

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

**aardwolf**

n  
/ 'ärd.wulf /  
Afrikaans  
a striped hyenalike mammal of southern and eastern Africa that feeds chiefly on carrion and insects.  
*Termites are the favorite food of the aardwolf.*

**abacus**

n  
/ 'abəkəs /  
Gk > L  
a calculating instrument for performing arithmetical processes by sliding counters by hand on rods or in grooves.  
*The grocer used an abacus instead of a modern cash register.*

**abalienation**

**abalone**

n  
/ .abə'lōnē /  
Sp  
a gastropod mollusk that clings to rocks tenaciously with a broad muscular foot.  
*At the beach, Marta made a necklace from the shell of an abalone.*

**abandonment**

**abattoir**

n  
/ 'abə.twär /  
F  
slaughterhouse.  
*At the end of the day the battlefield at Hastings looked like an abattoir.*

**abbot**

**abbreviate**

**abbreviation**

**abdicate**

v  
/ 'abdəkāt /  
L  
relinquish formally, renounce.  
*The crown prince will abdicate his throne so that his brother may rule.*

**abdomen**

n  
/ 'abdəmən /  
L > F  
region of an insect's body.  
*The three main body parts of an insect are the head, the thorax, and the abdomen.*

**abdominal**

**abecedarium**

**abecedarius**

n  
/ .ābē(,)sē'da(r)ēəs /  
L  
a poem in which the lines or stanzas begin with the letters of the alphabet in regular order.  
*Geoffrey Chaucer wrote a famous abecedarius.*

**aberrant**

**aberration**

n  
/ .abə'rāshən /  
L  
deviation from the natural state or from a normal type.  
*Jane's outburst at the meeting was a shocking behavior aberration, for her manner is usually so reserved.*

**abeyance**

n  
/ ə'bāən(t)s /  
L > F + Ecf  
[has homonym: obedience]  
cessation or suspension (as of a customary practice).  
*Use of the swimming pool was put in abeyance until a new lifeguard could be hired.*

**abhor**

**abhorrence**

**abidance**

n  
/ ə'bīd'ən(t)s /  
E  
compliance.  
*Abidance with the golden rule helps one have a happy life.*

**ability**

**abiogenist**

**abjuration**

**ablution**

n  
/ ə'blu:shən /  
L  
the washing of one's body or part of it as a religious rite.  
*A common example of ablution in Judaism is washing the hands before a meal that includes bread.*

**abolition**

**abominable**

adj  
/ ə'bām(ə)nəbəl /  
L > F > E  
worthy of or causing loathing or hatred.  
*Charlie's abominable pretense of being attracted to Jane was the result of a dare by his friends.*

**aborigine**

n  
/ .abə'rijə(,)nē /  
L  
[Note: Could be confused with aborigin.] one of the native people especially as contrasted with an invading or colonizing people.  
*Cathy Freeman, an Australian aborigine, carried the flame into the Olympic stadium.*

**abracadabra**

n  
/ .abrəkə'dabrə /  
L  
confused or unintelligible language : nonsense.  
*Despite the abracadabra in the poem "Jabberwocky," its message is rather clear.*

**abrasion**

n  
/ ə'brāzhən /  
L  
wearing, grinding, or rubbing away by friction.  
*Moving glaciers caused abrasion on Earth's surface.*

**abrasive**

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**abrogated**

**abruptly**

adv  
/ ə'brʌp(t)l̩ /

L  
in a manner that produces the effect of a sudden ending.

*George's mom stopped abruptly at the door of his room when she saw his pet python on the floor.*

**abscess**

**abscissa**

n  
/ ab'sisə /

L  
the horizontal coordinate of a point in a plane Cartesian coordinate system obtained by measuring parallel to the x-axis.

*Bill was asked to mark the point on the graph at which the abscissa is 4 and the ordinate is 7.*

**abscond**

**abscondence**

**abseil**

n  
/ 'æp.zɪl /

G  
descent in mountaineering by means of a rope looped over a projection above.

*In her wilderness survival class, Elisa learned how to perform an abseil without losing control.*

**absence**

**abstemious**

adj  
/ abz'tēmēəs /

L  
sparing in eating and drinking.  
*Evelyn is abstemious by nature and never orders dessert.*

**abstention**

n  
/ əbz'tenchən /

L  
withholding of a vote.  
*Helga resented her senator's abstention on the crime bill.*

**abstinence**

**abstractive**

**abstruse**

adj  
/ əbz'trüs /

L  
[has obsolete variant with similar pronunciation: obstruse] difficult to comprehend or understand.

*Mr. Thompson's abstruse calculations covered the blackboard.*

**absurdity**

**abundance**

**abysmal**

adj  
/ ə'bɪzməl /  
Gk > L > E

having the characteristics of an abyss : bottomless.  
*Ahmet jumped his motorcycle over the abysmal gorge.*

**abysmally**

**acacia**

n  
/ ə'kæʃə /  
Gk > L

any plant of the genus of woody plants of warm regions having pinnate leaves and white or yellow flower clusters.  
*Giraffes have specialized teeth that help them comb leaves from the spiny branches of the acacia.*

**academia**

n  
/ .akə'dēmyə /  
Gk > L

life and interests associated with a school especially of higher learning.  
*Robert prefers academia to the business world.*

**academic**

adj  
/ .akə'demɪk /  
Gk > L > F  
relating to a school, especially an institution of higher education.

*Claudia postponed her academic pursuits after learning of her father's serious illness.*

**acarology**

**accede**

**accelerate**

v  
/ ik'selə.rāt /

L  
add to the speed of or quicken the motion of.  
*To qualify for the finals, the jogger had to accelerate his pace.*

**accelerator**

**accentuator**

**acceptance**

**accessible**

adj  
/ ik'sesəbəl /  
L  
capable of being reached or easily approached.  
*Wilbur made sure his restaurant was accessible to those in wheelchairs.*

**accession**

n  
/ ik'seshən /  
L > F  
the act of attaining or coming to high office or a position of honor or power.  
*The best seller chronicled the accession of the new prince.*

**accessorial**

**accidental**

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**accipiter**

n  
/ ak'sipədə(r) /

L  
any hawk of the genus *Accipiter* (as the Cooper's hawk, sharp-shinned hawk, goshawk).

*Calvin spotted an accipiter darting among the trees.*

**acclimatization**

n  
/ ə'klīmədə'zāshən /

L > F + Ecff  
the process of adapting to a new temperature, altitude, environment, or situation.

*The wild fern's acclimatization to Mrs. Bennett's rock garden amazed her.*

**acclivity**

n  
/ ə'klivədə /

L  
an ascending slope (as of a hill).  
*The biker hoped that a downhill stretch would soon follow what seemed to be an endless acclivity.*

**acolade**

n  
/ 'akələd /

L > F  
a bestowal of praise.  
*Martin received one accolade after another at the awards banquet.*

**accommodable**

**accommodate**

v  
/ ə'kämədət /

L  
provide with lodgings.  
*Leah begged the hotel clerk to accommodate her for just one more night.*

**accomplice**

n  
/ ə'kämpləs /

L > F > E  
one that participates with another in a crime either as principal or accessory.  
*The juvenile was convicted as an accomplice in the robbery.*

**accordionist**

**accreditation**

**acrescent**

adj  
/ ə'kresənt /

L  
growing continuously; specifically : growing larger after flowering.  
*After its flower had fallen away, the plant's accrescent calyx became noticeably larger.*

**accrual**

**accrue**

**accrued**

v  
/ ə'krüd /

L > F > E  
came by way of increase or addition.  
*Helen argued that many advantages have accrued to society from the freedom of the press.*

**accumulate**

v  
/ ə'kyümyələt /

L  
heap up in a mass : pile up.  
*The weather forecaster said that as much as two feet of snow might accumulate overnight.*

**accurate**

adj  
/ 'akyərət /

L  
correct, exact, precise.  
*The detective prided himself on making accurate reports of crime scenes.*

**accusatory**

**acerbity**

n  
/ ə'sərbədə /

L  
acidity of temper or tone : astringency or sharpness of manner.  
*Rosemary remarked with acerbity that her son's chores hadn't been done in days.*

**acescent**

adj  
/ ə'sesənt /

L  
turning sour or tending to turn sour.  
*Natalie spit out the acescent milk.*

**acetate**

**acetylene**

n  
/ ə'sedələn /

L + Gk + Gk  
a colorless gaseous hydrocarbon that is explosive when compressed but safe if diluted with nitrogen or acetone.  
*The welder ran out of acetylene while cutting through the ship's hull.*

**achondrite**

n  
/ ā'kän.drīt /

Gk  
a stony meteorite devoid of the granular structures known as chondrules.  
*The claim that the achondrite originated from the moon was based on compositional matches of lunar rocks obtained by the Apollo missions.*

**achromatism**

**acicular**

adj  
/ ə'sikyələr /

L + Ecf  
like a needle in shape : slender and pointed.  
*Under the microscope, the crystals appear as single acicular structures.*

**acknowledge**

**acknowledging**

**acme**

n  
/ 'akmē /

Gk  
the highest point or stage (as of growth or development).  
*Many of her fans think Barbra Streisand is at the acme of the music profession.*

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**acolyte**

n  
/ 'akə.līt /  
Gk > L > F > E  
one who attends or assists :  
follower.  
*Not one acolyte remained after the  
cult leader's fall from grace.*

**acorn**

**acoustician**

**acoustics**

n pl  
/ ə'küstiks /  
Gk  
the aggregate of qualities (as  
absence of echo or reverberation)  
of an enclosure (as an auditorium)  
or other area that affects  
production, control, transmission,  
reception, and perception of sound.  
*As a result of the renovation, the  
acoustics of the concert hall have  
improved dramatically.*

**acquaintance**

n  
/ ə'kwāntʰn(t)s /  
F > E  
familiarity, experience.  
*Ruth developed an acquaintance  
with Tibetan musical tradition.*

**acquiesce**

**acquiescence**

**acquittal**

n  
/ ə'kwidʰl /  
L + L > F  
[Note: The definition provided is  
not the one most commonly  
associated with this word.] release  
or discharge from debt or other  
liability.  
*Mr. Churchill was deeply involved  
in the game and was too much  
indebted to it for his acquittal.*

**acre**

n  
/ 'ākə(r) /  
E  
any of various units of land area.  
*Miriam had to cross a 10-acre field  
to get to her favorite swimming  
hole.*

**acrid**

adj  
/ 'akrəd /  
L  
unpleasantly sharp or strong to the  
taste or to the smell.  
*The acrid sulfur fumes made  
Gustavo's eyes water.*

**acrimonious**

adj  
/ .akrə'mōnēəs /  
L > F  
caustic, biting, or rancorous,  
especially in feeling, language, or  
manner : bitter.  
*It was obvious that Marjorie's  
comments were acrimonious and  
complaining.*

**acrobat**

n  
/ 'akrəbat /  
Gk > F  
one who performs gymnastic feats  
or exercises.  
*Paul is developing the skills of a  
first-rate acrobat.*

**acronym**

n  
/ 'akrənim /  
Gk + Gk  
a word formed from the initial  
letter or letters of each of the  
successive parts or major parts of a  
compound term.  
*The word radar is an acronym of  
radio detection and ranging.*

**acropolis**

**acrostic**

n  
/ ə'kröstik /  
Gk  
a composition usually in verse in  
which one or more sets of letters  
when taken in order form a word, a  
connected group of words, or the  
regular sequence of the letters of  
the alphabet.  
*Mrs. Taylor was not at all pleased  
with the acrostic her students made  
using her name.*

**acrylic**

**actinic**

adj  
/ ak'tinik /  
Gk > L + Ecf  
having photochemical properties or  
effects.  
*The stars emit actinic rays as well  
as light and heat.*

**actuary**

n  
/ 'akchə.werē /  
L  
one trained in mathematics and  
statistics whose business it is to  
calculate insurance and annuity  
premiums, reserves, and dividends.  
*An actuary uses such factors as age  
and health status to determine a  
person's life insurance premiums.*

**acuate**

adj  
/ 'akyə.wāt /  
L  
having a sharp point : shaped like a  
needle : sharpened.  
*Cobb's beagle was distinctive  
because of its acuate tail.*

**aculeate**

adj  
/ ə'kyülēāt /  
L  
marked by incisiveness : stinging,  
pointed.  
*No actor was spared in the  
reviewer's aculeate criticisms.*

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**acumen**

n  
/ ə'kyümən /  
L

acuteness of mind : keenness of perception, discernment, or discrimination : shrewdness especially in practical matters.  
*Della's business acumen helped her amass a fortune of over \$50 million.*

**acuminate**

adj  
/ ə'kyümənət /  
L

tapering to a slender point : pointed.  
*Steve found one of his parakeet's acuminate tail feathers on the floor.*

**acupuncture**

**adactylous**

**adage**

**adagio**

n  
/ ə'dä(,)jō /  
(L + L > OProv) > It  
[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word.] a series of sustained and perfectly controlled dance movements displaying balance and grace.  
*The wicked fairy performed a perfect adagio just before Sleeping Beauty appeared.*

**adamantine**

adj  
/ .adə'man.tin /  
Gk > L > E  
rigidly firm : unyielding.  
*Debra's adamantine chain of logic bedazzled her philosophy professor.*

**addlepated**

**adenoidal**

adj  
/ .ad'n'oid'l /  
Gk

typical or suggestive of one affected with abnormally enlarged glands in the back of the throat.  
*The critics panned the tenor, whose voice was terribly adenoidal and breathy.*

**adequate**

**adequation**

**adhere**

**adherence**

**adherent**

n  
/ .ad'hirənt /  
L

a believer in or advocate of a particular thing, idea, or religion.  
*Julia has been an adherent of Buddhism since 1985.*

**adhesional**

**adiaphorism**

**adipose**

**adjacency**

**adjacent**

adj  
/ ə'jās'nt /  
L  
living nearby or sitting or standing relatively near or close together.  
*Citizens of Centerville and its adjacent communities banded together to form a volunteer fire department.*

**adjourn**

**adjudicate**

**adjunct**

n  
/ 'a.jəŋ(k)t /  
L

something joined or added to another thing but not essentially a part of it.  
*Exercise is an adjunct to a long and healthy life.*

**adjuvant**

**admeasure**

**adminicle**

n  
/ ad'minəkəl /  
L

support, auxiliary.  
*Shelly enjoyed serving as an adminicle of the local Girl Scout troop.*

**admiral**

n  
/ 'adm(ə)rəl /  
Ar > L

a naval officer of high rank.  
*Petty Officer Pritchard saluted the admiral and continued to her post.*

**admire**

**admonitory**

**adolescence**

**Adonis**

n  
/ ə'dänəs /

Gk name  
an exceptionally handsome young man.  
*Nearly all the eighth-grade girls think that Leonardo is an Adonis.*

**adsmith**

**adumbrate**

v  
/ 'adəm.brāt /  
L

give a sketchy representation of : outline broadly, omitting details.  
*There was time to only adumbrate the escape plan.*

**advantageous**

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**adverb**

**adversary**

**adverse**

**advisory**

n  
/ əd'vīz(ə)rē /  
L > F

a report giving information (as one issued by a weather bureau on the progress of a hurricane).  
*The weather advisory warned small craft that winds would be in excess of 34 knots today.*

**advocaat**

**advocate**

n  
/ 'advəkāt /  
L

one that argues for, defends, maintains, or recommends a cause or proposal.  
*Isabella was sure nobody ought to be, or could be, a greater advocate for matrimony than she.*

**aerial**

**aerodynamic**

adj  
/ .a(ə)rō(,)dī'namik /  
Gk

of or relating to the science that treats of the motion of air and other gaseous fluids.  
*The aerodynamic design of race cars helps them achieve great speeds.*

**aeronautics**

**aerosol**

n  
/ 'a(ə)rəsəl /  
Gk + L

a suspension of ultramicroscopic solid or liquid particles in air or gas.  
*Volcanic eruptions propel hydrogen sulfide into the stratosphere, where it reacts with oxygen to form an aerosol that can persist for more than a year.*

**Aeschylean**

adj  
/ eskə'lēən /  
Gk name  
of, relating to, or suggestive of the Greek tragic poet Aeschylus.  
*The Aeschylean chorus plays an important role in the plot of the tragedy.*

**affability**

n  
/ .afə'bīlədē /  
L  
sociability.  
*Miss Smith was delighted with the affability with which Miss Woodhouse had treated her all the evening.*

**affable**

**affectionate**

adj  
/ ə'feksh(ə)nət /  
L  
having warm regard : loving, fond.  
*Tipper is the most affectionate collie Susan had ever owned.*

**affianced**

v  
/ ə'fīən(t)st /  
L > F > E  
solemnly promised (oneself or another) in marriage : betrothed.  
*The ruler of Austria affianced his daughter to the king of France.*

**affidavit**

n  
/ .afə'dāvət /  
L  
a sworn statement in writing made especially under oath or before an authorized officer.  
*The police asked Heather to prepare an affidavit regarding what she saw when she surprised a burglar in her house.*

**affiliate**

v  
/ ə'filē.āt /  
L  
attach as a member or branch : bring or receive into close connection.  
*The university assists in trying to affiliate local high schools.*

**affiliation**

n  
/ ə'filē'āshən /  
L  
the state or relation of being attached as a member or branch.  
*Professor Bruner retired after a 30-year affiliation with Harvard University.*

**affinity**

n  
/ ə'fīnədē /  
L  
sympathy especially as marked by community of interest.  
*Marie felt an affinity with the new chess prodigy, remembering how she had followed Bobby Fischer's early career many years before.*

**affirmative**

**afflatus**

n  
/ ə'flādəs /  
L  
a divine imparting of knowledge or power : inspiration.  
*Most art students are familiar with Michelangelo's painting on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel depicting the afflatus from God to Adam.*

**affluence**

**aforementioned**

**afterwale**

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**agape**

n  
/ ä'gä.pä /  
Gk

spontaneous self-giving love expressed freely without calculation of cost or gain to the giver or merit on the part of the receiver.

*The question "What's in it for me?" is unheard of in agape.*

**agate**

adj  
/ 'agät /  
Gk > L > F

of or resembling a fine-grained chalcedony frequently mixed with opal and having various colors arranged in stripes or bands; especially : of the color of agate.  
*Rachel's brown agate eyes are extremely unusual and beautiful.*

**agelicism**

**agenda**

**agglomerate**

n  
/ ə'glämərət /  
L

[Note: Could be confused with agglomerant.] a confused or jumbled mass, heap, or collection.  
*Helen's favorite jeans are somewhere in the agglomerate of clothing on her bedroom floor.*

**agglomeration**

**agglutinate**

**aggrandizement**

n  
/ ə'grandəzmənt /  
L > F

the act, action, or result of making great or greater (as in power, honor, or wealth).  
*Because she was a commoner, Ruth was accused of marrying the prince for her own personal aggrandizement.*

**aggravate**

v  
/ 'agrə.vāt /  
L

make worse, more serious, or more severe.

*Shane worried that a game of one-on-one would aggravate his ankle injury.*

**aggregate**

n  
/ 'agrəgät /  
L

a body of units or parts somewhat loosely associated with one another.

*The protesters straggled toward the muddy park in a dispirited aggregate as the organizers set up tents and microphones.*

**aghost**

**agiotage**

**agitated**

adj  
/ 'ajə.tādəd /  
L

troubled in mind : disturbed, excited.

*The crowd became agitated when the candidate failed to appear.*

**agnostic**

n  
/ ag'nästik /  
Gk

one who maintains a continuing doubt about the existence or knowability of a god or any ultimates.

*Raymond and Olive have been happily married for ten years, even though she is an agnostic and he never misses Sunday morning mass.*

**agoraphobia**

**agrarian**

**agreeable**

adj  
/ ə'grēəbəl /  
L > F

pleasing to the mind or senses : to one's liking : pleasant.

*The famous ballplayer proved to be the most likable and agreeable man that Billy had ever met.*

**agriology**

**agronomy**

n  
/ ə'gränəmē /  
L + Gk

the branch of agriculture that deals with field crop production and soil management.

*Vince earned a degree in agronomy at the state university's school of agriculture.*

**aikido**

**ailanthus**

n  
/ ä'lan(t)thəs /  
Amboinese

a tree of a small genus of East Indian and Chinese trees with greenish flowers.

*The ailanthus is fast growing and its shallow, wide-spreading root system effectively anchors the soil.*

**aileron**

n  
/ 'älərən /  
L > F

a movable portion of an airplane wing or a movable airfoil external to the wing for imparting a rolling motion and thus providing lateral control.

*An aileron is usually situated at the trailing edge of an airplane's wing near the wing tip.*

**airborne**

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**airedale**

n  
/ 'a(a)(ə)r.dāl /  
E geog name  
a large terrier with a wiry black and tan coat.  
*Shantha's airedale is registered with the American Kennel Club.*

**akimbo**

adj  
/ ə'kim(,)bō /  
E  
having the hands on the hips with the elbows projecting outward.  
*With her arms akimbo, Marion waited for Tim to explain himself.*

**akropodion**

n  
/ .akrə'pōdēən /  
Gk  
the most prominent point on the back of the heel.  
*After the hike, Eli had a nasty blister on his left akropodion.*

**aktograph**

**alabaster**

adj  
/ 'alə.bastə(r) /  
Gk > L > F > E  
of or resembling alabaster; specifically : having a nearly white color and a light-diffusing surface.  
*Patsy's alabaster skin gives her a spectral appearance.*

**alacrity**

n  
/ ə'lakrədē /  
L  
cheerful readiness : eagerness.  
*Dr. Cameron's students always enter his class with alacrity and depart with reluctance.*

**alar**

**alary**

adj  
/ 'alərē /  
L  
wing-shaped or fan-shaped.  
*There was an alary membrane on each side of the seed.*

**albatross**

n  
/ 'albə.trōs /  
Ar? > Pg or Sp  
any of a number of large web-footed seabirds that are capable of long-continued flight.  
*The wingspan of an albatross can exceed ten feet.*

**albedo**

n  
/ al'bē(,)dō /  
L  
reflective power.  
*Arno researched the effects of soil albedo on vegetation.*

**albedometer**

n  
/ .albəd'dämədə(r) /  
L + Gk  
a device for measuring the reflection of light (as by snow).  
*David used an albedometer to measure the reflection of light by the clouds.*

**albeit**

conj  
/ ɔl'bēət /  
E  
although.  
*Sonia had a simple, albeit expensive, wedding.*

**albino**

**alchemy**

n  
/ 'alkəmē /  
Gk > Ar > L > F  
the medieval chemical science and speculative philosophy whose aims were the transmutation of base metals into gold.  
*The wizard's apprentice was determined to learn enough alchemy to turn lead into gold.*

**alcohol**

**alcoholature**

**alcoholism**

**alcove**

n  
/ 'alkōv /  
Ar > Sp > F  
a recessed part (as a breakfast nook) of a room.  
*Silvio found an alcove in the library that was a perfect place for taking a nap.*

**aleatoric**

adj  
/ .ālēə'tōrik /  
L  
characterized by chance or random elements.  
*By digitizing thunder and traffic noises, Georgia was able to compose aleatoric music.*

**aleatory**

**alegar**

n  
/ 'aligə(r) /  
E + L > F  
sour ale or vinegar made of ale.  
*While studying in England as an exchange student, Judith developed a taste for fried potatoes with salt and alegar.*

**alfalfa**

n  
/ al'falfə /  
Ar > Sp  
an important European leguminous forage plant.  
*The farmer alternated his crops, growing alfalfa one season and corn the next.*

**alfresco**

adj  
/ al'fre(,)skō /  
It  
open-air.  
*Everyone looks forward to the alfresco party that the Smiths hold every Derby Day.*

**algorithm**



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**alibi**

n  
/ 'aləbī /  
L

the plea of having been elsewhere at the time an act was committed.  
*To support his alibi, Jake showed his lawyer a video made during his Hawaii trip.*

**alien**

adj  
/ 'ālēən /  
L

different in nature or character : far removed.  
*Nguyen's response to his mother's question had results entirely alien from what he intended.*

**alienation**

**aliferous**

**alimentary**

adj  
/ .alə'mentərə /  
L

[Note: Could be confused with elementary.] of, concerned with, or relating to nourishment or to the function of nutrition.  
*Pasta is sometimes called an "alimentary paste."*

**aliquot**

**alkali**

**allargando**

adv  
/ .ä.lär'gän(.)dō /  
L

in a manner becoming gradually broader with the same or greater volume.  
*David's piano teacher indicated that the piece was to be played allargando.*

**allayment**

**allege**

v  
/ ə'lej /  
L

assert, affirm, state without proof or before proving.  
*Residents of the area allege that the lake water has curative properties.*

**allegiance**

n  
/ ə'lējən(t)s /  
F > E

the duty of fidelity owed by a subject or citizen to his sovereign or government.  
*The new citizens pledged allegiance to their adopted country.*

**allegory**

n  
/ 'alə.gōrē /  
Gk

a story in which people, things, and happenings have a hidden or symbolic meaning.  
*Gail disliked the moralistic tone of the allegory.*

**allegro**

n  
/ ə'le(.)grō /  
It > L

ballet steps performed in a lively, fast tempo.  
*After the allegro, Madame Delacroix instructed the dancers to cool down slowly.*

**allemande**

v  
/ 'alə.mand /  
Gmc > L > F

perform a step with arms interlaced.  
*The caller told the square dancers to allemande left and swing their partners.*

**allergy**

n  
/ 'alə(r)jē /  
Gk > G

exaggerated or pathological reaction (as by sneezing, itching, or skin rashes) to substances, situations, or physical states that are without comparable effect on the average individual.  
*Because of her allergy, Mrs. Griffin discouraged her students from bringing in any furry pets for show-and-tell.*

**alliance**

n  
/ ə'liən(t)s /  
L > F > E

union or connection especially between families, states, parties, or individuals.  
*The alliance between the two nations has been strong for nearly 50 years.*

**alligator**

n  
/ 'alə.gādə(r) /  
L > Sp

a reptile having a head not tapering to the snout and being in general much more sluggish than the typical crocodiles.  
*Jason's favorite sight at the fair was a woman wrestling an alligator.*

**allision**

**alliteration**

n  
/ ə.lidə'rāshən /  
L + Ecf

the repetition usually initially of a sound that is usually a consonant in two or more neighboring words or syllables (as in "daring deed").  
*Poor writers rely on alliteration when lacking ideas.*

**allocate**

v  
/ 'alə.kāt /  
L

set apart and earmark or designate.  
*Leon hoped the committee would allocate funds for the new playground.*

**allocation**

n  
/ ələ'kāshən /  
L

the act of apportioning.  
*The allocation of powers in the United States Constitution is clearly defined.*

**alluded**

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**alluviation**

n  
/ əˈlʊvᵻˈeɪʃən /  
L

the process that results in deposits of clay, silt, sand, or gravel at places in rivers or estuaries where stream velocity is decreased.  
*The effects of alluviation can be seen along the banks of a large river.*

**almond**

n  
/ ˈä(1)mənd /  
Gk > L > F > E

the fruit of a small tree; especially : the nutlike stone or kernel of this tree.  
*The almond is a nut that is easy to crack.*

**almoner**

n  
/ ˈälmənə(r) /  
L > F > E

one who distributes charitable gifts, often for another.  
*In his role as the king's almoner, Jared tossed a few pennies to the audience.*

**alnico**

n  
/ ˈälnəˌkō /  
L + G > Sw + G

a powerful permanent-magnet alloy containing iron, nickel, aluminum, and one or more of the elements cobalt, copper, and titanium.  
*Mr. Arkin's factory makes industrial magnets from alnico.*

**aloof**

adj  
/ əˈlʊf /  
E + D? > F > E

removed or distant either physically or spiritually and usually by choice and with indifference to the feelings, opinions, or interests of others.  
*Greg's aloof personality discouraged his gregarious colleagues.*

**alopecia**

n  
/ əˈləˈpiːsh(ē)ə /  
Gk

loss of hair, wool, or feathers : baldness.  
*Prescription drugs such as minoxidil have had limited success in treating alopecia.*

**alpaca**

n  
/ əlˈpækə /  
Aymara > Sp  
an animal like a llama with fine long woolly hair and domesticated in Peru and adjacent countries.  
*The petting zoo featured four goats, an alpaca, a pony, and three lambs.*

**alpenglow**

n  
/ ˈälpənˌglō /  
G + E  
a reddish glow or sometimes the entire series of light phenomena seen near sunset or sunrise on the summits of mountains.  
*Jocelyn and Ruth enjoyed the rich alpenglow from the balcony of their cabin.*

**alphabet**

**altazimuth**  
n  
/ əlˈtəzəməθ /  
L + Ar > L

an instrument consisting of a telescope mounted so that it can swing horizontally and vertically.  
*Josh saw an antique altazimuth in the maritime museum.*

**altercation**

n  
/ ˌɔltə(r)ˈkāshən /  
L  
dispute carried on with feeling (as anger).  
*Police broke up a minor altercation between two street vendors.*

**altiplano**

n  
/ ˌältəˈplä(ˌ)nō /  
L > Sp  
a high plateau or plain : tableland.  
*A cold northerly wind over the altiplano heralded the arrival of winter.*

**altitude**

n  
/ ˈältəˈtʊd /  
L > E  
position at a height.  
*When the plane suddenly lost altitude, the pilot told the passengers to fasten their seat belts.*

**altogether**

adv  
/ ˌɔltəˈgeθə(r) /  
E  
wholly, completely, thoroughly.  
*The suffragettes argued that it was altogether fit and proper that women have the right to vote.*

**altruism**

**altruistically**

**alveolate**

adj  
/ əlˈvēələt /  
L + Ecf  
pitted like a honeycomb.  
*The porous sandstone had an alveolate surface.*

**amadelphous**

**amalgam**

n  
/ əˈmælgəm /  
Ar? > L > F  
an alloy of mercury with another metal.  
*Because mercury will form an amalgam with most other metals, it can be used to extract them from ore.*

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**amanuensis**

n  
/ ə.manyə'wen(t)səs /

L  
one who is employed to write from dictation or to copy what another has written.

*During the six weeks that Chrissie's arm was in a cast, she completed her homework with her mother as her amanuensis.*

**amaryllis**

n  
/ .amə'riləs /

L name  
any of several African bulbous herbs grown for their large showy flowers.

*Deborah's amaryllis bloomed just in time for the December holidays.*

**amateur**

**amber**

n  
/ 'ambə(r) /  
Ar > L > F

a very hard yellowish to brownish translucent fossil resin that takes a fine polish.

*Sarah was delighted when her mother gave her some earrings made of amber.*

**ambidextrous**

**ambiguity**

n  
/ .ambə'gyüədē /

L  
the condition of admitting of two or more meanings, of being understood in more than one way, or of referring to two or more things at the same time.

*The ambiguity of Mr. Mitchell's essay questions encouraged creative interpretations.*

**ambivalent**

adj  
/ am'bivələnt /

L  
characterized by, suggestive of, motivated by, or exhibiting contradictory emotional or psychological attitude.  
*Because Tad has a grueling job lined up, he is ambivalent about the upcoming summer vacation.*

**amblyopia**

n  
/ .amblē'öpēə /

Gk  
dimness of sight without apparent change in the eye structures associated especially with the toxic effects of certain drugs or chemicals or with dietary deficiencies.

*The doctor told Henry to quit smoking if he wanted his amblyopia to improve.*

**ambrosia**

n  
/ am'brōzh(ē)ə /

Gk > F  
a dessert of a fruit or of mixed fruits topped with shredded coconut.

*Cyrus's favorite dessert is his grandmother's ambrosia.*

**ambulation**

**ambuscade**

**ambush**

**ameliorate**

v  
/ ə'mēlyə.rāt /

L  
make better : improve.  
*Activists lobbied to ameliorate prison conditions.*

**amelioration**

n  
/ ə.mēlyə'rāshən /

L  
the act of making better or the state of being made better : improvement.

*The committee submitted its recommendations for the amelioration of the undesirable conditions at the overcrowded school.*

**amenable**

adj  
/ ə'mēnəbəl /

L > F  
readily brought to yield or submit : responsive, tractable.

*Horst is amenable to any ideas for the prom's theme.*

**amendment**

n  
/ ə'men(d)mənt /

L + Ecf  
the process of changing or modifying in any way for the better (as a motion, bill, act, or constitution).

*A well-drafted constitution will provide for its own amendment.*

**amertoy**

n  
/ 'amə(r),tɔi /

E geog name + E  
a small terrierlike dog having a short sleek satiny coat and weighing between six and ten pounds.

*Ricky was forever chasing Trixie, the family amertoy, out of the flower beds.*

**amethyst**

**amiable**

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**amicable**

adj  
/ 'aməkəbəl /  
L

characterized by or as if by friendship and goodwill.  
*Carla and Jeanine have had an amicable relationship since they settled their initial dispute.*

**amice**

n  
/ 'aməs /  
L

[has near homonyms: amas, amiss]  
a liturgical vestment consisting of an oblong piece of cloth usually of white linen, worn about the neck and shoulders and partly under the alb.  
*Father Patrick put on a fresh white amice before serving mass.*

**amiss**

**amity**

n  
/ 'amədē /  
L

friendship and goodwill, especially as characterized by mutual acceptance and tolerance of potentially antagonistic standpoints or aims.  
*The natural amity between Avital and her sister has helped them maintain strong ties through many family disagreements.*

**ammeter**

n  
/ 'a(m).medə(r) /  
F + Gk

[has near homonym: amateur] an instrument for measuring electric current.  
*Perry and Ayrton's ammeter helped measure the efficiency of the battery.*

**ammonia**

**amnesia**

n  
/ am'nēzhə /  
Gk

loss of memory : forgetfulness.  
*Alice suffered from amnesia as the result of a head injury.*

**amole**

n  
/ ə'mōlē /  
Nahuatl > Sp  
any of a number of plants utilized as a source of soap.  
*The discovery of an amole created much excitement among the castaways.*

**amortization**

**amphibian**

n  
/ am'fībēən /  
Gk

[has homonym: amphibion] an animal or plant accustomed or adapted to life both on land and in the water.  
*The frog is perhaps the best-known amphibian.*

**amphibious**

**amphora**

n  
/ 'amfərə /  
Gk > L  
a Greek unit of capacity equal to 10.3 gallons or 39 liters.  
*The group ordered 1 amphora of punch for the Antiquity Party.*

**ampicillin**

n  
/ ,ampə'silən /  
ISV  
a penicillin that is effective against gram-negative and gram-positive bacteria and is used to treat various infections of the urinary, respiratory, and intestinal tracts.  
*Pneumonia has been successfully treated with ampicillin.*

**amulet**

n  
/ 'amyələt /  
L

an inscribed charm believed to protect or aid the wearer.  
*The archaeologist discovered an amulet in the tomb of an ancient Egyptian ruler.*

**amuse**

v  
/ ə'myüz /  
L > F  
entertain or occupy in a pleasant manner.  
*The children seemed to tumble about and amuse themselves like good-natured collie puppies.*

**amygdaline**

adj  
/ ə'migdəlīn /  
Gk  
of or relating to a tonsil.  
*Because of a persistent amygdaline infection, Lana checked into the hospital to have her tonsils removed.*

**anabasis**

n  
/ ə'nabəsəs /  
Gk  
a going or marching up; especially : a military advance.  
*Hannibal is famous for his remarkable anabasis across the Alps into Italy.*

**anabibazon**

n  
/ ,anə'bībəzən /  
Gk  
the ascending node of the Moon's orbit with the ecliptic.  
*Lars waited for the Moon to reach its anabibazon so he could confirm his findings.*

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**anabolic**

adj

/ .anə'bälík /

Gk + Gk

relating to, characterized by, or promoting constructive metabolism.

*The weightlifter was disqualified after it was discovered he had used anabolic steroids.*

**anachronism**

**anachronous**

**anaconda**

n

/ .anə'kändə /

Singhalese

a large arboreal snake of the boa family of tropical South America.

*The anaconda has been known to forage in trees for birds.*

**anaglyph**

n

/ 'anə.ɡlɪf /

Gk

a stereoscopic still or moving picture producing a three-dimensional effect when viewed through colored filters.

*Troy begged his parents to take him to the newest anaglyph at the IMAX theater.*

**anagnorisis**

n

/ .anə.ɡ'nɔːrəsəs /

Gk

an incident or solution of plot in tragedy in which the main character recognizes his or her own or some other character's true identity or discovers the true nature of his or her own situation.

*The moment of anagnorisis occurs when the boy finds out he is actually the king's son.*

**anagogic**

adj

/ .anə'gəjɪk /

Gk > L

having a spiritual meaning or a sense referring to the heavenly life.

*Terrance recited anagogic poems by a Greek mystic.*

**analects**

**analemma**

n

/ .anə'lemə /

Gk

a graduated scale shaped like a figure 8 and showing the Sun's declination for each day of the year usually constituting part of a sundial and often shown on globes. *Katrina consulted the sundial's analemma to calculate the correct time.*

**analgesic**

**analogy**

n

/ ə'nælə.ʒi /

Gk

a figure of speech involving an extended or elaborate comparison between two things or situations. *Hugo used an analogy to illustrate his point, but no one understood the analogy either.*

**analysand**

n

/ ə'næləs.ənd /

Gk + L > Ecf

one that is analyzed; specifically : one who is undergoing psychoanalysis.

*The psychotherapist encouraged the analysand to unburden herself of her anxieties.*

**anonym**

n

/ 'anə.nɪm /

Gk

[has homonym: *anonym*] a fictitious name consisting of the real name written backwards.

*Pat often uses the anonym Tap when writing secret messages to her friends.*

**anaphora**

n

/ ə'naf(ə)rə /

Gk

repetition of a word or words at the beginning of two or more successive clauses or verses.

*"The voice of the Lord" occurred three times in anaphora in the psalm Julie read.*

**anarchy**

n

/ 'anə(r)kē /

Gk > L

a state of lawlessness or political disorder due to the absence of governmental authority.

*After the revelation of election fraud, some observers feared that the tiny republic would succumb to anarchy.*

**anastomosis**

n

/ ə.nə.stə'mɔːsəs /

Gk

a joining of the parts of a branched system.

*Hal pointed out the anastomosis in the veined mulberry leaf.*

**anastrophe**

n

/ ə'nəstrə(ɪ)fē /

Gk

inversion of the usual syntactical order of words for rhetorical effect.

*In the poem "Jabberwocky," the line "So rested he by the TumTum tree" is an example of anastrophe.*

**anathema**

n

/ ə'nəθəmə /

Gk

one that is cursed by ecclesiastical authority.

*The Sixth Ecumenical Council pronounced Pope Honorius anathema in A.D. 681.*

**anautia**

n

/ ə'nɔːdiə /

Gk

loss of voice : inability to articulate.

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*A blow to the throat can cause temporary anaudia.*

**anautozenous**

**ancestor**

**anchovy**

n  
/ 'an.chōvē /  
Gk > L? > It > Sp  
any of a number of small herringlike fishes; especially : a common Mediterranean form esteemed for its rich and peculiar flavor.  
*Joshua informed his mother that one anchovy had rendered the entire pizza inedible.*

**ancillary**

adj  
/ 'ans.ə.lerē /  
L  
serving to aid or assist : auxiliary : supplementary.  
*Electronic media usually include radio, film, and television, as well as the ancillary industries of audio and video recording.*

**anecdote**

n  
/ 'anik.dōt /  
F&Gk  
a usually short narrative of an interesting, amusing, or curious incident.  
*The speaker's presentation ended with a touching anecdote.*

**anemochore**

n  
/ ə'neməkō(ə)r /  
Gk > F + Gk  
a plant that has seeds or spores adapted to distribution by wind.  
*The dandelion is a familiar anemochore.*

**anemometer**

n  
/ .anə'mämədə(r) /  
Gk > F + Gk > Ecf  
an instrument for measuring and indicating the force or speed of the wind.  
*The anemometer spun furiously as the hurricane approached.*

**anemone**

n  
/ ə'nemənē /  
Heb name > Gk  
a plant or flower of a widely distributed genus of plants with showy flowers that lack petals but have showy sepals.  
*Xantha picked an anemone from the flower bed.*

**aneroid**

adj  
/ 'anə.rōid /  
Gk > F  
containing no liquid or functioning without the use of liquid.  
*Tasha carefully monitored the aneroid manometer throughout the course of the experiment.*

**anglaise**

adj  
/ äŋ'glāz /  
Gmc > F  
boiled and served without sauce.  
*Carrots anglaise are not very tasty.*

**anguish**

**anhydride**

**anise**

n  
/ 'anəs /  
Gk  
an herb cultivated for its aromatic seeds.  
*The flavor of anise is similar to that of licorice.*

**anisette**

**ankh**

n  
/ 'aŋk /  
Egypt  
a cross having a loop instead of an upper vertical arm used especially in ancient Egypt.  
*Roger's first discovery as an Egyptian archeologist was a gold ankh.*

**anklet**

**anneal**

**annihilate**

v  
/ ə'nī.əlāt /  
L  
destroy a considerable part of.  
*Armyworms can annihilate a beautiful lawn in just a few days.*

**anniversary**

n  
/ .anə'vərs(ə)rē /  
L  
the annual recurrence of a date marking an event or occurrence of notable importance.  
*Next Thursday will be the 23rd anniversary of our family grocery store's first day of operation.*

**annotation**

**annoyance**

n  
/ ə'nōiən(t)s /  
F > E  
a source of vexation or irritation : bothersome disturbance.  
*Vera enjoyed raking leaves on the warm autumn day, but the loud music from the neighbor's yard was an annoyance.*

**annual**

**annuity**

n  
/ ə'n(y)üədē /  
L  
an amount payable yearly or at other regular intervals (as quarterly) for a certain or uncertain period.  
*Carl's grandparents set up a trust fund that will provide him with an annuity for the next 20 years.*

**annul**

v  
/ ə'nəl /  
L > F > E  
cause to cease to exist : reduce to nothing.  
*The legislator's motion to annul the out-of-date law met with the approval of his colleagues.*

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**anodyne**

adj  
/ 'anə.dīn /  
Gk

serving to assuage pain : soothing.  
*Before aspirin was developed, certain spirits and herbs were valued for their anodyne properties.*

**anomalous**

**anomaly**

n  
/ ə'näməlē /  
Gk > L

the angular distance of a planet from its perihelion as seen from the Sun.  
*The anomaly in a planet's orbit is caused by the gravitational influence of other planets.*

**anon**

adv  
/ ə'nän /  
E

in a little while : soon, presently.  
*Anon he arrived at his destination.*

**anonymous**

adj  
/ ə'nänəməs /  
Gk > L

of unknown or unnamed source or origin (as authorship, donorship, workmanship).  
*An anonymous 18th-century painting recently sold for two million dollars.*

**anorthopia**

n  
/ .a(ɪ)nór'thōpēə /  
Gk

distorted vision in which straight lines appear bent.  
*When Liz put on Jan's glasses, she was overcome with anorthopia.*

**anosmic**

adj  
/ ə'näzmik /  
Gk > L

of or characterized by loss or impairment of the sense of smell.  
*Anesthesia can leave a patient temporarily anosmic.*

**anschluss**

n  
/ 'än.shlūs /  
G

union; especially : political or economic union of one government or territory with another.  
*Hitler's annexation of Austria to Germany in the 1930s is what is generally meant by "the anschluss."*

**anserous**

**Antarctic**

adj  
/ ant'ärktik /  
Gk

relating to the South Pole or the region near it.  
*Samuel's stamp collection included a complete collection of the stamps of the French Antarctic Territory.*

**antecedent**

n  
/ .antə'sēd'nt /  
L

a substantive word, phrase, or clause referred to by a pronoun, typically by a following pronoun.  
*In the sentence "I saw John and spoke to him," John is the antecedent of him.*

**antecessor**

n  
/ 'antəsesə(r) /  
L > E

one that goes before.  
*Phoebe's antecessor in the presidency served six terms.*

**antediluvian**

**antelope**

n  
/ 'ant'elōp /  
Gk > L > F > E

any of various ruminant mammals of Africa and southwest Asia that differ from the true oxen especially in lighter racier build and horns directed upward and backward.  
*The bounding antelope managed to outdistance the pursuing lion.*

**antenna**

**anterior**

adj  
/ an'tirēə(r) /  
L

relating to or situated near or toward the head or front.  
*The portion of the flower which faces the subtending bract is the anterior.*

**anteroom**

**anthography**

n  
/ an'thāgrəfē /  
Gk + Gk + EcF  
the description of flowers.  
*A botanist, Wilbur excelled in anthography.*

**anthology**

n  
/ an'thāləjē /  
Gk  
a usually representative collection of selected literary pieces or passages.  
*John hopes to find "The Raven" in his mom's anthology of American literature.*

**anthroponymy**

**anticyclone**

n  
/ 'an(ɪ)tē.sɪ.klōn /  
Gk + Gk  
a system of winds that rotates about a center of high atmospheric pressure.  
*The warm, dry winds blowing into southern California are from an anticyclone over the deserts of Nevada.*

**antifoulant**

n  
/ .an(ɪ)tɪ'fəʊlənt /  
L + E  
a substance (as paint for use on the bottom of a boat) designed to prevent, reduce, or eliminate an accumulation of deposits.  
*Antifoulant was applied to the ship's bottom in dry dock.*

**antilogy**

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**antimacassar**

n  
/ antēmə'kasə(r) /  
Gk + Celebes island geog name  
a cover to protect the back or arms  
of furniture from Macassar oil or  
other hair preparations.  
*Fran found the missing  
antimacassar under one of the sofa  
cushions.*

**antimony**

n  
/ 'antə.mōnē /  
Ar? > L > E  
a metalloid element that is  
commonly metallic silvery white,  
crystalline, and brittle and is used  
especially as a constituent of alloys.  
*Pewter is an alloy of antimony and  
tin.*

**antipasto**

n  
/ ,antē'pastō /  
L > It  
any of various savory foods usually  
served as appetizers : hors  
d'oeuvre.  
*Herbert ordered antipasto for the  
table.*

**antipodal**

adj  
/ an'tipəd'ɪ /  
Gk  
situated at the opposite sides of the  
earth.  
*Regina imagined that she could  
reach an antipodal town  
somewhere in China if she  
continued digging in her garden.*

**antiquarian**

adj  
/ ,antə'kwɛrēən /  
L  
dealing in old and rare books or in  
secondhand books.  
*Pamela went to an antiquarian  
bookseller to have her first edition  
of Oliver Twist appraised.*

**antique**

**antiquity**

**antiseptic**

**antithesis**

n  
/ an'tithəsəs /  
Gk  
the rhetorical opposing or  
contrasting of ideas by means of  
grammatically parallel  
arrangements of words, clauses, or  
sentences.  
*A Tale of Two Cities opens with the  
famous antithesis: "It was the best  
of times, it was the worst of times."*

**antonomasia**

n  
/ (,)antänə'māzh(ē)ə /  
Gk  
the making of a common noun or  
verb from a proper name.  
*The formation of the verb  
pasteurize from the name Pasteur  
is an example of antonomasia.*

**antonym**

**anxiety**

**apartheid**

n  
/ ə'pär.tāt /  
D > Afrikaans  
a policy of segregation and political  
and economic discrimination  
against certain population groups.  
*The end of apartheid in South  
Africa was one of the great world  
events of the decade.*

**apastron**

n  
/ a'pastrən /  
Gk  
the point in the orbit of one star of  
a binary where it is farthest from  
the other.  
*In binary star systems the motion in  
the orbits is not uniform but is least  
rapid near apastron.*

**apathetic**

**apathy**

n  
/ 'apəthē /  
Gk  
absence or lack of interest or  
concern : listlessness, indifference.  
*The active interest women are  
taking in today's issues strongly  
contrasts with the apathy many  
women had a century ago.*

**aperitif**

**aperture**

n  
/ 'apə(r).chù(ə)r /  
L  
an opening that restricts a beam of  
radiation or a stream of particles;  
specifically : the opening in a  
photographic lens that admits the  
light passing through.  
*A photographer typically has to  
adjust the shutter speed and set the  
aperture.*

**apex**

n  
/ 'āpeks /  
L  
[Note: The definition provided is  
not the one most commonly  
associated with this word.] the  
point of the heavens toward which  
a celestial body is moving at a  
given time.  
*Helga tracked the planet's  
movement towards the apex.*

**aphasia**

n  
/ ə'fāzh(ē)ə /  
Gk  
[has near homonym: aphagia] the  
loss or impairment of the power to  
use words as symbols of ideas that  
results from a brain lesion.  
*As a speech therapist, Tonya takes  
a particular interest in patients  
struggling with aphasia.*

**aphelion**

n  
/ a'fēlyən /  
Gk  
the point of a planet's or comet's  
orbit most distant from the Sun.  
*Earth generally reaches aphelion  
around July 4.*



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**aphid**

n  
/ 'äfəð /  
Gk > L

any of numerous small sluggish insects that suck the juices from plants, causing damage to the plants.

*An aphid can cause wilting, distorted growth, or gall formation in plants.*

**aphorism**

n  
/ 'afə.rizəm /  
Gk > L > F

a terse and often ingenious formulation of a truth or sentiment usually in a single sentence.

*Clark lives his life by the aphorism "Clothes make the man."*

**apiarian**

**apiary**

**apiculus**

**aplomb**

n  
/ ə'pləm /  
L > F

complete confidence or assurance in oneself : poise.

*A seasoned public relations officer, Karen handles difficult situations with aplomb.*

**apocalypse**

**apocope**

n  
/ ə'pækə.pē /  
Gk

the loss of one or more sounds or letters from the end of a word.

*The song title "Singin' in the Rain" exemplifies apocope.*

**apocryphal**

adj  
/ ə'pəkrəfəl /  
Gk

of doubtful authenticity : fictitious, spurious, untrustworthy.

*The historian thought the story about the cemetery apocryphal.*

**apogee**

n  
/ 'apə(,)jē /  
Gk

the point in the orbit of a satellite of Earth (as the Moon or an artificial body) at the greatest distance from the center of Earth.

*The transmission delay was longest when the spacecraft reached apogee.*

**apolaustic**

adj  
/ apə'löstik /  
Gk

devoted to enjoyment.

*The students spent the vacation in apolaustic pursuits.*

**apologue**

n  
/ 'apə.lɔg /  
Gk

an allegorical narrative (as a beast fable) usually intended to convey a moral.

*Most schoolchildren are familiar with the apologue of the tortoise and the hare.*

**apology**

n  
/ ə'päləjē /  
Gk > L > F

an admission to another of a wrong or discourtesy done him or her accompanied by an expression of regret.

*The teacher received an apology from the tardy student.*

**apoplexy**

n  
/ 'apə.pleksē /  
Gk

a sudden loss of consciousness followed by paralysis caused by hemorrhage within the brain—called also "stroke."

*When Ray regained consciousness, his doctor told him he was recovering from severe apoplexy.*

**aporia**

n  
/ ə'pōrēə /  
Gk

a passage in speech or writing incorporating or presenting a difficulty or doubt.

*The Bible verse "Then the steward said within himself, 'What shall I do?'" is an aporia.*

**aposiopesis**

n  
/ ,apə.sīə'pēsəs /  
Gk

the leaving of a thought explicitly incomplete in writing or speaking often by a sudden breaking off and shifting of grammatical construction.

*Gail answered with an aposiopesis when she replied, "His problem is—how shall I say?"*

**apostle**

n  
/ ə'päsəl /  
Gk > L > E

one who is sent forth : messenger.

*Many voters regard Ralph Nader as the apostle of protected environments.*

**apostrophe**

**apothecary**

n  
/ ə'pəthəkərē /  
Gk > L > E

one who prepares and sells drugs or compounds for medicinal purposes : pharmacist.

*The visits of Mr. Perry, the apothecary, were one of the few comforts of Mr. Woodhouse's life.*

**appalling**

adj  
/ ə'pɔliŋ /  
L > F > E

inspiring dismay : shocking.

*There was something about the night that was mysterious and appalling.*

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**Appaloosa**

n  
/ ˌapəˈlʊsə /  
American Indian  
one of a breed of rugged saddle horses distinguished by a mottled skin and a patch of white hair over the rump and loins that is blotched or dotted with darker color.  
*Sherry begged her father to buy her an Appaloosa for her birthday, but to no avail.*

**apparatchik**

n  
/ ˌäpəˈrächik /  
Russ  
a Communist secret agent.  
*Oren and Elaine went to see an old movie in which an apparatchik tries to blow up the Empire State Building.*

**apparatus**

n  
/ ˌapəˈradəs /  
L  
any compound instrument or appliance designed for a specific mechanical or chemical action or operation.  
*The trainer went into much detail about which apparatus is better for a cardiovascular workout.*

**apparel**

**apparition**

n  
/ ˌapəˈrɪʃən /  
L > E  
ghost, phantom, specter.  
*The apparition of a figure on horseback, without a head, haunts this enchanted region.*

**appealed**

**appease**

**appellation**

**appellative**

**appendages**

n pl  
/ əˈpendɪjəz /  
L  
things accompanying or appended to another thing and usually subordinate or not essential to it.  
*The Abbey-Mill Farm, with all its appendages of prosperity and beauty, was a favorable spot for a walk.*

**appendant**

**appendicitis**

n  
/ əˈpendəˈsɪdɪs /  
L + Ecf  
an inflammation of the appendix characterized usually by abdominal pain, nausea, and vomiting.  
*The doctor diagnosed Sharon's illness as appendicitis.*

**appetite**

n  
/ ˈapəˌtɪt /  
L > F > E  
the immediate desire to eat when food is present.  
*George went back to his meal with a good appetite.*

**apprentice**

n  
/ əˈprentɪs /  
L > F > E  
one who learns a trade, art, or craft by practical experience under skilled workers.  
*Jake hopes to become an apprentice in the stained-glass studio.*

**approbation**

n  
/ ˌäprəˈbāʃən /  
L  
an act of approving formally or authoritatively : sanction.  
*The mayor's actions have the approbation of none of the other members of the city council.*

**appropriate**

adj  
/ əˈprɒprɪət /  
L  
specially suitable : fit, proper.  
*Calvin had orange hair and the appropriate freckles to go with it.*

**appurtenance**

**appurtenant**

adj  
/ əˈpɜrt(ə)nənt /  
F  
annexed or belonging legally to some more important thing.  
*The property insurance covers any additions to the building and to private structures appurtenant to the building.*

**apricot**

**apropos**

adj  
/ ˌäprəˈpō /  
F  
pertinent, relevant.  
*Rachel wondered if Herman had understood her question, for his answer was not very apropos.*

**apsidal**

adj  
/ ˈäpsədɪl /  
Gk > L  
of or relating to the point of a celestial body's orbit at which it is farthest from the center of attraction.  
*Laura researched apsidal ocean tidal levels.*

**aquatic**

adj  
/ əˈkwädɪk /  
L  
living wholly or chiefly in or on water.  
*Porpoises and seals are aquatic mammals.*

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**aqueduct**

n  
/ 'akwədəkt /  
L

an artificial channel for conveying water.

*The ancient Romans used the aqueduct to provide water to the city's residents.*

**aquiline**

adj  
/ 'akwə.līn /  
L

curving or hooked like an eagle's beak.

*The senator was easily recognizable by his aquiline nose.*

**arabesque**

n  
/ .arə'besk /  
Ar > It > F

a posture (as in ballet dancing) in ballet in which the body is bent forward from the hip on one leg with one arm extended forward and the other arm and leg backward in a line parallel to the floor.

*The painting depicts a ballerina in a flawless arabesque.*

**arability**

n  
/ .arə'bīlədē /  
L + Ecf

the state of being fit for tillage and crop production.

*Before Caleb bought Jed's property, he had the land checked for arability.*

**arachnid**

**arbiter**

**arboreal**

adj  
/ är'bōrēəl /  
L

inhabiting or frequenting trees.

*The arboreal fauna of Madagascar are endangered by logging.*

**arboret**

n  
/ ärbərə't /  
L + Ecf

a small tree or shrub.

*Gwen trekked purposefully through the forest, dodging an occasional arboret but generally heading in a straight line.*

**arbuscle**

n  
/ är'bəsəl /  
L

a dwarf tree or treelike shrub.

*The gardener recommended that Micah purchase an arbuscle to plant next to the house.*

**arcanum**

n  
/ är'kānəm /  
L

a secret or mysterious knowledge or information known only to the initiate.

*Ralph developed a secret handshake as an arcanum for his club.*

**archaic**

**archangel**

n  
/ ärkänjəl /  
Gk + Gk

a being in the heavenly hierarchy ranking above an angel.

*Joan of Arc had visions of the archangel Michael and saints Catherine and Margaret telling her to raise an army.*

**archeology**

**archery**

n  
/ 'ärch(ə)rē /  
F > E

the art, practice, or skill of shooting with bow and arrow.

*Joe chose archery as one of his physical education electives.*

**archipelago**

n  
/ ärkə'peləgō /  
Gk > It

a group or cluster of islands.

*The country of Indonesia is an enormous archipelago.*

**architecture**

n  
/ 'ärkə'tekchər /  
Gk > L

the art or science of building; specifically : the art or practice of designing and building structures in accordance with principles determined by aesthetic and practical or material considerations.

*The building that housed the department of architecture was, to many students, the most hideous-looking edifice on campus.*

**archivalia**

n pl  
/ ärkə'vālēə /  
Gk > L

material preserved in or suitable for preservation in rooms for the exhibition of a collection.

*Included in the library's archivalia is a copy of the first edition of The Adventures of Tom Sawyer.*

**arcing**

v  
/ 'ärkiŋ /  
L

following or describing a curving course.

*Waterfalls arcing outward into white plumes plummet down and flow into Cayuga Lake.*

**arctic**

**ardency**

**ardent**

adj  
/ 'ärdənt /  
L

extremely loyal : devoted, faithful.  
*Bickford was an ardent supporter of environmental causes.*

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**arduous**

adj  
/ 'ɑːrjəwəs /  
L

hard to accomplish or achieve :  
difficult.

*Alan was not prepared for the  
arduous demands of his  
construction job.*

**arenaceous**

adj  
/ ,arə'nāshəs /  
L

growing in sandy places.

*Arenaceous plants develop  
blossoms after the first spring rain.*

**arenicolous**

adj  
/ ,arə'nikələs /  
L + L

inhabiting or burrowing in sand :  
growing in sand soil.

*Numerous arenicolous organisms  
can be found at the beach.*

**areology**

n  
/ ,arē'äləjē /  
Gk

the scientific study of the planet  
Mars.

*Todd's interest in areology was  
spurred by the discovery of  
possible life forms on Mars.*

**aretalogy**

n  
/ ,arə'taləjē /  
Gk

a narrative of the miraculous deeds  
of a god or hero.

*Owen was fascinated by the  
aretalogy of Hercules' labors.*

**argillaceous**

adj  
/ ,ɑːrjə'lāshəs /  
L

of, relating to, or containing clay or  
clay minerals.

*The geologist determined that a  
large part of the mountain  
consisted of argillaceous limestone.*

**argosy**

n  
/ 'ɑːrgəsē /  
It

a fleet of ships or of anything  
likened to ships.

*The lone schooner had gotten  
separated from the argosy in the  
inclement weather.*

**argot**

n  
/ 'ɑːrgət /  
F

the special vocabulary and idiom  
(as slang) of a particular social  
group or class.

*Nowadays the argot of many  
teenagers includes the word cool.*

**argumentative**

adj  
/ ,ɑːrgyə'mentədɪv /  
L

given to or fond of disagreement :  
contentious.

*Jill is so argumentative that no one  
likes to sit beside her on the bus.*

**aristoi**

n pl  
/ ,arə'stɔɪ /  
Gk

citizens of high rank making up a  
governing body.

*When the aristoi ignore the needs  
of the common people, they are  
sowing the seeds of rebellion.*

**arithmocracy**

n  
/ ,a(,)rɪθ'mākɹəsē /  
Gk + Gk

rule of the majority.

*The United States is an  
arithmocracy as well as a republic.*

**armadillo**

n  
/ ,ɑːrmə'di(,)lɔ /  
L > Sp

any of several burrowing chiefly  
nocturnal mammals having body  
and head encased in an armor of  
small bony plates.

*Using its long, sticky tongue to  
extract ants from their nests, the  
armadillo may eat up to 40,000  
ants at a sitting.*

**Armageddon**

n  
/ ,ɑːrmə'gedʒən /  
Gk > L

final and conclusive conflict  
between the forces of good and  
evil.

*In the Bible, the book of Revelation  
mentions Armageddon.*

**armaments**

**armature**

n  
/ 'ɑːrmə.tʃü(ə)r /  
L

[has near homonym: armiger]  
armor.

*As part of the preparation for the  
contest at the medieval fair, the  
jousts were given their choice of  
armature.*

**armistice**

n  
/ 'ɑːrmɪstɪs /  
L > F

temporary suspension of hostilities  
as agreed upon by those engaged in  
the hostilities.

*Fortunately, the armistice that  
ended World War I turned out to be  
permanent.*

**arpeggio**

n  
/ ɑːr'pejē.ō /  
Gmc > It

production of the tones of a chord  
in succession and not  
simultaneously.

*The opening measure of Ryan's  
piano recital piece featured a  
difficult arpeggio.*

**arraignment**

n  
/ ə'rānmənt /  
F > E

an act of finding fault with :  
denunciation.

*It seems that every few years there  
is a wholesale arraignment of  
existing educational standards.*

**arrasene**

**arrive**

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**arrogance**

n  
/ 'arəgən(t)s /  
L

a genuine or assumed feeling of superiority that shows itself in an overbearing manner.

*After Sam won the contest, he displayed an annoying arrogance.*

**arrogant**

adj  
/ 'arəgənt /  
L

exhibiting a level of superiority that is inconsistent with one's position.

*Jack's arrogant attitude annoyed his more qualified colleagues.*

**arsenal**

n  
/ 'ärs(ə)nəl /  
Ar > It

a storehouse or source of supply for arms, ammunition, or other military equipment.

*In early 1941 Franklin Roosevelt believed that America's most immediate role was to act as an arsenal for democratic nations.*

**arsenic**

n  
/ 'ärs(ə)nik /  
Gk > L&F > E

a metalloid element that is used in small amounts in alloys and in the form of its compounds chiefly as poisons (as insecticides), in pharmaceutical preparations, and in glass.

*Ingestion of arsenic was listed as the official cause of Tim's mysterious death.*

**artesian**

adj  
/ ä'r'tēzhən /  
F

involving, relating to, or supplied by the upward movement of water under hydrostatic pressure in rocks or unconsolidated material beneath Earth's surface.

*The water bubbling up in the pasture was coming from an artesian spring.*

**arthritis**

n  
/ ä'r'thrīd'əs /  
Gk

inflammation of one or more joints due to infectious, metabolic, or constitutional causes.

*Theo's arthritis kept him from playing tennis.*

**arthroscopy**

**artichoke**  
n  
/ 'ärdə'chōk /  
Ar > It

the flower head of a tall herb that resembles a thistle and is cooked as a vegetable.

*Norm demonstrated the proper way to eat an artichoke.*

**article**

**articulacy**

**artifice**  
n  
/ 'ärdəf'əs /  
L

a wily or artful stratagem.  
*Emma saw the artifice of Jane's reserved response, and she returned to her first surmises.*

**artificial**

**artillerist**

**artillery**  
n  
/ ä'r'til(ə)rē /  
F > E

the missiles discharged by the weapons of war.

*The May Day parade in Red Square was widely known for its display of artillery.*

**arviculture**

**ascend**

**ascension**

n  
/ ə'senʃən /  
L

the act or process of going upward from a lower level or degree.

*The article describes Tiger Woods's rapid ascension to the top rank of golfers.*

**ascertained**

v  
/ ,asə(r)'tānd /  
L > F > E

made sure of : discovered.

*In the moonlight, the form of the heretofore unknown might now be ascertained.*

**asceticism**

**ascribable**

adj  
/ ə'skrībəbəl /  
L

capable of being attributed to a supposed cause, source, or author.  
*Dad explained that the two books were ascribable to the same author under different pen names.*

**asinine**

**askew**  
adv

/ ə'skyü /  
E + F > E

out of line : to one side.

*Jared's house was leaning because one of the joists had gone askew.*

**asparagus**

n  
/ ə'sparəgəs /  
Gk > L

a plant widely cultivated for its tender edible young shoots.

*Jack didn't touch the asparagus his mother served him.*

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**aspartame**

n  
/ 'aspə(r).tām /  
L > ISV

a noncarbohydrate crystalline compound that is formed from the amino acids phenylalanine and aspartic acid and is used as a low-calorie sweetener.  
*Since Bertha began her diet, she prefers foods that are sweetened with aspartame.*

**aspersion**

n  
/ ə'spərzən /  
L

a calumnious or defamatory expression or reflection.  
*Questions about Tom's handling of the club's petty cash cast an aspersion on his honesty.*

**asphalt**

**asphodel**

n  
/ 'asfədəl /  
Gk

any of various Old World usually perennial herbs that bear their flowers in long erect racemes.  
*Bernice thought that an asphodel would complete the bouquet nicely.*

**asphyxiant**

**asphyxiate**

**asphyxiated**

v  
/ ə'sfiksē.ādəd /  
Gk

killed or made unconscious by obstruction of normal breathing.  
*When the volcano erupted, many of the town's inhabitants were asphyxiated by the dust and ashes.*

**aspirin**

n  
/ 'asp(ə)rən /  
ISV

a white crystalline compound of salicylic acid used especially in tablet form as a pain-killer.  
*Tests have shown that small, daily doses of aspirin can reduce the risk of stroke.*

**assailant**

**assassin**

**assassinate**

v  
/ ə'sas'n.āt /  
L > F

murder (usually a prominent person).  
*The newspapers carried gripping accounts of an attempt to assassinate the prime minister.*

**assemblage**

**assess**

v  
/ ə'ses /  
L

determine the rate or amount of.  
*Joyce's job with the insurance company was to assess damages.*

**asseveration**

n  
/ ə.sevə'rāshən /  
L

positive or emphatic affirmation or assertion : solemn declaration.  
*The jury did not believe the defendant's asseveration of innocence.*

**assiduously**

adv  
/ ə'sijəwəslē /  
L + Ecf

in a diligent, attentive, or solicitous manner.  
*Lucinda questioned her brother assiduously before his interview.*

**assimilate**

v  
/ ə'simə.lāt /  
L

receive into the mind and consider and thoroughly comprehend.  
*Sandy needs time to sort things out and assimilate them properly.*

**assimilation**

**assonance**

n  
/ 'as'nən(t)s /  
L + Fcf

relatively close juxtaposition of similar sounds especially of vowels.  
*"Zip your lips" was the teacher's favorite example of assonance.*

**assuage**

v  
/ ə'swāj /  
L > F > E

reduce to a state of peace, calm, or quiet : mollify, pacify.  
*No one could assuage Bertina after she dropped her ice-cream cone.*

**assuagement**

**Assyrian**

adj  
/ ə'sirēən /  
geog name  
of, relating to, or characteristic of Assyria, an ancient empire of western Asia.

*The doorways of the Assyrian palace of Nineveh were flanked by large winged bulls.*

**asthmatic**

adj  
/ əz'mad:ik /  
Gk > L

caused by or affected with labored breathing.  
*Because of Pam's asthmatic condition, her mother had to dust and vacuum the house every day.*

**astigmatism**

n  
/ ə'stigmətizəm /  
Gk + Ecf

a defect of an optical system (as of the eye) that prevents light from focusing accurately and results in a blurred image.  
*Amy's new eyeglasses correct her astigmatism.*

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**astringe**

v  
/ ə'strinj /  
L  
cause (tissue) to draw together :  
constrict.  
*Larry uses witch hazel to astringe  
his facial pores.*

**astrogator**

**astronomy**

n  
/ ə'stränəmē /  
Gk  
the science that treats of the  
celestial bodies.  
*Astronomy is a popular topic for  
science writers.*

**astuteness**

n  
/ ə'st(y)ütñəs /  
L + Ecf  
the quality or state of having or  
displaying shrewd discernment and  
sagacity.  
*The candidate showed political  
astuteness in attacking his  
opponent's weak arguments.*

**asylum**

**asymmetry**

**atelier**

n  
/ ,ad'lyā /  
L > F  
an artist's studio or workroom.  
*Ken hoped to find some affordable  
loft space downtown for his atelier.*

**athletic**

**atmosphere**

n  
/ 'atmə'sfi(ə)r /  
Gk  
the air of a given place especially  
as affected by a particular  
characteristic (as heat, moisture,  
wholesomeness, or  
unwholesomeness).  
*Christy could barely tolerate the  
close atmosphere of her one-room  
schoolhouse.*

**atmospheric**

adj  
/ ,atmə'sfirik /  
Gk + Gk > L > F  
of or relating to the whole mass of  
air surrounding Earth.  
*Only two elements are known to be  
liquid under atmospheric  
conditions: mercury and bromine.*

**atomic**

**atrabilious**

**atrachia**

n  
/ ā'trikēə /  
Gk  
congenital or acquired baldness.  
*Some dogs are afflicted with  
atrachia from birth.*

**atrium**

**atrocious**

adj  
/ ə'trōshəs /  
L  
markedly inferior in quality.  
*Mrs. Diamond vowed to do  
something about her grandson's  
atrocious table manners.*

**atrophy**

v  
/ 'atrəfē /  
Gk > L  
undergo a wasting away or  
progressive decline.  
*Jay knows that his muscles will  
atrophy while he recuperates from  
surgery.*

**attenuate**

adj  
/ ə'tenyə,wət /  
L  
tapering gradually often into a long  
slender point.  
*The locust tree has narrow  
attenuate leaves.*

**attitude**

n  
/ 'adətüt /  
L > It  
[Note: The definition provided is  
not the one most commonly  
associated with this word.] any  
posture held momentarily in  
dancing.  
*The premier danseur held his final  
attitude briefly, then leapt offstage  
to thunderous applause.*

**attitudinal**

**attrition**

n  
/ ə'trishən /  
L  
a usually gradual loss of personnel  
from causes normal or peculiar to a  
given situation (as death,  
retirement, and resignation in a  
labor force) often without filling  
the vacancies.  
*The CEO promised that all of the  
cuts would come from attrition; no  
employees would be laid off.*

**aubade**

**auctioneer**

n  
/ ,ökshə'ni(ə)r /  
L + Ecf  
one who conducts the sale of goods  
at public auction usually as an  
agent on commission.  
*The auctioneer at the antique sale  
had a booming voice.*

**audacious**

adj  
/ ó'dāshəs /  
L  
recklessly venturesome :  
presumptuously bold.  
*Tom's audacious disregard for  
physical limitations will catch up  
with him sooner or later.*

**audacity**

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

**audience**

n  
/ 'ɒdɪəns(t)s /  
L

[has homonym: audients] those attending a stage or film production or viewing a televised program.  
*The audience erupted with thunderous applause at the act's conclusion.*

**audition**

n  
/ ɔ'dɪʃən /  
L or F

a trial performance to appraise an entertainer's merits.  
*After hearing Alice's stunning audition, the director offered her the role without hesitation.*

**auger**

**augment**

**augur**

v  
/ 'ɒgə(r) /  
L

[has homonym and near homonym: auger and agar] give indirect evidence of : portend.  
*The club members' enthusiasm and dedication augur success for the club's projects.*

**augury**

**auk**

n  
/ 'ɒk /  
ON > Norw or Icelandic  
any of several black and white short-necked diving seabirds that nest in colder parts of the Northern Hemisphere.  
*In one of her books, Laura Ingalls Wilder writes of a strange midwinter encounter with a stray bird resembling an auk.*

**aureate**

adj  
/ 'ɔːrɪət /  
L

marked by a rhetorical style that is affected, grandiloquent, and heavily ornamental.  
*Many students today have little appreciation of the aureate language of English Renaissance poetry.*

**aureity**

n  
/ ɔ'rɪədɪ /  
L + Ecf

the distinctive properties of gold.  
*Pyrite's apparent aureity has fooled many a prospector.*

**aurelian**

n  
/ ɔ'rɪljən /  
L + Ecf

a collector and breeder of moths and butterflies.  
*Sarah admired the beautiful butterflies pictured in the book by Mr. Jacobson, a well-known aurelian.*

**auricle**

n  
/ 'ɔːrɪkəl /  
L

[has homonym: oracle] a chamber of the heart that receives blood from the veins and forces it into the ventricle or ventricles.  
*The heart of a fish has one auricle and one ventricle.*

**auricular**

adj  
/ ɔ'rikyələ(r) /  
L

of, relating to, or using the ear or the sense of hearing.  
*George's understanding of unfamiliar words is auricular; that is, he must hear out loud the words he reads before he can comprehend them.*

**auriferous**

adj  
/ ɔ'rɪfərəs /  
L + Ecf

gold-bearing—used of gravels and rocks.  
*The auriferous quartz veins sparkled in the sunlight.*

**aurora**

n  
/ ə'rɔːrə /  
L

the redness of the sky just before the Sun rises.  
*As the aurora began to brighten the sky, the airline passengers eagerly looked out their windows to see the rising Sun.*

**auscultation**

n  
/ ɔːskəl'tʃʃən /  
L

the act of listening to sounds arising within organs (as the lungs or heart) as an aid to diagnosis and treatment.  
*Warming her stethoscope with her hands before performing auscultation has become second nature to Dr. Harris.*

**auslander**

**auspices**

n pl  
/ 'ɒspəsɪz /  
L

patronage and kindly guidance : protection.  
*The medical team entered the country under the auspices of the International Red Cross.*

**austere**

adj  
/ ɔ'sti(ə)r /  
GK > L > F > E

stern and unyielding in appearance and manner.  
*The substitute teacher was austere and humorless.*



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**authentic**

adj  
/ ˈɒsthenˌtɪk /  
Gk > L > F > E  
worthy of acceptance or belief by reason of conforming to fact or reality.  
*The restoration society aims to provide an authentic reproduction of the colonial village.*

**author**

**authoritative**

adj  
/ əˈθɹɑːrətɪˈdiːv /  
L  
exercising or assuming power to influence the outward behavior of others.  
*Dr. Martin issued the instructions in an authoritative manner.*

**autobahn**

n  
/ ˈaʊdɔːbɑːn /  
Gk > G + G  
a road in Germany with double traffic lanes in each direction separated by a parkway.  
*Klaus pulled his Mercedes over to the side of the autobahn to read the map.*

**autodidact**

**autonomous**

**autonomy**

n  
/ ɔːˈtɒnəmə /  
Gk  
the quality or state of being independent, free, and self-directing.  
*After years of fighting the colonial government, the island was finally granted autonomy.*

**autopsy**

n  
/ ˈɔːtəpsɪ /  
Gk  
examination of the body after death, usually with dissection.  
*An autopsy showed that arsenic was the cause of death.*

**autumn**

**autumnal**

adj  
/ (ɪ) ɔːˈtʌmənəl /  
L  
characterized by qualities associated with or suggested by the season between summer and winter.  
*Jessica's new paintings have a serene, autumnal warmth.*

**auxiliary**

adj  
/ ɔːgˈzɪljərɪ /  
L  
offering or providing help, assistance, or support especially by interaction.  
*Roland volunteers as an auxiliary guide for the local Youth Mountaineers Club.*

**available**

**avalanche**

n  
/ ˈævələntʃ /  
F  
a large mass of snow, ice, earth, rock, or other material in swift motion down a mountainside.  
*The tiny Swiss village was destroyed by an avalanche.*

**avalement**

**avarice**

n  
/ ˈævərɪs /  
L > F > E  
excessive desire for wealth or gain.  
*Pride, avarice, and gluttony are among the seven deadly sins.*

**avaricious**

**averred**

**aviator**

**avionics**

**avocado**

n  
/ ˌævəˈkæ(ɪ)dō /  
Nahuatl > Sp  
the pulpy green or purple somewhat pear-shaped edible fruit of various tropical American trees.  
*Tanisha's first taste of sushi was a roll containing avocado, crab, and cucumber.*

**avocet**

n  
/ ˈævəˌset /  
F&It  
any of several rather large long-legged shore birds having webbed feet and a slender upwardly curved bill.  
*Making their way through the marsh, the birders happened on a foraging avocet.*

**avoirdupois**

**avuncular**

adj  
/ əˈvʌŋkjʊlə(r) /  
L  
acting or speaking with the familiarity, kindness, or indulgence of an uncle.  
*Morris took an avuncular tone with Susan when he advised her on her college plans, even though he was her elder by only three years.*

**awe**

n  
/ ˈɔː /  
ON > E  
[has homonym: aw] abashed reverence and fear inspired by authority or power.  
*The good people of Sleepy Hollow were often filled with awe at hearing his nasal melody floating from the distant hill.*

**awestruck**

**awl**

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

**awry**

adv  
/ ə'ri /  
E  
wrong, amiss.  
*Gayle's plans for the victory parade went hopelessly awry.*

**axiology**

**axiom**

n  
/ 'aksēəm /  
Gk  
a proposition, rule, or maxim that has found general acceptance or is thought worthy thereof.  
*"Early to bed, early to rise" is Uncle Abdul's favorite axiom.*

**axunge**

n  
/ 'aksənj /  
L  
fat or grease usually of pigs or of geese.  
*Suzanne's cookbook of home remedies recommended axunge to soothe minor burns.*

**ayatollah**

n  
/ iə'tɒlə /  
Ar > Per  
a religious leader among Shiite Muslims—used as a title of respect especially for one who is not an imam.  
*When Ayatollah Khomeini gained political control of Iran in 1979, he re-created it as a religious Islamic republic.*

**azimuth**

n  
/ 'azəməθ /  
Ar  
an arc of the horizon measured between a fixed point and the vertical circle passing through the center of an object.  
*Using a compass, the navigator estimated the azimuth of the star.*

**azotea**

**azure**

adj  
/ 'azhə(r) /  
Per > Ar > Sp > F  
resembling the color of the unclouded sky.  
*Sarah prefers to call her eyes "azure" instead of "blue."*

**babblative**

adj  
/ 'bæblədɪv /  
E imitative?  
given to excessive talking : garrulous.  
*The babblative waitress called everyone at our table "sweetheart."*

**baboon**

n  
/ bə'būn /  
F > E  
a large primate with a short tail and a doglike snout.  
*The children at the zoo were entertained by the strange sounds of the baboon.*

**babushka**

n  
/ bə'bʊshkə /  
Russ  
a triangularly folded kerchief worn over the head and usually tied under the chin.  
*Emma's Ukrainian doll wears a red babushka and an elaborately embroidered apron.*

**Babylonian**

adj  
/ .bæbəlɒnyən /  
Heb > Gk  
of, relating to, or characteristic of Babylonia, an ancient country of southern Mesopotamia.  
*Houses and temples of the Old Babylonian Kingdom have square open courts, arched doorways, and battlemented walls.*

**baccalaureate**

n  
/ .bəkəlɔ'reət /  
L  
the degree of bachelor conferred by universities and colleges.  
*Marika earned a baccalaureate at the age of 12.*

**bacchanalian**

**bacciferous**

adj  
/ bək'sɪf(ə)rəs /  
L + Ecf  
bearing berries.  
*Sylvia took care not to park her car under any bacciferous trees.*

**bachelor**

n  
/ 'bæç(ə)lə(r) /  
Celt > L > F > E  
an unmarried man of marriageable age.  
*Kendrick was the only bachelor living in the apartment building.*

**bacillus**

n  
/ bə'sɪləs /  
L  
a disease-producing bacterium.  
*Kendra will use a powerful disinfectant to kill any bacillus that might be lurking on the counter top.*

**backfisch**

**backgammon**

n  
/ 'bæk.gæmən /  
E  
a game played with dice and counters on a board divided into two tables each marked with 12 points in which each player tries to move his own counters from point to point and off the board.  
*Ed explained to Tim that the game board edged with tall, thin triangles was used to play backgammon.*

**bacteriolytic**

adj  
/ bək.tɪrēə'lɪdɪk /  
Gk > L  
of, relating to, or producing the destruction or dissolution of bacterial cells.  
*The bacteriolytic power of blood helps the body overcome many diseases.*

**badgeringly**

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**badigeon**

n  
/ bə'dijən /  
F

a cement or paste (as of plaster and powdered freestone) used to fill holes or cover defects in wood or stone.

*The plasterer smeared badigeon in the pockmarks on the wall.*

**badinage**

n  
/ bad'n'əzh /  
L > OProv > F

light and playful repartee or wit : banter.

*Mrs. Lopez, our bus driver, frequently engages in badinage with her lively passengers.*

**badminton**

n  
/ 'bad.mint'n /  
E geog name

a court game played by two or four persons with light long-handled rackets and a shuttlecock volleyed over a net.

*After lunch John suggested a leisurely game of badminton.*

**Baedeker**

n  
/ 'bādəkə(r) /  
G name

guidebook, handbook.

*By the time his Italian vacation was over, Ronnie's Baedeker had come apart at the spine.*

**bagatelle**

n  
/ ,bagətəl /  
L > It > F

a game played with a cue and usually nine balls on an oblong table having cups or both cups and arches at one end.

*Aaron is an excellent snooker player but is unfamiliar with the rules of bagatelle.*

**bagel**

**baignoire**

n  
/ bān'wār /  
L > F

[Note: Could be confused with peignoir.] a theater box having low partitions that is in the lowest tier.

*Seats in the baignoire afforded an unobscured view of the stage.*

**bailiff**

n  
/ 'bālɪf /  
F > E

a court officer who seats witnesses and spectators, announces the entrance of the judge, and keeps order in the court.

*Judge Cantor asked the bailiff to remove Mr. Sims from the courtroom.*

**bailiwick**

n  
/ 'bālɪ.wɪk /  
E

field of activity : sphere of operations.

*Only when the topic was birdwatching, his particular bailiwick, did Robin feel at ease talking to strangers.*

**baize**

**balaclava**

n  
/ ,balə'klävə /

Crimean geog name  
a hoodlike knitted cap covering the head, neck, and part of the shoulders and worn especially by soldiers and mountaineers.

*Every climber wore a balaclava for protection from the cold air.*

**balalaika**

n  
/ ,balə'likə /  
Russ

an instrument of the guitar kind having a triangular wooden body and from two to four strings.

*Vladimir strummed the balalaika and sang a Ukrainian folk song.*

**balbriggan**

n  
/ bal'brɪgən /  
Ir geog name

a plain-stitch knitted often tubular usually cotton fabric used especially for underwear, hosiery, or sweaters.

*Moirā's imported Irish sweater was made of balbriggan.*

**balcony**

n  
/ 'balkənē /  
Gmc > It

an interior projecting gallery in a public building (as a theater); specifically : such a gallery immediately above the main floor.

*Tickets for seats in the balcony sold out before those in the orchestra.*

**balestra**

**ballast**

**ballerina**

n  
/ ,balə'rɪnə /  
L > It

a female ballet dancer.

*Although the ballerina seemed a bit nervous before her performance, her dancing was faultless.*

**balletomane**

n  
/ bə'ledəmān /  
L > It > F + Ecff + Gk > L > E

one who takes extraordinary delight in artistic dance performances.

*The well-known balletomane took roses to every performance.*

**ballistic**

adj  
/ bə'listɪk /  
Gk > L

of or belonging to the hurling of missiles.

*Simon used ballistic laws to determine where the arrow would land.*

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**ballistics**

n pl  
/ bə'listiks /  
Gk > L

the science of the motion of powder-propelled projectiles in flight.

*An expert in ballistics testified that the fatal bullet had been fired from the defendant's gun.*

**balloon**

**balminess**

n  
/ 'bämēnəs /  
Semitic? > Gk > L > F > E + Ecff  
the quality or state of being mild or soothing.  
*The balminess of the evening breeze helped Kate forget the accident.*

**balmoral**

n  
/ bal'mōrəl /  
Scottish geog name  
a boot or shoe that is laced in front; especially : an oxford shoe with quarters meeting and centered over a separate tongue.  
*The balmoral first became fashionable in the 1850s, when Prince Albert popularized this type of shoe.*

**balneation**

n  
/ balnē'āshən /  
L  
the act or action of bathing.  
*Alicia uses a sponge to assist in her daily balneation.*

**balsam**

n  
/ 'bōlsəm /  
L  
an aromatic substance flowing spontaneously or by incision from a plant and not necessarily remaining liquid.  
*When Henrietta retrieved the ball from the branches of the fir tree, the balsam made her fingers sticky.*

**balustrade**

n  
/ 'baləstrād /  
It > F  
a row of short supports topped by a rail to serve as an open parapet.  
*Juliet leaned on the balustrade and gazed down at Romeo with adoring eyes.*

**bamboo**

**bamboozle**

v  
/ bam'büzəl /  
unknown  
conceal one's true motives from someone, especially by elaborately feigning good intentions so as to gain an end or achieve an advantage : mislead, hoodwink.  
*Gavin tried to bamboozle his neighbor into offering her garage for his party by saying how much it needed a good airing out.*

**banality**

n  
/ bā'nalədē /  
F  
the quality of lacking originality, freshness, or novelty.  
*Pearl's English teacher commented on the banality of much of the class's poetry.*

**banana**

n  
/ bə'nanə /  
African > Sp or Pg  
the elongated often curved and usually tapering fruit of the banana plant having soft pulpy flesh and a rind that is usually yellow when ripe.  
*To introduce fractions, the teacher showed her students how a banana can be divided lengthwise into thirds.*

**banausic**

adj  
/ bə'nōsik /  
Gk  
moneymaking, breadwinning : vocational.  
*Brandon showed no inclination toward banausic pursuits.*

**bandage**

n  
/ 'bandij /  
F  
a narrow length of fabric used to cover a wound, hold a dressing in place, immobilize an injured part, or apply pressure.  
*Mom immediately cleaned and put a bandage on Ted's scraped knee.*

**bandalore**

n  
/ 'bandə.lō(ə)r /  
unknown  
a toy with an automatically winding cord by which it is brought back to the hand when thrown.  
*Jeffrey brought a bandalore to school for show-and-tell.*

**bandicoot**

n  
/ 'bandē.küt /  
Telugu  
any of certain small active insectivorous and herbivorous marsupial mammals found in Oceania.  
*Some species of bandicoot are endangered.*

**banditry**

n  
/ 'bandətrē /  
Gmc > It  
the practice of roving about and pillaging especially in semiorganized groups.  
*With the government in chaos, outbreaks of banditry were common throughout the country.*

**banishment**

**banjo**

**banjorine**

**bankruptcy**

**banquet**

**baobab**

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

**baptismal**

adj  
/ bap'tizməl /  
Gk > L > F

of or relating to the ceremony of admitting one into membership in a Christian church with the use of water by immersion, pouring, or sprinkling.

*The church's new baptismal font is made of Italian marble.*

**baragouin**

n  
/ 'barəgwaɪn /

F  
outlandish unintelligible speech.  
*The explorer was taken aback by the baragouin of the excited natives.*

**barbaric**

adj  
/ bār'barik /  
Gk > L

of, relating to, or characteristic of one who lacks refinement, gentleness, learning, or artistic or literary culture.

*Harold was embarrassed by his little brother's barbaric table manners.*

**barbarism**

**barbarous**

**barbellate**

adj  
/ 'bərbə.lāt /

L  
having short stiff hooked bristles or hairs.

*The biology students were asked to identify animals with barbellate hides.*

**barbican**

n  
/ 'bərbəkən /  
L > F > E

an outer defensive work of a city or castle.

*The invaders aimed their catapult at the castle's barbican.*

**barbiturate**

n  
/ bār'bichərət /  
Gk

any of a large group of acids or their salts that are used as sedatives, hypnotics, and antispasmodics.

*Even a mild barbiturate can be habit-forming if used incorrectly.*

**bardiglio**

n  
/ bār'dēl(,)yō /  
L? > Sp > It

an Italian marble commonly having a dark gray or bluish ground traversed by veins.

*The most exquisite mantel in the country estate was made of bardiglio.*

**bargain**

**bargello**

**bariolage**

n  
/ 'barēō.lāzh /  
F

a special effect in violin playing obtained by playing in rapid alternation upon open and stopped strings.

*Bjorn's deft bariolage during the third movement thrilled the audience.*

**barker**

**barnacle**

n  
/ 'bārnəkəl /  
E

any of numerous marine crustaceans that are free-swimming as larvae but fixed to rocks or floating objects as adults.

*The sailors scraped many a barnacle from the sides of the ship.*

**barnacled**

**barnstorm**

v  
/ 'bārnz.tōrm /  
E + E

tour through rural districts staging theatrical performances in large farm buildings or makeshift theaters.

*The troupe set off in buses to barnstorm the Midwest with their version of The Music Man.*

**barognosis**

n  
/ .baräg'nōsəs /  
Gk > L

the perception of weight by the cutaneous and muscle senses.

*The loss of barognosis is a symptom of some muscle diseases.*

**barometer**

n  
/ bə'rämədə(r) /  
Gk + Gk

an instrument for determining the pressure of the atmosphere.

*Erica predicts the weather by using the barometer located on her kitchen wall.*

**baronet**

n  
/ .barə'net /  
Gmc > F > E

the holder of a dignity or degree of honor ranking immediately below a baron and above a knight.

*The baronet swaggered among the knights but quailed before the baron.*

**baronial**

adj  
/ bə'rōnēəl /  
F > E

splendid, stately, spacious, ample.

*The baronial fireplace had enough room to hold six-foot logs.*

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**baroque**

adj

/ bə'ro:k /

It name? > F

of, relating to, or having the characteristics of a style of artistic expression prevalent especially in the 17th century, marked by elaborate and sometimes grotesque ornamentation.

*The baroque style in art and architecture was marked by the use of curved figures.*

**barothermograph**

n

/ .bərə'thərmə,grəf /

Gk + Gk + Gk

an instrument for recording both pressure and temperature (as of the atmosphere).

*The barothermograph was first used to collect atmospheric data in 1895.*

**barouche**

n

/ bə'rūsh /

L > It > G

a four-wheeled shallow carriage with a driver's seat high in front, two double seats inside, one facing back and the other front, and a folding top over the back seat.

*Michelle and Phil rode to the prom in a barouche.*

**barracks**

n pl

/ 'bærəks /

Catal > F

an often permanent building or set of buildings used especially for lodging soldiers.

*Each new recruit was assigned a bunk in the barracks.*

**barrage**

n

/ bə'ræzh /

F

a massive concentrated and usually continuous discharge or shower (as of missiles or blows).

*In Puritan New England, those who broke the law were sometimes put to death by a barrage of stones.*

**barratry**

n

/ 'bærətrē /

F > E

the persistent incitement of litigation.

*Barratry has overloaded our country's courts.*

**barrel**

n

/ 'bærəl /

F > E

[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word.] a unit of measure for petroleum equal to 42 gallons.

*Sheiks wept as the price of oil dropped below 17 dollars per barrel.*

**barren**

adj

/ 'bærən /

F > E

[has homonym: baron] deficient in producing vegetation : bare, desolate.

*The overcultivated land, once fertile, was now barren.*

**barricade**

n

/ 'bærəkād /

F

a barrier or obstacle that prevents passage.

*A police barricade kept the crowds at a safe distance from the burning building.*

**barrio**

n

/ 'bærē.ō /

Ar > Sp

a Spanish-speaking neighborhood or quarter in a city or town in the United States especially in the Southwest.

*The politician continually reminded the public of his roots in the barrio.*

**bartizan**

n

/ 'bärd-əzən /

E

a small structure overhanging or projecting from a building for lookout or defense.

*The guard posted at the bartizan was the first to spot the approaching army.*

**bascule**

n

/ 'bɑ:skjül /

F

an apparatus or structure in which one end is counterbalanced by the other on the principle of the seesaw or by weights (as in a bascule bridge).

*The castle architect proposed building a bascule over the moat.*

**bashful**

**basilica**

**basilisk**

n

/ 'basə,lɪsk /

Gk > L > E

a legendary reptile that has a fatal breath and glance.

*Jessie debated whether to incorporate a basilisk or a poisonous snake into her fable.*

**basin**

**basmati**

n

/ .bāz'mädē /

Hindi

a cultivated South Asian long grain rice.

*Jacques enjoys the aroma of basmati.*

**bassoon**

**bastion**

n

/ 'baschən /

Gmc > Prov > F

a projecting part of a fortification.

*Matthew paused at the castle bastion to look out over the countryside.*

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**bathymeter**

n  
/ bə'thɪməðə(r) /  
Gk > ISV + Gk > F  
a device for the sounding of depths.  
*Proper use of the bathymeter was crucial as Captain Byron navigated through the shallows in the fog.*

**bathymetry**

**bathyscaphe**

**batik**

n  
/ bə'tɛk /  
Javanese > Malay  
an Indonesian method of hand-printing textiles by coating parts of the fabric with wax to resist dye and dipping in a cold dye solution.  
*Sheila used both batik and tie-dye in her T-shirt creations.*

**batiste**

**batrachoid**

**battalion**

n  
/ bə'talyən /  
L > It > F  
a considerable body of troops organized to act together : army.  
*The commander advanced the battalion confidently when he saw the pitifully few defenders remaining at the castle walls.*

**bauble**

**bavardage**

n  
/ .bavə(r)'däzh /  
L > F  
small talk, chitchat.  
*After a stressful math class, Cora welcomed the opportunity for bavardage with her friends in the cafeteria.*

**bayonet**

**bayou**

n  
/ 'bi:(y)ü /  
Choctaw > Louisiana F  
a creek, secondary watercourse, or minor river that is tributary to another river or other body of water.  
*Dale's grandfather lives near a bayou in southern Alabama.*

**bazooka**

n  
/ bə'zükə /  
Amer E  
a light portable usually crew-served shoulder weapon used especially to launch armor-piercing rockets.  
*Lenny begged his mother for the tank, bazooka, and toy soldiers that he had seen in a commercial.*

**beachcomber**

**beacon**

n  
/ 'bɛkən /  
E  
a signal fire or lighthouse commonly on a hill, tower, or pole.  
*That lighthouse once served as a beacon for ships nearing the shore.*

**beaker**

n  
/ 'bɛkə(r) /  
Old Saxon > ON > E  
a deep openmouthed thin vessel that often has a projecting lip for pouring and is used especially by chemists and pharmacists.  
*As Frank reached for the pipette, he knocked an acid-filled beaker off the lab bench.*

**beatitude**

**beaujolais**

**beaumontage**

n  
/ bō'mäntij /  
unknown > French  
a composition used by artisans to fill and conceal holes or cracks in wood or metal.  
*Bart asked the conservator to replace all the old beaumontage in the statuette.*

**beauteous**

**bedizenment**

**bedlam**

n  
/ 'bedləm /  
Palestinian geog name > E  
a place or scene of wild mad uproar.  
*After the final game of the championship, the parking lot was bedlam.*

**bedstead**

**beflustered**

**beforehand**

**beggar**

**beguile**

v  
/ bə'gɪl /  
E  
gain the notice of by the use of wiles : charm.  
*The teenager tried to beguile her teacher into giving her a good grade.*

**beguiling**

adj  
/ bə'gɪliŋ /  
E  
provoking pleased interest and diverting from concern or vexation.  
*Todd blamed the beguiling influence of TV for his low grades.*

**beguine**

n  
/ bə'gɛn /  
F  
a vigorous popular dance of the islands of Saint Lucia and Martinique somewhat like the rumba.  
*Cole Porter's song "Begin the Beguine" started the beguine on the road to popularity in this country.*

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

**behemoth**

n  
/ bə'hēməθ /  
Heb > L > E  
something of oppressive or monstrous size or power.  
*Anwar's wrestling opponent was a behemoth of a man.*

**beige**

adj  
/ 'bāzh /  
Per? > Gk? > L? > It? > F  
of a variable color averaging light grayish yellowish brown.  
*Tired of the beige walls in her home, Ellen decided to repaint all the rooms with bold colors.*

**beleaguer**

v  
/ bə'lēgə(r) /  
D  
subject to oppressive or grievous forces.  
*In June the black flies will invade the campsite and beleaguer the unsuspecting campers.*

**belemnoid**

adj  
/ 'beləm.nɔɪd /  
Gk  
shaped like a dart.  
*The museum's collection included belemnoid carvings of unknown origin.*

**believe**

**bellicose**

**belligerent**

adj  
/ bə'lij(ə)rənt /  
L  
waging war.  
*The victorious faction is setting up an interim government and purging its belligerent enemies.*

**bellipotent**

adj  
/ be'lipədənt /  
L + L  
mighty in war.  
*The nation's desire to become a bellipotent power resulted in a drastic increase in its defense budget.*

**bellwether**

n  
/ 'bel.wethə(r) /  
E  
one that takes the lead or initiative : leader.  
*Brooke's firm has long been considered a bellwether in the industry.*

**bellwort**

**belomancy**

**belton**

**benediction**

n  
/ .benə'dikʃən /  
L  
an expression or utterance of blessing or good wishes.  
*Alta's mother orated an impressive benediction at her wedding reception.*

**beneficence**

**beneficent**

adj  
/ bə'nefəsənt /  
L + Ecf  
performing acts of kindness and charity.  
*Thanks to the generosity of a beneficent contributor, the symphony will be funded for another season.*

**benevolence**

n  
/ bə'nevələn(t)s /  
L  
kindly disposition to do good and promote the welfare of others.  
*As a result of his grandfather's benevolence, Chad was able to afford an Ivy League education.*

**benevolent**

adj  
/ bə'nevələnt /  
L > E  
marked by a kindly disposition to promote the happiness and prosperity of others.  
*Elmer received a commendation for his benevolent actions.*

**benignant**

adj  
/ bə'nignənt /  
L  
kindly, mild, gentle.  
*The department store always chose a Santa Claus with a benignant countenance.*

**benison**

n  
/ 'benəsən /  
L > F > E  
[Note: Could be confused with venison.] the pronouncing of a blessing : benediction.  
*Tim's favorite vocal benison is his youth choir's rendition of the Irish Blessing.*

**bequeath**

**berceuse**

n  
/ ber'sə(r)z /  
F  
a vocal or instrumental composition of a soothing character.  
*Maya hummed a berceuse to her son to soothe him to sleep.*

**bereave**

**bereavement**

n  
/ bə'rēvmənt /  
E  
deprivation; especially : loss of a loved one by death.  
*Some scientific studies have shown that bereavement, such as the loss of a spouse, can affect one's immunity to illness.*



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**beret**

n  
/ bə'rɑ /  
Prov > F  
a soft flat visorless cap of woolen material originally worn by Basque peasants.  
*The painter's beret was a bit tattered and moth-eaten.*

**bergamot**

n  
/ 'bɜrgəmət /  
Turk > It > F  
an essential oil much used in perfumery.  
*Elisa was wearing cologne scented with bergamot.*

**bergschrund**

n  
/ 'bɜrk.ʃrʌnt /  
G  
a deep and often broad crevasse or series of such crevasses frequently occurring near the head of a mountain glacier.  
*The rescuers descended into the bergschrund to reach the injured mountain climber.*

**beriberi**

n  
/ ,berē'berē /  
Sinhalese  
a disease caused by a lack of or inability to assimilate vitamin B-1.  
*The symptoms of beriberi usually respond well to dietary improvements.*

**berouged**

**berylloid**

n  
/ 'berə,lɔɪd /  
Indic > Gk > L > F + Ecf  
a form consisting of a double 12-sided pyramid.  
*The jeweler decided to cut the unusual crystal into a berylloid to heighten its allure to potential buyers.*

**besmirched**

**besom**

n  
/ 'bɛzəm /  
E  
a broom made with a bundle of twigs.  
*Milena pretended she was a pioneer, sweeping out the garage with a crudely constructed besom.*

**bestial**

**betacism**

**bethel**

n  
/ 'bethəl /  
Heb  
a place of worship, as a chapel for nonconformists.  
*The shelter overlooking the waterfall has become a bethel for Sunday morning hikers who want to contemplate the grandeur of nature.*

**bevel**

v  
/ 'bevəl /  
F  
cut or shape to an angle : put a slant on the edge of.  
*Rhoda wants the glass shop to bevel her mirror before it is framed.*

**bevy**

n  
/ 'bevē /  
E  
a usually large group or collection.  
*A bevy of reporters crowded around the gold medal winner.*

**bewilder**

**bewitched**

v  
/ bə'wɪcht /  
E  
cast a spell over.  
*Some say a sorceress bewitched the valley during the early days of settlement.*

**bialys**

**bibelot**

n  
/ 'bɛbəlɔ /  
Gk > L > F  
a small household ornament or decorative object : trinket.  
*Mrs. Carnes gave her toddler a bibelot to play with while the women discussed plans for the rally.*

**biblioclast**

**bibliography**

**biblioklept**

**bibliopegy**

n  
/ ,bɪblē'əpəjē /  
Gk + Gk  
the art of binding books.  
*A local bookbinder visited the class and explained how bibliopegy is both a craft and an art.*

**bibliothecarial**

adj  
/ ,bɪblēəθə'ka(a)rēəl /  
Gk + Lcf  
of or related to a library.  
*Thurmond has great interest in the Dewey decimal system and other things bibliothecarial.*

**bibliotics**

n pl  
/ ,bɪblē'ədɪks /  
Gk  
the scientific study of handwriting, documents, and writing materials especially for determining genuineness or authorship.  
*Several experts in bibliotics were asked to examine the scroll.*

**bicameral**

adj  
/ bɪ'kam(ə)rəl /  
L  
having or made up of two distinct legislative bodies.  
*The U.S. Congress is bicameral, consisting of the Senate and the House of Representatives.*

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

**bicentennial**

n  
/ bɪsɛn'tenɛəl /  
Lcf + L + L > E  
a 200th anniversary or its celebration.  
*Bargersville will celebrate the bicentennial of its founding next year.*

**biceps**

**biennial**

**bifurcation**

n  
/ bɪfər'kæʃən /  
L > F  
the point at which separation or branching into two parts, areas, aspects, or connected segments occurs.  
*Satish pulled his car over and studied the map when he reached a bifurcation in the road.*

**bijou**

**bijouterie**

n  
/ bɛ'ʒjutɛrɛ /  
F  
jewelry in which delicate or intricate metalwork contributes more to the value than do the constituent materials.  
*Marge scoured the display case in the antique shop for an addition to her collection of bijouterie.*

**bikini**

n  
/ bɪ'kɛnɛ /  
Pacific geog name  
a woman's abbreviated two-piece bathing suit.  
*Joan's father does not approve of the bikini she would like to purchase.*

**bilateral**

adj  
/ bɪ'lədərəl /  
L > Ecf + L  
of or relating to the right and left sides of a central area.  
*The maple leaf exhibits bilateral symmetry.*

**bilge**

n  
/ 'bɪlj /  
unknown  
water that collects by seepage or leakage in the bottom of a ship or other vessel.  
*Jeannie awoke to find bilge sloshing against her bunk.*

**bilharzia**

**bilingual**

**billeted**

v  
/ 'bɪlədɛd /  
L > F > E  
served with an official order directing that a member of a military force be provided with board and lodging (as in a private home).  
*During the Civil War it was not uncommon for homeowners to be billeted.*

**billiards**

n pl  
/ 'bɪljə(r)dz /  
Celt > F  
any of several games played on an oblong table in which small balls are driven against one another or into pockets by means of a cue.  
*Honorita supplemented her scholarship money by playing billiards for pocket change.*

**billionaire**

**billon**

n  
/ 'bɪlən /  
F  
gold or silver alloyed with a considerable amount of some less valuable metal.  
*The numismatist showed the wide-eyed youngster several coins made of billon.*

**biloculine**

**bimestrial**

**bimillenary**

n  
/ bɪ'mɪlənerɛ /  
L  
a 2000th anniversary or its celebration.  
*In 1951 the city of Paris celebrated the bimillenary of its founding.*

**binary**

adj  
/ 'bɪ.nɛrɛ /  
L  
involving a choice or condition of two alternatives only (as on-off or yes-no).  
*The symbols conventionally used in a binary system of numeration are 0 and 1.*

**binoculars**

n pl  
/ bɪ'nɔkyələ(r)z /  
L > E + L  
a handheld optical instrument composed of two telescopes and a focusing device and usually having prisms to increase magnifying ability.  
*Binoculars have proved to be a great boon to bird-watching.*

**binomial**

**bioluminescent**

adj  
/ .bɪ(,)ɔ.lūmən'esnt /  
Gk + L  
of, relating to, or characterized by the emission of light from living organisms as the result of internal oxidative changes.  
*Bioluminescent animals occur in at least 39 orders of the animal kingdom.*

**biopsy**

**bireme**

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**bisagre**

n  
/ bə'sa(ɪ)grē /  
MexSp  
a small spiny cactus of Mexico and the southwestern United States that is sometimes cut into slices and candied.  
*Elena often rewarded her children's good behavior with slices of bisagre.*

**biscuit**

n  
/ 'biskət /  
(L + L) > F > E  
a quick bread made in a small shape from dough that has been rolled and cut or dropped and that is raised in the baking by a leavening agent other than yeast.  
*A hot biscuit with butter and honey was the best part of the lunch.*

**bise**

n  
/ 'bēz /  
Gmc > F > E  
[has homonym: bees] a cold wind; especially : a cold dry north wind of southern France, Switzerland, and Italy.  
*Jake was told that he would need to pack warm clothes to withstand the bise while he toured Switzerland.*

**bisector**

**bittern**

**bivouac**

n  
/ 'biv.wak /  
G > F  
a camping out for a night.  
*Private Slater packed a peanut butter sandwich for his bivouac.*

**bizarre**

adj  
/ bə'zär /  
It > F  
[has near homonym: bazaar] being strikingly out of the ordinary or at variance with some standard, real or implied.  
*Todd's bizarre behavior prompted his parents to call a doctor.*

**blague**

v  
/ 'bläg /  
F  
talk pretentiously and usually inaccurately or boastfully.  
*Politicians who blague generally alienate their audiences.*

**blandishment**

n  
/ 'blandishmənt /  
L > F > E + Ecf  
speech, action, or device that flatters and tends to coax or cajole.  
*No blandishment can sway Gil from his steadfast sense of propriety.*

**blanquette**

n  
/ blä'ket /  
Gmc > Prov > F  
a light meat (as veal or breast of chicken) in a white sauce.  
*After the play, Grandmother took us to a French restaurant, where we sampled a blanquette of veal from the buffet.*

**blarney**

n  
/ 'blärnē /  
Ir geog name  
smooth wheedling talk.  
*Mrs. Lewis was not impressed by Al's blarney as he tried to talk her into raising his grade.*

**blasphemous**

adj  
/ 'blasfəməs /  
Gk > L  
speaking or writing irreverence toward God.  
*During the Middle Ages many books were condemned as blasphemous and burned.*

**blasphemously**

adv  
/ 'blasfəməslē /  
Gk > L > + Ecf  
in an impiously irreverent manner.  
*Dad blasphemously berated the driver who suddenly cut in front of him without warning.*

**blasphemy**

**blatant**

adj  
/ 'blātənt /  
L  
completely or crassly obvious : brazen.  
*Mr. Nall suspended Ed for blatant disobedience during the fire drill.*

**blather**

n  
/ 'blathə(r) /  
ON  
voluble, foolish, or nonsensical talk.  
*Matt's announcement consisted of 10 percent information and 90 percent blather.*

**blatherskite**

n  
/ 'blathə(r).skit /  
ON + ON  
a blustering, talkative, and often incompetent person.  
*With Jay's luck, the biggest blatherskite in the theater will sit directly behind him.*

**blazon**

n  
/ 'blāzən /  
F > E  
coat of arms.  
*The duke's blazon was on everything from the tableware to the towels.*

**bleach**

v  
/ 'blēch /  
E  
remove the color or stains from.  
*Eliza decided not to bleach her stained socks for fear of ruining their elastic.*

**bleary**

**blemish**

n  
/ 'blemish /  
Gmc > F > E  
defect, flaw.  
*A skilled watercolorist can render a blemish invisible.*

**blenny**

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**blepharal**

adj  
/ 'blefərəl /  
Gk

of or relating to the eyelids.  
*Leroy's blepharal inflammation was caused by allergies.*

**blessing**

n  
/ 'blesɪŋ /  
E

the act or words of one who issues approval or praise.  
*Nate and Irene sought the blessing of their priest before they married.*

**blight**

**blissful**

adj  
/ 'blɪsfəl /  
E

marked by a state of complete or ecstatic happiness.  
*The blissful bride and groom hurried off on their honeymoon.*

**blithe**

**blitz**

v  
/ 'blɪtʃ /  
G

rush (a passer) in football from a position as a linebacker or defensive back.  
*In a desperate bid to stop the other team from scoring, the coach told all three linebackers to blitz the quarterback.*

**blitzkrieg**

n  
/ 'blɪts.krɛɡ /  
G

war conducted with great speed and force; specifically : a violent surprise offensive by massed air forces and mechanized ground forces in close coordination.  
*The French forces were roundly defeated by the Germans' blitzkrieg.*

**blizzard**

n  
/ 'blɪzə(r)d /  
unknown

a severe and prolonged snowstorm.  
*Last winter many cattle perished in a blizzard.*

**blossom**

**blossoming**

adj  
/ 'blɒsəmɪŋ /  
E + EcF

flowering.  
*Between the blossoming branches of the canopy, bits of blue sky looked down like wonderful eyes.*

**blotch**

n  
/ 'blɒtʃ /  
L? > F > E

imperfection, blemish.  
*The vendor referred to the ugly blotch on the leather as "natural discoloration."*

**blouse**

**bloviate**

**blucher**

n  
/ 'blʊkə(r) /  
Prussian name

a shoe having the tongue and vamp cut in one piece and the quarters lapped over the vamp and laced together for closing.  
*The blucher was very popular with returning servicemen after World War I.*

**bludgeon**

n  
/ 'blʌdʒən /  
unknown

a short stick used as a weapon usually having one thick, heavy, or loaded end.  
*The shop teacher confiscated the crude bludgeon Harlan had fashioned from a baseball bat.*

**blueprint**

**blunderbuss**

n  
/ 'blʌndə(r).bʌs /  
D + L > D

an obsolete short gun or firearm that had a large bore and was intended for shooting at close quarters without exact aim.  
*The museum exhibit featured a blunderbuss along with other 18th-century weapons.*

**bobbin**

**bobolink**

**bocaccio**

n  
/ bō'kächō /  
AmSp&It > E

a large olive to brown red-flushed rockfish of the Pacific coast from British Columbia to southern California.  
*The bocaccio feeds on a variety of fishes, crabs, and squids.*

**bocage**

n  
/ bō'kážh /  
F

countryside or landscape marked by intermingled patches of woodland and heath, small fields, tall hedgerows, and orchards.  
*The charming bocage of rural France presents a variety that delights travelers.*

**bodega**

n  
/ bō'dāgə /  
L > Sp

a combined wineshop and grocery store.  
*Miguel's mother sent him to the bodega for a loaf of bread.*

**boiserie**

n  
/ 'bɔwäzə.rē /  
Gmc > F

carved wood paneling.  
*In Louis's living room painted boiserie provides a backdrop for a melange of upholstered armchairs.*

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**boisterous**

adj  
/ 'bɔɪst(ə)rəs /  
F > E  
full of exuberant uninhibited and often excessive spirits.  
*The locker room was boisterous after the championship.*

**bole**

n  
/ 'bɔl /  
ON  
the trunk of a tree.  
*Biff threw a knife into the old oak's bole.*

**bolero**

n  
/ bə'la(a)(.)rɔ /  
Sp  
a Spanish dance to music in three-quarter time and characterized by sharp turns and revolutions of the body and stamping of the feet in syncopated rhythm.  
*Miguel and Ana danced the bolero as the rest of the partygoers watched and clapped.*

**bolide**

n  
/ 'bɔlɪd /  
Gk  
an exploding or exploded meteor or meteorite.  
*Some UFO reports turn out to result from the appearance of a bolide.*

**Bolshevik**

n  
/ 'bɔlʃəvɪk /  
Russ  
a member of the Russian Communist Party.  
*The Bolshevik kept repeating, "This could never happen in a communist country."*

**bombilation**

**bonanza**

n  
/ bə'nanzə /  
L > Sp  
something that yields an often unexpectedly large profit.  
*Millie struck a bonanza with her latest business venture.*

**bonhomous**

adj  
/ 'bänəməs /  
L > F + Ecf  
warmly genial.  
*Will told us about the bonhomous master of ceremonies at the banquet.*

**boniface**

n  
/ 'bänəfəs /  
name in an Irish play  
the proprietor of a hotel, nightclub, or restaurant.  
*The boniface of the Red Horse Inn loves to have his picture taken with visiting celebrities.*

**bonnet**

n  
/ 'bänət /  
L > F > E  
a woman's head covering of cloth or straw usually tied under the chin.  
*Marie was tying her handkerchief over the kitten's head for a bonnet.*

**bonsai**

n  
/ 'bɔn.sɪ /  
Jpn  
[has near homonym: banzai] a potted plant (as a tree) dwarfed by special methods of culture.  
*Joanie spent the afternoon instructing a class on pruning a bonsai.*

**bookcase**

**bookkeeper**

n  
/ 'bʊk.kēpə(r) /  
E  
one who maintains accounts.  
*Dad has been a bookkeeper at the plant for 14 years.*

**boomerang**

**boondoggle**

**Bordelaise**

n  
/ ,bɔrd'laɪz /  
F geog name  
a brown sauce flavored with a table wine from the Gironde department

of France, the capital of which is Bordeaux.  
*Stuart thickened the Bordelaise over a low flame.*

**bordereaux**

**borderline**

**bore**

n  
/ 'bɔ(ə)r /  
E  
[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word. In addition, word has homonyms and near homonym: boar, Boer, and boor.] a tidal flood that regularly or occasionally rushes with a roaring noise into certain rivers.  
*Ships in the harbor when a bore occurred could suffer damage from its considerable height or force.*

**borealization**

n  
/ ,bɔrɛələ'zəʃən /  
Gk > L + Ecff  
adaptation (as of plants) to life in more northerly regions.  
*In the far North, borealization is a primary factor in the evolution of different plant species.*

**borzoi**

n  
/ 'bɔr.zɔi /  
Russ  
a Russian wolfhound.  
*The borzoi resembles a large greyhound with long wavy hair.*

**bosky**

**botanist**

n  
/ 'bät(ə)nəst /  
Gk + Ecf  
a professional student of plants.  
*A botanist identified the mysterious plant growing behind Alysia's garage.*

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**botany**

n  
/ 'bät(ə)nē /  
Gk > F

the branch of biology dealing with plant life.

*Jan has no formal education in botany, but she does seem to have a green thumb.*

**botcher**

**botuliform**

adj  
/ 'bächələfōrm /  
L + Ecf

shaped like a sausage.

*Cattails have botuliform flower heads.*

**boudoir**

n  
/ 'bü.dwä(r) /  
F

a woman's dressing room, bedroom, or private sitting room.

*The boudoir adjacent to the master bedroom was, to Brooke, the most fascinating room on the tour.*

**bough**

n  
/ 'bau /  
E

[has homonym: bow] a branch of a tree.

*Grass would grow better beneath the tree if the lowest bough were removed.*

**bouillabaisse**

**bouillon**

n  
/ 'bü.yän /  
F

[Note: Alternate pronunciation has homonym: bullion.] a broth made by slow boiling of meat and especially beef in water.

*Benny learned how to make bouillon in his home economics class.*

**boulevard**

n  
/ 'bülə.värd /  
D > F

a broad thoroughfare often having grassplots with trees along the center or between curbs and sidewalks.

*On a warm sunny day many strollers can be found on the boulevard.*

**boulevardier**

**boundary**

**bounteous**

**bountiful**

adj  
/ 'bauntəfəl /  
L > F > E + Ecf  
abundant, plentiful.  
*The potato farmers rejoiced over their bountiful harvest.*

**bouquet**

n  
/ bō'kā /  
F

the distinctive fragrance (as of a wine or brandy) derived from the processes of fermentation and aging.

*Jim found the bouquet of the mystery wine much to his liking.*

**bouquiniste**

n  
/ бүкēnēst /  
D > F

a dealer in secondhand books.

*The bouquiniste encouraged us to browse as long as we wanted.*

**bourgeois**

adj  
/ 'bürzh.wä /  
F

of, belonging to, or characteristic of the townsman or the social middle class.

*The senator said that he espoused the bourgeois virtues of thriftiness, forethought, and a serious attitude toward life.*

**bourgeoisie**

n  
/ .bürzh.wä'zē /  
F

the social and economic middle class.

*Dillon went to college to, as he put it, "escape from the throes of the bourgeoisie."*

**boutonniere**

n  
/ .büt'n'i(ə)r /  
F

a flower or bouquet worn in a buttonhole.

*The groom wore a sprig of orange blossom as a boutonniere.*

**bowdlerize**

v  
/ 'bōdlə.rīz /  
E name + Ecf  
remove matter considered indelicate or otherwise objectionable from.

*When the publisher chose to bowdlerize the novel, the school librarian refused to order it.*

**bowery**

**bowline**

n  
/ 'bōlən /  
E

a rope fastened near the middle of the perpendicular edge of a square sail and used to keep the weather edge of the sail taut forward when the ship is close-hauled.

*Suzanne told Julio to cleat the bowline down tightly as she prepared to tack.*

**boycott**

v  
/ 'bōi.kät /  
E name

combine against (a person, employer, a group of persons, or a nation) in a policy of suspension of dealings or relations for economic or political reasons.

*The people of New Athens resolved to boycott the offending company.*

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**boysenberry**

n  
/ 'bóiz<sup>ə</sup>n.berē /  
Amer name + E  
a very large bramble fruit with a flavor like a raspberry especially valued for canning and preserving.  
*Mark enjoys the tart flavor of a freshly picked boysenberry.*

**bracelet**

**brachiate**

v  
/ 'brakē.āt /  
Gk > L  
progress by swinging from one hold to another by the arms.  
*The children enjoyed watching the chimpanzees playfully brachiate from tree to tree.*

**brachygraphy**

n  
/ bra'kigrəfē /  
Gk + Gk  
shorthand : a method of writing rapidly by substituting characters, abbreviations, or symbols for letters, words, or phrases.  
*Current job listings for administrative assistants rarely list brachygraphy as a mandatory skill.*

**brachylogy**

n  
/ bra'kiləjē /  
Gk  
conciseness of expression.  
*A successful poet is a master of imagery and brachylogy.*

**bradawl**

n  
/ 'brad.əl /  
E + E  
an awl with a chisel edge used to make holes for screws or thin, small nails.  
*Desmond found a bradawl in his grandfather's toolbox, but he couldn't figure out what it was used for.*

**bradycardia**

**bradyseism**

n  
/ 'brādē.sizəm /  
Gk  
a slow quiet upward or downward movement of Earth's crust.  
*The outskirts of Naples have been afflicted by bradyseism since a 1980 earthquake.*

**braggadocio**

n  
/ .bragə'dōshē.ō /  
name in English poem  
empty boasting or bragging.  
*Shelly was sure that Keith's claim to have received ten speeding tickets was mere braggadocio.*

**brankursine**

n  
/ braŋ'kərs<sup>ə</sup>n /  
L > F  
a prickly European herb having rough, fuzzy leaves.  
*The brankursine has ornamental value because of its claw-shaped leaves.*

**brannigan**

n  
/ 'branəgən /  
name?  
a difference of opinion : controversy, squabble.  
*A rousing brannigan erupted at the dinner table.*

**brasserie**

**bratwurst**

n  
/ 'brat.wərst /  
G  
fresh pork sausage.  
*Karen is grilling bratwurst for the pool party.*

**braunschweiger**

n  
/ 'braún.shwīgə(r) /  
G name  
smoked liver sausage.  
*Derek made a braunschweiger and pickle sandwich for his afternoon snack.*

**bravura**

n  
/ brə'v(y)ürə /  
It  
a show of daring or brilliancy.  
*The crowd cheered the aerialist for his bravura.*

**brawniness**

n  
/ 'brònēnəs /  
Gmc > F > E  
the quality or state of having large strong muscles : muscular.  
*Chip's brawniness proved to be an asset in playing football.*

**brazen**

adj  
/ 'brāz<sup>ə</sup>n /  
E  
done in the open or in plain sight with or as if with complete scorn of public opinion, the common good, or ethical principle.  
*Kevin hopes that his brazen violation of the school's dress code will get him sent home for the day.*

**breach**

**breakfast**

**breath**

n  
/ 'breθ /  
E  
air charged with a certain fragrance, odor, or other suggestion.  
*The breath of roses in the parlor came from the window open to the garden.*

**breccia**

n  
/ 'brech(ē)ə /  
It  
[has near homonym: Brescia] a rock consisting of sharp fragments embedded in a fine-grained matrix (as sand or clay).  
*A breccia was among the rock specimens that the scientist brought back from her trip to the desert.*

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**bretelle**

n  
/ brə'tel /  
Gmc > F  
one of a pair of ornamental straps that go from the belt on the front of a dress over the shoulders to the belt in back.  
*Candace asked for help in adjusting her bretelle.*

**brevet**

n  
/ brə'vet /  
F > E  
an official document from a government granting a privilege, title, or dignity.  
*Dominic found a brevet signed by President Fillmore among his grandfather's papers.*

**breviloquent**

**brevity**

n  
/ 'brevədē /  
L  
expression in few words : terseness, conciseness.  
*Polonius told Queen Gertrude that "brevity is the soul of wit."*

**bribery**

n  
/ 'brīb(ə)rē /  
F > E  
the act or practice of giving or taking a reward, gift, or favor with a view to corrupt the conduct especially of a person in a position of trust (as a public official).  
*When the gambler offered the athletes money to lose the game, he was arrested and charged with bribery.*

**bridle**

**briefcase**

**brigadier**

n  
/ 'brīgə'di(ə)r /  
It > F > E  
an army, marine, or air force officer ranking just below a major general and above a colonel.  
*After winning the decisive battle, Hiram was promoted to brigadier.*

**brigand**

n  
/ 'brīgənd /  
Celt > It > F > E  
one who lives by plunder usually as a member of a band.  
*The captured brigand refused to say a word about his group's leader.*

**brigantine**

n  
/ 'brīgən.tēn /  
Celt > It > F  
a two-masted square-rigged sailing ship.  
*Sailing school will be held on a specially outfitted brigantine.*

**brightness**

n  
/ 'brīt.nəs /  
E  
the state of being radiant : lustrous.  
*Walter wore sunglasses while he was skiing to protect his eyes against the brightness of the snow.*

**brilliant**

**brimstone**

n  
/ 'brimz.tōn /  
E  
sulfur.  
*If the story were true, upon reaching the sacred spot the demon would vanish in a flash of fire and brimstone.*

**brine**

**brininess**

n  
/ 'brīnēnəs /  
E  
the quality or state of being like salt water or the sea.  
*Nadine does not enjoy swimming in the ocean because its brininess irritates her skin.*

**brioche**

n  
/ brē'ōsh /  
Gmc > F  
a fancy roll of very light yeast dough rich with eggs and butter.  
*Amy wanted just a brioche and juice for breakfast.*

**broach**

v  
/ 'brōch /  
F > E  
[has homonym: brooch] open up (a subject) for discussion or debate.  
*No one dares broach the subject of politics in front of Monique.*

**broadcaster**

n  
/ 'brōd.kastə(r) /  
E + ON > E  
a person who disseminates news on radio or television.  
*Russell has the clear voice and precise diction of an experienced broadcaster.*

**brocade**

n  
/ brō'kād /  
L > It > Catal > Sp  
a rich oriental fabric with raised patterns embroidered in gold and silver threads.  
*Tina discovered a gorgeous brocade in the remnant bin at the fabric store.*

**brochette**

n  
/ brō'shet /  
F  
meat broiled on a skewer.  
*Marsha garnished her beef brochette with green peppers.*



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**brochure**

n  
/ brō'shū(ə)r /  
F

pamphlet, booklet.  
*Juanita designed a brochure for the zoological society.*

**brockage**

n  
/ 'bräkij /  
E

an imperfectly minted coin.  
*Allen found a brockage in his piggy bank.*

**bromeliad**

n  
/ brō'mēlē.ad /  
Sw name + Lcf  
a plant of a family of tropical American herbs or subshrubs.  
*The colorful leaves of the bromeliad make it a popular houseplant.*

**bronchial**

**bronchitis**

n  
/ brän'kīd-əs /  
Gk

acute or chronic inflammation in the lungs.  
*Because of his bronchitis, Sam had given up jogging.*

**brontometer**

n  
/ brän'täməd-ə(r) /  
Gk

an instrument for measuring the phenomena of thunderstorms.  
*In 1888 meteorologists began using a brontometer to record the details of thunderstorms.*

**bronze**

v  
/ 'bränz /  
L > It > F

[has near homonym: brawns]  
become like bronze, a moderate yellowish brown alloy of copper and tin, especially in color.  
*Ike's attempt to bronze on the beach took an unfortunate turn when he fell asleep.*

**brougham**

n  
/ 'brü(ə)m /  
Scottish name

[has near homonyms: broom, brume] a light closed horse-drawn carriage with the driver outside in front.  
*The brougham was once a common sight on the streets of London.*

**brouhaha**

n  
/ 'brü'hä.hä /  
Hebrew? > F  
publicity, attention, or excitement far beyond the merits or importance of its cause.  
*Sean dropped his tray in the cafeteria, causing quite a brouhaha.*

**brucellosis**

n  
/ ,brüsə'lōsəs /  
E name + Lcf  
a human disease characterized by extreme exhaustion and generalized aches and pains and acquired through infected animal products.  
*An outbreak of brucellosis forced the sausage factory to shut down.*

**bruise**

n  
/ 'brüz /  
F > E  
[has homonym: brews] an injury, especially one produced by a blow or collision, that does not break the surface it injures.  
*Heather's fall from her bicycle left her with a bad bruise.*

**bruit**

**brujo**

n  
/ 'brü.hō /  
Sp  
sorcerer, witch doctor; especially : one that works black magic.  
*The character of the brujo in the ballet was played by a dancer who scowled through the entire first act.*

**brume**

n  
/ 'brüm /  
L > OProv > F

[has homonym and near homonym: broom and brougham] mist, fog.  
*The ship's foghorn blared through the drifting brume.*

**brummagem**

adj  
/ 'bräməjəm /  
E geog name  
spurious especially in a cheap and showy way : phony, sham.  
*Irene usually wears brummagem jewelry when she dines at fancy restaurants.*

**brumous**

**brutal**

adj  
/ 'brüd-əl /  
L > F > E  
characterized by ruthlessness and insensitivity.  
*The judge gave Gary the maximum sentence, noting the brutal nature of the crime.*

**bruxism**

n  
/ 'brək.sizəm /  
Gk > E  
the habit of unconsciously gritting or grinding the teeth especially in situations of stress or during sleep.  
*Ellie's bruxism was so pronounced that her dentist made a bite guard for her to wear at night.*

**buccaneer**

n  
/ ,bəkə'ni(e)r /  
Tupi > F  
one of the pirates preying upon Spanish ships and settlements especially in the West Indies in the 17th century.  
*While on the "Pirates of the Caribbean" ride at Disneyland, Maria thought she saw the eyes of the nearest buccaneer move.*

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**buccolingual**

adj  
/ ˈbʊkəlɪŋɡ(yə)wəl /  
L

relating to or affecting the cheek and the tongue.

*Pipe smoking can harm the buccolingual tissue.*

**buckboard**

n  
/ ˈbʊk.bɔ(ə)rd /  
E + E

a four-wheeled horse-drawn vehicle without springs with the platform fastened directly to the front and rear axle, usually with a seat above it often mounted on springs.

*The Wilson family used a buckboard for travel and to transport supplies from town.*

**buckram**

**bucolic**

**Buddhism**

n  
/ ˈbʊ.dɪzəm /  
Skt name

a religion of eastern and central Asia.

*Buddhism has spread from its original home in Asia to all corners of the globe.*

**budgetary**

**buffalo**

n  
/ ˈbʊfələ /  
Gk > L > Sp > It

a large wild ox with a shaggy mane and short horns that was once abundant on the central and western plains of the United States.

*Jamie was awed by the enormity of the buffalo she saw at the zoo.*

**buffoon**

n  
/ ˈbʊːfjuːn /  
L > It > F

a person professionally engaged in entertaining others by tricks, gestures, or comic pantomime.

*Along the midway a buffoon entertained the children with a laughable pantomime.*

**buffoonery**

n  
/ (i)ˈbʊːfjuːn(ə)rē /  
F

the practices of a clown or clownish person; especially : coarse loutish behavior.

*Mrs. Decker warned that she would tolerate no buffoonery in her classroom.*

**bugaboo**

n  
/ ˈbʊgəˌbjuː /  
E

something that causes fear or distress often out of proportion to its actual importance in a situation.

*Failing the geometry test was Kara's bugaboo.*

**bulbous**

adj  
/ ˈbʊlbəs /  
L

[has homonym: bulbus]  
resembling or suggesting a bulb especially in roundness or in the gross enlargement of a part.

*The cartoon character's heavy bulbous body lurched dangerously on his spindly legs, which barely supported him.*

**bulgur**

n  
/ ˈbʊl.gʊ(ə)r /  
Turk

parched crushed wheat as prepared and used as a dietary staple in Turkey and adjacent regions.

*Omar's favorite dish is a salad made with bulgur, pine nuts, and raisins.*

**bulletin**

**bulletinize**

**bullion**

**bullionist**

n  
/ ˈbʊljənəst /  
F > E + Ecf

an advocate of a metallic medium of exchange.

*The bullionist proposed a return to the gold standard.*

**bumptiously**

**bungalow**

n  
/ ˈbʊŋɡə.lə /  
Hindi

a lightly built single-story house or cottage.

*Wendy's dream vacation includes renting a bungalow on a South Pacific island.*

**buoyant**

adj  
/ ˈbɔɪənt /  
Sp

able to regain high spirits after depression : lighthearted.

*The buoyant author gladly autographed his book for buyers.*

**buoyantly**

**buran**

n  
/ bʊˈræn /  
Turk > Russ

a northeasterly wind of gale force in Russia and central Asia usually identified with sandstorms in summer and blizzards in winter.

*The dreaded buran from northern Siberia swept across the tundra with extraordinary violence.*

**bureaucracy**

n  
/ byüˈrækrəsi /  
F

a system of administration marked by lack of initiative and flexibility, by indifference to human needs or public opinion, and by a tendency to defer decisions to superiors or to impede action with red tape.

*Helga blamed the bureaucracy for the six-week delay in getting her passport.*

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**bureaucrat**

n  
/ 'byūrəkɹat /  
L > F + Gk > F  
a member of the whole body of nonelected government officials.  
*Alexis spent 20 minutes trying to convince a bureaucrat that she really was seeking employment.*

**burgher**

n  
/ 'bərgər /  
G&D  
a resident of a town : townsman.  
*Every burgher showed up for Springfield's fireworks display.*

**burgherly**

**burgoo**

n  
/ (,)bər'gü /  
unknown  
a savory highly seasoned stew or thick soup containing several kinds of meat and vegetables originally served at political rallies, barbecues, picnics, and community occasions.  
*Everyone looks forward to eating burgoo at Drew's Derby Day party.*

**burin**

n  
/ 'byūrən /  
Celt? > Catal? > F  
an engraver's tool having a steel blade ground obliquely to a sharp point.  
*The artist used a burin to engrave a design on a copper plate.*

**burly**

adj  
/ 'bərlē /  
E  
[has homonym: burley] strongly built : stout, sturdy.  
*The director chose Harry for the part of the construction worker because of his burly appearance.*

**burrito**

n  
/ bə'rēd.ō /  
Sp  
a usually baked flour tortilla rolled or folded around a filling (as of meat, beans, or cheese).  
*For lunch Fred ordered a burrito, rice, and refried beans.*

**bursar**

n  
/ 'bərsər /  
L  
[Note: Could be confused with purser.] an administrative officer (as of a monastery or college) in charge of funds : treasurer.  
*The bill for the new gym floor was submitted to the school's bursar.*

**bursiculate**

adj  
/ .bər'sikyələt /  
L > E  
shaped like a small pouch or purse.  
*Some seaweed plants have bursiculate leaves.*

**bursitis**

n  
/ .bər'sīdəs /  
L + Ecf  
inflammation of a fluid-filled cavity in a joint of the body.  
*Pain during the tennis game was Brett's first symptom of bursitis.*

**busby**

n  
/ 'bəzbē /  
E name?  
a military full-dress hat made of fur with a bag usually of cloth of the color of the facings of the regiment hanging from the top on the right.  
*The drum major strutted proudly in his white uniform and black busby.*

**bushel**

**butte**

n  
/ 'byüt /  
F  
[has homonym: beaut] an isolated hill or small mountain with steep or precipitous sides that usually has a smaller summit area than does a mesa.  
*A butte erodes mostly from its sides because its uppermost layers consist of hard rock and resist weathering.*

**butterfly**

v  
/ 'bədə(r)flī /  
E  
split almost entirely and spread apart in such a way as to resemble the spread wings of a butterfly.  
*George tried to butterfly the chicken breast but ended up with two ragged chunks of meat.*

**butterscotch**

n  
/ 'bədə(r)skäch /  
E  
a hard candy made by boiling together brown sugar, corn syrup, and water.  
*Butterscotch has a deep golden color and a delicious rich taste.*

**buttriss**

**butyraceous**

adj  
/ .byüdə'rāshəs /  
Gk > L  
resembling butter.  
*The mixed vegetables were flavored with a butyraceous sauce.*

**buzzard**

n  
/ 'bəzə(r)d /  
L > F > E  
any of various birds of prey, such as a turkey vulture or condor.  
*The buzzard is a common figure in cartoons, making its appearance when other characters are sick or dying.*

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**byssinosis**

n  
/ bisə'nōsəs /  
Gk > L

a chronic industrial disease associated with the inhalation of cotton dust over a long period of time.

*Employees at the mill wore masks to protect themselves from byssinosis.*

**byte**

**Byzantine**

adj  
/ 'bizən.tēn /  
Gk

of, relating to, or characteristic of the eastern Roman Empire.  
*Byzantine bureaucracy has become a byword for cumbersome, complicated, inefficient, and inflexible administration.*

**cabana**

n  
/ kə'ban(y)ə /  
L > Sp

a tentlike often portable shelter with a projecting canopy over an open side facing a beach or swimming pool.

*Sam and Doug will move the cabana closer to the swimming pool.*

**cabaret**

n  
/ .kabə'rā /  
L? > F

a restaurant that provides entertainment, usually singing and dancing.

*Sheila's training in tap dancing helped her get a job at the local cabaret.*

**cabinet**

**cabochon**

adv  
/ 'kabə'shän /  
F

in convex form highly polished but not faceted.

*The jeweler cut the stone cabochon and mounted it in a platinum setting.*

**cabriole**

n  
/ 'kabrē.ōl /  
F

[Note: Could be confused with capriole.] a ballet leap in which one leg is extended in mid-air and the other struck against it.

*The dancers dressed as wood sprites performed a cabriole in every measure of the music.*

**cache**

v  
/ 'kash /  
L > F

[has homonym: cash] place or store in safety or concealment.

*Jim asked Zelda to cache his valuables while he was on sabbatical in Japan.*

**cachet**

n  
/ ka'shā /  
F

a characteristic feature or quality conferring prestige or distinction or inspiring respect.

*Acting in a hit TV sitcom does not carry the same cachet as acting in a hit movie.*

**cachinnate**

**cachinnation**

n  
/ .kakə'nāshən /  
L

the act or action of laughing loudly or convulsively.

*The cachinnation of the comedy club's audience convinced the comedian that he was on his way to becoming a star.*

**cacography**

n  
/ ka'kəgrəfē /  
Gk

bad handwriting.

*Martin's cacography made his work illegible.*

**cacophonous**

**cacophony**

n  
/ ka'kəfənē /  
Gk

harsh or discordant sound.

*Spot's encounter with the skunk was accompanied by a burst of cacophony.*

**cacuminal**

**cadaver**

n  
/ kə'davə(r) /  
L

a dead human or animal body usually intended for cutting so as to expose the several parts and their locations and connections.

*Duncan dissected a cadaver in anatomy class.*

**cadaverous**

**cadence**

**cadre**

n  
/ 'kə(,)drā /  
L > It > F

a nucleus or core group especially of trained personnel or active members of an organization who are capable of assuming leadership or of training and indoctrinating others.

*Its highly skilled cadre of managers enabled the company to achieve great success in its first year.*

**caduceus**

n  
/ kə'd(y)üs(h)ēəs /  
Gk > L

a conventionalized representation of a staff with two snakes curled around it and with two wings at the top.

*In Greek mythology the caduceus was the staff of Hermes, the messenger of the gods.*

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**cafeteria**

n  
/ kafə'tirēə /  
Turk > Sp  
a self-service restaurant or  
lunchroom.  
*On the last day of school the  
students had a food fight in the  
cafeteria.*

**caisson**

n  
/ 'kāsän /  
L > F  
a two-wheeled vehicle for artillery  
ammunition attachable to a horse-  
drawn limber for marching.  
*A caisson is sometimes used to  
carry the coffin in a military  
funeral.*

**caitiff**

n  
/ 'kādəf /  
L > F > E  
a base despicable person.  
*The story centers on Batman's  
encounters with a psychotic caitiff,  
the Riddler.*

**cajole**

**cajolery**

n  
/ kə'jɔl(ə)rē /  
F  
use of delusive enticements.  
*After much cajolery, the kitten  
finally came down from the tree.*

**calabash**

n  
/ 'kalə,bash /  
Ar? > Sp&F  
the common bottle gourd.  
*A calabash with a hole cut in it  
makes a dandy birdhouse.*

**caladium**

n  
/ kə'lādēəm /  
Malay > L  
any of a small genus of tropical  
American plants with variously  
colored arrow-shaped leaves.  
*Julie delivered a potted caladium  
to her sick cousin.*

**calamine**

**calamity**

**calcium**

n  
/ 'kalsēəm /  
L  
a soft, silver-white bivalent  
metallic element that occurs in  
combination with minerals and  
rocks.  
*Calcium is an essential element in  
bones.*

**calculate**

v  
/ 'kalkyə.lāt /  
L  
ascertain or determine by  
mathematical processes especially  
of some intricacy.  
*Toriko likes to calculate her car's  
gas mileage after every trip.*

**calculator**

n  
/ 'kalkyə.lādə(r) /  
L > E + Ecf  
a device used for computing  
amounts.  
*Mr. Jensen permitted each student  
to use a calculator during the  
exam.*

**calculiform**

adj  
/ 'kalkyələfōrm /  
L > ISV  
shaped like a pebble.  
*In the Mayan writing system, the  
characters were rounded like  
pebbles and so were described as  
being calculiform.*

**calculus**

**calefacient**

adj  
/ kalə'fāshənt /  
L  
making warm : heating.  
*A calefacient ointment relieved  
some of Dave's muscular pain.*

**calendar**

**calibrate**

**calico**

n  
/ 'kaləkō /  
Indian geog name  
any of various cheap cotton fabrics  
with figured patterns.  
*Molly's dress was made of a bold  
orange and yellow checked calico.*

**caliginous**

adj  
/ kə'lijənəs /  
F or L  
dark, obscure.  
*A caliginous sky foreshadowed the  
approaching storm.*

**calisthenics**

n pl  
/ kaləs'theniks /  
Gk + Ecf  
systematic exercises performed  
usually in rhythm and often in a  
group to improve the strength,  
suppleness, balance, and health of  
the body.  
*Aunt Julia does calisthenics twice a  
week in a program called "Body  
Recall."*

**calisthenium**

**callidity**

n  
/ ka'lidədə /  
L  
craftiness, cunning, shrewdness.  
*Br'er Rabbit was famous for his  
callidity.*

**calligrapher**

n  
/ kə'ligrəfə(r) /  
Gk  
one that writes a beautiful,  
ornamental, or stylized hand.  
*Joni and William had their  
wedding invitations inscribed by a  
calligrapher.*

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**calliope**

n  
/ kə'liə(,)pē /  
Gk > L

a musical instrument consisting of a series of crude steam or air whistles used on riverboats and in circuses and carnivals.

*Passengers gathered on the upper deck of the Mississippi Queen to listen to the calliope.*

**callously**

**callow**

**caloric**

adj  
/ kə'lōrik /  
L > F

of or relating to the heat-producing or energy-producing value of food.  
*Suzy became obsessed with caloric intake while on her crash diet.*

**calque**

**calumet**

n  
/ 'kalyə.met /  
L > F

a highly ornamented ceremonial pipe of the North American Indians that was smoked at sacrifices and other magical or religious rites and on state occasions.

*After the three chiefs reached agreement, they passed a feathered calumet.*

**calumny**

n  
/ 'kal(y)əmɲē /  
L

a false charge or misrepresentation intended to harm one's reputation : slander.

*According to Neal, the recent article about him was pure calumny.*

**calvities**

n  
/ kal'vishē.ēz /  
L

baldness.

*Larry's calvities is intentional: He shaves his head every morning.*

**calypso**

n  
/ kə'lip(,)sō /  
Gk name

a balladlike improvisation in African rhythm usually satirizing current events first composed and sung in competition in the British West Indies.

*Harry Belafonte gained fame as a singer of calypso.*

**camaraderie**

**cameline**

n  
/ 'kamə.lēn /  
Sem > Gk > L

a twilled camel's-hair fabric.

*Jordan bought a new overcoat made of cameline to wear with his dress suits.*

**cameo**

n  
/ 'kamē.ō /  
L > F > It

a small theatrical or film role usually performed by a well-known actor and often limited to a single scene.

*The producer was grateful that the star accepted a cameo in his new film.*

**camera**

**camionette**

n  
/ .kamyə'net /  
F

a small truck or bus.

*The hotel provides a camionette to shuttle guests to and from the airport.*

**camisole**

**camouflage**

n  
/ 'kamə.flāzh /  
It > F

a disguise, behavior, or expedient adopted or designed to deceive or hide.

*Behind Jerry's camouflage of ignorance resides a wealth of knowledge.*

**camouflaged**

**camoufleur**

**campanile**

n  
/ .kampə'nēlē /  
L > It

[Note: Plural form can be pronounced identically.] a bell tower usually freestanding.

*From the hilltop Obin could just spot the great campanile of Christ Church in Oxford.*

**camphor**

n  
/ 'kam(p)fə(r) /  
Malay > Ar > L > AF > E

[has near homonym: chamfer] a tough gumlike substance obtained especially from the wood and bark of the camphor tree and used chiefly as a stimulant in medicine.

*Whenever Johnny has a cold, his mother spreads on his chest an aromatic ointment containing camphor.*

**campodeiform**

adj  
/ kam'pōdēə.fōrm /  
Gk + Gk + L

having an elongated and flattened shape—used especially of larvae of some beetles and other higher insects.

*Cybelle identified one of the five campodeiform larvae.*

**campus**

**canaille**

n  
/ kə'nī /  
L > It > F

mob, rabble, riffraff.

*During the riot the canaille destroyed and looted many stores.*

**canard**

n  
/ kə'närd /  
F

a false or unfounded report or story; especially : a fabricated report (as by a newspaper).

*The report of the famous singer's death turned out to be a canard.*

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**canary**

n  
/ kə'nerē /  
L geog name > Sp > F  
a small greenish-yellow finch extensively bred as a cage bird and singer.  
*When the canary escaped in her living room, Susan put her cat outside until she found the bird.*

**canasta**

n  
/ kə'nastə /  
L > Sp  
a card game that is a form of rummy played usually as a two-hand or as a four-hand partnership game using two full decks plus four jokers.  
*The two couples often played canasta after having dinner together.*

**cancellous**

adj  
/ kan'seləs /  
L  
having a spongy or porous structure.  
*Cancellous tissue occurs at the ends of some bones.*

**cancrivorious**

**candelabra**

n  
/ ,kandə'lābrə /  
L  
a usually ornate and often heavy and large standard supporting a candlestick or lamp.  
*In December Stella put red and green candles in her candelabra on the mantle.*

**candelabrum**

n  
/ ,kandə'lābrəm /  
L  
a large candlestick or a lamp usually ornamented and having several arms or branches.  
*Germaine admired the ornate silver candelabrum in the center of the table.*

**candent**

adj  
/ 'kandənt /  
L  
white or glowing usually from great heat.  
*The wire glowed candent like the filament of a light bulb.*

**candescent**

adj  
/ kan'desənt /  
L  
glowing or dazzling often from great heat.  
*A candescent meteorite streaked across the southern sky.*

**candidacy**

n  
/ 'kan(d)ədəsē /  
L + Ecf  
the quality or state of being one that is likely or worthy to gain a post, position, or distinction.  
*Tony's candidacy for the student council will be jeopardized if he fails his algebra exam.*

**candlewick**

n  
/ 'kandəl.wɪk /  
L > E + E  
the twisted threads of soft cotton yarn contained in a candle.  
*Victor groped to light the candlewick in the dark.*

**candor**

n  
/ 'kandə(r) /  
L  
[has near homonym: canter]  
unreserved, honest, or sincere expression.  
*Russell's candor in dealing with difficult issues won over the voters.*

**canine**

**canitist**

n  
/ 'kanətəst /  
L + Ecf  
one who dyes or tints hair especially in a beauty shop.  
*Polly has been a canitist in a local beauty shop for 25 years.*

**cannelloni**

**cannibal**

**cannibalism**

**cannonade**

**canny**

**canoe**

**canoeist**

n  
/ kə'nüəst /  
Arawak > Sp > L > F + Ecf  
one that paddles a type of long narrow boat.  
*Evan became an expert canoeist at summer camp.*

**canopy**

**cantankerous**

adj  
/ kan'ta(i)ŋk(ə)rəs /  
AF? > E? + Ecf  
marked by ill humor, irritability, and determination to disagree.  
*The cantankerous old man yelled at Grady as he attempted to retrieve the football.*

**cantata**

**cantatory**

**canteen**

**canter**

v  
/ 'kantə(r) /  
E geog name  
[has homonym: cantor] move at or as if at a three-beat gait resembling but smoother and slower than the gallop.  
*Cindy let the horse canter for a while but soon spurred it on to a gallop.*

**cantilever**

**cantonment**

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**cantor**

n  
/ 'kantə(r) /  
L

[has homonym: canter] a synagogue official who sings or chants liturgical music and leads the congregation in prayer.  
*Jacob's vocal talent led him to consider becoming a cantor.*

**canvasser**

n  
/ 'kanvəsə(r) /  
Gk > L > F > E + Ecf

one that takes or counts votes.  
*Helga volunteered as a canvasser for the upcoming election.*

**capable**

**capacious**

adj  
/ kə'pāshəs /  
L

able to contain a great deal.  
*Dodie went to the beach carrying a capacious canvas bag.*

**caparison**

n  
/ kə'parəsən /  
Sp > F

an ornamental covering for a horse.  
*The king's horse wore an elaborately decorated caparison.*

**capillary**

adj  
/ 'kapə.lerē /  
L

resembling a hair : fine, minute, slender.  
*The capillary tubes in the tissue puzzled Dr. Chang.*

**capital**

adj  
/ 'kapəd<sup>3</sup>l /  
L

[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word. In addition, word has homonym: capitol.] highly meritorious : most enjoyable.

*On his dad's birthday, Philip served a capital feast, with every dish cleverly wrapped up in ribbons.*

**capitativ**

adj  
/ .kapə'tādvəm /  
L

levied or granted at so much per head.  
*Collecting an affordable capitativ fee for civic pool use will not cover operating costs.*

**capitulate**

**cappelletti**

n pl  
/ .kapə'ledē /  
L > It

[Note: Could be confused with cavalletti.] small cases of dough usually filled with meat or cheese.  
*Bo and Annette dined on cappelletti in marinara sauce.*

**cappuccino**

**capriccioso**

adv  
/ kə'prēchē'ō(s)ō /  
It + Itcf

free and impulsive—used chiefly as a direction in music.  
*The ending segment of the violin concerto was played capriccioso.*

**caprice**

**capricious**

adj  
/ kə'prishəs /  
It

not guided by steady judgment, intent, or purpose.  
*Hazel's capricious behavior is a source of constant annoyance for her sister, Ruth.*

**capsize**

**capstan**

**capsule**

**caracole**

n  
/ 'karəkōl /  
L? > Sp > F

a half turn either to the right or the left executed by a mounted horse.  
*The front rank of galloping cavalrymen fired their pistols and then peeled off in a caracole to regroup.*

**carafe**

n  
/ kə'raf /  
Ar > It > F

a bottle usually made of glass with a narrow neck and spherical body and used to hold water or beverages.  
*Shlomo ordered a carafe of the house wine.*

**caramel**

n  
/ 'karəməl /  
L > Pg > Sp > F

a firm chewy candy often containing fruits and nuts and typically cut into small blocks.  
*Ida's mother warned her not to eat a caramel before she went to the orthodontist.*

**caramelize**

v  
/ 'karəmə.līz /  
L > Pg > Sp > F + Ecf

change (sugar or the sugar content of a food) into a brittle brown substance by heating to about 170–180 C.  
*Kara is going to caramelize some sugar to make peanut brittle.*



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**carbohydrate**

n  
/ ˌkɑːrbəˈhɑːdrət /  
L + Gk

any of a group of neutral compounds composed of carbon, hydrogen, and oxygen including the sugars and starches.

*The nutrition facts indicated that the candy bar would provide Sheila with over half her daily allowance of carbohydrate.*

**carbonaceous**

**carbonate**

adj  
/ ˈkɑːrbənət /  
L + ISVcf  
of or relating to a salt or ester of carbonic acid.

*After reading the paragraph six times, Hugo still could not understand the bonding in the carbonate ion.*

**carboy**

**carcass**

n  
/ ˈkɑːrkəs /  
Per > Ar > L > F  
a dead body of a human being or an animal : corpse.

*Kasey found the fresh carcass of one of his cows and knew that the wolves were back.*

**carcinogen**

n  
/ kɑːrˈsɪnəjən /  
Gk  
a substance or agent producing or inciting cancerous growth.  
*Asbestos has been proven to be a powerful carcinogen.*

**cardiac**

**cardigan**

n  
/ ˈkɑːrdɪgən /  
E name  
a sweater or jacket that opens the full length of the center front and usually has a round or V-shaped collarless neck.  
*Samantha's aunt in Scotland sent her a colorful wool cardigan for her birthday.*

**cardinal**

n  
/ ˈkɑːrd(ə)nəl /  
L > F > E  
an American songbird, the male being bright red with a black face and pointed crest and the female being much duller in color.  
*One of Stephanie's favorite winter scenes is that of a cardinal perched on a snow-covered branch.*

**cardinalate**

**cardiomegaly**

n  
/ ˌkɑːrdiəˈmegəli /  
Gk  
enlargement of the heart.  
*Severe anemia can result in cardiomegaly.*

**caribou**

n  
/ ˈkɑːrəbi /  
Algonquian > F  
any of several large deer of northern North America.  
*While in Montana, Jill photographed a caribou silhouetted on a high ridge.*

**caricaturable**

**caricature**

**carillon**

n  
/ ˈkɑːrələn /  
L > F  
a set of fixed bells pitched in a chromatic series of at least two octaves and sounded by hammers controlled by a keyboard.  
*Latasha will play the carillon at Andy's wedding.*

**cark**

**carnage**

n  
/ ˈkɑːrnɪj /  
L > F  
great destruction of life (as in battle) : great bloodshed.  
*Appeals to stop the carnage of war fell on deaf ears.*

**carnival**

n  
/ ˈkɑːrnəvəl /  
L > It  
a traveling enterprise consisting of such amusements as sideshows, games of chance, rides, and shooting galleries.  
*The carnival was the only place Ralph had the opportunity to eat cotton candy.*

**carnivore**

n  
/ ˈkɑːrnəvɔ(ə)r /  
L  
a flesh-eating animal.  
*The hyena is a carnivore that usually eats animals found dead.*

**carnivorous**

**carotid**

adj  
/ kəˈrɑːdɪd /  
Gk  
belonging to or situated near either of the two main arteries that supply blood to the head.  
*Lara felt her pulse with a finger placed on her carotid artery.*

**carpaccio**

n  
/ kɑːrˈpɑːtʃ(ə) /  
It  
thinly sliced raw meat or fish served with a sauce.  
*When Linda ordered carpaccio, she didn't know that it is uncooked.*

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**carpenter**

n  
/ 'kärpəntə(r) /  
L > E  
a person who builds or repairs with wood.  
*Matthew hired a carpenter to construct four bookcases.*

**carpophagous**

**carriageable**

**carrion**

n  
/ 'kärēən /  
L > AF > E  
[has near homonym: carillon] the dead and putrefying flesh of an animal.  
*Vultures were picking over skunk and opossum carrion at the roadside.*

**carrot**

**cartel**

n  
/ kär'tel /  
It > F  
a voluntary often international combination of independent private enterprises supplying like commodities or services that agree to limit their competitive activities (as by regulating quantity or quality of output).  
*Started as a cartel, the oil-producing nations control the worldwide price of petroleum.*

**cartilage**

n  
/ 'kärð'lij /  
L  
a translucent elastic tissue that composes most of the skeleton of the embryos and very young of vertebrates and is for the most part converted into bone in the higher forms.  
*Hans had a small piece of cartilage removed from his elbow.*

**carton**

**cartonnage**

n  
/ 'kärt'n.äzh /  
F  
material consisting of linen or papyrus glued together in many thicknesses and usually coated with stucco.  
*The museum guide said that the elaborate mummy case made of cartonnage had been found in a hidden vault of a pyramid.*

**caryatid**

n  
/ .kärē'adəd /  
Gk  
a draped female figure supporting an entablature in the place of a column or pilaster.  
*The caryatid appeared to be grimacing from the strain of holding up the temple.*

**cascade**

n  
/ ka'skād /  
L > It > F  
a fall of water over steeply slanting rocks (as in a river or brook).  
*The swiftly moving mountain stream became a cascade as it rushed toward the valley below.*

**cashew**

n  
/ 'ka(.)shü /  
Tupi > Pg  
the kidney-shaped nut of a tropical American tree naturalized in all warm countries.  
*Jack dug through the can of mixed nuts, looking for the last cashew.*

**cashier**

n  
/ ka'shi(ə)r /  
F > D  
one that handles customer payments for goods or services rendered.  
*A cashier must keep a watchful eye for counterfeit currency.*

**cask**

n  
/ 'kask /  
Sp  
[has homonym: casque] any barrel-shaped vessel made of staves, headings, and hoops.  
*The salesman boasted that the Scotch had been aged in an old sherry cask for many years.*

**casserole**

n  
/ 'kasə.röl /  
Gk > L > OProv > F  
a vessel usually having a cover and a handle and in which food may be baked and served.  
*Laura baked the chicken and broccoli in a casserole.*

**cassoulet**

n  
/ 'kasə.lā /  
F  
a casserole of beans baked with herbs and pork sausage and sometimes other meats.  
*The cassoulet was originally a specialty of southwestern France.*

**cassowary**

**castanets**

n pl  
/ .kastə'nets /  
L > Sp  
a pair of rhythm instruments consisting of two shells made of ivory, wood, or plastic which are fastened together to hang from the thumb and are clicked by the other fingers.  
*The flamenco dancer's rapidly clicking castanets intrigued Diana.*

**castigate**

**Castilian**

adj  
/ ka'stilyən /  
L  
of, relating to, or characteristic of the standard Spanish language.  
*Juan incorporates so many English words in his conversation that his speech is far from Castilian.*

**casuistic**

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**casuistry**

n  
/ 'kəʒhəwəstrē /  
L > Sp  
the study of or the doctrine that deals with cases of conscience.  
*To complete her degree in philosophy, Tisha had to take a semester of casuistry.*

**catachresis**

n  
/ 'kədə'krēsəs /  
Gk  
the misuse of words.  
*When Monica used the word infer to mean "imply" in her essay, her English teacher wrote catachresis in the margin.*

**cataclysm**

n  
/ 'kədə'klizəm /  
Gk  
a violent geologic change involving sudden and extensive alterations of Earth's surface.  
*Scientists are standing by their prediction that a cataclysm will occur in California.*

**cataclysmic**

**catacomb**

**catadromous**

adj  
/ kə'tadrəməs /  
Gk > L  
living in fresh water and going to the sea to spawn.  
*Whereas the salmon migrates from the sea to fresh water to spawn, the catadromous American eel does just the reverse.*

**cataplexy**

n  
/ 'kədə'lepsē /  
Gk  
a condition of suspended animation and loss of voluntary motion associated with hysteria and schizophrenia.  
*Doctors were confounded by Juan's cataplexy.*

**catalina**

**catalytic**

adj  
/ 'kədə'l'idik /  
Gk  
causing, involving, or relating to the change in the rate of a chemical reaction brought about by often small amounts of a substance that is unchanged chemically at the end of the reaction.  
*Iron plus small amounts of potassium and aluminum oxides has a catalytic effect on the synthesis of ammonia.*

**catamaran**

**cataphract**

n  
/ 'kədə'frakt /  
Gk  
a suit of armor for the whole body.  
*The knight in a cataphract was mounted on a charger and equipped with a lance.*

**catapult**

v  
/ 'kədə'pəlt /  
Gk > L  
move with a suddenness or force as if propelled by a device that hurls heavy stones.  
*The general's wartime success was enough to catapult him into political power.*

**cataract**

n  
/ 'kədə'rəkt /  
Gk > L > E  
a clouding of the lens of the eye obstructing the passage of light.  
*Grandpa's cataract necessitated surgical replacement of the lens in his eye.*

**catarrh**

n  
/ kə'tär /  
Gk > L > F  
[has homonym and near homonym: Qatar and guitar] inflammation of a mucous membrane in humans or animals characterized by congestion and secretion of mucus.  
*Catarrh can be brought on by infection, allergies, dry air, or chemical irritants.*

**catastasis**

n  
/ kə'tastəsəs /  
Gk  
the dramatic complication immediately preceding the climax of a play.  
*During the catastasis the audience wondered how the hero would resolve his predicament.*

**catastrophe**

n  
/ kə'tastrə(,)fē /  
Gk  
the final action that completes the unraveling of the plot in a tragedy : denouement.  
*In the drama's catastrophe the hero dies a valiant death to save his beloved.*

**catechism**

**catechumen**

n  
/ .kədə'kyümən /  
Gk > L > F  
one receiving rudimentary instruction in the doctrines of Christianity.  
*A child who attends a Sunday School program could be considered a catechumen.*

**category**

**catenary**

n  
/ 'kədə'nērē /  
L  
the curve assumed by a perfectly flexible cord hanging freely from two fixed points.  
*Part of Dominick's math test was to figure out the equation for a catenary.*

**catenulate**

adj  
/ kə'tenyələt /  
L  
having a chain-like form.  
*The artist's paintings mimic the catenulate markings on butterflies' wings.*

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**caterer**

n  
/ 'kādərə(r) /  
AF > E + Ecf  
one whose business is to arrange for and supervise all the details relating to food service for any social affair.  
*The caterer placed a parsley leaf on each deviled egg.*

**caterpillar**

n  
/ 'kadə(r)pɪlər /  
L > F > E  
the elongated wormlike larva of a butterfly or moth.  
*The body-surface hairs on the caterpillar in Jamie's hand contain a poisonous substance that causes intense itching.*

**caterwaul**

**cathartic**

**cathedral**

adj  
/ kə'thēdrəl /  
L > E  
of, relating to, or being a bishop's church.  
*Sister Agatha watered the tulips in the cathedral garden.*

**cathole**

**Catullian**

adj  
/ kə'təlēən /  
L name  
of, relating to, or like the Roman poet Catullus or his lyric poems.  
*The great felicity of language and intense personal feeling of Randolph's poem made it Catullian.*

**caucus**

n  
/ 'kəkəs /  
Algonquian  
a conference of party or organization leaders to decide on policies, plans, appointees, or candidates.  
*The caucus stayed in session until 3 a.m. finalizing its slate of nominees.*

**caudal**

adj  
/ 'kōdəl /  
L  
[has near homonym: coddle]  
constituting, belonging to, or relating to a tail.  
*As a tadpole's legs grow, its caudal appendage gradually disappears.*

**caudillo**

n  
/ kaù'thē(l)(.)yō /  
L > Sp  
a military leader (as in a Latin-American country) usually of guerrilla or irregular forces loyal to him or her personally.  
*The reporter found that most of the soldiers would willingly give their lives for their caudillo.*

**cauliflower**

n  
/ 'kōləflaù(ə)r /  
L > It  
a garden plant that is closely related to the cabbage and is grown for food.  
*Sheldon won't eat cauliflower unless it is smothered in melted cheese.*

**causerie**

n  
/ ,kōz(ə)'rē /  
L > F  
an informal light conversation : chat.  
*Bridget tried unsuccessfully all evening to engage Mrs. Vickers in causerie.*

**causeway**

**caustic**

adj  
/ 'kōstik /  
Gk  
capable of destroying the texture of anything or eating away its substance by chemical action : corrosive.  
*Ned never suspected that perfume might have a caustic effect on plastic.*

**cauterize**

v  
/ 'kōdərɪz /  
Gk > L  
burn or sear with a caustic brand.  
*Dr. Bennett used a laser to cauterize Tony's wound.*

**cavalcade**

n  
/ 'kavəl.kād /  
L > It > F  
a procession of riders or carriages.  
*The king headed up the cavalcade proceeding toward the Duke of Parma.*

**cavalier**

adj  
/ ,kavə'li(ə)r /  
L > OProv > It > F  
marked by lofty disregard of others' interests, rights, or feelings.  
*Eloise displayed a cavalier attitude toward the homecoming plans.*

**cavalletti**

n  
/ ,kavə'ledē /  
L > It  
[Note: Could be confused with cappelletti.] a series of timber jumps that are adjustable in height for schooling horses.  
*Black Beauty easily jumped over the cavalletti as Justin watched with pride.*

**cavalry**

**caveat**

n  
/ 'kävē.ät /  
L  
a warning enjoining one from certain acts or practices.  
*The oldest caveat of commerce is "Let the buyer beware."*

**cavernicolous**

**cavernous**

adj  
/ 'kavə(r)nəs /  
L  
constituting or suggesting a large underground chamber.  
*The thick grove of vine-covered trees threw a cavernous gloom over the area.*

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**cavil**

v  
/ 'kavəl /  
L

object or criticize adversely for trivial reasons.

*Even if Tracy's room is spotlessly clean, she knows that her mom will cavil at something about it.*

**cavort**

v  
/ kə'vò(ə)rt /  
L? > F > It

bound, prance, or frisk about.

*In Bosch's painting Garden of Earthly Delights, horses and giant birds cavort in a surreal landscape.*

**cedilla**

n  
/ sə'dilə /  
L > Sp

a mark placed under a letter to indicate a sound different from that which the unmodified character bears in certain situations.

*Martha did not earn a perfect score on her French paper because she forgot the cedilla in the word garçon.*

**ceiling**

n  
/ 'sēliŋ /  
E

[has homonym: sealing] the overhead inside lining of a room.

*There was a terrible crash from inside the wagon that sounded as if a whole set of dishes had been dropped from the ceiling onto a hard stone floor.*

**celebrant**

**celeriac**

n  
/ sə'lerē.ak /  
Gk > L > It?

a plant of the parsley family grown for its turniplike edible root.

*Rhoda added chopped celeriac to her soup.*

**celeritous**

adj  
/ sə'lerədəs /  
L > F > E

swift-moving.

*The celeritous bicyclist almost knocked Trudy down.*

**celery**

n  
/ 'sel(ə)rē /  
Gk > L > It?

a vegetable with leafstalks that are eaten raw or cooked.

*Terry's favorite snack is celery filled with pimento cheese.*

**celestial**

adj  
/ sə'les(h)chəl /  
L

of or relating to the sky.

*The awesome display of celestial light was later identified as a meteor shower.*

**celibacy**

**cellarage**

**cellist**

**cello**

**cellophane**

n  
/ 'seləfān /  
(L + Gk) > F  
a transparent sheet or tube of regenerated cellulose used chiefly for packaging food and merchandise.

*Nina refused to buy tomatoes packaged in cellophane.*

**cellulose**

n  
/ 'selyə.lōs /  
L > F + Ecf

any of several fibrous substances constituting the chief part of the cell walls of plants and of many fibrous products.

*Most household sponges are made of cellulose.*

**cement**

v  
/ sə'ment /  
L > F > E

join, unite, or cause to adhere by or as if by means of a binding element.

*After Byron chose the tiles for his mosaic, he used a strong glue to cement them in place on the pattern.*

**cemetery**

**cenotaph**

n  
/ 'senə.taf /  
Gk

a tomb or a monument erected in honor of a person whose body is elsewhere.

*A magnificent cenotaph was erected outside the city of Troy.*

**ensorious**

adj  
/ sen'sōrēəs /  
L

marked by or given to an inclination to discover and severely condemn especially social, moral, or artistic errors.

*Helen was in one of her censorious moods at the reception this evening.*

**census**

n  
/ 'sen(t)səs /  
L

an official enumeration of the population of a country, city, or other administrative district.

*In the United States, a census is taken every ten years.*

**centaur**

n  
/ 'sent.tò(ə)r /  
Gk > L

one of an ancient mythical Greek race imagined as men with the bodies of horses.

*The estate garden included a marble statue of a centaur.*

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**centaury**

n  
/ 'sen.tòrē /  
Gk  
an Old World herb formerly used as a tonic.  
*Since ancient times centaury has had medicinal uses.*

**centennial**

**centimeter**

n  
/ 'sentə.mēdə(r) /  
F  
a unit of length equal to 1/100 meter.  
*Your little finger is about a centimeter wide at the top.*

**centipede**

**centrifugal**

**centrifuge**

n  
/ 'sentrə.fyüj /  
L > F  
a machine for whirling fluids rapidly to separate substances of different densities.  
*A centrifuge was used to separate the cream from the milk.*

**centripetal**

adj  
/ sen'tripəd'əl /  
L + L + Ecf  
moving, proceeding, or acting in a direction toward a center or axis.  
*Centripetal force serves to keep electrons moving around the nucleus of an atom.*

**century**

n  
/ 'sench(ə)rē /  
L  
a period of 100 years.  
*Mr. Davis asked each student to name what he or she thought was the most important invention of the past century.*

**cephalalgia**

n  
/ 'sefə'lalj(ē)ə /  
Gk  
pain inside the head : headache.  
*Mortimer's cephalalgia made him irritable and short-tempered.*

**cephalometry**

**cephalopod**

n  
/ 'sefələ.päd /  
Gk  
any of a class of marine mollusks including the squids, cuttlefishes, and octopuses all having around the front of the head a group of elongated muscular arms usually furnished with prehensile suckers or hooks.  
*The squid is a ten-armed cephalopod.*

**Cepheid**

n  
/ 'sefēəd /  
Gk name  
one of a class of pulsating stars whose intrinsic light variations are very regular.  
*The apparent magnitude of a Cepheid can vary greatly in a month's time.*

**ceraceous**

**ceramic**

adj  
/ sə'ramik /  
Gk  
of or relating to the art of fashioning clay into useful or ornamental objects.  
*Luke's home is a showcase for ceramic objects he has created.*

**ceraunograph**

n  
/ sə'rònə.graf /  
Gk + Gk  
an instrument for recording chronologically by pen the occurrence of thunder and lightning.  
*Marie set up a ceraunograph to monitor the late-summer storms.*

**cereal**

n  
/ 'sirēəl /  
L  
[has homonym: serial] a prepared foodstuff of grain (as oatmeal or cornflakes) used especially as a breakfast food.  
*David was eating his cereal when the school bus drove by his house.*

**cerecloth**

**cerise**

**cerium**

**cerography**

n  
/ sə'rägrəfē /  
Gk  
the art of making characters or designs in or with wax.  
*The maps in the old book were originally made by the process of cerography, in which beeswax was used.*

**certainty**

n  
/ 'sərt'ntē /  
L > F > E  
the quality or state of being objectively fixed, settled.  
*Science boasts the beauty of certainty.*

**cerumen**

n  
/ sə'rümən /  
L  
the yellow waxlike secretion from the glands of the external ear—called also "earwax."  
*The doctor irrigated Ariel's ear to remove impacted cerumen.*

**cessation**

n  
/ se'sāshən /  
L > F > E  
a temporary or final ceasing or discontinuance (as of action).  
*The peal of the bell marked the cessation of the emergency preparedness drill.*

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**cetology**

n  
/ sĕ'täləjĕ /  
L + Gk  
[has near homonym: sitology] a branch of zoology dealing with the whales.  
*Many renowned scientists in the field of cetology assembled in Japan to discuss the recent beaching incidents.*

**chaffinch**

n  
/ 'cha(,)fɪnʃ /  
E  
a common Old World bird often kept as a cage bird and having in the male a reddish breast plumage and a cheerful song.  
*Along the river path Janice spotted a chaffinch perched on the back of a bench.*

**chaffseed**

**chagrin**

n  
/ shə'grɪn /  
F  
vexation, disquietude, or distress of mind brought on by humiliation, hurt pride, disappointment, or consciousness of failure or error.  
*Pete tried to conceal his chagrin when his younger brother beat him at chess.*

**chalaza**

**chalice**

**chalicosis**

n  
/ ,kalə'kōsəs /  
Gk > L  
a pulmonary disease occurring among stonecutters that is caused by inhalation of stone dust.  
*Chalicosis afflicted an alarming number of workers at the monument plant.*

**chamberlain**

n  
/ 'chāmbə(r)lān /  
Gmc > F > E  
a bedchamber attendant for royalty or nobility.  
*The grand council insisted that the chamberlain wake the king.*

**chamfer**

v  
/ 'cham(p)fə(r) /  
L > F  
cut off corners or edges (as of timber columns or beams).  
*Gordon decided to chamfer the ceiling beams of his cottage.*

**champagne**

n  
/ sham'pān /  
L > F  
[has homonym: champaign] a pale orange yellow to light grayish yellowish brown.  
*Of the colors of limousines available for hire, Ted and Kara preferred champagne.*

**champignon**

n  
/ sham'pɪnyən /  
F  
an edible fungus; especially : the common meadow mushroom.  
*At dinner, Denise had a stuffed champignon as an appetizer.*

**chancel**

n  
/ 'chan(t)səl /  
L > F > E  
the part of a church in which is located the altar or communion table, the pulpit, and the lectern and which is customarily on a higher level than the nave.  
*Fitting 75 choir members in the chancel will be an almost impossible task.*

**chancellor**

n  
/ 'chan(t)s(ə)lə(r) /  
L > F > E  
a university officer of high rank.  
*Professor Burns has all the requirements to be the next chancellor of Highland College.*

**chandelier**

n  
/ ,shandə'li(ə)r /  
L > F  
a lighting fixture suspended from the ceiling and having two or more lights.  
*Dad finally got around to installing a dimmer switch for our chandelier.*

**chandelle**

n  
/ shan'del /  
F  
an abrupt climbing turn of an airplane.  
*Many of the passengers gasped when the pilot executed a chandelle.*

**changeable**

**chansonnette**

**chaos**

**chaotic**

adj  
/ kə'ädɪk /  
Gk  
being in a state of or marked by utter confusion completely wanting in order, sequence, organization, or predictable operation.  
*The course in time management did not help Brenda alter her chaotic lifestyle.*

**chapeau**

n  
/ sha'pō /  
L > F  
[Note: Plural form can be pronounced identically. In addition, word has near homonyms: chapon, shapo.] a hat.  
*Pierre doffed his chapeau when he entered the room.*

**chapel**

n  
/ 'chapəl /  
L > F > E  
a private place of worship.  
*The duke's funeral was held in the castle chapel.*

**chaplaincy**

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**chaplet**

n  
/ 'chaplət /  
L > F > E  
a garland or wreath to be worn on the head.  
*Rosalie gazed admiringly at the painting of the maiden in a scarlet gown with a chaplet of flowers on her head.*

**character**

n  
/ 'kærəktə(r) /  
Gk > L > F > E  
personality as represented or realized in fiction or drama.  
*The main character in the play is Joan of Arc.*

**characteristic**

adj  
/ ,kærəktə'ristik /  
Gk  
belonging to or especially typical of the essential nature of.  
*At last Meg looked at him, pushing her glasses in characteristic gesture.*

**charactonym**

n  
/ 'kærəktənim /  
Gk > L > F > E  
a name especially for a fictional character that suggests a distinctive trait of the character.  
*In his novel Breakfast at Tiffany's, Truman Capote gave his protagonist the charactonym "Holly Golightly."*

**charango**

n  
/ chə'raŋ(,)gō /  
Sp  
a small guitar of Spanish America with a body typically made of an animal shell.  
*Luisa plucked the melody of the song on the charango.*

**charcoal**

n  
/ 'chärkōl /  
(F + E) > E  
a dark-colored or black porous form of carbon used for fuel and various other mechanical, artistic, and chemical processes.  
*The only supplies Debbie needs for her drawing class are charcoal and a sketch pad.*

**chariot**

**charlatan**

n  
/ 'shärlätən /  
It  
a pretender to medical knowledge : quack.  
*A consumer group called the herbal potion vendor a "charlatan."*

**chartaceous**

adj  
/ kär'tāshəs /  
Gk > L + Ecf  
resembling paper : made of paper.  
*Andrew collected a handful of chartaceous dead leaves.*

**chartreuse**

n  
/ shär'trü:z /  
L > F trademark  
a variable color averaging a brilliant yellow green.  
*Elsie commented that the chartreuse vehicle looked like a huge dollop of wasabi.*

**chary**

**chasm**

n  
/ 'kazəm /  
Gk > L  
a deep opening : a narrow, deep steep-walled valley, gorge or canyon.  
*Earthquake tremors opened a great chasm in the valley.*

**chasmophyte**

n  
/ 'kazmə'fīt /  
Gk  
a plant that grows in the crevices of rocks.  
*There was just enough soil for the chasmophyte to grow in the chinks between rocks on the cliff.*

**chassepot**

**chassis**

n  
/ 'chasē /  
L > F  
the frame upon which is mounted the body (as of an automobile or airplane).  
*Gary popped his slot car's body back onto the chassis and set the vehicle back on the track.*

**chasuble**

n  
/ 'chazəbəl /  
L > F  
an outer ecclesiastical garment in the form of a sleeveless cloak or mantle that slips over the wearer's head but remains open at the sides.  
*The priest wore a white chasuble to celebrate Sunday mass.*

**chateaubriand**

n  
/ ,shə.tōbrē'ä'n /  
F name  
a thick tenderloin steak.  
*The server commented that both the prime rib and the chateaubriand were excellent menu choices.*

**chatoyant**

**chattel**

**Chaucerian**

adj  
/ chò'sirēən /  
E name  
of, relating to, befitting, or resembling the English medieval writer Geoffrey Chaucer or his writings.  
*The old Chaucerian manuscript was unfortunately not on display when Hugh visited the museum.*



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**chauffeur**

n  
/ 'shōfə(r) /  
F

[has homonyms: shofar, shophar]  
one that is employed to operate a motor vehicle for the transportation of persons.

*Henry hired a chauffeur to pick up his grandmother at the airport.*

**chaussure**

n  
/ shō'sù(ə)r /  
L > F > E

footgear.

*Before entering the mosque, all are required to remove their chaussure.*

**chautauqua**

n  
/ shə'tōkwə /

N Amer geog name

an institution of the late 19th and early 20th centuries that combined popular education with entertainment, often presented outdoors or in a tent.

*Chautauqua declined with the advent of radio.*

**chauvinism**

n  
/ 'shōvə.nizəm /  
F name

undue especially invidious partiality for a group or place to which one belongs or has belonged.  
*Chauvinism is alive and well in the school's alumni association.*

**chauvinistic**

**chayote**

n  
/ chä'yōdē /  
Nahuatl > Sp

the rounded or pear-shaped fruit of a West Indian annual vine of the cucumber family that is widely cultivated as a vegetable.

*Aaron went to three different grocery stores, but none carried the chayote that he needed for his recipe.*

**cheapskate**

n  
/ 'chēpskāt /  
E + ON > E

a person unwilling to share expenses or give : miser.

*Tom accused Cathy of being a cheapskate after learning that she recycled gifts.*

**cheilion**

**chemicalize**

**chemistry**

**chemotherapy**

**chenille**

**cheongsam**

n  
/ 'chōŋ.säm /  
Chinese

a dress with a slit skirt and a mandarin collar.

*Elizabeth's cheongsam had a teardrop-shaped opening below the collar closed by a single frog button.*

**chernozem**

n  
/ 'chernəz.yòm /  
Russ

any of a group of dark-colored zonal soils with a deep rich humus horizon found in regions (as the grasslands of central North America) of temperate to cool climate.

*The rich chernozem of Ukraine has helped it earn a reputation as "the breadbasket of Eastern Europe."*

**cheroot**

n  
/ shə'rüt /  
Tamil

a cigar cut off square at both ends.  
*Josephine had to leave the room whenever her uncle lit up a cheroot.*

**chevelure**

n  
/ .shevə'lù(ə)r /  
L > F

a nebulous envelope (as around the nucleus of a comet).

*The chevelure of Halley's comet was much dimmer than expected at its last appearance.*

**chianti**

**chicanery**

n  
/ shə'kän(ə)rē /  
F

deception by artful subterfuge or misrepresentation : trickery.

*The mayor was dogged by allegations of financial chicanery and links to organized crime.*

**chicle**

**chiclero**

n  
/ chi'kler(,)ō /  
Sp

a gatherer of latex from the sapodilla tree.

*Toby interviewed a chiclero for the journal.*

**chieftain**

**chiffon**

n  
/ shi'fän /  
F

a sheer plain-weave very lightweight clothing fabric usually given a dull soft finish.

*The singer sauntered into the spotlight in a dress of white chiffon.*

**chiffonade**

n  
/ .shifə'nād /  
F

shredded or finely cut vegetables used in soup or salad dressing.

*Lettuce and sorrel are often made into chiffonade to garnish soups.*

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**chignon**

n  
/ 'shēn.yän /  
L > F

a smooth arrangement of hair worn at the back of the head especially at the nape of the neck.

*To emphasize her long neck, Cecile combed her hair into a tight chignon.*

**Chihuahua**

n  
/ chə'wä(,)wä /

Mexican geog name  
a very small round-headed large-eared short-coated dog reputed to antedate Aztec civilization.

*A popular fast food restaurant chain has used a talking Chihuahua in its advertisements.*

**chilblains**

n pl  
/ 'chil.blānz /  
E + E

instances of redness and swelling of toes, fingers, nose, or ears or sometimes cheeks in cold weather accompanied by itching and burning of skin.

*The children stayed out in the snow too long and ended up suffering from chilblains.*

**chime**

**chimerical**

adj  
/ kī'merəkəl /  
Gk + Ecff

[Note: Could be confused with chimeric and chimeral.] unreal and existing only as the product of wild unrestrained imagination.

*Many video games pit the player against chimerical monsters.*

**chimney**

**chimpanzee**

n  
/ chim.pan'zē /  
Kongo

an anthropoid ape of equatorial Africa that is smaller and more arboreal than the gorilla.

*The chimpanzee shows inventiveness in making and using tools.*

**chinchilla**

n  
/ chin'chilə /

Aimara or Quechua > Sp  
a small rodent the size of a large squirrel having very soft fur of a pearly gray color and native to the mountains of Peru and Chile but now extensively bred in captivity.

*The chinchilla was introduced into the United States in 1923.*

**chinook**

n  
/ shə'nük /  
Chehalis

a warm moist southwest wind of the Pacific coastal region from Oregon northward.

*The mild temperatures are thanks to a chinook that rolls over the Canadian Rockies.*

**chiragra**

n  
/ kī'ragrə /  
Gk

pain in the hand.

*Aunt Molly's chiragra keeps her from writing many letters.*

**chiropodist**

**chisel**

n  
/ 'chizəl /  
L? > F > E

a tool consisting of a metal bar with a sharpened edge at one end that is used for chipping, carving, or cutting into solid material and is often driven by a mallet.

*With chisel and mallet, Fred started shaping the block of wood into a model.*

**chistera**

**chivalrous**

adj  
/ 'shivəlrəs /  
F > E

marked by especial courtesy and high-minded disinterested consideration to women.

*Chivalrous behaviors of previous generations are less common in today's atmosphere of equal rights for women.*

**chivalry**

n  
/ 'shivəlrē /  
F > E

qualifications or character of the ideal knight of the age of chivalry according to the romantic tradition of courtesy, gallantry, and honor.

*To the knights of the Round Table, chivalry was of primary importance.*

**chlorine**

n  
/ 'klōrēn /  
Gk > L + Ecff

a common nonmetallic element that is used chiefly as a powerful bleaching, oxidizing, and disinfecting agent.

*Samantha refused to swim on Thursday because someone put too much chlorine in the pool.*

**chocolate**

adj  
/ 'chäklət /  
Nahuatl > Sp

of a warm light brown color approximating the color of fresh milk chocolate.

*Eva plans to put her chocolate mink coat in storage until the animal rights activists are less vocal.*

**cholera**

n  
/ 'kälərə /  
Gk > L

any of several diseases of man and domestic animals usually marked by severe gastrointestinal symptoms.

*Cholera is a major public health concern in many tropical countries.*

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**choleric**

adj  
/ 'kälərik /  
Gk > L > F > E  
angry, irate, wrathful.  
*The vice-principal was ill suited to his job; he was impatient and choleric.*

**cholesterol**

**cholesterosis**

n  
/ kəlestə'rōsəs /  
Gk > ISV  
abnormal deposition of cholesterol in the blood.  
*Cholesterosis can often be moderated by changes in diet.*

**chonolith**

n  
/ 'kōnə.lith /  
Gk  
an intrusive igneous rock mass of wholly irregular form.  
*Ages ago a huge chonolith formed at the base of the volcano as it erupted.*

**choose**

**choreographer**

n  
/ kōrē'agrəfə(r) /  
Gk > F  
one engaging in the composing and often the teaching of stage dancing.  
*Martha Graham was a celebrated choreographer of modern dance.*

**chortle**

**chortling**

**chorus**

n  
/ 'kōrəs /  
Gk  
[has homonym: koras] a group of dancers and usually singers supporting the featured players in a musical comedy or revue.  
*The chorus joined the principal singers in the musical's finale.*

**chough**

**chowder**

n  
/ 'chaüdə(r) /  
L > F  
a soup or stew of seafood (as clams or white-fleshed sea fishes) usually made with milk and containing salt pork or bacon, onions, and potatoes and sometimes other vegetables.  
*Dean and Susan went to the beach to collect clams for chowder.*

**chrematistic**

adj  
/ křēmə'tistik /  
Gk  
of, relating to, or occupied in the gaining of wealth.  
*Chrematistic industrialists cared little about the living conditions of their employees.*

**chrestomathy**

n  
/ kre'stäməthē /  
Gk  
a selection of passages from various authors compiled as an aid to learning a language.  
*At the end of each chapter of the textbook was a chrestomathy illustrating a particular rule of grammar.*

**chromatic**

adj  
/ krō'madik /  
Gk  
of or relating to color or color phenomena or sensations.  
*As Doris walked home during the shower, she admired the chromatic splendors of a huge rainbow.*

**chromium**

n  
/ 'krōmēəm /  
Gk > F > L  
a blue-white metallic element found naturally only in combination and used especially in alloys and in electroplating.  
*The car's bumpers were plated with chromium to make them shiny.*

**chromotrichial**

**chronic**

adj  
/ 'kränik /  
Gk  
marked by long duration and by frequent recurrence over a long time.  
*Clarence never looked forward to eating because he was troubled with chronic indigestion.*

**chronically**

**chronicle**

**chronological**

**chrysalis**

n  
/ 'křisələs /  
Sem > Gk > L  
an insect (as a butterfly or moth) in the pupal stage of its development in which it is enclosed in a firm case.  
*Bob and Sam put the chrysalis in a dry container and kept it in the hope that a butterfly would later emerge.*

**chrysanthemum**

n  
/ krə'san(t)thəməm /  
Gk > L  
any plant or flower of a large genus of perennial herbs that are widely distributed in the Old World and that are cultivated for their showy often double and brightly colored flower heads.  
*Orlando's chrysanthemum won first prize at the flower show.*

**churlish**

adj  
/ 'chərlish /  
E  
difficult to work with or deal with.  
*Although he was a brilliant conductor, Toscanini could be churlish at times.*

**churn**

v  
/ 'chərn /  
E  
produce or be in violent agitation.  
*Landon's stomach will churn at the thought of public speaking.*