

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

olpe

ombrology

ombrophobe

n
/ ˈɒmbɹəˌfəʊb /
Gk + Gk

a plant incapable of withstanding long-continued rain.

Excessive rain can cause the leaves of an ombrophobe to decay and fall.

omen

omens

n pl
/ ˈɒmənz /
L

occurrences believed to portend or show the character of a future event.

Losing his lucky coin and spilling the salt were omens that pointed to a bad day ahead for Nick.

ominously

omniphibious

omphaloskepsis

onegite

oneiromancy

oneness

onomastic

adj
/ ˈɒnəˌmæstɪk /
Gk

[Note: Could be confused with onomastics.] of, relating to, or consisting of a name or names.
Pape's onomastic lexicon is immeasurably useful to students of ancient Greece.

ontological

onychophagia

n
/ ˌɒnəkəˈfɑːj(ə) /
Gk
nail-biting.

Resa applied a bitter substance to her nails in hopes of curing her onychophagia.

onymous

oolite

oolong

oomycete

n
/ ˌoʊmɪˌsɛt /
Gk + Gk
a fungus of a subclass of parasitic or saprophytic fungi that includes water molds, white rusts, and downy mildews.

A new fungicide has been developed to combat the oomycete causing root rot in many crops.

ooporphyrin

n
/ ˌoʊpɔː(r)fərɪn /
Gk + Gk
a pale brown pigment in eggshells (as of the domestic hen).
Julia explained to her young daughter that the ooporphyrin in brown-shelled eggs in no way alters their quality.

ooze

n
/ ˈuːz /
E
a stretch or piece of muddy ground.
Without a moment's hesitation they started through a puddle of sticky ooze, which quickly became ankle-deep.

opacate

v
/ ˈɒpəˌkɑːt /
L
make impervious to the rays of visible light.
Because even a small amount of daylight awakens Scott, he uses special shades that opacate his windows.

opal

opaleye

opaquely

openness

opera

operable

operant

operate

operetta

operose

operoseness

n
/ ˌɒpəˈrɔːsnəs /
L + Ecf
the quality of requiring or involving effort or labor.
The diplomat was not discouraged by the operoseness and slowness of the negotiations.

ophidian

adj
/ ˈɒfɪdiən /
Gk
of, relating to, or resembling that of snakes : snakelike.
Medusa's ophidian hairdo is a tidbit from mythology that many students never forget.

ophiophagous

opinionator

opisometer

opium

opponent

opportunistic

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oppress

v
/ ə'pres /
L

burden spiritually or mentally as if by pressure : weigh heavily upon.
Feelings of failure oppress Candice from time to time.

oppressive

adj
/ ə'presiv /
L

overpowering or depressing to the spirit or senses.
The troops battled the oppressive heat by drinking large amounts of water.

opsimath

n
/ 'apsə.math /
Gk

a person who begins to learn late in life.
The opsimath earned his high school diploma at 77 and his college degree at 80.

optician

n
/ əp'tishən /
Gk > L > F

one that grinds spectacle lenses to prescription and dispenses spectacles.
The new optician in town is offering a special price on prescription sunglasses.

optics

n pl
/ 'əptiks /
Gk

a science that deals with light.
In the antiquarian shop, Liza found a 125-year-old book on optics.

optimum

optometer

oracular

adj
/ ó'rakyələ(r) /
L

resembling an authoritative or wise expression especially in solemnity of delivery.
Oz's oracular pronouncement impressed Dorothy and her friends.

oracy

orangelo

oration

oratorio
n
/ órə'tōrē.ō /
L > It

a musical composition having a libretto based usually on a scriptural subject and consisting typically of recitatives, arias, choruses, orchestral interludes and accompaniment, and sometimes spoken dialogue but having no action, scenery, or costume.
Handel's oratorio Messiah is performed annually at the cathedral.

oratory

orbicularity
n
/ ó(r).bikyə'larədə /
L

the quality or state of resembling or having the form of an orb or globe.
The geologist noted the stone's highly unusual orbicularity.

orbiculate

orchestrate

orchestrelle

ordain

ordered

ordinable

ordinal

n
/ 'ord(ə)nəl /
L

a number designating the place (as first, second, third) occupied by any item in an ordered sequence.
The ordinal for the number one is first.

ordinance

orenda
n
/ ó'rendə /

Wyandot
extraordinary invisible power.
The medicine man relied on his orenda to control others.

orexis

n
/ ó'reksəs /
Gk > L

the feeling and striving aspect of mind as contrasted with the intellectual.
Anyone who has watched a baby learn to walk knows that the human orexis is innately strong.

organic

adj
/ ó(r)'ganik /
Gk

being, containing, or relating to carbon compounds.
Fadela's science fiction novel starts with the discovery of organic compounds on Jupiter.

organization

organophyly

organza

organzine

orguINETTE

oriental

originated

orinasal

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orismology

n
/ ˈɔrəz'mäləjē /
Gk + Gk
the science of defining technical terms.
At the conference of botanists, problems relating to orismology were discussed with reference especially to terms used in plant pathology.

ornithoid

adj
/ ˈɔ(r)nə.thɔɪd /
Gk
birdlike.
The ornithoid statue in Walcott Park is always covered with pigeons.

ornithology

ornithoscopy

orography

orthic

orthoepist

orthophoria

orthopterology

n
/ (,)ɔ(r).thəptə'räləjē /
Gk > L
the study of insects with mouthparts fitted for chewing, two pairs of wings or none, and an incomplete metamorphosis.
The study of crickets and grasshoppers, cockroaches, mantises, and stick insects is included in orthopterology.

ortolan

ortstein

n
/ ˈɔrt.stɪn /
G
a cemented or compacted and often clayey layer in soil that hampers root penetration and may be caused by repeated plowing to the same depth.
The local soil contains so much clay that the farmers have had to use special techniques to avoid turning their fields to ortstein.

oryzivorous

oscillate

oscillometer

n
/ ˌäsə'lämədə(r) /
L + Gk
an instrument for measuring the changes in pulsations in the arteries.
Some blood pressure instruments are equipped with an oscillometer to measure the pressure fluctuations within the bag.

oscitancy

n
/ ˈäsədənsē /
L
drowsiness usually demonstrated by yawns.
By the third day of testimony on blood types, oscitancy had swept the courtroom.

osier

n
/ ˈɔzhə(r) /
L > F > E
any of various willows whose pliable twigs are used for furniture and basketry.
The children wove many small baskets with the twigs of the osier.

Osirian

adj
/ ˈɔ'sɪrɪən /
Egyptian name
of or relating to Osiris, ancient Egyptian god of the underworld.
Thanks to Plutarch, the Osirian legend was recorded for posterity.

osmoscope

n
/ ˈäzmə.skɔp /
Gk
an instrument for detecting and measuring odors.
The inspector used an osmoscope to find the gas leak in the basement.

osseous

adj
/ ˈäsēəs /
L
[has near homonym: Aussies]
composed of or resembling bone : bony.
The oyster is protected by its osseous shell.

ossificatory

adj
/ ə'sɪfəkətɔrē /
L
of or involving the process of bone formation.
A poor diet can easily interfere with the ossificatory process.

ossify

osteogenesis

osteomyelitis

osteopath

n
/ ˈästēə.pəθ /
Gk
a practitioner of a system of medical practice based on the theory that diseases are due chiefly to a loss of structural integrity in the tissues.
If Dr. Fletcher can't cure Reba's headaches, she plans to consult an osteopath.

osteopathy

osteophyte

n
/ ˈästēə.fɪt /
Gk
a small pathological bony outgrowth.
George's back pain was caused by an osteophyte on one of his vertebrae.

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osteoplasty

osteotomy

ostium

n
/ 'ästēəm /
L

one of the lateral slits in the heart of an arthropod by which the blood enters from the pericardium.
The ostium allows blood to reenter the insect's heart from the insect's one blood vessel, which runs dorsally the length of its body.

otherworldly

otiose

adj
/ 'öshē.ōs /
L

being at leisure or at ease : idle, unemployed.
The otiose travelers slept until nearly noon.

otioseness

otiosity

n
/ öshē'äsədə /
L > F

the quality or state of lacking use, effect, or function.
Mr. Simmons advised that complaining about the power outage would be an exercise in otiosity, because nothing could be done about it.

otorhinolaryngology

n
/ ödərɪnɔ.larən'gäləjē /
Gk

a branch of medicine that deals with the ear, nose, and throat and their diseases and disorders.
The Cleveland Clinic's department of otorhinolaryngology examined a rock group and found that all its members suffered from laryngitis.

otoscope

n
/ 'ödə.sköp /
Gk + Gk
an instrument fitted with lighting and magnifying lens systems and used to facilitate visual inspection of the auditory canal and ear drum.
Dr. Jamison peered through the otoscope into Kayla's ear.

ounce

n
/ 'aün(t)s /
L > F > E
a unit of weight equal to 1/16 avoirdupois pound.

To understand why gold is sold by the ounce and silver is sold by the pound, check the prices.

oust

v
/ 'äüst /
L > F > AF
put out of possession : eject, dispossess from, or deprive of an inheritance.
The rebels met in secret and voted to oust the king by force if necessary.

outbreak

outdoorsy

outmoded

outrance

outsert

outvote

ouvert

adj
/ ü've(ə)r /
F
having an open stance or movement in ballet.
The prima ballerina demonstrated an ouvert plié to the class.

ovality

ovary

ovenware

overcapitalize

overindulgent

oversight

overwhelm

v
/ övə(r)'(h)welm /
E
overthrow and bury beneath : engulf completely.
Mudslides can overwhelm entire communities in a matter of minutes.

overwrought

adj
/ övə(r)'röt /
E
suffering from or revealing nervous strain : agitated.
Randy's parents are overwrought by his desire to get a tattoo.

ovibos

n
/ 'övəbäs /
L
a heavyset shaggy-coated wild ox now confined to Greenland and the barren northern lands of North America—called also “musk ox.”
The horns of the ovibos grow sideways from the skull, curving downward at the sides of the head and then upwards at the ends.

ovine

adj
/ 'övɪn /
L
of, being, or relating to sheep.
Selena wrote a paper on infectious ovine diseases for the veterinary journal.

ovularian

owlet

oxblood

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oxford

n
/ 'äksfə(r)d /
E geog name
a low-cut usually laced shoe coming to the instep.
The salesclerk suggested a saddle oxford as a comfortable everyday shoe.

oxidization

n
/ 'äksədə'zāshən /
Gk > F
the act or process of chemically adding oxygen to.
Oxidization is part of the process of releasing energy during the metabolism of carbohydrates.

ozone

n
/ 'ō,zōn /
Gk > G
an allotropic triatomic form of oxygen that is normally a faintly blue irritating gas with a characteristic pungent odor.
While browsing through the magazine, Ken learned that ozone is formed in the atmosphere by a process involving diatomic oxygen and solar radiation.

ozostomia

pacemaker

pachisi

pachymeter

n
/ pə'kimədə(r) /
Gk
an instrument for measuring thickness (as of paper).
The paper mill's superintendent of quality control finally ordered an electronic pachymeter.

pachysandra

pacifism

packet

pact

paddle

padlock

padre

n
/ 'pä(,)drā /
L > Sp or It or Pg
a military chaplain.
*Father Mulcahey, the base chaplain on the television series M*A*S*H, was often referred to as "the padre."*

paduasoy

n
/ 'pajəwəsōi /
It geog name + F
a rich heavy corded silk fabric for clothing and upholstery.
The Venetian prince wore a tunic of embroidered paduasoy.

paganism

paginate

pahoehoe

n
/ pə'hōē.hōē /
Hawaiian
cooled hard lava marked by a smooth often billowy shiny surface.
The geologist showed the class samples of different types of lava, including pahoehoe.

paillard

pair

palatalize

v
/ 'paləd'li:z /
L + Ecf
pronounce with the front of the tongue near or touching the hard roof of the mouth.
English speakers palatalize the first n in the word onion.

paleface

paleography

n
/ ,pālē'ägräfē /
Gk
the study of ancient modes of writing including inscriptions.
The museum turned over the mysterious stone tablets to a specialist in paleography.

Paleozoic

adj
/ ,pālēə'zōik /
Gk
of or relating to a division of geological history from the beginning of the Cambrian to the close of the Permian periods.
Seed-bearing plants and amphibians first appeared in the Paleozoic era.

pales

n pl
/ 'pälz /
L
[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word. In addition, word has homonym: pails.] slats fastened to a rail at top and bottom for fencing : pickets.
They now walked on together quietly till within view of the vicarage pales.

palette

palfrey

n
/ 'pölfre /
(Gk + Gaulish > L) > F > E
a saddle horse other than a war-horse having a light, easy gait.
With his war-horse lame, the knight had no other choice but to ride a palfrey.

palingenesis

n
/ ,palən'jenəsəs /
Gk
renewal by or as if by rebirth, as the doctrine of reincarnation.
The discussion of palingenesis started with the illustration of an oak tree producing acorns, which, in turn, produce oak trees.

palisade

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palisado

n
/ ,palə'sādō /
L > OProv > Sp
a fence of stakes used especially for defense.
Irwin's group walked along the fort's entire palisado while the tour guide talked endlessly.

palladian

adj
/ pə'lādēən /
Gk > L
of or relating to wisdom or learning.
Ike tries to strike a balance between palladian pursuits and recreational activities.

palliasse

palliatory

pallid

adj
/ 'paləd /
L
lacking in brightness or intensity : pale—used of a color or a colored object.
Today's pallid sky contrasts sharply with yesterday's brilliant blue one.

pally

palmery

palmetto

palmistry

palpably

palpus

n
/ 'pal.pəs /
L
a segmented process attached to a mouthpart of an arthropod, usually having a tasting or feeling function.
Jack found a species of grasshopper with an unusually large palpus.

palter

paludicolous

adj
/ ,palyə'dikələs /
L
living or thriving in a marshy environment.
The campers were not used to the nightly cacophony of the nearby paludicolous frogs.

palynological

adj
/ ,palənə'lājəkəl /
Gk
concerned with pollen or pollen grains.
Dr. Wickes hopes that her palynological research will some day help many who suffer from allergies.

pampas

n pl
/ 'pampəz /
Quechua&Aymara > Sp
extensive generally grass-covered plains of temperate South America east of the Andes.
Morrie dreams of being a gaucho on the Argentine pampas.

pamper

pampero

n
/ pam'perō /
AmerSp
a strong cold wind from the west or southwest that sweeps over the pampas of South America from the Andes.
The cattle were huddled together with their backs turned into the pampero.

pamphletize

panachage

n
/ ,panə'shāzh /
F
a variation of the list system that allows a voter to redistribute names from several party lists into a list having names in an order of his or her own choice.
Harry proposed panachage as an alternative to the old procedure.

panached

adj
/ pə'nasht /
F
variegated with stripes of color.
Donna planted a bed of red and white panached tulips.

panama

n
/ 'panə.mä /
Tupi > Central American geog name
a fine lightweight hat of natural-colored straw hand-plaited of narrow strips from the young leaves of the jipijapa.
While on a tropical vacation, Mr. Pease bought a white, hand-woven panama to shade his head.

panchreston

n
/ pan'krestən /
Gk
a broadly inclusive and often oversimplified thesis that is intended to cover all possible variations within an area of concern.
Michael's doctoral advisor gently explained that his thesis was a panchreston and needed to be more focused.

panchromatic

pancosmism

pancreas

pandowdy

n
/ pan'daüdē /
unknown
a deep-dish apple dessert that is spiced; sweetened with sugar, molasses, or maple syrup; and covered with a rich biscuit crust and baked.
Mother serves pandowdy, our favorite dessert, whenever visitors stay for dinner.

panegyrical

panegyrist

panforte

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Panglossian

adj
/ pan'gläsēən /
(Gk + Gk) > F literary name marked by the view that "all is for the best in this best of possible worlds."

The coach's Panglossian attitude lifted his team's sagging spirits.

pangolin

n
/ 'pangəlɪn /
Malay
any of a family of Asian and African toothless mammals having the body covered with large overlapping horny scales and feeding chiefly on ants.

Because of its overlapping scales, the pangolin is sometimes called a walking artichoke.

panhandle

panicky

panjandrum

panophobia

n
/ ,panə'fɒbēə /
L + Gk
a condition of vague nonspecific anxiety : generalized fear.
For several days after the earthquake, Rachel experienced a mild panophobia.

panoplied

panoply

n
/ 'panəplē /
Gk
a magnificent or impressive array.
The panoply of wildflowers in the meadow took away Carla's breath.

panorama

Pansil

n
/ 'pan(t)səl /
Skt > Pali > Singhalese
[Note: Could be confused with pencil.] the rite in Hinayana Buddhism of undertaking ceremonially a set of five precepts of morality.
Pansil is taken individually before a Buddhist shrine or collectively at the beginning of a Buddhist meeting of any kind.

pansit

n
/ 'pän(t)sət /
Tag
a Chinese noodle dish of the Philippines.
As more and more ethnic restaurants open, Americans are becoming familiar with dishes such as pansit.

pantalooney

pantheon

n
/ 'pan(t)thē.än /
Gk
a temple dedicated to all the gods.
The pantheon in Rome has survived remarkably intact since ancient times.

pantometer

n
/ pan'tämədə(r) /
Gk > F
a device for measuring all angles.
The pantometer can be used to measure all sorts of angles, lengths, and heights.

panzer

panzootic

papagallo

papal

paparchical

papaverine

papered

papillote

n
/ 'papəlɒt /
L > F
a greased paper wrapper in which food is cooked and served.
Harvey carefully peeled the colored papillote from his chocolate cupcake.

papyraceous

parabola

n
/ pə'rabolə /
Gk + Gk
a plane curve generated in such a manner that it is equal to a conic section formed by the intersection of a cone with a plane parallel to an element of the cone.
The high fly ball described a parabola in the air.

parachronism

paradigms

paradoxical

paragoge

n
/ 'parəgōjē /
Gk
the addition of a sound or syllable to the end of a word.
By paragoge, the word golden was formed from the word gold.

paragon

paralogism

n
/ pə'raləjizəm /
Gk
a reasoning contrary to logical rules or formulas.
The debate team was defeated once its paralogism was exposed.

paralyze

paranee

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parapetless

adj
/ˈpærəpətɫəs/
L > It + Ecf

not having a wall, rampart or elevation designed to protect soldiers.

The castle was parapetless, the two towers having been destroyed by cannon fire a century earlier.

paraphrase

paraphrasia

parapraxia

n
/ˌpærəˈpraksɪə/
Gk

a faulty act (as a slip of the tongue or of memory) : blunder, lapse.

One parapraxia after another caused Mr. Aiken to wonder if he was in the early stages of senility.

parapsychology

n
/ˌpærəˈsɪkələʒi/
Gk

a science concerned with the investigation especially by experimental means of events that are considered to be evidence of mental telepathy, clairvoyance, and psychokinesis.

Those claiming to be experts in parapsychology find it easy to gain attention in the tabloid press.

paraquat

n
/ˈpærək.wät/
Gk + L

an herbicide that is used especially as a weed killer.

The DEA officials sprayed paraquat on the marijuana fields.

parasoled

paratactic

adj
/ˌpærəˈtæktɪk/
Gk

of, relating to, or exhibiting coordinate ranging of clauses, phrases, or words one after another without coordinating connectives.

Herodotus was cited as an example of an author who used a paratactic style.

parazonium

parchment

pardon

paregoric

parentage

n
/ˈpær(ə)rɛntɪj/
L > F + Ecf

descent from ancestors : lineage.

The earl asked his valet, "Can you tell me anything of the parentage of the lady in this photo?"

parental

parenthesis

parenthetic

pargetry

n
/ˈpærjɛtrē/
E

ornamental plaster or stucco relief work applied to a flat surface.

The corridors of the mansion were ornamented with a variety of pargetry.

pariahism

parish

n
/ˈpærɪʃ/
Gk > L > F > E

[has near homonym: perish] the ecclesiastical unit of area committed to one pastor; collectively : the residents of such area or the members of one church.
Father Johnson bought a car so he could visit everyone in his parish.

parka

parliamentary

adj
/ˌpærləˈmentərē/
F > E

of, relating to, or having the nature of a supreme legislative body of a usually major political unit.

Members of the Senate were asked not to delay parliamentary business with lengthy speeches.

parlous

parmesan

n
/ˈpærməˌzæn/
It geog name

a very hard dry cheese with a sharp flavor that is cured for several years and used grated to season other foods (as spaghetti and sauces).

Clem sprinkled a mound of parmesan atop his vermicelli.

parolee

n
/pəˈroʊlē/
Gk > L

one granted a conditional and revocable release from prison.

Vanessa hoped that giving the parolee a job would help to keep him from becoming a repeat offender.

paronomasia

n
/ˌpærənəˈmāzə(ē)ə/
Gk > L

a play upon words in which the same word is used in different senses or words similar in sound are set in opposition : pun.

Harold is usually quite clever with his puns, but this time his paronomasia was purely silly.

paronymous

parquetry

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parricide

n
/ 'parəsɪd /
L
[has near homonym: parasite] one that murders his or her father, mother, or a close relative.
The judge ordered a psychiatric evaluation of the accused parricide.

parried

v
/ 'parəd /
L > Prov > F
warded off a weapon or blow by means of a defensive action.
Neither fencer scored as they parried for several minutes.

parrot

parrotlet

parsimonious

parsley

partage

partan

partial

partiality

participation

participle

particular

adj
/ pə(r)'tɪkɪələr /
L
distinctive among others of the same kind : out of the ordinary : worthy of notice.
Was there a particular reason that you overslept today?

parure

parvanimity

parvitude

paseo

n
/ pä'səʊ /
Sp
a leisurely stroll : promenade.
Florrie and Georgia took an afternoon paseo down the boulevard.

paskha

n
/ 'päsɬə /
Gk > Russ
a molded Russian dessert made of cheese, cream, raisins, candied fruit, and nuts and traditionally served at Easter.
Basking in the admiration of her family, Tatiana proudly brought the paskha to the table.

passably

passade

passgang

passim

passimeter

passionately

adv
/ 'pash(ə)nətlē /
L + EcF
with great feeling : enthusiastically.
"Now let me see," Mrs. Whatsit pondered. "I'm passionately fond of Russian caviar."

pastel

adj
/ pa'stel /
L > It > F
pale and light in color : lacking in brilliance and intensity.
Mrs. Cooper selected bold rather than pastel colors for her new baby's bedroom decor.

pastime

pastor

pastoral

pastoralism

patas

patchy

patently

adv
/ 'patəntlē /
L
clearly, obviously, plainly.
The marketing company was sued because some parts of its infomercial were patently untrue.

paterfamilias

n
/ ,padə(r)fə'milēəs /
L
the male head of a household.
Kevin declared himself paterfamilias for the day and took his younger siblings to the baseball game.

pathetic

adj
/ pə'thedɪk /
Gk > L
evoking tenderness, pity, sympathy, or sorrow : affecting, pitiable.
The pathetic man, whose clothes were worn and tattered, had once been a prominent community leader.

pathology

n
/ pə'thäləjē /
Gk
the study of diseases; their essential nature, causes, and development; and the structural and functional changes produced by them.
Carla, a second-year medical student, was considering choosing pathology as her specialty.

pathways

n pl
/ 'path.wāz /
E + E
tracks specially constructed for a particular use (as walking).
Another open green door revealed bushes and pathways between beds containing winter vegetables.

patina

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patio

n
/ 'padēō /
L > OProv? > Sp
a recreation area adjoining a dwelling, often paved, and adapted especially to outdoor dining.
Rachel's birthday party was held on the sunny patio.

patioed

patisserie

patriliny

patronize

patroons

n pl
/ pə'trūnz /
L > F
the proprietors of the tracts of land granted to members of the Dutch West India Company.
Most of present-day New York and New Jersey was once owned by patroons.

patten

n
/ 'pat'n /
L > F > E
[has homonym: paten] a clog, sandal, or overshoe often with a wooden sole or metal device to elevate the foot and increase the wearer's height or aid in walking in mud.
Jack kicked aside the muddied patten that Marsha had left on the porch.

pattern

paulopost

paunch

paunchy

pauper

pauperize

v
/ 'pōpə'rīz /
L + Ecf
reduce to abject poverty.
Afraid that another market dip would pauperize him, Soren sold his shares in dot-com companies.

pawned

payable

payola

n
/ pə'ōlə /
L > F > E + E?
an undercover or indirect payment for a commercial favor.
The disc jockey was fired when it became known that he received payola from a record company.

payroll

peabody

n
/ 'pē.bādē /
E name
a fast ballroom dance in open position.
The Lowensteins surprised everyone at the Opera Ball when they danced the peabody.

peacetime

peacock

peameal

pearl

pebbled

peccancy

n
/ 'pekənsē /
L
the quality or state of being guilty of a moral offense.
The stockholders decided to overlook the CEO's peccancy and reelected him to another term.

peccavi

n
/ pe'kă(,)vē /
L
a humble acknowledgment of sin or error : confession.
The leader stood in front of his followers and uttered a tearful peccavi, hoping that they would forgive and forget.

pecksniffian

adj
/ pek'snifēən /
fictional E name + Ecf
unctuously hypocritical : selfish and corrupt behind a display of seeming benevolence.
The pecksniffian humbug in charge of the charity event took on the job merely as a public relations stunt.

pectoral

adj
/ 'pekt(ə)rəl /
L
of, related to, situated or occurring in or on, or worn on the chest.
Turning a so-called "painted" turtle over reveals beautiful orange and green patterns on its pectoral plates.

peculiarities

n pl
/ pə'kyül'yarədēz /
L
qualities or states belonging exclusively or especially to a person or group.
Among her less endearing peculiarities is a penchant for always arriving late.

peculiarly

adv
/ pə'kyülyə(r)lē /
L > E
particularly, unusually.
Lucille was peculiarly grumpy during lunch.

pedagogy

peddle

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

pedestal

n
/ 'pedəstəl /
It > F
the base of an upright structure (as a statue, vase, or lamp).
Because tourists did so much damage to the statue in the town square, it was moved to a much higher pedestal.

pediculosis

n
/ pə'dikyə'lōsəs /
L
infestation with lice.
The school nurse explained that about five percent of elementary school children are affected with pediculosis.

pedigerous

adj
/ pə'dijərəs /
L
having feet : footed.
The insect had three pedigerous segments.

pedigreed

pediment

pedodontics

peerage

n
/ 'pirij /
L > F > E
the rank or dignity of nobility.
The war hero's name was submitted to the king for a peerage.

peevisish

adj
/ 'pēvish /
E
marked by ill temper.
The nurse showed great patience and forbearance toward her peevisish patient.

pegasus

n
/ 'pegəsəs /
Gk name
a fabulous winged horse; especially : the winged steed thought of as bearing a poet in flights of fancy.
Monique drew a picture of Mother Goose riding on a pegasus instead of a goose.

peignoir

n
/ pān'wä(r) /
L > F
a woman's loose negligee or dressing gown.
Betty's black peignoir fluttered as she walked past the air conditioner.

Pekingology

n
/ ,pē(.)kiŋ'äləjē /
Chinese geog name
the study of the policies and practices of Communist China.
Professor Chen was an expert in Pekingology.

pelean

adj
/ pə'lēən /
Martinique geog name
of, relating to, or resembling volcanic eruptions characterized by violent expulsion of clouds or blasts of incandescent volcanic ash.
The pelean eruption of Mount St. Helens filled the Toutle River with many tons of ash.

pelelith

pelerine

pellet

pellucidity

n
/ ,pelyə'sidədə /
L
the quality or state of permitting one to see through to a remarkable degree.
The pellucidity of the water in the bay attracted many scuba divers.

pellucidly

pelmatogram

n
/ pel'madə.ə.gram /
Gk + Gk
an impression of the sole of the foot.
Joan picked up the bronzed pelmatogram and reminisced about the time when her son was a baby.

pelorus

pelota

peloton

n
/ 'pel.ə.tən /
F
a European ornamental glass.
There was a large display of peloton in the window of the antique shop.

penalize

pendentive

pendicle

pending

adj
/ 'pendiŋ /
L + Ecf
not yet decided : in continuance.
Most of the cases pending before the honor council deal with cheating.

pendulosity

penitent

n
/ 'penədənt /
L
a person regretful of sin : one sorrowful because of his transgressions.
St. Francis of Assisi spent several years as a penitent at the beginning of his conversion.

penny

penologist

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penology

n
/ pē'näləjē /
Gk + Gk
a branch of criminology dealing with prison management and the treatment of offenders especially with regard to their rehabilitation.
In his course in penology, Jake studied the procedures for probation and parole.

pensionnat

pentacle

n
/ 'pentəkəl /
L > It
a five-pointed star producible by one continuous line.
The man who came to the door wore a necklace with a bronze pentacle on it.

pentagonal

pentastich

n
/ 'pentə.stɪk /
Gk + Gk
a unit, stanza, or poem consisting of five lines.
Eric recited a limerick as an example of a pentastich.

Pentateuchal

adj
/ ,pentə'tükəl /
Gk
of or relating to the first five books of the Old Testament.
The synagogue's guest lecturer was a world-famous Pentateuchal scholar.

penthouse

n
/ 'pent.haüs /
L > E
a dwelling built on a roof.
Lyla lives in the penthouse of a chic new apartment building.

penultimate

adj
/ pə'nältəmät /
L
next to the last.
In the word ammunition, the stress falls on the penultimate syllable.

peonage

peppermint

peppery

adj
/ 'pep(ə)rē /
E
hot, pungent, piquant.
The peppery smell coming from the wok almost made Josh choke when he entered the kitchen.

peradventure

n
/ ,pə.rəd'venchə(r) /
L > F > E
an opinion based on guesswork : surmise.
Thinking that Phil's favorite color is red just because he purchased a red car is a peradventure.

percale

percaline

perceived

v
/ pə(r)'sēvd /
L > F > E
became aware of through the senses.
Through the mist, Steve perceived the shape of a house.

perceptibly

adv
/ pə(r)'septəblē /
L
in a manner so as to be perceived.
When Laura entered the supermarket, the air was perceptibly cooler.

perch

percheron

perciatelli

n
/ ,perchə'te(l)lē /
It
long tubular pasta slightly thicker than spaghetti.
The specialty at Antonio's restaurant was perciatelli with meatballs.

percolator

perdition

n
/ pə(r)'dɪʃən /
L
the place of eternal punishment in the future state.
Overly remorseful for his minor wrongdoing, Bryce felt sure that a place in perdition was reserved for him.

perdure

peregrination

n
/ ,perəgrə'nāʃən /
L
an excursion especially on foot or to a foreign country : journey.
Julie's peregrination to Italy opened her eyes to the splendors of Renaissance art.

peremptorily

perennially

perfectibilism

perfidiously

adv
/ pə(r)'fɪdēəsli /
L
in a dishonest or disloyal manner.
Paul has a reputation for behaving perfidiously and should not be given confidential information.

perfunctory

adj
/ pə(r)'fʌŋ(k)t(ə)rē /
L
characterized by routine or superficiality : cursory.
The bureaucrat gave the teenager a perfunctory smile and continued to ignore her.

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pergola

pericardium

n
/ .perə'kɑrdēəm /
Gk > L
the conical sac of serous membrane that encloses the heart.
The bullet wound narrowly missed piercing Officer Callahan's pericardium.

pericope

perigloea

periglottis

perilous

adj
/ 'perələs /
L > F > E
full of, attended with, or involving danger.
Karen covered her eyes frequently during the movie, unable to watch her favorite actor face one perilous pitfall after another.

periodic

periodontal

adj
/ .perēō'dāntəl /
Gk
of or affecting the tissues or regions surrounding a tooth.
The closeup photographs of advanced periodontal disease made Kara want to floss her teeth.

periosteal

adj
/ .perē'āstēəl /
Gk
situated around bone or produced external to existing bone.
The bone scan revealed periosteal inflammations around the tibia in both legs.

periphyton

n
/ pə'rɪfə'tān /
Gk
organisms that live attached to underwater surfaces.
Periphyton, such as certain algae, live on submerged plant stems and leaves.

peripteral

adj
/ pə'ript(ə)rəl /
Gk
having a row of columns on all sides.
The Parthenon in Athens is a peripteral temple, and most of its columns are still standing.

periscope

perished

adj
/ 'perɪʃt /
L > F > E + Ecf
deadened or weakened by exposure.
The perished cotton crop was a result of the severe hail storm during the night.

peristyle

peritonitis

n
/ .perətə'nɪdəs /
Gk
inflammation of the membrane that lines the cavity of the abdomen of a mammal.
The cause of Beth's abdominal pain was bacterial peritonitis.

peritus

n
/ pə'rēdəs /
L
an expert who acts as an adviser at a Vatican council.
When the council reached an impasse, the peritus was called upon for advice.

periwig

n
/ 'perə.wɪɡ /
F
one of several wigs popularly worn from the 17th century to the early 19th century.
The museum exhibited an imposing portrait of King Louis XIV wearing an elaborate periwig.

permafrost

permanent

permeability

n
/ .pərmēə'bilədē /
L + Ecf
the quality or state of being passable, penetrable, or pervious—used especially of a substance that allows the passage of fluids.
The permeability of Larry's tent to the rain resulted in a wet evening for the campers.

permissible

permit

n
/ 'pə.rɪt /
Sp > E
[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word.] a large up to three feet long blue and silver pompano found especially off the West Indies and Florida.
The game warden wouldn't allow Vince to catch a permit without a fishing license.

permitted

perpend

v
/ pə(r)'pend /
L
weigh carefully in the mind.
He retired to the inn to write notes and perpend his situation.

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perpendicularly

adv
/ ˌpɜrpən'dɪkɪələrli /
L

exactly vertical or upright.
Because he was so frightened, Paul could not sit perpendicularly upon the horse.

perpension

perpetrator

n
/ ˌpɜrpə'trædə(r) /
L

one that commits an offense or crime.
The perpetrator was apprehended after a high-speed car chase by police.

perpetuity

perplex

perplexed

persistent

personage

n
/ ˌpɜrs(ə)niʃ /
L > F > E
an eminent man or woman; especially : one distinguished for presence and personal power.
Winston Churchill, a personage most widely known for his leadership during and after World War II, was also an accomplished artist.

personalia

personify

v
/ pə(r)'sɒnəfɪ /
Etruscan > L > F
be the embodiment of.
Zoltan strove to personify the perfect Boy Scout.

perspective

n
/ pə(r)'spektɪv /
L
the appearance to the eye of objects in respect to their relative distance and positions.
Perspective made the long rows of machines seem almost to meet.

perspicacity

perspiry

adj
/ pə(r)'spɪrē /
L > F + EcF
sweaty.
In the muggy weather Kendall wears lightweight clothing so as not to become perspiry.

perstringe

v
/ pə(r)'strɪnj /
L
find fault with : censure, criticize.
"Why must you perstringe everything I do?" cried Emma.

persuasion

persuasively

adv
/ pə(r)'swāsəvli /
L + EcFf
in a manner influencing the mind by arguments or reasons.
The puppy looked longingly at the boy's cookie and wagged its tail persuasively.

pertaining

perturb

v
/ pɜ'tɜrb /
L
[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word.] cause (a planet or other celestial body) to deviate from a theoretically regular orbital motion usually as a result of extraordinary gravitational pull.
The black hole's great density caused it to perturb a nearby star.

pertussis

n
/ pə(r)'tʊsəs /
L
whooping cough.
In the United States, babies are routinely immunized against pertussis.

pesade

n
/ pə'sɑd /
L > It > F
a dressage maneuver in which a horse is made to raise his forequarters while keeping his hind feet on the ground without advancing.
The pesade is the first lesson taught a horse in order to bring him to curvets.

pessimism

pessimistic

adj
/ ˌpɜsə'mɪstɪk /
L > F
marked by disbelief, distrust, or a lack of confidence, hope, or joy.
The senator was pessimistic about the passage of any tax-cutting bills this year.

pestiferous

petard

petechial

adj
/ pə'tɛkɪəl /
L > It
marked by minute reddish or purplish spots containing blood that appear in skin or mucous membranes especially in some infectious diseases.
Dr. Owens told Boris to let him know if the petechial rash on his hand did not disappear in a couple of days.

petite

adj
/ pə'tɛt /
F
small and trim of figure : little.
For such a petite woman, Alana has a surprisingly resonant voice.

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petition

n
/ pə'tiʃən /
L

the act or action of formally asking or humbly requesting.
The students, through their right of petition, have helped bring about changes in the school cafeteria's menu.

petitioner

petrel

petronella

n
/ .petrə'nelə /
name?

a Scottish country dance of the 19th century.
Fiona and Brian learned the petronella on the Isle of Skye.

petticoat

pettifog

v
/ 'pedɪ.fäg /

G name
quibble over insignificant details.
You can expect Aunt Dana and Aunt Elizabeth to pettifog over every family story they can remember.

pettish

pewter

pfeffernuss

n
/ 'feɸə(r).nüs /

G
a small hard highly spiced cookie made traditionally for the Christmas holidays.
The aroma of pfeffernuss in the oven brought back memories of Christmas to the old man.

phaeochrous

adj
/ ɸe'ækɾəs /

Gk
dusky.
A phaeochrous cloud hovered over the city for several hours following the earthquake.

phalangeal

adj
/ ɸə'lanʒeəl /
Gk > L

of or relating to the digital bones of the hand or foot of a vertebrate.
Gert's phalangeal joints were swollen with rheumatism.

phalarope

phantasmagoria

phantom

pharmaceuticals

n pl
/ ɸärmə'südəkəlz /
Gk > L

medicinal drugs.
Congress reviewed the laws governing the importation of experimental pharmaceuticals.

pharmaceutics

n pl
/ ɸärmə'südiks /
Gk

the science of preparing, using, or dispensing medicines.
A degree in pharmaceutics is one of the requirements for a job in the drug research laboratory.

pharmacist

pharmacology

n
/ ɸärmə'käləʒe /
Gk > L

the study of drugs, their composition, effects, and use in medicine.
Having done well in both biology and chemistry courses, Phyllis decided to pursue a degree in pharmacology.

pharmacy

pharyngeal

pharyngology

phasic

phatic

phenol

phenomenally

philamot

adj
/ 'filəmät /
F

of the color of a dead leaf or brownish orange.
When Ken called Vicky's coat a lovely shade of philamot, she had no idea his remark was an insult.

philanderer

philanthropist

philanthropy

n
/ ɸə'lan(t)θrəpē /
Gk

goodwill expressed through active efforts to promote human welfare : humanitarianism.
A few individuals with a well-developed sense of philanthropy can do wonders for society.

Philomel

n
/ 'filəmel /
Gk name

nightingale.
The Philomel usually sings at night.

philosophize

v
/ ɸə'läsə.fiz /
Gk + Ecf

seek a rational basis for fact and experience : reflect, theorize.
Jermain's chemistry teacher encouraged him to philosophize about the nature of the elements.

phobia

phobic

adj
/ 'föbik /
Gk

of, relating to, characterized by, or arising from an exaggerated and often disabling fear usually inexplicable to the subject.
A phobic person's fear serves to protect the ego from anxiety arising from unexpressed aggressive impulses.

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phonation

phoneme

phonetic

adj
/ fō'nedik /

Gk > L
of or relating to spoken language or speech sounds.

Carmen asked me to write the phonetic spellings next to the difficult words.

phonics

phosgene

phosphorescent

adj
/ fāsfə'res'nt /

Gk + Lcf
exhibiting or characterized by luminescence.

The phosphorescent glow of decaying wood lit up the forest.

phosphoric

phosphorus

n
/ fās'fərəs /

Gk > L
a nonmetallic element of the nitrogen family that occurs widely in combined form especially as inorganic phosphates in minerals, soils, natural waters, bones, and teeth and as organic phosphates in all living cells.

Photographers used to burn powdered phosphorus to create a flash.

phosvitin

photic

adj
/ fō'dik /

Gk + Ecf
of, pertaining to, or caused by light.
When a clam is placed on its side, it will tightly close its valve in response to both tactile and photic receptors.

photobiology

n
/ fōd(,)ō.bī'äləjē /

Gk > ISV
a branch of biology that deals with the effects on living beings of light and other forms of radiant energy.
Part of Prof. Sanford's grant was to study the photobiology of aquatic plants.

photochromic

adj
/ fōdə'krōmik /

Gk
capable of changing color on exposure to radiant energy (as light).

Gail doesn't need sunglasses anymore because her new prescription lenses are photochromic.

photocopy

photoelectric

adj
/ fōd(,)ō.ə'lektrik /

Gk > ISV
relating to or utilizing any of various electrical effects due to the interaction of light and other radiation with matter.

Prof. Minchin showed by experiment the photoelectric current set up by a beam of light falling on a sheet immersed in a solution of acid carbonate of calcium.

photoflood

n
/ fōd(,)ō.fləd /

Gk + E
an electric lamp using excess voltage to give intense sustained illumination for taking photographs.
The photoflood blew the fuse in the old house.

photoing

v
/ fōd(,)ōiŋ /

Gk + Ecf
obtaining an image with a camera.
While she was photoing, Darcy bound her hair back with a barrette.

photometeor

n
/ fōd(,)ō.mēdēə(r) /

Gk > ISV
a temporary luminous phenomenon in the sky.
Many UFO sightings can be explained as some sort of naturally occurring photometeor.

photometer

n
/ fō'tämədə(r) /

Gk + Gk
an instrument for measuring luminous intensity by comparison of two unequal lights from different sources.

Astronomer Edward Charles Pickering invented a photometer to measure the brightness of stars.

photomicroscope

n
/ fōd(,)ō'mīkrō.skōp /

Gk
a combined microscope, camera, and suitable light source.
Florio set up a photomicroscope to take pictures of the protozoa he found in the pond.

photomontage

photon

n
/ fō'tän /

Gk
a massless elementary particle with one quantum unit of spin that is the carrier of radiant energy (as light or X rays).

The concept of the photon originated in Einstein's explanation of the photoelectric effect.

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photovoltaic

adj
/ ˌfɒdɔvəl'taɪk /
(Gk + It name + E) > ISV
of, utilizing, or relating to the generation of an electromotive force when radiant energy falls on the boundary between certain dissimilar substances in close contact.
A photovoltaic effect can be produced with cuprous oxide and copper or with an electrode and an electrolyte.

phrase

phreatic

adj
/ frē'adɪk /
Gk
of or relating to a well—used of underground waters reachable by drilling.
Kathryn's data indicate that there is a large phreatic source of water six miles northeast of the city.

phrenic

adj
/ 'frenɪk /
Gk
of or relating to the mind.
Julia was more concerned with her son's phrenic development than with his physical skills.

phrenicectomy

phrontistery

n
/ 'frɒntə.sterē /
Gk
a place for thinking or study.
On warm spring afternoons the backyard gazebo was Grandfather's favorite phrontistery.

Phrygian

adj
/ 'frɪjēən /
Gk geog name
of, relating to, or characteristic of the ancient country of Phrygia.
In Rome the Phrygian cap was worn by emancipated slaves as a symbol of their freedom.

phugoid

adj
/ 'fyü.gɔɪd /
Gk
of, relating to, or representing variations in the longitudinal motion or course of the center of mass of an airplane in flight.
Glider designers study phugoid theory to develop stable aircraft.

phylic

phyllomancy

phyllotaxy

phylogeny

n
/ fi'lājənē /
Gk
the history or course of the development of an immaterial thing.
It would be difficult for phylogeny to explain the emergence of so many different world philosophies.

phylum

n
/ 'fɪləm /
Gk > L
one of the usually primary divisions of the animal kingdom.
Insects belong to the phylum Arthropoda.

physical

physiology

phytopathogen

n
/ ˌfɪd(,)ɔ'pəθəjən /
Gk + Gk + Gk
an organism parasitic on a plant host.
Biochemists have developed antibiotic compounds to eradicate the bacterial phytopathogen.

phytoplankton

n
/ ˌfɪdə'plʌŋktən /
Gk
the floating plant life of a body of water consisting largely of minute plants (as diatoms and blue-green algae).
Phytoplankton are at the bottom of the ocean's food chain, which means that they are vital to all marine animals.

piaffe

piano

picador

pickerel

Pickwickian

adj
/ pik'wɪkēən /
E name + Ecf
marked by simplicity and generosity of character or by an appearance and manner suggesting these qualities.
Matilda wishes that her principal were more like the Pickwickian headmaster of Tom's school.

picnic

picotee

picry

pictograph

picudo

n
/ pə'kü(,)dō /
AmerSp
a boll weevil.
After the picudo ravaged cotton crops in 1916, many cotton farmers diversified and raised peanut crops.

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piebald

adj

/ 'piːbɔld /

L > F > E + E

spotted or blotched with black and white.

Young blue herons acquiring adult plumage have a piebald appearance.

pie

adj

/ 'piːd /

L > F > E

variegated; also : wearing or having a parti-colored coat.

Jenna's favorite story is about the pied piper who took revenge when the townspeople failed to pay him for ridding their town of rats.

piedmont

adj

/ 'piːd.mənt /

It geog name

lying or formed at the base of mountains.

Alma thinks that North Carolina's piedmont region is heaven on Earth.

pierced

Pierian

adj

/ piː'riːən /

Gk geog name

of or relating to learning or poetry.

Once a month the local Pierian society sponsors a poetry reading.

pierrrot

n

/ 'piːrɔː /

F name

a standard comic character of old French pantomime usually with a whitened face and loose white clothes.

Hanna studied the painting of the pierrot to get an idea for her pantomime costume.

piezometer

piffing

pigeonhole

pigeonwing

pigment

pigmentation

pigpen

pigsty

pilcrow

pileum

n

/ 'piːləm /

L

the top of the head of a bird from the bill to the nape.

The woodpecker's pileum was a brilliant red crest and looked to be two inches high.

pilfer

pilfery

pilgrim

pillage

v

/ 'pɪlɪdʒ /

L > F > E

strip of valuables : loot.

After the battle, opportunists came from outside the city to pillage its neighborhoods.

pilosity

pilot

n

/ 'piːlət /

Gk > It > F

one who flies or is qualified to fly an airplane.

Hugh is the pilot of a huge transport plane.

pilpul

pimpernel

n

/ 'pɪmpər.nəl /

L > E name

a common herb having scarlet, white, or purplish flowers that close at the approach of rainy or cloudy weather.

One variety of pimpernel is also known as "poor man's weatherglass."

pinched

pincushion

pincushions

n pl

/ 'pɪn.kʊʃənz /

E + L > F > E

small cushions in which pins may be stuck ready for use.

Kathryn has several pincushions in her sewing cabinet.

pinkeye

pinnate

adj

/ 'piː.nət /

L

resembling a feather especially in having similar parts arranged on opposite sides of an axis like the barbs on the spine of a feather.

The chick-pea plant bears pinnate leaves.

pinyin

n

/ 'piːn.yɪn /

Chinese

a system for romanizing Chinese ideograms in which tones are indicated by diacritics and unaspirated consonants are transcribed as voiced.

Our newspapers adopted pinyin for spelling the names of Chinese officials.

pipable

piping

pipit

piquant

pique

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

piquette

pirarucu

Pisces

n
/ 'pī(,)sēz /
L

the 12th sign of the zodiac.

Pisces falls between Aquarius and Aries.

piscivorous

pisco

pisiform

adj
/ 'pīsəfōrm /
L

resembling a pea in size or shape.

Johan purchased three cubic yards of pisiform gravel for his new driveway.

pistil

n
/ 'pistl /
L

[has homonym: pistol] the ovule-bearing organ of a seed plant.

The lily has but one pistil; the daffodil has several.

pistilloid

pitch

v
/ 'pich /
E

toss so as to cause to fall at or near a particular mark.

On warm summer evenings Dad likes to pitch horseshoes in the backyard.

pitchblende

n
/ 'pich.blend /
G

a brown to black mineral that has a distinctive luster, contains radium, and is the chief ore-mineral source of uranium.

A German chemist discovered uranium in pitchblende in 1789.

pitchfork

pithecan

adj
/ pə'thēkən /
Gk

of, relating to, or resembling apes, especially the anthropoid apes.
The unearthed skull exhibited many pithecan characteristics.

pithos

pitiful

pitiless

adj
/ 'pidēləs /
E
devoid of or unmoved by compassion.
The pitiless tornado bore onward, ripping up everything in its path.

placards

n pl
/ 'plakārdz /
F > E
posters, signs.
The demonstrators carried placards protesting the use of animals for pharmaceutical testing.

placate

v
/ 'plākāt /
L
soothe or mollify especially by making concessions : appease.
The labor relations team worked hard to placate the factory workers to avoid a strike.

placeholder

placement

placid

placidly

adv
/ 'plāsədlē /
L
calmly, serenely.
The once-violent river now flows placidly along.

plafond

plage

plagiarist

plague

n
/ 'plāg /
L > F > E
[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word.] a destructively numerous influx or multiplication of a noxious animal.
Although only a foolish optimist could deny the dark realities of our country in 1941, we were stricken by no plague of locusts.

plaguing

plaid

plaidoyer

plainsong

n
/ 'plānsɔŋ /
L > F > E + E
the ancient nonmetrical monophonic chant of the church service.
The psalm was chanted in plainsong.

plainspoken

plaintful

adj
/ 'plāntfəl /
L > F > E
mournful.
Plaintful over the loss of her pet rabbit, Jennifer decided not to get another pet.

plaintive

plaintively

adv
/ 'plāntəvlē /
F > E
in a manner expressive of grief or sadness.
Three-year-old Jamie asked plaintively for his lost teddy bear.

planeload

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

plangency

n
/ 'planjənsē /
L

an expressive especially plaintive quality.
Regret and grief were expressed in the plangency of the singer's voice.

plangent

plangorous

planish

plantain

n
/ 'plant˚n /
L > F > E
the starchy fruit of the plantain tree that is distinguished from the ordinary banana by its angular shape and green color.
Fried chips of plantain are a common snack in the Caribbean.

plantigrade

adj
/ 'plantəgrād /
L
walking on the sole with the heel touching the ground.
Most primates are not plantigrade.

plaque

n
/ pla'ket /
D > F
a metal stamping die that is cut in relief and used to decorate the sides of leather bookbindings.
Lars was required to make his own plaque to earn a merit badge for bookbinding.

plasma

n
/ 'plazmə /
Gk > L > G
an ionized gas (as in the atmosphere of stars) containing about equal numbers of positive ions and electrons and differing from an ordinary gas in being a good conductor of electricity and in being affected by a magnetic field.
"The thing that looks like a blue donut on your handout is an illustration of how magnetic rings are used in confinement of plasma," said Professor Rooki.

plastron

plateau
n
/ pla'tō /
F
land area having a relatively level surface raised sharply above adjacent land on at least one side.
The Columbia lava plateau is located in eastern Washington and Oregon.

platform

n
/ 'plat.fōrm /
F
a shoe having a usually thick layer (as of cork or wood) between the inner sole and outer sole.
In the '70s, the platform was the shoe associated with bell-bottoms and long skirts.

platina

adj
/ plə'tēnə /
Sp
of the color platinum—used especially of pale bluish gray furs.
The platina fur coat was the most expensive garment in the store.

platitude

platitudinal

adj
/ ,pladə'tüd(˚)nəl /
F
having the characteristics of a thought or remark that is stale, dull, trite, or weak.
The old pastor's homilies were usually portentously platitudinal.

platitudinize

v
/ ,pladə'tüd˚n.īz /
F + Lcf > Fcf + Ecff
utter remarks that are flat, dull, trite, or weak.
The politician's tendency to platitudinize belies the fact that he has innovative ideas.

Platonic

adj
/ plə'tānik /
Gk name
being in accordance with or in the manner of the Greek philosopher Plato and his works.
Iris Murdoch has written modern Platonic dialogues.

platoon

platycrania

platypodia

n
/ ,pladē'pōdēə /
Gk
flat-footedness.
Platypodia no longer disqualifies an applicant from joining the army.

platysma

n
/ plə'tizmə /
Gk > L
a broad thin layer of muscle on each side of the neck.
Cory's training for his massage therapy license included learning the names of the muscles of the neck and back, including the platysma, the trapezius, and the intracostal.

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plausibility

n
/ˌplɒzəˈbɪlədē /
L

the quality or state of being superficially worthy of belief.
Half-truths, because of their plausibility, are frequently more dangerous than outright lies.

plausibly

pleasurable

plebeian

plebiscitary

plebiscite

plectrum

pledge

pleiotropic

adj
/ˌpliəˈtrɒpɪk /
Gk + Gk
producing more than one effect—used of a gene.
The subject of David's research is a pleiotropic gene that induces shortening of the ear and reduces general body size in the mouse.

plenipotent

pleodont

pleuropneumonia

n
/ˌplʊrən(y)üˈmɒnyə /
Gk
inflammation of the lungs and their membranous sacs.
Parasitic microorganisms can cause pleuropneumonia in sheep and goats.

pliable

plicatile

plight

plotless

ploy

plumbery

n
/ˈplʌməre /
L
the business or work of one who installs, repairs, and maintains piping, fittings, and fixtures involved in the distribution and use of water in a building.
While Paul was in vocational school, he demonstrated a strong aptitude for plumbery.

plummeted

v
/ˈplʌmədəd /
L > F > E
dropped sharply and abruptly.
The San Francisco street plummeted down toward the bay.

plumose

adj
/ˈplü.mōs /
L
having feathers or plumes : feathered.
Emily's plumose mask was a hit at the Mardi Gras party.

plunder

plunderbund

n
/ˈplʌndə(r).bʌnd /
G + G
a league of commercial, political, or financial interests that exploits the public.
Some people think the Internet has become nothing more than a glorified plunderbund.

plundered

pluperfect

pluricellular

plutocratic

adj
/ˌplʊdəˈkrɑdɪk /
Gk
of, relating to, or characterized by rule or dominion of wealth or of the rich.
The suburb had clean air, good schools, and a plutocratic city government.

plutonium

pluviosity

n
/ˌplüvēˈäsədə /
L
the quality of being marked by or regularly receiving heavy rainfall.
High pluviosity is a characteristic of most places along the equator.

plywood

pneumectomy

n
/n(y)üˈmektəmē /
Gk
the surgical removal of lung tissue.
The surgeon happily announced that the pneumectomy was completely successful.

pneumococci

n pl
/ˌn(y)üməˈkɑ:kɪ /
Gk + Gk
bacteria that cause acute pneumonia involving one or more lobes of the lung.
Penicillin-resistant pneumococci are also usually resistant to erythromycin and tetracycline.

pneumococcus

pneumonia

pneumonic

adj
/n(y)üˈmɑ:nɪk /
Gk
of or relating to the lungs.
Pneumonic diseases like asthma and bronchitis are more prevalent in heavily polluted areas.

pneumothorax

n
/ˌn(y)ümōˈthɔ:rɑks /
Gk
a state in which air or other gas is present in the pleural cavity.
The paramedic acted quickly to prevent a potentially debilitating pneumothorax in the accident victim.

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

pochette

n
/ pō'shet /
F

kit : handbag.

Tanya carried her money and keys in a small silk pochette that matched her evening dress.

pochismo

n
/ pō'chēz(,)mō /
Sp

a term of U.S. origin borrowed into Mexican Spanish.

Juan believes that not a single pochismo adds to the beauty of the Spanish language.

pocketbook

pocketing

pockmark

podagra

n
/ pə'dagrə /
Gk

a painful condition of the big toe caused by gout.

George's podiatrist recommended changes in his diet to relieve his podagra before resorting to medication.

podium

pogamoggan

pogonotomy

pogrom

poi

poignancy

poimenics

n pl
/ pōi'meniks /
Gk

the study or application of pastoral theology.

Rather than compete with traditional theology programs, the university has started a graduate program in poimenics.

pointe

n
/ 'pwä't /
L > F

the extreme tip of the toe.

The teacher told the students to stand on pointe while she evaluated their form.

poises

n pl
/ 'pwäzəz /
F name

centimeter-gram-second absolute units of viscosity, each equal to 1 dyne-second per square centimeter.

After melting and conditioning, glass is delivered to a forming machine in a manageable shape at a viscosity of approximately 10,000 poises.

poison

pokal

polarimeter

n
/ .pōlə'rīmədə(r) /
L + Gk

an instrument for determining the amount of polarization of light.

Cagney required a very accurate polarimeter for his experiments.

polariscopic

polarizable

pole

policeman

policy

poliorcetics

polished

v
/ 'pälišt /
L > F > E

made smooth and glossy by a mechanical process usually by friction.

The wizard polished a small object vigorously on his robe.

polissoir

politely

political

politician

politicization

politicize

politico

politics

poll

pollards

n pl
/ 'pälə(r)dz /
G > E

trees that have been cut back to the trunk to promote the growth of a dense head of foliage.

Emma's frequent walks along Vicarage Lane soon acquainted her with the hedges, gates, pools, and pollards of that part of Highbury.

polling

adj
/ 'pōlɪŋ /
E

of or relating to the registering or casting of votes.

Harry got off work early to vote on polling day.

polychotomous

polycyclic

polygrapher

n
/ pə'ligrəfər /
Gk

one skilled in the use of an instrument for making a graphic record of the changes in blood pressure and pulse and respiration rate of someone being questioned under or as if under suspicion of guilt.

The law holds that the opinions of a polygrapher regarding the veracity of a person are not admissible evidence.

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polymer

n
/ 'päləmə(r) /
Gk

a natural or synthetic chemical compound or mixture of compounds consisting essentially of repeating structural units.
Fascinated by the polymer they had created, the students tossed it from one side of the lab to the other.

polymerize

polyonymous

polypropylene

n
/ ,pälē'prōpəlēn /
Gk + ISV

a polymer of propylene; especially : such a polymer used chiefly in making fibers, films, and molded and extruded products.
Much of today's indoor-outdoor carpeting is made of woven polypropylene.

polyptych

n
/ 'päləptik /
Gk

an arrangement of four or more panels (as of a painting) usually hinged and folding together.
Pauline used an antique polyptych as a room divider.

polystyrene

n
/ ,pälē'stī.rēn /
Gk

a rigid transparent thermoplastic that has good physical and electrical insulating properties and is used chiefly in making containers and other molded products and sheet materials.
Some restaurants have stopped using polystyrene cups because they are not biodegradable.

polysyndeton

n
/ ,pälē'sindətən /
Gk

repetition of conjunctions in close succession.
"We have our passports and our money and our tickets and our luggage, and the tank is full of gas," said Mother Gazda in unconscious polysyndeton.

polyvinyl

pomeridian

adj
/ ,pōmə'ridēən /
L

blossoming after noon.
A common pomeridian garden plant is the four-o'clock that blossoms late in the afternoon.

pomiferous

pompeii

n
/ pām'pā /
It geog name
a moderate to deep reddish brown.
Nancy's favorite earth tone is pompeii.

pomposity

n
/ pām'päsədə /
L
a self-important demeanor, speech, or action.
Though he had much power, the leader exhibited no trace of pomposity.

ponceau

n
/ pän'sō /
L > F
a strong red to reddish orange.
The artificial poppies worn on Veterans' Day are of the distinct color ponceau.

poncelet

n
/ 'pän(t)slət /
F name
a unit of power in physics equal to the amount of power obtained from an output of 100 kilogram-meters per second.
Kristin's advanced physics class spent an entire week learning about units of measurement such as the poncelet, the rankine, and the barn.

poncho

ponderal

ponderance

ponderosity

ponderously

adv
/ 'pänd(ə)rəslē /
L > F > E + Ecf
in an oppressively heavy manner.
A statue of Zeus sits ponderously atop the small pavilion.

ponerology

n
/ ,pänə'räləjē /
Gk
a branch of theology dealing with the doctrine of evil.
Ponerology still made a lot of sense to Damian despite everything he had been taught about genetics and the influence of environment.

ponor

n
/ 'pō.nó(ə)r /
Serbo-Croatian
a steep-sided sinkhole.
Ms. Ventura cautioned the Scouts to avoid the ponor at the edge of the old quarry.

pontal

pontifical

pontoon

poolroom

popinjay

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

poplar

popular

populate

population

pore

poroscopy

porous

porphyous

portable

portent

n
/ 'pɔː.tənt /
L

something that foreshadows a coming event : omen.
The seer viewed the blood-red moon as a portent of evil.

portfolio

n
/ pɔːt'fɒlɪ.ɔ /
L > It

a flat portable case for carrying papers or drawings.
Mr. Barnstone set his portfolio behind the door as he entered the house.

portico

n
/ 'pɔːdʒ.kə /
L > It

a colonnade or covered walkway.
The pair entered the shaded portico for a private conversation.

portion

portulaca

n
/ ,pɔːtʃə'lakə /
L

any plant of a genus of mainly tropical succulent herbs having usually yellow, pink, red, white, or purple ephemeral flowers with four to six petals.
A hanging pot by Linda's front door contained a portulaca with yellow flowers.

posit

positron

post

n
/ 'pɔːst /
E

[has near homonym: posed] a piece of timber or other solid substance (as metal) fixed or intended to be fixed firmly in an upright position especially as a stay or support.

The first step in constructing a fence is to dig a hole for each post.

postmortem

n
/ pɔːs(t)'mɔːrtəm /
L + L

an examination of a body after death to determine the cause of death or the character and extent of changes produced by disease.
The postmortem revealed that the cause of death was asphyxiation.

postnuptial

adj
/ pɔːst'nʌpʃəl /
L

made or happening after marriage.
The bride and groom posed for postnuptial photographs.

postponable

postulancy

potamologist

n
/ ,pɔːdʒ'mæləjɪst /
Gk

a specialist in the study of rivers.
Fran, who knew many rivers like the back of her hand, was a potamologist.

potash

n
/ 'pɔː.əʃ /
D

potassium carbonate.
In colonial days potash was used to make soap.

potency

adj
/ 'pɔːtənsē /
L

force, power, authority.
Massed action and individual effort each has its own potency.

potentiality

potentially

adv
/ pə'tenʃəle /
L + Ecf

in a possible state or condition : with a possibility or capacity of becoming actual.
The rash on Henrietta's arm could potentially spread if not treated.

potentiometer

potiche

potoroo

n
/ ,pɔːdʒ'rū /

Australian name
any of various small Australian and Tasmanian kangaroos that are no larger than a rabbit.
The rabbit-sized potoroo forages at night for grass, tubers, and underground fungi, which it digs up with its forepaws.

potsherd

pounce

v
/ 'paʊn(t)s /
E

suddenly seize, grab, attack.
Stanley watched the owl pounce on the rat.

pour

powdery

power

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powwows

n pl
/ 'paũ.waũz /
Algonquian
meetings or conferences for discussion : sessions.
The team holds daily powwows before practice.

practical

practitioner

pragmatic

adj
/ prag'madik /
Gk > L
practical, matter-of-fact.
Edmund took a pragmatic stance on most things in his life, especially his finances.

pragmatically

prairie

n
/ 'prerē /
L > F
a meadow or tract of grassland.
The prairie stretched out broad and flat to the horizon in every direction.

prairillon

n
/ prā'rilyən /
F
a small meadow or tract of grassland.
Baron Munchausen's ranch turned out to be a two-room shack and a weed-covered prairillon.

prais

pralltriller

prancer

prankster

prase

prate

prattle

n
/ ,prad'ɪ /
G
trifling or empty talk or chatter.
The endless prattle on the bus ride annoyed Mr. Danton.

preaudit

precarious

precariously
adv
/ prē'ka(a)rēəslē /
L
in a manner characterized by a lack of security or stability.
Teddy balanced precariously on the chair as he attempted to extract the last Oreo from the cookie jar.

precede

precedes
v
/ prē'sēdz /
L
[has near homonym: proceeds]
goes before in order of time : occurs before with relation to something.
A certain stillness precedes a tempest.

precentor

preceptor

precession
n
/ prē'seshən /
L
[has near homonym: procession] a comparatively slow gyration of the rotation axis of a spinning body.
Precession of Earth's axis will make Vega our North Star in about 13,000 years.

precessional

preciosities

precious

precipitancy

precipitant

precipitate

v
/ prē'sipətāt /
L
cause a substance to separate from a solution in a concrete state as a result of a chemical or physical change.
Calcium and magnesium ions in hard water can precipitate calcium and magnesium carbonate, often a problem in domestic water pipes.

precipitated

v
/ prē'sipətādəd /
L
caused to move or act very rapidly.
The completion of the railroad precipitated the demise of waterborne transport.

precipitation

n
/ (,)prē.sipə'tāshən /
L
a deposit on Earth of hail, mist, rain, sleet, or snow; also : the quantity of water deposited.
Low-pressure areas normally bring clouds and precipitation.

precise

adj
/ prē'sīs /
L > F
devoid of anything vague, equivocal, or uncertain.
Mr. Rouse is quite precise about everything, and he has never been known to joke with a student.

preclude

v
/ ,prē'klüd /
L
prevent or hinder by necessary consequence or implication.
Being a movie star did not preclude Ronald Reagan from having a successful political career.

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preconditioned

v
/ ,prēkən'dishənd /
L + L + Ecf
put in proper or desired condition in advance of some intended treatment.
Before new wood is painted it should be preconditioned with a primer.

predecease

predicament

n
/ prē'dikəmənt /
L
a difficult, perplexing, or trying situation.
Miss Bates, though having much public favor, stood in the very worst predicament in the world: She was neither young, handsome, rich, nor married.

preemptive

adj
/ prē'em(p)tiv /
L
being or related to a first military strike made to gain an advantage when a strike by the enemy is believed imminent.
The ability to launch a preemptive strike against a possible aggressor is a major factor in the theory of nuclear deterrence.

preemptory

prefabricate

prefabrication

preface

preferred

prehensibility

prehistory

n
/ prē'hist(ə)rē /
Lcf + Gk
an account comprising a chronological record of the preceding circumstances of an event or situation.
The prehistory of the tension between the boss and his employees includes some family issues.

prelapsarian

adj
/ ,prē.lap'sa(a)rēən /
L + Ecf
characteristic of or belonging to the time before the fall of man.
The painting depicted Adam and Eve in prelapsarian paradise.

prelude

n
/ 'prā.lüd /
L
a musical section or movement introducing the theme or chief subject.
Tycho arrived at the concert after the prelude was over.

premature

prematurely

adv
/ ,prēmə'tu(ə)rlē /
L + Ecf
before the proper time : too soon.
Not wanting to tire prematurely, the rowing crew began the race by pulling easily.

prenuptial

prepaid

prepare

preparations

n pl
/ ,prepə'rāshənz /
L
actions or processes of making something ready for use or service.
Tina's preparations for the party included decorating the room and baking the cookies.

preponderance

preposition

prepossessing

adj
/ ,prēpə'zesiŋ /
L
tending to please or arouse confidence : creating a favorable impression.
With her impeccable carriage and her prematurely white hair, Lydia was a prepossessing figure at the political convention.

preprandial

adj
/ prē'prandēəl /
L
of, relating to, or suitable for the time immediately before dinner.
Before the main course, Benito served a preprandial soup.

prerequisite

n
/ prē'rekwəzət /
L
something that is mandatory beforehand.
A Juris Doctor degree is a prerequisite for the practice of law.

presbyopia

Presbyterian

adj
/ ,prezbə'tirēən /
Gk
of, relating to, or constituting a Protestant church that is governed by a graded system of representative ecclesiastical bodies and is traditionally Calvinistic in doctrine.
While in college, William grew interested in becoming a Presbyterian minister.

prescribe

prescriptive

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

preserve

v
/ prē'zərv /
L

can, pickle, or similarly prepare (as fruits or vegetables) for future use.
Beverly hurried to preserve her bumper crop of peaches before they became overripe.

pressurization

prestigious

presumptuous

presylvian

pretender

preterient

preterlabent

adj
/ ,prēd-ə(r)'lābənt /
L

flowing beside or by.
Mr. Ross pumped water from a preterlabent stream to irrigate his vegetable garden.

prettier

pretzel

n
/ 'pretsəl /
L > G

a glazed usually salted bakery product made of a rope of dough typically twisted into a form resembling the letter B.
Brian munched on a large pretzel as he watched his favorite television program.

prevail

v
/ prē'vāl /
L

be or become effective or effectual : be successful.
The attorney was confident that justice would prevail in the case.

prevailing

prevaricator

previous

prevocalic

prey

v
/ 'prā /
L > F > E
make raids for the sake of booty.
Pirates prey on the coastal shipping off Somalia's coast.

prickle

priggish

primacy

primatial

primatologist

n
/ ,prīmə'täləjəst /
L + Gk
a specialist in the study of members of the order Primates especially other than recent humans.
Jane Goodall's many years of studying chimpanzees has made her the world's most famous primatologist.

primero

primeval

primogeniture

n
/ ,prīmō'jenə.chù(ə)r /
L
the state of being the firstborn of the children of the same parents.
In British law, male primogeniture is used to determine inheritance of real estate and titles.

princely

principle

prionodont

priority

priory

priscan

adj
/ 'priskən /
L + Ecf
dealing with or existing in ancient times.
Professor McCowan is an expert on druidism and other priscan religions of Britain.

prism

n
/ 'prizəm /
Gk > L
a transparent body that is bounded in part by two nonparallel plane faces and is used to refract or disperse a beam of light.
The prism cast an array of colors on the tablecloth.

prisoner

n
/ 'priz(ə)nə(r) /
L > F > E
a person held under arrest or in prison.
For good behavior at the penitentiary, the prisoner was released after serving one-third of his sentence.

privet

n
/ 'privət /
unknown
an ornamental Eurasian and northern African shrub that is used extensively for hedges and has half-evergreen leaves and small white flowers.
Oliver planted privet along the edge of his front yard.

privileged

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

privileges

n pl
/ 'priv(ə)lijəz /
L

various fundamental rights considered as peculiarly guaranteed and secured to all persons (as the enjoyment of life and liberty and the right to pursue happiness).
Patrick Henry was convinced that the colonists must fight if they wished to preserve inviolate the privileges for which they had been contending.

privy

adj
/ 'privē /
L > F > E

privately aware as one participating secretly.
Although she was not privy to their secrets, Alice could guess what her sisters were up to.

probability

probation

n
/ prɒ'bāshən /
L

the action of suspending the sentence of a convicted offender and giving the offender freedom during good behavior under the supervision of a probation officer.
Because of the extenuating circumstances, the judge decided on probation instead of a prison sentence.

probationer

probity

n
/ 'prɒbədē /
L

uprightness, rectitude.
Mr. C. Z. Armand is a man of indisputable probity.

procacious

procacity

procathedral

processus

proclaim

procrastination

procrypsis

prodigy

prodromal

adj
/ prɒ'drɒməl /
Gk

precursory; especially : of, relating to, or marked by warning symptoms of a disease.
Half of the people who have heart attacks have had prodromal symptoms ranging from nausea and dizziness to chest pressure.

production

profert

professional

professor

professorial

adj
/ ,prɒfə'sɔːrēəl /
L

didactic, learned.
The eminently professorial volume on verb tenses in English was impractical for those learning English as a foreign language.

proffer

proficient

adj
/ prə'fɪʃənt /
L

[has near homonym: perficient]
well advanced in an art, occupation, skill, or a branch of knowledge.
Many educators feel that it is imperative for grade school children to become proficient in more than one language.

profile

profligate

adj
/ 'prɒfləɡət /
L

completely given up to wild extravagance or excess.
Lord Kensington's profligate spending was the reason for the meeting with his banker.

progenitors

n pl
/ prɒ'jenədə(r)z /
L

ancestors in the direct line : forefathers.
The land had been in the hands of Mr. Williamson and his progenitors for several generations.

prohibit

projectile

n
/ prə'jektl /
L

a self-propelling weapon (as a rocket, torpedo, or guided missile).
The sensing device will detect any projectile larger than a football.

projicient

prolepsis

n
/ prɒ'lepsəs /
Gk

a figure in which a matter is set forth in summary before being stated in detail.
Putnam begins with a prolepsis, but that does nothing to ruin the suspense as the plot unfolds.

proliferate

v
/ prɒ'lifə.rāt /
L > F

grow by rapid or repeated production of new parts or of buds or offspring.
Blackberry vines will proliferate very quickly if they are not cut back.

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

prolocutor

n
/ prŏ'lăkyədə(r) /
L

one who speaks, pleads, or interprets for another.

The prolocutor for the department of public works explained that the bridge would be under repair for the next several weeks.

prolong

Promethean

adj
/ prŏ'mēthēən /
Gk > L

daringly original.

Daryl's success as an inventor is largely the result of his Promethean approach to problem solving.

promising

promissory

promotion

prompter

n
/ 'präm.(p)tə(r) /
L > E

one who reminds another of the words to be spoken next; specifically : one responsible for reminding actors during performance.

The prompter was surprised that none of the actors required a cue during the performance.

prone

adj
/ 'prŏn /
L > E

having the face, chest, or abdomen turned toward the ground, floor, or other supporting surface.

The paramedics turned the prone victim over so that they could administer CPR.

pronoun

pronouncement

n
/ prŏ'naun(t)smənt /
L > F > E

a usually formal declaration of opinion or judgment.

The whole town anxiously awaited Judge Milburn's pronouncement.

propellable

prophecy

prophesy

prophet

n
/ 'präfət /
Gk

[has homonym: profit] one who speaks for God or a deity : a divinely inspired revealer, interpreter, or spokesperson.
Abraham is considered a great prophet by several different religions.

propitiatory

propound

proprietary

proprieties

n pl
/ prŏ'prīədēz /
L > F > E

the customs and manners of polite society : conventionally correct behavior.

Not one to bother with proprieties, Luke is considered by most people to be downright rude.

propriety

proprioceptive

adj
/ .prŏprēə'septiv /
L + L

activated by, relating to, or being stimuli produced within the organism.

Daniel's study tested whether blindfolded subjects could use proprioceptive feedback to move one arm a prescribed distance.

propylene

n
/ 'prŏpələn /
Gk > ISV

a flammable gaseous hydrocarbon obtained by cracking petroleum hydrocarbons and used chiefly in organic synthesis.

Propylene is an important constituent of automobile antifreeze.

prorate

prosaic

proscription

n
/ prŏ'skripshən /
L

an imposed restraint or restriction : prohibition.

Judith's consulting contract includes a six-month proscription against working for a competing firm.

prosecutor

n
/ 'präsə.küdə(r) /
L

an attorney who conducts proceedings especially of a criminal nature in a court on behalf of the government.

The prosecutor asked the judge for permission to approach the bench.

proselytize

proselytizer

prosopography

prosperous

prostaglandin

n
/ .prästə'gländən /
L > E + L > E + Ecf

any of various oxygenated unsaturated cyclic fatty acids of animals that perform a variety of hormonelike actions (as in controlling blood pressure or smooth muscle contraction).

All aspirinlike analgesics inhibit synthesis and release of prostaglandin.

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prosthesis

n
/ präs'thēsās /
Gk

an artificial device to replace a missing part of the body.
After losing his right foot in an accident, Stan had to learn to walk again with a prosthesis.

prostrate

adj
/ 'prä:strät /
L

extended in a horizontal position.
Jeremy lay prostrate on the dock and watched the fishes in the water.

prostration

n
/ prä'strāshən /
L

complete physical or mental exhaustion.
When Chris came down with the flu, she suffered from chills, fever, and prostration.

protégé

Proterozoic

adj
/ 'prädərə'zōik /
Gk

of or relating to a division of geological time from the beginning of the Huronian to the close of the Keweenawan.
Annelid worms and blue-green and brown algae lived during the Proterozoic era.

protervity

proton

protoplasm

n
/ 'prōdəplazəm /
(Gk + Gk) > G
organized living matter : the more or less fluid colloidal complex making up each cell.
Under a microscope protoplasm exhibits a variety of appearances.

protostar

protractor

proven

provender

provenience

providence

providential

adj
/ 'prävə'denchəl /
L
of, relating to, or determined by divine guidance.
Arthur's arrival in the nick of time seemed providential.

providing

province

provolone

prowl

v
/ 'praül /
E
move about or wander stealthily in the manner of a wild beast seeking prey.
Captain Andrews and his submariners were ordered to prowl the North Atlantic.

prudence

prudently

adv
/ 'prüd'ntlē /
L > F > E
in a wise or judicious manner.
Hakim prudently put suntan lotion on his ears.

pruner

pruritus

n
/ prü'rüdəs /
L
localized or generalized itching due to irritation of sensory nerve endings.
Alie applied an ointment on the rash to relieve the pruritus.

psalmist

psalterer

psammite

psammon

psammophile

pschent

n
/ '(p)skent /
Egypt > Gk
the headdress of the later Egyptian pharaohs formed of the two crowns worn by the respective pharaohs of Upper Egypt and Lower Egypt before the union of the country under one rule.
The pharaoh's statue stood 66 feet high from the feet to the pschent covering his head.

psephology

n
/ sē'fäləjē /
Gk
the scientific study of elections.
The pollster claims that prudent psephology indicates that Liberals may lose a few seats in the next election.

pseudodoxy

n
/ 'südō,däksē /
Gk
an erroneous belief; also : the holding of erroneous beliefs.
The pseudodoxy that walking under a ladder will bring bad luck is still held by many reasonable people.

pseudonym

pseudonymity

n
/ ,süd'n'imədə /
Gk + Ecf
the fact or state of being signed (as a book or other writing) with a fictitious name.
To avoid becoming a celebrity, Professor Stanton hid his science-fiction writings under the cloak of pseudonymity.

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

pseudoptics

n pl
/süd'äptiks /
Gk + Gk
the study of optical illusions.
The aspiring magician was very much interested in the field of pseudoptics.

pseudosyllogism

psittacism

n
/'sid.ə.sizəm /
Gk > L
automatic speech without thought of the meaning of the words spoken.
Daniela was alarmed that her pledge of allegiance to the flag had become mere psittacism.

psittacosis

n
/'sid.ə'kōsəs /
Gk > L
an infectious disease of birds that is transmissible to man.
Vincent's doctor has had him under observation since his macaw was diagnosed with psittacosis.

psychagogy

psychalgia

psychoanalysis

psychology

psychotogenic

psyllium

n
/'silēəm /
Gk
[has homonym: cilium] an Old World plantain having seeds that swell and become gelatinous when moist and that are used as a mild laxative.
When a laxative is needed, health professionals recommend products that contain psyllium, a natural fiber.

pteric

adj
/'terik /
Gk
resembling a wing.
Hundreds of pteric maple seeds were wafting through the air in George's backyard.

Ptolemaic

adj
/'tälə'māik /
Gk
of or relating to Ptolemy, the geographer and astronomer.
Galileo got into big trouble by challenging the Ptolemaic view of the universe.

ptyalin

n
/'tīələn /
Gk > ISV
an enzyme found in the saliva of many animals including humans but not in that of horses, dogs, or cats.
Ptyalin helps in the digestion of starches.

publicist

n
/'pəbləsəst /
L > F
an agent employed by an individual, organization, or group to establish and maintain good public relations.
The author of the tell-all book once worked as a publicist for several rock stars.

puccon

pueblo

n
/'pwe(,)blō /
L > Sp
a type of town founded by Mexican Spanish settlers in the southwestern United States.
Sadly, the ancient pueblo has been abandoned by residents who have chosen to move to larger cities.

puffin

pugnacity

pulchritudinous

adj
/'pəlkrətüd'nəs /
L
beautiful.
The hallway in the Fall Creek Theatre is lined with posters of pulchritudinous movie stars.

pulka

n
/'pəlke /
Finn&Lapp
a one-person Lapp sledge shaped like half a canoe and resting on a broad board or several runners.
Timmy tried in vain to harness the St. Bernard to the pulka.

pulley

pullulation

pulpiteering

pulpitry

n
/'pül.pitrē /
L
preaching.
Jack is reading a book on the art of pulpitry.

pulque

pulsate

pulsebeat

pulverized

v
/'pəlvə.rīzd /
L > F
destroyed by or as if by smashing into fragments : disintegrated, demolished.
The nightly news began with footage of beach homes pulverized by Hurricane Fran.

pumicite

n
/'pəm.əsīt /
L
a type of volcanic dust used for abrasive purposes.
The instructions recommended using pumicite to smooth the metal.

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pumpkin

puncheon

punctiliar

puncture

pundonor

punish

punster

puny

adj

/ 'pyünē /

F

slight or inferior in size.

No one would ever guess that the strong and stocky wrestler was puny as a child.

pupa

n

/ 'pyüpə /

L

an insect in an intermediate form that is between the larval and the imaginal stages.

The pupa inside the beautiful jade shell with golden dots will soon transform into a monarch butterfly.

pupillometer

puppeteer

purblind

adj

/ 'pær.blɪnd /

L > F > E + E

lacking in vision, insight, or understanding.

Tom was despotic and purblind to the feelings of his wife and children.

purchase

purga

Purim

n

/ 'pürəm /

Heb

a Jewish festival celebrated on the 14th of Adar in commemoration of the deliverance of the Jews from the massacre plotted by Haman.

Purim has its roots in the book of Esther.

puritanical

adj

/ ,pyürə'tanəkəl /

L + Ecff

morally rigorous, strict.

Mrs. Langley is a puritanical woman who tolerates no nonsense from her students.

purl

v

/ 'pərl /

unknown

do knitting in a stitch that creates a swirling appearance.

Claire's mom will teach her to purl now that Claire has mastered the basic knitting stitch.

purplish

purport

purported

adj

/ pər'pɔ̃(ə)rdəd /

L > F > AF

suspected of being : rumored.

The purported spies were held in custody without being provided legal assistance.

purslane

n

/ 'pərslən /

L > F > E

an annual herb widely distributed in both hemispheres whose fleshy succulent leaves are used in cooking and salads.

At the vegetarian café, Roberta ordered a delicious salad of purslane and other greens.

pursuant

pursuantly

adv

/ pə(r)'süəntlē /

L > F + Ecff

consequently.

Laura put all her effort into her writing classes; pursuantly, she won the Metzger Prize for best student journalist, but nearly failed calculus.

pursue

pursuing

pursuit

n

/ pə(r)'süt /

F > AF > E

a chasing with haste.

One of the others who was nearest the door leaped up and started in pursuit.

pursuivant

n

/ 'pərs(w)əvənt /

F > E

the lowest rank of one learning the profession of heraldry.

After studying for a year, James earned the right to be called a pursuivant.

purview

putative

adj

/ 'pyüdədɪv /

L

commonly accepted or supposed.

The putative owner of the vicious dog claimed to have never seen the animal before.

putrefaction

putrilage

n

/ 'pyütrəlɪj /

L

matter that is rotting.

The pile of putrilage squirmed with maggots and insects.

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puzzle

v
/ 'pʌzəl /
unknown
bewilder mentally.
Mark told Mary to stop trying to puzzle his sad brains.

pyelitis

pyramidoidal

pyrexia

n
/ pɪ'reksɪə /
Gk
elevation of body temperature to an abnormal level : fever.
The veterinarian was concerned about the dog's pyrexia because it could be an indication of distemper.

pyrography

n
/ pɪ'rɒgrəfi /
Gk
the art or process of producing designs or pictures by burning or scorching with hot instruments.
Bone and ivory form good grounds for fine pyrography.

pyrolatry

pyrometer

n
/ pɪ'rɒmɛdə(r) /
Gk
an instrument for measuring temperatures.
The pyrometer is often used to measure temperatures beyond the range of a mercurial thermometer.

pyrophile

n
/ 'pɪrɒfɪl /
Gk + Gk
one who is enthusiastic over fire or fireworks.
Being a pyrophile, Brian eagerly awaited the Fourth of July fireworks display.

Pythagorean

adj
/ pə'thagə'reən /
Gk name
of or relating to the Greek philosopher Pythagorus or his philosophy.
The Pythagorean theorem states that in a right triangle, the square of the hypotenuse is equal to the sum of the squares of the other two sides.

Pythian

n
/ 'pɪθiən /
Gk
of or relating to the ancient Greek god Apollo especially as patron deity of Delphi.
The museum at Delphi contains many Pythian statues from the temple of Apollo.

pythonist

quadragenary

quadratic

quadrigamist

quadrillion

quadroon

quadrumana

quadrumvirate

quadruped

adj
/ 'kwɒdrəped /
L
having four feet : using four limbs when walking.
Sally's apartment lease restricts the weight of any quadruped pets.

quaff

quaffingly

quaintness

quake

qualify

qualmish

quantal

quantimeter

quantitate

quarterback

n
/ 'kwɔːdərbæk /
L > F > E + E
a backfield player in football who usually lines up behind the center, calls the signals, and directs the offensive play of his team.
The Denver Broncos quarterback John Elway led his team to a Super Bowl championship in 1998.

quarterdeck

quarterly

quartile

quartzite

quasiquicentennial

n
/ 'kwɒskwɛ'sentɪnɪəl /
L
a 125th anniversary.
The city of Corner Brook, founded in 1873, is hosting a large celebration for its quasiquicentennial this summer.

quattrocento

n
/ 'kwɒtrɔ'ʃent(ɪ)tɒ /
L > It
the 15th century; specifically : the 15th-century period in Italian literature and art.
Lorenzo De Medici was one of the chief supporters of Italian art during the quattrocento.

quaver

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

quavers

n pl
/ 'kwāvə(r)z /
E

tremulous uncertainties of tone (as in the voice due to emotion).

The quavers in Leslie's voice increased as she related the accident.

quavery

quayage

queensware

quemadero

querencia

querist

quesadilla

n
/ ,kāsə'dēyə /
L > Sp

a turnover made usually with a cheese filling.

Joyce usually eats a quesadilla as an afternoon snack.

questionable

queued

quiaquia

n
/ 'kēə.kēə /
Sp

a small fusiform carangid fish of the western Atlantic related to and often included among the mackerel scads.

The quiaquia is a food fish frequently caught in the Caribbean.

quibbling

quicksand

quicksilver

quiddities

quiescently

adv
/ kwī'es⁰ntlē /
L

in a manner marked by inactivity or repose.

The virus insinuates itself into selected cells, where it may reside quiescently for prolonged periods of time.

quiet

quila

n
/ 'kēlə /
Araucan > Sp

a grass of the southern part of South America that resembles bamboo, is used as forage, and has a fiber used in making paper.

Josefina knows how to make paper from quila.

quilt

quince

quindene

quinquevir

n
/ 'kwinkwə.vi(ə)r /
L

one of a commission, council, or ruling body of five (as in ancient Rome).

When Karen was a quinquevir of her school's Student Council, she learned firsthand that too many cooks can spoil the stew.

quintal

n
/ 'kwintəl /
Ar > L > F > E
a metric unit equal to 100 kilograms.

It always makes Fred feel better to say that he weighs only 1 quintal.

quintuplet

quixote

n
/ 'kwiksōt /
Sp name

an idealistic and utterly impractical person marked by rash lofty romantic ideas or chivalrous action doomed to fail.

Because of his grandiose but unrealistic plan to eliminate poverty, the dictator has been called a "quixote."

quixotically

quixotism

quiz

quizmaster

quoddy

n
/ 'kwädē /
American geog name

an open sloop-rigged sailboat once used especially for fishing along the Maine coast.

Julia runs a business in Bar Harbor, taking tourists fishing in her quoddy.

quoit

rabanna

n
/ rə'banə /
Malagasy
a coarse matting handwoven from raffia fibers in Madagascar.
The village woman sat on a mat of rabanna and watched the children playing.

rabbinical

rabble

rabboni

rabies

racetrack

rachitogenic

racial

rackettail

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

radiation

radiator

radically

radicolous

radiesthesia

radiogoniometer

radiology

radiometer

n
/ ˌrædēˈämədə(r) /
L + Gk

an instrument for detecting and measuring the intensity of electromagnetic or acoustic radiation.

The Crookes radiometer in the form of a rotating toy survives in jewelers' windows as a supposed perpetual motion device.

radiosonde

n
/ ˌrædēˈsänd /
L + L > F > E

a miniature radio transmitter that is carried aloft (as by an unmanned balloon) with instruments for broadcasting the humidity, temperature, and pressure.

The National Weather Service uses thin neoprene balloons to raise the radiosonde to great heights.

radish

radome

radon

radzimir

raffle

rafter

raggedy

ragwort

n
/ ˈræg.wò(ə)rt /
E

any of several herbs with heads composed of flowers.
Ragwort can grow in very poor soil.

railbed

rainbow

adj
/ ˈrān.bō /
E

having the colors of the spectrum.
The chorus wore glittering robes and shiny, rainbow wings for the Christmas pageant.

rainspout

rainstorm

n
/ ˈrān.stò(ə)rm /
E + E

a storm of or with rain.
The sudden rainstorm caused flooding at many of the city's intersections.

rainy

adj
/ ˈrānē /
E

wet, showery.
After a long dry spell, the rainy weather was welcomed by everyone.

raisin

raj

rale

rallentando

rambunctiously

adv
/ ˌræmˈbʊŋ(k)ʃəs.lē /
L? > E

in an excessively exuberant manner.
The children were warned that if they behaved rambunctiously in the restaurant, they would not be allowed to have dessert.

ramentum

ramify

rampart

n
/ ˈræmpärt /
L > Prov > F
a broad embankment raised as a fortification.
With the army in retreat, the invaders surged over the rampart and into the village.

ramuscle

ranche

randomize

ranine

adj
/ ˈrā.nīn /
L

of or relating to frogs.
The ceaseless ranine chirping from the pond kept Marcus awake all night.

ranunculus

n
/ ˌrənʊŋkjələs /
L

any plant of a large and widely distributed genus of herbs that have simple or variously lobed leaves and mostly yellow flowers.
Patsy planted a ranunculus in a pot beside the kitchen door.

rapacity

n
/ ˌrəˈpəsədə /
L
the quality or state of being urgently eager for food.
Despite his rapacity, the freed prisoner limited his food intake so as not to endanger his life.

rapidity

rappee

rappel

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

rarefaction

n
/ ra(a)rə'fakshən /
L

the act or process of making rare, thin, porous, or less dense.
The rarefaction of air can be accomplished with a vacuum pump, but it is very difficult to achieve a true vacuum.

rarefy

rareripe

rariora

n pl
/ ra(a)rē'ōrə /
L

unusual collectors' items.
The old man's study contained a whimsical mixture of rariora.

rasbora

rascal

n
/ 'raskəl /
F? > E
a mean, unprincipled, or dishonest person.
The children cheered during the movie when the rascal fell to his doom.

rasher

rasorite

raspingly

adv
/ 'raspinl̄ /
F
in a grating harsh manner.
"Don't try me," he said in a raspingly mean voice.

ratel

n
/ 'rād:l /
D > Afrikaans
any of several powerful nocturnal carnivorous mammals resembling the badger and having the pelt ash gray above and black beneath.
The ratel uses its strong claws for breaking open beehives to get its favorite food, honey.

rationalize

v
/ 'rashən'līz /
L > E
give an explanation of that conforms with reason.
Chauvinists try to rationalize racial prejudice.

rattail

rattletrap

raucity

n
/ 'rōsədē /
L
the quality or state of being disagreeably harsh or strident.
Fed up with the raucity of urban street life, the Hamiltons moved to a quiet suburb.

raucously

raunchy

raven

adj
/ 'rāvən /
E
[has homonym: ravin] of the color or sheen of the raven, a large glossy-black bird.
Callie's little sister had her heart set on the doll with raven curls.

rawhide

razor

reactionary

readily

readjourn

v
/ rēə'jərn /
L > F > E
put off further proceedings of again.
When the court reconvened at two o'clock, the defense attorney immediately asked the judge if she would readjourn the trial until the next day.

reagent

n
/ rē'ājənt /
L
a substance used for various purposes (as in detecting, examining, or measuring other substances, in preparing material, in developing photographs) because it takes part in one or more chemical reactions or biological processes.
Stuart explained that the substance used up first in the experiment is called a "limiting reagent."

realgar

realia

reamer

reassurance

n
/ rēə'shūrən(t)s /
L > Ecf + L > F > E
the action of inspiring or tending to inspire confidence again.
The coach's reassurance was all the encouragement Debbie needed to feel confident.

Reaumur

adj
/ 'rāō.myū(ə)r /
F name
relating or conforming to a thermometric scale on which under standard atmospheric pressure the boiling point of water is at 80 degrees above the 0 of the scale and the freezing point is at 0.
Cecelia converted Celsius degrees into Reaumur degrees by multiplying by four and dividing by five.

rebidable

reblochon

rebuff

rebuke

recalcitration

recamier

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

recant

v
/ rə'kant /
L

withdraw or repudiate (a statement or belief) formally and publicly.
The witness decided to recant her testimony when she was shown the photograph of the suspect at the scene of the crime.

recede

v
/ rə'sēd /
L

move back or away.
Buck watched the water recede as the tide went out.

receivable

recency

reception

recession

recessional

recessive

reclamation

reclusive

adj
/ rə'klusiv /
L

marked by seclusion or retirement : solitary.
The reclusive movie star had not given an interview for years, but the media camped out in her driveway nonetheless.

recollective

recommend

recommended

v
/ rekə'mendəd /
L

advised, counseled.
The doctor recommended that Robert get more sleep.

recommitment

n
/ rēkə'mitmənt /
L + Ecf

the act of pledging again to give support to some policy or cause.
The president urged a recommitment of the United Nations to the basic principles of human welfare.

recompensable

reconcilable

recoup

v
/ rē'küp /
F

compensate (as oneself) for something (as expenses, losses).
Dorene did not expect to recoup her day-trading losses immediately.

recrement

n
/ rekrəmənt /
L

superfluous matter separated from that which is useful.
Slag is the recrement produced in smelting iron ore.

recriminate

v
/ rə'krimənāt /
L

make a counter accusation : charge back a fault or crime against an accuser.
Though she believed her accuser to be the guilty party, Chelsea refused to recriminate.

recriminatory

adj
/ rə'krimənətōrē /
L

having the character or nature of a counter accusation.
When charged with insubordination, the soldier filed recriminatory charges against his commanding officer.

recruit

rectification

n
/ rektəfə'kāshən /
L

the act or process of making or setting right (as by correcting an error or amending a fault).
Todd called the newspaper's editor to seek rectification of the erroneous article.

rectifier

n
/ 'rektəfī(ə)r /
L

a device for converting alternating current to direct current.
A vacuum tube can act as a rectifier in electronic machinery.

rectirostral

adj
/ rektə'rästrəl /
L + L

having a straight beak.
Dowitchers are rectirostral shore birds that feed in mud or shallow water.

rectitude

n
/ 'rektätüd /
L

strict observance of standards of integrity and honesty.
Abraham Lincoln was renowned for his moral rectitude.

rectitudinous

recumbent

adj
/ rə'kəmbənt /
L

lying down.
Several sheep, recumbent in the field, were roused and herded into their pen for the night.

recumbentibus

n
/ rekəm'bentəbəs /
L

a knockdown blow.
The little old lady gave the purse snatcher a recumbentibus that stunned witnesses and made her a folk hero.

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

recuperation

n
/ rə'k(y)ü.pə'rāshən /
L

restoration to health or strength.
The doctor told Ernesto that his recuperation after the skiing accident would take about two months.

recurs

v
/ rə'kərz /
L

happens or takes place again.
Nikki has made great progress in stopping her nail biting, but it is a problem that recurs now and then.

recyclable

adj
/ rē'sik(ə)ləbəl /
L + Gk + Lcf
capable of being processed in order to regain material for human use.
Each office in the building has its own receptacle for recyclable paper.

redaction

n
/ rə'dakshən /
L
an act or instance of putting into a different written form.
Cindy did not realize that the musical was a redaction of an 18th-century novel.

redeeming

redemption

redivivus

redolence

redouble

redound

redowa

n
/ 'redəwə /
Czech > F > F
either of two popular Bohemian ballroom dances of the 19th century.
To Erica's complete surprise, Ronald danced the redowa very skillfully.

reduce

redundant

adj
/ rə'dəndənt /
L
exceeding what is necessary or normal : superfluous.
The newspaper article proved to be more redundant than informative, stating the same facts in several different ways.

reek

v
/ 'rēk /
E
give off a strong, often offensive odor.
Antiperspirant ads create the impression that the human body will reek with sweat if the advertised product is not used.

reeled

reenactment

n
/ rēə'nak(t)mənt /
E
the process of performing again.
The evening performance featured a reenactment of the role the actor had made famous.

refectory

n
/ rə'fekt(ə)rē /
L
a dining hall in a monastery, convent, or religious college.
Brother Neil returned to the refectory for dinner.

refer

referendum

n
/ .refə'rendəm /
L
a popular vote on a measure passed upon or proposed by a legislative body or by popular initiative.
A referendum in Clay County raised the minimum age for purchasing alcohol to 21.

referral

referred

reflect

v
/ rə'flekt /
L
think quietly and calmly.
Jimmy took time to reflect on his life goals.

reflector

reflorescence

reflorescent

refractor

n
/ rə'fraktə(r) /
L
a telescope in which the principal focusing element is a lens that is usually an achromat with crown glass and flint glass components.
The world's largest refractor has an aperture of 40 inches.

refrain

refrigerate

refringent

refugee

refugeeism

refund

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refurbish

v
/ rē'fərbish /
L > F > E + Gmc > F > E
brighten or freshen up : renovate.
Jeanne decided to refurbish her bedroom with handmade curtains and a new coat of paint.

refusal

refute

v
/ rə'fyüt /
L
overthrow by argument, evidence, or proof.
Try as he might, Richie could not refute his parents' decision that he could not attend the party.

regaled

regelation

regiminal

regisseur

n
/ rāzhē'sər /
L > F
director : one that supervises the production of a show with responsibility for action, lighting, music, rehearsals, and generally for giving substance to the conception of the author.
The regisseur met with the lighting manager to discuss various ways of using light to convey the mood of the scene.

register

registered

registration

reglementary

regnant

regressive

regular

rehabilitant

reify

v
/ rēə'fī /
L
regard an abstraction or mental construction as a thing : convert mentally into something concrete or objective.
Success in advanced mathematics may depend on the ability to reify abstract concepts.

reign

reimbursable

adj
/ rēəm'bərsəbəl /
L
subject to repayment.
Agatha's medical insurance company did not consider a face-lift a reimbursable expense.

reins

n pl
/ 'rānz /
L > F > E
[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word. In addition, word has homonyms: rains, reigns.] position of command.
For some who have held the reins for so long, it is difficult to give up power.

rejoinder

rejuvenescent

relative

relaxed

relentlessly

adv
/ rə'lentləslē /
E
in a mercilessly hard or harsh manner.
Frank relentlessly teased his sister.

relevant

relieve

religion

relinquished

v
/ rə'liŋwɪshd /
L > F > E + Ecf
let go of physically : stopped holding : released.
When the sled came to a stop, Bowser relinquished his hold on Brian's snow jacket.

relinquishing

reliquiae

n pl
/ rə'likwəē /
L
remains of the dead : organic remains : relics.
Years after the war in Vietnam, reliquiae are still being sent back to the United States.

reliquian

reluctantly

adv
/ rə'ləktəntlē /
L
unwillingly, grudgingly.
Elena reluctantly shared her candy bar with her little brother.

rem

n
/ 'rem /
acronym
the dosage of any ionizing radiation that will cause the same amount of biological injury to human tissue as 1 roentgen of X-ray or gamma-ray dosage.
The rem takes into account the relative biologic effectiveness of ionizing radiation.

remanence

rembrandt

n
/ 'rem.brənt /
D name
a dark grayish brown that is slightly less strong than average chocolate brown.
The color rembrandt is similar to the dark backgrounds of paintings by the artist of the same name.

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remediless

adj
/ 'remədəlēləs /
L + Ecf
having no relief or cure :
irreparable.
*Maria's whining can make the
slightest difficulty seem remediless.*

remember

v
/ rə'membə(r) /
L > F > E
bring to mind again : think of
again.
*Lonny could not remember the time
of his haircut appointment.*

remigrant

reminder

remittment

remittent

remittitur

remnant

remonstrance

remonstrate

remontant

adj
/ rə'mänt'nt /
F
flowering again.
*Gretchen bought several remontant
roses for her garden.*

remora

n
/ 'remərə /
L
any of a family of marine fishes
that have the front upper fin
modified into a suctional disk by
means of which they cling
especially to other fishes.
*While receiving a free ride on the
shark, the remora rid it of the
parasites on its skin.*

remorseless

adj
/ rə'mó(ə)rsləs /
L > F > E + Ecf
having no distress arising from
guilt for past wrongs.
*The vandals seemed to be
remorseless, for they laughed when
the judge sentenced them.*

remote

remuda

n
/ rə'müdə /
L > Sp
the herd of saddle horses from
which are chosen those to be used
for the day by the ranch hands : a
relay of remounts.
*The foreman told Jorge to go to the
corral and choose another horse
from the remuda.*

remunerate

remunerative

adj
/ rə'myünə.rəd'iv /
L
serving to pay an equivalent for a
service, loss, or expense.
*The governor instituted a new
program to help welfare recipients
into remunerative employment.*

renal

adj
/ 'rēnəl /
L
of, relating to, or involving the
kidneys.
*Renal arteries divide into four or
five branches and enter the hilum
of the kidney.*

renascent

rend

v
/ 'rend /
E
divide (as a nation) into parties.
*The dispute over the need for a new
educational wing will probably
rend the church's congregation
permanently.*

rendition

renegade

n
/ 'renə.gād /
L > Sp
an individual who rejects the
restraints of law or convention.
*Shana wanted people to think she
was a renegade, so she dyed her
hair purple.*

renewal

reniform

adj
/ 'renə.fōrm /
L
resembling a mammalian kidney in
shape;
specifically : bean-shaped in
outline.
*Highest on the preschool teacher's
wish list was a reniform table.*

renovate

renowned

adj
/ rə'naund /
E
celebrated.
*Lake Geneva is a renowned inland
sea.*

renunciant

renunciatory

reparative

repartimiento

repatriate

repatriation

repeal

repeater

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repentant

adj
/ rə'pentənt /
L

experiencing contrition for one's sins together with the dedication of oneself to the abandonment of unworthy purposes and values and to the amendment of one's life.
When Scarlett O'Hara finally understood what Rhett Butler meant to her, she was repentant for the many wrongs she had done him.

repercuss

repercussion

n
/ rɛpə(r)'kæʃən /
L

an impact, action, or effect given or exerted in return : a reciprocal action or effect.
Danny kicked Raul out of the club without fear of repercussion.

repetend

repetiteur

n
/ rɛ.pədə'tɔː /
L > F

a singing coach; especially : one who coaches singers in operatic roles.
As part of her comeback strategy, the diva hired a famous repetiteur.

replete

adj
/ rɛ'plɛt /
L

fully or abundantly provided : well supplied.
The test preparation booklet is replete with examples of various types of questions.

replicate

v
/ 'rɛpləkāt /
L

duplicate, repeat.
For an experiment to be considered valid, scientists must be able to replicate it independently.

repose

n
/ rɛ'pōz /
L

a state of rest.
Caleb headed for the hammock, hoping he could enjoy a few hours of much-needed repose.

representative

n
/ .rɛprə'zɛntədɪv /
L > F > E
one that serves a constituency as a member of a governing body.
Brady felt honored when he was elected to be his homeroom's representative to student council.

reproachable

repugnant

repugnatorial

repulsion

reputable

reputation

n
/ .rɛpyə'tāʃən /
L
a particular character in popular estimation or ascription.
The old dilapidated house had a reputation for being haunted.

reputed

adj
/ rɛ'pyüdəd /
L
held in estimation.
Frans hails from one of the most reputed law firms in the state.

requesting

requisition

n
/ .rɛkwə'zɪʃən /
L
a written request for something (as materials, supplies, or personnel) authorized but not made available automatically.
The teacher filled out a requisition for the supplies to be requested on a purchase order.

requital

reredos

resupper

rescissible

rescission

n
/ rɛ'sɪʒən /
L
an act of annulling or of cancelling.
Bob's comment about his mom's rescission of his restrictions is wishful thinking.

rescissory

reservoirs

resignation

resiliently

resolutive

resolvancy

resolve

v
/ rɛ'zɔlv /
L
find an answer to, clear up, or successfully deal with.
Blair's role as a professional mediator is to resolve disputes between two or more parties.

resonant

adj
/ 'rɛz(ə)nənt /
L
continuing or capable of continuing to sound.
Rory marveled at the resonant tone of the church bells.

resorcinol

n
/ rɛz'ɔrsə.nəl /
(L + It? + Lcf + L?) > ISV
a soluble crystalline acidic compound obtained from various resins or artificially and used especially in making dyes, pharmaceuticals, and resins.
Resorcinol is now commonly used in making adhesives for wood.

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resort

resourcefulness

n
/ rē'sō(ə)rsfəlnəs /
L > F + Ecff
fertility in devising ways and means.

Ingmarie's resourcefulness made up for her lack of artistic experience.

respectable

respirometer

n
/ .respə'rämədə(r) /
L + Gk
an instrument for studying the character and extent of the consumption of oxygen.
Eggs and seeds have been studied using a respirometer.

resplendent

responsible

restaurant

n
/ 're.strənt /
L > F
an establishment where refreshments or meals may be procured by the public : a public eating house.
Health inspectors visited Nellie's restaurant three times before they would allow it to reopen.

resurgency

resurrect

v
/ .rezə'rekt /
L > E
raise from the dead : restore to life.
Emily hopes to resurrect the plans for the Junior-Senior Banquet.

resurrected

v
/ .rezə'rekdəd /
L
brought to view, attention, or use again.
Martha made a dessert from a resurrected recipe in a newspaper clipping from the 19th century.

resuscitable

adj
/ rə'səsədəbəl /
L
capable of being revived from apparent death or from unconsciousness.
The rescued swimmer was unconscious but considered resuscitable.

retainer

retaliate

retaliator

retaliatory

reticent

retinitis

retorts

n pl
/ rə'tò(ə)rts /
L
quick sharp witty cutting or severe replies.
Alison's retorts quickly got on Mrs. Turner's nerves.

retributive

retrieval

retrocede

v
/ .retro'sēd /
L
give back (a territory or jurisdiction) usually by treaty.
In 1783 Great Britain agreed to retrocede to Spain all the territory that Spain had turned over to Great Britain in 1763.

retrograde

adj
/ 'retro'grād /
L
moving, directed, or tending in a backward direction.
The soldiers fought a retrograde action.

retroussage

revehent

revelatory

adj
/ rə'velə.tōrē /
L
serving to disclose something (as character or conditions).
Revelatory interviews with gang members brought to light their goals, routines, and mentality.

revelrous

revelry

n
/ 'revəlɹē /
E
boisterous merrymaking.
The revelry at campaign headquarters began after the arrival of the winning candidate.

revendicate

v
/ rə'vendəkāt /
L > F
recover by a formal demand for restoration.
After German reunification, many who had emigrated to the West during the Cold War attempted to revendicate their former homes.

reverberance

review

v
/ rē'vyü /
F
[has homonym: revue] study anew.
Isidora did not have time to review her lecture notes before the exam.

revision

revisory

revivalist

revivifier

revolution

n
/ .revə'lüshən /
L
completion by a celestial body of an orbit or elliptic course.
The year is defined as the time it takes for Earth to make one revolution around the Sun.

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revolver

revolving

revuist

revulsion

reward

rhabdoid

adj

/ 'rab.dòid /

Gk + Gk > Ecf

shaped like a rod.

Tests indicated that Jeremy had a rhabdoid tumor in his kidney.

rhadamanthine

adj

/ .radə'man(t)thèn /

Gk name

rigorously just.

Though the students did not always like Mrs. Moss's decisions, they respected her rhadamanthine judgment.

rhagadiform

rhapsodic

adj

/ rap'sädik /

Gk

extravagantly emotional :

rapturous.

The singer grew rhapsodic as he sang of the virtues of his beloved.

rhapsodize

rhapsody

rhathymia

rheostatic

rhesus

n

/ 'rēsəs /

Gk > L

a pale brown Asian monkey often used in medical research.

A rhesus was the first monkey to be rocketed into the stratosphere.

rhetorical

rhetorically

adv

/ rə'tòrək(ə)lē /

Gk + Ecf

in a manner using the art of expressive speech or discourse.

Susan threw up her hands and asked rhetorically what would happen to her next.

rheum

n

/ 'rüm /

Gk

[has homonym: room] a watery discharge from the mucous membranes especially of the eyes or nose.

Catarths and colds are marked by rheum as well as other symptoms.

rhinal

adj

/ 'rín¹l /

Gk

of or relating to the nose.

The rhinal cavity lies between the cranium and the roof of the mouth and extends from the nostrils to the pharynx.

rhinencephalon

n

/ .rín.ən'sefəlän /

Gk

the anterior inferior part of the forebrain that is chiefly concerned with the sense of smell.

An electrode was inserted into the rhinencephalon during the experiment.

rhinologic

rhinoplasty

rhinorrhagia

n

/ .rínə'rāj(ē)ə /

Gk > L

nosebleed.

After the fifth round the boxer had to be treated for rhinorrhagia.

rhinoscopy

rhinotracheitis

rhizomatous

adj

/ rī'zāmədəs /

Gk > L

having the characteristics of or resembling a somewhat elongate usually horizontal subterranean plant stem.

Canna, certain types of iris, and the calla lily are all rhizomatous.

rhizome

rhodopsin

n

/ rō'däpsən /

Gk + Gk

a red photosensitive pigment in the retinal rods of marine fishes and most higher vertebrates that is important for vision in dim light.

A deficiency of vitamin A results in a loss of rhodopsin and could lead to night blindness.

rhonchus

n

/ 'ränkəs /

Gk > L

a whistling or snoring sound heard on auscultation of the chest when the air channels are partly obstructed.

When the doctor detected a rhonchus with his stethoscope, he suspected pneumonia.

rhyparography

rhythmic

adj

/ 'rīthmik /

Gk

marked by pronounced rhythm : regularly recurrent.

The rhythmic movements of the waltz were very soothing to Laurie after dancing the mashed potato.

rhythmical

rhytidome

rhyton

ria

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riant

adj
/ 'riənt /
L

pleasingly mirthful.
The riant hostess spread good cheer from guest to guest throughout the evening.

ribaldry

ribbon

ricketiness

rickey

riddle

riddling

ridiculousity

ridiculously

adv
/ rə'dikyələslē /
L > F

in an absurd, laughable, or preposterous manner.
The professor was ridiculously absent-minded and became the butt of many jokes.

rifamycin

riffraff

righteousness

rightfully

rigidify

rimosely

rimulose

adj
/ 'rimyə,lōs /
L

having small chinks or fissures.
With a magnifying glass the rimulose structure of the lichen became apparent.

rimy

rinseau

rind

rinderpest

ringent

ringleader

rinse

riot

rioter

riotous

rippling

adj
/ 'rip(ə)liŋ /
Flemish?
having a fretted or highly ruffled surface.
The rippling stream held plenty of trout, beaver, and crayfish.

ripsnorter

riptide

risibles

risorgimento

n
/ (,)rē.sò(r)jə'men(,)tō /
L > It
a time of renewal or renaissance : revival.

During the Victorian Age the English novel experienced a risorgimento.

ritardando

adv
/ .rē.tār'dän(,)dō /
L > It
with a gradual slackening in tempo.
"Again! You must play that passage ritardando," the conductor exhorted.

ritual

n
/ 'rich(ə)wəl /
L
the forms of conducting a devotional service especially as established by tradition : the prescribed order and words of a religious ceremony.
The Passover seder is filled with spoken ritual and symbolic foods.

ritualistic

ritzy

rivalless

adj
/ 'rival(l)əs /
L + Ecf
being without a competitive equal.
The young Russian couple was considered rivalless in the world of ice dancing.

riverbank

rivet

n
/ 'rivət /
F > E
a headed pin or bolt of some malleable material used for uniting two or more pieces.
Mr. Churchill placed a rivet in Mrs. Bates's spectacles, which have never been at fault since.

riviera

n
/ .rivē'ərə /
L > F > Mediterranean geog name
a coastline much frequented as a resort area and usually having a mild climate.
Students flocked to the Florida riviera during spring break.

roadster

robbery

n
/ 'rāb(ə)rē /
F > E
the act of stealing by violence or threat of violence.
The FBI was called in to help solve the armored car robbery.

robust

rocketry

roguery

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roguish

adj
/ 'rɔ̃gɪʃ /
unknown
dishonest, unprincipled.
The roguish salesman tried to convince Barbara that the car was in perfect condition.

roguishly

roister

rollicking

romaine

romantic

romeo

n
/ 'rɔ̃mē.ō /
Shakespearean name
a man's slipper or shoe with a high backing quarter, high front, and usually U-shaped elastic gores at the sides.
The romeo on display was made of one piece of black felt.

rondeau

n
/ 'rān(,)dō /
F
[has homonym: rondo] a fixed form of verse usually of 15 lines.
Shona sat up half the night polishing the rondeau she would read the next day aloud to the class.

rookery

n
/ 'rùkərē /
F > E
a breeding ground or common haunt of gregarious birds or animals (as rooks, herons, penguins, or seals); also : a colony of such birds or animals.
Construction of the factory will jeopardize the rookery.

roque

n
/ 'rɔ̃k /
F
croquet played on a hard-surfaced court having a raised border used as a cushion in bank shots.
The city athletic club allows members to play roque on the roof.

rorqual

n
/ 'rɔ̃rkwəl /
ON > Norw > F
any of a family of large baleen whales (as a blue whale or humpback whale) having the skin of the throat marked with deep longitudinal furrows.
A rorqual filters its food out of the water by means of baleen plates growing down from the roof of its mouth.

rosaceous

adj
/ rɔ̃'zāshəs /
L
of, relating to, or resembling a rose, especially in having a five-petaled regular corolla.
Apple, pear, peach, and cherry trees have rosaceous blossoms.

roseate

adj
/ 'rɔ̃zēət /
L
overly optimistic or pleasing.
The commentator seemed roseate as he predicted a quick end to the strike.

roseleaf

roseroot

n
/ 'rɔ̃z.rüt /
Gk > L > E + ON > E
a perennial fleshy herb whose subterranean parts have a floral odor.
Lorna planted roseroot along the sidewalk.

rosette

rosinante

rosorial

rotatable

rote

rottweiler

n
/ 'rät.wī.lə(r) /
G geog name
a dog of the breed of tall vigorous black cattle dogs having short hair, tan or brown markings, a short tail, and small drooping ears.
Sam's rottweiler was an imposing guard dog.

rotunda

roturier

rouleau

n
/ rü'lō /
F
[Note: Plural form can be pronounced identically.] a roll of coins put up in paper.
Rhea counted her dimes and found that she had enough for a rouleau.

rounce

roundabout

adj
/ 'raundəbaüt /
E + E
deviating from a straight line or course.
The storm forced the pilot to take a roundabout path.

roundlet

n
/ 'raundlät /
F > E
a 15th-century hat for men with a round padded edge and loose drapery forming the crown and hanging over the edge.
Fashionable men in the mid-15th century wore pleated, fur-trimmed tunics, fitted hose, and on their heads, the roundlet.

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roundsters

n pl
/ 'raʊn(d)ztə(r)z /
E + Ecff
the privilege in marbles of shooting from any point on the ring line.
If your shooter goes outside the ring line, you may take roundsters.

rouse

v
/ 'raʊz /
E
kindle to intensity : excite, inflame.
The producer of the documentary on poverty hopes to rouse passion among many viewers for the long term.

rousing

roussette

rout

route

routine

n
/ rʉ' tēn /
F
a standardized piece of entertainment or showmanship; specifically : a theatrical number.
An emcee introduced each routine in the variety show.

routinely

routinize

roux

n
/ 'rʉ /
F
[has homonyms: roo, rue] a mixture of flour and fat cooked sometimes until the flour browns and used to thicken soups and sauces.
After deglazing the pan with white wine, Graham added a roux made of flour and butter.

rowdyism

royale

royalty

rubble

n
/ 'rəbəl /
E
broken fragments of stone and other matter resulting from the decay or destruction of a building.
The unkempt man sitting on a pile of rubble is a reporter who is doing a feature story on the homeless.

rube

rubescence

rubicelle

Rubicon

n
/ 'rʉbəkən /
L
a bounding or limiting line; especially : one that when crossed commits a person to an irrevocable change or decision.
Alta put off choosing a college major because she felt that to do so would be crossing the Rubicon.

rubify

rubricated

v
/ 'rʉbrəkədəd /
L
provided with a heading distinguished by being done in a color (as red) different from the rest of the text or by some other device.
Mr. Byas was certain that the rubricated manuscript was written by Celia, an especially creative student.

rubrofugal

ruction

n
/ 'rəkʃən /
L?
a noisy rough-and-tumble fight.
A fierce ruction broke out in the angry crowd, and the police had to intervene.

ruddy

adj
/ 'rədə /
E
having or marked by a reddish color associated with the glow of good health or a suffusion of blood (as from exercise, excitement, exposure).
Working in the sugarcane fields has given Caleb a ruddy complexion.

rudenture

rudiments

n pl
/ 'rʉdəmənts /
L
fundamental skills taught or learned (as in an elementary school).
Reading, writing, and arithmetic are the rudiments of elementary school education.

rued

v
/ 'rʉd /
E
[has homonyms: rood, rude] felt regret for.
How many a man has committed himself on a short acquaintance and rued it all the rest of his life!
rueful
adj
/ 'rʉfəl /
E
feeling or expressing sorrow or pity : mournful.
Grandpa grew a bit rueful as he recalled the missed opportunities of his life.

rufescent

adj
/ rʉ'fesənt /
L
reddish.
Minga decided to apply more sunscreen to her shoulders when she saw how rufescent they looked.

ruffianize

ruffianly

ruffled

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rugged

adj
/ 'rʌgəd /
Scand > E
harsh, ungentle.
The welder's rugged demeanor belied his warm heart.

rumfustian

runic

adj
/ 'rʌnik /
ON&E + Ecf
relating to an alphabet of angular characters used for inscriptions and magic signs by the Germanic peoples from about the 3rd to the 13th centuries and especially by the Scandinavians and Anglo-Saxons.
Runic research in the '30s and '40s was so tainted by Nazi ideology that the information from this period is considered useless to any serious student of Teutonic lore.

rupicolous

adj
/ rʌ'pɪkələs /
L + L
living among, inhabiting, or growing on rocks.
The crayfish is a rupicolous crustacean.

rustication

rustling

n
/ 'rʌs(ə)lɪŋ /
E
[has near homonym: wrestling] the stealing of cattle.
When the sheriff was informed about the rustling, he assembled a posse to round up the thieves.

rutherford

n
/ 'rʌθə(r)fə(r)d /
E name
a unit strength of a radioactive source corresponding to 1 million disintegrations per second.
Avery could easily calculate radioactive strength to the nearest rutherford, but it was difficult for him to conceive just how fast 1 million disintegrations per second really was.

ruthful

ruthless

adj
/ 'rʌθləs /
E
merciless, pitiless.
Thomas was ruthless in the honesty with which he declared his opinions.

rutile

rutted

adj
/ 'rʌtəd /
F?
having or marked by tracks worn by a wheel or by habitual passage of anything.
He guided them along one of five narrow ledges, all of which led to a grooved and rutted plateau.

rye

sabin

n
/ 'sābən /
Am name
[Note: Alternate pronunciation has homonym: sabine.] a unit of acoustic absorption equivalent to the absorption by 1 square foot of a perfect absorber (as an open window).
In sound absorption, calculations measured by the sabin, reverberation time, and volume of the room are critical factors.

sabot

n
/ sa'bō /
F
a wooden work shoe worn in various European countries.
An ill-fitting sabot can cause painful blisters.

saccharimeter

saccharine

saccharinity

n
/ ,səkə'rinədə /
Skt > Pali > Gk > L+ Ecf
the quality or state of being sweet : sweetness.
Amy said that she couldn't finish her chocolate dessert because its saccharinity was too much for her taste.

saccharoid

sackbut

sackcloth

sacrament

sacred

adj
/ 'sākɹəd /
L
devoted exclusively to the service or use (as of a particular person, purpose, or group).
The fund organizers promised that all the monies collected would be sacred to charity.

sacrilegious

sacristan

n
/ 'sākɹəstən /
L
an officer of a church in charge of the room where the sacred utensils and vestments are kept.
The sacristan counted the communion plates at the end of the service and stacked them on a shelf.

sadiron

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sadistic

safeguard

n
/ 'sɑ:f.gɑ:rd /
F > E

a means of protection against something undesirable.
The police wore bulletproof vests as a safeguard against terrorist attacks.

saffian

saga

n
/ 'sɑ:gə /
ON

an episodic story centering about a usually heroic figure of earlier ages.
Rubin traced the motif to a 13th century Icelandic saga.

sagely

adv
/ 'sɑ:jlē /
L > F > E

in a wise or prudent manner.
Vera invested her savings sagely.

saiga

n
/ 'sɑ:gə /

Jagatai > Russ
a sheeplike antelope of Siberia and eastern Russia having ringed horns and tufts of long hair beneath the eyes and ears.
The most outstanding feature of the saiga is its swollen snout with downward-directed nostrils.

sailboat

sala

salariat

salary

n
/ 'sal(ə)rē /
L

fixed compensation paid regularly for services.
When Henrik switched over to a salary, he earned less than when he was paid by the hour.

saliferous

adj
/ sə'lif(ə)rəs /
L

producing, impregnated with, or containing salt.
The tour guide recommended that the tourists resist the urge to taste the saliferous formations in the mine.

sallow

adj
/ 'sa(,)lə /
E

of a grayish greenish yellow color suggesting sickliness—usually used of the skin or complexion.
Neil's lethargy and sallow skin alarmed his mother.

saloon

saltatory

adj
/ 'saltə.tōrē /
L

of or relating to dancing.
Tiffany, dressed in her new leotard, took a few saltatory steps around the living room.

saltcellar

saltimbocca

n
/ ,sɔltim'bä(k)kə /
It
scallops of veal prepared with sage, slices of ham, and sometimes cheese and served with a wine sauce.
Connor took a second serving of saltimbocca from the buffet.

saltire

salubrious

salutatorian

n
/ sə.lüdətōrēən /
L + Ecf
the graduating student who is usually second highest in rank and who in some institutions delivers the salutatory oration.
No one was more surprised than Sharonne when she was named salutatorian of her class.

salute

salvageable

adj
/ 'salvijəbəl /
L > F + Ecf
capable of being rescued or saved especially from wreckage or ruin.
After the tornado hit their neighborhood, the residents returned to look for anything salvageable.

samara

sameness

sanative

sanatory

sanctimony

sanctuary

sandbar

sandhi

sane

sanglier

sangria

sanicle

n
/ 'sanəkəl /
L > F > E
[has near homonyms: cenacle, cynical] any of several plants reputed to have healing powers.
A sanicle by the name of "black snakeroot" yields a drug that is used to treat St. Vitus's dance.

sanity

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

Santeria

n
/ ,sante'rēə /
AmerSp
a religion practiced originally in Cuba.
Santeria identifies Yoruba deities with Roman Catholic saints.

sapajou

n
/ 'sapə,jü /
Tupi > F
a long-tailed South American monkey with the hair on its crown resembling a monk's cowl—called also “capuchin.”
Some zoologists believe that the sapajou is the most intelligent of the New World monkeys.

sapient

sapling

saponify

v
/ sə'pänəfī /
L > F
convert (as a fat or fatty acid) into soap.
The chart indicated that 12 ounces of lye would completely saponify an ounce of the fat in question.

saponin

n
/ 'sapənən /
L > F
any of numerous glycosides that occur in many plants (as soapbark, soapwort) that are characterized by their properties of foaming in water.
The hiker found some soapbark, pounded it underwater with a rock to release the saponin, and used the resulting suds for a satisfying bath.

sapphirine

sappy

sapremia

saprogenic

saprophytic

sarcastic

sarcolysis

n
/ sär'käləsəs /
Gk
the disintegration or dissolution of muscular tissue.
Examination of the patient's heart revealed areas of advanced sarcolysis.

sarcoma

n
/ sär'kōmə /
Gk
a malignant tumor arising in connective tissue and especially in bone, cartilage, or striated muscle.
The sarcoma in Pat's arm was treated early enough to prevent serious impairment.

sarcophilous

sardonically

adv
/ sär'dänək(ə)lē /
Gk > F
in a manner characterized by derision or scorn : with an attitude disdainfully or skeptically humorous.
Nancy remarked sardonically that the best economic situation for the country would be a major war.

Sardoodledom

n
/ sär'dü'dlədəm /
F name
mechanically contrived plot structure and stereotyped or unrealistic characterization in drama : melodrama.
Excellent acting and directing masked the play's Sardoodledom.

sarrusophone

sashimi

n
/ 'säshəmə /
Jpn
raw fish served as an appetizer and usually accompanied by a condiment.
At the reception, waiters in black tie passed trays of sashimi and other hors d'oeuvres.

Sasquatch

n
/ 'sas.kwäch /
Halkomelem
a large hairy humanlike creature that is reported to exist in the northwestern United States and western Canada—called also “bigfoot.”
Periodically, someone reports that they have seen Sasquatch.

satisfactorily

satisfy

satori

n
/ sə'tōrē /
Jpn
sudden enlightenment and a state of consciousness attained by intuitive illumination representing the spiritual goal of Zen Buddhism.
The primary method of achieving satori is through the use of koans—riddles that enhance meditation.

saturator

Saturnian

n
/ sə'tərnēən /
L
a hypothetical inhabitant of the planet Saturn.
A Saturnian was the villain in Margaret's story about life in space.

saturnism

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sault

n
/ 'sü /
L > F > E
[has homonyms: Sioux, sou, sue] a fall or rapid in a river.
The canoeists, taken by surprise, barely made it through the sault.

sauna

sauntered

v
/ 'söntə(r)d /
E
walked about idly and in a leisurely manner.
Count von Saurau sauntered along the shore with not a care in the world.

saurophagous

sauterelle

savagely

adv
/ 'savijlē /
E
in a ferocious manner.
Nora struck her father savagely with her little fists.

savant

sawdust

sawyer

saxifrage

n
/ 'saksəfrɪj /
L
a member of a genus of plants with showy five-part flowers and usually with leaves growing in tufts close to the ground.
Many types of saxifrage grow well in rocky alpine soil.

saxifragous

scabbling

scabrid

scaffolding

scagliola

n
/ skal'yōlə /
Gmc > It
an imitation of ornamental marble used for floors, columns, and other ornamental interior work.
After a few years the scagliola in the hotel lobby began to look shabby.

scalable

scalare

scalariform

scald

v
/ 'sköld /
L > F > E
bring (a liquid) to a temperature just below the boiling point.
To make perfect cocoa, first scald the milk.

scalded

scalepan

scallion

scalper

scanty

scapegoat

scarabaeiform

adj
/ .skarə'bēəfōrm /
L + E
resembling a family of stout-bodied beetles of subsocial habits (as the tumblebugs).
One or more scarabaeiform beetles were regarded by the ancient Egyptians as symbolic of resurrection and immortality.

scarcely

scatheless

adj
/ 'skāthləs /
ON > E
[Note: Speller might confuse first component with scath.] being without injury or damage : unharmed.
Fortunately, the Wagner family survived the earthquake scatheless.

scattered

scavenger

scenarist

scene

scenery

schapping

schedule

schematic

schematically

schloss

n
/ 'shlɒs /
G
a German castle or manor house.
Gretchen and Anders returned to the schloss after a hard day of skiing.

schnauzer

schneider

n
/ 'shnɪdə(r) /
G
failure of the loser of a game of gin rummy to score any point.
If the loser has failed to score, the game is a shutout, or schneider, and the winner's total score is doubled.

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scholar

n
/ 'skälə(r) /
Gk
[has near homonym: sculler] one who has engaged in advanced study and acquired the minutiae of knowledge in some special field along with accuracy and skill in investigation and powers of critical analysis in interpretation of such knowledge.
Darlene's goal is to be a renowned Shakespeare scholar.

scholarship

scholastic

scholium

school

n
/ 'skül /
Gk > L > E
[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word.] a large number of one kind of fish or other aquatic animals swimming or feeding together.
A school of dolphins surfaced alongside the yacht and accompanied it for about five minutes.

schuyt

scissel

scissile

sclerodermatous

adj
/ ,sklirō'dərmədəs /
Gk + Gk
having a hard external covering (as of bony plates or horny scales).
The armadillo is a good example of a sclerodermatous animal.

scobiform

scoff

scopolamine

n
/ skə'pälə.mēn /
It name + G > ISV
an alkaloid occurring in certain plants that is used in the prevention of motion sickness.
Cindy took scopolamine before the long car trip.

scorched

scordatura

scorekeeper

scornfully

adv
/ 'skò(ə)mfälē /
Gmc > F > E + Ecff
contemptuously, disdainfully.
When Ken complained that he was too tired to continue playing, the others scornfully called him a "baby."

scorpion

scotoma

scoundrelly

scourged

v
/ 'skərjd /
L > F > E
subjected to severe criticism or satire.
Even Tom's friends found his campaign speech, which scourged the school administration, inappropriate.

scramasax

scrape

n
/ 'skrāp /
ON > E
[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word.] a bare place or hollow made by scratching or digging.
Carrie watched in awe as a doe and four baby rabbits emerged from a scrape.

scraper

scrapie

scrawl

scree

n
/ 'skrē /
Scand
a heap of stones or rocky debris lying on a slope or at the base of a cliff.
The climbing instructor cleared the slope of scree before allowing the novices to begin their ascent.

screwdriver

scribbleative

scribbled

scribe

scrimpy

adj
/ 'skrimpē /
Scand
small or barely sufficient in size or quantity.
The living room was too scrimpy for a couch.

scripophily

n
/ skri'päfələ /
L + Gk
a collection of old stock and bond certificates.
The rarest item in Jill's scripophily is a General Motors stock certificate from 1918.

scripture

scrivenery

scrobiculate

adj
/ skrō'bikyələt /
L
having numerous shallow grooves or depressions : pitted.
A golf ball is scrobiculate.

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scrofulous

adj
/ 'skrɒfjələs /
L

having a diseased run-down appearance.

The mayoral candidate promised to rehabilitate the city's scrofulous neighborhoods.

scrounge

scrubbing

scrumptiously

scruple

scrutable

scrutiny

n
/ 'skrüt(ə)nē /
L

a searching study or inquiry : investigation.

Close scrutiny revealed that the new edition of the textbook was not significantly different from the old edition.

scuba

scudded

v
/ 'skədəd /
Scand?

moved or ran swiftly especially as if driven forward.

Behind the trees, clouds scudded frantically across the sky.

scullion

n
/ 'skəlyən /
L > F > E

a kitchen helper.

Dru's first job was working as a scullion in a local restaurant.

scumble

v
/ 'skəmbəl /
D > E

soften the lines or colors of (a drawing) by rubbing lightly (as with a finger).

The art teacher showed her students how to scumble an area of canvas to achieve a softer effect.

scurried

scurviness

scutage

n
/ 'skyüdi:j /
L

a tax or fine levied against one who does not render required military service.

The young man resolved to pay the scutage rather than join the duke's army.

scuttle

Scylla

n
/ 'silə /
Gk name

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

With no good outcome possible, Chester found himself caught between Scylla and Charybdis.

scythestone

n
/ 'sɪθ.stōn /
E + E

a whetstone for sharpening a scythe.

The scythestone was cut from a fine-grained porous sandstone.

seagirt

searingly

adv
/ 'siəriŋlē /
E + Ecf

in a manner causing withering or drying.

The noonday sun blazed searingly on the withered corn.

seaweed

seaworthiness

secant

secesh

secluded

seclusive

secrecy

n
/ 'sekɾəsē /
L > E

the habit or practice of maintaining privacy or concealment.

Secrecy seems to be inherent in government administration.

secret

secretary

secrete

secretory

secretum

sect

n
/ 'sekt /
L

a group within an organized religion whose adherents recognize a special set of teachings or practices.

The Dead Sea Scrolls were written by a Jewish sect that split from the mainstream over matters of sacrifices and ritual purity.

sectator

secular

secured

sedan

sedate

sedative

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sederunt

n
/ sə'dɪrənt /
L

a prolonged sitting (as for relaxation, reading, or discussion).
The seat under the vine trellis is Mark and Linda's favorite place for an evening sederunt.

seemingly

seepage

segetal

segment

segmentate

adj
/ 'segmənt.tāt /
L

composed of constituent parts into which a body is or may be divided : section, division.
The segmentate abdomen of an insect may have as many as 11 divisions.

segno

segregable

segregate

seidel

seigneur

n
/ sən'yər /
L > F

[has near homonyms: saner, senior, senor] a lord or gentleman.
Phillip's expensive clothes and imposing personality gave him the air of a grand seigneur.

seismic

seize

seized

sejunction

selenium

n
/ sə'lēnēəm /
Gk

a nonmetallic toxic element that is related to sulfur and tellurium and resembles them chemically.
Selenium is used chiefly as a pigment and in photoelectric cells, rectifiers, and other electronic devices.

selfish

selfless

adj
/ 'selfləs /
E

having no concern for self.
Gail's selfless actions during the flood earned her the gratitude of all her neighbors.

semainier

n
/ sə'men(,)yā /
L > F

a tall chest with seven drawers for use in a bedroom or dressing room.
Sylvia purchased an antique semainier and used it for storing her hosiery and undergarments.

semantic

semanticist

semantics

n pl
/ sə'mantiks /
Gk > F

the study dealing with the relations between signs and what they refer to, the relations between the signs of a system, and human behavior in reaction to signs.
A student survey revealed that the topic of body language was the most interesting aspect of the course in semantics.

semblance

semicircle

seminar

n
/ 'semənär /
L

a group of advanced students studying a subject under a professor, each doing some original research, and all exchanging results by informal lectures, reports, and discussions.
Competition for acceptance in the spy novel seminar was intense.

semiotics

n pl
/ ,se.mē'ädiks /
Gk

a general philosophical theory of signs and symbols that deals especially with their function in both artificially constructed and natural languages.
Dr. Perry's paper on semiotics was well received at the linguistics seminar.

semitropical

adj
/ ,semē'tröpəkəl /
L + Gk > L + Ecf

of, relating to, or being the regions bordering on the tropical zone.
The Conways are planning to spend their retirement years in semitropical Florida.

sempiternal

semplice

senatorial

senescing

senility

n
/ sə'nɪlədē /
L

the loss of mental faculties associated with old age.
Grandpa Wilson's confused mental state and lapses of memory were taken to be signs of encroaching senility.

senium

sensation

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sensational

sensile

sensitometer

sensorium

sensuous

sentimentality

separability

n
/ ,sep(ə)rə'bilədē /

L
the quality or state of being capable of being detached or disassociated.
One of the most widely held religious beliefs is the separability of the soul from the body.

separation

separatory

sepiment

septennate

septic

adj
/ 'septik /

Gk
characterized by or producing bacterial decomposition.
Septic action takes place at the bottom of a septic tank.

septicennial

septifragal

Septuagint

n
/ sep't(y)üəjənt /

L
a Greek translation of the Jewish Scriptures prepared in the third and second centuries B.C. by about 70 Jewish scholars.
The Septuagint was intended to satisfy the needs of the Greek-speaking Jews of Egypt whose knowledge of Hebrew was inadequate.

septum

n
/ 'septəm /

L
the bony and cartilaginous partition between the nasal passages.
Morris complained of a sharp pain in his septum.

sequitur

n
/ 'sekwədə(r) /

L
an inference that follows from a premise.
Given that there is no water on Mars, a sequitur that can be drawn is that on Mars there is no life as we know it.

sequoia

serendipity

n
/ ,serən'dipədē /

Ar geog name
an assumed gift for finding valuable or agreeable things not sought for.
In the movie Paris When it Sizzles, Audrey Hepburn's character defines serendipity as "waking up in the morning and seeing there's a whole new day and going absolutely ape."

serenely

adv
/ sə'renlē /

L + Ecf
in a calm or peaceful manner.
The balloon ride was serenely smooth.

serenity

n
/ sə'renədē /

L
the quality or state of being calm or peaceful.
Nothing ruffled the serenity of her expression.

serial

n
/ 'sirēəl /

L
[has homonym: cereal] a motion picture or radio or television play presented in a number of successive installments or continued indefinitely.
Mom has for years been a devotee of the serial Days of Our Lives.

sericulture

n
/ 'serəkəlchə(r) /

L + E
the production of raw silk by raising silkworms.
About A.D. 550 two Persian monks smuggled silkworms out of China in their hollow bamboo canes, and sericulture was begun in Constantinople.

serious

adj
/ 'sirēəs /

L > F
[has homonyms: cereous, Cereus]
grave in disposition, appearance, or manner.
Even the perennially serious clergyman showed some lightheartedness at the church picnic.

seriously

serotonin

n
/ ,sirə'tōnən /

L + L
a brain chemical that serves as a neurotransmitter, the lack of which may cause depression.
In animal studies, scientists discovered that low serotonin levels may be associated with impulsive or risky behavior.

serpentarium

serpentine

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

serpentine

adj
/ 'sərpən.tēn /

L
winding or turning one way and another.
All the tourists love to drive down the steep serpentine street.

sertulum

n
/ 'sərchələm /

L
a collection of scientifically studied plants.
The health food experts designed a sertulum of all cruciferous vegetables.

serval

n
/ 'sərvəl /

L > Pg > F
[has homonym: servile] a long-legged African wildcat having large ears and a tawny black-spotted coat.
The serval is a nocturnal hunter, preying on birds, rodents, and hares.

servant

service

n
/ 'sərvəs /

L > F > E
[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word.] the act of putting the ball in play in any of various net or court games (as tennis).
Serena foot-faulted twice during the service.

servitor

servomotor

n
/ 'sə(r)()vō.mōdər /

L
a power-driven mechanism that supplements a primary control operated by a comparatively feeble force.
The servomotor that powers Sassan's toy robot burns out frequently.

sesame

sesamoid

adj
/ 'sesə.mōid /

Gk
of, relating to, or being a nodular mass of bone or cartilage in a tendon especially where the tendon passes over a joint or some bony prominence.
The doctor decided that the sesamoid mass was not impairing the use of Maria's elbow and did not need to be surgically removed.

sesquilateral

sessile

adj
/ 'sesəl /

L
permanently attached : not free to move about.
Sea anemones are sessile and must wait for their food to come to them.

seston

n
/ 'se.stän /

Gk > G
minute material moving in water and including both living organisms (as plankton and nekton) and nonliving matter (as plant debris or suspended soil particles).
The high concentration of seston in the lagoon gave it a cloudy appearance.

seta

n
/ 'sēdə /

L
any of numerous slender typically rigid or bristly and springy parts of animals or plants.
The microscope made each seta on the body of the caterpillar stand out.

setaceous

setigerous

setscrew

settee

settleable

settlement

settlers

n pl
/ 'sed'lə(r)z /

E
those who first move into a new region : colonists.
The settlers sat about on the wooden sidewalks in the little town and complained about the land and the weather.

several

adj
/ 'sev(ə)rəl /

L > F > E
consisting of an indefinite number more than two and fewer than many usually of the same class or group.
The grade distribution on the final exam was two A's, several B's, and one C.

severe

adj
/ sə'vi(ə)r /

L
strict or uncompromising in judgment, discipline, or government.
Archibald's temper was severe and arbitrary.

sevillana

n
/ ,sävē(l)'yänə /

Sp
the seguidilla as played or danced in Seville.
As a child, Margarita learned to dance the sevillana.

sexagenarian

sextant

n
/ 'seksənt /

L
an instrument for measuring altitudes of celestial bodies from a moving ship.
Chaucer was an expert in the use of the sextant.

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

sfumato

n
/ sfü'mä()tō /
L > It

the definition of form without abrupt outline by delicate gradation from light to shadow.

The museum guide pointed out Leonardo's use of sfumato.

shabbiness

shadowy

adj
/ 'shadəwē /

E
fleeting, imaginary, unsubstantial.
Rob awoke to see a shadowy figure recede into his closet.

shaggy

shaky

shaman

n
/ 'shämən /
Russ or Tungus
a priest-doctor who uses magic to cure the sick, to divine the hidden, and to control events that affect the welfare of the people.
The modern-day shaman is a community healer.

shamateurism

shameful

shapely

shavetail

Shavian

adj
/ 'shävēən /
Latinized E
of, relating to, or characteristic of the British writer George Bernard Shaw or his writings.
Lucinda's acting in the role of a Shavian heroine amazed her parents.

sheath

sheathing

sheepishly

sheldrake

shellacking

shepherd

shiatsu

n
/ shē'ät()sü /
Jpn
a massage with the fingers applied to those specific areas of the body used in acupuncture.

Ramona's acupuncturist recommended regular sessions of shiatsu to keep her neck muscles relaxed.

shield

shimmery

shine

v
/ 'shīn /
E
emit rays of light.
In the mountains the stars shine brighter than they ever do in the city.

Shinto

n
/ 'shin.tō /
Jpn
the indigenous religion of Japan characterized by the reverence of deified nature spirits and sprits of ancestors and its great antiquity but lack of an historical founder or organized teachings.
The sun goddess is regarded as the chief deity of Shinto.

shipmate

shipyard

shirr

shirring

n
/ 'shərɪŋ /
unknown
a decorative gathering of material as at the top of a drapery.
Rachel was happy to see that her new sewing machine had an attachment for creating shirring.

shoaly

shoddiness

shoddy

adj
/ 'shädē /
unknown
employing, consisting of, or made by hasty or unsound methods.
The nuclear reactor will be put on line despite rumors of shoddy construction.

shogi

n
/ 'shōgē /
Jpn
Japanese chess played on a board of 81 squares with 40 pieces to the set.
Alexander's grandparents like to play shogi on the handmade set they bought in Kyoto.

shogunate

shoji

n
/ 'shōjē /
Jpn
a paper screen serving as a wall, partition, or sliding door.
Teruko bought a beautifully painted shoji for her mother.

shoofly

shoplifter

shortsighted

shovel

shovellike

showery

adj
/ 'shäu(ə)rē /
E
abounding with frequent showers of rain.
November turned out to be a dismally cold and showery month.

shredder

shrewd

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

shrewish

adj
/ 'shrüish /
E

resembling or having the characteristics of an ill-tempered, scolding woman.

Because Della is naturally ill-tempered, she had no difficulty acting the part of the shrewish neighbor.

shrillness

shroff

shroud

shrubbery

n
/ 'shrəb(ə)rē /
E

a growth of low usually several-stemmed woody plants : hedge.
When the child had passed through the gate in the shrubbery, she found herself in great gardens.

shuttle

shuttlecock

n
/ 'shədʰl.käk /
E + E

a feathered object with a rounded base that is volleyed back and forth with rackets in badminton.
With a quick flick of her wrist, Jenna sent the shuttlecock flying across the net.

shyster

sialic

sialoid

adj
/ 'sīə.lóid /
Gk > L

resembling saliva.
The many snails in the garden have left a map of sialoid trails across the walkway.

siamang

n
/ 'sēə.məŋ /
Malay

a black gibbon of Sumatra that is the largest of the gibbons and has the second and third toes partially united by a web.

A remarkable feature of the siamang is its expandable throat sac that is used to produce a resonant, booming call.

siderography

sidewalk

sierra

n
/ .sē'erə /
L > Sp

a mountainous region.
Mountain goats constitute the largest animal population in the high sierra.

sieve

sigh

n
/ 'sī /
E

[has homonym: psi] a deep and prolonged audible inspiration and expiration of air especially when involuntary and expressing some emotion or feeling (as grief, yearning, weariness, or relief).
The teacher's deep sigh was a sign that she would tolerate no more nonsense.

sighingly

sight

sigillate

sigillation

sigillography

sigmatism

sigmoid

adj
/ 'sig.móid /
Gk

curved like the letter c.
The flower had a round sigmoid stem.

significance

Sikhism

n
/ 'sē.kizəm /
Skt > Hindi

a monotheistic religion of India founded about A.D. 1500 and marked by rejection of idolatry and caste.

The last month of the world religion class was devoted to Sikhism.

silo

silverite

silvicolous

simian

simianity

similiter

similitude

n
/ sə'milə.tüd /
L

a visible likeness : image, semblance.
Federal law prohibits anyone from making a copy or document that is a similitude of U.S. currency.

simoniacal

simony

n
/ 'sīmənē /

Biblical name
the buying or selling of a church office or ecclesiastical preferment.
In the late 11th century, church reformers railed against the practice of simony.

simperer

simplicity

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

simulate

v
/ 'sɪmyələt /

L
give the appearance or effect of : imitate.

Pegs in oak flooring simulate pioneer construction.

sincerely

sinewy

sinfonietta

n
/ ,sɪnfən'yedə /

It
an orchestral musical composition of less than standard length or for fewer instruments.

While the audience was returning to their seats we encouraged them with a brief sinfonietta.

singe

v
/ 'sɪnj /

E
burn (something) superficially or lightly as to remove the hair or down from (an animal or fowl) by passing over a flame.

Kate's grandmother recalled the days when her job was to singe chickens after they had been plucked.

singultus

sinister

sinistrocular

sinkhole

sinologist

siphonapterology

n
/ ,sɪfənəptə'räləjē /
Gk > L + Ecf

a branch of entomology that is concerned with fleas.
Siphonapterology has discovered that the rabbit flea and the shrew flea limit their infestation to only the one particular host species.

sippet

siren

sirenian

n
/ sɪ'rɛnɪən /

L
[has homonyms: cyrenaean, cyrenian] any of an order of aquatic herbivorous mammals including the manatee, dugong, and Steller's sea cow.

The future of the sirenian in Florida is in doubt because of the increasing boat traffic.

sish

sitcom

site

situated

sitzmark

sixsome

n
/ 'sɪks.səm /

E + E
a group of six persons.
The sixsome performed an interesting roundelay of medieval origin.

skandhas

skating

skeet

skeeter

skein

skeiner

sketch

n
/ 'skech /
It > D

a slight theatrical piece having a single scene; especially : a comic often burlesque variety act typically developed around a mishap and involving a small cast or a single performer.
The most hilarious sketch in the show was the one on a driving lesson.

skeuomorph

n
/ 'skyüə.mɔrf /

Gk
an ornament or design representing a utensil or implement.
Eve's favorite pin has a skeuomorph of a garden spade and rake.

skiagram

n
/ 'skɪə.gram /

Gk
a shadowgraph made by X rays : an X-ray photograph.
The breaks in Jody's left tibia and fibula showed up clearly in the skiagram.

skiagraphy

skiffling

skimpy

skinnery

skipjack

skirreh

skull

skycap

n
/ 'skɪ.kap /
ON > E + L > E

one who is employed to carry hand luggage at an airport.
Furley called for a skycap after he had retrieved his suitcase.

skylight

n
/ 'skɪ.lɪt /
ON > E + E

the general background of illumination of the nighttime sky that includes light from both natural and artificial forces.
The skylight was too intense in the city to see many stars.

skyscraper

slapdashery

slatterly

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

slaughter

slaughterous

adj
/ 'slɔːdərəs /
Scand > E
of, relating to, or characterized by mass killing and bloodshed.
After the slaughterous battle the remaining invaders retreated to their ships.

slavery

slavish

adj
/ 'slævɪʃ /
Slav > Gk > L > F > E
requiring hard work : laborious.
"A slavish concern for the composition of words is the sign of a bankrupt intellect," roared the Humbug.

sleeve

sleeveless

sleigh

slender

adj
/ 'slendə(r) /
E
not fleshy or large of bone.
Because Waldo had such a slender build, he never tried on anything but the slim sizes when he went clothes shopping.

slenderize

v
/ 'slendə.rɪz /
E + Ecf
make narrow in circumference or width in proportion to the length or height.
Peter used a lathe to slenderize the candlestick.

slentando

slide

slimy

adj
/ 'slɪmē /
E
of, relating to, resembling, or being slime : viscous, glutinous.
Many people mistakenly think that snakes have slimy skin.

slingshot

slippery

slithery

slope

sluggard

smalto

smaragdine

adj
/ smə'ɹægdən /
L
of or relating to emerald : yellowish green in color like an emerald.
Legend has it that Alexander the Great found a smaragdine tablet containing 13 sentences considered to be basic principles in Greek alchemy.

smarmy

smelt

smirky

smitham

smithereens

n pl
/ ,smɪθə'rɛnz /
IrGael
bits, fragments.
Elden's mother refuses to allow him to play video games in which people or things are blown to smithereens.

smock

smooth

smother

v
/ 'smʌθə(r) /
E
destroy the life of by depriving of air.
The firefighter warned that the toxic smoke in the building would smother anyone in a matter of seconds.

smudgily

smuggle

snappish

snatch

snazziness

sneakiness

sneeze

v
/ 'snēz /
E
make a sudden spasmodic expiration of breath through the nose.
Kaye refused to read magazines containing scented ads for perfumes because the strong fragrances made her sneeze.

sneezeweed

snidery

sniffle

snippet

snobbery

snooperscope

snooperly

snoove

snore

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

snort

v
/ 'snò(ə)rt /
E
force air violently through the nose with a rough harsh sound.
As many cartoons depict, the bull really does snort and paw the ground when he is angry.

snouch

snowbound

snowdrift

n
/ 'snō.drɪft /
E + E
a bank of drifted snow.
The snowdrift completely covered the fire hydrant.

snowstorm

n
/ 'snō.stò(ə)rm /
E + E
a storm of falling snow.
The overnight snowstorm caused a two-hour delay of the school's opening.

snubbed

snuffle

v
/ 'snəfəl /
E
draw in forcibly through the nostrils especially audibly and repeatedly.
A hungry dog will sometimes snuffle and gulp vigorously when fed, seeming to inhale its food.

soakage

soapbox

n
/ 'sōp.bäks /
E + Gk > L > E
an improvised platform used by a self-appointed, spontaneous, or informal orator.
Ned needed no encouragement to leap upon his soapbox and hold forth on any subject.

soapstone

soave

soberingly

sobriety

n
/ sə'brīədē /
L
the quality or state of being free from the influence of intoxicating beverages.
At times the drunkard wished he could lead a life of sobriety.

socialite

societal

adj
/ sə'sīəd'ɪl /
L > F + Ecf
of or relating to a community with common interests.
Both candidates promised to cure the most vexatious societal woes.

society

sociocracy

n
/ ,sōs(h)ē'ākɹəsē /
L + Gk
the application of scientifically determined principles promoting the interests of society as a whole.
Graham insisted that sociocracy was the answer to most of modern society's problems, while Melissa argued that increased philanthropy would accomplish more faster.

sociocrat

sociogenesis

sociologist

n
/ ,sōsē'äləjəst /
L + Gk
a specialist in the science of society, social institutions, and social relationships.
The pioneering sociologist Emile Durkheim was born in France in 1858.

sociology

Socratic

adj
/ sə'kradɪk /
Gk name
of or relating to the philosopher Socrates or his philosophy or his followers.
The Socratic method of instruction, simply put, enables the learner to express what he already knows.

sodden

sodium

soilure

soily

soiree

n
/ swä'rā /
L > F
an evening party or reception.
When the band's new album was released, the record company sponsored a soiree to celebrate the occasion.

sojourn

solar

adj
/ 'sōlər /
L
[has homonym: soler] of, derived from, or relating to the Sun and its effects especially on Earth and other celestial bodies.
A solar diagonal is an attachment for a telescope which permits observation of the Sun by discarding most of the unwanted heat and light.

solarium

sole

soleiform

soleil