

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

**languescent**

adj  
/ lan'gwes'nt /  
L

becoming listless or fatigued.  
*The languescent ballerina struggled through the final scene.*

**languid**

adj  
/ 'lanwəd /  
L > F

sluggish in character or disposition.  
*In India Mary had always felt hot and too languid to care much about anything.*

**languor**

**languorous**

**languorously**

adv  
/ 'lan(g)(ə)rəslē /  
L + Ecff

in a manner characterized by listless indolence or sluggishness.  
*After returning from work, Cora reclined languorously on the sofa.*

**laniary**

adj  
/ 'lānē.erē /  
L

adapted for tearing.  
*Laniary teeth are common in most carnivores.*

**lanolated**

adj  
/ 'lan'l.ādəd /  
L > ISV + Ecff

containing wool grease refined for use in ointments and cosmetics.  
*Agnes used lanolated cream to treat her dry, rough skin.*

**lantern**

n  
/ 'lantərn /  
Gk > L > F > E

a portable lamp.  
*The red light in the distance came from a lantern that hung from the last car of the train.*

**lapidary**

**lapideous**

adj  
/ lə'pidēəs /  
L

of the nature of stone.  
*Lapideous concretions that form in the bladder or kidneys can cause extreme pain.*

**lapillus**

**larcenous**

**larceny**

n  
/ 'lārs(ə)nē /  
L > F > E

the unlawful taking and carrying away of personal property without the consent of its lawful possessor.  
*When Tina first saw Victor's art collection, she suspected him of larceny.*

**largetto**

adv  
/ lār'ged(,)ō /

It  
in a somewhat slow manner—used as a direction in music.  
*In the second movement, which is played largetto, Beethoven unfolds one melodic idea after another.*

**largitonal**

adj  
/ lār'jishən'l /  
L + Ecf

of or relating to a gift or gratuity.  
*The seed money for the new museum consists entirely of largitonal funds.*

**lariat**

n  
/ 'larēət /  
L > Sp

a long light but strong rope used with a running noose for catching livestock.  
*Jonathan watched in fascination as the cowboy demonstrated his skill with the lariat.*

**larigo**

n  
/ 'lārə.gō /  
Sp

a ring at each end of the cinch of a western saddle through which the straps pass.  
*When Lynn investigated her loose saddle, she found that a larigo had broken.*

**larithmics**

n pl  
/ lə'riθmiks /  
Gk

the scientific study of the quantitative aspects of population.  
*In accordance with a principle of larithmics, the emigration from the country was offset by an increased rate of population growth.*

**larmoyant**

adj  
/ lār'mōiənt /  
L > F

given to tears or weeping : tearful.  
*Even Jorge, who is not usually larmoyant, had to wipe his eyes during the eulogy.*

**larrigan**

n  
/ 'larə.gən /  
unknown

an oil-tanned moccasin with legs that is used especially by loggers and trappers.  
*The statue of Paul Bunyan depicted him with an ax over his shoulder and a hole in one larrigan.*

**larva**

n  
/ 'lārvə /  
L

the immature, wingless, and often vermiform feeding form of an insect which has hatched from the insect egg.  
*The caterpillar is the larva of the butterfly.*

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**laryngitic**

adj  
/ˌlɑrənˈjɪdɪk/  
Gk

affected with an inflammation of the upper part of the trachea containing the vocal cords.  
*After a long day of pitching his merchandise, the salesman returned home exhausted and laryngitic.*

**laryngitis**

**larynx**

n  
/ˈlɑrɪŋ(k)s/  
Gk > L

the modified upper part of the respiratory passage of air-breathing vertebrates bounded above by the glottis and continuous below with the trachea.  
*The vocal cords are situated within the larynx.*

**laser**

n  
/ˈlāzə(r)/  
English acronym  
a device that utilizes the natural oscillations of atoms or molecules between energy levels for generating coherent electromagnetic radiation.  
*The surgeon used a laser to make the incision.*

**lassitude**

n  
/ˈlɑsəˌtʃʊd/  
L  
a condition of weariness or debility : fatigue.  
*Lassitude is a symptom of many tropical diseases.*

**latensify**

**laterigrade**

adj  
/ˈlɑdəˌrɑˌgrɑd/  
L + L  
running sidewise or characterized by such running.  
*The laterigrade movements of the crab delighted the children on the beach.*

**lathe**

n  
/ˈlɑθ/  
E

a machine in which work is rotated about a horizontal axis and shaped by a fixed cutting tool while being held in a chuck.  
*Chloe donned her safety glasses before switching on the lathe.*

**laticiferous**

adj  
/ˌlɑdəˈsɪf(ə)rəs/  
Gk? > L + Ecff  
containing, bearing, or secreting latex.  
*Some laticiferous tropical vines are good sources of rubber.*

**latitude**

**latitudinous**

adj  
/ˌlɑdəˈtʃʊdˌnəs/  
L  
having breadth especially of thought or interpretation.  
*Poetry is a latitudinous category, ranging from the moralistic to the nihilistic.*

**latkes**

**lattice**

n  
/ˈlɑdəs/  
Gmc? > F > E  
a framework or structure of wood or metal made by crossing laths or other thin strips so as to form a network.  
*The window has a lattice, but that did not stop Renton from getting through it.*

**laud**

v  
/ˈlɔd/  
L  
sing the praises of.  
*The proud parents would laud their child's slightest accomplishment.*

**laudatory**

adj  
/ˈlɔdəˌtɔrē/  
L  
of, relating to, or containing praise.  
*Seth made sure everyone saw his laudatory telegram from the dean.*

**laughable**

adj  
/ˈlɑfəbəl/  
E + Ecff  
comical, absurd.  
*Marlene wore antique finery which would have been laughable on any other woman.*

**laughter**

**launder**

**launderer**

n  
/ˈlɔndərə(r)/  
L > F > E  
one who washes and irons clothing.  
*Gina took her blouse to the launderer for cleaning.*

**laureation**

n  
/ˌlɔrēˈɑʃhən/  
L  
an act of crowning with or as if with a wreath of leaves as a mark of honor or achievement.  
*At her laureation the recipient of the honorary degree paid tribute to her college professors.*

**laurel**

n  
/ˈlɔrəl/  
L  
[has homonym: loral] foliage used by the ancient Greeks to crown victors in the Pythian games.  
*The ancient statue of an unknown athlete bore a carefully carved wreath of laurel.*

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**lavash**

n  
/ 'lä.väsh /  
Armenian  
a large thin crisp unleavened wafer with a rough surface caused by air bubbles during baking.  
*Phil served lavash with goat cheese.*

**lavatory**

n  
/ 'lavə.tōrē /  
L  
a room with conveniences for washing the hands and face and usually with one or more toilets.  
*All of the soap dispensers in the lavatory were empty.*

**lavender**

**layette**

**league**

n  
/ 'lēg /  
Gaulish > L > E  
[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word.] an English unit of distance of about 3 miles.  
*Long car rides seem shorter if you figure them by the league instead of by the mile.*

**leaky**

**leasable**

**lease**

**leatherine**

**leaven**

n  
/ 'levən /  
L > F > E  
[has homonym and near homonyms: levin and eleven, levan] a substance (as yeast) acting or used to produce fermentation in a dough or a liquid.  
*Nina neglected to add the leaven that causes the bread dough to rise.*

**lebkuchen**

n  
/ 'läp.kükən /  
G  
a Christmas cookie usually made with honey, brown sugar, almonds, candied fruit peel, and spices.  
*Bart slipped a lebkuchen to the schnauzer.*

**lecithin**

n  
/ 'lesəthən /  
Gk  
a substance that is obtained in the manufacture of soybean oil and that is used in foods (as margarine, chocolate, bakery products).  
*Lecithin is used in the production of caramel to make it smoother.*

**lectern**

n  
/ 'lektə(r)n /  
L  
a desk or stand with a sloping top and usually a ledge at the bottom of the slope designed to support a book or script in a convenient position for a reader standing before it.  
*Miguel clutched the lectern in an attempt to conceal his nervousness.*

**lectionary**

**lectotype**

**lederhosen**

n pl  
/ 'lädə(r).hōz²n /  
G  
knee-length leather trousers worn especially in Bavaria.  
*All the men who volunteered to work at Oktoberfest were asked to wear lederhosen.*

**legacy**

n  
/ 'legəsē /  
L > F > E  
money or property given to someone by direction of a will.  
*Tim opened a small business with the legacy from his father.*

**legerdemain**

n  
/ .lejə(r)də'mān /  
F  
skill and dexterity in the performance of juggling or conjuring tricks.  
*The performer's legerdemain included making a coworker disappear from an enclosure.*

**legerity**

n  
/ lə'jerədē /  
L > F  
mental or physical agility and quickness.  
*The gymnast performed on the balance beam with remarkable legerity.*

**leggieramente**

**legibility**

**legible**

**legislate**

**legislatorial**

adj  
/ .lejəslə'tōrēəl /  
L + Ecf  
having the power or performing the function of making laws.  
*Unfinished legislatorial duties kept Congress in session past its normal adjournment date.*

**legislature**

n  
/ 'lejə.slāchə(r) /  
L + Ecf  
an organized body of persons having the authority to make laws.  
*Ellen served as a page for the legislature last year.*

**legitimacy**

**leguminous**

adj  
/ lə'gyümənəs /  
L  
of, resembling, or consisting of peas or other vegetables.  
*The only leguminous food that Mandy likes is peas.*

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**leisurable**

adj

/ 'lɛzh(ə)rəbəl /

L > F > E

proceeding deliberately without haste.

*The bikers made a leisurable tour of the campus.*

**leisure**

**lemming**

n

/ 'lemɪŋ /

ON > Norw

any of several small rodents of circumpolar distribution.

*The legend of suicide by drowning associated with the lemming is fascinating but probably untrue.*

**lemniscate**

**lemonade**

**lemur**

n

/ 'lɛmə(r) /

L

any of numerous arboreal chiefly nocturnal mammals formerly widespread but now largely confined to Madagascar that are related to the monkeys.

*The lemur is lower on the evolutionary scale and less intelligent than the monkey.*

**length**

n

/ 'lɛŋ(k)θ /

E

the longer of the two straight-line dimensions of a surface or plane or the longest of the three straight-line dimensions of a solid : extent from end to end.

*Marsha and her father frequently argue over the length of her skirts.*

**leniency**

n

/ 'lɛnɪənsɪ /

L

the quality or state of being tolerant or merciful.

*At his sentencing the convicted felon expressed remorse and pleaded for leniency.*

**lenient**

**leoncito**

n

/ .lɔən'sɛ(,)tɔ /

Sp

a lion monkey; any of several South American marmosets.

*The leoncito has a mane of fur around its head like a lion.*

**leonine**

adj

/ 'lɛə.nɪn /

L

resembling or suggesting that of a lion.

*Portraits of Beethoven and Einstein always depict them with leonine hairstyles.*

**leopard**

n

/ 'lɛpə(r)d /

Gk > L > F > E

a large strong cat of southern Asia and Africa that is adept at climbing and is usually tawny or buff with black spots.

*The so-called "black panther" is actually a black-coated form of the leopard.*

**leopardess**

**leotard**

n

/ 'lɛə.tɑrd /

F name

a close-fitting garment for the torso that is worn for practice or performance by dancers and acrobats.

*In modern dance, performers often wear a very simple leotard.*

**lepidopterist**

n

/ .lɛpə'dæptərɪst /

Gk

a specialist in the study of butterflies and moths.

*Judy was well on her way to becoming a lepidopterist; she already had her own butterfly net.*

**leporiform**

adj

/ 'lɛpərə.fɔrm /

L + E

resembling a hare or rabbit in form.  
*For Easter, Mom decorates the windows with leporiform figures bearing baskets of eggs.*

**leprosy**

n

/ 'lɛprəsɪ /

Gk > L

a progressive infectious disease that affects the skin and nerves and causes lumps, ulcers, white scaly patches, deformities, and eventual loss of sensation.

*Even though approximately 270 cases of leprosy are diagnosed in the United States each year, effective medications have made the existence of leper colonies unnecessary.*

**leptocercal**

adj

/ .lɛptə'sɜrkəl /

Gk + Gk

tapering off to a long slender point—used of the tail of a fish.  
*The scuba diver showed Jane his scar from a wound he received when whipped by the leptocercal tail of a stingray.*

**lesion**

n

/ 'lɛzhən /

L > F > E

[has near homonym: legion] an abnormal change in structure of an organ or part due to injury or disease.

*Sarah had Dr. Kendall treat the lesion on her shin.*

**lethal**

adj

/ 'lɛθəl /

L

of, relating to, or causing death.

*The lethal fire spread through the Riggs Building rapidly.*

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**lethargic**

adj  
/ lə'thɑːrjɪk /  
Gk > L > F

slow-moving, sluggish.  
*Rhea's dry throat and lethargic disposition warned her that a cold was coming.*

**lethargy**

n  
/ 'lethə(r)jē /  
Gk

the quality or state of being lazy or indifferent : lassitude, apathy.  
*The hot, humid air of the tropics spreads a feeling of lethargy over everyone.*

**letteret**

**lettuce**

n  
/ 'ledəs /  
L > F > E

a common garden vegetable with succulent leaves that are often used in salads.  
*Rosemarie prefers romaine lettuce for her salads.*

**leucitite**

**leucoryx**

n  
/ 'lūkə(ɹ)riks /  
Gk

a large chiefly pale brownish antelope of North Africa.  
*The horns of the leucoryx are evenly curved backwards.*

**levade**

n  
/ lə'väd /  
F > G

a show-ring movement in which a horse raises the forequarters, brings the hindquarters under him, and balances with haunches deeply bent and forelegs drawn up.  
*When a horse's body is at a less-than-45-degree angle with the ground, the movement is called a "levade."*

**levanter**

n  
/ lə'vantə(r) /  
L > F > E + Ecf

a strong easterly Mediterranean wind.  
*When the levanter hits the Rock of Gibraltar, it soars up 1,400 feet, and its vapor becomes a dense white cloud.*

**levee**

n  
/ 'levē /  
L > F

[has homonym: levy] an embankment built alongside a body of water to prevent flooding of nearby land.  
*The city plans to construct a levee to prevent flooding from the river.*

**level**

**leverage**

**leveret**

n  
/ 'lev(ə)rət /  
L > F > E

a wild rabbit in its first year.  
*Jimmy's pet rabbit is a leveret that his dad caught while cutting hay.*

**leviathan**

adj  
/ lə'vɪəθən /  
Heb > L > E

of enormous size.  
*The ore was hauled away in leviathan trucks.*

**levity**

n  
/ 'levədē /  
L

excessive or unseemly frivolity : lack of fitting seriousness.  
*The minister's levity during the eulogy was inappropriate.*

**levy**

v  
/ 'levē /  
F > E

impose or collect by legal process or by authority.  
*The political candidate promised to levy no new taxes if he were elected.*

**lexicography**

**lexicon**

n  
/ 'leksəkän /

Gk  
the vocabulary of a subject or of an occupational group.  
*The lexicon of computer programmers is slowly becoming part of everyday language.*

**liability**

**liable**

**liaison**

**libel**

**liberalism**

n  
/ 'lib(ə)rəlɪzəm /  
L + Ecf

a political philosophy based on the belief in freedom for the individual and on the belief of governmental guarantees of human rights and civil liberties.  
*Alex believes that persons attracted to liberalism are often more compassionate than practical.*

**liberalize**

**librarian**

n  
/ lɪ'brerēən /  
L

one whose vocation is working with collections of books, manuscripts, or other literary materials kept for study or reading.  
*Juan asked the librarian for the key to the rare-book cabinet.*

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**library**

n  
/ 'li.brerē /  
L

a room or section of a building or a building itself given over to books, manuscripts, or other literary and sometimes artistic materials usually kept in some convenient order for use but not for sale.

*Stella owns many books and plans to convert a spare bedroom to a library.*

**libretto**

n  
/ lə'bre(,)dō /  
L

the text of a work (as an opera) for the musical theater.

*Michelle bought a dual-language edition of the libretto of Tosca for a quarter at a garage sale.*

**licensable**

**licentiate**  
n  
/ lɪ'senchēət /  
L

an academic degree ranking below that of a doctor given by some European institutions of higher education.

*After two years' study, Reverend Pease received a licentiate in canon law.*

**lichen**

n  
/ 'lɪkən /  
Gk > L

[has homonym: liken] any of numerous complex plants that are made up of an alga and a fungus growing in symbiotic association on various solid surfaces (as rocks or the bark of trees).

*Sean used a mixture of green paint and sawdust to simulate lichen on his model train layout.*

**lichenified**

**lichenophagous**

**licit**

adj  
/ 'lɪsət /  
L

not forbidden by law : lawful.

*Even licit drugs can be dangerous if not used as directed by a physician.*

**lidocaine**

**liege**

adj  
/ 'liːj /  
L > F > E

having the right to feudal allegiance and service.

*The serf bowed low before his liege lord.*

**lien**

**lienholder**

n  
/ 'liːn.hōldər /  
L > F + E

one having a valid mortgage.

*When she returned from vacation, Iris was mortified to find a stack of letters from her lienholder.*

**lieu**

n  
/ 'li /  
L > F

[has homonym: loo] place, stead.

*Miss Woodhouse had many acquaintances, but not one among them could be accepted in lieu of her best friend Miss Taylor for even half a day.*

**lieutenancy**

n  
/ li'utenənsē /  
L > F > E

the term of a commissioned officer in the army, air force, or marine corps ranking below a captain.

*During his lieutenancy, Lionel served in Guam.*

**lieutenant**

n  
/ li'tenənt /  
L > F > E

a military officer in the army, navy, air force, or marine corps.

*At the end of the novel, the young naval hero was finally promoted to lieutenant.*

**ligament**

n  
/ 'lɪgəmənt /  
L

something that ties or unites one thing or part to another.

*International law is considered by some to be the ligament of mankind.*

**ligature**

n  
/ 'lɪgəʃə(r) /  
L > F > E

something that is used to bind; specifically : a thread, wire, or other material used in surgery.

*Dr. Adams removed the ligature that had held the vein closed during the operation.*

**lightning**

adj  
/ 'lɪtnɪŋ /  
E

[has near homonym: lightning] moving with or having the speed and suddenness of lightning.

*The lightning rapidity of Mr. Julia's jargon and wit is a tool of his trade as an auctioneer.*

**ligneous**

adj  
/ 'lɪgnēəs /  
L

of or resembling wood.

*Mr. Hart described the plant as a perennial herb with a ligneous crown.*

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**ligniperdous**

adj  
/ .lignə'pərdəs /  
L + L

destructive to wood.  
*The house had to be inspected for any ligniperdous insects before it could be sold.*

**lilac**

**liliaceous**

adj  
/ .lilē'āshəs /  
L

of, relating to, or resembling any of numerous erect perennial leafy-stemmed bulbous herbs.  
*Deb's curtain material has a colorful liliaceous pattern.*

**lilliputian**

adj  
/ .lilə'pyūshən /  
imaginary geog name + Ecf  
extremely small.

*The lilliputian furniture and fixtures in the dollhouse astounded and delighted the museum visitors.*

**limb**

n  
/ 'lim /  
E

[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word. In addition, word has homonym: limn.] the outer edge of the apparent disk of a celestial body or a portion of the edge.  
*Teresa spied a crater directly on the Moon's limb.*

**limbiferous**

adj  
/ lim'bif(ə)rəs /  
L + L

having a border or margin.  
*Mr. Lovejoy told his pupils that they would be expected to use limbiferous paper for all their assignments.*

**limby**

**limerick**

n  
/ 'lim(ə)rik /  
Irish geog name  
a light verse form of five anapestic lines.  
*Noel composed a funny limerick about his teacher.*

**limitrophe**

adj  
/ 'limə.trōf /  
L + Gk  
situated on a border or frontier : adjacent, neighboring.  
*The geography teacher asked the class to name all the countries that are limitrophe to Russia.*

**limn**

v  
/ 'lim /  
L > F > E  
[has homonym: limb] outline in clear sharp detail : delineate.  
*The object of the video game is to fire when the periscope sights limn the tanker.*

**limnology**

n  
/ lim'näləjē /  
L + Gk  
the scientific study of physical, chemical, meteorological, and biological conditions in fresh waters especially of ponds and lakes.  
*An expert in limnology testified that pollution is reducing the fish population in Crystal Lake.*

**limousine**

n  
/ 'limə.zēn /  
F geog name  
a small bus (as for transporting passengers to and from an airport).  
*Mrs. Waldrupe was disappointed that her airport limousine was a ramshackle van.*

**limpid**

adj  
/ 'limpəd /  
L  
completely free from cloudiness or other obstacles to the passage of light.  
*Mary got an eerie feeling when she looked into the limpid blue eyes of the Siberian Husky.*

**linctus**

**lineament**

**linear**

adj  
/ 'linēə(r) /  
L  
involving a single dimension : not square or cubic.  
*The micrometer caliper is an instrument for making precise linear measurements of dimensions such as diameters, thicknesses, and lengths.*

**linen**

**lingerie**

**linguist**

n  
/ 'lingwəst /  
L  
a student of or expert in languages.  
*The famous linguist described how many tribal languages are becoming extinct.*

**linguistically**

**liniment**

n  
/ 'linəmənt /  
L > E  
a liquid or semiliquid alcoholic, oily, or saponaceous preparation for application to the skin with friction.  
*Winona delicately rubbed liniment over her sore shoulder.*

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**linoleum**

n  
/ lɪˈnɒləəm /

L  
a floor covering made by laying on a cloth backing a mixture of solidified linseed oil and various solid particles and usually pigments.

*The pattern in Sheena's kitchen linoleum resembles inlaid pebbles.*

**liquefaction**

n  
/ .likwəˈfakshən /

L  
the process of making or becoming liquid : conversion of a solid into a liquid by heat or of a gas into a liquid by cold or pressure.

*Much earthquake damage results from the liquefaction of soil on which buildings stand.*

**liquefiable**

adj  
/ .likwəˈfiəbəl /

L  
capable of being reduced to a liquid state.

*Many familiar solid materials are easily liquefiable by heating.*

**liquescent**

adj  
/ liˈkwesnt /

L  
being, becoming, or tending to become liquid : melting.

*When a giant asteroid hits the ground, it is transformed into a liquescent mass that becomes a fireball.*

**liqueur**

**liquidate**

**lisle**

**lisse**

**litany**

**literate**

adj  
/ ˈlɪdərət /

L  
able to read and write.  
*The government's goal for all adult citizens to be literate in 20 years needs a strategic plan.*

**literati**

n pl  
/ .lɪdərˈrædē /

L&It  
the educated class : intelligentsia.  
*The New York literati gathered at the book-signing party.*

**literature**

**lithesome**

adj  
/ ˈlɪθsəm /  
E + E  
characterized by agile grace.  
*Denise's lithesome performance in her audition won her a place in the Royal Ballet.*

**lithification**

n  
/ .lɪθəfəˈkæʃhən /  
Gk + L  
the conversion of unconsolidated sediments into solid rock.  
*Ben's science project explained how limestone is formed by lithification.*

**lithochromy**

n  
/ ˈlɪθəˌkrɒmə /  
Gk  
the art of painting on stone.  
*Arthur's work in lithochromy earned him a commission to paint a scene on the museum's slate wall.*

**lithograph**

**lithoid**  
adj  
/ ˈlɪˌθɔɪd /  
Gk

resembling a stone.  
*The lava eventually solidified into lithoid masses.*

**litigation**

**litigator**

n  
/ ˈlɪdəˌɡædər /

L  
one that prosecutes or defends by pleadings, evidence, and debate in a court.  
*The cough drop manufacturer hired a famous litigator to appear in its new commercial.*

**litigiousness**

n  
/ ˈlɪtɪʒənəs /  
L  
the quality or state of being prone to engage in lawsuits.  
*An increase in lawsuits can be attributed in part to the growing litigiousness of American society.*

**litmus**

n  
/ ˈlɪtməs /  
Scand  
a coloring matter that turns red in acid solutions and blue in alkaline solutions and is obtained from several lichens.  
*Chris will use litmus to test for acidity in the chemical solution.*

**litotes**

n  
/ ˈlɪdətēz /  
Gk  
understatement in which an affirmative is expressed by a negative of the contrary (as in "He's not a bad ball player").  
*Rupert loved to use the litotes "not bad" to convey high praise.*

**litterateur**

**litterbug**

**littoral**

adj  
/ ˈlɪdərəl /  
L  
[has homonym: literal] of, relating to, or being near a shore, especially of the sea.  
*Eduardo finally realized his dream when he established a littoral nature preserve.*



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**liturgical**

adj  
/ lɪ'tɜrjəkəl /  
Gk > L

of, relating to, or having the characteristics of ceremonial or ritualistic worship.

*The priest donned his liturgical vestments before the mass.*

**liturgy**

n  
/ 'lɪdə(r)jē /  
Gk

a rite or series of rites, observances, or procedures prescribed for public worship in the Christian church in accordance with authorized or standard form.

*Since the Second Vatican Council, the use of the vernacular language, rather than Latin, has become widespread in Catholic liturgy.*

**livelihood**

**liveried**

**livid**

adj  
/ 'lɪvəd /  
L > F  
discolored by or as if by bruising : black-and-blue.

*The bicycle accident left a large livid patch on Violet's arm.*

**llama**

n  
/ 'lāmə /  
Quechua > Sp  
[has homonym: lama] any of a genus of wild or domesticated cud-chewing mammals of South America related to the camels but smaller and without a hump.  
*The llama thrives in the Alpine grasslands of Bolivia, Peru, Chile, and Argentina.*

**loam**

**loathsome**

**lobotomy**

n  
/ lɒ'bədəmə /  
Gk  
incision into the brain to sever nerve fibers for the relief of certain mental disorders and tension.  
*Lobotomy is no longer the preferred treatment in cases of extreme psychosis.*

**lobscouse**

n  
/ 'lɒb.skaʊs /  
unknown  
a sailor's dish prepared by stewing or baking bits of meat with vegetables, hardtack, and other ingredients.  
*After Fritz returned from his fishing trip, he ordered a hearty portion of lobscouse for dinner.*

**locale**

n  
/ lɒ'kəl /  
L > F  
a place or locality especially when viewed in relation to a particular event or characteristic.  
*Evan's doctor told him he needed to live in a drier locale, so he moved to Tucson.*

**location**

**lochet**

adj  
/ lɒ'kɛdɪk /  
Gk  
lying in wait for prey—used especially of insects.  
*Josh claimed that the ants in the nest next to his porch must be lochet, because they always seemed to know when he was barefoot.*

**locomotion**

**locust**

n  
/ 'lɒkəst /  
L > E  
a grasshopper that frequently travels in swarms.  
*Cooper placed the captured locust in a mason jar.*

**lodging**

n  
/ 'lɑdʒɪŋ /  
E  
a place to live : dwelling.  
*After a fire destroyed their home, the family depended on relatives for temporary lodging.*

**logarithm**

n  
/ 'lɒgə.rɪθəm /  
Gk  
the exponent that indicates the power to which a number must be raised to produce a given number.  
*When the math teacher said that 4 is the logarithm of 16 to the base 2, only half the class understood what she was saying.*

**logarithmic**

**loggia**

n  
/ 'lɑdʒ(ē)ə /  
F > It  
[has near homonym: logia] a roofed open gallery or arcade in the side of a building especially when facing upon an open court.  
*An airy second-floor loggia ran around three sides of the tiny courtyard.*

**logician**

**logion**

n  
/ 'lɒdʒi.ən /  
Gk  
a usually short pointed saying or observation especially of a religious teacher.  
*The guru's devotees treasured every logion that he uttered.*

**logistics**

n pl  
/ lɒ'dʒɪstɪks /  
Gk  
military science in its planning and handling and implementation of personnel, equipment, and facilities.  
*Juan has been interested in logistics since he first played with toy soldiers.*

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**logograph**

n  
/ 'lɒgəˌgrɪf /  
Gk  
[has near homonym: logograph] a word puzzle.  
*Katrina spent the afternoon constructing a logograph for her little brother.*

**logomachy**

n  
/ lɒ'gəməki /  
Gk  
a dispute over or about words.  
*Behind the legislature's logomachy about what makes a Great Lake "great" lay political and economic motives.*

**logorrhea**

n  
/ lɒgə'reə /  
Gk  
pathologically excessive and often incoherent talkativeness.  
*The patient's logorrhea was indicative of deep emotional problems.*

**loiter**

**lonely**

adj  
/ 'lɒnlē /  
E + Ecf  
being without company.  
*Allie took a picture of a lonely fisherman on the pier.*

**longanimity**

n  
/ lɒŋə'nɪmədi /  
L  
a disposition to bear injuries patiently : forbearance.  
*Murphy's Law strikes often in George's project, but his longanimity will help him weather all setbacks.*

**longevity**

n  
/ lɒn'jevədi /  
L  
a long duration of individual life.  
*Mr. Wade's longevity was remarkable, considering he had been sickly as a child.*

**longiloquence**

**longitudinal**

**loquacious**

adj  
/ lɒ'kwəʃəs /  
L  
given to excessive talking : garrulous.  
*Bryn's loquacious sister was quite a hit at the rehearsal party.*

**loquacity**

**lorgnette**

n  
/ lɒ(r)n'jet /  
F  
a pair of eyeglasses or opera glasses with a handle.  
*Lorgnette in one hand and hankie in the other, Mrs. Vandergriff looked just like the opera-goers portrayed in cartoons.*

**loricate**

n  
/ 'lɒrəkət /  
L  
an animal having a hard protective case or shell.  
*The armadillo is a well-known loricate, as is the alligator.*

**lorikeet**

n  
/ 'lɒrəkēt /  
Malay + Sp&F  
any of numerous small arboreal parrots that are found in Australasia and that feed largely upon the nectar of flowers.  
*Ginger has a pet lorikeet that rides on her shoulder.*

**lounge**

**loupe**

n  
/ 'lup /  
Gmc > F  
[has homonyms: loop and loup]  
small magnifying glass used by jewelers and watchmakers.  
*At his jewelry store Arlo always wears a loupe on a chain around his neck.*

**lovat**

**loveliness**

n  
/ 'ləvlənəs /  
E  
the state of being beautiful.  
*Colette was awestruck by the loveliness of the stained-glass windows.*

**loxocosm**

n  
/ 'lɒksəkəzəm /  
Gk  
a device to show how the inclination of Earth's axis causes the day's length to vary from season to season.  
*John constructed a loxocosm for the science fair.*

**lozenge**

n  
/ 'ləzənj /  
F  
a small diamond-shaped medicated candy.  
*Mother gave Rick a cherry-flavored lozenge for his sore throat.*

**luau**

n  
/ 'li:əu /  
Hawaiian  
a feast with Hawaiian food and usually Hawaiian entertainment.  
*Sabrina wore a grass skirt to the luau.*

**lucernal**

adj  
/ .li'sərnəl /  
L + Ecf  
of or relating to a lamp.  
*A slide projector is a lucernal device for displaying images on a screen.*

**lucid**

adj  
/ 'lūsəd /  
L  
penetrated with light : translucent.  
*The otters romped and played in the lucid stream.*

**lucidity**

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**lucrative**

**luculent**

adj  
/ 'lūkyələnt /

L  
transparently clear in thought or expression.  
*The audience was pleasantly amazed at the luculent commentary on the state of the economy.*

**ludicrous**

adj  
/ 'lūdəkrəs /

L  
meriting derisive laughter or scorn : absurd.  
*The jury was instructed to disregard the ludicrous remarks made by the defendant.*

**luftmensch**

n  
/ 'lūft.menʃ /

G > Yiddish  
an impractical contemplative person having no definite trade, business, or income : dreamer.  
*Every large family seems to have at least one luftmensch among its members.*

**lugubrious**

adj  
/ lə'gūbrēəs /

L > E  
expressive of, marked by, or giving rise to grief or sorrow.  
*The funeral director spoke in lugubrious tones as she explained the arrangements.*

**lullaby**

n  
/ 'lələbi /

E  
a soothing refrain; especially : a song used to quiet children or lull them to sleep.  
*The baby was asleep before Mary finished singing the lullaby.*

**lumen**

n  
/ 'lūmən /

L  
a unit of luminous flux equal to the light emitted in a unit solid angle by a uniform point source of one candle.  
*The lumen is used in calculations regarding artificial lighting.*

**luminaire**

n  
/ .lūmə'nə(a)(ə)r /

L > F  
a complete lighting unit including lamp, shade, reflector, fixture, and other accessories.  
*A luminaire was built into each cubicle in the office.*

**luminary**

n  
/ 'lūmə.nerē /

L  
one that is an inspiration to others : one who has achieved success in his or her chosen field.  
*Although a luminary in the field, Peter was reluctant to weigh in with his opinion about the ethics of cloning.*

**luminosity**

n  
/ .lūmə'nəsədē /

L  
the quantity of radiation emitted by a star or other celestial source usually expressed in terms of the Sun's intensity.  
*The comet's luminosity was so great that it could be seen during the day.*

**luminous**

adj  
/ 'lūmənəs /

L  
emitting or seeming to emit a steady suffused light that is reflected or produced from within.  
*During the movie Stan periodically checked the time on the luminous dial of his watch.*

**luncheon**

**luncheonette**

n  
/ .lənʃə'net /

E + Fcf  
a place where light lunches are sold.  
*After playing racquetball, Jaime stopped at the luncheonette for a sandwich.*

**lunge**

v  
/ 'lənʃ /

F  
make a forceful forward movement.  
*Every few seconds the swordsman would lunge at his opponent.*

**lunule**

**luscious**

adj  
/ 'ləʃəs /

E  
having a delicious taste or smell.  
*The waiter pointed to cakes and pastries, each more luscious than the last, as he told us about them.*

**lustrous**

adj  
/ 'ləstrəs /

L > It > F + Ecf  
having a gloss or shine : gleaming.  
*When dining out, Marcia always wears some lustrous jewelry.*

**lute**

n  
/ 'lūt /

Ar > OProv > F > E  
[has homonym: loot] a stringed musical instrument of Oriental origin that has a large pear-shaped body.

*The court minstrel strummed his lute thoughtfully, deciding which song to play next.*

**luthier**

n  
/ 'lūdēə(r) /

Ar > OProv > F  
a maker of stringed instruments.  
*The luthier gave Dolores a choice of inlay patterns for her new guitar.*

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**lux**

n  
/ 'lʌks /  
L

[has homonyms: lucks, luxe] a unit of illumination equal to the direct illumination on a surface that is everywhere 1 meter from a uniform point source of one candle.  
*Paul's new video camera is designed to operate in a light intensity of only 1 lux.*

**luxate**

**luxuriant**

**luxurious**

adj  
/ ,lʌg'zʰɪrɪəs /  
L

characterized by wealth or rich abundance.  
*The price of the car with the luxurious interior astounded even wealthy customers.*

**luxury**

**lycanthrope**

n  
/ 'lɪkən.thrɒp /  
Gk

a person transformed temporarily or permanently into a wolf or capable of assuming a wolf's form.  
*The zoologist contends that the myth of the lycanthrope is one of the reasons wolves are so maligned.*

**lyceum**

**lycopene**

**lymphatic**

adj  
/ lɪm'fædɪk /  
Gk > L  
conveying a pale fluid that bathes the tissues of an organism.  
*The lymphatic system is vital in removing harmful bacteria from tissues.*

**lynx**

n  
/ 'lɪŋ(k)s /  
Gk

[has homonym: links] any of several wildcats with relatively long legs, a short stubby tail, mottled coat, and often tufted ears.  
*The lynx lives in cold northern latitudes, where its favorite prey is the snowshoe hare.*

**lyonnaise**

adj  
/ 'lɪɒnəz /  
F geog name  
prepared or seasoned with onions and sometimes parsley.  
*Ricardo ordered lyonnaise potatoes as an elegant alternative to french fries.*

**lyre**

**lyrically**

**macadam**

n  
/ mə'kədəm /  
British name  
broken stone used in roadway paving.  
*Depending on the climate, some roads are best made of macadam and others, of asphalt.*

**macaque**

n  
/ mə'kak /  
Pg > F  
any of numerous short-tailed Old World monkeys chiefly of southern Asia and the East Indies.  
*The islanders trained a macaque to perform several routines for public entertainment.*

**macarize**

v  
/ 'makəɹɪz /  
Gk  
pronounce happy or blessed : felicitate, laud.  
*After the wedding ceremony various friends will give speeches to macarize the happy couple.*

**macaroni**

n  
/ .makə'rɒnē /  
It  
an alimentary pasta composed chiefly of semolina dried in the form of slender tubes or small fancy shapes.  
*Lucy's favorite pasta dish is macaroni and cheese.*

**macaroon**

n  
/ .makə'rūn /  
It > F  
a small cake composed chiefly of the white of eggs, sugar, and ground almonds or almond paste or coconut.  
*Cheryl placed a fresh macaroon on each saucer before serving the coffee.*

**macaw**

**maceral**

n  
/ 'masəɹəl /  
L?  
a fragment of plant debris in coal.  
*Penny examined the maceral under a microscope.*

**macerate**

**Machiavellian**

adj  
/ .makēə'veləən /  
It name  
of or relating to Machiavelli or his political theory that any means however lawless or unscrupulous can justifiably be used in achieving political power.  
*The Machiavellian politician was accused of wheeling and dealing, backstabbing, and creating fall guys and cover-ups.*

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**machicolation**

n  
/ məˈchɪkəˈlæʃən /  
F > L + L

an opening on a parapet of a battlement for the purpose of dropping missiles upon assailants attacking from below.  
*Whenever a castle gets stormed in the movies, the defenders are shown pouring boiling oil through a machicolation onto the enemy attacking the gates.*

**machination**

**machinator**

**mackerel**

**mackinaw**

n  
/ ˈmækəˌnəʊ /  
Amer geog name  
a short usually double-breasted and belted coat or jacket of heavy fabric.  
*“No guts, no glory!” exclaimed the skier in a plaid mackinaw as he pushed off down the slope.*

**macle**

**macrame**

n  
/ ˈmɑkrəˌmɑ /  
Ar > Turk > It or F  
a coarse lace or decorative fringe made by knotting threads or cords in a geometrical pattern.  
*Penny prefers to use soft yarn in her macrame.*

**macrocosm**

**Madagascar**

adj  
/ ˌmɑdəˈgɑskə(r) /  
African geog name  
of or from Madagascar, an island in the Indian Ocean.  
*Lemurs, cute large-eyed furry monkey-like animals, are the best known Madagascar fauna.*

**madarosis**

n  
/ ˌmɑdəˈrɔsəs /  
Gk > L  
loss of the eyelashes or of the hair of the eyebrows.  
*Dorothy suffered from madarosis during chemotherapy, but her eyelashes eventually grew back even thicker than before.*

**madeleine**

n  
/ ˈmɑdˈleɪn /  
F name  
a small rich cake baked in a tin shaped like a shell.  
*Knut skipped the main course and went right to the madeleine.*

**mademoiselle**

n  
/ ˌmɑdəmˈwɛːzəl /  
F  
an unmarried French woman.  
*Robert is smitten by a young mademoiselle he met during his trip to Paris.*

**madrigal**

n  
/ ˈmɑdrɪgəl /  
L > It > E  
a polyphonic part-song originating in the 14th century.  
*At the coronation feast the haunting madrigal brought tears to the eyes of the new king.*

**madrilene**

**maelstrom**

n  
/ ˈmælztrəm /  
D  
a powerful water current that usually moves in a circular direction with extreme rapidity.  
*A memorable scene from the movie Fantasia features the sorcerer’s apprentice caught in a maelstrom.*

**maestro**

n  
/ ˈmɑi(ə)strəʊ /  
L > It  
a master or teacher of an art (as music).  
*The award-winning singer gave tribute to her maestro at the conservatory.*

**maffick**

**magazine**

**magenta**

n  
/ məˈdʒentə /  
It geog name  
a deep purplish red; specifically : one of the subtractive primary colors.  
*The visual afterimage of magenta is green.*

**maggoty**

**magisterial**

adj  
/ ˈmɑdʒɪstɪriəl /  
L  
of, relating to, or having the characteristics of a master or teacher : authoritative.  
*Jubril’s magisterial air served him well with everyone but his daughter.*

**magistracy**

n  
/ ˈmɑdʒɪstrəsi /  
L  
the office of a public official entrusted with administration of the laws : magisterial power and dignity.  
*The dissenters were persecuted by the state for refusing to accept the authority of the magistracy.*

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**magnanimity**

n  
/ mæg'nə'nimədē /

L  
a nobility of feeling that is superior to meanness, pettiness, or jealousy and that disdains revenge or retaliation.

*The philosopher praised the victor's magnanimity in allowing the captives to return home.*

**magnanimous**

adj  
/ mag'nənəməs /

L  
showing or suggesting nobility of feeling and generosity of mind.  
*Simone's magnanimous attitude toward the homeless wasn't shared by her sister.*

**magnetic**

adj  
/ mag'nɛdɪk /  
Gk geog name  
possessing the ability or power to attract.  
*Even as a child, Julie's magnetic personality charmed everyone who spoke to her.*

**magnetizable**

**magnificat**

**magnificent**

**mahatma**

n  
/ mə'hätmə /  
Skt

a person held worthy of reverence for high-mindedness, wisdom, and selflessness.  
*Raoul trekked for three days to seek the advice of the mahatma.*

**mahogany**

n  
/ mə'hägənē /  
unknown

the durable yellowish brown to reddish brown wood of a West Indian tree that is widely used for cabinetwork and fine finish work.  
*Kate's bedroom furniture is made of solid mahogany.*

**mahout**

n  
/ mə'haüt /  
Skt > Hindi

a keeper and driver of an elephant.  
*The mahout trained his elephant to move logs.*

**mai**

n  
/ 'mī /  
Jpn

[has homonym: my] a slow Japanese folk or theater dance featuring hand gestures.  
*Midori is an expert in all forms of Japanese dance, but her favorite is the mai.*

**maillot**

n  
/ mə'yō /  
F

[has near homonym: mayo] a woman's one-piece usually strapless bathing suit.  
*Becky thought that the maillot was out of fashion until she saw several in the catalog.*

**maimed**

adj  
/ 'māmd /  
Gmc > F > E  
crippled, mutilated.

*The maimed dog was taken to the animal hospital for treatment.*

**maintenance**

n  
/ 'mānt(ə)nən(t)s /  
F

the labor of keeping something (as buildings or equipment) in a state of repair or efficiency : upkeep.  
*Excellent maintenance preserved the original gingerbread trim on the Victorian house.*

**maize**

n  
/ 'māz /  
Taino > Sp  
[has homonym: maze] Indian corn.  
*Gina enjoys hearing the story of how the native Americans taught the Pilgrims to grow maize.*

**majordomo**

n  
/ mājə(r)'dō(,)mō /  
L > It > Sp  
[has near homonym: mayordomo] a head steward or palace official.  
*Jeeves has been majordomo of Huntington Castle for the last 30 years.*

**majority**

n  
/ mə'jōrədē /  
L  
a number greater than half of a total.  
*A runoff is necessary because none of the candidates captured a majority of the votes in the primary.*

**majuscule**

adj  
/ 'majə'skyül /  
L > F  
written in large letters (as capitals).  
*Dr. Jenkins could see immediately that the majuscule scripts of the two letters were identical and deduced that the same scribe had written both.*

**malachite**

n  
/ 'malə'kīt /  
Gk > L > E  
a mineral consisting of a green carbonate of copper that is an ore of copper and is used to make ornamental objects.  
*Pierre bought a piece of malachite at the museum of natural history.*

**maladive**

**maladroit**

**malady**

n  
/ 'malədē /  
L > F > E  
a disease, distemper, disorder, or indisposition of the body proceeding from impaired or defective functions.  
*In the 14th century, the malady known as The Black Death swept across Europe, leaving about 25 million people dead.*

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**malaguena**

n  
/ .malə'gānyə /  
Sp geog name  
a Spanish couple dance similar to a fandango.

*Juan and Carmela danced the malaguena with extraordinary grace and emotional excitement.*

**malapropism**

n  
/ 'maləprə'pizəm /  
F > E theater name  
a blundering use of a word that sounds somewhat like the one intended but is ludicrously wrong in the context.

*No matter how careful he tries to be, Sherman usually utters at least one malapropism in every campaign speech.*

**malaria**

n  
/ mə'lerēə /  
L > It + Gk > L > It  
a disease caused by sporozoan parasites in the red blood cells, transmitted by the bite of anopheline mosquitoes, and characterized by periodic attacks of chills and fevers.

*During the construction of the Panama Canal many workers succumbed to malaria.*

**malaxage**

n  
/ 'mā.laksij /  
Gk > L > F  
the act or process of softening a material (as clay) by moistening and working it.

*After the malaxage the clay was ready for molding on the potter's wheel.*

**malediction**

n  
/ .malə'dikshən /  
L  
curse, execration.

*The villain's last words were a malediction on the entire royal family.*

**malefactor**

n  
/ 'maləfaktə(r) /  
L  
one who commits an offense against the law.  
*The state's correctional program was designed to rehabilitate as well as punish the malefactor.*

**maleficent**

**malice**  
n  
/ 'maləs /  
L > F > E  
revengeful or unfriendly feelings : ill will, enmity.  
*In spite of all he has had to put up with from his classmates, Joel bears them no malice.*

**malign**

**malignant**  
adj  
/ mə'liŋənt /  
L  
evil in nature or influence or effect.  
*The dark clammy coldness surrounded her like a malignant beast of prey.*

**malingerer**

n  
/ mə'liŋerə(r) /  
Gmc? > F  
one who pretends to be ill or otherwise physically or mentally incapacitated so as to avoid duty or work.  
*Jamie Farr's character on the television series M\*A\*S\*H was an entertaining malingerer.*

**mallard**

n  
/ 'malə(r)d /  
F > E  
a common wild duck of the northern hemisphere.  
*When Timmy fed the ducks at the marina, he gave his last piece of bread to the mallard.*

**malleable**

adj  
/ 'malēəbəl /  
L > F > E  
capable of being extended or shaped by beating with a hammer or by the pressure of rollers.  
*Because tin is malleable at ordinary temperatures, it has been used to make many household implements.*

**malleolus**

n  
/ mə'lēələs /  
L  
[has somewhat near homonym: malleus] the rounded lateral projection on each bone of the leg at the ankle.  
*When Marcie realized that her brother was about to reveal her secret, she kicked him on the malleolus.*

**mallet**

n  
/ 'malət /  
F > E  
a tool with a large head for striking a surface without marring it.  
*Ray used a rubber mallet to put the wheel cover back in place after he changed the flat tire.*

**malloseismic**

adj  
/ .malō'sizmik /  
Gk  
of, relating to, or being a region subject to frequent destructive earthquakes.  
*Chris refuses to move to any of the malloseismic areas of California.*

**malocclusion**

n  
/ malə'klüzhən /  
L  
an abnormality in the fitting together of upper and lower teeth or dentures.  
*Hector wore braces on his teeth to correct a malocclusion.*

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

**malodorous**

adj  
/ mal'ōdərəs /  
L + L

having a bad odor : rank, fetid, stinking.

*Evelina smelled the malodorous skunk from 500 yards away.*

**mammoth**

adj  
/ 'maməθ /  
Yakut? > Russ

gigantic.

*Clarence specialized in growing mammoth vegetables and held several records for his specimens.*

**manacle**

**managerial**

adj  
/ .manə'jirēəl /  
L > It + Ecf

of, relating to, or characteristic of a person who conducts, directs, or supervises something.

*The classified ads included a notice for a managerial position at the steel wool factory.*

**mandate**

n  
/ 'man.dāt /  
L

a formal order from a superior court or official to an inferior one.

*The clerk delivered the written mandate to the lower court judge by hand.*

**mandatory**

adj  
/ 'mandə.tōrē /  
L

containing, constituting, or relating to an authoritative command, order, or injunction.

*Several states are instituting a mandatory work program for employable welfare recipients.*

**mandible**

n  
/ 'mandəbəl /  
L

any of various invertebrate mouthparts serving to hold or bite into food materials.

*Most insects use the mandible for crushing their food.*

**mandolinist**

**manducatory**

adj  
/ 'manjəkə.tōrē /  
L

relating to, employed in, or adapted for chewing.

*Mr. Rollins brought a live lobster to our biology class so that we could observe its manducatory processes.*

**manganese**

n  
/ 'mangə.nēz /  
Gk > L > It

a grayish white metallic element that is ordinarily hard and brittle, resembles iron but is not magnetic, and is used chiefly in making steel. *Manganese nodules, which cover vast stretches of ocean floor, are composed mostly of manganese but also contain iron, nickel, copper, and cobalt.*

**mange**

**mangle**

v  
/ 'mangəl /  
F > AF > E

[has homonym: mangel] cut, bruise, or hack with repeated blows or strokes.

*As an act of vengeance, Scott vowed that he would mangle Sara's prize-winning painting.*

**mangonel**

n  
/ 'mangə.nəl /  
Gk > L > F > E

a military engine formerly used for throwing missiles.

*With a sharp twang the mangonel hurled a boulder at the castle gate.*

**manicotti**

n pl  
/ .manə'kädē /  
L > It

tubular pasta shells stuffed with ricotta.

*The caterer filled the chafing dish with manicotti.*

**manifesto**

n  
/ .manə'fe(,)stō /  
L > It

a public declaration of intentions, motives, or views.

*The Unabomber's rambling manifesto appeared in a number of newspapers nationwide.*

**manipulator**

**manna**

n  
/ 'manə /  
Heb > Gk > L > E

[has near homonym: mana] something of value that falls one's way : windfall.

*Children swarmed the parade route collecting the manna of treats tossed from the float.*

**manoptoscope**

**mansard**

**mansuetude**

n  
/ 'man(t)swə.tüd /  
L

the quality or state of being gentle : meekness.

*Gary remembered his mother as having the sensitivity and mansuetude of a saint.*



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

**manumit**

v  
/ 'manyə.mit /  
L

set free; especially : release from slavery.  
*The tobacco farmer had agreed to manumit his one slave just before the Civil War began.*

**manuscript**

**maraca**

n  
/ mə'rākə /

Tupi > Pg  
a dried gourd or rattle containing dried seeds or pebbles that has a handle and is used as a percussion instrument often in pairs.  
*The band's percussionist accentuated the rhythm with a maraca.*

**maraschino**

n  
/ .marə'skē.nō /

It  
a sweet liqueur that is used as a cocktail ingredient and in preserving cherries.  
*Even though she's a grown woman, Evelyn sometimes likes to make herself a Shirley Temple with clear soda and maraschino.*

**maraud**

**marauding**

v  
/ mə'rōdɪŋ /  
F

roaming about and making irregular sudden small-scale attacks, raids, or incursions for the sake of obtaining loot.  
*Outlaws were marauding in areas where the law was not well established.*

**marble**

**marcescent**

adj  
/ mār'ses'nt /  
L

of a plant part : withering without falling off.  
*Autumn's first cold snap left many marcescent leaves in its wake.*

**marchioness**

n  
/ 'mārsh(ə)nəs /  
L

a woman who holds in her own right the rank of marquess.  
*Once a month the workers on the estate brought their disputes before the marchioness to be resolved.*

**mare**

n  
/ 'mä(ɹ)rā /  
L

[has near homonym: moray] one of several dark areas of considerable extent on the surface of either the Moon or Mars.  
*The Sea of Tranquility is perhaps the best-known mare on the Moon.*

**margaritaceous**

adj  
/ 'mārgərə'tāshəs /  
Gk > L > F > E

having a satiny iridescence like that of pearl or mother-of-pearl : pearly.  
*The tabletops at the diner have a margaritaceous finish.*

**mariachi**

n  
/ .mārē'ächē /  
F > Sp

a group of Mexican folk musicians usually consisting of singers, guitarists, and a violinist.  
*On weekends the mariachi entertained diners at the Mexican restaurant.*

**maricolous**

**marine**

adj  
/ mə'rēn /  
L

of or relating to the sea.  
*Marine iguanas live on the shores of the Galapagos Islands and eat seaweed.*

**marionette**

n  
/ .ma(a)rēə'net /  
F

a puppet moved by strings or by hand (as in a puppet show).  
*A marionette of Jay Leno was the hit of the show.*

**maritime**

adj  
/ 'marə.tīm /  
E name

of or relating to navigation or commerce on the sea.  
*After Bob graduates, he plans to join the Navy to study maritime law.*

**marjoram**

n  
/ 'mār.jərəm /  
L > F > E

any of various usually fragrant and aromatic mints that include several forms used as seasoning in cookery.  
*Vance likes to add marjoram and cream cheese to his scrambled eggs.*

**marmalade**

n  
/ 'mār.me.lād /  
Gk > L > Pg

a soft clear translucent jelly holding in suspension pieces or slices of fruit and fruit rind.  
*Mom's homemade marmalade on toast is always a great treat for breakfast.*

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

**marmoset**

n  
/ 'märmə.set /  
F > E

any of numerous small soft-furred South and Central American monkeys with claws instead of nails on all the digits except the great toe.  
*The chisel-like incisors of the marmoset are used for gouging trees to obtain gums and saps.*

**marotte**

n  
/ mə'rät /  
F name + Fcf

a pet idea or notion.  
*Katrina's marotte is that she is really too good for life as a bookkeeper and should be a company vice-president.*

**marplot**

**marriageable**

**marshmallow**

n  
/ 'märsh.melō /  
E

a confection made from corn syrup, sugar, albumen, and gelatin, beaten to a light creamy consistency, and usually rolled in powdered sugar when partly dry.  
*Burt toasted a marshmallow and put it between layers of graham crackers and chocolate squares.*

**marsupial**

n  
/ mär'süpēəl /  
Avestan? > Gk > L  
any of an order of mammals having a pouch for carrying the young and including kangaroos, wombats, bandicoots, and opossums.  
*The common stereotype of a marsupial is a female kangaroo with a large young one in her pouch.*

**martial**

adj  
/ 'märshəl /  
L

[has homonyms: marshal, marshall] belonging or relating to an army or to military life.  
*Patrick Henry believed that the only purpose of England's martial array in the colonies and their seaports could be to force the colonists into submission.*

**martinet**

n  
/ 'märt'n.et /  
F name

one who lays stress on a rigid adherence to the details of forms and methods.  
*A true-born martinet never thinks he is at all severe.*

**martinetish**

adj  
/ 'märt'n'edish /  
F name + Ecf

like or characteristic of a person who lays stress on a rigid adherence to the details of forms and methods.  
*Though all the students disliked Mr. Wall's martinetish attitude, most of them thought he was an excellent teacher.*

**martyr**

n  
/ 'märdər /  
Gk

one who voluntarily suffers death as the penalty of witnessing to and refusing to renounce his or her religion or a tenet, principle, or practice belonging to it.  
*St. Stephen, who was stoned to death, is believed to have been the first Christian martyr.*

**martyrology**

n  
/ 'märdə'räləjē /  
Gk

an official catalog of martyrs and saints of the Roman Catholic Church.  
*Keith bought an old martyrology at the rummage sale.*

**marzipan**

n  
/ 'märtsə.pän /  
Ar > It > G

a confection made of crushed almonds or almond paste, sugar, and egg whites that is often shaped into various forms (as fruit or animals).  
*Marlene filled the candy dish with marzipan.*

**mascara**

**masonry**

**masquerade**

n  
/ 'maskə'räd /  
It > F  
a social gathering of persons wearing covers on their faces and often fantastic costumes especially to impersonate characters from history or legend.  
*Todd and Sheila wore Conehead costumes to the masquerade.*

**massacre**

n  
/ 'masəkə(r) /  
F  
the act or instance of killing a considerable number of human beings or animals.  
*The massacre of buffalo is a regrettable part of the history of the West.*

**massage**

**masseter**

n  
/ mə'sēdə(r) /  
Gk > L  
a large muscle that raises the lower jaw and assists in chewing.  
*Tracy argued that she was trying to strengthen her masseter, but Mr. Gold made her throw out her chewing gum anyway.*

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**masseuse**

n  
/ ma'sə(r)z /  
Ar > F + Fcf

a woman who practices massage and physiotherapy.

*Delia spent an hour with the club's masseuse working out the kinks in her back.*

**massif**

n  
/ ma'sɛf /  
F

a block of Earth's crust bounded by faults or flexures and displaced as a unit without internal change.

*In the late 13th century a roadway was opened over the St. Gotthard massif in Switzerland.*

**mastiff**

n  
/ 'mastɪf /  
L > F > E

a very large powerful deep-chested smooth-coated dog of a very old breed used chiefly as a watchdog and guard dog.

*A big brown mastiff stood motionless behind the gate.*

**mastodon**

n  
/ 'mastədɒn /  
L

someone or something of gigantic size or unusually large size : giant.

*Mrs. Campbell's automobile collection ranges from a tiny two-seater to an antique mastodon.*

**mastoiditis**

n  
/ .ma.stɔɪ'dɪdɪs /  
Gk > L

inflammation of the process of the temporal bone behind the ear.

*Amy's doctor treated her mastoiditis immediately so that it wouldn't cause any permanent hearing damage.*

**matelot**

**matelote**

n  
/ 'madʰl.ɔt /  
F

a sauce made of wine, onions, seasonings, and fish stock.

*Even though it is served with fish, a matelote often contains red wine.*

**mathematician**

**mathematics**

n pl  
/ .mathə'madɪks /  
Gk

a science that deals with the relationship and symbolism of numbers and magnitudes and that includes quantitative operations and the solution of quantitative problems.

*Jill's favorite subject in school is mathematics.*

**matinee**

n  
/ .mat'nɪ /  
L > F

a performance of a production (as a play, opera, film) or the presentation of a concert or sometimes the holding of some other event in the afternoon or occasionally in the morning or at midnight.

*The English class attended a matinee of Our Town at the local playhouse.*

**matriarch**

**matriarchal**

**matriculant**

**matriculation**

**matrimony**

n  
/ 'matrə.mɒnɪ /  
L + L

the union of man and woman as husband and wife : marriage.

*The Las Vegas chapel specialized in instant matrimony.*

**matrix**

**mattock**

n  
/ 'madək /  
L > E

a tool that combines features of an ax, adze, and pick and is used for digging and chopping.

*It took Mark three hours of hard work with a mattock and shovel to dig up the tree stump.*

**mattress**

**maturescent**

**matutinal**

**matutine**

adj  
/ 'machətɪn /  
L

of a star : rising in or just before the dawn.

*For centuries those who live outdoors have used matutine stars as a kind of alarm clock.*

**maudlin**

adj  
/ 'mɔdln /  
Biblical Gk name > L > F > E  
tearfully or weakly emotional : effusively sentimental.

*Brian allowed himself to become maudlin only on St. Patrick's Day.*

**maudlinism**

**mausoleum**

**mauve**

n  
/ 'mɔv /  
L > F

a strong purple with a bluish cast.  
*Karen has tired of her bedroom of mauve and blue.*

**maverick**

n  
/ 'mav(ə)ɪk /  
Amer name

a member of any group who refuses to conform and who takes an unorthodox stand.

*The rest of the teachers considered Ms. Thorne to be a maverick because she invited her students to call her by her first name.*

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**mawkish**

**mawkishly**

adv

/ 'mɔkɪʃlɪ /

ON > E

in a cloying or sickly sentimental manner.

*During a mawkishly romantic scene in the movie, Ted got up to get some popcorn.*

**maxim**

n

/ 'mæksəm /

L

a saying of proverbial nature.

*"The early bird gets the worm" is Toni's favorite maxim.*

**mayhem**

n

/ 'mā.hem /

AF > E

willful and permanent crippling, mutilation, or disfigurement of any part of another's body.

*The victim was so badly disfigured that the assailant was charged with felony mayhem.*

**mayonnaise**

n

/ 'mā.nāz /

geog name? > F

a semisolid dressing made by emulsifying a mixture of raw eggs or egg yolks, vegetable oil, and vinegar or lemon juice usually together with salt and condiments.

*Helga wouldn't eat a roast beef sandwich without mayonnaise.*

**mayoralty**

n

/ 'mā.rəltɪ /

L > F > E

the term of office as the chief executive or nominal head of a city or borough.

*His opponent's television commercial made the point that Henry Vermillion had accomplished little during his mayoralty.*

**meadow**

**mealmouthed**

adj

/ 'mē.lə.maʊθd /

E + E

tending to cloak thoughts, ideas, or intents by the use of obscure or devious language.

*All of Judy's friends saw through her mealmouthed explanation.*

**meandrous**

adj

/ mē'andrəs /

Gk geog name

winding, flexuous, rambling.

*Over thousands of years the river had cut a meandrous channel through the plain.*

**measles**

n pl

/ 'mēzəlz /

E

a contagious disease characterized by red spots.

*Most doctors recommend that children be vaccinated against measles, mumps, and rubella.*

**measurable**

**mecometer**

**medallion**

n

/ mə'dalyən /

L > It > F

a large medal (as for a memorial purpose).

*Charise bought a World War II medallion on eBay.*

**medallionist**

**meddlesome**

adj

/ 'med'lsəm /

L > F > E

officiously intrusive.

*Her landlady's meddlesome manner annoyed Hatty so much that she moved out.*

**mediate**

v

/ 'mēdē.ət /

L

interpose between parties in order to reconcile them or to interpret them to each other.

*The envoy attempted to mediate between the warring factions.*

**medicinal**

**medicine**

n

/ 'medəsən /

L

the science and art dealing with the maintenance of health and the prevention, alleviation, or cure of disease.

*Campbell knows that she would like to one day pursue a career in the field of medicine.*

**medicolegal**

**mediocre**

adj

/ .mēdē'ɔkə(r) /

L

of but a moderate or low degree of quality.

*Jill's grades were mediocre until she started wearing glasses.*

**Mediterranean**

adj

/ .medətə'rānēən /

L

of, relating to, characteristic of, or situated near the Mediterranean Sea.

*The Mediterranean island of Malta has been the location for the filming of several movies.*

**medulla**

n

/ mə'dələ /

L

a posterior portion of the brain.

*The medulla governs various involuntary vital functions such as respiration.*

**meemies**

**meerschau**

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

**megacephalic**

**megalomaniac**

n  
/ .megə'lō'mānē.ək /  
Gk  
one affected with or exhibiting an excessive enthusiasm for doing great or grandiose things.  
*The candidate decried his opponent as a publicity-seeking megalomaniac.*

**megalopolis**

n  
/ .megə'löpələs /  
Gk  
a very large city.  
*Without community growth guidelines, a moderately sized city could become a megalopolis like Los Angeles in just a few decades.*

**megaphone**

**megaseism**

n  
/ 'megə.sizəm /  
Gk + Gk  
a violent earthquake.  
*A nuclear bomb can have effects far worse than those of a megaseism.*

**megohmmeter**

n  
/ 'me.gōm.mēdə(r) /  
Gk + G name + Gk  
an instrument for the measurement of large electrical resistances.  
*Professor Allen designed a laboratory session to acquaint students with the use of the megohmmeter.*

**melancholia**

**melancholy**

adj  
/ 'melən.kälē /  
Gk > L > F > E  
depressed in spirits : mournful.  
*The melancholy chirp of a cricket was the only sign of life near him.*

**melba**

n  
/ 'melbə /  
Australian name  
fruit served with ice cream, raspberry sauce, and whipped cream.  
*The peach melba was served in a crystal goblet.*

**melee**

n  
/ 'mā(,)lā /  
F  
[has homonyms: Malay, mele] a fight or contest between individuals mingled in a confused mass : a confused struggle.  
*The soccer match turned into a melee after angry fans stormed the field.*

**melitensis**

adj  
/ .melə'ten(t)səs /  
L geog name  
of, derived from, or caused by a particular bacterium of the genus *Brucella*.  
*Clyde's melitensis fever was reduced by antibiotics.*

**mellifluous**

adj  
/ me'liflʷəs /  
L  
sweetly flowing : smooth, honeyed.  
*The soprano's mellifluous voice lulled Frank to sleep.*

**mellisonant**

adj  
/ me'lis'nənt /  
L + L  
pleasing to the ear.  
*Tonia's mellisonant voice never failed to put her little sister to sleep.*

**mellophone**

**mellow**

adj  
/ 'me(,)lō /  
E  
[has homonym: melo] relaxed and at ease : pleasantly convivial.  
*The after-dinner crowd enjoyed listening to the mellow, laid-back singer.*

**melodrama**

n  
/ 'melə.drāmə /  
Gk > L > F  
a play characterized by extravagant theatricality, subordination of characterization to plot, and predominance of physical action.  
*George was put off by the opera's melodrama but was enthralled by the beauty of the music.*

**melophonic**

**memoir**

n  
/ 'mem.wär /  
L > F  
a history or narrative composed from or stressing personal experience and acquaintance with the events, scenes, or persons described.  
*The memoir of Burton Smith was published last year.*

**memorabilia**

n pl  
/ .memərə'bیلē /  
L  
things remarkable and worthy of remembrance or record.  
*The memorabilia in the hall of fame traced the history of basketball from its beginning in 1891.*

**memoriter**

adv  
/ mə'mörə.te(ə)r /  
L  
by or from memory : by heart.  
*Much to her surprise, Sue was able to recite the soliloquy that 20 years ago she had learned memoriter.*

**memory**

**menace**

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**menagerie**

n  
/ mə'naj(ə)rē /  
F

a collection of wild or foreign animals in cages or enclosures.  
*The eccentric billionaire's menagerie includes two pandas and a white rhino.*

**mendacious**

**mendicancy**

n  
/ 'mendəkənsē /

L  
the practice or act of begging.  
*Panhandlers became so aggressive in the city that its voters demanded legal enactments against mendicancy.*

**mendicant**

n  
/ 'mendəkənt /  
L

one who begs; especially : one who lives by begging.  
*The mendicant on the street corner once had a high-paying job.*

**menhune**

n  
/ .menə'hünē /  
Hawaiian

a small mythical Polynesian being living in the mountains and working at night as a stone builder.  
*The Hawaiian folklorist told the tale of a stone temple built overnight by a menhune.*

**menial**

adj  
/ 'mēniəl /  
L > E

of, relating to, or being work not requiring special skill or not calling into play the higher intellectual powers and often regarded as lacking dignity, status, or interest.  
*Viewed by some office workers as a menial task, making coffee can be quite an art.*

**meningitis**

n  
/ .menən'jīdəs /  
Gk > L

a disease in which microorganisms cause inflammation of the membranes that envelop the brain and spinal cord.  
*Trudy had meningitis when she was seven.*

**meniscus**

n  
/ mə'niskəs /  
Gk > L

the curved upper surface of a liquid column.  
*Because mercury sticks to itself better than to other substances, its meniscus is convex, or rounded upward.*

**menorah**

n  
/ mə'nōrə /  
Heb

a candelabrum with nine candlesticks used in the celebration of Hanukkah.  
*Stuart put the candles in the menorah just before the ceremony.*

**mentality**

n  
/ men'talədē /  
L

intellectual power or capacity : learning ability.  
*The mentality of dolphins is greater than that of sharks.*

**menthol**

n  
/ 'men.thəl /  
L > G

an alcohol that occurs naturally in peppermint oil and Japanese mint oil and can be made synthetically.  
*Menthol is used in medicines to relieve pain, itching, and nasal congestion.*

**mentor**

n  
/ 'men.tò(ə)r /  
Gk name

teacher, tutor, coach.  
*After Helen won the spelling competition, she said that her mother was her mentor.*

**mephitis**

n  
/ mə'fidəs /  
OScan > L

a noxious, pestilential, or foul exhalation from the earth.  
*Ivy suspected she was approaching the geyser when she smelled a strong mephitis.*

**mercantilism**

n  
/ 'mər.kən.tē.lizəm /  
L > It > F + Ecf  
devotion to commercial enterprise.  
*The turn of the century saw a boom in mercantilism.*

**mercenarily**

adv  
/ .mərs'n'erəlē /  
L + Ecff  
in a manner showing conspicuous lust for money.  
*Being mercenarily inclined, Joel refused to work for just the minimum wage.*

**mercenary**

adj  
/ 'mərs'n'erē /  
L  
showing conspicuous lust for money : based on or marked by greed.  
*No one in the family knows where Antonio gets his mercenary tendencies.*

**mercurial**

adj  
/ .mər'kyūrēəl /  
L  
characterized by rapid and unpredictable changeableness or by quick-wittedness : sprightly, temperamental, volatile.  
*Christopher's mercurial twists of temperament were a trial to his mother.*

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**merely**

adv

/ 'mi(ə)rli /

L > E + Ecf

no more than : barely, only.

*Joseph was merely pretending to be asleep.*

**merganser**

n

/ mər'gan(t)sər /

L

any of various fish-eating diving ducks with a slender bill and usually a crested head.

*Many people consider the red-breasted merganser one of the most beautiful ducks.*

**meridian**

n

/ mə'ridiən /

F > E

a great circle of the celestial sphere passing through its poles and the zenith of a given place.

*The apparent solar day is measured by the interval of time between two successive passages of the Sun across the observer's celestial meridian.*

**meringue**

n

/ mə'riŋ /

F

[has near homonym: marang] a mixture of beaten egg whites and powdered sugar baked at low temperature and used as a topping (as on pies and puddings).

*Thelma scraped the meringue off her pie.*

**mermaid**

n

/ 'mər.mād /

E

a fabled marine creature having the upper body of a woman and the lower body of a fish.

*As they sailed closer to what they thought was the end of the world, the sailors kept expecting to see a mermaid.*

**mermithergate**

**merotomize**

v

/ mə'rädə.miz /

Gk + Ecf

divide into parts.

*In tomorrow's biology class Jan will merotomize a frog to study its anatomy.*

**merriment**

**meshummad**

**mesmerize**

**mesoscale**

adj

/ 'mezə.skāl /

Gk > L + ON > E

of or relating to a meteorological phenomenon approximately 1 to 100 kilometers in horizontal extent.

*Unlike a blizzard, which can blanket a dozen states for days, mesoscale weather covers only a small area and passes through quickly.*

**mesoseismal**

adj

/ .mezə'sizməl /

Gk

of or relating to the center of an area of earthquake disturbance.

*The town in the mesoseismal area suffered the most damage from the earthquake.*

**metachrosis**

n

/ .medə'krōsəs /

Gk

the power of some animals (as many fishes and reptiles) to change color voluntarily by the expansion of special pigment cells.

*Metachrosis helps octopi blend with their environments to avoid being easy prey.*

**metagnomy**

**metallurgical**

**metallurgist**

n

/ 'med'ɪ.ərjəst /

Gk

a specialist in the study of the structure and properties of metals.

*Theobald hired a metallurgist to evaluate the ore deposits on his ranch.*

**metamorphosis**

n

/ .medə'mō(r)fəsəs /

Gk > L

change of physical form or substance that takes place during an insect's life as it matures.

*Complete metamorphosis is characteristic of beetles, butterflies and moths, flies, and wasps.*

**metaphor**

n

/ 'medə.fō(ə)r /

Gk

an implied comparison in contrast to the explicit comparison of the simile.

*The poet used the image of a drifting boat as a metaphor for the troubled soul.*

**metaphrast**

n

/ 'medə.frast /

Gk

translator; specifically : one who turns verse into a different meter or prose into verse.

*In translating the epic poem, Elliott consulted a well-known metaphrast.*

**metastasis**

v

/ mə'tastə.siz /

Gk

spread, as a disease-producing agent, from the original site of disease to another part of the body.

*The oncology professor pointed on the diagram to where the cancer cells would metastasize next.*

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

**meteoroidal**

adj

/ˌmɛdɛəˈrɔɪdɪəl/

Gk + Ecf

of or relating to meteors in orbit around the Sun.

*The many craters on the Moon are the result of meteoroidal bombardment.*

**methodical**

**meticulosity**

n

/məˈtɪkʏəˈlɛsədē/

L + Ecf

the quality or state of being extremely painstaking in the consideration or treatment of details.

*The gallery visitor marveled at the artist's meticulousness in depicting details so realistically.*

**metonymy**

n

/məˈtɒnəmē/

Gk

a figure of speech that consists in using the name of one thing for that of something else with which it is associated (as in "spent the evening reading Shakespeare").

*The metonymy "threads" for clothes has recently come back into popular slang.*

**metoposcopy**

n

/ˌmɛdəˈpɒskəpē/

Gk

the art of reading character or telling fortunes from the markings of the forehead.

*Gerald has a high, bumpy forehead that would provide a truly interesting study in metoposcopy.*

**metronome**

n

/ˈmɛtrənōm/

Gk

an instrument that emits an audible repetitive tap regulated to mark rhythm (as for music or marching).

*Martina used a metronome to hypnotize her cat.*

**mettwurst**

**meuniere**

**meuse**

**mezzanine**

n

/ˈmɛzˈnɛn/

L > It > F

the lowest balcony in a theater.

*Melinda says that she enjoys the view from the mezzanine better than the view from the orchestra.*

**miasma**

n

/mɪˈæzmə/

Gk > L

[Note: Could be confused with miasm.] a vaporous exhalation (as of a marshy region or of rotting matter) formerly believed to contain a substance causing disease.

*Eloise couldn't wait to escape from the miasma that had settled over the entire swamp.*

**Micawber**

n

/məˈkɒbə(r)/

E literary name

[has near homonym: macabre] an improvident person who lives in expectation of an upturn in his fortunes.

*Jenny was careful not to live like a Micawber just because she expected to receive a fellowship.*

**microcosm**

n

/ˈmɪkrəkəzəm/

Gk

a miniature universe.

*Kate could spend hours watching the microcosm of her ant farm.*

**microfiche**

n

/ˈmɪkrəˌfɛʃ/

F

a sheet of film containing several rows of photographic records on a reduced scale that are enlarged for reading or viewing.

*Norma examined a microfiche of old newspaper pages while doing research at the library.*

**micrograph**

n

/ˈmɪkrəˌɡrɑf/

Gk + Gk

a graphic reproduction of the image of an object formed by a microscope.

*The biology teacher showed the class a micrograph of a plant cell.*

**micrurgy**

n

/ˈmɪ(ɪ)krərjē/

Gk > ISV

the practice of using minute tools in a magnified field.

*Lorraine's excellence at micrurgy helped her greatly with her model making.*

**midgetism**

n

/ˈmɪdʒətɪzəm/

E + Ecf

the state of being an unusually small creature or thing.

*In the art of bonsai, midgetism is highly valued.*

**midinette**

n

/ˈmɪdɪˈnɛt/

F

a Parisian shopgirl.

*In the novel, Marie was a midinette who worked as a seamstress during the 1890s.*

**midriff**

n

/ˈmɪˌdrɪf/

E

the midregion of the human torso; especially : its external ventral aspect.

*According to the dress code, any student coming to school with an exposed midriff will be sent home.*

**mien**

n

/ˈmiən/

L > F > E

[has homonym: mean] the air or bearing of a person.

*Fame and fortune did not alter Cindy's humble mien.*



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

**mignonette**

n  
/ˈmɪnɪəˈnet /  
F

an annual plant native to North Africa that has long racemes of fragrant yellow or greenish white flowers.

*Lord Bateman sent seeds of mignonette to England in 1742 and called it mignonette, although it was not known by that name in France at the time.*

**migraine**

n  
/ˈmɪˌɡrɑːn /  
Gk > L > F

a condition marked by recurrent severe headache often with nausea and vomiting.

*Karen's doctor found out that her migraine was due to a food allergy.*

**mikado**

n  
/məˈkɑː(d)ō /  
Jpn

an emperor of Japan.

*The Mikado is one of Gilbert and Sullivan's best-loved operettas.*

**milacre**

**milchig**

adj  
/ˈmɪlˌkɪk /  
G > Yiddish

made of or derived from milk or dairy products.

*The dairy association posted on its web site several menus for milchig meals.*

**mildewed**

**militancy**

**militia**

n  
/məˈlɪʃə /  
L

a reserve unit of the armed forces.

*Captain Weston's military career began when he entered his county's militia.*

**millennialism**

**millennium**

n  
/məˈlɛnɪəm /  
L

a period of 1,000 years.

*In his "Four Freedoms" speech, Franklin D. Roosevelt stressed that his vision was not that of a distant millennium.*

**millinery**

**millionaire**

**mimeograph**

v  
/ˈmɪmɪəˌɡrɑːf /  
Gk + Gk

copy with a duplicator that consists of a frame in which the stencil is stretched and an inking roller for pressing ink through the porous lines of the stencil onto paper.

*Kerry was puzzled when her grandmother talked of how she used to mimeograph her boss's company memos.*

**mimic**

v  
/ˈmɪmɪk /  
Gk > L

copy or imitate very closely especially in external characteristics (as voice, gesture, or manner).

*Christie has learned to mimic Grandma so well on the telephone that she can fool the whole family.*

**mimicry**

**mimosa**

n  
/məˈmɒsə /  
L

a tree or shrub that is native to tropical and warm regions and that has usually bipinnate leaves and globular heads of small pink or white flowers.

*Deanna planted a mimosa in the front yard.*

**minacious**

adj  
/məˈnɑːʃəs /  
L

of a menacing or threatening character.

*Though the butler seemed minacious, he was not the culprit.*

**minaret**

**minatory**

adj  
/ˈmɪnəˌtɔːrɪ /  
L

having a menacing quality : expressive of or conveying a threat.

*In a minatory tone, Mrs. Sampson asked the boys what they planned to do about her broken window.*

**minestrone**

n  
/ˈmɪnəˈstrɒnɪ /  
L > It

a rich thick vegetable soup with dried beans, macaroni, vermicelli, or similar ingredients sometimes topped with grated cheese.

*Steve crumbled oyster crackers into his minestrone.*

**miniascape**

n  
/ˈmɪnɪəˌskɑːp /  
L > It > L

a dish garden made with dry or other plant materials that do not require water.

*A miniascape makes an interesting host or hostess gift.*

**miniature**

adj  
/ˈmɪn(ɪ)əˌtʃu(ə)r /  
L > It

being or represented on a small scale.

*The miniature productions of architects' dream houses were all made out of children's building blocks.*

**miniaturize**

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**minimization**

n  
/ˌmɪnəmə'zāʃən/  
L + Ecff  
the action or process of reducing to the smallest possible number, degree, or extent.  
*The credit counselor told Shanika that the first step should be the minimization of her interest payments.*

**minor**

n  
/'mɪnə(r)/  
L  
[has homonym: miner] a person under full age or majority : one who has not attained the age at which full civil rights are accorded.  
*Because Randy is a minor, the airline will not allow him to take the red-eye flight unaccompanied.*

**minstrel**

**minuend**

n  
/'mɪnyəwɛnd/  
L  
a quantity in mathematics from which another quantity is to be subtracted.  
*In the equation  $7 - 5 = 2$ , 7 is the minuend.*

**minuscular**

adj  
/'mɪnə'skylə(r)/  
L  
very small in size or importance.  
*A minuscular speck of dirt on Alison's frock was enough to infuriate her.*

**minutia**

**mirabelle**

n  
/'mɪrəbel/  
F  
the fruit of a small hardy European plum tree used especially for preserves and for making a liqueur.  
*Joey ate a stewed mirabelle as he helped his grandmother make jam.*

**mirador**

n  
/'mɪrədɔ(ə)r/  
L > Catal > Sp  
a turret or a bay window or enclosed balcony designed to command an extensive outlook—used chiefly of Spanish architecture.  
*The castle's mirador offered a commanding view of the sea.*

**mirage**

**Miranda**

adj  
/'mɪ'rændə/  
American name of, relating to, or being the legal rights of an arrested person to have an attorney and to remain silent so as to avoid self-incrimination.  
*At the time of arrest, each person must be advised of his Miranda rights.*

**mirrored**

v  
/'mɪrə(r)d/  
L > F > E + Ecf  
reflected.  
*The moonlight was mirrored in the smooth surface of the pond.*

**misanthropic**

adj  
/'mɪsən'thræpɪk/  
Gk + Ecf  
marked by a hatred or contempt for humankind.  
*The moral corruption the policeman witnessed caused him to become a misanthropic cynic.*

**miscellanea**

n pl  
/'mɪsəl'ænēə/  
L  
a collection of assorted objects.  
*Among the miscellanea on Ernie's bookshelf were five textbooks on world history and a complete set of the works of Shakespeare.*

**miscellaneous**

**miscellany**

**mischief**

n  
/'mɪs(h)ʃəf/  
F > E  
action or conduct that annoys or irritates without causing or meaning to cause serious harm.  
*Hearing the puppy's thumping and barking, Erica went to investigate the mischief he was creating.*

**mischievous**

**miscible**

adj  
/'mɪsəbəl/  
L  
[Note: Pronouncer should provide definition of this word.] capable of being mixed in any ratio without separation of two phases—used especially of fluids.  
*Oil and kerosene are miscible, but carbon tetrachloride and water are not.*

**miscreant**

n  
/'mɪskrɛənt/  
L > F > E  
one who behaves criminally or viciously.  
*Some miscreant dumped a bucket of paint in Herb's convertible.*

**misdemeanor**

n  
/'mɪsdə'mɛnə(r)/  
E + L > F > E  
a crime less than a felony.  
*The trespasser was arrested and charged with a misdemeanor.*

**miserable**

adj  
/'mɪz(ə)rəbəl/  
L  
marked by extreme discomfort or unhappiness.  
*The refugees struggled for survival in the miserable mountainside encampment.*

**misericordia**

**misfeasance**

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**misnomer**

n  
/ mə'snōmə(r) /  
L > F > E  
an incorrect designation or term.  
*The name "Greenland" is a misnomer because an icecap covers most of the island.*

**misogynistic**

adj  
/ mə'sājə'nistik /  
Gk  
relating to or given to a hatred of women.  
*The soprano complained that only a critic with misogynistic cruelty could have written the review.*

**misogyny**

**misoneism**

n  
/ misə'nē.izəm /  
Gk + Gk  
a hatred or intolerance of something new or changed.  
*Because of his mom's misoneism, Brian still does not have a computer in his home.*

**misopedist**

n  
/ misə'pēdəst /  
L + Ecf  
one who hates children.  
*W. C. Fields was a famed misopedist.*

**misprision**

n  
/ mə'sprizhən /  
L > F > E  
the active or passive concealment of treason or felony from the prosecuting authorities by one not guilty of those crimes.  
*Congressman Walters was charged with misprision of felony in the election fraud.*

**misshapen**

adj  
/ mis(h)shāpən /  
E  
having an ugly or deformed shape.  
*The misshapen pumpkin made a fierce-looking jack-o'-lantern.*

**missile**

n  
/ 'misəl /  
L  
[has homonym: missal] a weapon or other object thrown or projected.  
*Ichabod endeavored to dodge the horrible missile, but too late.*

**missionary**

**mistassini**

n  
/ mistə'sēnē /  
Canadian geog name  
a dwarf primrose of northern and alpine America.  
*Ava saw a mistassini growing in a rock crevice.*

**mistigris**

n  
/ 'mistē.gris /  
F  
a joker or blank card that the holder can play as any card.  
*Darryl won the hand using a mistigris and three queens for four of a kind.*

**mistletoe**

n  
/ 'misəl.tō /  
E  
any of various American plants of the genus Phoradendron that grow on deciduous trees.  
*Lance earned extra Christmas money selling mistletoe at the mall.*

**mistral**

n  
/ 'mistrəl /  
L > OProv > F  
a violent cold dry northerly wind of the Mediterranean provinces of France.  
*In Provence, the mistral sometimes dries out the vines and grapes.*

**misuse**

v  
/ mis'yüz /  
Ecf + L > F > E  
employ for a wrong or improper purpose.  
*Employees who misuse their Internet connection at work will be fired.*

**mitigate**

v  
/ 'midə.gāt /  
L  
make less severe, cruel, intense, painful.  
*The general interceded to mitigate the soldier's punishment.*

**mitigative**

adj  
/ 'midə.gādiv /  
L  
tending to make less severe : alleviating.  
*Mariko's herbal tea had a mitigative effect on Raga's headache.*

**mitochondrion**

n  
/ mīdə'kändrēən /  
Gk + Gk  
any of various round or long cellular organelles that are found outside the nucleus, produce energy for the cell through cellular respiration, and are rich in fats, proteins, and enzymes.  
*Gabrielle easily found the mitochondrion in the image projected by the electron microscope.*

**mitrailleuse**

**mittimus**

n  
/ 'midəməs /  
L  
a warrant committing the person specified to prison.  
*In this state no person can be committed to a correctional facility without a mittimus from a judge.*

**mixology**

**mneme**

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**mnemonic**

**mnesic**

adj  
/ 'nestik /  
Gk  
of or relating to memory or the persistent effect of past experience of the individual.  
*Granny spends much of her time reminiscing and performing other mnesic activities.*

**mocha**

n  
/ 'mōkə /  
Arabian geog name  
a flavoring made of a strong coffee infusion or of a mixture of cocoa or chocolate with coffee.  
*Samantha detected a hint of mocha in her hot chocolate.*

**moderate**

adj  
/ 'mäd(ə)rət /  
L > E  
neither small nor large.  
*Sally's room was of moderate size, but her sister's was quite small.*

**modicum**

n  
/ 'mädəkəm /  
L > F  
a small portion : a limited quantity or amount.  
*Bernie displayed not even a modicum of modesty as he bragged about his hole in one.*

**modificative**

adj  
/ 'mädəfəkädiv /  
L + Ecf  
serving to make minor changes in the form or structure of.  
*To thicken the runny sauce, Hester used flour as the modificative ingredient.*

**modiste**

**mohair**

n  
/ 'mō.ha(a)ə /  
Ar > It > E  
any of various fabrics or yarns made wholly or in part of the hair of the Angora goat.  
*For her birthday Linda got a matching scarf and sweater, both made of mohair.*

**moiety**

n  
/ 'mōiədē /  
L > F > E  
a share paid by the government to an informer out of duties and penalties collected because of the individual's help.  
*The whistleblower received a moiety of the large fine imposed upon his employer for supplying faulty engine parts to the military.*

**molasses**

n  
/ mə'lasəz /  
L > Pg  
the thick dark to light brown syrup that is separated from raw sugar in sugar manufacture.  
*Mollie always adds molasses to beans before baking them.*

**molecule**

**molecules**

**molinary**

adj  
/ 'mälə.nerē /  
L  
of or relating to a mill or the process of grinding.  
*Elsworth's firm specializes in the manufacture of molinary equipment.*

**mollify**

**momentousness**

n  
/ mō'mentəsnəs /  
L > F > E  
the quality or state of being very important.  
*An orchestra fanfare accentuated the momentousness of the occasion.*

**momentum**

n  
/ mō'mentəm /  
L  
a property of a moving body that determines the length of time required to bring it to rest when under the action of a constant force or moment.  
*The snowball gained momentum as it rolled down the hill.*

**monadnock**

n  
/ mə'nad.näk /  
New Hampshire geog name  
a hill or mountain of resistant rock surmounting an eroded plain.  
*The familiar shape of the monadnock was a landmark for travelers.*

**monarch**

**monastery**

n  
/ 'mänə.sterē /  
G > L > E  
a house of religious retirement or of seclusion from the world for persons under religious vows.  
*Last fall Stan attended a retreat at a monastery near Bardstown, Kentucky.*

**monetarily**

adv  
/ .mänə'terəlē /  
L + Ecf  
with respect to money.  
*Bud said he wasn't broke, just monetarily deficient.*

**monetary**

adj  
/ 'mänə.terē /  
L  
of or relating to money or to the instrumentalities and organizations by which money is supplied to the economy.  
*So many Americans are active investors that even a slight change in interest rates can have serious monetary repercussions.*

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**mongoose**

n  
/ 'mäŋgüs /  
Dravidian? > Prakrit > Hindi  
an agile keen-sighted grizzled brown and black mammal of India that is about the size of a ferret and feeds on snakes and rodents.  
*The mongoose is an active, bold predator.*

**mongrel**

n  
/ 'mäŋgrəl /  
E  
an animal or plant resulting from the interbreeding of two or more breeds or strains.  
*Jeff's dog is a friendly mongrel named Mutt.*

**monocle**

n  
/ 'mänəkəl /  
L  
[has homonyms: monacal, monachal] an eyeglass for one eye.  
*The villain wore a tuxedo, a top hat, and a monocle.*

**monocoque**

**monolith**

n  
/ 'män<sup>ə</sup>lith /  
Gk  
something resembling a single great stone.  
*Sir Larry is considered a pillar of strength by his friends and a hulking obstinate monolith by his enemies.*

**monomachy**

**monomaniacal**

adj  
/ 'män<sup>ə</sup>mə'nīəkəl /  
Gk + Gk + Ecf  
relating to, characterized by, or affected with such concentration on a single object or idea as to suggest mental derangement.  
*Stuart's obsession with racing cars seems almost monomaniacal to his friends.*

**mononucleosis**

n  
/ .mäñōn(y)üklē'ōsəs /  
Gk + L  
an acute infectious disease associated with Epstein-Barr virus and characterized by fever, swelling of the lymph nodes, and an increase in the number of lymphocytes in the blood.  
*Morgan had to spend several weeks in bed after contracting mononucleosis.*

**monopoly**

**monotonous**

adj  
/ mə'nät<sup>ə</sup>nəs /  
Gk  
having no change or variety : wearisomely uniform.  
*The lecturer's monotonous tone put half the audience to sleep.*

**monotony**

**monsoon**

n  
/ män'sün /  
Ar > Pg > D  
a periodic wind especially in the Indian Ocean and in southern Asia.  
*The monsoon brought thunderstorms that blanketed the city with a dust cloud and then flooding rains.*

**monstrosity**

n  
/ mänz'träsədē /  
L  
an object of terrifying size or force or complexity.  
*The atom bomb is the greatest monstrosity of the 20th century.*

**monstrous**

adj  
/ 'mäñztrəs /  
L > F > E  
having extraordinary and often overwhelming size : unusually and unpleasantly huge.  
*The tourists in South America were terrified and sickened by the monstrous flying cockroach.*

**montage**

n  
/ män'täzh /  
F  
an impressionistic sequence of images introduced into a film or television program to develop a single theme, suggest a state of mind, or bridge a time lapse.  
*The program's opening credit sequence is a montage of white beaches, swaying palm trees, racing boats, and attractive sun worshipers.*

**moppet**

**moraine**

n  
/ mə'rān /  
F  
an accumulation of earth and stones carried and finally deposited by a glacier.  
*A push moraine is carried ahead of an advancing glacier, whereas a lateral moraine is deposited at the side of a glacier as it moves.*

**morass**

**moratorium**

n  
/ .mə'rə'tōrēəm /  
L  
a suspension of activity : a temporary ban on the use or production of something.  
*Environmentalists demanded a moratorium on the mining operation until its potential effects on the ecosystem could be evaluated.*

**morbid**

adj  
/ 'mɔrbəd /  
L  
abnormally susceptible to or characterized by gloomy or unwholesome feelings.  
*The inventor was haunted by a morbid sense of guilt about the possible harmful effects of her invention.*

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**morbidezza**

n  
/ .mò(r)bə'detsə /  
L > It

an extreme delicacy and softness.  
*The piano music had a certain morbidezza that required a delicate touch.*

**morceau**

n  
/ mòr'sō /  
F

[Note: Could be confused with more so. Also, plural of word can be similarly pronounced.] a short literary or musical piece.  
*Natasha entertained the partygoers with a lively morceau on the violin.*

**mordacious**

**mordancy**

n  
/ 'mò(r)d'nsē /  
L > F  
a biting and caustic quality of style.  
*The mordancy of the candidate's comments made her opponent wince.*

**mores**

n pl  
/ 'mò(,)rāz /  
L  
[has homonym: morays] the fixed customs or folkways of a particular group which are morally binding upon all members of the group and necessary to its welfare and preservation.  
*Some religious groups have developed a society of their own with distinct and strict mores.*

**morigeration**

n  
/ mə'rijə'rāshən /  
L  
servile obedience : obsequiousness.  
*The judge expected morigeration from everyone in the courtroom.*

**morion**

n  
/ 'mōrēən /  
F

a visorless high-crested helmet of Spanish origin worn by foot soldiers in the 16th and 17th centuries.  
*The conquistador was pictured wearing a morion, with the brim forming high peaks at the front and back.*

**mormorando**

adj  
/ .mò(r)mə'rän(,)dō /  
L > It  
in a murmuring manner—used as a direction in music.  
*At first Ralph thought his CD player was broken, but then he realized he was listening to a mormorando passage.*

**morose**

adj  
/ mə'rōs /  
L  
marked by or expressive of gloom.  
*The basketball team was morose after losing in the state finals.*

**Morpheus**

n  
/ 'mōrfēəs /  
Gk  
something that induces or prolongs sleep.  
*Tim cannot recall exactly what Morpheus caused Rip van Winkle to sleep for 20 years.*

**mortal**

adj  
/ 'mōrd'əl /  
L  
destructive to life : causing or capable of causing death.  
*The diver's cage would protect him from receiving a mortal wound from a shark.*

**mortar**

n  
/ 'mōrdər /  
L > F > E  
something that binds or holds together.  
*Sam watched as the bricklayer expertly set the bricks into the hardening mortar.*

**mortarboard**

n  
/ 'mōrdər.bō(ə)rd /  
L > F > E + E  
an academic cap consisting of a closely fitting headpiece with a broad flat projecting square top.  
*Lamont adjusted his mortarboard as he joined the procession to begin the commencement program.*

**mortgage**

n  
/ 'mōrgij /  
L > F > E  
a binding obligation.  
*Sarah found a signed copy of the mortgage in Richard's desk.*

**mortuary**

adj  
/ 'mò(r)chə.werē /  
L  
of or relating to the burial of the dead.  
*Professor Habib is an expert in ancient mortuary rituals.*

**mosaic**

**mosaicist**

n  
/ mō'zāəsəst /  
L > It > F > E  
a designer who creates surface decoration by inlaying small pieces of variously colored material.  
*An expert mosaicist decorated the altar of the new church.*

**mosque**

n  
/ 'mäsk /  
Ar > Sp > It > F  
an Islamic place of public religious worship.  
*Visitors were required to remove their shoes before entering the mosque.*

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

**mosquito**

n  
/ mə'skēd(,)ō /  
L > Sp

any of numerous two-winged flies that have a rather narrow abdomen and usually a long slender rigid proboscis with which they puncture the skin of animals to suck the blood.

*Dr. Walter Reed proved that the yellow fever virus is carried by the mosquito.*

**mosquitoey**

**mostaccioli**

n  
/ .mōstāt'chōlē /

It  
a pasta in the form of a short tube with oblique ends.

*It was the usual banquet fare: mostaccioli and roast beef.*

**motley**

adj  
/ 'mätlē /

E  
composed of a haphazard and incongruous mixture of heterogeneous elements.

*Each guest drew a gift from the motley assortment in the grab bag.*

**moulage**

n  
/ mü'lāzh /

F  
an impression (as of a tire mark or tooth print) made for use as evidence in a criminal investigation.

*At the scene of the crime, detectives were able to make a moulage of the tire marks left by the criminal's car.*

**mountain**

n  
/ 'maünt'n /  
L > F

[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word.] a vast number or quantity : pile, slew.  
*Mrs. Johnson assigned her students a mountain of homework that was due the day after the holiday break.*

**mountebank**

n  
/ 'maüntəbāŋk /

It  
an entertainer (as a juggler or magician) employed by a quack to attract a crowd.

*The charlatan used a mountebank to entice crowds into the tent.*

**mourn**

**moussaka**

n  
/ mü'säkə /

Turkish > Gk  
a dish of ground meat (as lamb) and sliced eggplant or potatoes often topped with a seasoned sauce.  
*Dimitrio's restaurant serves the best moussaka in the area.*

**mousse**

n  
/ 'müs /  
L > F

[has homonym: moose] a frothy dessert; especially : a dessert of sweetened and flavored whipped cream, or thin cream and gelatin, frozen without stirring.

*Michael ordered chocolate hazelnut mousse for dessert, but Vera ordered just coffee.*

**mousseline**

**mozambique**

**mozzarella**

n  
/ .mätsə'relə /

It  
a moist white rubbery unsalted cheese.  
*Mozzarella is used in many Italian foods.*

**mucedine**

**mucilage**

**mucilaginous**

adj  
/ myüsə'lajənəs /

L  
relating to or resembling a liquid adhesive of low bonding strength.  
*Billy's mother told him to wash the mucilaginous remains of his peanut butter and jelly sandwich from his face and hands.*

**mufti**

n  
/ 'mäftē /

Ar  
civilian dress when worn by one in military service.  
*The general ambled down the street unrecognized in mufti.*

**mugient**

adj  
/ 'myüjēənt /

L  
making a lowing sound : bellowing.  
*In mid-April the mugient herds of cattle are turned out to pasture.*

**mugwump**

n  
/ 'mägwəmp /

Natick  
one who is undecided or neutral (as in politics) often as a result of an inability to make up one's mind.  
*William is too much a mugwump to ever realize his ambition to hold elective office.*

**mugwumpery**

**mulberry**

n  
/ 'məl.berē /

Gk > L > F > E  
a tree or shrub that bears a fruit resembling a raspberry.  
*The Nelsons planted a mulberry in their backyard.*

**mulch**

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

**muliebral**

adj  
/ .myūlē'ebṛəl /

L + Ecf

of, relating to, or characteristic of women.

*The artist captured the essence of muliebral beauty in his portrait of Venus.*

**mulligan**

n  
/ 'mələgən /

E name

a free shot sometimes awarded a golfer in nontournament play when the preceding shot has been poorly played.

*Gordy took a mulligan after hitting a "worm burner" on the first tee.*

**mullion**

**multifarious**

adj  
/ .məltə'fa(a)rēəs /

L

having multiplicity : having great diversity or variety.

*The multifarious activities at the Hands-On Museum make it a place that everyone can enjoy.*

**multiplication**

n  
/ .məltəplə'kāshən /

L

a mathematical operation commonly indicated by ab that repeats b as many times as there are units in a.

*The fourth grade class was learning the process of multiplication of whole numbers.*

**multipotent**

**multitude**

n  
/ 'məltətüd /

L

a great number : host.

*A multitude of reporters besieged the plaintiff as she left the courtroom.*

**multitudinous**

adj  
/ .məltə'tüdənəs /

L + Ecf

existing in great numbers.

*Multitudinous varieties of wildflowers grow on Sand Mountain.*

**mummery**

n  
/ 'məməṛē /

F

a performance given by actors in a pantomime.

*Costumed actors performed a comic mummery in the school auditorium.*

**mumps**

n pl  
/ 'məmps /

imit

an acute contagious viral disease marked by fever and swelling of the parotid gland.

*Russell sympathized with his brother who was suffering with mumps, but couldn't help but laugh at his swollen face.*

**municipal**

adj  
/ myū'nisəpəl /

L

of or relating to a primarily urban political unit (as a town or city).

*Real estate taxes are set by the municipal government.*

**municipally**

**munificence**

n  
/ myū'nifəsən(t)s /

L

a giving or bestowing with extraordinary liberality : lavish generosity.

*Hazel's uncle, known widely for his munificence, hosted an elaborate dinner for her bat mitzvah.*

**murarium**

n  
/ myū'ra(a)rēəm /

L

a place for rearing mice or rats under controlled conditions.

*Research at the murarium resulted in the initial claim that saccharine consumption causes cancer.*

**murenger**

n  
/ 'myūrənjə(r) /

L > F > E

one in charge of the wall of a town and its repairs.

*When city walls served as fortresses, the murenger was responsible for the security of the citizens.*

**murmur**

v  
/ 'mərmər /

L

utter or give forth in low or indistinct sounds or words.

*Mrs. Chambers reminded Dylan not to murmur his introduction.*

**murrain**

**musciform**

adj  
/ 'məsəförm /

L

resembling moss.

*Rosa's new hat has a musciform texture.*

**muscle**

**musculature**

n  
/ 'məskyələchü(ə)r /

L

the muscles of an animal that are related to each other and function together.

*Dissection of the frog revealed its underlying musculature.*



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**muse**

v  
/ 'myüz /  
L > F > E

[has homonyms: meuse, mews]  
become absorbed in thought.  
*When he was a boy, Howard used to sit on the porch and muse on what he would do with his life.*

**museum**

n  
/ myü'zēəm /  
Gk > L

an institution devoted to the procurement, care, study, and display of objects of lasting interest or value.  
*The National Air and Space Museum is one of the components of the Smithsonian Institution.*

**muskmelon**

n  
/ 'mäsk.melən /  
Skt > Per > Gk > L > F > E + Gk > L

the usually sweet odorous edible melon that is the fruit of a trailing or climbing Asiatic herbaceous vine.  
*The muskmelon was one of the foods that Columbus introduced to the New World.*

**muslin**

n  
/ 'məzlən /

Iraq geog name > Ar > It > F  
[has near homonym: Muslim]  
a plainwoven cotton fabric that is used bleached or unbleached for sheeting, embroidery, or other purposes.  
*The simple look of tab curtains made of unbleached muslin is perfect for Barbara's den.*

**mussitation**

n  
/ .məsə'tāshən /

L  
movement of the lips as if in speech but without accompanying sound.  
*The cameras picked up the speller's mussitation as she pondered the word.*

**mutable**

adj  
/ 'myüdəbəl /  
L

prone or liable to change.  
*The weather in the foothills was extremely mutable due to the nearby mountains.*

**mutafacient**

adj  
/ .myüdə'fāshənt /  
L + L + EcF  
capable of inducing a biological change in hereditary material.  
*Botanists make use of mutafacient chemicals to develop new strains of plants.*

**mutinous**

**mutton**

n  
/ 'mət'n /  
Celt > F > E  
the flesh of a sheep that is used for food.  
*Ingrid purchased some mutton and pork chops from the butcher.*

**muumuu**

n  
/ 'mü.mü /  
Hawaiian  
a loose dress with gay colors and patterns, worn chiefly in Hawaii.  
*Pandora bought a red flowered muumuu during her trip to Maui.*

**myasthenia**

n  
/ .mīəs'thēnēə /  
Gk > L  
muscular debility.  
*Keith was informed that his myasthenia was brought on by overexertion and would disappear with rest.*

**mycophagous**

adj  
/ mī'kāfəgəs /  
Gk  
feeding on fungi.  
*Because they are mycophagous, ladybugs are good for gardens.*

**myelitis**

n  
/ .mīə'līdəs /  
Gk > L  
inflammation of the spinal cord or of the bone marrow.  
*Myelitis is usually a result of a viral infection such as mononucleosis or mumps.*

**myelopathy**

n  
/ .mīə'läpəthē /  
Gk  
a disease or disorder of the spinal cord or the bone marrow.  
*After the accident Ursula's dog had to be treated for myelopathy.*

**mynheer**

n  
/ mīn'he(ə)r /  
D  
mister—used as a polite address to a Dutch gentleman.  
*The owner of the village bank was addressed as Mynheer Grauer.*

**myocarditis**

n  
/ .mīəkär'dīdəs /  
Gk > L  
inflammation of the middle muscular layer of the heart wall.  
*A severe case of myocarditis could result in heart failure.*

**myopia**

n  
/ mī'öpēə /  
Gk  
nearsightedness.  
*Kyle's myopia was first apparent when he had trouble reading what was on the chalkboard at school.*

**myriads**

n pl  
/ 'mīrēədz /  
Gk  
immense numbers.  
*The plain was covered with myriads of insects swarming and devouring all the vegetation.*

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**myringitis**

n  
/ .mirən'jīdās /  
Gk > L

inflammation of the tympanic membrane.

*Dr. Croke explained that Amy's myringitis was caused by a bacterial infection in her ear.*

**myrmecologist**

n  
/ .mər.mə'käləjəst /  
Gk

a specialist in the scientific study of ants.

*The myrmecologist told the reporter that his interest in ants began when he had been given an ant farm at the age of seven.*

**myrmecology**

n  
/ .mər.mə'käləjē /  
Gk

a scientific study of ants.

*Receiving an ant farm for Christmas was the beginning of Art's interest in myrmecology.*

**myrmidon**

n  
/ 'mər.mədän /  
Gk

a follower or subordinate who unquestioningly or pitilessly executes orders : hireling.

*Although the mayor always speaks civilly to everyone, his myrmidon can be ruthless in criticizing opponents.*

**myrrh**

n  
/ 'mər /  
Semitic > Gk > L > E

a yellow to reddish brown aromatic bitter gum resin that is obtained from various trees of East Africa and Arabia.

*In medieval Europe myrrh was rare and precious.*

**mysticity**

**mystique**

n  
/ mi'stēk /  
Gk > L > F

the special esoteric skill or mysterious faculty essential in a calling or activity.

*The mystique of computer programming is completely foreign to Jacqueline.*

**mythologem**

**mythomania**

**nabob**

n  
/ 'nā.bāb /  
Ar > Hindi

man of great wealth.

*The Hollywood nabob rarely traveled without his personal chef, secretary, and masseur.*

**nacelle**

n  
/ nə'sel /  
L > F

an enclosed shelter on an aircraft for an engine or sometimes for the crew.

*The cramped, stifling nacelle gave Rico an attack of claustrophobia.*

**Naderism**

n  
/ 'nād.ə.rizəm /  
American name  
named after consumer advocate Ralph Nader, the promotion of consumer interests especially by public outcry against dangerous or defective goods.  
*The policy of Naderism is named for an outspoken consumer advocate.*

**nadir**

n  
/ 'nādə(r) /  
Ar > F > E  
the point of the celestial sphere that is directly opposite the zenith and vertically downward from the observer.

*There was no way for Amos to see the Moon, since it was at the nadir.*

**naiad**

n  
/ 'nāəd /  
Gk

one of the nymphs believed by the ancient Greeks and Romans to live in and give life to lakes, rivers, springs, and fountains.

*Glenda came upon a statue of a naiad by the lake.*

**naiant**

**nainsook**

n  
/ 'nān.sūk /  
Skt > Hindi

a soft lightweight cotton fabric in plain weave and various finishes that is used especially for clothing and curtains.

*Janet's new summer blouse is made of nainsook.*

**naology**

n  
/ nā'äləjē /  
Gk

a study of sacred edifices.

*With her background in architecture and naology, Shauna is just the right person to help restore the old cathedral.*

**napalm**

v  
/ 'nā.pām /  
Iranian > Gk > L + L > F  
attack with bombs made with a highly flammable jellied fuel composed of gasoline and a mixture of aluminum soaps as a thickener.

*The decision to napalm enemy territory had more ramifications than the intended destruction of vegetation.*

**naprapathy**

n  
/ nə'prəpəthē /  
Czech + Gk > E

a therapeutic system of drugless treatment by manipulation of the ligaments and connective tissues.

*Norma relied on naprapathy to relieve her pain after she sprained her back.*

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**narcissus**

n  
/ nār'sisəs /  
Gk > L  
any plant of the genus *Narcissus* of which the flowers have a short corona and are usually borne separately.  
*The common daffodil is a type of narcissus.*

**narcoleptic**

adj  
/ .närkə'leptik /  
Gk  
of, relating to, or affected with a transient compulsive tendency to attacks of deep sleep usually of unknown causes.  
*Steve becomes narcoleptic whenever he is under great stress.*

**narcoticism**

n  
/ nār'kädə'sizəm /  
Gk  
addiction to habit-forming drugs.  
*The police sergeant lectured Zakia's class about the dangers of narcoticism.*

**naricorn**

n  
/ 'na(a)rəkörn /  
L  
the horny covering protecting the nostrils of albatrosses and some other birds.  
*The naricorn is an irregularly convoluted little scroll, very thin and delicate in texture.*

**narrate**

v  
/ 'närät /  
L  
tell or recite the happenings of (a story).  
*Jacob volunteered to narrate the slide show.*

**narrative**

adj  
/ 'närədɪv /  
L  
having the form of a story.  
*A ballad is a poem that has several distinct characteristics, including a strong narrative element.*

**narrow**

adj  
/ 'nä(ə)rō /  
E  
not possessing usual or expected width.  
*The sidewalk was too narrow for the three friends to walk side by side.*

**narthex**

n  
/ 'när.theks /  
Semitic? > Gk  
a vestibule leading to the nave of a church.  
*The bridal party lined up in the narthex and waited for the cue to proceed down the church's center aisle.*

**nasal**

adj  
/ 'näzəl /  
L  
of or relating to the nose.  
*Juno's nasal inflammation caused considerable discomfort and made it hard for her to breathe.*

**nascency**

n  
/ 'nas'nsē /  
L  
the condition or process of being born or of beginning to exist.  
*The nascency of the novel as a literary form can be traced to 18th-century England.*

**nascent**

adj  
/ 'nä'snt /  
L  
undergoing the process of being born : beginning to exist.  
*The Boston Tea Party revealed nascent revolutionary tendencies among the American colonists.*

**nastaliq**

**nasturtium**

n  
/ nə'stərshəm /  
L  
any of several herbs having showy variously colored spurred flowers.  
*The nasturtium will add color to a drab landscape design.*

**natal**

**natator**

**natatorium**

n  
/ .nädətōrēəm /  
L  
a place for swimming; especially : an indoor swimming pool.  
*William Randolph Hearst built an ostentatious natatorium at his California mansion.*

**naupathia**

n  
/ nō'pathēə /  
Gk  
seasickness.  
*Several spells of naupathia made Joni's cruise an experience she hopes never to repeat.*

**nausea**

n  
/ 'nōshə /  
Gk > L  
a feeling of discomfort in the stomach usually associated with an urge to vomit.  
*A bout of nausea kept Denise from enjoying the ferry ride.*

**nauseate**

**nauseous**

adj  
/ 'nōshəs /  
L  
causing a sensation of discomfort in the stomach and an urge to vomit.  
*The smell emanating from the swamp was nauseous.*

**nautical**

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**nautilus**

n  
/ 'nòd'ʌs /  
Gk > L  
any of several cephalopod mollusks of the southern Pacific and Indian oceans that produce a spiral chambered shell.  
*Frank keeps a polished shell of a nautilus in his bookcase.*

**nebula**

n  
/ 'nebyələ /  
L  
any of many immense bodies of highly rarified gas or dust in interstellar space.  
*The astronomer identified the Horsehead Nebula on the chart.*

**nebulous**

adj  
/ 'nebyələs /  
L  
vaguely defined, poorly grasped, or dimly realized.  
*Melissa's nebulous fears about the future interfered with her enjoyment of the present.*

**necessary**

**necklace**

**neckwear**

n  
/ 'nek.wa(a)r /  
E  
articles of clothing worn about the neck.  
*Greta thinks warm neckwear is the key to avoiding a cold.*

**necromancy**

n  
/ 'nekrə.man(t)sē /  
Gk > L > F > E  
the art or practice of magically conjuring up the souls of the dead.  
*Abraham Lincoln was interested in necromancy, and his wife held séances in the White House.*

**nectar**

**nectarine**

n  
/ 'nektərēn /  
Gk > L + Ecf  
a peach that has a smooth-skinned fruit.  
*Jason prefers a nectarine to a common peach.*

**nefarious**

adj  
/ nə'fa(a)rēəs /  
L  
heinously or impiously wicked : detestable.  
*The murderer's crimes were considered so nefarious that he was sentenced to life imprisonment without parole.*

**negative**

**neglect**

**negligent**

**negotiable**

adj  
/ nə'gōsh(ē)əbəl /  
L  
that can be converted into cash or the equivalent value.  
*Leah wondered if the old bills she found in the trunk were still negotiable.*

**negotiate**

**negotiator**

**negus**

**neigh**

**nematocyst**

n  
/ nə'mədə.sist /  
Gk + Gk  
one of the minute stinging organs of coelenterates (as corals, sea anemones, and jellyfishes) used in catching prey.  
*Each nematocyst of the jellyfish contains a spiral-coiled thread tipped with a toxin-bearing barb that can be ejected into the skin.*

**nemesis**

n  
/ 'neməsəs /  
Gk  
a formidable and usually victorious rival or opponent.  
*The Tigers were defeated by the first-rate pitching of their old nemesis.*

**nemoral**

adj  
/ 'nem(ə)rəl /  
L  
of, relating to, or inhabiting a wood or grove.  
*Doris collected a basketful of nemoral mushrooms.*

**nenuphar**

n  
/ 'nenyə.fär /  
Skt > Per > Ar > L  
water lily; especially : Egyptian lotus.  
*The nenuphar is a common motif in Egyptian art.*

**neolalia**

n  
/ .nēō'lālēə /  
Gk  
speech especially of a psychotic that includes words that are new and meaningless to the hearer.  
*The doctor recorded the patient's neolalia for further study.*

**neologism**

n  
/ nē'älə.jizəm /  
Gk > F  
a new word, usage, or expression.  
*Nelson encountered a neologism in almost every paragraph of the computer article.*

**neomenia**

**neon**

adj  
/ 'nē.än /  
Gk  
of, relating to, or resembling the reddish glow of neon lamps.  
*Even though Tim was wearing neon swimming trunks, his mom had trouble spotting him on the crowded beach.*

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

**neonatology**

n  
/ .nēōnā'täləjē /  
Gk + L + Gk  
a branch of medicine concerned with the care, development, and diseases of newborn infants.  
*Jackie hopes to specialize in either pediatrics or neonatology.*

**neophyte**

n  
/ 'nēə'fīt /  
Gk  
a new convert; especially : a convert to the Christian faith in the early church.  
*In just three years St. Cyprian of Carthage went from being a neophyte to being the bishop of Carthage.*

**neossology**

n  
/ .nē.ä'säləjē /  
Gk  
the study of young birds.  
*The student of neossology was thrilled to receive a baby parrot for his birthday.*

**nepenthe**

n  
/ nə'pen(t)thē /  
Gk  
something capable of causing oblivion of grief and suffering.  
*The old man sought respite and nepenthe from bad memories.*

**nephalism**

n  
/ 'nefə.lizəm /  
Gk  
total abstinence from alcoholic beverages.  
*In Muslim countries nephalism is a way of life for many people.*

**nephelognosy**

n  
/ .nefə'ləgnəsē /  
Gk + Gk  
scientific observation of clouds.  
*Satellite photos of cloud formations and movements have been a great aid in the field of nephelognosy.*

**nephelometer**

n  
/ .nefə'lämədə(r) /  
G + G  
an instrument for measuring cloudiness.  
*The nephelometer has been proved useful in detecting and measuring air pollution.*

**nephew**

**nephology**

**nephoscope**

n  
/ 'nefə.skōp /  
Gk  
an instrument for observing the direction of motion and velocity of clouds.  
*Mr. Tadeusz explained to his new assistant how the nephoscope worked.*

**nephrectomy**

n  
/ nə'frektə.mē /  
Gk  
the surgical removal of a kidney.  
*Barry's kidney was so diseased that his physician recommended a nephrectomy.*

**nepotism**

n  
/ 'nepə.tizəm /  
L > It > F  
favoritism shown to relatives (as by giving them positions because of their relationship rather than on their merits).  
*Most employees resent nepotism because it reduces motivation for advancement via hard work.*

**nescience**

**nescient**

adj  
/ 'nesh(ē)ənt /  
L  
exhibiting or characterized by lack of knowledge or awareness : ignorant.  
*George's nescient response to the question about the plot demonstrated that he had not read the book.*

**nettlesome**

adj  
/ 'ned'lsəm /  
E + E  
causing vexation : irritating.  
*The city's traffic situation was nettlesome to the visitors from the small town.*

**neuralgia**

n  
/ n(y)ü'raljə /  
Gk  
an acute paroxysmal pain radiating along the course of one or more nerves usually without demonstrable changes in the nerve structure.  
*Garret's neuralgia was so painful that he sought relief from a chiropractor.*

**neurasthenic**

adj  
/ .n(y)üras'thenik /  
Gk  
affected with a syndrome characterized by easy fatigability, by worrying and depression, and often by headache and digestive and circulatory problems.  
*The neurasthenic patient complained of being bored, neglected, and depressed.*

**neurokyme**

**neurological**

adj  
/ .n(y)ü'räləjəkəl /  
Gk  
of or relating to the scientific study of the nervous system.  
*Dr. Will is a specialist in the treatment of neurological disorders.*

**neuropathy**

n  
/ n(y)ü'räpəthē /  
Gk > ISV  
an abnormal and usually degenerative state of the nervous system or nerves.  
*Neuropathy can lead to numbness and weakness of the hands, feet, or limbs.*

**neurotic**

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

**neuston**

**neutercane**

n  
/ 'n(y)üde(r).kän /  
L + Taino > Sp  
a subtropical cyclone that is usually less than 100 miles in diameter and that draws energy from sources common to both the hurricane and the frontal cyclone.  
*The weather bureau is tracking the neutercane to see if it develops into a hurricane.*

**neutral**

**neutralize**

v  
/ 'n(y)üträliz /  
L + Ecf  
make chemically neither acid nor base.  
*Scientists used nitric acid to neutralize the magnesium hydroxide that had formed on the space capsule tape when it came in contact with seawater.*

**newel**

**newspaporial**

**nexus**

n  
/ 'neksəs /  
L  
a connected group or series.  
*A nexus of events led to the overthrow of the government and the exile of the king.*

**Nicaraguan**

adj  
/ .nikə'rägwən /  
Central American geog name of or relating to the country of Nicaragua in Central America.  
*Much Nicaraguan coffee is exported to the United States.*

**nicety**

n  
/ 'nīsədē /  
F > E  
a dainty, delicate, or elegant thing or feature.  
*Dad considered a meal at a posh restaurant to be a nicety of good living.*

**niche**

n  
/ 'nich /  
L > F  
a place suitable for the capabilities or merits of a person.  
*Wendy felt she had found her niche at school in the student government association.*

**nickelodeon**

n  
/ .nikə'lōdēən /  
G? > Sw + F > G  
a theater affording a motion-picture exhibition or a variety show for an admission price of five cents.  
*The silent movies at the nickelodeon were usually enhanced by piano music.*

**nicotinism**

n  
/ 'nikə.tē.nizəm /  
F name + cff  
the effect of the excessive use of tobacco.  
*Patients who suffer from nicotinism exhibit lung and heart problems.*

**nictitant**

**nidicolous**

adj  
/ nī'dikələs /  
L  
living in a nest; especially : sharing the nest of another kind of animal.  
*Many insects are nidicolous, sharing the nests of birds who sometimes eat their larvae.*

**nidificate**

v  
/ 'nidəfə.kāt /  
L  
build a nest.  
*While recuperating, Jan watched the robin gather bits of string and small twigs to nidificate in the maple tree outside the bedroom window.*

**nidifugous**

adj  
/ nī'difyəgəs /  
L  
leaving the nest soon after hatching.  
*Because they are relatively highly developed when they hatch, ducks and chickens are nidifugous.*

**nidor**

n  
/ 'nī.dō(ə)r /  
L  
[Note: Alternate pronunciation has homonym: niter/nitre.] a strong smell : reek.  
*The nidor of the hot grease warned Della that she should lower the temperature.*

**nidorous**

adj  
/ 'nīdərəs /  
L  
smelling of or like burning or decaying animal matter.  
*The sailors were repulsed by the nidorous bilge water.*

**niece**

**niello**

n  
/ nē'e(,)lō /  
L > It  
any of several alloys of sulphur with silver, copper, or lead having a deep black color.  
*After cutting a design in the silver jewelry box, Phillip filled in the design with niello.*

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

**Nietzschean**

adj  
/ 'nēchēən /  
G name  
of or relating to the German philosopher Friedrich Wilhelm Nietzsche.  
*Norman characterized John's views as juvenile Nietzschean nonsense.*

**niggardly**

adj  
/ 'nigə(r)dlē /  
Scand > E  
characterized by a reluctance to part with money : tightfisted.  
*The wealthy banker was best known for his niggardly spending habits.*

**nightingale**

n  
/ 'nīt'n.gāl /  
E  
a thrush common in Great Britain that is noted for the sweet song of the male often heard at night during the breeding season.  
*Haley was awakened by a nightingale singing outside her bedroom window.*

**nightmare**

n  
/ 'nīt.ma(a)(ə)r /  
E  
a frightening dream accompanied by anxiety or terror.  
*Cara's nightmare was caused by the ghost stories told around the campfire.*

**nihilism**

n  
/ 'nīə.lizəm /  
L + Ecf  
a viewpoint that all traditional values and beliefs are unfounded and that all existence is consequently senseless and useless.  
*The rock star's lyrics were criticized for advocating a bleak nihilism.*

**nimiety**

n  
/ ni'miədē /  
L  
excess, redundancy.  
*Usually Caleb's writing is concise, but his most recent essay is a glowing example of nimiety.*

**nimious**

adj  
/ 'nimēəs /  
L  
[Note: Could be confused with niveous.] excessive, extravagant.  
*Oscar, who could barely afford to rent a costume for the masked charity ball, found the whole thing oppressively nimious.*

**nineteenth**

**ninetieth**

**nippy**

adj  
/ 'nipē /  
E  
chilly, chilling.  
*The nippy breeze reddened Ryan's cheeks.*

**nisei**

n  
/ 'nē.sā /  
Jpn  
a son or daughter of Japanese immigrant parents who is born and educated in the United States.  
*Tomoko is the only nisei in her family; all her siblings were born in Japan.*

**nitidity**

n  
/ ni'tidədē /  
L + Ecf  
the quality or state of being bright, glossy, or lustrous.  
*The moon's nitidity helps owls find their prey.*

**nitrogen**

n  
/ 'nītrəjən /  
Gk  
a colorless tasteless odorless element that as a diatomic gas is relatively inert and constitutes 78 percent of the atmosphere by volume and occurs as a constituent of all living tissues.  
*Lightning causes the oxidation of nitrogen to nitric oxide, which is rained out as nitrate.*

**niveau**

n  
/ nē'vō /  
F  
[Note: Plural form is pronounced similarly.] a level (as of existence or achievement) especially in a progression.  
*Ben's tennis class is at the intermediate niveau.*

**niveous**

adj  
/ 'nivēəs /  
L  
of, relating to, or resembling snow.  
*The niveous landscape looked most inviting to the cross-country skiers.*

**nobiliary**

adj  
/ nō'bilē.ērē /  
L > F > E + Ecf  
of or relating to the nobility.  
*By threat of force the king quelled the nobiliary squabbles.*

**nobly**

**nocent**

**nociceptor**

n  
/ 'nōsē.septə(r) /  
L  
a part of the body that transmits to the central nervous system injurious or painful stimuli.  
*The spicy salsa activated each nociceptor on Michelle's tongue, bringing her to tears.*

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

**nocive**

adj  
/ 'nōsiv /

L  
harmful, injurious.  
*The laboratory assistant wore a mask to protect himself from nocive fumes.*

**noctivagant**

adj  
/ nāk'tivəgənt /

L  
going about in the night : night-wandering.  
*The bat, being a noctivagant mammal, has inspired many legends.*

**nocturnal**

adj  
/ nāk'tɔrnəl /

L > F  
active at night.  
*Some zoos have special habitats for nocturnal animals.*

**nocuous**

**nodosity**

n  
/ nō'dāsədē /

L  
a protuberance or swelling.  
*Ardis felt a slight nodosity on the cat's back.*

**nodule**

**noeogenesis**

**noisome**

adj  
/ 'noisəm /

E  
offensive to the senses : noxious, harmful, unwholesome, destructive.  
*A noisome odor emanated from the plastics factory.*

**nomenclature**

n  
/ 'nōmən.klāchə(r) /

L  
the collective names given to or borne by places in a particular region or area.  
*The nomenclature of Boston streets confused Ling when she first arrived.*

**nominal**

adj  
/ 'nāmənəl /

L  
of, relating to, or being a word that is otherwise characteristically an adjective or adverb but that takes a noun construction in a given context.

*A good example of a nominal word is good in "the good die young."*

**nominee**

n  
/ .nāmə'nē /

L + Ecf  
a person named or proposed for an office, duty, or position.  
*The president's nominee for the Supreme Court had to be approved by a Senate committee.*

**nomological**

**nonage**

n  
/ 'nānij /

F > E  
a period of youth, childhood, or infancy.  
*The pieces that Mozart wrote in his nonage demonstrate an understanding of music that few adults ever attain.*

**nonagenarian**

n  
/ .nānjə'nerēən /

L + Ecf  
a person who is 90 or more and less than 100 years old.  
*Ernestus bragged that he was the only nonagenarian at the rock concert.*

**nonchalance**

n  
/ .nānshə'lān(t)s /

F  
a display or air of jaunty unconcern or indifference.  
*Sarah reacted with nonchalance when her neighbors complained about her unruly dog.*

**nonchalant**

**noncommittal**

adj  
/ .nānkə'midəl /

L  
taking no clear position or giving no clear indication of attitude, feeling, or point of view.  
*Lacy's tone was friendly but noncommittal.*

**nondescript**

adj  
/ .nāndə'skript /

L  
lacking distinguishing characteristics.  
*Because he was utterly nondescript, Virgil was the perfect infiltrator.*

**nonmetal**

**nonpareil**

adj  
/ .nānpə'rel /

L > F  
having no equal : peerless.  
*Tom's lack of common sense overshadowed his nonpareil intellect.*

**nonplus**

v  
/ nān'pləs /

L  
cause to be at a loss as to what to say, think, or do.  
*Vince's aggressive interviewing technique tends to nonplus inexperienced candidates.*

**nonsense**



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

**nonuple**

adj  
/ 'nä.n(y)üpəl /  
L > F

consisting of nine : being nine times as great or as many.  
*There was a nonuple increase in the rate of traffic citations after the new regulations went into effect.*

**noology**

n  
/ nō'äləjē /  
Gk

the study of mind : the science of phenomena regarded as purely mental in origin.  
*Ahmet found that his interests in philosophy and psychology converged in the field of noology.*

**noontide**

**normocyte**

**nosocomial**

adj  
/ .nä.sə'kōmēəl /  
L

originating or taking place in a hospital.  
*Since implementing its new disinfection protocol, the hospital has seen a 40 percent drop in nosocomial infections.*

**nostalgia**

n  
/ nə'stalj(ē)a /  
Gk > L

homesickness.  
*Theo was overcome with nostalgia at the sight of a McDonald's in Istanbul.*

**nostril**

n  
/ 'nästrəl /  
E

either of the outer openings of the nose.  
*In some cultures, a pierced nostril adorned with a ring is considered attractive.*

**nostrum**

n  
/ 'nästrəm /  
L

a remedy or medicine of secret composition recommended by its preparer but usually lacking general repute or acceptance.  
*Mr. Sherwood insists that his nostrum will cure warts within a week.*

**notabilia**

**notarize**

**notoriety**

n  
/ .nō.də'riədē /  
L

the condition of being an object of wide or general attention, interest, and comment for something reprehensible or scandalous.  
*A red convertible enhanced Thurmon's notoriety.*

**nougat**

n  
/ 'nügət /  
L > Prov > F

a confection of nuts or fruit pieces in a sugar paste.  
*Lynn's boyfriend gave her a box of chocolates filled with hazelnut nougat.*

**noumenal**

adj  
/ 'nümənəl /  
Gk

of or relating to an object of purely rational apprehension as opposed to an object of perception.  
*Philosophy deals with noumenal concepts, while science deals with phenomenal concepts.*

**novemdecillion**

**novercal**

adj  
/ nə'værkəl /  
L

of, relating to, or characteristic of a stepmother.  
*Helene's novercal relationship with her husband's children is close and loving.*

**novice**

n  
/ 'nävəs /  
L > F > E

[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word.] one who has entered a religious house for a trial period.  
*The film The Nun's Story stars Audrey Hepburn as a young novice who eventually becomes a nurse in Africa.*

**noxious**

adj  
/ 'näkshəs /  
L

harmful or destructive to man or to other organisms.  
*Emma is studying the noxious effects of gasoline fumes.*

**noxiously**

**noyade**

**nuance**

n  
/ 'n(y)ü.än(t)s /  
L > F

minute variation : delicate gradation : subtle distinction.  
*The music critic took notes on every nuance of the performance.*

**nubbin**

**nubilous**

adj  
/ 'n(y)übələs /  
L

cloudy, foggy, misty.  
*Trade wind clouds are constantly piling up in nubilous traffic jams.*

**nuchal**

adj  
/ 'n(y)ükəl /  
Ar > L + Ecf

of or relating to the nape, the back part of the neck.  
*Midge's new necklace gave her a nuchal rash.*

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

**nuciform**

adj  
/ 'n(y)üsəförm /

L  
like a nut in shape.  
*Preston gave Anna a box of nuciform chocolate candies.*

**nuclear**

**nugacious**

adj  
/ n(y)ü'gāshəs /

L  
trifling, trivial.  
*Arguments about who sits in the front seat seem nugacious to many adults.*

**nugacity**

**nugatory**

adj  
/ 'n(y)ügə'tōrē /

L  
having little or no consequence : worthless.  
*The prize Jeff won at the carnival was just a nugatory plastic trinket.*

**nugget**

n  
/ 'nəgət /  
unknown  
a lump; especially : a lump of gold.  
*Adrian kept a gold nugget as a good-luck charm.*

**nuisance**

n  
/ 'n(y)üs'n(t)s /  
L > F > Ar > E  
something that is disagreeable or troublesome : annoyance.  
*The barking dogs in Jeff's backyard were a nuisance he could not ignore.*

**nullibicity**

n  
/ .nələ'bisədē /  
L + Ecf  
the quality or state of being nowhere.  
*Natalie accused the state of putting freedom and basic rights into nullibicity.*

**nullification**

n  
/ .nələfə'kāshən /  
L  
the act of depriving of legal or binding force or validity.  
*Louis XIV's accession to the throne was ushered in by the nullification of his father's will.*

**nullifidian**

n  
/ .nələ'fidēən /  
L  
a person of no faith or religion.  
*The nullifidian decided to start a magazine devoted to the theory and practice of secular humanism.*

**numb**

**numerology**

**numinous**

adj  
/ 'n(y)ümənəs /  
L + Ecf  
dedicated to or hallowed by association with a deity : sacred.  
*A soft light seemed to glow from the numinous vessel on the altar.*

**numismatist**

n  
/ n(y)ü'mizmədəst /  
L  
a specialist in the study of coins : a coin collector.  
*When Emery wanted to know the value of a coin, he showed it to his neighbor, who was a numismatist.*

**nummary**

**numnah**

**nunchaku**

n  
/ nün'chäk(,)ü /  
Jpn dialect  
a weapon of Japanese origin made of two hardwood sticks joined at their ends by a short length of rawhide, cord, or chain.  
*Eli insists that a nunchaku with a Bruce Lee image would make his martial arts paraphernalia complete.*

**nuncio**

n  
/ 'nən(t)sēō /  
L  
a top-ranking diplomatic envoy of the pope accredited to a civil government.  
*The papal nuncio worked with the governor's office to prepare for the pope's tour of the region.*

**nuncupation**

n  
/ .nəŋkyə'pāshən /  
L  
an oral will.  
*While the sailor was ill aboard ship, he made a nuncupation in which he bequeathed his property to his mother.*

**nuncupative**

adj  
/ 'nəŋkyə'pādɪv /  
L  
stated verbally : oral—used chiefly of a will.  
*The terms of Grandpa's nuncupative will were not contested by the family.*

**nuptiality**

n  
/ .nəpshē'alədē /  
L  
the marriage rate.  
*Nuptiality usually increases dramatically in June.*

**nurture**

**nurturer**

**nutrient**

**nutrition**

**nutritiously**

adv  
/ n(y)ü'trishəslē /  
L + Ecf  
in a manner that promotes growth and development.  
*Judging from the kinds of foods that George likes, it is not going to be easy to get him to eat nutritiously.*

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

**nyala**

n  
/ 'nyälə /  
Tsonga&Venda  
an antelope of southeastern Africa with vertical white stripes on the sides of the body and with shaggy hair along the male underside.  
*The nyala thrives in the heaths and forests of the Ethiopian highlands.*

**nyctalopia**

n  
/ ,niktə'löpēə /  
Gk  
a defect of vision characterized by reduced visual capacity in faint light or at night.  
*Nyctalopia may be corrected by vitamin therapy.*

**nymph**

**nystagmus**

n  
/ nə'stagməs /  
Gk  
a rapid involuntary oscillation of the eyeballs occurring normally with dizziness during and after bodily rotation or abnormally after injuries.  
*Bart suffered from nystagmus for several days following the boxing match.*

**oakenshaw**

**oakum**

**oarlock**

**oasis**

n  
/ ɔ'āsəs /  
Hamitic? > Gk > L  
a small isolated fertile area that is surrounded by general barrenness and typically marked by trees or other greenery and that has a water supply.  
*The caravan rested for two days at the oasis.*

**obdurate**

adj  
/ 'äbd(y)ərət /  
L  
resistant to persuasion or softening influences : unyielding.  
*Fritz is maintaining an obdurate opposition to the new highway bypass.*

**obedient**

adj  
/ ɔ'bēdēənt /  
L > F > E  
submissive to the restraint, control, or command of authority.  
*The toddler was not very obedient and even seemed to enjoy being defiant.*

**obeisance**

n  
/ ɔ'bāsⁿn(t)s /  
L > F > E  
an attitude of respect : deference, homage.  
*Josh demonstrated his obeisance for the famous professor by writing down her every word.*

**obeisant**

adj  
/ ɔ'bāsⁿnt /  
F  
servile, obsequious.  
*By the third course, the waiter's obeisant behavior was starting to get on Tara's nerves.*

**obelisk**

n  
/ 'äbəlisk /  
Gk  
an upright four-sided monolithic pillar that tapers as it rises and terminates in a pyramid.  
*The Washington Monument is a world-famous obelisk.*

**obese**

**obesity**

**obfuscate**

**obfuscatory**

adj  
/ äb'fəskə.tōrē /  
L  
tending to make difficult of comprehension or interpretation.  
*Oleg found the obfuscatory language in his apartment lease infuriating.*

**obituary**

**objective**

n  
/ əb'jektiv /  
L  
a lens or system of lenses that forms an image of the object in the focal plane of an eyepiece (as in a telescope).  
*The light-gathering power of a telescope is a function of the diameter of its objective.*

**objicient**

n  
/ əb'jishənt /  
L  
one who opposes something with words or argument.  
*The bill became a law despite the protests of a very influential objicient.*

**objurgation**

**objurgatory**

adj  
/ əb'jərgə.tōrē /  
L  
expressing sharp reprimand.  
*The mayor sent an objurgatory letter to the negligent department head.*

**obligation**

n  
/ ,äblə'gāshən /  
L  
something that one is bound to do : an imperative duty.  
*Because of Carra's past assistance, Craig felt an obligation to return the favor.*

**obligatory**

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

**oblique**

adj  
/ ə'blɪk /  
L

neither perpendicular nor parallel :  
having a slanting direction or  
position.

*All triangles have at least one  
oblique side.*

**obliquity**

n  
/ ə'blikwədē /  
E > F > L + Ecf

the angle between the planes of  
Earth's equator and orbit.

*Seasonal changes in temperature  
are due to the obliquity of Earth's  
orbital path.*

**obliterative**

**oblivion**

**obliviscence**

n  
/ äblə'vis'n(t)s /  
L

[Note: Could be confused with  
oblivescence.] forgetfulness.

*Serious obliviscence in older  
people may be a symptom of  
Alzheimer's disease.*

**obloquy**

n  
/ 'äbləkwe /  
L

a strongly and often intemperately  
condemnatory utterance.

*Mr. Willett recited the names of the  
pranksters with uncharacteristic  
obloquy.*

**obmutescence**

n  
/ äbmyə'tes'n(t)s /  
L

a becoming or keeping silent.

*To ensure the press's obmutescence  
regarding the case, the judge  
issued a gag order.*

**obnounce**

**obreptitious**

adj  
/ äbrep'tishəs /  
L

done or obtained by trickery or by  
concealing the truth.

*The undercover agent passed the  
obreptitious information to his  
superiors.*

**obrogate**

**obsecration**

n  
/ äbsə'krāshən /  
L

a supplicatory prayer mentioning in  
its appeal things or events held to  
be sacred.

*"Through thy victory over death, O  
Lord, deliver us" is an obsecration.*

**obsequious**

adj  
/ əb'sɛkwēəs /  
L > E

meanly or servilely attentive.

*Marshall tends to be obsequious  
toward Mrs. Kirby.*

**obsessive**

**obsolescence**

**obsolescent**

adj  
/ äbsə'les'nt /  
L

falling into disuse especially as  
unable to compete with something  
more recent.

*Many linguists believe that the  
relative pronoun whom is  
obsolescent except when it follows  
a preposition.*

**obsolete**

**obstacle**

n  
/ äbz(,)tikəl /  
L

something that hinders progress :  
hindrance.

*Carrie believes there is no obstacle  
she cannot overcome in her quest  
to become an Olympian.*

**obstetrician**

n  
/ äbz'tet'rishən /  
L

a physician or veterinarian  
specializing in birth and its  
antecedents and sequels.

*The obstetrician often relied more  
on instincts and old-fashioned  
psychology than he did on his  
medical expertise.*

**obstetrics**

**obstinate**

adj  
/ 'äbz'tənət /  
L

pertinaciously adhering to an  
opinion, purpose, or course.

*Franklin has missed at least two  
promotions because he is so  
obstinate about doing things his  
own way.*

**obstreperous**

adj  
/ əbz'trep(ə)rəs /  
L

stubbornly defiant : resisting  
control or restraint often with a  
show of noisy disorder.

*The noisy diner was asked to leave  
but became obstreperous and had  
to be escorted out of the restaurant.*

**obtenebrate**

v  
/ äb'tenəbrät /  
L

darken by or as if by shadowing.

*As the storm approaches, dark  
clouds obtenebrate the valley.*

**obtrusive**

**obtundent**

adj  
/ äb'təndənt /  
L

blunting irritation or lessening pain.

*Aspirin is used for its obtundent as  
well as its antipyretic qualities.*

**obviate**

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

**obvious**

adj  
/ 'ɒbv̩əəs /  
L

readily and easily perceived by the sensibilities or mind.

*"We're moving!" Harold shouted, which was a fact that had already become obvious to everyone.*

**ocarina**

n  
/ ˌɔkə'reɪnə /  
L > It

a simple wind instrument or toy of the flute class having a mouthpiece and fingerholes.

*Professor Miller unearthed a four-hole ocarina used by the ancient Mayas.*

**occasion**

**occasionally**

adv  
/ ə'kɑːzhən'leɪ /  
L

now and then : here and there.

*The Spelling Bee replied, "Years ago I was just an ordinary bee minding my own business, smelling flowers all day, and occasionally picking up part-time work in people's bonnets."*

**occipital**

adj  
/ ɔk'sɪpəd'ɪl /  
L

of or relating to the back part of the head of a vertebrate or an insect.

*In the accident Mr. Stein's occipital bone was fractured.*

**occision**

n  
/ ɔk'sɪʒhən /  
L

an act or instance of slaughtering.

*Ecologists are protesting the wholesale occision of sea turtles within national boundaries.*

**occlude**

**occlusion**

n  
/ ə'klʊʒhən /  
L

the front formed by a cold front overtaking a warm front and lifting the warm air above Earth's surface.

*As the advancing cold air met the warm front, a cold occlusion developed that caused the temperature to drop.*

**occult**

**occultation**

n  
/ ˌɔ(ɪ)kəl'tæʃhən /  
L > E

the shutting off of the light of a celestial body by the intervention of some other celestial body.

*A solar eclipse is the occultation of the Sun by the Moon.*

**occurrence**

**occurring**

**ocellus**

n  
/ ˈɔsələs /  
L

one of usually three simple eyes in an insect located in a triangle between the compound eyes.

*A single ocellus can do no more than detect light, but more than one grouped together can produce an image of the surrounding area.*

**ocelot**

n  
/ ˈɔsələt /  
Nahuatl > F

a medium-sized American wildcat ranging from Texas to Patagonia and having a tawny yellow or grayish coat that is dotted and striped with black.

*The ocelot appears in Aztec stone carvings.*

**ochlocratic**

adj  
/ ˌɔklə'kradɪk /  
Gk

of or relating to mob rule.

*Pure ochlocratic government would pay no heed to minority voices.*

**ochlophobia**

n  
/ ˌɔklə'fɒbiə /  
Gk

morbid fear of crowds.

*Alice never attended rock concerts because of her ochlophobia.*

**ochlophobist**

**octane**

**octave**

n  
/ ˈɔktəv /  
L > E

a musical interval embracing eight diatonic degrees.

*Tricia explained the concept of an octave to her music class at school.*

**octavo**

**octogenarian**

**octopus**

**oculauditory**

**oculogyric**

adj  
/ ˌɔkyələ'jɪrɪk /  
L + Gk > L

relating to or involving circular movements of the eyeballs.

*The silent movie comedian specialized in oculogyric close-ups.*

**oculus**

n  
/ ˈɔkyələs /  
L

an architectural part resembling or suggestive of an eye.

*In the west end of Norman churches there is often an oculus.*

**oddment**

**odious**

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**odium**

**odograph**

n  
/ ˈɒd.ə.grəf /

Gk  
an instrument for automatically plotting the course and distance traveled by a vehicle.  
*Now that Carlos has a car equipped with a Global Positioning System receiver, an odograph is the logical next step.*

**odontoloxia**

n  
/ ɒ.dəntəˈlɒksɪə /

Gk  
irregularity of the teeth.  
*Odontoloxia can usually be corrected with braces.*

**odyssey**

n  
/ ˈɒd.əs.ē /

Gk  
a long wandering or series of adventurous journeys.  
*When he talks about his odyssey, André means the summer he spent working his way across Europe.*

**oeuvre**

n  
/ ˈɔv(r) /  
L > F

a substantial body of work constituting the lifework of a writer, an artist, or a composer.  
*The poet won the award not for any particular work, but for his oeuvre.*

**officiousness**

**ogive**

n  
/ ˈɒ.jɪv /  
L? > F? > E

a diagonal arch or rib across a Gothic vault.  
*The middle of a Gothic vault, where each ogive cuts across the others, is called the key and is often in the form of a rose.*

**ogle**

**ogre**

n  
/ ˈɒɡə(r) /  
L > F

a hideous giant represented in fairy tales and folklore as feeding on human beings : monster.  
*Jason wrote a tale about an ogre who lived under a bridge and feasted on every tenth person who crossed.*

**ohm**

n  
/ ˈɒm /

G name  
[has homonyms: aum, om] the practical meter-kilogram-second unit of electric resistance that is equal to the resistance of a circuit in which a potential difference of 1 volt produces a current of 1 ampere.  
*Michael was confused by the Greek symbol for omega in his textbook until he realized that it was the abbreviation for an ohm.*

**oilcloth**

n  
/ ˈɔɪl.klɒθ /  
Gk > L > F > E + E  
cotton cloth coated with a dull or glossy finish made of oil, clay, and colored pigment to make the cloth waterproof.  
*A kitchen stove, a table covered with oilcloth and two chairs could be seen from the doorway.*

**ointment**

**okapi**

n  
/ ɒˈkæpē /  
African name  
an African animal that is related to the giraffe but has a relatively short neck and solid reddish coat with black and cream rings on its legs.  
*In Zaire the meat of the okapi is a favorite food of the Pygmies.*

**oleaginous**

adj  
/ ɒlɪˈeɪ.jənəs /  
Gk > L > F  
characterized by smooth courteousness or sickly sentimentality.  
*Grandpa was too smart to be taken in by oleaginous salesmen.*

**oleander**

n  
/ ˈɒlɪ.ændə(r) /  
L  
an ornamental evergreen shrub that has narrow leaves and clusters of fragrant white to red flowers.  
*The sweet aroma of the oleander wafted through the window.*

**oleiculture**

**olericulture**

n  
/ ˈɒlərəkəl.chə(r) /  
L + Ecf + L  
a branch of horticulture that deals with the production, storage, processing, and marketing of vegetables.  
*As a college subject, olericulture is generally divided into market gardening and truck farming.*

**olfactory**

adj  
/ ɒlˈfakt(ə)rē /  
L  
of, relating to, or connected with the sense of smell.  
*Humans have relatively weak olfactory abilities compared to many other animals.*

**oligarchic**

adj  
/ ɒlɪˈgɑːrkɪk /  
Gk  
of, relating to, characteristic of, or supporting a group or organization that is controlled by a privileged few.  
*A society dominated by large-scale oligarchic organizations eventually develops an oligarchic political regime.*

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**oligarchy**

n  
/ ˈälə.gärkē /  
Gk + Gk  
government by the few.  
*Over the years, the tiny state's government eroded from a democracy to an oligarchy.*

**oligophrenia**

n  
/ ˈäləgōˈfrēnēə /  
Gk  
mental deficiency.  
*Although afflicted with oligophrenia, Cynthia was capable of taking care of herself in her home.*

**ombrometer**

n  
/ ămˈbrämədə(r) /  
Gk + Gk  
an instrument for measuring the quantity of precipitation that falls at a given place and time.  
*Precipitation in the area was studied by collecting data from radar scans and an ombrometer.*

**ombrophilous**

adj  
/ ămˈbräfələs /  
Gk  
capable of withstanding or thriving in the presence of much rain.  
*After three days of rain, Kathy hoped that her garden plants were ombrophilous.*

**ombrophobous**

adj  
/ ămˈbräfəbəs /  
Gk  
incapable of withstanding long-continued rain.  
*Ombrophobous plants would perish in a Seattle garden.*

**ombudsman**

n  
/ ˈäm.búdzmən /  
Sw  
[Note: Plural form is pronounced identically.] one that investigates complaints (as from students or customers), reports findings, and helps to achieve equitable settlements.  
*The college hired a special ombudsman to investigate widespread charges of unfair grading practices.*

**omega**

**ominous**

adj  
/ ˈämənəs /  
L  
indicative of future misfortune or calamity : causing anxiety and fear.  
*For an instant there was an ominous stillness, quieter and more silent than ever before, as if even the air was holding its breath.*

**omissible**

**omission**

n  
/ ɔ̄ˈmishən /  
L  
the act of failing to insert, include, or name.  
*Katie refused to believe that Joe's omission of her name on the guest list was accidental.*

**omitted**

v  
/ ɔ̄ˈmīdəd /  
L  
left out.  
*Harry Nebuchadnezzar Schwartz usually omitted his middle name when he filled out forms.*

**omnibus**

adj  
/ ˈämñəbəs /  
L  
of, relating to, or providing for many things or classes at once : containing or including many items.  
*Ursula purchased an omnibus edition of Shakespeare's works, which was bound in leather.*

**omnifarious**

adj  
/ ˈämñəˈfa(a)rēəs /  
L  
of all varieties, forms, or kinds.  
*The natural history museum has an omnifarious collection of animal bones.*

**omnigenous**

**omnilegent**

adj  
/ ămˈniləjənt /  
L  
reading or having read everything : characterized by encyclopedic reading.  
*The omnilegent student was a valued member of the academic team.*

**omnipotence**

n  
/ ămˈnīpədən(t)s /  
L  
almighty or unlimited power.  
*With an attitude of omnipotence, the government presumed that it could take any land it wanted.*

**omnipotent**

**omniscience**

**omniscient**

adj  
/ ămˈnīshənt /  
L  
having infinite awareness, understanding, and insight : knowing all things.  
*In most monotheistic religions, God is understood to be both omniscient and all-powerful.*

**omnivorous**

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**onager**

n  
/ 'änəjə(r) /  
Gk > L > E  
an Asian wild ass that usually has a broad dorsal stripe.  
*Although the onager looks like a donkey, it runs as swiftly as a horse.*

**oncogeny**

n  
/ äŋ'käjənē /  
Gk > L  
the process of tumor formation.  
*Certain plant extracts have been shown to inhibit oncogeny.*

**oncology**

n  
/ äŋ'käləjē /  
Gk  
the study of tumors.  
*Ed is focusing on oncology in his medical studies and is particularly interested in pancreatic cancer.*

**oneiric**

**onerous**

adj  
/ 'änərəs /  
L > F > E  
that involves, imposes, or constitutes much oppressive or irksome work, effort, difficulty, or responsibility.  
*Ron grudgingly completed the onerous task of cutting and stacking the firewood.*

**oniomania**

**onion**

**onionskin**

**onlooker**

**onomastics**

n pl  
/ äänə'mastiks /  
Gk  
the science or study of the origins and forms of proper names of persons or places.  
*A book on onomastics explained that the name Donald is a Scottish Gaelic word meaning "world ruler."*

**onomatope**

n  
/ 'änəmətōp /  
Gk  
a word formed in imitation of natural sounds.  
*Tim found the onomatope kaboom in today's comic strip.*

**onomatopoeia**

**onslaught**

n  
/ 'ön.slót /  
D > E  
an especially fierce attack.  
*The Britons were unable to withstand the onslaught of the Saxons.*

**ontogeny**

n  
/ ään'täjənē /  
Gk + Gk  
the biological development or course of development of an individual organism.  
*The role of brain ontogeny in Alzheimer's disease requires that an autopsy be performed to obtain a definitive diagnosis.*

**onus**

n  
/ 'önəs /  
L  
burden.  
*Caring for her six children was an onus for the young widow.*

**onychosis**

n  
/ äänə'kōsəs /  
Gk  
[has near homonym: onchoses] a disease of the nails.  
*Even though he had only a mild onychosis, Eric was not allowed to work in the lab.*

**onyx**

adj  
/ 'äniks /  
Gk  
of the color jet black.  
*The teacher told the schoolchildren that space looks onyx from the shuttle.*

**oometer**

n  
/ ō'amədə(r) /  
Gk + Gk  
an instrument for measuring eggs.  
*Mr. Horton uses an oometer to determine which eggs go in which cartons.*

**oophagous**

adj  
/ ō'äfəgəs /  
Gk  
living or feeding on eggs—used of insects or reptiles.  
*Oophagous insects help control the bug population.*

**opacity**

n  
/ ō'pasədə /  
L > F  
the quality or state of a body that renders it impervious to the rays of light : lack of transparency or translucency.  
*The envelope's opacity made it impossible for Garnet to see if there was a check inside.*

**opah**

**opalescence**

n  
/ ōpə'les'n(t)s /  
Skt > L + Lcf  
the quality or state of reflecting an iridescent light.  
*The moonstone's opalescence gave it a pearly luster.*



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**opalescent**

**opaque**

adj  
/ ɔ̄'pāk /

L  
impervious to the rays of visible light : not transparent or translucent.  
*The Dornans hung an opaque window shade in their son's nursery.*

**opeidoscope**

n  
/ ɔ̄'pīdə.skōp /  
Gk

an instrument using light rays, a flexible membrane, and a mirror to exhibit the vibratory motions caused by sounds.  
*Mr. Peterson used a simple opeidoscope to compare the sounds of musical instruments.*

**operatable**

adj  
/ 'āpə.rādəbəl /  
L + Ecf

fit, possible, or desirable to use.  
*Renata hoped that her car would be operatable after the collision.*

**operettist**

**ophelimity**

**ophicleide**

**ophiolatry**

n  
/ .āfē'älətrē /  
Gk

the worship of or the attribution of divine or sacred nature to snakes.  
*Before the rise of monotheism, ophiolatry in one form or another was nearly universal among ancient peoples.*

**ophthalmic**

**ophthalmologist**

n  
/ .āf.thal'mäləjəst /  
Gk

a physician that specializes in the study and treatment of defects and diseases of the eye.  
*Monica goes to the ophthalmologist once a year because she has a family history of glaucoma.*

**ophthalmology**

**opiate**

**opine**

v  
/ ɔ̄'pīn /  
L > F

state as an opinion.  
*There are some things humans think they know, and some that they merely opine.*

**opodeldoc**

**opossum**

n  
/ ə'päsəm /  
Algonquian

[Note: Could be confused with possum.] an omnivorous largely nocturnal and arboreal mammal that has a prehensile tail and an abdominal pouch to which the young are transferred at birth.  
*Arnold caught the opossum eating the cat's food.*

**oppidan**

adj  
/ 'āpədən /  
L

of or relating to a town or to town as opposed to country.  
*The painter sold his oppidan scenes of market day on the sidewalk, earning just enough to live on.*

**opportune**

adj  
/ .āpə(r)'tūn /  
L > F > E

fit, suitable, or convenient for a given purpose.  
*We could not have chosen a more opportune spot for a picnic than the shore of Lake Walcott.*

**opportuneness**

**opposite**

n  
/ 'āpəzət /  
L

the person occupying the position across from one's own in square dancing.  
*Daniel's opposite in the square dance is a better dancer than he.*

**opposition**

n  
/ .āpə'zishən /  
L

a configuration in which one celestial body is opposite another in the sky.  
*The Moon, when full, is said to be in opposition to the Sun.*

**opprobrious**

adj  
/ ə'prōbrēəs /  
L > F > E

conveying or intending to convey disgrace.  
*The principal denounced the vandals in opprobrious terms.*

**opprobrium**

**oppugn**

v  
/ ə'pyün /  
L

challenge the accuracy, propriety, probity, or other quality of.  
*The newspaper had a tendency to oppugn the actions of Congress in its editorials.*

**optimistic**

adj  
/ .āptə'mistik /  
L > F + Ecff

anticipating the best.  
*Jackie remained optimistic about winning the national spelling bee.*

**option**

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**opulent**

adj  
/ 'ɒpyələnt /  
L

exhibiting or characterized by wealth or affluence.

*Leather wall covering is one feature of the room's opulent décor.*

**opusculum**

n  
/ ɒ'pəskyələm /  
L

a minor work (as of literature).

*Although critics regarded Jerome's first novel as an opusculum, it has steadily risen on the best-seller lists.*

**oracle**

**orally**

**orator**

n  
/ 'ɔrədə(r) /  
L

one distinguished for skill and power in public speaking.

*Daniel Webster was an eminent 19th-century orator.*

**orbital**

n  
/ 'ɔ(r)bədəl /  
L

a solution of the Schrödinger wave equation describing a possible mode of motion of a single electron in an atom or molecule.

*There is theoretically no outer limit to the orbital of an electron.*

**orchard**

n  
/ 'ɔrchəd /  
L + E

a plantation or enclosure containing fruit trees, nut-bearing trees, or sugar maples.

*In the orchard were bare fruit trees growing in the winter-browned grass.*

**orchestra**

n  
/ 'ɔ(r)kəstrə /  
Gk

a large group of players of musical instruments including typically strings, woodwinds, brasses, and percussion organized especially for performing one of the larger forms of concert music or for accompanying an oratorio or other dramatic work.

*The orchestra dazzled the audience with its performance of Tchaikovsky's 1812 Overture.*

**orchid**

n  
/ 'ɔrkəd /  
Gk > L

a distinctive and often brightly colored tropical flower with three petals.

*Many varieties of the orchid can be found in Hawaii.*

**orchidaceous**

adj  
/ .ɔrkə'dəʃəs /  
Gk > L + Ecf  
expressing or characterized by a showy or ostentatious quality.  
*Today's journalists generally eschew orchidaceous writing.*

**ordeal**

**ordination**

n  
/ .ɔ(r)dən'āʃən /  
L

the act or state of being admitted into the Christian ministry.

*At her ordination Heather delivered a sermon on the 23rd Psalm.*

**ordnance**

n  
/ 'ɔrdnən(t)s /  
F

[has homonym and near homonym: ordinance and ordonnance] military supplies including weapons, ammunition, and combat vehicles.

*As quartermaster, Sergeant Russo was responsible for all of the ordnance on the base.*

**orfevriere**

n  
/ ɔrfevrə'rē /  
F

goldsmith's or jeweler's work : jewelry.

*Dave carefully looked over the orfevriere, trying to decide what his wife would like for her birthday.*

**organ**

**oriel**

n  
/ 'ɔriəl /  
L? > F > E

[has homonym and near homonym: oriole and aureole] a large bay window of semihexagonal or semisquare plan projecting from the face of a wall and supported by a corbel or bracket.

*Megan set her chair in the pleasantly sunny oriel and sat down to read.*

**orifice**

n  
/ 'ɔrəfəs /  
L > F

the mouth or opening of something.  
*Each sprinkler head had an orifice of one-half inch.*

**oriflamme**

**origami**

n  
/ ɔrə'gāmē /  
Jpn

the art or process of Japanese paper folding.

*After only a few hours of studying origami, Veronica was creating paper cranes by the dozen.*

**original**

**oriole**

**orison**

n  
/ 'ɔrəsən /  
L > F > E

prayer.

*The pastor designated time in the service for a silent orison for the hostages.*

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**ormolu**

n  
/ 'ò(r)mə.lü /

F  
brass made to imitate gold and used in mounts for furniture and for other decorative purposes.

*The large mirror's frame was decorated with ormolu.*

**ornithopter**

**ornithotomy**

n  
/ ó(r)nə'thäd-əmē /

Gk  
the anatomy or dissection of birds.  
*Through ornithotomy Derrick learned how a bird's bones are interconnected.*

**orofacial**

adj  
/ òrə'fāshəl /

L  
of or relating to the mouth and face.  
*Roseanne underwent plastic surgery to correct orofacial abnormalities.*

**orogeny**

n  
/ ó'rājənē /

Gk  
the process of mountain making especially by folding of Earth's crust.  
*Mrs. Scott was demonstrating orogeny when she used a piece of carpet to show how mountains form.*

**orotund**

adj  
/ 'òrə.tənd /

L  
unduly full and strong in delivery or style : pompous, bombastic.  
*The more nervous Jeff gets while giving a speech, the more orotund his delivery becomes.*

**orphan**

n  
/ 'òrfən /

Gk > L  
a child without parents.  
*Oliver Twist is a famous fictional orphan.*

**orphanage**

**orpiment**

n  
/ 'ò(r)pəmənt /

L > F > E  
an orange to yellow mineral consisting of arsenic trisulfide and used in fireworks and as a pigment.  
*Orpiment is used to produce yellow pigment for painting.*

**orrery**

n  
/ 'òrərə /

E name  
an apparatus that illustrates the relative positions and motions of bodies in the solar system.  
*Sheila fashioned a crude orrery out of coat hangers and Styrofoam.*

**orthodox**

adj  
/ 'ò(r)thə.däks /

Gk + Gk  
marked by conformity to doctrines or practices especially in religion that are held as right or true by some authority, standard, or tradition.  
*In orthodox Jewish synagogues, men and women are seated separately.*

**orthoepy**

n  
/ 'ò(r)thə.wepē /

Gk > L  
the study of the pronunciation of a language.  
*Differences between the English spoken in the United States and that spoken in England is a topic of orthoepy familiar to many linguists.*

**orthogonal**

**orthographize**

**oryx**

n  
/ 'òriks /  
Gk > L

any of a genus of large heavily built African and Arabian antelopes that have a light-colored coat with dark conspicuous markings especially on the face.  
*The adaptations of the Arabian oryx to the desert include its predominantly white coat to reflect heat and its splayed hooves for walking on sand.*

**oscillating**

**oscillation**

n  
/ äsə'lāshən /

L  
a swinging or moving backward and forward like a pendulum.  
*Engineers specified that slots be constructed in the deck of the bridge to reduce oscillation.*

**oscillatory**

adj  
/ 'äsələ.tōrē /

L  
characterized by the action of swinging or moving backward and forward like a pendulum.  
*The oscillatory motion of the airplane caused Deborah to become airsick.*

**oscilloscope**

n  
/ ə'silə.skōp /

L + Gk > L  
an instrument in which the variations in a fluctuating electrical quantity appear as a visible wave form on the fluorescent screen of a cathode-ray tube.  
*The technician used an oscilloscope to help him pinpoint the problem.*

**oscitation**

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**osculatory**

adj  
/ 'ɔskyələ.tōrē /

L  
of, relating to, or characterized by kissing.

*Julie had no idea Shaun was talking about kissing when he asked if she would help him refine his osculatory skill.*

**osmosis**

n  
/ əz'mōsəs /

Gk  
the flow or diffusion that takes place through a semipermeable membrane typically separating either a solvent and a solution or a dilute solution and a concentrated solution.

*An experiment using red dye gave a dramatic demonstration of osmosis.*

**osprey**

n  
/ 'ɔsprē /

L > F > E  
a large hawk that is a dark brown color above and mostly pure white below and feeds on fish that it captures by hovering and diving.  
*Because of its preferred diet, the osprey is also called a "fish hawk."*

**ossicle**

n  
/ 'ɔsəkəl /

L  
any of certain small bones.  
*The sports doctor told Nate that an ossicle in his left ear had been damaged by the blow from his opponent.*

**ossuary**

**ostensible**

adj  
/ ə'sten(t)səbəl /

L  
professing genuineness and sincerity but often concealing the real aspects behind a plausible facade.  
*Mr. Elton's ostensible reason for stopping by was to ask whether Mr. Woodhouse's party could be made up in the evening without him.*

**ostentatious**

adj  
/ əstən'tāshəs /

L  
for the purpose of attracting attention : pretentious.  
*Mrs. Howell's purchase of a diamond-studded collar for her poodle was one of her many ostentatious extravagances.*

**ostentatiously**

**osteoclasia**

**osteoporosis**

n  
/ əstēōpə'rōsəs /  
Gk + L  
a condition characterized by decrease in bone mass with decreased density and enlargement of bone spaces producing porosity and fragility.

*Diane's doctor recommended increasing her calcium intake to prevent osteoporosis.*

**ostracism**

**ostracize**

**ostrich**

**otacoustic**

adj  
/ ɔdə'küstik /

Gk  
assisting the sense of hearing.  
*Mrs. Jordan fashioned a piece of cardboard into an otacoustic horn.*

**otalgia**

n  
/ ɔ'talj(ē)ə /

Gk  
pain in the ear : earache.  
*Otalgia is more common in children than in adults.*

**otherwise**

adv  
/ ə'θə(r),wīz /

E  
in a different way or manner : differently.  
*Bret told us to always back up our work; otherwise, we would be sorry.*

**otitis**

n  
/ ɔ'tīdəs /

Gk > L  
inflammation of the ear.  
*Jeff's earache was diagnosed as a symptom of otitis of the middle ear.*

**otolaryngology**

n  
/ ɔdə.larən'gələjē /

G  
a branch of medicine that deals with the ear, nose, and throat and their disorders and diseases.  
*When Hazel's sore throat persisted, her family physician recommended an appointment with a specialist in otolaryngology.*

**otomycosis**

n  
/ ɔdə.mī'kōsəs /

Gk  
disease of the ear produced by the growth of fungi in the external auditory canal.  
*Jane's otomycosis proved resistant to treatment.*

**otter**

n  
/ 'ɔdə(r) /

E  
[has homonym: odder] any of various largely aquatic carnivorous mammals that are related to the weasels and minks and usually have webbed and clawed feet and dark brown fur.  
*The sea otter places a stone on its chest and uses it as an anvil on which to open mussels and clams.*

**ottoman**

n  
/ 'ɔdəmən /

Turk name > It > F  
an overstuffed footstool.  
*Andrew spilled orange juice all over the ottoman.*

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**oubliette**

n  
/ ˌuːblɪˈet /  
L > F  
a dungeon with an opening only at the top and often a concealed pit below the floor.  
*Every medieval French castle Karen visited on the tour had an oubliette.*

**ourselves**

**outlet**

**outrageous**

adj  
/ ˌaʊtˈrɑːʒəs /  
F  
extravagant, fantastic.  
*The sophomores created an outrageous float for the homecoming parade.*

**ouzo**

**ovation**

**overbearance**

**overcast**

adj  
/ ˈoʊvə(r)ˌkɑːst /  
E  
clouded over.  
*On a gloomy overcast muggy Minnesota summer day, the circus came to town.*

**overcompensate**

**override**

**overriding**

**overt**

**overweening**

adj  
/ ˌoʊvə(r)ˈwiːniŋ /  
E  
unduly confident.  
*Elaine's overweening pretensions fell flat when it was revealed that she could not even speak French.*

**oviparous**

adj  
/ ˈoʊvɪpərəs /  
L  
producing eggs that develop and hatch outside the maternal body.  
*The platypus is an oviparous mammal.*

**ovoid**

**oxbow**

**oxen**

**oxidation**

**oximeter**

**oxlip**

**oxydactyl**

adj  
/ ˌɒksəˈdæktl /  
Gk + Gk  
having slender tapered digits.  
*The glove was made for a delicate, oxydactyl hand.*

**oxygen**

n  
/ ˈɒksɪdʒən /  
Gk > F  
a nonmetallic element that is normally a colorless odorless tasteless nonflammable gas, is the most abundant of the elements on Earth, and occurs in air and water, in most common rocks and minerals, and in a great variety of organic compounds.  
*Oxygen is the second most abundant element in Earth's atmosphere.*

**oxylophyte**

n  
/ ɒkˈsɪləˌfɪt /  
Gk  
a plant that prefers or is restricted to an acid soil.  
*Sphagnum moss, which grows in bogs, is a common oxylophyte.*

**oxymoron**

n  
/ ˌɒksəˈmɔːrən /  
Gk  
a combination for epigrammatic effect of contradictory or incongruous words.  
*Dexter feels that the phrase jumbo shrimp is an oxymoron.*

**oyez**

v  
/ ˈoɪyā /  
F  
—used by criers of courts as a command to secure silence and attention before a proclamation.  
*“Oyez, oyez, oyez!” yelled the crier as the judge entered the courtroom.*

**oyster**

n  
/ ˈɔɪstə(r) /  
Gk > L > F > E  
a marine bivalve mollusk found along seacoasts or in the mouths of rivers.  
*Dad would not eat an oyster.*

**ozonic**

**ozonosphere**

**pabulum**

n  
/ ˈpæbʊləm /  
L  
rudimentary or sentimental writing.  
*The famous poet's early works were pure pabulum.*

**pachinko**

n  
/ pəˈtʃɪŋ(ɪ)kō /  
Jpn  
a Japanese gambling device resembling a pinball machine but with automatic payoff as in a slot machine.  
*Since the 1950s, playing pachinko has been a favorite pastime among the youth of Japan.*

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**pachyderm**

n  
/ 'pakədɜrm /  
Gk > F  
one of a group of thick-skinned mammals (as an elephant or rhinoceros).  
*When the circus came to town, it usually featured at least one pachyderm.*

**pacificator**

**pacifist**

**pacifistically**

adv  
/ .pasə'fistək(ə)lē /  
L > F > E  
in a manner characterized by opposition to violence as a means of settling disputes.  
*Randall approached his angry neighbor pacifistically.*

**paddock**

**padishah**

n  
/ 'pādəshā /  
Per  
a powerful important personage : mogul.  
*George Lucas is a padishah of motion picture epics.*

**paella**

n  
/ pə'elə /  
L > F > Catal  
a saffron-flavored stew containing rice, chicken, seafood, and various vegetables.  
*Paella can be an expensive dish to prepare because saffron threads are so costly.*

**pagan**

adj  
/ 'pāgən /  
L  
of, relating to, or having the characteristics of followers of a polytheistic religion (as in ancient Rome).  
*New Age spirituality has given rise to a number of organized pagan groups.*

**pageant**

**pageanteer**

n  
/ .pājən'ti(ə)r /  
L + Ecf  
an actor or other performer in a spectacle.  
*The pageanteer startled Benji by leaping onto the table.*

**pageantry**

n  
/ 'pājəntṛē /  
L > E  
colorful, rich, or splendid display.  
*Rachel could not wait to see the pageantry of the medieval festival.*

**pagination**

**pagoda**

n  
/ pə'gōdə /  
Skt > Pg  
a Far Eastern structure resembling a tower that is often richly decorated and typically has projecting roofs that curve upward between each story and that is erected usually as a temple or memorial.  
*The tour guide claimed that 1000 pounds of gold went into the decoration of the ornate pagoda.*

**paisley**

adj  
/ 'pāzlē /  
Scottish geog name  
printed with an elaborate design consisting typically of curved abstract figures.  
*Mrs. Whatsit untied a blue and green paisley scarf.*

**pajamas**

n  
/ pə'jäməz /  
Hindi  
loose clothing designed for sleeping and relaxation.  
*Danielle received some flannel pajamas for Christmas.*

**palace**

**paladin**

n  
/ 'paləd'n /  
L > It > F  
a champion of a medieval prince : a legendary hero.  
*A medieval prince could be challenged to a duel, but his paladin would do the actual fighting.*

**palatable**

adj  
/ 'palədəbəl /  
Etruscan? > L > E + Ecf  
agreeable to the palate or taste : savory.  
*Mom poured cheese over the spinach to make it more palatable.*

**palatial**

**palatially**

adv  
/ pə'lāshəlē /  
L + Ecf  
in a manner suitable for a palace.  
*The new hotel was palatially surrounded by high stone walls with elaborate bronze gates.*

**palatinate**

n  
/ pə'lat'nət /  
L  
the province or territory of a European nobleman.  
*Prince Vlad bowed, saying "I offer you the hospitality of my palatinate."*

**palaver**

n  
/ pə'lavə(r) /  
Gk > L > Pg  
profuse, idle, or worthless talk : chatter.  
*Dean left when the seminar discussion degenerated into palaver.*

**palazzo**

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**paleontology**

n  
/ ˌpālɛ.ən'täləjē /  
Gk > F

a science that deals with the life of past geological periods, is based on the study of fossil remains of plants and animals, and gives information especially about the chronology of the history of Earth.

*Theo traces his interest in paleontology back to his discovery of fossils in his yard when he was a young boy.*

**palilalia**

n  
/ ˌpalə'lālɛə /  
Gk > L

a speech defect marked by abnormal repetition of syllables, words, or phrases.

*Palilalia is a symptom of some mental disorders.*

**palimpsest**

n  
/ ˌpaləm(p).sɛst /  
Gk

a parchment, tablet, or other portion of writing material that has been used twice or three times after the earlier writing has been erased.

*Special equipment will help determine whether the old parchment Colin found is a palimpsest.*

**palindrome**

n  
/ ˌpalə'n.drɔm /  
Gk

a word, verse, or sentence that reads the same backward or forward.

*Ada struggled to contrive a palindrome centered around her own name.*

**palladium**

n  
/ pə'lādēəm /  
Gk > L

something that affords effectual protection or security.

*Many consider the Second Amendment to be the palladium of democracy.*

**pallbearer**

n  
/ ˈpɒl.bɛərə(r) /  
L > E+E

an attendant at a funeral who helps carry the coffin.

*Each pallbearer wore a carnation in his lapel.*

**pallescent**

**pallesthesia**

**palliate**

v  
/ ˈpālɛ.ət /  
L

moderate the intensity of : lessen.

*For many prisoners, books palliate the boredom of isolation from society.*

**palliative**

**pallor**

n  
/ ˈpælə(r) /  
L

abnormal paleness.

*The pallor of Julian's stage makeup gave his girlfriend a fright.*

**palmyra**

n  
/ ˌpəl'mɪrə /  
L > Pg

a tall fan palm that is native to Africa but widely cultivated in India.

*The palmyra made a stately addition to Ramu's garden.*

**palometa**

n  
/ ˌpələ'medə /  
L

any of various butterfishes (as the California pompano).

*The fish dealer readily identified Chet's greenish, slippery-coated catch as a palometa.*

**palooka**

n  
/ pə'lükə /  
unknown

an inexperienced or incompetent boxer.

*The boxing manager told his fighter to box like a palooka for one round, then come out swinging hard.*

**palouser**

**palpability**

**palpable**

adj  
/ ˈpælpəbəl /  
L

easily perceptible by the mind : obvious, manifest.

*The injustice of the situation was palpable to even the least fair-minded individual present.*

**palpebral**

adj  
/ ˈpælpəbrəl /  
L

[has near homonym: palpable] of, relating to, or located on or near the eyelids.

*Mike's palpebral spasms were alleviated when he was treated with a muscle relaxant.*

**palpitant**

adj  
/ ˈpælpədənt /  
L

trembling, quivering, throbbing.

*Darryl jabbed his fork into the palpitant pudding.*

**palpitation**

n  
/ ˌpælpə'tāshən /  
L

an abnormally rapid beating of the heart when excited by violent exertion, strong emotion, or disease.

*Ron could feel the palpitation in his chest as he approached Marie to ask her out on a date.*

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**paludal**

adj  
/ pə'lüdəl /  
L

of, relating to, or made up of marshes.

*The map shows a boardwalk trail through the paludal areas.*

**palustrine**

adj  
/ pə'ləstrən /  
L

living or thriving in a marshy environment.

*The alligator is an excellent palustrine hunter.*

**palynology**

**pamphlet**

**pamphleteer**

n  
/ ,pam(p)flə'ti(ə)r /  
Gk > L name + Ecf

a writer of pamphlets attacking something or urging a cause.

*Thomas Paine made a name for himself in colonial America as a pamphleteer.*

**panacea**

**panacean**

adj  
/ ,panə'sēən /  
Gk > L + Ecf

having the properties of a remedy for all ills and difficulties.

*Advertisements for the new pain medicine suggest that it has panacean qualities.*

**panache**

n  
/ pə'nash /  
L > It > F

dash or flamboyance in style or action.

*The novel's great strength is the splendidly depicted panache of the protagonist.*

**panary**

**panbroil**

v  
/ 'pan.brōil /  
L > F > E

cook food in a skillet with little or no fat.

*The recipe called for one to panbroil the chicken along with the vegetables.*

**pancreatitis**

n  
/ ,pankrēə'tid-əs /  
Gk > L

inflammation of the gland that produces insulin.

*The physician recommended immediate surgery for Gordon's acute pancreatitis.*

**pandiculation**

n  
/ pan.dikyə'lāshən /  
L

a stretching and stiffening especially of the trunk and extremities (as when fatigued and drowsy or after waking from sleep).

*A cat usually extends its claws during pandiculation.*

**panegyric**

n  
/ ,panə'jirik /  
Gk > L

an oration or writing expressing praise.

*Walt Whitman composed a famous panegyric on the occasion of Abraham Lincoln's death.*

**panelist**

**panettone**

n  
/ ,pä'nə'tōnē /  
L > It

a usually yeast-leavened holiday bread containing raisins and candied fruit peels.

*Tad received a panettone in the mail from his Italian grandmother.*

**panickiness**

n  
/ 'panəkēnəs /  
Gk > E

the quality or state characterized by or resulting from sudden overpowering fright.

*In her panickiness in calling for an ambulance, Gretchen forgot to give the street address.*

**panoramic**

**pantisocracy**

n  
/ ,pantə'säkrəsē /  
Gk

a utopian community in which all rule equally.

*The romantic poets dreamed of establishing a pantisocracy wherein everyone would share in the governing of the community.*

**pantomime**

n  
/ 'pantəmīm /  
Gk > L

a dramatic performance using no dialogue.

*The sixth-grade class put on a pantomime of the story "Androcles and the Lion."*

**papacy**

**paparazzi**

n pl  
/ ,päpə'rätsē /  
It name

free-lance photographers who aggressively pursue celebrities in order to take candid photographs.

*Many people still blame the paparazzi for their apparent role in the death of Princess Diana.*

**papeterie**

**paprika**

n  
/ pə'prēkə /  
Gk > Serb > Hung

a condiment consisting of the dried finely ground pods of various cultivated sweet peppers.

*Paprika has been a prized export of Hungary for centuries.*

**papyrus**



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**parable**

n  
/ 'parəbəl /  
L

a usually short fictitious story that illustrates a moral attitude or a religious principle.  
*Ella's Sunday school teacher began every class with a parable.*

**parabolize**

**parabulia**

n  
/ ,parə'byülēə /  
Gk > L

abnormality or perversion of willpower.  
*One critic called Nietzschean philosophy "a celebration of parabulia."*

**parachute**

**paraclete**

n  
/ 'parəklēt /  
Gk

[Note: Could be confused with parrakeet.] one called to aid or support : an advocate.  
*The popular senator was hailed as a paraclete of civil rights.*

**paradigm**

n  
/ 'parədīm /  
Gk

an outstandingly clear or typical example or pattern.  
*The paradigm of sin and salvation underlies much of 17th-century English poetry.*

**paradise**

**parador**

**paradox**

n  
/ 'parədäks /  
Gk

a statement or sentiment that is seemingly contradictory or opposed to common sense and yet perhaps true in fact.  
*The homework assignment was to write an essay on the following paradox: "To guarantee freedom of religion, the government must be free from religion."*

**paraffinic**

adj  
/ ,parə'finik /  
L > G

of, relating to, or characterized by paraffin hydrocarbons or paraffin wax.  
*The new pesticide contains a highly refined paraffinic oil.*

**paragraph**

**parallax**

n  
/ 'parələks /  
Gk > F

the apparent displacement or the difference in apparent direction of an object as seen from two different points not on a straight line with the object.  
*Sujata carefully allowed for the parallax when framing the picture in her viewfinder.*

**parallel**

adj  
/ 'parələl /  
Gk

extending in the same direction and everywhere equidistant.  
*The parallel lines of the railroad tracks tipped off analysts to the location of the munitions plant.*

**paralogize**

v  
/ pə'raləjīz /  
Gk

reason falsely : draw conclusions not warranted by the premises.  
*Although James tends to paralogize, he is so eloquent that his listeners often overlook his faulty reasoning.*

**paralysis**

n  
/ pə'raləsəs /  
Gk

a state of powerlessness or inactivity.  
*A sort of paralysis overcame the frightened child.*

**paramedic**

**paramount**

adj  
/ 'parəmaunt /  
L > F > AF

superior to all others (as in power, position, or importance).  
*Victor holds the paramount seat on the library's board of directors.*

**paranoia**

n  
/ ,parə'nöi(y)ə /  
Gk

a tendency on the part of individuals or of groups toward suspiciousness and distrustfulness of others that is based not on objective reality.  
*Paranoia of government eavesdropping caused members of the militia to encrypt their communications.*

**paraparesis**

n  
/ ,parəpə'rēsəs /  
Gk

partial paralysis affecting the lower limbs.  
*Kent's paraparesis was caused by a skateboarding accident.*

**parapet**

n  
/ 'parəpət /  
L > It

a rampart raised upon or above the main wall in a permanent fortification.  
*The princess walked along the parapet every evening at dusk, watching for the return of her beloved.*

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**paraph**

n  
/ 'parəf /  
Gk > L

a flourish at the end of a signature sometimes used as a sort of rude safeguard against forgery.

*Delia always signs her name with an elaborate paraph ending in a smiley face.*

**paraphernalia**

n pl  
/ ,parəfə(r)'nālyə /  
Gk > L

articles of equipment.

*Mark lugged all his photographic paraphernalia to every spelling bee.*

**paraphrasable**

adj  
/ 'parəfrāzəbəl /  
Gk + Ecf

capable of being restated in another form usually for clearer and fuller exposition.

*The teacher asked the students if the meaning of the poem was paraphrasable.*

**paraplegic**

adj  
/ ,parə'plējɪk /  
Gk

affected with paralysis of the lower half of the body including both legs due to disease or injury to the spinal cord.

*With much determination, effort, and training, the paraplegic patient learned how to take care of himself at home.*

**parasite**

**parasitic**  
adj  
/ ,parə'sɪdɪk /  
Gk > L

living in or on another organism.  
*Dogs are susceptible to parasitic organisms such as fleas and heartworms.*

**parasol**

n  
/ 'parəsəl /  
L > It > F

a lightweight umbrella used as a sunshade.

*Georgina decided to splurge on an antique parasol even though she knew she'd never actually use it.*

**parboil**

v  
/ 'pär:böil /  
L > F > E

cook briefly in simmering liquid as a preliminary or incomplete cooking procedure.

*It is advisable to parboil dense vegetables like carrots before stir-frying them with other vegetables.*

**parcel**

**pare**

**parenthesize**

**parfait**

n  
/ pär'fä /  
L > F  
a cold dessert consisting of alternating layers of fruit, syrup, ice cream, and whipped cream.  
*Following a light lunch, Carmen ordered a parfait of tropical fruits.*

**pariah**

n  
/ pə'riə /  
Tamil  
a person despised or rejected by society : outcast.  
*The candidate became a pariah to his party, and many members refused to be seen with him.*

**parietal**

adj  
/ pə'riədəl /  
L > F  
of, relating to, or located in the upper posterior part of the head.  
*The X ray revealed no damage to Hernando's parietal bone.*

**parishioners**

n pl  
/ pə'riʃ(ə)nə(r)z /  
Gk > L > F > E + Ecf  
the members of a local church community.  
*The parishioners held a meeting and decided to build a new gymnasium for the school.*

**parity**

n  
/ 'parədē /  
L  
[has homonym: parody] the quality or state of being equal : close equivalence or resemblance.  
*American automobile manufacturers believe they have achieved parity with their foreign competitors.*

**parkin**

**parlance**

n  
/ 'pärlən(t)s /  
F  
idiom, phraseology.  
*In educational parlance the new high school is a "magnet school."*

**parley**

n  
/ 'pärlē /  
L > F  
[has homonym: parlay] conversation, discussion.  
*Mr. Elton and Harriet had a very interesting parley about what could be done and should be done.*

**parliament**

**parochial**

adj  
/ pə'rəkēəl /  
L > F > AF > E  
of or relating to a church parish.  
*Five of Susan's friends attended parochial schools.*

**parodist**

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**parody**

n  
/ 'parədē /  
Gk

[has homonym: parity] a writing in which the language and style of an author or work is closely imitated for comic effect or in ridicule.  
*The Battle of the Frogs and the Mice is a Hellenistic parody of the Iliad.*

**paroemia**

n  
/ pə'remēə /  
Gk > L

a rhetorical proverb.  
*Coach Morgan's favorite paroemia is "A rolling stone gathers no moss."*

**paroxysm**

n  
/ 'parək.sizəm /  
Gk

a sudden, violent, and uncontrollable action or occurrence of emotion.  
*When Jeff unknowingly sat on the whoopie cushion, Al burst into a paroxysm of laughter.*

**paroxysmal**

adj  
/ .parək'sizməl /  
Gk > L > F

marked or accompanied by sudden attacks or spasms (as of a disease).  
*Mike's whooping cough was treated with antibiotics in its early paroxysmal stage.*

**parquet**

n  
/ pər'kɑ /  
F

a patterned flooring.  
*Terry had expensive parquet installed in the foyer.*

**parrhesia**

n  
/ pa'rēzh(ē)ə /  
Gk

[Note: Could be confused with Parisian.] boldness or freedom of speech.  
*When Bill was in elementary school, his parrhesia earned him many stints of standing in the corner.*

**parsec**

n  
/ 'pär.sek /  
Gk + L

a unit of measure for interstellar space equal to a distance of 3.26 light-years or to 19.2 trillion miles.  
*Porgy estimated the distance between the stars to be one parsec.*

**parsimony**

**parsnip**

n  
/ 'pär.snip /  
L > F > E

a biennial plant with yellow flowers and a long, thick, sweet, white root used as a vegetable.  
*Jake yanked a parsnip from his garden.*

**parterre**

n  
/ pär'te(ə)r /  
L > F

the part of the floor of a theater behind the orchestra.  
*For the season premiere, the seats in the parterre were reserved for the stockholder of the opera company.*

**parthenogenesis**

n  
/ .pärthənō'jenəsəs /  
Gk

reproduction that involves development of a gamete without fertilization.  
*Parthenogenesis occurs commonly among some stick insect species.*

**partridge**

n  
/ 'pärtrij /  
L > F > E

any of several game birds belonging to the same subfamily as the bobwhite.  
*A partridge fluttered out of the tall grass and startled Katrina.*

**parturition**

n  
/ .pär.də'rishən /  
L

the action or process of giving birth to offspring.  
*In some cultures, women return to manual labor within hours of parturition.*

**parvenuism**

n  
/ 'pär.vən(y)ü.izəm /  
L > F + Ecf

the behavior of one who makes great pretensions because of acquired wealth.  
*The parvenuism of the steel and railroad barons caused them to build some of the most amazing private homes in the United States.*

**pasigraphy**

**pasimology**

n  
/ .pasə'mäləjē /  
Gk? + Gk + Gk  
the study of gestures as a means of communication.  
*Native American sign language is one means of communication studied in pasimology.*

**pasqueflower**

**pasquinade**

n  
/ .paskwə'nād /  
It > F

a lampoon or satire usually having a political significance.  
*The president's misadventure quickly became the subject of an editorial pasquinade.*

**passemeterie**

**passenger**

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**passerine**

adj  
/ 'pasərən /  
L

of or relating to the largest order of birds including more than half of all living birds and consisting chiefly of songbirds of perching habits.

*Mr. Perrault, an avid birder, told us that passerine birds have a maximum life-span of about ten years in the wild.*

**pasteurization**

**pasteurize**

v  
/ 'pas(h)chə.rīz /  
F name + Ecf  
subject to heating long enough to kill disease-causing microorganisms.  
*Dairies pasteurize milk before delivering it to stores.*

**pastiche**

n  
/ pa'stēsh /  
It > F  
a usually incongruous medley of different styles and materials : hodgepodge.  
*Jordan considers the design for the new library a pretentious pastiche.*

**pasture**

n  
/ 'pas(h)chə(r) /  
L > F > E  
land that is used for the grazing of animals.  
*Every morning the cows returned to the grassy pasture.*

**patache**

**patella**

n  
/ pə'telə /  
L  
kneecap.  
*Shelby bumped her patella against the bottom of the desk when she stood up too quickly.*

**pathogeny**

n  
/ pə'thājənē /  
L  
Gk  
the origination and development of a disease.

*Much research has been done on the factors involved in the pathogeny of muscular dystrophy.*

**pathos**

n  
/ 'pā.thäs /  
Gk  
an element in experience or in artistic representation evoking pity or compassion.  
*The actress was highly praised for the pathos she evoked in her death scene.*

**patois**

n  
/ 'pat.wä /  
F  
a dialect other than the standard or literary dialect.  
*Parisians considered the French spoken in the English court to be a patois.*

**patriarch**

n  
/ 'pātrē.ärk /  
Gk  
a man regarded as father or founder (as of a race, science, religion, or class of people).  
*In many religious circles Adam is considered to be the patriarch of the human race.*

**patrician**

adj  
/ pə'trīshən /  
L  
of, relating to, or characteristic of gentle or noble birth or of breeding and cultivation.  
*Escorting Cassie to her debutante ball is a patrician experience Rob will never forget.*

**patriciate**

n  
/ pə'trīshēət /  
L  
a class of high-ranking nobles or aristocrats.  
*As members of the New York patriciate, Donald and his wife kept a high social profile and lived extravagantly.*

**patrikin**

**patriot**

n  
/ 'pātrēət /  
Gk > L > F  
a person who loves his country and defends and promotes its interests.  
*The foreign spy convinced others that he was a flag-waving patriot.*

**patroness**

n  
/ 'pātrənəs /  
L  
a woman who provides for or promotes the interests of a protégé.  
*Emma was soon left in peace, not forced to be the very active patroness of Jane Fairfax.*

**patronymic**

**patulous**

adj  
/ 'pachələs /  
L  
spreading widely from a center.  
*The old apple tree had many patulous branches.*

**patzer**

n  
/ 'pātsə(r) /  
G  
an inept chess player.  
*When Drew won the chess game so easily, he jokingly called his opponent a "patzer."*

**paucispiral**

**paucity**

n  
/ 'pösədē /  
L  
a small number : fewness.  
*The choir suffered from a paucity of male voices.*