

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

fidelity

n
/ fə'delədē /
L

the quality or state of being faithful or loyal (as to a person, cause, party, or nation).

When taking the oath of office, the president pledged fidelity to the Constitution.

fiduciary

adj
/ fə'd(y)üşhērē /
L

of, having to do with, or involving a confidence or trust.

Zoe acted in a fiduciary capacity during the lease negotiations.

fiefdom

n
/ 'fēfdəm /
F + E

an area over which one exercises control.

The manager's fiefdom consisted of two departments and the company newsletter.

fiendish

fierce

fiery

adj
/ 'fi(ə)rē /
E

of the color of fire : red.

Kevin knew that a photograph would not portray the fiery sunset in its full splendor.

filament

n
/ 'filəmənt /
L > F

a fine conductor that is rendered incandescent by the passage of an electric current.

Beulah could see that the filament was broken, so she replaced the bulb.

filasse

n
/ fə'las /
L > F

a vegetable fiber prepared for manufacture.

At the mill, sisal plants are processed into filasse.

filial

adj
/ 'filēəl /
L

befitting a child in relation to his or her parents.

During adolescence, many children feel uncomfortable demonstrating filial love in public.

filibuster

n
/ 'filəbəstə(r) /
F > Sp

the use of extreme delaying tactics (as speaking merely to consume time) in an attempt to prevent action by the majority in a deliberative assembly.

The Senate effectively killed the bill with a filibuster.

filoselle

finance

financier

n
/ ,finən'si(ə)r /
F

a large-scale investor.

Marv's uncle, a Boston financier, works one day a week in a soup kitchen.

finesse

finessing

v
/ fə'nesɪŋ /
L > F

bringing about or managing by adroit manipulation.

Vigor and resolution, not maneuvering and finessing, were needed to get the St. Bernard into the car.

fingent

finger

finialed

adj
/ 'finēəld /
L > F > E

provided with a capping ornament.

The lampposts and street signs were elaborately finialed with iron pineapples.

finite

adj
/ 'fi.nīt /
L > E

having clear limits.

Phoebe's creativity was bound by a finite set of resources.

firkin

n
/ 'fərkən /
D > E

a British unit of weight for butter equal to 56 pounds.

Lord Nelson wrote, "I beg that you will send us the following articles: 50 pounds loaf sugar, 1 firkin of good butter, and 2 pounds of black pepper."

firmament

n
/ 'fərməmənt /
L > E

the vault or arch of the sky : heavens.

Carmen looked to the firmament for a sign, but none was forthcoming.

firnification

n
/ ,firnfə'kāshən /
G + L > E

the process whereby snow becomes partially compacted and forms the surface part of the upper end of a glacier.

Solid ice is the end product of firnification.

fiscal

adj
/ 'fiskəl /
F > Sp

of or relating to financial matters.

Several of the president's advisors on fiscal policy are participating in the symposium.

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fissile

adj
/ 'fisəl /
L

capable of being split, cleft, or divided in the direction of the grain or along natural planes of cleavage.
The fissile quality of cedar makes it an excellent material for boxmaking.

fission

fissiparous

adj
/ fi'sipərəs /
L + L

tending to break up into parts or to disintegrate : divisive, factional.
Strong leadership is needed to keep the fissiparous tendencies of the political party in check.

fissure

n
/ 'fishə(r) /
L

[has homonym: fisher] a narrow opening, chasm, or crack of some length and considerable depth usually occurring from some breaking, rending, or parting.
A fissure ran through Irene's backyard after the earthquake.

fisticuffs

n pl
/ 'fistəkəfs /
E + E

a fight with the fists : boxing.
The two campers' friendly rivalry ended in a round of mock fisticuffs.

fixture

n
/ 'fiksçə(r) /
L

something that is attached as a permanent appendage or structural part; specifically : an electric lighting device usually ornamental and permanently mounted in place.
Mel attached a light fixture to the side of his house for protection against burglars.

flagellum

n
/ flə'jeləm /
L

a long tapering projection that is the primary organ of motion of many algae and bacteria.
The bacterium whipped its flagellum furiously.

flageolet

flagitious

flagitiously

adv
/ flə'jishəsli /
L > E

in a grossly wicked manner.
The criminal was sentenced to ten years' imprisonment for his flagitiously cruel assault.

flagon

n
/ 'flægən /
Gmc? > L > F > E

[has near homonym: flacon] a large usually metal or pottery vessel with handle and spout and often a lid used to hold liquid.
The knights passed around a flagon of ale before riding off to battle.

flail

flambeau

n
/ 'flambō /
F

a flaming torch usually made by combining thick wicks saturated with a quick-burning substance (as pitch).

A procession of skiers zigzagged down the slope, each of them bearing a flambeau.

flamboyantly

adv
/ flam'bɔi(y)əntlē /
F

in a showy and unrestrained manner.
At the pep rally the students flamboyantly demonstrated their support for the football team.

flamenco

n
/ flə'men(ə)kō /
D > Sp

[has near homonym: flamingo] a vigorous rhythmic dance of the Andalusian Gypsies.
The dancer entertained the patrons at the Spanish restaurant with a rousing flamenco.

flamingo

n
/ flə'miŋ(ə)gō /
L > OProv > Sp > Pg

[has near homonym: flamenco] any of several aquatic birds that have remarkably long legs and neck, webbed feet, and usually rosy-white plumage.
Tom and his buddies placed a giant plastic pink flamingo on the roof of the school.

flammable

adj
/ 'flaməbəl /
L

capable of being easily ignited and of burning with extreme rapidity.
Both gasoline and kerosene are flammable, but gasoline is more explosive.

flammeous

adj
/ 'flamēəs /
L

consisting of or resembling the color of flame.
Flammeous maple leaves carpeted the lawn of the inn.

flammiiferous

adj
/ fla'mif(ə)rəs /
L + Ecf

producing flame or bright with flame.
The flammiiferous volcano was an awesome spectacle to behold.

flaneur

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flange

n
/ 'flɑnj /
F? > E
a rim or edge projecting at right angles to provide a means of attachment to another part.
The plumber pointed out a chipped flange that had caused the leak.

flannel

adj
/ 'flɑnəl /
W > E
a napped cotton fabric of soft yarns.
The sleeves of his plaid flannel shirt were rolled back to the elbow.

flannelette

flaunting

v
/ 'flɔntɪŋ /
Scand?
seeking to attract attention especially by appearing or acting brash and brazen.
During the party Terry seemed to be flaunting his ability to play piano.

flautino

n
/ flau'teɪ(,)nɔ /
It
a small flute : piccolo.
Harriet plays many wind instruments, but she especially enjoys playing flautino in a baroque music group.

flaxen

fleabane

n
/ 'fle,bæn /
E + E
any of various plants of the family Compositae that are supposed to drive away fleas.
A young rabbit was hidden under a clump of fleabane.

fleeciness

fleet

n
/ 'fleɪt /
E
a number of warships under a single command : a naval force.
Naval Intelligence learned that terrorists were noting information about the movement of the fleet.

flexibility

flexuosity

flexure

n
/ 'flekʃə(r) /
L
the slight bending of an astronomical observing instrument caused by the weight of its parts.
Emily reinforced her telescope with strips of titanium to minimize flexure.

flibbertigibbet

n
/ 'flɪbə(r)d̩.ɛ.jɪbət /
E
a light-minded or silly restless person.
Mrs. French proved far less of a flibbertigibbet than the world took her to be.

flimflammer

flippant

adj
/ 'flɪpənt /
imit? + Ecf
treating or tending to treat with unsuitable levity that which is serious or to which respect is due.
The principal chastised Clyde and his friends for their flippant behavior during the memorial service.

flocculent

flokati

n
/ flɔ'kɑtē /
Gk
a hand-woven Greek wool rug with a thick shaggy pile.
Katina loves to hear the story of how her grandparents came to the United States with all their possessions wrapped in one flokati.

floppyety

adj
/ 'flɒpədeɪ /
E imit
soft and flexible.
Moira purchased her floppyety straw hat during a visit to Key West.

florid

adj
/ 'flɔrəd /
L
[has near homonym: fluoride]
flushed or tinged with red : ruddy.
Marsha's face was florid when she finished her five-mile run.

floriferous

adj
/ flɔ'rɪf(ə)rəs /
L + Ecf
bearing flowers; especially : blooming freely.
Begonias are floriferous even in the shade.

florilegium

n
/ .flɔrə'lɛjɛəm /
L
a volume or collection of brief extracts or writings : anthology.
Frank pulled a tattered florilegium from the shelf.

florisugent

adj
/ .flɔrə'sʊjənt /
L + L
sucking nectar from flowers.
The honeysuckle attracted the florisugent hummingbird.

floruit

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floscular

adj
/ 'fläskyələ(r) /
L
composed of florets.
A daisy bears floscular flower heads.

flotilla

n
/ flō'tilə /
ON > F > Sp
a small fleet or a fleet of small watercraft.
The Boy Scouts launched a flotilla of toy sailboats across the lake.

flotsam

n
/ 'flätsəm /
F > AF
wreckage of a ship or its cargo found floating on the sea.
Flotsam is part of wreckage, whereas jetsam has been deliberately cast overboard.

flourish

fluctuant

adj
/ 'fləkchəwənt /
L
moving like a wave : varying and unstable.
The fluctuant beam from Amy's flashlight resulted from weak batteries.

flue

flummery

n
/ 'fləm(ə)rē /
W
porridge made of flour or meal.
Hulbert made flummery for dessert.

fluorescent

adj
/ flū(ə)'res'nt /
L > F + L > Ecf
[has homonym: florescent]
emitting electromagnetic radiation especially in the form of visible light.
The fluorescent bulb above Gary's cubicle thrummed noisily.

fluoridation

n
/ flūrə'dāshən /
L + Ecff
the adding of a binary compound of fluorine to drinking water.
Fluoridation has been proven to deter tooth decay.

fluorocarbon

n
/ 'flū(ə)rō.kärbən /
L + L
any of a class of chemically inert compounds (as tetrafluoroethylene) composed entirely of carbon and fluorine and used chiefly as lubricants and in making resins and plastics.
Fluorocarbon is used to make the nonstick coatings for pots and pans.

fluvial

adj
/ 'flüvēəl /
L
of or relating to rivers.
A lawyer specializing in fluvial law told Emmett that he could claim possession of the newly formed island in the Rum River.

fluxion

n
/ 'fləkshən /
L
the action of flowing.
The fluxion of many liquids slows in cold weather.

fodder

n
/ 'fädə(r) /
E
something (as hay, vegetables, corn) fed to domestic animals.
Field corn makes good fodder.

fogginess

n
/ 'fögēnəs /
Scand? + Ecff
the quality or state of being covered or enveloped with vapor condensed to fine particles of water suspended in the lower atmosphere.
Severe fogginess was blamed for the ten-car pileup on the expressway.

foible

n
/ 'föibəl /
F
a minor flaw or shortcoming in personal character or behavior : failing, weakness.
Kevin's tendency to procrastinate is a foible he claims he will one day correct.

foist

v
/ 'föist /
D
force another to accept especially by stealth or deceit.
Brent knew that Karen would foist another kitten upon him if he wasn't careful.

foliaceous

foliage

n
/ 'fö(ē)ij /
F&L
the mass of leaves of a plant as produced in nature : leafage.
Tourists who come to see fall foliage at its peak are sometimes referred to as "leaf peepers."

foliiform

adj
/ 'fö(ē)ə.förm /
F
having the shape of a leaf.
In October, Rhoda and Lamar decorated the classroom windows with foliiform cutouts.

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folliculitis

n
/ fəˌlikyʊˈlɪdəs /

L
inflammation of one or more small cavities in the skin.
An ingrown hair on Bo's cheek resulted in folliculitis.

folliculose

fomentation

fontinal

adj
/ ˈfɑntˈnəl /

L
growing in or near springs.
Cottonwoods are well-known fontinal trees throughout the American Southwest.

forage

v
/ ˈfɔrɪj /
Gmc > F > E
wander or rove in search of food.
The survivors of the airplane crash on the remote mountainside decided to forage in groups of three.

foraminate

adj
/ fəˈrɑmənəɪt /
L
perforated.
Sid examined the foraminate leaf under a microscope.

foray

n
/ ˈfɔ.rā /
F > E
a raid or brief invasion.
Captain McMaster led his troops on a foray into the village.

forbearance

forceps

forecaster

n
/ ˈfɔr.kastə(r) /
E

one who predicts weather conditions on the basis of correlated meteorological observations.
When the forecaster predicted freezing rain, the highway department loaded up its trucks with sand and salt.

foreclosable

foreignness

forensic

forensics
n pl
/ fəˈren(t)sɪks /

L
the art or study of argumentative discourse.
Tara's performance in her class in forensics practically guaranteed her a spot on the debate club team.

foreordain

forestallment

forfeit

v
/ ˈfɔrfæt /
L > F > E
lose or lose the right to by some error, fault, offense, or crime.
Individuals who are convicted of a felony forfeit their right to vote.

forfeiture

forgeable

forgery

n
/ ˈfɔrj(ə)rē /
L > F > E
an act of falsely or fraudulently making or altering a document.
Lorna is charged with two counts of check forgery.

forgotten

forlorn

adj
/ fə(r)ˈlɒ(ə)rŋ /
E

sad and lonely especially by reason of emptiness or abandonment.
The forlorn widow was most appreciative of the party her neighbors held to honor her birthday.

formaldehyde

n
/ fɔrmˈaldəˌhɪd /
L + Ar > Sp > L + L + Gk
an aqueous solution that is used chiefly as a disinfectant and preservative.
The medical laboratory contained specimens preserved in formaldehyde.

formicary

n
/ ˈfɔrməˌkerē /
L
an ant hill or ant nest.
Junior made the mistake of sitting on a formicary of red ants.

formicivorous

adj
/ ˌfɔrməˈsɪv(ə)rəs /
L + Ecf + L + Ecf
feeding on ants.
Formicivorous woodpeckers spend much of their time on the ground looking for ants.

formidable

adj
/ ˈfɔ(r)mədəbəl /
L > E
tending to inspire awe or wonder usually by reason of notable size, quantity, superiority, or excellence.
Though the competition was formidable, Bernie was confident he would emerge victorious.

forsooth

adv
/ fə(r)ˈsʊθ /
E
in truth : certainly.
Forsooth, the queen was the most beautiful woman in the world.

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forsythia

n
/ fɔ(r)'sithēə /
Brit name

any plant of a small genus of ornamental shrubs that have bright yellow flowers which appear before the leaves in early spring.
The gardener planted forsythia along the entire outer edge of the yard.

fortemente

fortieth

fortissimo

adj
/ fɔ(r)'tisəmo /
L > It
very loud—used as a direction in music.
When playing the fortissimo passage of her lesson, Suzanne banged so loudly on the piano that the neighbor's dog began to bark.

fortitude

n
/ 'fɔ(r)dətɪd /
L > E
the strength or firmness of mind that enables a person to encounter danger with coolness and courage.
John Kennedy displayed exceptional fortitude after his patrol boat was attacked during World War II.

fortuitous

adj
/ fɔ(r)'tɪədəs /
L
occurring by chance without evident causal need or relation or without deliberate intention.
Their meeting was fortuitous, but Dan and Mattie believed that they had been destined to be together.

fortunate

fossil

fossilize

v
/ 'fäsəlɪz /
L > ISV
turn (as remains of organisms from past geologic eras) into a mineralized form in Earth's crust.
Since not all plant materials fossilize equally well, some plants will be preserved and others will vanish in the course of time.

fossorial

adj
/ fä'sɔrēəl /
L
adapted to digging.
Gophers are fossorial rodents having strong claws on their forelimbs.

foudroyant

fougasse

foul

adj
/ 'faʊl /
E
offensive to the senses : rotten.
The spoiled contents of the refrigerator created an extremely foul odor.

foulard

foundation

foundry

n
/ 'faʊndrē /
F
a building or establishment where metal or glass casting is carried on.
The students saw molten metal being poured into engine block molds at the foundry.

fracas

fraction

fragile

fragrant

frailty

franchise

franchisee

n
/ franchī'zē /
L > F + Ecf
one who is granted a right to operate a unit in a chain of business establishments.
The franchisee agreed to pay the franchisor an initial fee and a percentage of gross sales.

frangible

adj
/ 'franʒəbəl /
L
capable of being broken : breakable, brittle, fragile.
Road signs are designed to be frangible so that they won't severely damage cars that hit them.

frankincense

n
/ 'fræŋkən.sen(t)s /
E
a gum resin containing volatile oil.
Aunt Ruby likes to burn frankincense at Christmastime.

fraternal

fraud

n
/ 'frɔd /
L > F > E
deceit, trickery; especially : misrepresentation intended to induce another to part with something of value or to surrender a legal right.
Joel is suing his former manager for fraud and breach of contract.

fraudulent

adj
/ 'frɔjələnt /
L
characterized by or based on trickery or deceit especially when involving misrepresentation.
The manufacturer was charged with fraudulent advertising.

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fraught

adj
/ 'frɒt /
OFris? > G > D > E
burdened or menaced with.
The work of the firefighter is fraught with danger.

freckles

freight

fremitus

frenetically

adv
/ frə'nedə'k(ə)lē /
Gk > L > F > E
in a frenzied, hectic manner.
Four dancers moved frenetically around the stage.

frescade

n
/ fres'kād /
Gmc > OProv > F
a cool walk : shady place.
The landscape architect's suggestion of a long frescade under a grape arbor thrilled her client.

fresco

n
/ 'fres.kō /
Gmc > It
the art of painting on freshly spread moist lime plaster with pigments suspended in a water vehicle.
Fresco is a demanding technique because the image cannot be changed after the plaster dries.

fresnel

n
/ frā'nel /
F name
a unit of frequency equal to 1 trillion cycles per second.
A rarely used multiple of the hertz is the fresnel, which was named for the French scientist Augustin Jean Fresnel.

Freudian

adj
/ 'frɔɪdēən /
Austrian name + Ecf
of, relating to, or according with the theories of Austrian neurologist Sigmund Freud and his system of psychoanalysis.
A Freudian slip of the tongue may reveal the speaker's deep-seated concerns and reasons for action.

friable

adj
/ 'frɪəbəl /
L > F
easily crumbled, pulverized, or reduced to powder.
The sand sculpture was so friable that it crumbled in Carl's hands when he tried to pick it up.

fricassee

n
/ 'frɪkəsē /
F
a stew of meat or other foods in light or brown gravy.
Mrs. Delaney prefers to make her fricassee with chicken.

fried

adj
/ 'frɪd /
L > F > E
cooked in hot fat.
Milton's favorite meal is fried catfish and cornbread.

friend

friendliness

frieze

frigorific

adj
/ 'frɪgə'rɪfɪk /
L
causing cold.
Michael was curious about how the frigorific device for wine bottles could possibly work.

frisson

n
/ frē'sɒn /
L > F
shudder, quiver, chill; especially : a pleasurable sensation of fright or gloom : thrill.
Amy suddenly awakened from a nightmare and felt a frisson of terror.

fritillary

n
/ 'frɪd'ɪlərē /
L
any of numerous butterflies that usually are orange with black spots on the upper side of both wings and have silvery spots on the underside of the hind wings.
As Cora was tending her garden, she observed a crab spider capturing a fritillary on a flower.

frittata

n
/ frē'tɪdə /
L > It
an unfolded omelet often containing chopped vegetables or meats.
Tony's frittata was filled with seasoned asparagus tips.

frivolity

n
/ frə'vɪlədē /
L > F
the quality or state of being not serious : playfulness.
The Mardi Gras celebration was marked by boisterousness and frivolity.

frivolous

adj
/ 'frɪv(ə)ləs /
L > E
of little weight or importance.
Mr. Peterson offered only frivolous remarks at the hearing.

frolic

frolicking

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frolicsome

adj
/ 'frälík.səm /
L + Ecf

full of gaiety and mirth : playful.
Each year the Kentucky Derby attracts horse lovers who enjoy the frolicsome festivities associated with the race.

frondeur

n
/ frɔ̃ˈdœœr /
L? > F

rebel, malcontent, dissident.
The mayor's denouncement referred to Jules as a "frondeur."

frontiersman

n
/ frən'ti(ə)rmən /
F > E

a man living at the edge of known civilization.
Daniel Boone was a famous Kentucky frontiersman of the 18th century.

frontispiece

n
/ frəntə.spēs /
L > F

an illustration preceding and usually facing the title page of a book or magazine.
Morgan was hired to draw the school yearbook's frontispiece.

fronton

n
/ frəntən /
L > It > F

a court or building for the game of jai alai.
The fronton looked bigger on television than in actuality.

froufrou

n
/ frü.frü /
F imit

abundant or excessive ornamentation (as ruffles, beading, flowers) in women's clothing.
The slippers covered with froufrou had to be "for looks" only.

frugal

adj
/ 'frügəl /
L

economical in the use or expenditure of resources.
The "Golden Fleece Award" was started by Senator William Proxmire, who advocated a more frugal government.

fruition

n
/ frü'ishən /
L > F > E

the state of being real, accomplished, or complete.
The new civic center came to fruition after many years' planning and labor.

fruticetum

n
/ früdə'sēdəm /
L

a collection of shrubs grown for ornament or study.
At the botanical garden, the arboretum and fruticetum were combined under one roof.

fruticose

fuchsia

fudge

fughetta

n
/ f(y)ü'gedə /
It

a short or condensed musical piece in which one or two melodic themes are repeated by successively entering voices.
The Vienna Boys' Choir performed a fughetta in their concert at St. Paul's Cathedral.

fugitive

fugue

fuguist

n
/ 'fyügəst /
L > It

one who composes or performs fugues.
As a fuguist, Johann Sebastian Bach has never been excelled.

fulcrum

n
/ 'fülkrəm /
L

prop, support; specifically : the support about which a lever turns.
Using the edge of his plate for a fulcrum, Danny put peas on his fork and catapulted them across the cafeteria.

fulgorant

adj
/ 'fülg(y)ərənt /
L

flashing like lightning : dazzling.
Emily's fulgorant diamond brooch attracted many eyes at the dinner party.

fuliginous

adj
/ fyü'lijənəs /
L

having the color of soot : dark, dusky.
Smoke-belching factories cast a fuliginous cloud over the entire city.

fulminate

v
/ 'fülmänāt /
L

issue or send forth censures or invectives menacingly or authoritatively.
The neighbor's habit of mowing the lawn early every Sunday morning caused Dad to fulminate under his breath.

fulsome

adj
/ 'fulsəm /
E

offensive to the senses : disgusting.
The fulsome odor of a skunk drove the campers out of their tent.

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fulvous

adj
/ 'fʊlvəs /
L

dull brownish yellow.
When Mr. Brown's soybean field turned fulvous, he knew it was time to harvest.

fumigate

funambulist

n
/ fyü'nambyələst /
L

an acrobat who performs feats on a rope extended through the air at some height.
A hush came over the crowd as the funambulist balanced himself on one foot.

funeral

n
/ 'fyün(ə)rəl /
L > E

the observances held in honor of or on behalf of one who has died.
Bonnie wanted dancing at her funeral, so she arranged for a band before she died.

fungicide

n
/ 'fənjəsɪd /
L

an agent that destroys a group of lower plants including molds, rusts, mildews, mushrooms, and yeasts.
A fungicide was sprayed on the apple trees to protect the fruit.

funicular

adj
/ fyü'nikyələ(r) /
L

dependent on the tension of a cord or cable.
Too nervous to take the funicular tramway, Selena chose to drive to the top of the mountain.

furfuraceous

adj
/ fər(ɪ)ə'rāshəs /
L

consisting of or covered with flaky particles : scaly, scurfy.
The dermatologist recommended a dandruff-removing shampoo to treat Linda's furfuraceous scalp.

furibund

furlough

n
/ 'fər(ɪ)lō /
D

a leave of absence granted to a governmental or institutional employee (as a soldier, civil servant, or missionary).
While on furlough last year, the Lees raised \$10,000 for the dental clinic.

furniture

furtive

adj
/ fər'dɪv /
L

done by stealth : secret.
Wendy's furtive attempt to sneak a cookie was interrupted by the appearance of her little brother.

fuselage

n
/ 'fyüsələzh /
F

the central body portion of an airplane designed to accommodate the crew and the passengers or cargo.
Leslie pointed out the bulbous fuselage of a Boeing 747 on the tarmac.

fusillade

n
/ 'fyüsələd /
F

a number of shots fired simultaneously or in rapid succession especially with small arms : volley.
The first rank of infantrymen fired a fusillade, sank to their knees, and waited for the second rank to fire over their heads.

fusion

n
/ 'fyūzhən /
L

a merging of diverse elements into a unified whole.
The spicy pasta dish Fran ordered was a fusion of Italian and Thai cuisine.

fustian

n
/ 'fəschən /
L > F > E

pretentious writing or speech : an inflated style : bombast.
The literary journal refused to print Herman's overwrought fustian.

futilitarian

adj
/ (ɪ)fyü.tilə'terēən /
L

exhibiting or based on an attitude of uselessness.
The futilitarian worker doesn't try to improve his status because he can't see any chance of success.

gabbro

n
/ 'gɑ(ɪ)brō /
L? > It

a rock of a family of granular igneous rocks.
An outcropping of gabbro showed through the soil.

gabion

n
/ 'gɑbēən /
L > It > F

a hollow cylinder of wickerwork or strap iron like a basket without a bottom that is filled with stones and is sunk in water to form the foundation of a dam or similar structure.
With the availability of poured cement, the gabion became outmoded.

gadabout

gadgeteer

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

gaggle

n
/ 'gagəl /
E

a flock of geese especially when on the water.

The largest goose in the gaggle was soon to play an important role in the holiday dinner.

gainsay

v
/ 'gān.sā /
E

speak against : contradict.

The ruling of the umpire allowed no one to gainsay his decision.

gait

gaiter

galactic

adj
/ gə'laktik /
Gk > L

extremely great : huge.

Ralph was overwhelmed by the store's galactic profusion of merchandise.

galaxy

Galbraithian

adj
/ gal'brāthēən /
American name
of or relating to the economic theories of John Kenneth Galbraith.
The speaker at the symposium claimed that Galbraithian theories on limited growth were not sound.

galette

gallantry

galleon

n
/ 'galēən /
F > Sp
[has homonyms and near homonym: gallein, Gallian and Galium] a heavily built chiefly square-rigged sailing ship of the 15th to early 18th centuries.
Traci built a model of a Spanish galleon out of matchsticks for her history project.

gallery

n
/ 'gal(ə)rē /
geog name > L > F
a platform projecting from one or more interior walls (as of a theater) for additional accommodation (as of a part of an audience); especially : the highest of such platforms in a theater commonly having the cheapest seats.
For the opera's opening performance there wasn't a vacant seat in the entire gallery.

gallimaufry

n
/ ,galə'mófrē /
F
medley, mixture, hodgepodge, jumble.
Ever since her around-the-world trip, Lindsey uses a gallimaufry of foreign phrases when she speaks.

galling

gallinule

n
/ 'galən(y)ül /
L
any of several aquatic birds that resemble a small domestic hen in general proportions and carriage.
Mitch found an injured gallinule in the rushes near Pearson's dock.

gallipot

gallon

n
/ 'galən /
F > E
a unit of liquid capacity equal to 231 cubic inches.
Long-term blood donors tally their donations by the gallon.

galloon

n
/ gə'lün /
F
a narrow ornamental fabric used especially for trimming clothes or upholstery.
Instead of the more common lace, Ling chose a white galloon for the trim on her wedding dress.

gallop

galloping

adj
/ 'galəpiŋ /
F
marked by a bounding and fast natural three-beat gait of a horse.
A galloping horse splashed through the waves on Sunset Beach.

gallyware

galore

adj
/ gə'lō(ə)r /
IrGael
abundant, plentiful, profuse.
Edie found bargains galore at the flea market.

galosh

n
/ gə'lāsh /
F > E
a high overshoe designed to protect the shoe in wet weather or in wet areas and usually made with a rubber or water-repellent fabric.
The galosh was the first type of footwear to employ a zipper fastener.

galvanize

v
/ 'galvənīz /
It name > F
stimulate as if by the application of an electric current.
The enemy attack served to galvanize the government into immediate action.

gambado

n
/ gam'bā(,)dō /
It
a long boot or legging attached to each side of a saddle to protect the rider's feet and legs from the wet or cold.
Preparing for a ride in the rain, the horseman attached a gambado to each stirrup strap.

gambit

gamble

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gambol

v
/ 'gambəl /
GK > L > OProv > F
[has homonym: gamble] bound or spring as in dancing or play.
Susan watched the fawns gambol in the field.

gamopetalous

adj
/ ,gamə'pedʰləs /
Gk
having the corolla composed of united petals.
The flowers of the huckleberry, bluebell, and foxglove are gamopetalous.

gamut

n
/ 'gamət /
Gk > L
an entire range from one extreme to another.
The gamut of fall fashions included micro-miniskirts as well as ankle-length dresses.

ganglion

n
/ 'gæŋglēən /
Gk > L
a mass of nerve tissue containing nerve cells.
Each insect ganglion controls certain activities and is more or less independent of the others.

gangrene

n
/ 'gæŋgrēn /
Gk > L
local death of soft tissues (as from disease, injury, or infection) resulting from loss of blood supply.
The soldier knew that if gangrene set in, his wounded leg would need to be amputated.

garage

gardenesque

adj
/ ,gärd'n'esk /
Gmc > F > E + Ecf
resembling or relating to a plot of land devoted to the growing of herbs, fruits, flowers, or vegetables.
Rosita turned her balcony into a gardenesque area with vines and potted plants.

garderobe

n
/ 'gär.drøb /
F > E
a wardrobe or its contents.
The seamstress hung the completed gown in the garderobe.

gargantuan

adj
/ gär'ganch(əw)ən /
F name
of tremendous size or volume.
The seemingly gargantuan gorilla in the movie was really a four-foot-high computerized model.

garish

garlion

n
/ 'gärlyən /
E + L > F > E
a hybrid vegetable resulting from a cross between garlic and onion.
Shannon uses garlion in her spaghetti sauce.

garnishee

v
/ ,gärnä'shē /
Gmc > F > E + Ecf
take by legal writ the wages or other property of a debtor.
Norton was afraid the court would garnishee his entire salary to pay his back taxes.

garrison

garrulity

n
/ gə'rülədə /
L
the quality or state of being talkative or long-winded.
Paul talks so much that his teacher calls him a "geyser of garrulity."

garrulous

adj
/ 'garələs /
L
given to conversation : loquacious, talkative.
The old colonel turned quite garrulous when talking of war.

gasconade

v
/ ,gaskə'nād /
F name
boast or bluster especially to excess.
Mr. Clay could gasconade at such length that his listeners became bored.

gaseous

adj
/ 'gasēəs /
L
having the form of or being a fluid (as air) that has neither independent shape nor volume but tends to expand indefinitely.
The energy required to completely separate one mole of a solid ionic compound into gaseous ions is called "lattice energy."

gasification

gastric

gastriloquist

n
/ ga'striləkwəst /
Gk + L
ventriloquist.
Lanny hired a gastriloquist to entertain at Betsy's birthday party.

gastronomical

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gastronomy

n
/ gə'strɒnəmē /
Gk > F

the art or science of good eating :
epicurism.
*Chef Bernie specializes in French
gastronomy.*

gauche

adj
/ 'gɔʃ /
Gmc > F

lacking in social graces or ease,
tact, and familiarity with polite
usage.
*Gertrude was embarrassed by her
cousin's gauche behavior at the
christening.*

gaucherie

n
/ 'gɔʃəri /
Gmc > F

a tactless or awkward action; often
: a bit of social or literary crudity.
*Daphne's mom told her that using
one's dinner napkin as a
handkerchief is an unforgivable
gaucherie.*

gaufrette

n
/ gɔ'fret /
F

a wafer of crisply fried potato cut
to resemble a small waffle.
*At the summer festival the French
restaurant featured gaufrette.*

gauleiter

n
/ 'gɑ:li:də(r) /
G

a political functionary occupying a
subordinate but important position
in a totalitarian regime.
*The memoirs of the gauleiter
contained little of historical
importance.*

gauze

gazelle

n
/ gə'zel /
Ar > F

any of numerous small graceful and
swift African and Asian antelopes
noted for the luster and soft
expression of their eyes.
*The fawn and white coloration of
the gazelle serves to minimize
detection by predators.*

gazetteer

n
/ ,gəzə'ti(ə)r /
Venetian dialect > It > F
a geographical dictionary in which
names and descriptions of places
are usually given in alphabetical
order.
*Chandra consulted her gazetteer to
find the capital of Sri Lanka.*

gazpacho

n
/ gə'spɑ:(.)chɔ /
Sp

a soup made of uncooked chopped
tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers,
onion, garlic with vinegar, oil, and
condiments, and served cold.
*The restaurant was famous for its
gazpacho.*

gegenschein

n
/ 'gægən.shīn /
G

a faint elliptical nebulous light
about 20 degrees across on the
ecliptic and opposite the Sun.
*The gegenschein is lost in the light
of the Milky Way in the summer
and winter.*

gelatigenous

gelatinous

adj
/ jə'latɪnəs /
L > It > F + Ecf

resembling gelatin or jelly
especially in appearance and
consistency.
*Troy stepped on a gelatinous mass
of frog eggs.*

gendarme

n
/ 'zhændärm /
F

a continental European police
officer; especially : a French police
officer.
*The gendarme asked the victim for
a description of the mugger.*

genealogy

n
/ ,jēn'äləjē /
Gk
a study of family ancestral lines
and the methods of investigation of
them.
*Many Americans interested in
genealogy eventually come to the
National Archives in Washington,
D.C., to do research.*

general

adj
/ 'jen(ə)rəl /
L

applicable or relevant to the whole
rather than to a limited part, group,
or section.
*The spring thaw began in one or
two areas, but soon there was a
general change in temperature
throughout the country.*

generalissimo

generosity

genesis

genethliacal

genial

adj
/ 'jēnyəl /
L

marked by sympathetic
cheerfulness, warmth, and
friendliness.
*Kim's goal was to make the club
members more genial and less
cliquish.*

geniohyoid

genitive

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geniture

n
/ 'jenə.chù(ə)r /

L

nativity, birth.

The geniture of the prince was an event of national importance.

genocide

n
/ 'jenəs.ɪd /

Gk + L

the use of deliberate systematic measures calculated to bring about the extermination of a racial, political, or cultural group.

What stands between civilization and genocide is the respect for the rights and lives of all human beings.

genre

n
/ 'zhä(ə)nrə /

L > F

a category of artistic composition characterized by a particular style, form, or content.

Most of the director's work has been in the genre of science fiction.

genteel

adj
/ jen'tēl /

L > F

free from vulgarity or rudeness : marked by delicacy of manner.

Despite his genteel manner, Senator Smith could be a ruthless opponent.

gentian

gentilitial

adj
/ ,jentə'lishəl /

L + Ecf

relating or peculiar to a people or a family.

In 1917 the gentilitial name of Britain's royal family was changed to Windsor.

gentility

genuflect

v
/ 'jenyə.flekt /

L

touch the knee to the floor or ground especially in worship.

Amy asked the tour guide if everyone had to genuflect upon entering the cathedral.

geochrony

n
/ ,jē'äkronē /

Gk

a system of time divisions used in geology.

In geochrony, time is divided into eras, periods, and epochs.

geodesy

n
/ ,jē'ädəsē /

Gk

a branch of applied mathematics used to determine the exact positions and areas of large portions of Earth's surface and also the gravitational field of Earth.

An expert in geodesy, Dr. Buck determined the variation in gravity between the highest and lowest points of Earth's exposed surface.

geognosy

n
/ ,jē'ägnəsē /

Gk + Gk

a branch of geology that deals with the materials of Earth and its general exterior and interior constitution.

Hilda's research in geognosy involved classifying several kinds of minerals and recording their distribution throughout the world.

geography

n
/ ,jē'ägrəfē /

Gk

the descriptive science that deals with the surface of Earth and its features.

Chelsea was surprised by how much she learned about geography in her history class.

geometric

geosyncline

n
/ ,jē(,)ō'sɪn.klɪn /

Gk

a great downward flexure of Earth's crust.

A deep layer of sediment has accumulated in the geosyncline.

geranium

n
/ ,jə'rānēəm /

Gk > L

any of a widely distributed genus of plants having regular usually white, pink, or purple flowers.

For decoration, Anita placed a potted geranium at the side of the front door.

geriatrics

n pl
/ ,jerē'atriks /

Gk + E

a branch of medicine that deals with the problems and diseases of old age and aging people.

Marie's expertise in geriatrics made her well qualified to work in the city's Department of Aging.

germane

adj
/ ,jə(r)'mān /

L > F > E

having a close relationship : appropriate, pertinent.

Judge Beacon ruled that the plaintiff's past record was not germane to the current case.

germicide

n
/ 'jərməs.ɪd /

L > F

an agent that destroys germs (as disease germs).

Mouthwash is a common germicide.

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germinal

adj
/ 'jɜrmənəl /
L > F

being in the earliest stage of development.

Jonathan's social studies class is studying the germinal political ideas underlying our democratic government.

gerontocracy

gerrymander

v
/ 'jɛrē.mandə(r) /
American name + Gk > L
divide (an area) into political units so as to give special advantages to one group.

The governor vetoed the bill that would gerrymander a county in favor of his opponent.

gerund

n
/ 'jɛrənd /
L
the English verbal noun ending in -ing.

In the sentence "Swimming is Claudia's favorite activity," the word swimming is a gerund.

gestapo

n
/ gə'stə(,)pō /
G acronym
a secret-police organization that operates especially against persons suspected of treason or sedition and employs means held to be underhanded and terrorist.

In the novel, morality became nothing more than subservience to the dictates of the ruthless gestapo.

gesticulate

v
/ je'stikyə.lāt /
L
make gestures or motions of the body or limbs especially when speaking.
The way public figures gesticulate while talking is often fodder for comedians.

gesture

n
/ 'jes(h)chə(r) /
L
a movement usually of the body or limbs that symbolizes or emphasizes an idea, sentiment, or attitude.

When Alex made the winning touchdown, Coach Miller swung his hands up in the air as a gesture of victory.

gesundheit

interj
/ gə'zunt.hīt /
G
—used to wish good health especially to one who has just sneezed.
"Gesundheit" echoed throughout the school when Mr. Brown sneezed during an intercom announcement.

ghastliness

ghastly
adj
/ 'gastlē /
E
giving rise to terror : frightening.
The gnarled trees appeared ghastly in the moonlight.

ghetto

ghoul

ghoulish
adj
/ 'gūlish /
Ar
of, resembling, or suggestive of an evil being held to rob graves and feed on corpses.
Tricia favors rather ghoulish nail colors like green and black.

giallolino

giantesque
adj
/ ,jɪənt'esk /
Gk > L > F > E + Fcf
having the characteristics of a giant : immense.
A giantesque Snoopy balloon was the highlight of the parade.

gibberish

gibbous

adj
/ 'jɪbəʃ /
L > F > E
seen with more than half but not all of the apparent disk of a moon or a planet illuminated.
Vladimir and Sonya took a long romantic walk under the gibbous Moon.

gibleh

n
/ 'gɪblə /
Ar
a hot desert wind of northern Africa.
The gibleh brought huge clouds of powdery sand that covered the roads.

gigantesque

gigantic

adj
/ jɪ'gəntɪk /
Gk
greater in size than the usual or expected.
The American flag flying over the service station is so gigantic that it can be seen from a mile away.

gigot

n
/ 'jɪgət /
F
[has homonym: jigget] a leg (as of lamb or mutton) especially when cooked.
Marie praised the chef for cooking the gigot with exactly the right touch of garlic.

gimmick

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

gimmicky

adj

/ 'giməkē /

unknown + Ecf

having or being like a new and ingenious device, scheme, or idea with a novel or unconventional twist.

The advertisement displayed gimmicky gizmos, such as a wristwatch that played Notre Dame's fight song.

gingerbread

n

/ 'jinjə(r).bred /

F > E

a cake made with molasses, flavored with ginger, and often cut in shapes and frosted.

Pam entertained the children by helping them bake and decorate gingerbread.

gingham

n

/ 'ginəm /

Malay

a fabric in plain weave made in solid colors, checks, plaids, and stripes.

Betsy made curtains of blue gingham for her kitchen.

gingivitis

n

/ .jinjə'vīdəs /

L

inflammation of the gums.

To prevent gingivitis Beth has her teeth cleaned regularly.

ginglymus

n

/ 'jinɡlɪməs /

Gk

a hinge joint admitting of motion in one plane only.

In health class Jerry learned that the humerus and the ulna are connected by a ginglymus.

giraffe

n

/ jə'raf /

Ar > It

a large fleet African ruminant mammal that is the tallest of living quadrupeds and has a very long neck and a short coat with dark blotches separated by pale lines.

Each giraffe has a unique pattern of coat markings that distinguishes it from all other giraffes.

girandole

n

/ 'jirən.dəl /

L > It > F

a mirror having attached candle holders.

The girandole over Pete's mantel is a replica of one in a Loire Valley chateau.

girth

gizzard

n

/ 'gizə(r)d /

Iranian? > L > F > E

the muscular enlargement of the alimentary canal of birds that serves to grind the food, its muscular action being commonly assisted by gravel swallowed by the bird.

Aunt Lena's favorite part of the chicken is the gizzard.

glabrescent

glabrous

adj

/ 'glābrəs /

L

having an epidermal covering that is totally or relatively devoid of hairs or down.

Mr. Franklin showed the first graders that reptiles, unlike mammals, are completely glabrous.

glacial

adj

/ 'glāshəl /

L

extremely cold, frigid, freezing.

A glacial wind withered the roses overnight.

glacier

n

/ 'glāshə(r) /

L > F

[has near homonym: glazier] a large body of ice moving slowly down a slope or valley or spreading outward on a land surface.

The iceberg that sank Titanic had probably broken off from a glacier on Greenland.

glaciology

glacon

n

/ gla'sōn /

F

a piece of sea ice ranging in size from a small fragment to a floe of medium dimensions.

At least one seagull was perched on every glacon in the bay.

gladiator

n

/ 'gladē.ādə(r) /

Celt > L

a person engaged in a fight to the death as public entertainment for ancient Romans.

The victorious gladiator was cheered by the excited crowd in the Coliseum.

glasnost

n

/ 'gläs.nōst /

Russ

a policy permitting public discourse and expression of opinion on domestic issues formerly forbidden to discussion especially in the former Soviet Union.

Glasnost spawned a profusion of new political and literary journals in Moscow.

glasphalt

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glaucoma

n
/ glō'kōmā /
Gk > L

a disease of the eye marked by increased pressure within the eyeball that damages the optic disk and results in gradual loss of vision and ultimate blindness.
Ophthalmologists routinely test for glaucoma as part of their eye examinations.

glaucous

adj
/ 'glōkəs /
Gk

[has homonym: Glaucus] of a pale yellow green color.
The antique glass beads had a glaucous color that matched Pamela's dress exactly.

glazier

n
/ 'glāzhə(r) /
E

[has near homonyms: glacier, glazer] one whose work is cutting and setting glass.
Mom called a glazier who agreed to repair our broken window on Thursday.

glimmer

v
/ 'glimə(r) /
E

emit feeble or intermittent rays of light.
From Table Top Mountain, the couple watched the city lights glimmer in the cool clear evening air.

glimpse

n
/ 'glim(p)s /
E

a brief fleeting look : a momentary or incomplete view.
From the taxi the passengers caught a glimpse of the Jefferson Memorial.

glioma

n
/ glī'ōmā /
Gk

a tumor arising from the tissue which supports the essential elements of nervous tissue.
An examination by our veterinarian revealed that the problems our dog was having were caused by a glioma.

glissade

v
/ glə'sād /
F

move along smoothly and effortlessly : glide.
Kris watched the skaters glissade over the frozen pond.

glissando

n
/ glə'sän(,)dō /
F + It

a rapid series of consecutive notes played on a piano, harp, or other similar instrument by sliding one or more fingers across adjacent keys or strings.
Joachim diligently practiced the glissando at the end of the first movement.

glistening

v
/ 'glis'nɪŋ /
E

shining brightly usually by reflection with a sparkling radiance.
Clarabelle watched the raindrops glistening in the moonlight.

globular

adj
/ 'gläbyələ(r) /
L

round like a ball : spherical.
A globular lamp hung from the center of the ceiling in Gretchen's dining room.

globule

glockenspiel

n
/ 'gläkən.s(h)pəl /
Celt > G

a percussion musical instrument consisting of a series of graduated metal bars tuned to the chromatic scale and played with two hammers.
The glockenspiel tinkled to life as its player joined in a rendition of Beethoven's "Ode to Joy."

glogg

n
/ 'glüg /
Sw

a Swedish hot punch made from a sweetened highly spiced mixture of wines, almonds, raisins, and usually orange peel.
Each evening a bowl of hot glogg awaited the returning skiers.

glomerulus

glossary

glottogonic

adj
/ ,glädō'gänik /
Gk

of or relating to the origin of language.
Three Russian linguists lectured on their glottogonic research.

glowworm

n
/ 'glō.wərm /
E + E

any of various luminous insects with wings rudimentary or lacking.
Kyle scooped up the glowworm and put it in his collection jar.

gloxinia

n
/ gläk'sinēə /
G name

a greenhouse herb having large flowers with a turbinate calyx and irregular bell-shaped corolla; especially : a Brazilian herb that is the source of many horticultural varieties.
Charlena's gloxinia bears bright pink, trumpetlike flowers in early summer.

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glucose

n
/ 'glü.kōs /
Gk > F

the sweet colorless sugar that occurs especially in plant saps and fruits and normally in blood.

Glucose is formed from water and carbon dioxide by photosynthesis.

gluttonously

adv
/ 'glät(°)nəsle /
L > F > E

in a manner marked by excess in eating and drinking especially when habitual.

After eating gluttonously, Jack took a short nap on the couch.

glycogen

gnocchi

n pl
/ 'näke /
Gmc? > It

dumplings of a pasta often made with cheese or riced potato and served with a sauce.

Celeste ladled a cream sauce over the gnocchi before serving them.

gnome

gnomic

adj
/ 'nōmik /
Gk

[has homonym: nomic]
characterized by or expressive of moralistic wisdom especially concerning human condition or conduct.

The calendar contained 12 Norman Rockwell illustrations, each accompanied by a gnomic sentiment.

gnomon

gnotobiotic

adj
/ .nōdə(,)bi'ädik /
Gk

of, relating to, living in, or being a controlled environment containing one or a few kinds of organisms.

A good example of a planned gnotobiotic environment is the international space station.

goalie

n
/ 'gōle /
E

a player who defends the goal in various games.

Jake rifled off shot after shot on goal, but the goalie was too good.

goatee

n
/ (,)gō'tē /
E

a small trim pointed or tufted beard on a man's chin.

Sally wanted to know why she couldn't have a goatee when she grew up.

gobemouche

n
/ (,)gōb'müsh /
F + L > F

a credulous person; especially : one who believes everything heard.

Jack's brothers are always making up fantastic stories to tell him because he is such a gobemouche.

goldenrod

n
/ 'gōldən.räd /
E + E

a yellow flower with long stalks with small clusters of petals.

Many people are allergic to the goldenrod.

golem

n
/ 'gōləm /
Heb > Yiddish

an artificial figure constructed to represent a human being and endowed with life.

Some people believe that Mary Shelley based her story of Frankenstein on the ancient Jewish tradition of the golem.

gondola

gondolier

gonfalon

n
/ 'gänfə'län /
F > It

[Note: Could be confused with synonym gonfanon.] a flag that hangs from a crosspiece or frame.

As a distinguished alumnus, Walter was asked to carry the gonfalon of the College of Arts and Sciences at the graduation ceremony.

gongorism

n
/ 'gängə.rizəm /
Sp name

an excessively involved, ornate, and artificial style of writing.

In his later years, the poet lapsed into gongorism.

goosander

gorgeous

adj
/ 'gōrjəs /
F > E

characterized by brilliance or magnificence of any kind.

The parade floats were gorgeous with their array of flowers.

gorget

n
/ 'gōrjät /
F

a specially colored patch on the throat.

The woodpecker sported a broad black gorget and beautiful red and white plumage.

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gorgonize

v
/ 'gò(r)gə.nīz /

Gk name

stupefy, petrify.

The glare of Mrs. McGillicutty has the potential to gorgonize even the most arrogant student.

Gorgonzola

n
/ .gò(r)gən'zòlə /

It geog name

a blue cheese usually made of cow's milk.

Kendra crumbled some Gorgonzola on a piece of bread and toasted it.

gorilla

n
/ gə'rilə /

Gk > L

[has homonym: guerrilla] an anthropoid ape of the forest region of equatorial West Africa.

The behavior of the gorilla has been extensively studied by anthropologists and zoologists.

gorse

n
/ 'gò(ə)rs /

E

a spiny evergreen shrub : juniper.

Taryn went hiking in an area of England that is just miles and miles of wild land covered with heather and gorse.

gory

gosling

n
/ 'gäzliŋ /

E

a young goose.

Judy rescued a stray gosling from Mrs. Porter's cat.

gossamer

n
/ 'gäsəmə(r) /

E

a fine filmy substance consisting of fragments or strands of cobweb often seen floating in air in calm clear weather or caught on grass or bushes.

The dew and gossamer had dried from the grass by midmorning.

gossip

n
/ 'gäsəp /

E

rumor, report, tattle, or behind-the-scenes information especially of an intimate or personal nature.

"Turn a deaf ear to gossip," advised Mrs. Dunbar.

gouge

n
/ 'gäuĵ /

Celt > L > F > E

a chisel for scooping or cutting holes, channels, or grooves (as in wood or stone).

Adrian used a gouge to incise a leaf pattern on the bench.

gourami

n
/ gü'rämē /

Malay

any of several small brightly colored Asian fishes often kept in the tropical aquarium.

Jonathan bought a colorful gourami for his new aquarium.

gourd

gourmet

n
/ .gü(ə)r'mā /

F

a connoisseur in eating and drinking.

At the market the gourmet chose his ingredients with the greatest of care.

gout

n
/ 'gäüt /

L > F > E

a metabolic disease marked by a painful inflammation of the fibrous and ligamentous parts of the joints.

Poor old John is bedridden with the rheumatic gout in his joints.

governess

n
/ 'gəvə(r)nəs /

Gk > L > F > E

a woman entrusted with the care and supervision of a child or young person; especially : a female teacher employed in a private household.

Alice plans to enroll in a course that will enable her to be a certified governess.

gracile

gracility

n
/ gra'silədē /

L

the quality of being pleasing in movement.

David's youthful gracility was one of his chief assets as a dancer.

grackle

gradient

graffiti

grallatorial

adj
/ .gralə'tōrēəl /

L

of or belonging to the wading birds.

The horned screamer is a South American grallatorial bird with a long projection on its forehead and a shrill cry.

gramineous

adj
/ grə'minēəs /

L

[has near homonym: graminous] resembling or relating to a grass.

The vast plain is an excellent habitat for gramineous plants.

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grammar

n
/ 'gramə(r) /
Gk > L > F > E

a branch of linguistic study that deals with the classes of words, their means of indicating relation to each other, and their functions in the sentence as employed according to established usage.

Mrs. Cates makes sure that her students can define the eight parts of speech before she progresses to other aspects of grammar.

grammarian

n
/ grə'merēən /
Gk > L > F > E

a specialist in the study of what is to be preferred and what avoided in the inflections and syntax of language.

The grammarian in Johnny cringes every time he hears someone ask, "Where at?"

grammatically

gramophile

n
/ 'gramə.fil /
Gk

a lover and protector of old phonograph records.

Earl became a real gramophile after inheriting his uncle's record collection.

grandeur

n
/ 'granjə(r) /
L > F

personal greatness characterized chiefly by dignity of character, largeness of spirit, or significant scope of accomplishment.

After Katherine Graham's death, many magazines ran feature articles describing her grandeur in the world of newspapers.

grandiloquence

n
/ gran'diləkwən(t)s /
L

the use of lofty words or phrases : bombast.

Professor Simon's grandiloquence failed to impress Robbie.

grandiose

adj
/ 'grandē.ōs /
L > It > F

impressive because of uncommon largeness, scope, effect, grandeur, or majesty.

Cleo didn't want to listen to all of Nicolette's grandiose ideas for the party.

grangerize

v
/ 'grānjə.rīz /
E name + Ecf

illustrate (as a book) by inserting material (as photographs or engravings) collected from other sources.

To complete her family memoirs, Miriam will have to grangerize the book using her great-aunt's scrapbooks and artwork.

granophyre

granule

graphospasm

grapnel

graticule

n
/ 'gradə.kyül /
L

the network of lines of latitude and longitude upon which a map is drawn.

Jeff plotted a graticule before he began to draw his map of the islands.

gratinate

v
/ 'grat'n.āt /
F > Ecf

cook with a covering of buttered crumbs or grated cheese until a crust or crisp surface forms.

Mom decided to gratinate the macaroni for lunch.

gratuitous

graupele

n
/ 'gräupəl /
Slav? > G

granular snow pellets.

Peter calls graupele "tapioca snow" because of its shape and color.

gravel

graveolent

adj
/ grə'vēələnt /
L

having a rank smell.

Elaine quickly disposed of the rotten, graveolent egg.

gravitate

v
/ 'gravətāt /
L

move casually but inexorably as though under an external force.

Ellen tends to gravitate toward the shoe store in any mall.

grazioso

adv
/ ,grätsē'ō(,)sō /
L > It

graceful, smooth, or elegant in style—used as a direction in music.

Several of Mozart's piano sonatas include pieces that are played grazioso.

greffier

n
/ 'grefē.ā /
L > F

registrar, recorder.

The office of the greffier is lined with ledgers.

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gregarious

adj
/ grə'ga(a)rēəs /
L

marked by an instinctive or temperamental preference for a social rather than a solitary existence.

Because of their gregarious nature, dogs make good house pets.

grenadier

n
/ ,grɛnə'di(ə)r /
F

a soldier who carries and throws missiles consisting of a container fitted with a priming charge and a bursting charge and filled with a destructive agent (as gas, high explosive, incendiary chemicals).

The grenadier started the assault, followed immediately by the riflemen.

gressorial

adj
/ grɛ'sɔrēəl /
L

adapted for walking.
Some birds, such as the turkey, have gressorial feet.

grievance

grievous

adj
/ grēvəs /
F > E

causing, characterized by, or indicative of severe physical pain or suffering.

Jason screamed as if the scratch on his leg were a grievous wound.

grimace

n
/ 'grɪməs /
Gmc > F

a deliberate or involuntary distortion of the face expressive of some feeling (as contempt, disapprobation, complacency).

The camera caught Allie's grimace during the pep rally.

grimoire

n
/ grəm'wār /
F

a magician's manual for invoking demons and the spirits of the dead.
The witch looked in her grimoire to find a spell to change the child into a rat.

grimthorpe

v
/ 'grɪm(p).θò(ə)rp /
E name

remodel (an ancient building) without proper knowledge or care to retain its original quality and character.

Darryl is afraid the developers will grimthorpe the old mill.

griot

n
/ 'grē(.)ō /
F

any of a class of musician-entertainers of West Africa whose performances include tribal histories and genealogies.

While doing research for his book Roots, Alex Haley was stunned to meet a griot who was able to tell the story of how Haley's ancestors were captured by slavers and sent to America.

grisaille

n
/ grə'zī /
F

painting in monochrome usually in shades of gray often as decoration to simulate sculptured relief.

The old manuscript contained a grisaille of a skeleton personifying death.

grissini

gristliness

n
/ 'grɪs(ə)lɛnəs /
E

the quality or state of containing tough fiber or cartilage especially in table meats.

When Ruth noticed the gristliness of the beef, she decided to cut it up and cook it in a stew.

gristmill

grizzled

grobian

n
/ 'grɔbēən /

G name
a slovenly crude often buffoonish individual : boor, lout.

Vicki knew better than to expect Prince Charming on her blind date, but she never envisioned a grobian.

groceries

grocery

groceteria

n
/ ,grɔsə'tɪrēə /

F > E + Ecf
a self-service food store.

Patrice bought four lemons at the groceteria.

groggy

grosgrain

n
/ 'grɔgrān /
F

a firm fabric in plain weave.

The ribbon in Alta's hair was made of grosgrain.

grotesque

grovel

v
/ 'grävəl /
ON > E

creep on the earth or with the face to the ground as one's natural gait or manner of locomotion.

Jacques let his pig grovel through the forest to find truffles.

gruel

n
/ 'grüəl /
Gmc > F > E

a liquid food made by boiling a cereal (as cornmeal, oatmeal, flour) in water or milk.

Isabella and her father had a nice basin of gruel together.

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grunion

n
/ 'grʌnyən /
L > Sp

a small silver-striped fish of the California coast notable for the regularity with which it comes inshore to spawn at the time of a nearly full moon.

Jose caught a grunion with his bare hands when it came to spawn on the beach.

gruyere

guardian

n
/ 'gärdēən /
F > AF > E

one to whom a person or thing is committed for protection, security, or preservation.

Alcibiades' guardian was the famous statesman Pericles.

Guatemalan

n
/ ,gwädə'mälən /

Central American name
a native or inhabitant of Guatemala, a country in Central America.
Maria was a Guatemalan by birth, but had become a naturalized Brazilian.

guava

n
/ 'gwävə /
Arawak > Sp

the globular yellow fruit of a small shrubby tropical American tree.

A slice of guava topped off Rawonda's fruit salad.

gubernatorial

adj
/ ,gübə(r)nə'törēəl /
L + Ecf

of or relating to a governor or government.

The gubernatorial signature was required for the law to become effective.

guerdon

guernsey

n
/ 'gərnzē /

E geog name
an animal of the breed of fawn and white dairy cattle producing rich yellowish milk.

A lone guernsey grazed in the middle of the herd of black and white holsteins in Mr. Henley's pasture.

guess

v
/ 'ges /
Scand? > E

form an opinion or judgment of without knowledge.

Harvey decided to guess how much sugar to put in the pie.

guffaw

v
/ (,)gə'fò /
imit

laugh noisily or coarsely.

The comic hoped that the audience members would guffaw at his jokes, but they merely snickered.

guidon

n
/ 'gīdän /
OProv > F

a usually swallow-tailed flag borne by a military unit usually as a unit marker.

Leah was selected to carry the guidon in the ROTC parade.

guignolet

guile

guileful

adj
/ 'gīlfəl /
Gmc > F > E
characterized by cunning, deceit, or treachery.

His classmates thought Jack was guileful in paying \$12 for a \$1200 baseball card.

guillemot

guilloche

n
/ gə'lōsh /
F name?

a pattern (as on metalwork) made by interlacing curved lines.

The dense guilloche on the iron gate prevented people from reaching through to turn the inside knob.

guillotine

n
/ 'gilə'tēn /
F name

a machine for beheading by means of a heavy ax or blade that slides down in vertical guides.

The guillotine was considered a merciful means of capital punishment when it was invented.

guipure

guitar

n
/ gə'tär /
Gk > Ar > Sp > F

[Note: Could be confused with catarrh.] a flat-bodied stringed instrument with a long fretted neck and usually six strings plucked with a pick or with the fingers.

Brett's parents bought him an acoustic guitar for his 15th birthday.

gullibility

n
/ ,gələ'bilədē /
E + Ecff

the quality or state of being easily deceived.

Gertrude's gullibility made her the object of many practical jokes.

gullible

gulosity

n
/ gyü'läsədē /
L

excessive appetite : greediness.

It would be much easier for Roslyn to lose weight if she could curb her gulosity.

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gummiferous

adj
/ ˌɡʊmɪf(ə)rəs /
Egypt > Gk > L + L
producing or bearing a colloidal substance that is gelatinous when moist but hardens on drying.
A sapodilla is a gummiferous tree.

gummosis

n
/ ˌɡʊmˈoʊsəs /
L
the pathological production of sticky exudates in plants as a result of cell degeneration.
Plants afflicted with gummosis are often beset with ants.

gumption

n
/ ˈɡʌm(p)ʃən /
unknown
blended initiative, resolution, and effort.
Of all his brothers, only Grandpa had the gumption to leave the old country and come to America.

gurney

n
/ ˈɡɜrnē /
American name
a wheeled cot or stretcher.
The gurney squeaked ominously as Heywood was wheeled into the operating room.

guru

n
/ ˈɡü.rü /
Skt > Hindi
a personal religious teacher and spiritual guide in Hinduism.
Shri asked his guru whether he should undertake a pilgrimage.

gustatory

adj
/ ˈɡəstə.tōrē /
L + Ecf
of, relating to, affecting, or associated with the sense of taste.
Gaylord was hired as a food taster because of his highly refined gustatory skills.

guttural

adj
/ ˈɡʊdərəl /
L > F
being or belonging to a speech sound that is articulated in the throat.
Guttural consonants posed a problem for Emily in German class.

gutturalize

v
/ ˈɡʊdərəlɪz /
L + Ecf
pronounce or utter with sounds articulated in the throat.
Because of her German background, Ursula has a tendency to gutturalize certain words.

gymkhana

n
/ ʃɪmˈkänə /
Per&Gk > Hindi
a horseback-riding meet featuring games and novelty contests.
Clem practiced daily with his horse so that he could enter several events in the upcoming gymkhana.

gymnasium

gynarchy

n
/ ˈʃɪ.närkē /
Gk
government by women.
Although it has had a few male officers, Reta's investment club has always been a gynarchy.

gypsum

n
/ ˈʃɪpsəm /
Sem > Gk > L
plasterboard.
Kiki nailed a sheet of gypsum to the garage wall.

gyrate

v
/ ˈʃɪ.rāt /
Gk > L
turn or swing back and forth often rapidly with or as if with a circular or spiral motion.
Couples on the dance floor started to gyrate as a new song began.

gyrations

gyroscope

gyroscopic

haberdasher

n
/ ˈhæbə(r).dashə(r) /
AF > E
a dealer in men's furnishings (as shirts, ties, hats).
Another upscale haberdasher has opened a shop on Brighton Street.

habiliment

habiliments

n pl
/ həˈbɪləmən(t)s /
F
clothing suited to or characteristic of a calling, occupation, or profession : garb, costume.
Burt dressed for the rodeo in the habiliments of a cowboy.

habilitate

habitat

n
/ ˈhæbətət /
L
the place where a plant or animal species naturally lives and grows.
The government appropriated money to preserve the natural habitat of the endangered species.

habitual

adj
/ həˈbɪtʃ(ə)wəl /
L
established by or repeated by force of a developed mode of behavior that has become nearly or completely involuntary.
Brian had to explain his habitual tardiness to the assistant principal.

hacienda

n
/ ˌ(h)äsēˈendə /
L > Sp
the main building of a farm or ranch.
A winding, tree-lined driveway led to the hacienda.

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hackamore

n
/ 'hakə.mō(ə)r /
Ar > Sp
a bridle that consists of a halter often of soft rope or braided horsehair and is used especially in breaking and training horses.
Charlene pulled back on the hackamore and cried "Whoa!"

hacked

hackneyed

adj
/ 'haknēd /
E geog name
commonplace : trite.
The marketing adjective extreme will soon be as hackneyed as super and ultra.

haggard

adj
/ 'hagə(r)d /
F
having a worn or emaciated appearance caused by suffering, anxiety, or age.
Ever since she last saw him in the courtroom, Frank's haggard face and wild eyes had haunted her.

haggis

n
/ 'hagəs /
E
a pudding especially popular in Scotland made of the heart, liver, and lungs of a sheep or a calf minced with suet, onions, oatmeal, and seasonings and boiled in the stomach of the animal.
Haggis is often served on January 25, the birthday of the Scottish poet Robert Burns.

hagiocracy

hagiography

haiku

n
/ 'hī.kū /
Jpn
an unrhymed verse form of Japanese origin having three lines containing usually five, seven, and five syllables, respectively.
Compressing an image or idea into only 17 syllables is what makes a haiku most challenging to compose.

halberdier

halcyon

adj
/ 'halsēən /
Gk > L > E
pleasingly or idyllically calm or peaceful : serene.
Aaron spent the halcyon afternoon in his hammock.

halibut

n
/ 'haləbət /
E
the largest of the flatfishes, being an inhabitant of all northern seas.
At the aquarium, Ernie saw a halibut the size of a sleeping bag.

halieutics

n pl
/ ,halē'(y)üdiks /
Gk
the art or practice of fishing.
Izaak Walton's The Compleat Angler is the most famous book on halieutics.

halitosis

n
/ ,halə'tōsəs /
L
a condition of having bad breath.
The new mouthwash is advertised to cure halitosis.

hallucination

n
/ hə'lūs'n'āshən /
L
perception of objects with no reality.
Maynard swears that the ghost he saw was no hallucination.

hallucinogen

n
/ hə'lūs'n'jən /
L + Gk
a substance that induces perceptions of objects with no reality; especially : one taken orally.
The medicine that the doctors prescribed was an effective pain killer, but in larger doses it sometimes became a frightening hallucinogen.

halophyte

n
/ 'halə.fīt /
Gk + Gk
a plant that grows naturally in soils having a high content of various salts.
Australian aborigines grind into flour the seeds of a halophyte that grows in the coastal mud flats.

hamadryad

n
/ ,hamə'drī.ad /
Gk > L
a nymph of trees and woods; especially : a nymph whose life begins and ends with that of a particular tree.
Darcy sat on a bench in the arboretum and imagined she was a hamadryad.

hamartia

n
/ ,hämär'tēə /
Gk
a defect of character : error, guilt, or sin especially of the tragic hero in a literary work.
Overweening ambition proved to be Macbeth's hamartia.

hamate

adj
/ 'hāmāt /
L
hooked.
Elliott examined the hamate hairs on the insect's forelegs.

hammering

hammock

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hamulus

handleable

handwrought

adj
/ 'hand.rɒt /

E
fashioned by hand or chiefly by hand processes.
Barbie found a handwrought trivet at the garage sale.

hansom

n
/ 'han(t)səm /
E name

[has homonym: handsome] a light two-wheeled covered carriage with the driver's seat elevated behind and with the reins passed over the top.
Holmes and Watson jumped into a hansom and ordered the driver to follow discreetly the cab ahead.

haphazard

adj
/ hap'hazə(r)d /
ON > E + Ar > F > E
aimless, random.

The apartment's haphazard furniture arrangement made it look untidy.

hapless

adj
/ 'hapləs /
ON > E + Ecf

marked by the absence of good luck : unfortunate.
The hapless students were caught between the school district and the striking teachers.

haplology

n
/ hə'plələjē /
Gk

contraction of a word by the omission of one or more similar sounds or syllables in pronunciation.
The use of "proibly" instead of probably in hasty speech is an example of haplology.

happiness

harangue

n
/ hə'raŋ /
Gmc? > It > F > E
a bombastic, ranting speech.
Amasa's harangue at the sophomore assembly offended nearly everyone.

harass

harassed

adj
/ hə'rast /
Gmc > F
sorely troubled, vexed, or burdened : badgered.
The harassed waitress decided she had tolerated inconsiderate customers long enough and found a different line of work.

harbinger

n
/ 'hərbənjər /
Gmc > F > E
something that presages or foreshadows what is to come.
The howling wind was the harbinger of a storm.

hardiness

n
/ 'hɑrdənəs /
E
the capability of endurance or resistance.
The rose's hardiness was severely tested by a cold snap.

hare

n
/ 'ha(a)(ə)r /
E
[has homonym: hair] any of various timid long-eared gnawing mammals with a divided upper lip, long strong hind legs adapted to leaping, and a short tail.
Most schoolchildren have heard the story of the tortoise and the hare.

haricot

n
/ 'harəkō /
F
the ripe seed or the unripe pod of any of several beans used as a vegetable.
The baby nibbled on a haricot and wrinkled her nose.

Harlequin

adj
/ 'hɑrlək(w)ən /
E > F > It > F
a stock character in comedy and pantomime who appears variously as a clown and a magician and usually wears a mask and variegated tights and carries a wooden sword.
The children especially enjoyed the buffoonish antics of the Harlequin.

harmonica

harmoniously

adv
/ 'hɑr'mōnēəslē /
Gk
in a manner marked by accord in sentiment or action : compatibly.
For a large family to live harmoniously, rules and chores are a must.

harness

n
/ 'hɑrnəs /
ON > F > E
the gear or tackle other than a yoke of a draft animal such as a horse.
The horse pulling the carriage through Central Park had silver bells on its harness that jingled whenever the driver shook the reins.

harpoon

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harpsichord

n
/ 'härpsəkörd /
L > It

a keyboard instrument resembling the grand piano in shape and producing tones by the plucking of wire strings with quills or leather points.
Kristin heard the jangling tones of the harpsichord through the practice room door.

harridan

n
/ 'harədən /
F?

a haggard old woman.
Ruth asked a woman in the town square if she could take her picture, but the harridan just shook her fist at her and walked away.

harrier

harrumph

v
/ hə'rəm(p)f /
imit

make a pompous throat-clearing sound.
Monique wished that Mr. Nickels wouldn't harrumph directly into the microphone.

hartal

n
/ här'täl /
Hindi

concerted cessation of work and business especially as a protest against a political situation.
The Goa liberation committee called a hartal on Friday in memory of Indians killed by Portuguese fire on Monday.

hartebeest

n
/ 'härðə.bēst /
D > Afrikaans

a large African antelope with short ringed divergent horns.
The hartebeest grazes mainly on the open plains and scrublands of sub-Saharan Africa.

hassock

n
/ 'hasək /
E

a bulky upholstered footstool.
Phyllis decided to purchase the wing chair with the matching hassock.

hatchet

hauberk

n
/ 'hò(,)bærk /
Gmc > F > E

a long tunic of ring or chain mail that with a close-fitting helmet and a shield constituted the main defensive armor of the 12th to 14th centuries.
Most of the Norman soldiers wore a hauberk, which was put on over the head.

haughtily

adv
/ 'hòd'lē /
L > F > E

in a disdainfully proud or overbearing manner.
Gertrude haughtily replied that she receives an allowance of 20 dollars per week.

haulage

n
/ 'hòlij /
Gmc > F > E

a charge made for transporting something.
Paul's final bill for his new car included haulage for transportation from the factory to the dealer.

haunted

adj
/ 'hòntəd /
Gmc > F > E

inhabited by or as if by apparitions : frequented by ghosts.
The deserted Victorian house outside town is said to be haunted.

hauteur

n
/ hó'tər /
F

[has near homonyms: auteur and hotter] an assumption of superiority : arrogant or condescending manner.
The young couple was put off by the waiter's hauteur.

haversack

havoc

n
/ 'havək /
Gmc > F > AF > E

wide and general damage or destruction.
The havoc created by the hurricane made the area look like a war zone.

hazardous

adj
/ 'hazə(r)dəs /
Ar > F > E

exposed or exposing one to danger or peril.
The mountain road has many hazardous curves.

headache

healthy

adj
/ 'helthē /
E

free from disease : functioning properly and normally in its vital functions.
A perfectly healthy tree in Tammy's backyard was twisted and torn out of the ground by the tornado.

hearsay

n
/ 'hi(ə)r.sā /
E

something heard from another : report, rumor.
Jody's elaborate account of the argument was based purely on hearsay.

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

hearth

n
/ 'hɑ:θ /
E

a brick, stone, or cement area of floor in front of a fireplace.
Toby placed a plate of cookies and a glass of milk on the hearth for Santa.

heathen

n
/ 'heθən /
E

a person whose culture or enlightenment is of an inferior grade.
Embarrassed by her brother's behavior in front of her friends, Simone asked her mother to send the little heathen outside.

heather

n
/ 'heθə(r) /
E

a common evergreen low-growing shrubby plant that has racemes of tiny usually purplish pink flowers.
The true heather of Scotland is also called "ling" or "common heath."

heaume

n
/ 'hōm /
F

[has homonym: home] a large helmet chiefly of the 13th century worn over a hood of mail or close-fitting steel cap and supported by the shoulders rather than the head.
Each knight wore a heaume and carried a lance in the tournament.

hebdomad

n
/ 'hebdə.məd /
Gk

a group of seven.
Though some people think there is just a hebdomad of stars in the Pleiades, there are actually many more.

hebetate

v
/ 'heβətət /
L

blunt the sensitivity or keenness of : make dull or obtuse.
Some parents fear that video games hebetate young minds.

hebetude

heckelphone

hectare

n
/ 'hek.tə(a)(ə)r /
Gk > F + L > F

a metric unit of area equal to 10,000 square meters.
The firefighters reported that more than a hectare of land was on fire.

hedgehog

n
/ 'hej.hòg /
E

any of several Old World nocturnal spine-bearing mammals.
Prudence spotted a hedgehog in the strawberry patch.

hedgingly

hedonism

n
/ 'hed'n.izəm /
Gk

a way of life based on or suggesting the principle that pleasure or happiness is the sole or chief good in life.
When André turned 30, he renounced his youthful hedonism.

hegemony

n
/ hə'jemənē /
Gk

preponderant influence or authority (as of a government or state) : leadership, dominance.
Nazi Germany attempted world hegemony and failed.

heifer

n
/ 'hefə(r) /
E

a young cow.
This year's blue-ribbon heifer belongs to Mrs. Cates.

heinous

heinousness

n
/ 'hānəs'nəs /
Gmc > F > E + Ecf
the quality or state of being hatefully or shockingly evil.
Even the police were appalled by the heinousness of the crime.

heiress

n
/ 'erəs /
L > F > E
[has near homonym: eros] a female who inherits or is entitled to inherit great wealth.
Antoine dreamed that he married an heiress and moved to an island.

heirloom

heldentenor

heleoplankton

n
/ .helē(,)ō'pləŋktən /
Gk
plankton typical of small bodies of still fresh water.
Dozens of species gathered at the south end of the lake to feed on heleoplankton.

helicon

helicopter

heliography

heliolatry

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heliophobic

adj
/ hēlē'afəbəs /
Gk + Gk + Ecf
avoiding the sun : shade-loving.
Jackie planted ferns, hostas, and other heliophobic plants in her shady garden.

heliotrope

helium

helmeted

helotry

n
/ 'helətrē /
Gk > L + Ecf
the slaves or serfs of a country or an estate.
In ancient Sparta the helotry was required to serve in the army.

hematogenous

adj
/ hēmə'tājənəs /
Gk
spread by way of the blood stream.
Andrea was treated with antibiotics to prevent any hematogenous infection.

hematoma

n
/ hēmə'tōmə /
Gk > L
a tumor or swelling containing blood.
A hematoma can result from various types of blunt trauma to the head.

hemeralopia

n
/ hēmərə'lōpēə /
Gk
a defect of vision characterized by reduced visual capacity in bright lights.
A deficiency of vitamin A can lead to hemeralopia.

hemisphere

n
/ 'hemə'sfī(ə)r /
Gk
a half of the celestial sphere.
Vince's star chart depicts all visible heavenly objects in the hemisphere.

hemophiliac

n
/ hēmə'filē.ak /
Gk
one affected with a tendency to uncontrolled bleeding.
A hemophiliac must take care to avoid even minor cuts and bruises.

hemorrhage

hemorrhagic

hendiadys

n
/ hen'diədəs /
Gk
the expression of an idea by two nouns connected by and instead of by a noun and an adjective.
Thierry used the hendiadys iron and bit to denote an iron bit.

henna

n
/ 'henə /
Ar
a reddish brown dye used in tinting the hair, skin, or nails red.
The ancient use of henna is confirmed by the presence of the dye in Egyptian mummies.

hennin

n
/ 'henən /
F
a high cone-shaped headdress usually with a thin veil pendent from the top worn by European women in the 15th century.
Lady Agnes appeared at the king's ball wearing an elegant hennin.

hepatitis

n
/ hepə'tidəs /
Gk > L
inflammation of the liver.
Serum hepatitis can be transmitted through blood transfusions and unsterilized hypodermic needles.

heptarchy

herbaceous

adj
/ (h)ər'bāshəs /
L
of, relating to, or having the characteristics of a nonwoody plant.
Monique surrounded her patio with herbaceous perennials.

herbalist

n
/ '(h)ərbələst /
L + Ecff
one that collects, grows, or deals in medicinal plants.
Lisa consulted an herbalist regarding her wart.

herbarium

n
/ (h)ər'ba(a)rēəm /
L
a room, building, or institution housing a collection of dried plant specimens.
Jackson was looking forward to visiting the herbarium while on vacation.

hercogamy

Herculean

adj
/ hək'yə'lēən /
Gk name > L
of heroic proportions.
Jim's competitor was known for his Herculean frame and great strength.

hereditary

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heresy

n
/ 'herəsē /
Gk
dissent from a dominant theory or opinion in any field.
Much of what used to be considered scientific heresy is now regarded as truth.

heretical

adj
/ hə'redəkəl /
L
of, relating to, or characterized by departure from accepted beliefs or standards : unorthodox.
A free society allows the expression of all opinions, however heretical they may seem.

heritage

hermeneutics

n pl
/ .hərmə'n(y)üdiks /
Gk
the study of the general principles of biblical interpretation.
Experts in hermeneutics met to discuss the Dead Sea scrolls.

hermetically

adv
/ hə(r)'medək(ə)lē /
Gk + Eeff
in a manner that prevents entry or change.
With its flowered wallpaper and quaint furniture, the old house looked as though it had been hermetically sealed sometime in the 1880s.

hermit

hermitage

n
/ 'hərmədij /
Gk + L > F
a secluded residence or private retreat.
Dave's father has always dreamed of living in the city during the week and escaping to some country hermitage on the weekends.

heroic

adj
/ hə'rōik /
Gk > L
arising from, exhibiting, or suggestive of boldness, spirit, or daring.
The mountain climbers made a heroic effort to reach the peak.

heroine

n
/ 'herəwən /
Gk > L
[has homonym: heroin] the principal female character in a drama, novel, story, or narrative poem.
In the melodrama the spunky heroine took the law into her own hands and brought down the villain.

herpetology

n
/ .hərpə'täləjē /
Gk > L
a branch of the science of animal life that treats of reptiles and amphibians.
Jason studied herpetology to learn about the habits of cold-blooded creatures.

herring

herringbone

n
/ 'herɪnbōn /
E
a pattern (as on a fabric) made up of adjacent rows of parallel lines where any two adjacent rows slope slightly in reverse directions.
Dina wove herself a new wool scarf in herringbone.

hesitancy

hesitant

adj
/ 'hezədənt /
L
tending to hold back, pause, or falter.
The toddler took hesitant steps toward the large dog.

hesthogenous

heteroclite

heterodox

adj
/ 'hedərə.däks /
Gk
differing from an established religious point of view.
Father O'Driscoll holds a few heterodox opinions that astonish his parish.

heterogeneous

heterophemy

n
/ 'hedərə.fēmē /
Gk + Gk
unconscious use of words other than those intended.
When his client used the term debtor to mean "creditor," the accountant corrected the heterophemy.

heuristic

adj
/ '(h)yü.ristik /
Gk
of or relating to exploratory problem-solving techniques that utilize self-educating strategies to improve performance.
The computer that beat Gary Kasparov in the chess tournament was programmed to use heuristic methods.

hexamethyl

hibachi

n
/ hē'bächē /
Jpn
a charcoal brazier.
Antoni's hot dog fell through the grill of the hibachi onto the glowing coals below.

hibernal

adj
/ hī'bərnəl /
L
of or relating to winter : wintry.
Horace admired the hibernal scene depicted in the painting.

hibernate

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hibiscus

n
/ hɪˈbɪskəs /
L

any plant or flower of a large widely distributed genus of herbs, shrubs, or small trees with dentate or lobed leaves and large showy flowers.
Darla planted a hibiscus outside her bedroom window.

hickory

n
/ ˈhɪk(ə)rē /

Virginia word
any of a genus of North American trees of the walnut family that produce a hard nut.
Sophie napped in the shade of the tall hickory.

hideous

adj
/ ˈhɪdēəs /
F > E

offensive to the sight : gruesome, ugly.
During the thunderstorm, Ernie saw a hideous face at the window.

hiemal

adj
/ ˈhɪəməl /
L

of or relating to winter : wintry.
Inger's favorite hiemal activity is skiing.

hierarchy

n
/ ˈhɪərəkē /
Gk > L > F > E

a form of government administered by an authoritarian group.
Michelle's study of hierarchy made her appreciate living in the United States.

hieroglyph

n
/ ˈhɪ(ə)rəˌglɪf /
Gk

a character used in a system of writing mainly in pictorial characters.
The Egyptian hieroglyph for the word king was a royal head complete with beard.

hieroglyphics

n pl
/ ˈhɪ(ə)rəˈglɪfɪks /
Gk

characters in the ancient Egyptian writing system which are for the most part recognizable pictures of objects.
Egyptian hieroglyphics remained a mystery until the Rosetta Stone provided the key to deciphering them.

hierophant

n
/ ˈhɪ(ə)rəˌfənt /
Gk

a priest in ancient Greece.
The hierophant portrayed in Tim's history book was dressed in an animal skin and wore a crown of leaves.

hilarious

Himalayan

n
/ ˌhɪməˈlɑːən /
Asian geog name
any of a breed of domestic cats developed by crossing the Persian and Siamese.
A Himalayan won "Best of Show" in the local cat competition this winter.

hinge

n
/ ˈhɪnj /
E
a jointed or flexible device on which a door, lid, or other swinging part turns.
The hinge stopped creaking after Tony oiled it.

hippocampus

n
/ ˌhɪpəˈkæmpəs /
Gk
a curved elongated ridge extending over the lateral ventricles of the brain.
Injury to the hippocampus often results in emotional impairment.

hippodrome

n
/ ˈhɪpəˌdrɒm /
Gk > L > F
an arena for equestrian performances.
The circus horses performed for the spectators in the hippodrome.

hippogriff

n
/ ˈhɪpəˌgrɪf /
Gk > L > It > F
[Note: Could be confused with hippogriffin.] a legendary animal having the foreparts of a winged griffin and the body and hindquarters of a horse.
The Gothic cathedral contained many strange carvings, including a hippogriff and several gargoyles.

hippopotamian

adj
/ ˌhɪ(,)pɒpəˈtɑːmēən /
Gk > L + Ecf
unwieldy because of massive size.
Uncle Lon's hippopotamian armchair takes up half the living room.

hippopotamus

n
/ ˌhɪpəˈpɑːdəməs /
Gk
any of various large herbivorous four-toed chiefly aquatic mammals with an extremely large head and mouth, bare and very thick skin, and short legs.
The hippopotamus spends most of the day in water because in the warm, dry air it loses water through its skin.

hippotigrine

adj
/ ˌhɪpəˈtɪgrən /
Gk + Gk
of or relating to the zebra.
The city zoo has a special exhibit on the hippotigrine environment.

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hircine

adj
/ 'hɜr.sɪn /
L

of, relating to, or resembling a goat; especially : resembling a goat in smell.

After the week-long camping trip, the Flidre family was relieved to get out of their hircine clothes and into the shower.

hirsute

hirundine

adj
/ hɪ'rʌndɪn /
L

of, relating to, or resembling the swallow.

The hirundine population in near-equatorial countries rises sharply when autumn returns to the northern hemisphere.

histrionic

histrionics

n pl
/ 'hɪstrɪ'ɒnɪks /
L

theatrical performances.

Teresa loved the theater from an early age and excelled in histrionics while in school.

hitchhike

hoarseness

n
/ 'hɔ(ə)rnsnəs /
E

the quality or state of having a rough-sounding voice.

Paul's remedy for hoarseness is hot water with lemon.

hoax

n
/ 'hɔks /
unknown

[has homonym: hokes] an act intended to trick or dupe : a piece of trickery.

Sarah forwarded the e-mail message, unaware she was participating in a hoax.

hoboism

hoeing

hoist

v
/ 'hɔɪst /

imit D or G

raise, lift, elevate.

Manuel decided to use a crane to hoist the stone into place.

hokku

n
/ 'hɒ(ɪ)kʊ /
Jpn

a fixed lyric form of Japanese origin having three short unrhymed lines of five, seven, and five syllables and being typically epigrammatic or suggestive.

Haiku, the most familiar form of hokku, pertains to the seasons.

holard

holiness

hollandaise

hollyhock

holocaust

n
/ 'hɒləkɒst /
Gk

a complete or thorough sacrifice or destruction especially by fire.

Many lives were lost in the hotel holocaust.

holograph

n
/ 'hɒləgrɒf /
Gk

a document (as a letter, deed, or will) wholly in the handwriting of the person from whom it proceeds and whose act it purports to be.

Amongst the early wills of Middlesex County, Roberta found many a fascinating holograph.

homburg

n
/ 'hɒmbɜrg /
G

a man's hat of smooth-finished felt with a stiff curled brim and a high tapered crown creased lengthwise.

The villain in the movie wore a dark suit and a black homburg.

homely

adj
/ 'hɒmlē /
E

commonplace, familiar.

Mr. Mann can translate the most complex issue into homely terms.

homeostasis

n
/ ,hɒmē'ɒstāsəs /
Gk

a tendency toward maintenance of a relatively stable internal environment in the bodies of higher animals through a series of interacting physiological processes.

Panting is the primary means of achieving homeostasis for dogs.

homespun

homestead

n
/ 'hɒmz.ted /
E + E

the home and land of a family; especially : ancestral home.

The city offered reduced property taxes on any homestead occupied by the legal owner.

homily

n
/ 'hɒməlē /
Gk

a lecture or discussion on a moral theme : admonition.

At the baccalaureate service, Mr. Lopez gave a brief homily on the theme "To thine own self be true."

hominyl

homogenized

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homologate

v
/ hō'mäləgāt /
Gk
approve, allow, confirm.
The fact that the Joneses do not appeal the court's decision does not mean they homologate it.

homologous

homonym

homophonous

honorific

n
/ äänə'rifik /
L
conferring or conveying public esteem.
Dr. Ellerman received an honorific wreath at the banquet.

hoochinoo

hoodwink

hooligan

n
/ 'hüləgən /
Ir name?
thug, hoodlum.
After an intense interrogation by detectives, the hooligan finally broke down and confessed.

horde

n
/ 'hō(ə)rd /
Mongolic > Pol > G&F
[has homonym: hoard] a vast number : crowd, swarm.
To prepare for the horde of tourists, the police department is using computer modeling to aid in logistics.

horizon

n
/ hə'rīz'n /
Gk > L > E
the point where the earth appears to meet the sky.
Stan thought he saw an airplane on the horizon.

horizontal

adj
/ hōrə'zänt'l /
L + Ecf
placed or operating in a plane parallel to the horizon.
Lori wore a sweater with red and blue horizontal stripes.

hormone

horologium

n
/ hōrə'lōj(ē)əm /
L
an instrument (as a clock) for measuring time.
A sundial was the ancient Egyptians' horologium.

horrendous

horripilation

n
/ hō.rīpə'lāshən /
L
a bristling of the hair of the head or body (as from disease, terror, or chilliness) : gooseflesh.
Jennifer reacted to the movie's scary scenes with noticeable horripilation.

hortative

adj
/ 'hō(r)dədiv /
L
giving persuasive counsel : advisory, urging strongly.
Joe's hortative letter to the editor of the newspaper persuaded many citizens to contact their representatives regarding the proposed budget.

horticulture

n
/ 'hō(r)də.kəlchə(r) /
L
the science and art of growing fruits, vegetables, flowers, or ornamental plants.
Mr. Sakai's skill in horticulture has won him many blue ribbons at garden shows.

hosanna

n
/ hō'zanə /
Heb > Gk > L > E
an expression of enthusiastic praise : acclamation.
Mr. Wong greeted Katya with a loud hosanna.

hosiery

n
/ 'hōzh(ə)rē /
E + Ecff
stockings, socks.
Mrs. Desmond prefers silk hosiery to that made of nylon.

hospice

n
/ 'hāspəs /
L
a facility or program designed to provide a caring environment for supplying the physical and emotional needs of the terminally ill.
Rebekah works as a counselor at a hospice for the elderly.

hospitable

hospitality

hostage

hostelry

n
/ 'hāst'lrē /
L > F > E
a place where food and lodging are available to the traveler : inn, hotel.
To celebrate their tenth anniversary, the Mortons returned to the French hostelry where they spent their honeymoon.

hotelless

howel

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howitzer

n
/ 'hau̩tsə(r) /
Czech > G > D
a cannon employed to fire projectiles at a target (as enemy artillery behind a ridge) which cannot be reached by flat-trajectory weapons.
Corporal Slater towed the howitzer to the base of the ridge.

hoyden

n
/ 'hoid̩n /
D?
a girl or woman of loud, boisterous, or carefree behavior : tomboy.
Sierra knew that her skateboard expertise and casual clothing made her look like a hoyden to the neighbors, but she didn't care.

hoyle

n
/ 'hɔ̩il /
unknown
a natural object used as an archery mark at short range.
Martha used a large mushroom in her backyard as a hoyle.

hubbub

n
/ 'hʌbʌb /
Celt?
a noisy confusion of sound.
In the hubbub after the concert, Bronwen did not notice the pickpocket who took her wallet.

hubristically

adv
/ hyü'bristək(ə)lē /
Gk
insolently, vainly, arrogantly.
Lance's opinions, though brilliant and sound, are unwelcome because he conveys them so hubristically.

huisache

humane

adj
/ hyü'mān /
L > F > E
marked by compassion, sympathy, or consideration for other human beings or animals.
Sharon received an award for her humane treatment of stray pets.

humectant

n
/ hyü'mektənt /
L
a substance that promotes retention of moisture.
Toothpastes contain a humectant to carry the abrasive and other agents.

humerus

humidistat

n
/ (h)yü'midəstat /
L > F > E
an instrument for regulating or maintaining the degree of moisture.
Since he bought the humidistat, Rudy has gotten fewer colds.

humidor

n
/ 'hyümə.dò(ə)r /
L or F + Ecf
a case or enclosure (as for storing cigars) in which the air is kept properly humidified.
Art always kept his expensive cigars in a humidor.

humiliation

n
/ (,)hyü.milē'āshən /
L > F > E
the state of being reduced to a lower position in one's own eyes or the eyes of another : an instance of being humbled.
Mary did not even try to control her rage and humiliation.

humoresque

n
/ ,(h)yümə'resk /
(E + Fcf) > G
a musical composition typically whimsical or fanciful in character.
Schumann's opus 88 is a humoresque for violin, cello, and piano.

Hunanese

adj
/ ,hünə'nēz /
Chin geog name
of or relating to the province of Hunan, China.
The waiter indignantly replied that hamburger was not a feature of Hunanese cuisine.

hundredth

adj
/ 'hʌndrədθ /
E
being number 100 in a countable series.
Residents lined the streets to watch the parade on Danville's hundredth anniversary.

hurl

hurricane

n
/ 'hʌrəkān /
Taino > Sp
a tropical cyclone with winds of 73 miles per hour or greater.
When the townspeople realized that the hurricane was heading their way, they boarded up their windows and evacuated.

hurtle

hussar

n
/ hə'zär /
L > Serb > Hung
[Note: Could be confused with huzza, huzzah.] a member of the light cavalry of various European armies usually distinguished by a brilliant much-decorated uniform.
In a short story by Thomas Hardy, a young Englishwoman has an ill-fated romance with a homesick German hussar.

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hutch

hyacinth

n
/ 'hɪə.sɪn(t)θ /
Gk > L

a common garden flower widely grown for its beauty and fragrance.
Mimi planted a hyacinth right next to her screened porch.

hyalithe

hybrid

n
/ 'hɪbrəd /
L

an offspring of two animals or plants of different races, breeds, varieties, species, or genera.
A hybrid often has increased vigor and strength.

hybridize

v
/ 'hɪbrədɪz /
L

cause to produce offspring that are a cross between breeds : interbreed.
Horace is attempting to hybridize a large, showy, red rose and a smaller, more fragrant variety.

hydrangea

n
/ hɪ'drændʒə /
Gk > L

any of a genus of shrubs of the family Saxifragaceae having showy clusters of usually sterile white or tinted flowers.
Although the flowers of the hydrangea are spectacular, the leaves are poisonous.

hydrant

n
/ 'hɪdrənt /
Gk

a discharge pipe with a valve and spout at which water may be drawn from the mains of waterworks.
The city workers affixed a metal rod with a red diamond on the top of the hydrant in Mishi's yard so they would be able to find it if it snowed.

hydraulic

adj
/ hɪ'drɒlɪk /
Gk > L

operated, moved, or effected by means of water.
The stream and the waterwheel were sure signs that the grain mill was operated by hydraulic power.

hydrofoil

hydrogen

n
/ 'hɪdrədʒən /
Gk > F

a nonmetallic element that is the simplest and lightest of the elements and which is normally a colorless, odorless, and highly flammable diatomic gas.
Hydrogen and oxygen are the components of water.

hydrography

n
/ hɪ'drægrəfē /
Gk

description and study of seas, lakes, rivers, and other waters.
A knowledge of hydrography is helpful in navigation.

hydrolysis

n
/ hɪ'dræləsəs /
Gk + Gk

a chemical process of decomposition involving the splitting of a bond and the addition of the hydrogen cation and the hydroxide anion of water.
Digestive enzymes promote the hydrolysis of nutrients into simpler compounds.

hydrophilous

adj
/ hɪ'dræfələs /
Gk

pollinated by the agency of water.
The ultimate adaptation to aquatic life is the formation of completely submerged hydrophilous flowers.

hydroplane

v
/ 'hɪdrəplæn /
Gk + L

skim over the water with the hull either clear of the surface or barely immersed.
Lex loves to make his speedboat hydroplane across a glassy lake.

hyetology

n
/ ,hɪə'tæləʒjē /
Gk

a branch of meteorology that deals with precipitation (as of rain or snow).
Even a period of extended drought can be of interest to a student of hyetology.

hygiene

hygienist

hymn

n
/ 'hɪm /
Gk

a song of praise to God.
Wesley remembered every hymn from his days at the Episcopal school.

hymnody

n
/ 'hɪmnədə /
Gk

a body of hymns of a specified kind or period.
Gospel songs enjoy wide popularity in American hymnody.

hypaethral

hyperbaton

n
/ hɪ'pərbətən /
Gk

a transposition or inversion of idiomatic word order.
Joey decided the hyperbaton echoed the hills fit his poem better than the hills echoed.

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hyperbole

n
/ hī'pərbə(,)lē /
Gk
extravagant exaggeration that represents something as much greater or less, better or worse, or more intense than it really is or that depicts the impossible as actual.
To say that life as we know it will never be the same after the next election is hyperbole.

hypercritical

adj
/ hīpə(r)'kridəkəl /
Gk
meticulously or excessively inclined to notice faults and imperfections.
Ellen's skating coach was hypercritical of her technique the day before a competition.

hyperglycemia

n
/ hīpə(r)glī'sēmēə /
Gk
excess of sugar in the blood.
Since diabetes runs in her family, Carla is regularly tested for hyperglycemia.

hypertension

n
/ hīpə(r)'tenchən /
Gk + L
abnormally high arterial blood pressure.
Doctors recommend reducing salt intake for patients with hypertension.

hypertrophic

adj
/ hīpər'trāfik /
Gk + Gk + Ecf
affected with or tending toward overgrowth or excessive development of an organ or part.
After Blake lost one kidney, the other became hypertrophic.

hyphen

hypnology

hypobulia

n
/ hīpō'byülēə /
Gk > L
lowered ability to make decisions or to act.
The climbers began to suffer from hypobulia as they moved higher and higher on the mountain.

hypochondria

n
/ hīpə'kändrēə /
Gk
extreme depression of mind or spirits often centered on imaginary physical ailments.
Having found nothing physically wrong with her, Sylvia's doctor noted that her persistent complaints about her health are probably due to hypochondria.

hypochondriac

n
/ hīpə'kändrē.ək /
Gk
one whose depression is centered on imaginary physical ailments.
Colin was an hysterical half-crazy little hypochondriac.

hypocorism

n
/ hī'pəkə.rizəm /
Gk
a pet name or term of endearment.
Susan's parents bestowed the hypocorism "Bubbles" on her when she was a toddler.

hypocrisy

n
/ hə'pəkrəsē /
Gk > L > F > E
the act or practice of pretending to be what one is not or to have principles or beliefs that one does not have.
The abominable proceeding was nothing but a system of hypocrisy and deceit, espionage and treachery.

hypodermic

hypothalamus

n
/ hī(,)pō'thaləməs /
Gk
a part of the brain that is usually considered to include vital autonomic regulatory centers.
The hypothalamus exercises control over involuntary actions such as temperature regulation, emotional responses, and the rhythm of sleep.

hypothesis

hypothetical

hypotrophy

n
/ hī'pätṛəfē /
Gk
subnormal growth.
Nutritional deficiency resulted in hypotrophy among the aborigines.

hypotyposis

n
/ hīpō.tī'pōsəs /
Gk
[Note: Could be confused with plural hypotyposes.] vivid picturesque description.
Mark Twain employed hypotyposis in his writing.

hypsoigraphy

hyssop

n
/ 'hisəp /
Sem > Gk > L > F > E
a European mint that has highly aromatic and pungent leaves and is often cultivated in gardens as a remedy for bruises.
Aunt Cara made a paste of hyssop and oil and applied it to Darien's bruised shoulder.

hysteria

n
/ hə'sterēə /
Gk > L
conduct or an outbreak of conduct exhibiting unmanageable fear or emotional excess.
Hysteria overcame the defendant when the guilty verdict was announced.

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hysterical

adj
/ hi'sterəkəl /
Gk
exhibiting unrestrained emotionalism.
When their team won the world championship, the fans became hysterical with joy.

iatrogenic

adj
/ i.ə'trɒ'dʒenik /
Gk > L
induced by a physician—used chiefly of ailments induced in a patient by autosuggestion based on a physician's words or actions during examination.
Belinda had iatrogenic pains after her annual checkup.

icequake

ichneumon

n
/ ik'n(y)ümən /
Gk
any member of the insect family Ichneumonidae.
The ichneumon burrowed into the caterpillar larva, providing a natural check on the destructive insect.

ichnolite

n
/ 'iknə.lit /
Gk
a fossil footprint.
The museum guide showed us an ichnolite of a plesiosaur.

ichnology

n
/ ik'näləjē /
Gk
the study of fossil footprints.
Several students interested in ichnology took a field trip to Dinosaur State Park in Connecticut.

ichthyology

n
/ ikt̩hē'äləjē /
Gk
a branch of zoology that deals with fishes.
Mr. Pout didn't need a degree in ichthyology to see that he had caught a dead branch.

icicle

n
/ 'i:sikəl /
E
a pendent usually conical mass of ice formed by the freezing of dripping water.
By evening, the longest icicle hanging from the eaves had grown to about two feet.

iconoclast

n
/ i'känəklast /
Gk > L
one who attacks established beliefs, ideals, customs, or institutions.
Malcolm has always considered himself the iconoclast of the family.

icosahedron

n
/ i.kōsə'hēdrən /
Gk
a figure or solid formed by 20 plane faces.
The icosahedron occurs frequently in nature in molecular and viral structures.

identical

identify

v
/ i'dentə.fi /
F
show or prove the sameness of (as with something known, stated, or possessed).
The victim was asked to identify the attacker from a lineup.

ideogram

n
/ 'idēə.gram /
Gk + Gk
a character in Chinese writing made by combining two or more other characters for words of related meaning.
In Chinese, the ideogram for to love depicts a woman and her child.

idiosyncratic

adj
/ idēə.sin'krad.ik /
Gk
marked by a peculiarity of physical or mental constitution or temperament.
In his autobiography Andrew described the idiosyncratic behavior of his zany upper-class family.

idiosyncratically

adv
/ idēə.sin'krad.ək(ə)lē /
G > E
in a manner peculiar to the individual.
Because Emily Dickinson wrote so idiosyncratically, her poems are immediately recognizable.

idly

idolater

idolatry

idyllic

adj
/ i'dilik /
Gk
pleasing or picturesque in its natural simplicity.
The Elsons spent a week in an idyllic little town in the Pyrenees.

igneous

adj
/ 'ignēəs /
L
of, relating to, or suggestive of fire.
The igneous desert air shimmered on the horizon.

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ignite

v
/ ɪg'nīt /
L

set aflame : kindle.
The arson squad spent hours trying to discover what could ignite such a variety of apparently safe materials.

ignominious

ignominy

n
/ ɪgnə'mɪnē /
L > F

disgraceful or dishonorable conduct, quality, or action.
Although the coward was glad to be alive, he felt the ignominy of abandoning his comrades.

ignoramus

n
/ ɪgnə'rāməs /
L

an utterly uninformed person : dunce.
Schuyler is so afraid of his own intelligence that he refuses to speak in class and refers to himself as a "happy ignoramus."

ignorance

ikebana

n
/ ɪkə'bänə /
Jpn

the Japanese art of flower arranging that emphasizes form and balance.
Hana is trained in ikebana, and her arrangements are displayed in many restaurants throughout the city.

ileitis

n
/ ɪlē'īdēs /
L

inflammation of the lower small intestine.
Stella mistook her ileitis for indigestion.

iliacus

illegible

adj
/ ɪ(l)'leɪəbəl /
L

not capable of being read or deciphered.
Although the physician's prescription appeared illegible, the pharmacist seemed to have no trouble deciphering it.

illegitimate

illemism

illicit

illiterate

illth
n
/ 'ɪlθ /

ON > E
the condition of being economically unprosperous or miserable.
Sharon didn't mind her family's illth as much as she minded the fact that they had all simply given up on any possibility of prosperity.

illuminati

n pl
/ ə'lümə'nād(.)ē /
L > It

persons who are or who claim to be unusually enlightened.
The mayoral candidate worked hard to win the support of the city's illuminati.

illumination

n
/ ə'lümə'nāshən /
L > F > E

a giving of physical light or the state of being lighted up.
Because of its many windows, Sarah's office always has ample illumination.

illusion

illusory

adj
/ ə'lüs(ə)rē /
L

of, relating to, or marked by illusion : deceptive.
Citizens of both countries hope that the apparent peace between the two nations is not illusory.

illustrate

v
/ 'ɪlə'strāt /
L

make clear by giving or by serving as an example or instance.
The stained-glass windows illustrate the Nativity scene.

illustration

image

imagery

imaginary

adj
/ ə'majə'nerē /
L

having no real existence : existing only in imagination or fancy : fictitious, hypothetical.
Not all of the characters in the novelist's best seller were imaginary.

imbecile

n
/ 'ɪmbəsəl /
L > F

one marked by mental deficiency.
The professor told his students that they should not be writing as if their reader were an imbecile.

imbecilic

adj
/ ɪmbə'sɪlɪk /
L > F + Ecf

characteristic or suggestive of one that acts stupidly or recklessly.
Iris effectively tuned out her brother-in-law as he described another of his imbecilic money-making schemes.

imitative

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immaculate

adj
/ ə'makyələt /
L > E

having no spot, soil, or smirch :
spotlessly clean.

*Told that her room must be
immaculate before she could go to
the mall with friends, Tollie started
cleaning feverishly.*

immalleable

adj
/ i(m)'malēəbəl /
L > F > E

not open to outside forces or
influences : unyielding, rigid.

*Dean remained immalleable in his
refusal to resign.*

immature

adj
/ im.mə'tu(ə)r /
L

lacking complete growth or
development.

*The immature insect resembles the
adult in form and eating habits but
differs in size, body proportions,
and color pattern.*

immense

adj
/ ə'men(t)s /
L > F

characterized by greatness in size
or degree.

*Wilbur's portliness is a reflection
of his immense appetite.*

immersion

imminent

adj
/ 'imənənt /
L

ready to take place : near at hand.

*Although Ellen's departure date
was imminent, she was not ready to
go.*

immiscible

adj
/ i(m)'misəbəl /
L

not capable of mixing or being
mixed.

Oil and water are immiscible.

immiserization

immolate

v
/ 'imələt /
L

[has near homonym: emulate]
sacrifice or abnegate (as oneself)
usually in the interests of some
cause or objective.

*Sheri persuaded the monk not to
immolate himself in protest.*

immortal

adj
/ i(m)'mɔrdəl /
L

connected with or possessing
everlasting life.

*The priest warned his flock of the
many dangers to their immortal
souls, such as envy, greed, and
sloth.*

immunocyte

n
/ 'imyənəsīt /
L

a cell that functions in the
prevention of a disease.

*The immunocyte is the body's
primary defense against germs.*

immured

v
/ ə'myù(ə)rd /
L

[has near homonyms: enured,
inured] enclosed within or as if
within walls.

*While Sir Walter Raleigh was
immured in the Tower of London,
he used his time to write his
Historie of the World.*

immutable

adj
/ i(m)'myüdəbəl /
L

not capable of or susceptible to
change.

*The immutable laws of
thermodynamics preclude the
invention of a perpetual motion
machine.*

impair

impalpable

adj
/ im'pəlpəbəl /
L + L + L

incapable of being felt by the
touch.

*The puppy began chasing his
impalpable shadow.*

imparisyllabic

impasse

n
/ 'im.pas /
F

barrier, deadlock.

*A rockslide created an impasse on
the mountain road.*

impeccable

adj
/ im'pekəbəl /
L

free from fault or blame : flawless.

*A background investigation
affirmed the candidate's
impeccable character.*

impeccancy

impecunious

impecuniously

adv
/ im.pə'kyünyəsli /
L

in an indigent, penniless manner.

*George squandered his inheritance
and plodded through the remainder
of his life impecuniously.*

impedance

n
/ əm'pēd'əns /
L

the apparent opposition in an
electrical circuit to the flow of an
alternating current that is analagous
to the actual electrical resistance to
a direct current.

*A high-fidelity amplifier must have
a low output impedance to make
loudspeakers produce natural
sound.*

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impediment

n
/ ɪmˈpedəmənt /
L
hindrance, block.
Clementine's lack of a degree was an impediment to her getting a good job.

impedimenta

n pl
/ ɪmˌpedəˈmentə /
L
things that hinder progress or movement; especially : baggage, equipment, or supplies.
Regina always travels with one small carry-on bag and considers anything more to be impedimenta.

impenetrable

adj
/ ɪmˈpenətrəbəl /
L > F > E
incapable of being comprehended.
Sarah found Einstein's theories impenetrable.

imperatively

imperative

imperceptible

adj
/ ɪmpə(r)ˈseptəbəl /
L
extremely slight, gradual, or subtle.
The air was filled with a delicate, springlike fragrance, almost imperceptible.

imperial

adj
/ ɪmˈpɪriəl /
L
[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word.] being the British legal standard : belonging to the official British series of weights and measures.
Several measurement terms are used both in the U.S. customary and British imperial systems.

impertinence

n
/ ɪmˈpɜrt(ə)nən(t)s /
L
lack of due respect for others in conduct.
For his impertinence Mrs. Brennan sent Kyle to the principal's office.

imperturbable

adj
/ ɪmpərˈtɜrbəbəl /
L > E
unlikely to be disconcerted, agitated, or alarmed.
Hitherto imperturbable, Stacy suddenly showed signs of alarm.

impervious

adj
/ ɪmˈpɜrvēəs /
L
not allowing entrance or passage through : impenetrable.
Ted covered the woodpile with a tarp impervious to water.

impetigo

n
/ ɪmpəˈtɪ(ɡ)ō /
L
an acute contagious skin disease transmitted by contact between persons or between healthy and infected skin.
Impetigo can quickly make the rounds in a kindergarten class.

impetuosity

n
/ ɪmˈpeʃəwəsnes /
L > F > E
the quality or state of being impulsively vehement in feeling.
Theo's youthful frankness and impetuosity were excused by his boss.

impetus

n
/ ɪmpədəs /
L
a driving or impelling force.
Ralph's new girlfriend was the impetus behind his new exercise program.

impinge

implacable

adj
/ ɪmˈpləkəbəl /
L > F
not capable of being appeased or pacified.
The defeated candidate harbored implacable resentment toward his opponent.

implausible

implement

n
/ ɪmˈpləmənt /
L + L
a tool or utensil forming part of equipment for work.
Dawson discovered a paleolithic stone implement near the entrance to a cave.

implicit

adj
/ ɪmˈplɪsət /
L
capable of being inferred : implied.
Implicit in Amy's reaction was a message for Carole to mind her own business.

imponderabilia

importance

n
/ ɪmˈpɔrtəns /
L
the quality or state of being marked by or possessing consequence : weight, significance.
Mrs. Lynch cannot understand why some students do not see the importance of good manners.

impossible

adj
/ ɪmˈpäsəbəl /
L > It > F
incapable of being or occurring.
So many things are possible just as long as you don't know they're impossible.

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impoverish

v
/ ɪm'pəv(ə)rɪʃ /
F > E
make poor : reduce to indigence.
Medical bills will impoverish the Williams family if outside aid is not available.

imprecation

n
/ ɪmprə'kæʃən /
L
[Note: Could be confused with imbrication.] curse : malediction.
Jerod did not realize that the microphone was on when he uttered an imprecation under his breath.

impresario

n
/ ɪmprə'sær̩iə /
It
[has homonym: empresario] the projector, manager, or conductor of an opera or concert company.
The impresario arranged for the opera company to perform in several cities.

imprescriptible

adj
/ ɪmprɛ'skriptəbəl /
L > F
inalienable, absolute.
A dictator considers few human rights imprescriptible.

impressionable

adj
/ ɪm'preʃ(ə)nəbəl /
L + L > E + Ecf
easily influenced or affected.
Dan's grandmother considered him very young and very impressionable.

imprimatur

n
/ ɪmprə'mädə(r) /
L
a sign or mark of approval.
The dean put her imprimatur on the smoking ban.

imprimis

impromptu

adv
/ ɪm'prəm(p)ɪt(y)ü /
L > F
without previous study, preparation, or consideration : on the spur of the moment.
Leah is able to speak impromptu and at length on countless subjects.

improprieties

n pl
/ ɪmprə'prɪədēz /
L
unsuitable or improper acts or remarks.
Emma was willing to forget Mr. Elton's late improprieties and be as well satisfied with him as before.

impriety

impugn

v
/ ɪm'pyün /
L
assail by words or arguments : make insinuations against.
Josie's comment was a feeble attempt to impugn Sara's honesty.

impuissance

impunity

n
/ ɪm'pyünədə /
L
exemption or freedom from punishment, harm, or loss.
Mr. Starks allowed anglers to trespass on his land with impunity.

imputable

imputrescible

adj
/ ɪmpyü'tresəbəl /
L
not capable of rotting.
Imputrescible trash is filling up dump sites throughout the state.

inaccurate

inadvertence

inagglutinable

inanimate

adj
/ ɪn'anəmət /
L
not endowed with consciousness or animal life.
Vera talked to her plants as if they were not inanimate objects.

inaniation

n
/ ɪnə'nɪʃən /
L
the exhausted condition which results from a complete lack of food and water.
The injured hiker, finally found after a three-day search, had to be treated for inaniation.

inanity

n
/ ɪ'nənədə /
L
meaningless quality : shallowness.
The inanity of conversation at the party made Karen think up an excuse to leave early.

inapplicable

adj
/ ɪn'apləkəbəl /
L
not adapted : not suitable.
The name Brutus was inapplicable to the small dog.

inaugural

adj
/ ɪ'nɔgyərəl /
L + Ecf
relating to or performed or pronounced at a formal induction or investiture.
In his inaugural address, the president promised to get the country on the road to economic recovery.

inauguration

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incandescence

n
/ in(,)kən'des'n(t)s /
L > F

the glowing of a body due to its high temperature.
The first light bulbs were illuminated via the phenomenon of incandescence.

incandescent

incarcerate

v
/ ən'kär.sə.rāt /
L

put in prison.
Because the crime was his first offense, Lonnie was hopeful that the judge would not incarcerate him.

incarceration

n
/ (,)in.kär.sə'rā.shən /
L

a confining or state of being confined : imprisonment.
The terrorist was sentenced to incarceration for the rest of his life.

incendiary

n
/ ən'sendē.erē /
L

[Note: Could be confused with incendiary.] a person who deliberately sets fire to a building or other property.
The state fire inspectors determined that the fire was the work of an incendiary.

incense

incessancy

incessant

adj
/ in'ses'nt /
L

continuing or following without interruption.
Incessant changes in other parts of this restless country bypass the inhabitants of Sleepy Hollow.

inchoate

adj
/ in'kōāt /
L

imperfectly formed or formulated : unorganized.
The songwriter explained that his melodies usually begin as inchoate humming.

incienso

n
/ in(t)sē'en(t)(,)sō /
L > Sp

a desert shrub producing a resin that when burned emits a fragrant odor.
Early missionaries in the Southwest used to burn incienso in their churches.

incinerate

v
/ ən'sinərāt /
L

cause to burn to ashes.
In her fury, Elise decided to incinerate all of Jerry's letters.

incipiency

n
/ ən'sipēənsē /
L

[Note: Could be confused with incipience.] beginning, commencement.
Stan was quick to extinguish the fire in its incipiency.

incipient

inclement

adj
/ in'klemənt /
L

unmerciful, rigorous.
The harsh sentence of an inclement judge took 30 years of Sam's life.

incognito

incoherence

incompetent

incomprehensible

adj
/ in.kämprə'hen(t)səbəl /
L > E

lying above or beyond the reach of the human mind.
Every civilization tries to penetrate the incomprehensible mysteries of creation.

inconclusible

incondite

incongruous

inconnu

inconscious

adj
/ in'känchənt /
L > F

lacking consciousness or full awareness.
The unconscious pedestrian was an easy victim for the mugger.

incontrovertible

incorrigible

adj
/ in'kōrəjəbəl /
L

bad beyond the possibility of correction or rehabilitation : utterly bad or depraved.
They sentenced the incorrigible offender to life imprisonment.

increment

incubator

n
/ 'ɪŋkyəbādə(r) /
L

an apparatus for housing premature or sick babies in an environment of controlled humidity, oxygen supply, and temperature.
Who would have thought that the star linebacker spent the first three months of his life in an incubator?

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inculcate

v
/ ɪn'kʌl.kəɪt /
L

teach and impress by frequent repetitions or admonitions.
Religion is professed and practiced in various forms, yet most of them inculcate honesty, truth, temperance, gratitude, and the love of humanity.

incumbency

n
/ ɪn'kʌmbənsē /
L

the sphere of action or period of office of one who holds a public or academic office.
Political analysts now say that a candidate's incumbency is not an asset but a liability.

incumbent

incunabulum

n
/ ɪnkyə'nabyələm /
L

a book printed before 1501.
Alfred was looking at an incunabulum in the British Library when he met his future wife.

incurvariid

adj
/ ɪn.kər'va(a)rēəd /
L

of or relating to a member of the Incurvariidae family of minute moths.
Many brilliantly colored incurvariid moths are found worldwide.

indebted

adj
/ ɪn'dedəd /
L > F > E

owing gratitude (as for a favor received or a kind act done).
Carmen was indebted to her piano teacher for helping her perfect her technique.

indefatigable

adj
/ ɪndə'fadəgəbəl /
L

incapable of being tired out : untiring.
The mayor thanked his indefatigable campaign workers for their invaluable help in getting him reelected.

indefeasible

adj
/ ɪndə'fēzəbəl /
L > F > AF
not capable of being or liable to being voided, annulled, or undone.
The Constitution vests the populace with indefeasible rights.

indelible

adj
/ ɪn'deləbəl /
L

that cannot be removed, washed away, or erased : permanent.
Lily's narrow escape from drowning left an indelible mark on her personality.

indemnify

indemnity

independence

indescribable
adj
/ ɪndə'skrībəbəl /
L

that cannot be described with precision.
The aromatic herb has a peppery odor and an indescribable but delicious flavor.

indicate

indicia
n pl
/ ɪn'dish(ē)ə /
L

indications, signs, tokens, criteria.
The reporter used many different indicia of public sentiment to obtain a reliable rating of the leader's popularity.

indicable

indictment

n
/ ɪn'dɪtmənt /
L > AF
an official written statement charging a person with an offense.
The grand jury's indictment of the seven men charges that they conspired to smuggle guns into the country.

indigenous

adj
/ ɪn'dijənəs /
L
originating or produced naturally in a particular land or region or environment.
Tomatoes are not indigenous to Europe.

indigent

adj
/ ɪndʒənt /
L
being poor usually without being destitute : impoverished, needy.
The basketball star donated money to build a community center for the indigent residents of his old neighborhood.

indigo

n
/ ɪndə.gō /
Gk > L > It
a blue vat dye that was obtained originally from plants (as indigo plants or woad).
The production of indigo was the major factor in South Carolina's early development.

indiscretion

n
/ ɪndə'skrɛʃən /
L
an act at variance with the accepted morality of a society.
Biographers of presidents often comb their subjects' lives in search of every indiscretion.

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indissoluble

adj
/ ɪndə'sæljəbəl /
L

incapable of being annulled or undone or broken.

The friendship of Holmes and Watson proved indissoluble even by Watson's marriage and Holmes's supposed death.

indoctrinate

v
/ ɪn'däkrə'nāt /
L

give instructions especially in fundamentals or rudiments : teach.
Special classes were designed to indoctrinate the new employees.

indolence

indolent

adj
/ ɪndələnt /
L

constantly indulging in ease : chronically averse to labor and exertion.

Doctors warn that an indolent lifestyle can contribute to heart disease.

indomitable

adj
/ ɪn'dämədəbəl /
L

incapable of being subdued.

The pens, the tongues, the fortunes, and the indomitable wills of many women were pledged to secure the right of the elective franchise.

indubitable

adj
/ (ɪ)ɪn'd(y)übədəbəl /
L

not open to question or doubt.

Shakespeare is considered by many to be the indubitable master of English literature.

inducement

n
/ ɪn'd(y)üsment /
L + Ecf

a motive or consideration that leads one to action.

Emma's desire to see Harriet better informed was an inducement to read more herself.

indulge

v
/ ɪn'dəlʒ /
L

give free rein to.

It is natural for humans to indulge in the illusions of hope.

indulgent

indurate

adj
/ ɪnd(y)ərət /
L > E

physically or morally hardened.

The war contributed greatly to Herbert's seemingly indurate manner, but he was always tender with his pigeons.

industrious

ineducable

adj
/ ɪn'efəbəl /
L

incapable of being expressed in words.

Sarena's joy at being chosen for the play was ineffable.

ineluctable

adj
/ ɪnə'ləktəbəl /
L

not to be avoided, changed, or resisted : inevitable.

Mrs. Badger joked that death and taxes are the only two ineluctable aspects of life.

ineludible

adj
/ ɪnə'lüdəbəl /
L + Ecf

inescapable.

Detective Marchand's bloodhounds were considered by many to be ineludible.

inenarrable

adj
/ ɪnə'nərəbəl /
L

incapable of being narrated : indescribable, ineffable.

The sight of his newborn son brought Elijah inenarrable pleasure.

ineptitude

ineradicable

adj
/ ɪnə'radəkəbəl /
L

incapable of being rooted out or destroyed completely.

In the 1920s Britain had to yield to Ireland's ineradicable will for independence.

inertia

n
/ ɪ'nəʃə /
L

indisposition to motion, exertion, or action.

The senator railed against the inertia of the citizenry.

inexorable

adj
/ ɪ'neks(ə)rəbəl /
L

unyielding, inflexible, relentless.

The inexorable force of the hurricane changed the shape of Bell Island.

inexplicable

inextinguishable

inextirpable

inextricable

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infallible

adj
/ in'faləbəl /
L

incapable of error.
Dr. Cameron's colleagues on the faculty regard him as virtually infallible.

infatuation

infaust

infectious

adj
/ ən'fɛkʃəs /
L

producing the establishment of a pathogen in its host after invasion.
Katie's sore throat is not infectious, so she will not have to miss any school.

inferentially

adv
/ infə'renʃəlē /
L

in a manner that involves a conclusion reached by reasoning or implication.
The report concludes that our social stresses are based almost wholly on misunderstanding, and thus, inferentially, can be eliminated by good communication.

inferior

adj
/ ən'firēə(r) /
L

of poor quality : second-rate.
An inferior violinist has no chance of becoming an orchestra's concertmaster.

inficete

infinitesimal

adj
/ in.fɪnə'tes(ə)məl /
L + Ecf

immeasurably or incalculably small : very minute.
Infinitesimal yellow flecks on the leaf made it appear metallic.

inflammatory

adj
/ ən'flamətōrē /
L

tending to excite anger, animosity, disorder, or tumult.
Rachel received a two-day suspension after she delivered an inflammatory speech at the assembly.

influenza

n
/ in.flū'enzə /
L > It

an acute highly contagious infectious virus disease.
Influenza kept Russell out of school for a week.

infractible

infrangible

adj
/ in'franʒəbəl /
L

not capable of being broken or separated into parts.
Though it looks like the finest china, Jennifer's teapot is made of an infrangible polymer.

infructuous

adj
/ in'frʌkʃəwəs /
L

fruitless, unprofitable.
Efforts to discourage the bear from returning to Cynthia's backyard proved infructuous, and so it was tranquilized and taken to a more suitable area.

infusible

ingenious

ingenue

n
/ 'änjə.nü /
L > F

a stage part representing a character that is youthful, innocent, appealing, sweet, and sympathetic.
Stephanie was one of three students called back in the tryouts for the ingenue in the school's spring musical.

ingenuous

ingestible

adj
/ ən'jestəbəl /
L

capable of being taken in for digestion.
An increasing number of Americans are using food, dietary supplements, and other ingestible products to cure what ails them.

inglenook

ingratiating

adj
/ ən'grāshē.ədiŋ /
L

intended or adopted in order to win favor : flattering.
During his campaign, the politician's manner became ingratiating.

inhale

v
/ ən'hāl /
Ecf + L > E

draw in by breathing.
Natasha stopped to inhale the wonderful aroma emanating from the bakery.

inimical

inimically

adv
/ ə'nimək(ə)lē /
L

in a hostile or unfriendly manner.
The majority of citizens reacted inimically to the proposed increase in city taxes.

inimitable

adj
/ i'nimədəbəl /
L

not capable of being copied : matchless.
Charmed by Miss Woodhouse, Mr. Elton considered all of her drawings inimitable.

iniquitous

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

iniquity

n
/ ə'nikwədə /
L > F > E

absence of or deviation from just dealing : wrongful conduct : wickedness.

The judge referred to the defendant's house as a "den of iniquity."

initial

initials

initiative

initiatory

adj
/ ə'nish(ē)ətōrē /
L

constituting an introduction or beginning.

On page three of the book is an initiatory paragraph that gives personal information about the author.

injurious

inmate

innermost

adj
/ 'inə(r)mōst /
E

farthest inward.

Starletta reached the cave's innermost chambers by crawling on her hands and knees and sometimes on her stomach.

innkeeper

innocent

adj
/ 'inəsənt /
L

free of wrongdoing or corruption : guiltless.

Julian's offer to help stems from innocent motives.

innocuity

n
/ .inə'kyüədē /
L

the quality or state of being harmless.

Thelma was wary of the seeming innocuity of her sister's remarks.

innocuous

adj
/ i'näkyəwəs /
L

not likely to arouse ill will or give offense : inoffensive.

Betty was dismayed when Henry interpreted her innocuous remark as an insult.

innovation

n
/ .inə'vāshən /
L

the introduction of something new.

The people of the small village were suspicious of all innovation.

innumerable

adj
/ ə'n(y)üm(ə)rəbəl /
L

too many to be numbered or counted.

Katie's seemingly innumerable chicken pox blisters slowly faded away.

inoculate

v
/ ə'näkyələt /
L > E

introduce microorganisms, vaccines, or sera into a living body to establish immunity to a disease.

Dr. Cooper had to bribe Frank with a lollipop before he would let her inoculate him.

inoculator

inquiline
n
/ 'inkwə.līn /
L

an animal that lives habitually in the nest or abode of some other species.

The burrowing owl is an inquiline who lives in prairie dog colonies.

inquisitor

n
/ ən'kwizədə(r) /
L

a person whose official duty is to examine and inquire.

When the inquisitor asked a very personal question, the witness glared at him and remained silent.

insalubrious

adj
/ .insə'lübrēəs /
L + Ecf

tending to impair health : unwholesome, noxious.

Andrew has vowed to give up all his insalubrious habits.

insatiable

inscribe

inscrutable

adj
/ inz'krüdəbəl /
L

not readily comprehensible : mysterious.

Kayla's grin was so inscrutable that no one could tell if she were happy or up to something mischievous.

insecticide

n
/ ən'sektəsīd /
L

an agent that destroys insects.

Malathion is an insecticide with low toxicity to mammals.

insentient

inseparable

insessorial

insidious

adj
/ ən'sidēəs /
L

having a gradual, cumulative, and usually hidden effect : subtle.

Loretta's suspicion led her to pose a question with the insidious design of further discovery.

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insinuate

v
/ ɪn'sɪnyə.waɪt /
L

impart or communicate with artful indirect wording or oblique reference : hint, imply.

Did April insinuate that she won't be inviting Dante to the party?

insipid

adj
/ ɪn'sɪpɪd /
L

dull, uninteresting, commonplace.
Jed could hardly bear listening to the sportscaster's insipid comments.

insidious

adj
/ ɪn(t)sə'tɪʃəs /
L

constituting an insertion.

Research that Jennifer failed to include in her bound report was included as insidious pages.

insolence

n
/ ɪn(t)s(ə)lən(t)s /
L

[has homonyms and near homonym: insolents, insulants and insulins] the quality or state of being haughty and contemptuous or brutal in behavior or language.

In Greek mythology Athena transformed Arachne into a spider for her insolence.

insolent

insomnia

n
/ ɪn'sæmnēə /
L

prolonged inability to obtain adequate sleep : sleeplessness.

Cora's doctor suggests that her insomnia may be caused by the emotional stress of her new job.

insomniac

insouciance

insouciant

adj
/ ɪn'süsɪənt /
F

exhibiting or characterized by freedom from concern or care.

The pompous, insouciant aristocrat never had to work a day in his life.

inspirometer

n
/ ɪnzpə'ræməðə(r) /
L > F > E + Gk > L > F > E

an apparatus for measuring air inhaled in breathing.

The nurse used an inspirometer on Mr. Davis during his checkup.

instantaneous

adj
/ ɪnzstən'tānēəs /
L

done or occurring without any perceptible duration of time.

Harold's slow, nervous marriage proposal was balanced by Emily's instantaneous reply.

instauration

n
/ ɪnz.tə'rāʃən /
L

restoration after decay, lapse, or dilapidation.

The instauration of the Statue of Liberty was a long and complicated project.

insulin

n
/ ɪn(t)səlɪn /
L + Ecf

a protein pancreatic hormone that is essential especially for the metabolism of carbohydrates and which is used in the treatment and control of diabetes mellitus.

Marty gives himself an injection of insulin every morning to control his diabetes.

insurrection

n
/ ɪn(t)sə'rekʃən /
L > F > E

an act or instance of revolting against civil or political authority or against an established government.

The dictator quickly suppressed the peasants' insurrection.

insusceptibility

n
/ ɪnsəseptə'bɪlədē /
L

the quality or state of being incapable of being moved, affected, or impressed.

Sylvia prides herself on her insusceptibility to flattery.

intaglio

n
/ ɪn'tal(,)yō /

It
an engraving or incised figure in stone or other hard material.

Judd was pleased with the intaglio on his signet ring.

intangible

integument

n
/ ɪn'tegyəmənt /
L

an enveloping layer, membrane, or structure (as the skin of a fish or the exoskeleton of an insect).

The dried cicada integument attached to the brick wall fascinated the children.

intensity

n
/ ɪn'ten(t)sədē /
L + Ecf

extreme or very high degree : extreme strength, force, or energy.

Gino was astonished at the little flashlight's intensity.

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intercalate

v
/ ʔn'tərkəlāt /
L

insert between or among existing elements.
It was the editor's job to intercalate the new manuscript pages into the narrative.

intercede

intercept

v
/ ɪntə(r)'sept /
L

stop or interrupt the progress or course of.
Rick will intercept the office mail, as requested by Dr. Taylor.

intercessory

adj
/ ɪntə(r)'ses(ə)rē /
L

relating to or marked by the act of pleading in behalf of another.
The congregation joined in intercessory prayers for the sick parishioners.

interfered

interior

interlocutor

n
/ ɪntə(r)'ləkyədə(r) /
L

one who takes part in a dialogue or conversation.
The seminar leader instructed everyone to choose an interlocutor and discuss the video one-on-one.

interlucent

interment

n
/ ʔn'tərmənt /
L > F > E

the act or ceremony of placing a dead body in a grave or tomb.
Uncle Oliver's desire was that only family members be present at his interment.

intermezzo

n
/ ɪntə(r)'met(ɪ)sō /
L > It

a movement coming between the major sections of a symphony or other extended work.
The singers were able to take a break while the orchestra played the intermezzo.

interminable

adj
/ ʔn'tərmənəbəl /
L

having no end : wearisomely protracted.
Dad complained about the interminable lines at the theme park.

intermittence

n
/ ɪntə(r)'mitʰn(t)s /
L

periodic cessation or interruption.
The intermittence of the moving windshield wipers supposedly allows better visibility during a light rain.

intermittent

adj
/ ɪntə(r)'mitʰnt /
L

coming and going at intervals : not continuous.
The weather forecast warned of intermittent showers for the afternoon.

internal

international

internecine

adj
/ ɪntər'ne.sēn /
L

marked by great slaughter : deadly.
Many areas of the former Soviet Union have been plagued with internecine struggles.

interpellation

interplanetary

adj
/ ɪntə(r)'planə.tərē /
L + Gk + Lcf > E

existing, carried on, or operating between planets.
Interplanetary travel may someday be a reality, but for now it must remain the stuff of science fiction.

interpolate

interpret

v
/ ʔn'təprət /
L > F > E

explain or tell the meaning of : translate into intelligible or familiar language or terms.
Shareen asked the psychiatrist to interpret her dream.

interregnum

n
/ ɪntə(r)'regnəm /
L

the time during which a throne is vacant between the death, abdication, or expulsion of a sovereign and the coronation of his or her successor.
The prime minister urged citizens to band together during the interregnum.

interrogatory

n
/ ɪntə'rägətōrē /
L

a formal question or inquiry.
The principal instructed Betty to prepare within two days a written response to the interrogatory regarding her honor offense.

interrupt

v
/ ɪntə'rəpt /
L

prevent (one) from proceeding by intrusive or interpolated comment or action.
"Must you always interrupt like that?" asked Mr. Kelley.

intersperse

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interstice

n
/ ən'tərstəs /
L

a space that intervenes between one thing and another : a space between things closely set.

The tightly-woven cloth looked solid, but a sharp needle easily found an interstice to slip through.

intertriginous

interviewee

n
/ .intə(r).vyü'ē /
F

one that is questioned or conversed with especially in order to obtain information or ascertain personal qualities.

The receptionist administered a spelling test to each interviewee.

intestacy

intolerable

adj
/ in'täl(ə)rəbəl /
L

not capable of being endured : unbearable.

The intolerable cold made Janice's eyes water.

intractable

adj
/ in'traktəbəl /
L

not easily governed, managed, or directed.

The intractable child was amusing for a while.

intrait

intramural

intrepid

adj
/ in'trepəd /
L

characterized by resolute fearlessness in meeting dangers or hardships and enduring them with fortitude.

Bob's military honors attest to his intrepid character.

intricate

adj
/ 'intrəkət /
L > E

having many complexly interrelating parts or elements : complicated.

Jason described the intricate mechanism of the clock as "awesome."

intrigue

v
/ ən'trēg /
L > It > F

arouse the interest, desire, or curiosity of.

The designer wanted the picture on the dust jacket to intrigue potential readers.

intrinsic

introduction

introit

intuitable

adj
/ ən't(y)üədəbəl /
L

knowable by insight or without rational thought.

Ashley believes that the concepts of good and evil are intuitable.

inumbrate

v
/ 'inəm.brāt /
L

put in shadow : shade.

Carl watched the cloud temporarily inumbrate the soccer field.

inundate

inundation

n
/ .i(ɪ)nən'dāshən /
L

a rising and spreading of water over land not usually submerged : a flood.

As the river swelled with snowmelt, the levees protected the fields from inundation.

inurement

investive

inveigh

v
/ ən'vā /
L

protest bitterly or violently.

When the suspect was arraigned, he began to inveigh against what he claimed was police brutality.

inveigle

inveterate

adj
/ ən'vedərət /
L

continuous, recurrent, chronic.

The inveterate lateness of Linda's mail delivery caused her concern.

invidious

adj
/ ən'vidēəs /
L

of an unpleasant or objectionable nature : hateful.

It is not uncommon for Sean to respond with invidious remarks that may or may not be true.

invincible

inviolable

adj
/ in'vialəbəl /
L

secure from assault or trespass.

An electrified security fence, ten feet high, did not make the film star's estate inviolable.

invitation

ionosphere

n
/ i'änəsfi(ə)r /
Gk

the part of Earth's atmosphere containing free electrically charged particles.

Ham radio operators transmit their signals great distances by bouncing them off the ionosphere.

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iota

n
/ ɪˈoʊdɪə /
Gk

an infinitesimal amount : a very small degree.
The analgesic worked so well that Jeremy felt not even an iota of pain.

ipsedixitism

n
/ ɪpsɪˈdɪksɪd.ɪzəm /
L

dogmatic assertion or assertiveness.
Martine's ipsedixitism tired her friends and put off strangers.

ipseity

irascibility

n
/ ɪˈræsəˈbɪlədɪ /
L

the quality or state of being marked by a hot temper and resentful anger.
The artist's stubborn irascibility led to many family squabbles.

irascible

adj
/ ɪˈræsəbəl /
L

marked by hot temper and resentful anger.
After breaking his leg, Lennie became so irascible that his friends stopped visiting him.

irate

adj
/ ɪˈrɑːt /
L

feeling and showing a high degree of anger.
When Calvin returned home late, his father was irate.

irenicism

n
/ ɪˈren.ə.sɪzəm /
Gk + Ecf

a social temper or condition or a state of public opinion making for peace.
Ella detected a growing irenicism among her constituents, though many still advocated cold war.

iridescent

adj
/ ɪˈrɪdəsənt /
L

showing colors like those of the rainbow especially in shifting patterns of hues and shades that vary with a change of light or point of view.
Louis C. Tiffany developed a famous type of iridescent glass.

irradiate

v
/ ɪˈrædɪ.ət /
L

throw rays of light upon : shine upon.
Cynthia's beauty seemed to irradiate the room with a mystical glow.

irreconcilable

adj
/ ɪˈrɛkənˈsɪləbəl /
L

not capable of being brought into friendly accord or understanding.
Bill finally realized that his differences with Sheila were irreconcilable.

irrecusable

adj
/ ɪˈrɛˈkyüzəbəl /
L

not subject to exception or rejection.
The company's most recent offer to the strikers was presented as irrecusable.

irredeemable

irrefragable

adj
/ ɪ(r)ˈrefrəgəbəl /
L

impossible to gainsay, deny, or refute.
The prosecutor maintained that the evidence against the defendant was irrefragable.

irregular

irrelevant

adj
/ ɪˈrɛləvənt /
L

not applicable or pertinent : foreign, extraneous.
Patrick introduced irrelevant arguments to cloud the central issue.

irreparable

irrepressible

adj
/ ɪrəˈpresəbəl /
L

impossible to repress, restrain, or control.
Sondra's irrepressible urge to drive fast earned her a speeding ticket.

irresistible

irretrievably

adv
/ ɪrəˈtrɛvəblɪ /
L > F > E

so as to be impossible to recoup, repair, or overcome.
Environmentalists bemoan the irretrievably lost sections of the rain forest.

irrevocability

n
/ ɪˈrevəkəˈbɪlədɪ /
L > F > E + E cff
the quality or state of being unalterable.
The chairman insisted upon the irrevocability of the rules of order.

irrevocable

irrevocably

adv
/ (ɪ)ˈrevəkəblɪ /
L
beyond any possibility of change.
The coach announced that the intramural team rosters had been irrevocably determined.

irrigation

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irritability

n
/ ɪrədəˈbɪlədē /

L
quick excitability to annoyance, impatience, or anger.

On the second day of Josh's diet, his irritability was apparent to everyone around him.

irritate

isagoge

n
/ ɪsəˈɡɔːjē /

Gk
a scholarly introduction to a branch of study or research.

The eminent economist wrote an isagoge for the new economics text.

isinglass

n
/ ɪzˈnˌɡlɑːs /

D
mica especially when in thin transparent sheets.

Isinglass is economically important because its low iron content makes it a good electrical and thermal insulator.

Islamic

adj
/ ɪˈslæmɪk /

Ar
of, relating to, or characterized by the religious faith of Muslims.

The central tenets of Islamic doctrine are that there is no god but Allah, and Mohammed is his prophet.

isle

n
/ ɪl /

L > F > E
[has homonyms: aisle, I'll] a small piece of land surrounded by water on all sides.

Kent dreamed of vacationing on a tropical isle.

isocryme

isogram

n
/ ɪ(ˌ)səˈɡrɑːm /

Gk + Gk
a line on a map or chart along which there is a constant value (as of temperature, pressure, or rainfall).

The meteorologist drew an isogram on the map to show places having the same barometric pressure.

isohyetal

adj
/ ɪ(ˌ)səˈhɪədəl /

Gk > ISV
relating to or indicating equal rainfall.

The weather forecaster's map shows isohyetal areas of the Great Plains.

isolability

n
/ ɪsələˈbɪlədē /

L > F > E
the capability of being placed alone or apart.

According to the philosophical principle of isolability, every isolated event must have an isolated cause.

isomorphic

adj
/ ɪsəˈmɔːrfɪk /

Gk
being of identical or similar form or shape or structure.

English spelling is difficult because of the frequent lack of isomorphic correspondence between the spoken word and the written word.

isosceles

adj
/ ɪˈsæsələz /

Gk > L
having two equal sides—used of a triangle.

Zola counted 16 isosceles triangles on the playground equipment.

isotope

issuable

Isthmian

adj
/ ɪsmiən /

Gk
of or relating to the Isthmus of Corinth or the games anciently held there.

Pindar's victory odes celebrate the victors in Olympic, Nemean, Pythian, and Isthmian games.

isthmus

n
/ ɪsməs /

Gk > L
a narrow strip of land running through a body of water and connecting two larger land areas.

The country of Panama is an isthmus connecting North and South America.

italicization

itemize

iterance

n
/ ɪdərən(t)s /

L > E
[Note: Could be confused with iterancy.] repetition, repetitiousness, recurrence.
Carol noticed an iterance of the name Elizabeth in her genealogical chart.

iterative

adj
/ ɪdərətɪv /

L
marked by or involving repetition or recurrence.

The name Elizabeth formed an iterative pattern in Maggie's genealogical chart.

itinerant

adj
/ ɪˈtɪn(ə)rənt /

L
traveling about from place to place.
The large farm employed many itinerant workers during the harvest season.

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itinerary

n
/ ɪˈtɪn.ə.rɪ.ərē /
L

a sketch of the prospective course of a journey or trip.
The senator's itinerary called for ten stops in two days.

ivory

adj
/ ɪv(ə)rē /
Hamitic > L > F > E

of a creamy white color.
The ivory sweater that Karen purchased qualifies as "winter white."

izzat

jabberwocky

n
/ ˈjəb(ə)r.wækē /
E nonsense name
meaningless speech, writing, or patter : gibberish.
Dina listened as the two babies carried on a lengthy conversation in jabberwocky.

jabot

n
/ zhaˈbō /
F
a ruffle or pleated frill of cloth, lace, or both attached down the center front of a shirt, blouse, or dress bodice.
Tom insisted that the shirt of his Captain Hook costume have a jabot.

jacal

jacamar

n
/ ˈjəkə.mär /
Tupi > F
any of many brightly colored birds inhabiting tropical forests from Mexico to Argentina.
Tio recognized the cry of the jacamar but couldn't see the bird through the thick foliage.

jackal

n
/ ˈjəkəl /
Skt > Per > Turkish
any of several small wild dogs of Africa and Asia having large ears and a bushy tail and feeding on small animals, fruits, and carrion.
The zoologist explained that the popular image of a jackal as a cowardly scavenger is not justified by the facts.

jackanapes

n
/ ˈjəkənəps /
E nickname
an impertinent or conceited fellow.
Billy was thrown out of English class for being an insolent jackanapes.

jackknife

jaconet

jacquard

n
/ jaˈkɑrd /
F name
a fabric of an intricate variegated weave.
In the antique store's front window was a fabulous jacquard that portrayed the Last Supper.

jadeite

n
/ ˈjɑdīt /
Sp > F
a monoclinic mineral found chiefly in Myanmar that when cut constitutes a valuable variety of jade.
Alexis bought a necklace made of jadeite and black onyx at the craft bazaar.

jaguar

n
/ ˈjɑɡ.wär /
Tupi&Guarani > Pg&Sp
a large cat chiefly of Central and South America that is larger and stockier than the leopard and is brownish yellow or buff with black spots.
Although the jaguar is a good climber, it usually stalks its prey on the ground.

jaleo

jalousie

n
/ ˈjæləsē /
F
[has near homonym: jealousy] a blind or shutter having horizontal slats that are adjustable or fixed at an angle to admit light and air and to permit looking out without being seen from the outside.
Helen hung a jalousie in each downstairs window of her new house.

jambalaya

n
/ ˌjəmbəˈliə /
Prov > F
rice cooked with ham, sausage, chicken, shrimp, or oysters and usually tomato and seasoned with herbs.
No trip to New Orleans would be complete without sampling a bowl of spicy jambalaya.

jambeau

n
/ ˌjɑmˈbō /
F > E
[has homonym: jambo] a piece of medieval plate armor for the lower leg.
The knight staggered under a blow that left a groove across his jambeau.

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jamboree

n
/ ˌjambəˈreɪ /
unknown
a long mixed program of entertainment.
The finale at the jamboree was a brilliant display of fireworks.

jangle

janiform

adj
/ ˌjanəˈfɔrm /
L + L
having a face on each of two sides.
While in Rome, Stacey bought a replica of an ancient coin depicting a janiform figure.

janitor

n
/ ˌjanədə(r) /
L
one that keeps the premises of an apartment, office, or other building clean and free of refuse, tends the heating system, and makes minor repairs.
Morris took a part-time job as a janitor at an apartment complex in exchange for free rent.

japery

n
/ ˌjæp(ə)rē /
E
jesting talk : jokes.
Tired of the disk jockey's japery, Terry turned the radio off.

jarabe

n
/ həˈrɑ(,)bɑ /
Ar > Sp
any of several provincial Mexican couple dances that have the zapateado as their basic step.
The jarabe is sometimes performed at Mexican weddings.

jardiniere

jargon

n
/ ˈjɑrgən /
imit > F > E
the technical terminology or characteristic idiom of specialists or workers in a particular activity or area of knowledge.
Anna was sure the computer programmers were speaking English, but their jargon made it impossible for her to understand what they were saying.

jarl

jasper

jaundice

n
/ ˈjɒndəs /
L > F > E
yellowish pigmentation of the skin, tissues, and body fluids caused by the deposition of bile pigments.
David's jaundice was brought on by a liver problem.

jaundiced

adj
/ ˈjɒndəst /
L > F > E + Ecf
exhibiting or affected by distaste, or hostility.
Dr. Willis was jaundiced and querulous after being bedridden for so long.

jauntily

adv
/ ˈjɒntɪl̩ /
F > E + Ecff
in a light or carefree manner.
Steve's hat was perched jauntily on the side of his head.

jaunty

adj
/ ˈjɒnt̩ /
L > F
nonchalant or sprightly in manner or appearance.
The music teacher is far more jaunty at the keys of a piano than in the classroom.

javelin

n
/ ˈjav(ə)lɪn /
Celt > F
a slender shaft of wood not less than 260 centimeters long, tipped with iron or steel, and intended to be thrown for distance as an athletic feat or exercise.
Lucas threw the javelin only 20 feet on his first attempt.

javellization

jealousy

n
/ ˈjeləs̩ /
F
[has near homonym: jalousie] a disposition or state of mind that is intolerant of rivalry or unfaithfulness.
Tormented by jealousy, Shakespeare's Othello is driven to murder his wife.

jecorize

jeer

v
/ ˈji(ə)r /
unknown
speak or cry out with derision or mockery.
No one dared jeer when the venerable actor forgot his lines.

jeune

adj
/ ˈjɒˈjuːn /
L
immature, juvenile.
Dennis rejected the jeune poems for publication.

jellyfish

jeopardize

v
/ ˌjɛpə(r),dɪz /
L > F > E + Ecf
expose to danger : imperil.
Mr. Turner refuses to jeopardize his family by driving at high speed.

jeopardy

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jerboa

n
/ jər'boʊə /
Ar
any of several social nocturnal Old World jumping rodents with long hind legs and a long tail.
The well-developed jumping ability of the jerboa enables it to escape from many predators.

jeremiad

n
/ jərə'miəd /
Heb name > Gk > L > F
a protracted speech marked by deep misery.
The old philosopher gave a moving jeremiad against a culture that values knowledge above wisdom.

jerkin

n
/ 'jɜrkən /
unknown
a close-fitting hip-length jacket.
As his quest led him northward, the knight began wearing a jerkin for additional warmth.

jeroboam

jettison

v
/ 'jedəsən /
L > F > E
drop (as auxiliary equipment, bombs, cargo, or fuel) from an airplane in flight (as for lightening the load or providing greater safety).
The airplane's malfunctioning engine prompted the crew to jettison all unnecessary cargo.

jettisoned

jibboom

jicama

n
/ 'hɛkəmə /
Nahuatl > Sp
a tall-climbing Mexican vine with showy flowers and a sweet watery root that is sometimes eaten raw or cooked.
Suleika made a coleslaw of jicama and shredded carrot.

jillion

jinete

jingoism

jittery

jocose

jocosity

n
/ jō'käsədē /
L
the quality or state of being given to jokes and jesting.
Lennie's jocosity endeared him to no one.

jocular

adj
/ 'jäkylə(r) /
L
given or disposed to jesting.
The jocular keynote speaker peppered his remarks with humorous anecdotes.

jocund

adj
/ 'jäkənd /
L
feeling or exhibiting mirth or good cheer : cheerful.
The jocund host made everyone feel completely at ease.

jodhpur

n
/ 'jädpə(r) /
Indian geog name
a short riding boot; especially : an ankle-length boot fastened with a strap that is buckled at the side.
Among young or short equestrians, the jodhpur is a popular choice of boot.

joist

jongleur

n
/ zhō'nglər /
F
an itinerant medieval minstrel reciting and singing for hire.
Timothy went to the Renaissance Fair dressed as a jongleur, with a handmade lute and a velvet cap.

jonquil

n
/ 'jäkwəl /
L > Sp > F
a perennial bulbous herb native to southern Europe and northern Africa that has long slender leaves and is widely cultivated for its flowers.
A single jonquil in a bud vase adorned each table in the restaurant.

jostlement

joule

n
/ 'jül /
E name
[has near homonym: jewel] the absolute meter-kilogram-second unit of work or energy equal to 10 million ergs or approximately 0.7375 foot-pound or 0.2390 gram calorie.
In electrical terms, a joule represents the energy released in 1 second by a current of 1 ampere through a resistance of 1 ohm.

journal

journalism

n
/ 'jərn'lizəm /
F
an academic study concerned with the collection and editing of news or the editorial or business management of a news medium.
Students of journalism at Northwestern University often list the class taught by Oprah Winfrey as one of their favorites.

journey

joyial

adj
/ 'jōvēəl /
L > F
characterized by or showing marked good humor especially as exhibited in mirth, hilarity, or conviviality.
The joyial chef made cooking look easy and enjoyable.

joyiality

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jubilant

adj
/ 'jübələnt /
L

manifesting or expressing exultation or gladness.

Fans were jubilant when the batter hit the winning home run in the bottom of the ninth inning.

jubilarian

jubilation

judicial

judiciary

judicious

adj
/ jü'dishəs /
L

directed or governed by sound usually dispassionate judgment : characterized by discretion.

Jane's mom saw to it that her summer activities were a judicious mixture of chores and amusement.

juggernaut

n
/ 'jəgə(r).nət /
Skt > Hindi

a massive force or object that advances irresistibly and crushes whatever is in its path.

Sherman's armies moved like a juggernaut through the South.

juggler

n
/ 'jəg(ə)lə(r) /
L > F > E

[has near homonym: jugular] one skilled in keeping several objects in motion in the air at the same time by alternately tossing and catching them.

The crowd was most impressed when the juggler started juggling flaming torches.

jugular

adj
/ 'jəgyələ(r) /
L

of or relating to the throat or neck.
It is easy to find one's own pulse in the jugular region.

juiciness

juicy

julienne

adj
/ 'jülē.en /
F (name?)
[has homonym: Julian] cut in long thin strips—used especially of vegetables and fruits.
Bruce added julienne cucumber to the salad.

jumart

jumelle

junction

juncture

n
/ 'jən(k)chə(r) /
L
joint, seam.
Lulu found a note wedged in the juncture between the two seats.

jungle

juniper

n
/ 'jünəpə(r) /
L > E
an evergreen shrub or tree characterized by low, lateral spreading.
Grandma gathers berries from her juniper to use in cooking.

junket

n
/ 'jəŋkət /
L > It > E
a pleasure trip or tour made by an official at public expense ostensibly for purposes of inspection, investigation, or other public business.
Many citizens complained that the mayor's business trip to Japan was merely a junket.

junta

n
/ 'hüntə /
L > Sp
[has somewhat near homonyms: hunter, junto] a closely knit group of persons composing or dominating a government especially after a revolutionary seizure of power.
The military junta set up its headquarters in the former presidential palace.

jurimetrician

n
/ ,jürəmə'trɪʃən /
L + Gk > E
a specialist in the application of scientific methods to legal problems.
The judge heard testimony from a jurimetrician and a forensic pathologist.

jurisdiction

n
/ ,jürəs'dɪkʃən /
L
the limits or territory within which any particular power may be exercised.
Sgt. Voss couldn't issue the reckless driver a ticket because the highway was outside his jurisdiction.

jurisprudence

n
/ ,jürə'sprüd'n(t)s /
L
[has homonym: jurisprudents] the science or philosophy of law.
Tom is a professor of jurisprudence at Yale Law School.

jussive

adj
/ 'jəsɪv /
L + Ecf
expressing or having the effect of a command.
There was a jussive tone to Mr. Contreras's request, and the boys obeyed him immediately.

justice

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justiciable

adj
/ ˌjʌˈstɪʃ(ə)əbəl /
L > F

capable of being decided by legal principles or by a court of justice : liable to trial in a court of justice.
The judge decided that Al's dispute with his employer was justiciable under the new law.

justifiable

juvenescence

n
/ ˌjʊvəˈnesəns(t)s /
L

the state of being youthful or of growing young.
The director helped the aging actress produce the illusion of juvenescence through careful makeup and lighting.

juvenile

n
/ ˌjʊvəˈnɪl /
F or L

of or relating to childhood.
Many breakfast-cereal advertisements are geared to a juvenile audience.

juvenilia

n pl
/ ˌjʊvəˈnɪliə /
L

artistic or literary compositions produced in the author's youth and typically marked by immaturity of style, treatment, or thought.
The artist's juvenilia showed that he had been developing the same themes throughout his career.

juxtapose

v
/ ˌjʌkstəˈpōz /
L

place side by side.
Picasso often used collage to juxtapose coarse and refined elements in his art.

juxtaposition

n
/ ˌjʌkstəpəˈzɪʃən /
L

the act or an instance of placing two or more objects in a close spatial or ideal relationship.
The juxtaposition of the different styles within the same painting won the praise of the art critic.

Kabuki

n
/ kəˈbʊki /
Jpn

traditional Japanese popular drama with singing and dancing performed in a stylized manner.
Performers of Kabuki must learn to move with great control.

kairos

n
/ ˈkɪrəs /
Gk

a time when conditions are right for the accomplishment of a crucial action.
Feeling that the kairos would never be better, Barbara approached her boss and demanded a raise.

kaiser

kaiserdom

n
/ ˈkɪzə(r)dəm /
G

the territory ruled by the German emperors from 1871 to 1918.
Otto was the best clockmaker in the kaiserdom.

kakemono

n
/ ˌkækəˈmō(,)nō /
Jpn

a picture or writing on silk or paper that usually has a roller at its lower edge.
Yasuki hung a kakemono in the living room.

kakistocracy

n
/ ˌkækəˈstākɹəsi /
Gk

government by the worst individuals.
Denny thought the current student council was a kakistocracy.

kaleidoscope

n
/ kəˈlɪdəˌskōp /
Gk + E

an instrument that contains loose fragments of colored glass confined between two flat plates and two plane mirrors placed so that changes of position exhibit its contents in an endless variety of forms.
Raj received a fancy brass kaleidoscope for a birthday present.

kamikaze

kangaroo

kanone

karate

karst

karting

katabatic

adj
/ ˌkədəˈbɑdɪk /
Gk

of or relating to the downward motion of air (as in air drainage induced by surface cooling).
The ventilation system relied on katabatic action for optimal efficiency.

katana

n
/ kəˈtɑnə /
Jpn

a single-edged sword that is the longer of a pair worn by the Japanese samurai.
Hiroko proudly showed the guests her great-grandfather's katana hanging on the wall.

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katharometer

n
/ˌkathəˈrämədə(r) /
Gk

an apparatus for determining the composition of a gas mixture.
With the help of a katharometer, the chemist was able to analyze the engine's exhaust.

katzenjammer

kaumographer

n
/kó'mägrəfə(r) /
Gk

a worker who transfers designs, trademarks, or other printed material to cloth articles with a hot iron.
The sweatshirt store employs a kaumographer to decorate shirts with designs chosen by the customer.

keepsake

keeshond

kempt

kennel

n
/'ken¹l /
L > F > E

[has near homonym: quenelle] a house for a dog or pack of hounds.
Jack plans to help his father build a kennel for their beagles.

keno

n
/'kē(,)nō /
F

[has homonym: kino] a game resembling lotto or bingo in which numbers printed on pellets are taken from a sack and announced to the players who cover the numbers on cards and in which five numbers covered in the same horizontal row win for the player.
The casino coffee shop had runners to sell the diners cards for keno.

kepi

n
/'kāpē /
L > G > F

a military cap having a close-fitting band, a round flat top sloping toward the front, and a visor.
In the foyer of the French embassy there is a statue of a general with a kepi atop his head.

keratitis

n
/ˌkerə'tidəs /
Gk

inflammation of the cornea of the eye.
After being struck in the eye, the boxer had to be treated for keratitis.

keratoderma

n
/ˌkerədō'dərmə /
Gk

a hard, callous condition of the skin.
The patient's keratoderma caused him pain and loss of movement.

keratoplasty

n
/'kerədōˌplastē /
Gk

plastic surgery on the cornea.
Keratoplasty, especially corneal grafting, has improved the vision of many people.

kerchief

n
/'kərchāf /
F > E

a square of cloth usually folded worn by women as a head covering.
Before Eileen went out to tend to her garden, she put on a blue and white kerchief.

kerf

n
/'kərf /
E

a slit or notch made in cutting usually by a saw or cutting torch.
Roger's toy racetrack is made from a piece of wood with a wide kerf along which the little cars move.

kerflop

kernel

kerplunk

adv
/kə(r)'pləŋk /
imit
with a thud.
Mimi dropped the apple kerplunk onto Mrs. Vega's desk.

kerseymere

kestrel

n
/'kestrəl /
L > F > E
a common small European falcon.
Sean found an injured kestrel on the roof of the library.

ketch

khaki

kibitz

kibitzer

n
/'kibətsə(r) /
Yiddish
an outsider or nonparticipant who looks on and may offer unwanted advice or comment.
Officer Morrow ordered the kibitzer to stand back and get out of the way of the rescue squad.

kidnap

kielbasa

n
/kil'bäsə /
Pol
[Note: A differently pronounced variant of the word is kielbasy.] a smoked sausage.
Adria ordered a half-pound of potato salad and a kielbasa from the deli.

kilim

kiln

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kiloton

n
/ 'kilə.tən /
Gk + E

an explosive force equivalent to that of 1,000 tons of TNT—used especially in reference to an atom or hydrogen bomb.

Given the strength of nuclear bombs, 1 kiloton is a small amount of explosive force.

kilowatt

kimono

kindergarten

adj
/ 'kində(r).gärt̩n /
G

of or relating to an elementary level or initial phase.

After her request to skip from the sixth to the eighth grade was denied, Kathleen was openly scornful of the kindergarten math problems the teacher kept assigning.

kindling

kindness

kinesiology

n
/ kə.nēsē'äləjē /
Gk

the study of the principles of mechanics and anatomy in relation to human movement.

All physical therapy students are required to take a course in kinesiology.

kinesitherapy

n
/ kə.nēsē'therəpē /
Gk

the therapeutic and corrective application of active and passive movements (as by massage) and of exercise.

The stroke victim's muscular problems were almost totally corrected through intensive kinesitherapy.

kinetic

adj
/ kə'nedik /
Gk

relating to the motion of matter and the forces and energy associated therewith.

The kinetic theory of gases treats each molecule in a gas as a point, which has mass but negligible volume.

kinetosis

n
/ kinə'tōsəs /
Gk > L

sickness induced by motion and characterized by nausea.

Before boarding the ship, Claire made sure she had brought along medication for kinetosis.

kingdom

kinkajou

n
/ 'kiŋkəjü /
Algonquian > F
a slender long-tailed mammal of Central and South America related to the raccoon.

The kinkajou is sometimes called the honey bear.

kishke

n
/ 'kishkə /
Slav > Yiddish
beef or fowl casing stuffed with a savory filling (as of matzoth flour, chicken fat, and onion) and roasted.
Steve ate four helpings of his grandmother's kishke.

kitchen

n
/ 'kichən /
E
a room or some other space (as a wall area or separate building) with facilities for cooking : a place for preparing meals.

Joey spent several hours in the kitchen on Thanksgiving Day.

kitsch

n
/ 'kich /
G

artistic or literary material held to be of low quality, often produced to appeal to popular taste, and marked especially by sentimentalism, sensationalism, and slickness.
Souvenir shops are filled with kitsch for the indiscriminating tourists.

kiwi

klendusity

n
/ klen'd(y)üsədē /
Gk

the tendency of a plant or variety to escape infection as a result of having some property that prevents or hinders inoculation : disease-escaping ability.

The plant's thick cuticle is largely responsible for its klendusity.

klinotaxis

n
/ klinə'taksəs /
Gk

directional orientation involving turning toward a stimulus.

The klinotaxis of honeybees is dependent on the angle of the sun.

klomp

n
/ 'klämp /
D

[has homonym: clomp] a wooden shoe worn in the Low countries.
The Dutch villager proudly showed Pam a klomp that he had just finished carving.

knapsack

n
/ 'nap.sak /
G&D

a bag or case often of canvas supported on the back by a strap over each shoulder and used especially for carrying supplies while on a march or hike.

The next morning, Boris found a young snapping turtle in his knapsack.

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knave

knavery

knead

kneadable

adj

/ 'nēdəbəl /

E + Ecf

having the proper texture for mixing into a well-blended whole by or as if by repeatedly drawing out and pressing together.

Flour was mixed with other ingredients to produce a kneadable dough.

knickers

n pl

/ 'nikə(r)z /

American name

[has homonym: nickers] loose-fitting knee-length pants gathered at the knee on a band for sports and informal wear.

The man was dressed in a shaggy tweed jacket and knickers with long woolen stockings.

knickknacky

knight

knightling

knish

n

/ kə'nish /

Russ > Yiddish

a round or square of rich baking-powder dough folded over a savory meat or cheese filling and baked or fried.

Sol searched his new neighborhood in vain for a restaurant that served a decent knish.

knishes

knock

knockabout

knoll

n

/ 'nɒl /

E

a usually small rounded land eminence.

Drucilla lay at the top of the knoll to catch some rays.

knout

knowledge

n

/ 'nælɪj /

E

the fact or condition of knowing.

Jack's knowledge of carpentry immediately earned him a job when he arrived in Miami.

knuckle

knucks

knurl

kohlrabi

n

/ kɒl'ræbē /

G

a variety of cabbage having a turnip-shaped edible stem.

The flesh of the kohlrabi resembles that of the turnip but is sweeter and milder.

kookaburra

n

/ 'kʊkəbərə /

Australian name

a kingfisher of Australia that is about the size of a crow, has a call resembling loud laughter, and feeds in part on reptiles.

While vacationing in Melbourne, Lindsay was at first startled by the peculiar chortling of a kookaburra.

kremlin

n

/ 'kremlən /

Russ

the citadel or fortress of a Russian city or town.

Bruce hiked to the ancient kremlin for the best view of the city.

kriegspiel

n

/ 'krēgz,pē(ə)l /

G

chess in which neither player sees the other's board but is given some information as to the opponent's moves by a referee who keeps track of all moves on a third board.

Orvil attributes his ability to mentally picture a chessboard in play to his fondness for kriegspiel.

Krugerrand

n

/ 'krügə.rænd /

S Afr name + S Afr geog name

a one-ounce gold coin of the Republic of South Africa.

Martin purchased a Krugerrand at the New York Coin Show last year.

krypton

n

/ 'kriptän /

Gk

a colorless relatively inert gaseous element found in air at about one part per million and used especially in electric lamps.

A light bulb filled with krypton will last longer and shine more brightly than a regular bulb of the same wattage.

kuchen

n

/ 'kükən /

G

any of several varieties of coffee cake typically made from sweet yeast dough and variously shaped, flavored, and frosted.

Aunt Mitzi served a warm apple kuchen for Christmas brunch.

kudize

v

/ 'k(y)ü.dīz /

Gk

grant honors to : praise.

The planning committee had a luncheon to kudize Mr. Blalock, who donated 100 acres of land for the city park.

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kudos

n pl
/ 'k(y)ü.dōz /
Gk

praises given for achievement.
Daphne received many kudos from the drama coach after her performance in the school play.

kudzu

n
/ 'küd(ü)z(ü) /
Jpn

a vine of China and Japan that is used widely in the southern United States for erosion control and soil improvement.
Along many highways of the deep South, kudzu covers the roadside like drapery.

kwashiorkor

n
/ ,kwäshē'örkär /
Ghana name
severe malnutrition in infants and children caused by a high-carbohydrate, low-protein diet.
Supplying protein supplements to affected children is one way in which UNICEF works to eradicate kwashiorkor.

labefaction

laboratory

laborious

adj
/ lə'börēəs /
L

involving much work : tiresome.
Restoration of the mansion will require laborious effort.

labyrinth

n
/ 'labə.rin(t)th /
Carian? > Gk > L > E
a structure full of intricate passageways that make it difficult to find the way from the interior to the entrance or from the entrance to the interior.
Lost in the labyrinth of passages beneath the castle, the invaders gave up the attack plan and instead concentrated on finding a way out.

labyrinthine

laccate

adj
/ 'lakāt /
L + Ecf
having a varnished or lacquered appearance.
The leaves of some tropical evergreens have a laccate surface.

lacerate

laceration

n
/ ,lasə'rāshən /
L > F
a wound made by tearing or rending roughly.
Forty stitches were required to close the laceration in Jeremy's scalp.

lachrymose

adj
/ 'lakra:mōs /
L
dismal, melancholy.
The lachrymose play ruined Samantha's weekend.

lackadaisical

adj
/ ,lakə'dāzəkəl /
E + Ecf
lacking life, spirit, or zest : devoid of energy or purpose.
John's piano teacher criticized him for his lackadaisical performance in the recital.

laconic

adj
/ lə'känik /
Gk > L
spoken, written, or expressed briefly or tersely : pithy.
Mrs. Fitzpatrick's laconic speaking style was quite popular with her students.

lacrosse

n
/ lə'krōs /
F
a game that is played on a turfed field by two teams of ten players, each of whom uses a long-handled stick with which the ball is caught, carried, and thrown, with the object being to throw the ball into the opponents' goal.
Curious about lacrosse, Pamela signed up for a college intramural team.

lacteal

adj
/ 'laktēəl /
L + Ecf
relating to, consisting of, producing, or resembling milk.
Liz was surprised to learn that her lacteal drink was made from soybeans.

lacuna

n
/ lə'k(y)ünə /
L
a blank space : a missing part : gap, hole.
Gabe discovered a mysterious lacuna in the manuscript.

ladle

lageniform

adj
/ lə'jēnə.fōrm /
L + Ecf
shaped like a flask : dilated below and tapering to a slender neck above.
While on the field trip, the botanist directed the class to an example of a lageniform fungus.

laggard

adj
/ 'lagə(r)d /
Scand + Ecf
slow or relatively slow to act, move, follow, or respond.
Successful mail order companies are rarely laggard in handling complaints.

laggardly

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lagniappe

lagomorph

n
/ 'lagə.mɔrf /
Gk > L

[Note: Could be confused with Lagomorpha.] any of several gnawing animals (as hare, rabbit, or pika) resembling the rodents.
A lagomorph has well-developed incisors to help it sever plant stems and gnaw on bark.

laity

n
/ 'lāede /
Gk > L > F > E + Ecf

[Note: Could be confused with lady.] the great body of the people of a religious faith as distinguished from its clergy.
In most churches, many tasks and duties are given to the laity.

lallation

laloplegia

n
/ .lələ'plēj(ē)ə /
Gk

paralysis of the muscles involved in speech.
Since Uncle Harry's stroke caused laloplegia, he had to communicate with pencil and paper.

lamasery

n
/ 'lāməs.ərē /
Tibetan > F + Per > F

a monastery of Tibetan Buddhist monks or priests.
Xiang returned from the lamasery a wiser and more introspective man.

lambda

lambent

lambently

adv
/ 'lambəntlē /
L

in a light and brilliant manner.
Carla's eyes flashed lambently under her dark brows.

lambrequin

n
/ 'lambə(r)kən /
D > F

a short decorative drapery for a shelf edge or for the top of a window casing : valance.
An embroidered lambrequin hung over each of the mansion's windows.

lament

v
/ lə'ment /
L

express sorrow for : bewail, mourn.
Railroad buffs still lament the demise of the steam locomotive.

lampoon

n
/ lam'pūn /
F

a light mocking satire.
The new movie is a lampoon of the horror films that are made especially for teenagers.

lamppost

n
/ 'lamp.pōst /
Gk > L > FE + E
a pole supporting a usually outdoor lighting device.
The speeding automobile didn't make the curve and slammed into a lamppost, knocking it to the ground.

lamprey

n
/ 'lamprē /
Gaulish? > L > F

any of various freshwater and saltwater vertebrates that are widely distributed in temperate and subarctic regions and resemble eels but have a large circular jawless suctorial mouth with numerous small conical teeth.
A large lamprey slithered out of the underwater cave, startling the diver.

lampyrid

n
/ 'lampərəd /
Gk > L

a beetle or firefly of medium or small size having an elongate form.
The lightning bug is a common lampyrid.

lancet

landau

n
/ 'lan.daü /
G geog name

a four-wheeled covered carriage.
People who cannot picture what a landau looks like should think of Cinderella's carriage.

landscape

n
/ 'lanz.kāp /
D

a portion of land or territory that can be seen in a single view including all the objects so seen.
After the snowstorm the landscape looked like a winter wonderland.

langlauf

langouste

n
/ lä'güst /
L > OProv > F
spiny lobster.

Alicia ordered the langouste at the fancy seafood restaurant.

language

n
/ 'langwij /
L > F > E

[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word.] the inner tongue or flat plate opposite the mouth of an organ flue pipe.
A small chip in the organ's smallest language subtly affected its tone.