles sometimes colored by brushing ink into the engraved lines and made especially by American whalers from whalebone or whale ivory.
The whaling museum has a large collection of scrimshaw.

script

n
/'skript/
L

something written : text.
By the end of vacation, Mary had the entire script of the play memorized.

scriptural

adj
/'skripchərəl/
L > E + Ecf

of, relating to, contained in, or according to a sacred writing.
Ivan spent five years translating the scriptural material.

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

scrivener

n
/ 'skriv(ə)nə(r) /
L > F

a professional or public copyist or writer.

The critic dismissed the writer's novel as the uninspired work of a scrivener.

scroll

n
/ 'skrɔ:l /
Gmc > F > E

a long strip used as the body of a written document and often having a rod or rods for convenience in rolling and storing.

The writing on the magician's scroll erased itself after the spell was read aloud.

scrumptious

adj
/ 'skrəm(p)ʃəs /
L

delightful, excellent.

The bakery down the street makes a scrumptious almond coffee cake.

scruples

n pl
/ 'skrupəlz /
L

mental reservations : qualms.

Emma recommended the minced chicken and scalloped oysters with an urgency she knew would be acceptable to the civil scruples of her guests.

scrupulously

adv
/ 'skrupyələslē /
L

conscientiously, painstakingly.

Katie washes her hands so scrupulously that her friends wonder if she has a psychological disorder.

sculpin

n
/ 'skəlpən /
unknown

any of a family of spiny large-headed broad-mouthed often scaleless bony fishes.

A small sculpin was Van's only catch on the expensive charter-boat outing.

sculptor

n
/ 'skəlp(tə)r /
L

one that carves, engraves, molds, welds, or constructs (materials) into a primarily three-dimensional work of art.

Pablo Picasso was equally influential as a painter, a sculptor, and a draftsman.

sculpture

scuppernong

n
/ 'skəpə(r)nŋ /
geog name

any of various cultivated muscadine grape varieties which have yellowish-green fruit suggesting a plum in flavor.

Molly picked and ate a scuppernong from her grandmother's grape arbor.

scurrilous

adj
/ 'skərələs /
L

containing low obscenities or coarse abuse.

The farmers hurled scurrilous accusations across the barbed-wire fence.

scurvy

n
/ 'skərvē /
Scan > E

a disease characterized by spongy gums, loosening of the teeth, and a tendency to bleed into the skin and mucous membranes and caused by a dietary deficiency of ascorbic acid.

Scurvy is easily preventable by eating fruits and vegetables rich in vitamin C.

scutellate

adj
/ sk(y)ü'telət /
L

rather flat with a distinct rim and a rounded to oval outline.

Beryl opened the packet and examined the scutellate seeds.

scuttlebutt

scythe

scytodopsis

seabound

seafaring

searchlight

n
/ 'sərch.līt /
L > F > E + E

an apparatus for projecting a powerful beam of light of approximately parallel rays usually devised so that it can be swiveled about.

The festival hired a searchlight to sweep the sky and advertise its presence.

seasonably

sebaceous

adj
/ sə'bāshəs /
L

relating to, composed of, or secreting fatty matter.

Oily skin is usually the result of overactive sebaceous glands.

secco

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

secede

v
/ sə'sēd /

L
withdraw from a federation.
About ten more deputies have opted to secede from the governing majority.

secernment

n
/ sə'sərnmənt /

L
[Note: Could be confused with discernment.] the act or process of distinguishing or discriminating in thought.
The thesaurus proved enlightening in its secernment of the subtle differences between synonyms.

secession

n
/ sə'seshən /

L
formal withdrawal from an organization (as a religious communion or political party or federation).
The history teacher explained that the South's secession from the United States was not solely an issue regarding slavery.

secessionist

secondariness

secularism

secund

sedens

sedentary

adj
/ 'sed'n.terē /

L
characterized by or requiring sitting or slight activity.
Isabelle's sedentary job provided little opportunity for exercise.

Seder

n
/ 'sādə(r) /

Heb
[has homonym: satyr] a Jewish home or community service and ceremonial dinner held on the first evening of the Passover.
Jim had never been to a Seder before he met Julia.

sediment

n
/ 'sedəmənt /

L
material deposited (as by water, wind, or glaciers).
The layers of sediment were evident in the shades of color on the rocky hillside.

sedition

n
/ sə'dishən /

L > F > E
an insurrection against constituted authority.
Because Paul openly advocated the overthrow of the government, he was charged with sedition.

sedulous

seedling

n
/ 'sedliŋ /

E + Ecf
a nursery plant (usually a tree) that has not been transplanted.
Karen bought a maple seedling at the tree farm.

seersucker

seethe

segue

v
/ 'sā(,)gwā /

L > It
make a transition from one activity, topic, scene, or part to another as or as if part of a natural progression.
Senator Ward used an anecdote to segue to a new topic in his speech.

seguidilla

n
/ ,sāgē'dē(y)ə /

L > Sp
a Spanish dance with many regional variations or the music for this dance performed with guitar and castanets.
In the second act of the opera, the Spanish gypsy performs a seguidilla.

seiche

n
/ 'sāsh /

F
an oscillation of the surface of a lake or landlocked sea.
A seiche can be almost as powerful as a tidal wave.

seine

v
/ 'sān /

E
[has homonym: sane] fish with or catch fish with a net that hangs vertically in the water.
David and Joel like to seine for perch.

seismism

n
/ 'sīz.mizəm /

Gk
earthquake phenomena.
Ralph gave a report about seismism in Chinese folklore.

seity

seizure

n
/ 'sēzhə(r) /

E
a sudden attack (as of a disease or sickness).
A seizure of hay fever ruined the picnic for Tom.

seldom

selectivity

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

selenian

adj
/ sə'leɪniən /
Gk

of, relating to, or designating the Moon.

Jim's story tells the tale of an explorer going off to create a selenian colony.

selenologist

n
/ ,selə'näləjəst /
Gk

an astronomer who specializes in the study of the Moon.

The selenologist gave a description of the chief craters of the moonscape.

selenology

semanteme

n
/ sə'mantēm /
Gk > F

a word or a base that expresses a definite image or idea—distinguished from morpheme.

The verb run is an example of a semanteme.

semaphore

semester
n
/ sə'mestə(r) /
L

either of the two periods of instruction commonly 18 weeks in length into which an academic year is usually divided.

Yolanda was delighted that her grades for the first semester were all A's.

semiautomatic

seminary
n
/ 'semənərē /
L

an institution for the training of candidates for the priesthood, ministry, or rabbinate.

The pulpit committee's first choice is a young person who has just completed seminary.

semolina

n
/ ,semə'lēnə /
L > It

the purified middlings of durum or other hard wheat used for macaroni and other alimentary pastes.

The best pasta is made from semolina.

senary

adj
/ 'sɛnərē /
L

[has homonym: scenery] of, based upon, or characterized by six : compounded of six things : consisting of six parts.

Jethro experimented with music using a senary scale.

senectitude

senescent
adj
/ sə'nesənt /
L

growing old.

The town's senescent infrastructure struggled under the burden of a growth spurt.

seneschal

n
/ 'senəʃhəl /
Gmc > F > E
a bailiff, steward, or majordomo of a great medieval lord.
The seneschal pounded his staff on the floor three times and announced the king's visitors.

senile

sensibilia

sensibility

sensible

sensory
adj
/ 'sen(t)s(ə)rē /
L + E

of or relating to the senses.

In some insects the sensory organs of taste, touch, smell, and hearing are located in the antennae.

sententious

adj
/ sen'tenchəs /
L

terse, aphoristic, or moralistic in expression : pithy.

The sitcom's drop in popularity was attributed to its growing tendency toward sententious sermonizing.

sentient

sentimental

sentinel

n
/ 'sent(ə)nəl /
L > It > F

one that watches or guards.

The sentinel peered into the distance through tiny binoculars.

sentry

n
/ 'sentrē /
E

[has near homonym: century] a soldier standing guard.

The sentry reported a suspicious vehicle parked down the street from the barracks.

separate

sepia

n
/ 'sepēə /
Gk > L

a pigment of rich brown color containing melanin, prepared from the ink of various cuttlefishes, and used in watercolor painting and in ink.

Black-and-white photographs can be stained with sepia to give them an old-fashioned look.

septennial

adj
/ sep'tenēəl /
L

continuing or lasting for seven years.

Since legislation in 1716 the British government has had septennial parliaments; previously they were triennial.

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

septentrional

adj
/ sep'tentriənəl /

L
northern.
The septentrional seaports of Russia are frozen in the winter.

septuagenarian

n
/ .sep.t(y)üəjə'nerēən /

L
a person who is 70 or more but fewer than 80 years old.
Aunt Daisy is proud of the fact that she has lived to be a septuagenarian.

sepulchral

adj
/ sə'pəlkrəl /

L
having a funereal quality.
Dusk and a vase of gardenias gave the parlor a sepulchral air.

sequaciousness

n
/ sə'kwāshəsnes /

L > E
the quality or state of being imitative or obsequious.
Cal's sequaciousness failed to win him a promotion.

sequel

n
/ 'sēkwəl /

L
continuation; especially : a literary work continuing the course of a narrative begun in a preceding one.
The film was so popular that the producer asked the screenwriter for a sequel.

sequela

n
/ sə'kwelə /

L
an aftereffect of disease or injury.
Peeling of the skin is a common sequela of sunburn.

sequester

v
/ sə'kwestə(r) /

L > F > E
hide from public view : seclude.
The judge wanted to sequester the jury to keep them from hearing news reports that might sway their opinions.

seraphic

adj
/ sə'rafik /

Heb > L
of, relating to, or befitting an angel of the highest order especially in beauty or ecstatic adoration.
The choir's hymn of praise sounded sublimely seraphic.

serenade

v
/ .serə'nād /

L > It > F
play or sing music in honor of.
The football team plans to serenade its coach during the pep rally.

serendipitous

adj
/ .serən'dipədəs /
Ar geog name + Ecf
obtained or characterized by unexpected but fortunate discovery.
Mickey's serendipitous discovery of five quarters and two dimes on the sidewalk made his day.

serge

seriatim
adv
/ .sirē'ādəm /

L
in sequence.
Although the classes meet seriatim, each day of the week starts with a different class in the series.

sericeous

adj
/ sə'rishəs /
Gk > L
having a fuzzy surface; specifically : covered with soft, silky hairs.
The plant's sericeous leaves felt almost like velvet.

serictery

n
/ sə'riktərə /

Gk > L
the silk-producing gland of a caterpillar or other insect larva.
As it spins its cocoon, the silkworm caterpillar secretes a gummy substance from each serictery.

serigraphy

sermonize

v
/ 'sərmənīz /

F > E
address at length in a didactic and solemn manner.
Everyone is hoping that Dad won't find something to sermonize about when he chaperones the school dance.

serotinal

adj
/ sə'rät'nəl /

L + Ecf
of or relating to the latter and usually drier part of summer.
Many small ponds dry up during the serotinal season.

serpiginous

serrated

adj
/ 'se.rādəd /

L
notched or toothed on the edge.
Under the microscope, dust mites appear to be hairy monsters with serrated claws.

serrefine

serried

adj
/ 'serēd /

F
crowded or pressed together.
The serried tenements of the big city soon gave way to rolling hills.

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

serviceable

adj
/ 'sɜrvəsəbəl /
L > F

suited for a purpose.
Filene lamented that the poncho's design, though serviceable, is not very fashionable.

servile

adj
/ 'sɜrvəl /
L

[has homonym: serval] of, relating to, or appropriate to slaves.
Oscar was thankful to be freed from his servile status.

sesquicentennial

n
/ ,sɛskwə'sɛn'tɛnɛəl /
L

a 150th anniversary.
The state issued special license plates to commemorate its sesquicentennial.

sesquipedalian

adj
/ ,sɛskwəpə'dālyən /
L

given to or characterized by the use of long words.
Norbert dozed off halfway through the principal's sesquipedalian speech.

session

severance

sewage

n
/ 'süij /
L > F > E
waste matter that is carried away by a drain.
The smell of sewage permeated the dilapidated building.

shackle

v
/ 'ʃakəl /
E

[has homonym: shackle] confine the limbs of so as to prevent free motion.
The prisoner of war told the United Nations delegation that his guards had threatened to shackle him 24 hours a day.

shaddock

n
/ 'ʃadək /
E name
a very large thick-rinded typically pear-shaped citrus fruit.
The shaddock resembles the grapefruit but is larger, coarser, and drier.

shadiness

n
/ 'ʃādɛnəs /
E + Ecff
the quality or state of comparative darkness.
On a hot day, the cool shadiness of a tree is very welcome.

shaganappi

shagreen

n
/ 'ʃa,grɛn /
F > E
an untanned leather covered with small round granulations and dyed a bright color.
Chloe bought the bride and groom leather placemats made of shagreen.

shako

n
/ 'ʃa(,)kō /
G > Hung > F
a stiff military headdress with a metal plate in front, a high crown, and a plume.
Each member of the band wore a plumed shako in parades.

shale

n
/ 'ʃāl /
E
a fissile rock that is formed by the consolidation of clay, mud, or silt.
The petroleum refinery also markets by-products of shale.

shallot

n
/ ʃə'lät /
L > F
a perennial herb that resembles an onion and is used in cooking.
Ted didn't have time to go to the store again, so he substituted a white onion for a shallot in the recipe.

shanghai

v
/ 'ʃaŋ,hī /
Chinese geog name
to put by trickery into an undesirable position.
Winona won't allow the condominium board to shanghai her into serving as its president.

shanghaied

shears

shebang

sheepshearer

n
/ 'ʃhɛp,ʃhɪrə(r) /
E + E
a person that cuts the wool from sheep by hand or machine.
At the county fair, the sheepshearer always draws the largest crowd.

shekel

n
/ 'ʃhekəl /
Hebrew
a Hebrew unit of weight equal to about 252 grains troy.
In the Talmudist system, a shekel is 1/60 of a mina.

shenanigan

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

shenanigans

n pl
/ shə'nanəgənz /
unknown
high-spirited, daring, or mischievous acts : pranks.
On the first day of school Mrs. Gibson warned the class that she would not put up with any shenanigans in her classroom.

shepherdess

n
/ 'shepə(r)dəs /
E
a woman or girl who tends sheep.
Alma painted a watercolor of a shepherdess and three lambs.

sheriff

n
/ 'sherəf /
E
a county officer who is usually elected by the people of the county and has the duty of preserving the peace.
The office of sheriff is a holdover from medieval English law.

shibboleth

n
/ 'shibələθ /
Heb
a custom or usage regarded as a criterion for distinguishing members of one group (as a social class) from those of another.
Table manners are sometimes used as a shibboleth of class distinction.

shillibeer

n
/ 'shilə.bi(ə)r /
E name
a horse-drawn hearse with seats for mourners.
The museum has acquired an ornate Victorian shillibeer.

shillyshallyer

shindig

n
/ 'shin.dig /
E
a jovial social affair that includes dancing.
Max hosted the shindig at the hotel.

shipwreck

n
/ 'shi.prek /
E + Scand > F > E
a large ruined or stranded seagoing boat or its parts.
The shipwreck was mottled with barnacles.

shivering

v
/ 'shiv(ə)riŋ /
E
trembling due to cold, fear, or physical pressure.
Norma was shivering because she did not dress in warm clothing.

shoal

n
/ 'shōl /
E
[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word. In addition, word has homonym: shole.] a great number thronged together or considered as a group.
The spelling bee champion received a shoal of congratulatory letters in the month following her win.

shrapnel

n
/ 'shrapnəl /
E name
bomb, mine, or shell fragments.
The surgeon found and removed all of the shrapnel in the soldier's leg, ensuring a swift recovery.

shrewdness

n
/ 'shrüdəs /
E
the quality or state of being discerning or astute.
Shrewdness is Janet's strong suit.

shriek

n
/ 'shrēk /
E
a shrill, usually wild or involuntary cry.
Nancy let out a shriek when her little brother dropped an ice cube down the back of her dress.

shubunkin

shuddering

v
/ 'shəd(ə)riŋ /
E
shaking with fear, aversion, horror, or cold.
Joan woke shuddering from a nightmare.

sibilant

adj
/ 'sibələnt /
L imit
having, containing, or producing the sound of or a sound resembling that of the s or the sh in sash.
"She sells sea shells. . . ." is a sibilant tongue twister.

siccative

adj
/ 'sikədɪv /
L
causing to dry : promoting the action of drying.
Zinc oxide is often used as a siccative agent for skin rashes.

sickle

sicklocyte

n
/ 'sik(ə)ləsɪt /
E + Gk
an abnormal red blood cell of crescent shape.
The patient with sickle-cell anemia wanted to see a sicklocyte under the microscope.

sidereal

adj
/ sɪ'dirēəl /
L
[has near homonym: sideral] of or relating to stars or constellations.
Time-lapse photography was used by the observatory to detect sidereal motion.

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

siege

n
/ 'sēj /
L > F > E

the operations of an army around a fortified place for the purpose of compelling its surrender by assault or blockade.

The defenders were confident they could outlast the siege, since the castle had an underground source of fresh water.

siffilate

v
/ 'sifə.lāt /
L > F

whisper.

The diners began to siffilate when the celebrity entered the restaurant.

sightseer

n
/ 'sīt.sēə(r) /
E

one that visits places of interest.

The unusual sightseer asked whether anyone had noticed any interesting manhole covers or drain grates in the area.

signature

silentiary
n
/ sī'lenchē.erē /
L

one appointed to keep silence and order (as in a court of law or a public assembly).

One stern glance from the silentiary was all it took to stop Karsten's insipid murmuring.

silhouette

n
/ .silə'wet /
F name

a representation of the outlines of an object filled in with black or some other uniform color.

Mrs. Baldwin has a framed silhouette of each of her children on the wall of her foyer.

silhouettist

silica

n
/ 'siləkə /
L

the chemically resistant dioxide of a nonmetallic element that occurs in combined form as the most abundant element next to oxygen in Earth's crust.

Nora learned from her research that silica is used for making glass and ceramic products and is found naturally in quartz and sand.

siliciferous

adj
/ .silə'sif(ə)rəs /
L

producing, containing, or united with silica.

When geologists analyzed the siliciferous rock, they found quartz and chlorite veins.

silicon

n
/ 'siləkən /
L

[Note: Could be confused with silicone.] a nonmetallic element that occurs abundantly in combined form and is used chiefly in the form of alloys.

The scientist was striving to devise a new method for purifying silicon for use in fabricating microchips.

sillar

n
/ sēl'yär /
L > Sp

[has somewhat near homonym: sillier] building material consisting of large blocks cut from a natural deposit.

The hikers came upon a low structure made of sillar and nearly covered in vines.

sillographer

n
/ sə'ləgrəfə(r) /
Gk

a writer of satires.

The marble bust of the ancient sillographer crashed to the library floor.

similarity

simile
n
/ 'simə(,)lē /
L

a figure of speech comparing two essentially unlike things and often introduced by like or as.

Kermit has a pet chicken and knows firsthand what the simile "as scarce as hens' teeth" means.

simnel

n
/ 'simməl /
Semitic? > L > F > E

a rich fruit cake sometimes covered with almond paste.

Auntie Grace always serves simnel during the December holidays.

simpatico

adj
/ sim'pədə.kō /
L > It

possessing attractive qualities : appealing, likable.

The hero of the novel is a thoroughly simpatico character.

simulacrum

n
/ .simyə'lākkrəm /
L

a representation of something : image, effigy.

A simulacrum of Elvis stood at the entrance to the wax museum.

simulcast

v
/ 'sīməl.kast /
L + ON > E

broadcast by radio and television simultaneously.

Years ago, radio and television stations would sometimes simulcast operatic performances to provide listeners with quality stereophonic sound.

simultaneity

simultaneous

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

simultaneously

adv
/ˌsɪməl'tænɪəsli /
L

at the same time : concurrently.
Jason, who often types and talks simultaneously, calls himself a "master of multitasking."

sinciput

sinecure

n
/ˌsɪnəkjū(ə)r /
L

an office or position that requires little or no work and that usually provides an income.
The mayor made the grave mistake of handing out a sinecure to a friend.

sinew

n
/ˌsɪ(ˌ)nyū /
E

tendon; especially : one dressed for use as a cord or thread.
Ephraim wore a jade pendant in the shape of a bear on a sinew around his neck.

singeing

singular

adj
/ˌsɪŋɡjələ(r) /
L

extraordinary, exceptional.
The singular quality of Sean's voice was the envy of all the other choir members.

singularize

v
/ˌsɪŋɡjələˈrɪz /
L + Ecff

distinguish.
By practicing every day, Ben believed he could singularize himself in the school orchestra.

sinistral

adj
/ˌsɪnəstrəl /
L

of or relating to the left.
The sorcerer's mask was ripped away, revealing terrible scars on the sinistral side of his face.

sinuosity

n
/ˌsɪnyə'wəsədē /
L

the quality or state of bending in and out.
The sinuosity of the mountain road taxed Ken's driving skills.

sinusitis

n
/ˌsɪnə'sɪdɪs /
L

inflammation of any of the several cavities in the skull.
The allergist explained that Alice's headaches and sneezing are due to sinusitis.

Sioux

adj
/ˈsju /
Dakota
[has homonyms: sault, sou, sue] of or relating to the Dakota people or their language.
Following a speech in Sioux language, the dancers began the Sun Dance.

sirloin

n
/ˈsɜr.lɔɪn /
L > F > E
a cut of meat and especially of beef taken from the hindquarters.
The butcher cut the sirloin into steaks for his customers.

sitology

n
/sɪ'täləjē /
Gk
[Word has homonym: cytology. In addition, an alternate pronunciation has near homonym: cetology.] the science of nutrition and dietetics.
Deirdre plans to major in sitology and write cookbooks for vegetarians.

skedaddle

v
/skə'dadl /
unknown
run away : leave hastily.
A sudden shower caused Karen to skedaddle from the bazaar.

skeleton

n
/ˈskelətən /
Gk
the bones of a human being or other vertebrate.
Dr. Symonds has a real human skeleton in his office.

skewbald

skewer

n
/ˈskjuə(r) /
unknown
[has near homonym: skua] a pin of wood or metal for fastening meat to keep in form while roasting or to hold small pieces of meat and vegetables for broiling.
Maggie put pieces of steak and vegetables on the skewer.

skillet

n
/ˈskɪlɪt /
E
frying pan.
A quality deep skillet has many uses in the kitchen.

skimeister

n
/ˈskɛ.mɪstə(r) /
G + L > G
[Note: Caution should be taken not to confuse second part of this compound word with master.] a professional skier or skiing instructor.
Diantha pretended to be a poor skier just to get close to the handsome skimeister.

skimpiness

n
/ˈskɪmpənəs /
Scand? > E? + Ecff
the quality or state of being deficient in supply or execution.
The skimpiness of Eunice's budget did not allow for many luxuries.