

May 2011

Dear Spelling Bee Competitors and Team Advisors:

Thanks for buzzing into Achieve Hartford!'s Community Spelling BEE! The Fifth Annual Community Spelling Bee will take place on Friday October 21st, from 7-9pm at the Theater of the Performing Arts, at the Learning Corridor, 359 Washington Street, Hartford.

We know you will have a honey of a time and lots of fun. The Community Spelling Bee is a family friendly event that is designed to celebrate learning while raising awareness and support for Achieve Hartford! and its commitment to education excellence in the Hartford Public Schools.

The attached word list is culled from the *Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List*. Scripps uses as its source *Webster's Third New International Dictionary and its Addenda section*, copyright 2002, Merriam-Webster.

The pronunciation provided is usually the first given in *Webster's Third*. Although some words can be more than one part of speech, only one part of speech is provided in the Consolidated Word List. The definition and use of the word in a sentence is for that specific part of speech.

Words on this list that do not give a definition will not be used in the BEE. But, keep in mind, the BEE may use words that are not on the list if we need a tie breaker.

In addition to the word list, we have attached the Spelling Bee Rules, a *Merriam-Webster Pronunciation Symbol Guide*, and a Guide for Language of Origin.

The Team Registration forms, sponsorship and "bee a friend" forms are all on the Achieve Hartford! website, www.achievehartford.org. For further information please contact Sharon Steinle TheBee@achievehartford.org at with any questions or concerns you might have.

Thank you!



COMMUNITY SPELLING BEE RULES

1. **Smile and have FUN!**
2. Each team will consist of three members, including a Captain. The Captain is the designated speller for the team.
3. Words to be spelled will be drawn from the Spelling List available on the Achieve Hartford! website.
4. In the event of an unbreakable tie for first place between two teams, words will be selected from a “Challenge List” not previously provided to the teams to determine a winner. This is at the discretion of the Justices of the Honey Bee Court.
5. Teams will compete in rounds of six teams per round. Teams will remain in the round as long as they have spelled each word correctly.
6. For each round, the lead Justice of the Honey Bee Court will present words for all eligible teams to spell collectively. The Justice will pronounce each word then give its definition, use it in a sentence and pronounce the word once more. Teams may ask the Justice to pronounce the word one additional time in each round, but no more.
7. Teams will be given 20 seconds to collaborate on the spelling of the word and spell the word correctly on the whiteboard provided. Captains are asked to please write the word as large and legibly as possible.
8. Captains must stop writing as soon as the Official Bee Time Keeper indicates that time is up. Teams may be eliminated if they add to, edit or erase their words once time is up.
9. Teams will display their whiteboards simultaneously, as directed. Justices of the Honey Bee Court will then determine which teams have correctly spelled the word and which have incorrectly spelled the word and one justice will spell the word out loud. The Justices may ask a Captain to spell the word orally. If there is any discrepancy, the written version prevails. Teams who have misspelled the word are eliminated from the round.
10. The round is over when all but one team is eliminated. Winners of each round will then be recalled for the Final Round, where the same rules will apply.
11. Justices of the Honey Bee Court make final decisions on all questions. There are no appeals.

12. Don't forget Rule #1!



Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Frequently

accipiter

n
/ ak'sipədə(r) /

L
any hawk of the genus *Accipiter* (as the Cooper's hawk, sharp-shinned hawk, goshawk).
Calvin spotted an accipiter darting among the trees.

acclimatization

n
/ ə'klīmədə'zāshən /

L > F + Ecff
the process of adapting to a new temperature, altitude, environment, or situation.
The wild fern's acclimatization to Mrs. Bennett's rock garden amazed her.

acclivity

n
/ ə'klīvədə /

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

accolade

n
/ 'akələd /

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

accommodable

accommodate

v
/ ə'kāmədət /

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

accomplice

n
/ ə'kämpləs /

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

accordionist

accreditation

acrescent

adj
/ ə'kresənt /

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

accrual

accrue

accrued

v
/ ə'krüd /

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

accumulate

v
/ ə'kyümyələt /

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

accurate

adj
/ 'akyərət /

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

accusatory

acerbity

n
/ ə'sərbədə /

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

acescent

adj
/ ə'sesənt /

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

acetate

acetylene

n
/ ə'sedə'liən /

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

achondrite

n
/ ə'kändrīt /

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

achromatism

acicular

adj
/ ə'sikyələr /

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

acknowledge

acknowledging

acme

n
/ 'akmē /

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

Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Frequently

alibi

n
/ 'alə,bɪ /

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

alien

adj
/ 'aɪliən /

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

alienation

aliferous

alimentary

adj
/ ,alə'mentərē /

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

aliquot

alkali

allargando

adv
/ ,æl.lär'gän(,)dō /

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

allayment

allege

v
/ ə'leɪ /

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

allegiance

n
/ ə'leɪʃən(t)s /

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

allegory

n
/ 'alə'gɔrē /

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

allegro

n
/ ə'le(,)grō /

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

allemande

v
/ 'alə'mænd /

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

allergy

n
/ 'alə(r)jē /

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

alliance

n
/ ə'liən(t)s /

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

alligator

n
/ 'alə'gædə(r) /

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

allision

alliteration

n
/ ə'lɪdərə'shən /

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

allocate

v
/ 'alə'kæt /

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

allocation

n
/ ə'lə'kæʃən /

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

alluded

Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Frequently

baptismal

adj

/bap'tizmə/

Gk > L > F

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

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

baragouin

n

/'barə'gwɑː/

F

outlandish unintelligible speech.

The explorer was taken aback by the baragouin of the excited natives.

barbaric

adj

/bār'barik/

Gk > L

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

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

barbarism

barbarous

barbellate

adj

/'bārbə'lāt/

L

having short stiff hooked bristles or hairs.

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

barbican

n

/'bārbəkən/

L > F > E

an outer defensive work of a city or castle.

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

barbiturate

n

/bār'bichərət/

Gk

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

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

bardiglio

n

/bār'dēl(.)yō/

L? > Sp > It

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

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

bargain

bargello

bariolage

n

/'barēō.lāzh/

F

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

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

barker

barnacle

n

/'bārnəkəl/

E

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

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

barnacled

barnstorm

v

/'bārnz.tōrm/

E + E

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

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

barognosis

n

/.bɑ.rəg'nōsəs/

Gk > L

the perception of weight by the cutaneous and muscle senses.

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

barometer

n

/bə'rämədə(r)/

Gk + Gk

an instrument for determining the pressure of the atmosphere.

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

baronet

n

/.bərə'net/

Gmc > F > E

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

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

baronial

adj

/'bārōniəl/

F > E

splendid, stately, spacious, ample.

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

Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Frequently

bisagre

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

biscuit

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

bise

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

bisector

bittern

bivouac

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

bizarre

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

blague

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

blandishment

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

blanquette

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

blarney

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

blasphemous

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

blasphemously

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

blasphemy

blatant

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

blather

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

blatherskite

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

blazon

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

bleach

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

bleary

blemish

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

blenny

Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Frequently

carbohydrate

n
/ 'kɑrboʰiːdræt /

L + Gk

any of a group of neutral compounds composed of carbon, hydrogen, and oxygen including the sugars and starches.

The nutrition facts indicated that the candy bar would provide Sheila with over half her daily allowance of carbohydrate.

carbonaceous

carbonate

adj
/ 'kɑrbənət /

L + ISVcf

of or relating to a salt or ester of carbonic acid.

After reading the paragraph six times, Hugo still could not understand the bonding in the carbonate ion.

carboy

carcass

n
/ 'kɑrkəs /

Per > Ar > L > F

a dead body of a human being or an animal : corpse.

Kasey found the fresh carcass of one of his cows and knew that the wolves were back.

carcinogen

n
/ kɑr'sinəjən /

Gk

a substance or agent producing or inciting cancerous growth.

Asbestos has been proven to be a powerful carcinogen.

cardiac

cardigan

n
/ 'kɑrdəgən /

E name

a sweater or jacket that opens the full length of the center front and usually has a round or V-shaped collarless neck.

Samantha's aunt in Scotland sent her a colorful wool cardigan for her birthday.

cardinal

n
/ 'kɑrd(ə)nəl /

L > F > E

an American songbird, the male being bright red with a black face and pointed crest and the female being much duller in color.

One of Stephanie's favorite winter scenes is that of a cardinal perched on a snow-covered branch.

cardinalate

cardiomegaly

n
/ 'kɑrdiə'megəli /

Gk

enlargement of the heart.

Severe anemia can result in cardiomegaly.

caribou

n
/ 'kɑrə.bi /

Algonquian > F

any of several large deer of northern North America.

While in Montana, Jill photographed a caribou silhouetted on a high ridge.

caricaturable

caricature

carillon

n
/ 'kɑrə.lən /

L > F

a set of fixed bells pitched in a chromatic series of at least two octaves and sounded by hammers controlled by a keyboard.

Latasha will play the carillon at Andy's wedding.

cark

carnage

n
/ 'kɑrnij /

L > F

great destruction of life (as in battle) : great bloodshed.

Appeals to stop the carnage of war fell on deaf ears.

carnival

n
/ 'kɑrnəvəl /

L > It

a traveling enterprise consisting of such amusements as sideshows, games of chance, rides, and shooting galleries.

The carnival was the only place Ralph had the opportunity to eat cotton candy.

carnivore

n
/ 'kɑrnə.vʊ(ə)r /

L

a flesh-eating animal.

The hyena is a carnivore that usually eats animals found dead.

carnivorous

carotid

adj
/ kə'rɒtɪd /

Gk

belonging to or situated near either of the two main arteries that supply blood to the head.

Lara felt her pulse with a finger placed on her carotid artery.

carpaccio

n
/ kɑr'pɑtʃ(ə)ʃ /

It

thinly sliced raw meat or fish served with a sauce.

When Linda ordered carpaccio, she didn't know that it is uncooked.

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

cnemial

adj

/ 'nēmēəl /

Gk + E

relating to the shin or shinbone.

Bud suffered a cnemial injury while quarterbacking in the game last night.

coacervate

n

/ ,kōə'sərvət /

L

an aggregate of colloidal droplets held together by electrostatic attractive forces.

The chemist referred to the aggregation of liquid particles in an emulsion as a coacervate.

coadjutor

n

/ ,kōə'jüdə(r) /

L > F > E

one who works together with another usually in a somewhat subordinate position : assistant.

Offended by being called a "lackey," Marcus prefers to be called a "coadjutor."

coagulate

v

/ kō'agyə.lāt /

L

curdle, clot.

Hemophiliacs lack a protein needed to help blood coagulate.

coalesce

v

/ ,kōə'les /

L

unite by growth into one body.

The nervous host hoped that the tight little groups of guests would coalesce into a real party.

coalescence

n

/ ,kōə'les'n(t)s /

L

a growing together or union in one body, form, or group.

Rain is the result of the coalescence of water droplets within a cloud.

coalification

coalition

n

/ ,kōə'lishən /

L > F + Ecf

the temporary alliance of distinct parties, persons, or states to achieve a common purpose.

Representatives from a coalition of labor unions met with the multinational corporation's lawyers in an attempt to work out a new contract.

coaming

coaration

n

/ ,kōə'rāshən /

L

cooperative tilling of soil as practiced by early village communities.

The villagers found that coaration was the most efficient system for cultivating the land.

coax

coccygeal

cochineal

n

/ ,kächə.nēl /

Sp > F

a red dyestuff consisting of the dried bodies of the cochineal insect.

Before the introduction of synthetic dyes, cochineal was commonly used in textile production.

cochleariform

adj

/ ,kōklē'a(a)rə.fōrm /

Gk > L + Ecf

shaped like a spoon.

Jacques theorized that the cochleariform bone was used in prehistoric times as a spoon.

cockatoo

cocoon

n

/ kō'kūn /

L > Prov > F

a silky or fibrous protective encasement created by a larval insect for shelter during the pupal stage.

Ricky found the cocoon of a moth clinging to a branch of an oak tree.

codeine

n

/ 'kō(,)dēn /

Gk + F

a crystalline alkaloid usually made from morphine but feebler in action.

The patient was given codeine to kill the pain.

codicil

n

/ 'kädəsəl /

L > F

a legal instrument made subsequently to a will and modifying it in some respects.

Robert had his lawyer draw up a codicil to clarify a few ambiguities in his will.

codicology

coelostat

n

/ 'sēlə.stət /

L > ISV + GK > ISV

a device consisting of a flat mirror that is turned slowly by a motor to reflect the Sun continuously into a fixed telescope.

Professor Merkle plans to use a coelostat to photograph the movements of planetary bodies.

coerce

coereion

coeval

adj

/ kō'ēvəl /

L + Ecf

of the same or equal age or antiquity.

Nearly the same in mass and brightness, the stars were thought to be coeval.

Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Frequently

disputatious

adj
/ .dɪspjə'tæʃəs /

L
inclined to argue for or against something asserted or maintained.
Helen did not enjoy going to family reunions because of her disputatious relatives.

disquisition

n
/ .dɪskwə'zɪʃən /

L
an elaborate analytical or explanatory discussion : discourse.
Rhetta's first book was a lengthy disquisition on the Irish potato famine.

disseminate

dissentient

adj
/ dɪ'sɛnʃ(ə)nt /

L
not concurring : disagreeing.
There was not a dissentient voice on the subject.

dissertation

dissident

dissilient

dissimilitude

n
/ .dɪ(s)ɪ'mɪlə'ti:d /

L
lack of resemblance.
Although the plots of Gary's two stories resemble each other, there are several points of dissimilitude.

dissipated

v
/ 'dɪsə,pædəd /

L
dispelled, dissolved.
Mr. Knightley walked in soon after tea and dissipated every melancholy fancy.

dissonant

dissuade

v
/ dɪ'swɑ:d /

L
divert by advice or persuasion : turn from something by reasoning.
Penny tried to dissuade her friend from making a choice she might later regret.

dissymmetry

n
/ dɪ(s)'sɪmətrɪ /

Gk + Gk + Gk
the absence of or the lack of balanced proportions.
The quilt designer was inspired by dissymmetry in crystal formations.

distillate

dithyramb

n
/ 'dɪθə.rəm /

Gk
a statement or piece of writing in an exalted impassioned style usually in praise of something.
Dennis launched into a dithyramb on Moira's beauty and manifold virtues.

ditokous

adj
/ 'dɪdəkəs /

Gk
producing two eggs or young at a time.
Most common songbirds are ditokous.

dittology

n
/ dɪ'tɪlələʒɪ /

Gk
a double reading or twofold interpretation (as of a biblical text).
Millicent's first lecture of the semester was a dittology of the story of Genesis entitled "Serpent or Savior?"

diuretic

diurnal

adj
/ dɪ'ɔ:nəl /

L
active chiefly during the daytime.
Few cats are naturally diurnal, which can be a problem for light-sleeping owners.

divagate

v
/ 'dɪvə,gæt /

L
move or extend in different directions from a common point.
Several ancient caravan routes divagate from the extinct oasis.

divergent

divestiture

n
/ dɪ'vestə.tʃū(ə)r /

L + Eef
the compulsory transfer of title or disposal of interests (as stock in a corporation) upon government order.
The Interstate Commerce Commission ordered the divestiture of the company to be carried out no later than September 30.

division

divorce

divulge

v
/ dɪ'vʌlj /

L
tell or make known.
Ken was reluctant to divulge the details of the merger.

docent

n
/ 'dɒsənt /

L
a person who guides groups through a museum or art gallery and discusses and comments on the exhibits.
Judd's interest in ancient history was sparked by a knowledgeable docent during a field trip to a museum.

Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Frequently

drepaniform

adj
/ drə'pənəfɔrm /
Gk + Ecf
hooked or curved like a sickle.
As Cliff walked home, the drepaniform Moon did little to light his way.

dressage

n
/ drə'säzh /
F
the execution by a horse of maneuvers involving changes of gait, pace, and airs in response to barely perceptible movements of a rider's hands, legs, and weight.
While in Austria, Derrick attended an exhibition of dressage at a famous equestrian school.

drisheen

n
/ drə'shēn /
IrGael
a sausage prepared with sheep's blood, milk, and seasonings.
While in County Cork, Mr. O'Donnell ordered drisheen and eggs for breakfast.

drivel

v
/ 'drivəl /
E
talk stupidly and carelessly without due thought, knowledge, or consideration.
Bart's opinion is highly valued, for he is not one to drivel.

drogue

n
/ 'drɔg /
E
[has homonym: drog] a sea anchor (as a canvas bag with a hooped mouth) used to reduce the speed of a boat and keep her head into the wind.
The captain yelled at the crew to lower the drogue while he signaled the other boat.

dromedary

n
/ 'drämədəri /
Gk > L > F > E
a camel of unusual speed, bred and trained especially for riding, and having a single large hump on the back.
Camel rides at the zoo featured a dromedary.

dromomania

n
/ .drämə'māniə /
Gk > L
an exaggerated desire to wander.
Yielding to his dromomania, Jack bought a recreational vehicle and spent the summer touring the country.

drone

n
/ 'drɔn /
E
one that lives on the labors of others.
In Sleepy Hollow there were some rustic patrons who considered a schoolmaster a mere drone.

drosophilist

n
/ drɔ'säfəlɪst /
G + L + Ecf
one who uses the vinegar fly in the study of genetics.
The drosophilist has helped to advance our knowledge of genes and the role they play in heredity.

drudgery

n
/ 'drɔj(ə)rē /
E
dull, fatiguing, or unrelieved work or expenditure of effort.
Machines now take much of the drudgery out of housework.

druggist

n
/ 'drəgɪst /
F
one who sells medicine : pharmacist.
Jean asked her druggist to recommend a cough syrup.

drupaceous

adj
/ drü'pāshəs /
Gk > L
of or relating to a one-seeded indehiscent fruit having a hard bony endocarp, a usually fleshy mesocarp, and a thin exocarp that is either like a skin or dry and almost leathery.
Cherries, plums, and almonds are drupaceous fruits.

duarchy

n
/ 'd(y)ü.ärkē /
Gk
a government by two rulers having equal power.
Critics accused the governor of establishing a duarchy with her husband.

dubiety

n
/ d(y)ü'biədē /
L
the quality or state of being doubtful or skeptical : uncertainty.
There was dubiety in his voice and a hint of uncertainty in his eye.

duchy

ductile

dudgeon

n
/ 'dɔjən /
unknown
aggrieved or angered feeling : ill humor.
Fuming at the insult, Carl stalked off in high dudgeon.

duet

n
/ d(y)ü'et /
It
performance of a musical composition or movement for two singers or two instrumentalists.
Stephan and Christiana's duet featured Bach's concerto for two violins in D Minor.

Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Frequently

ephedrine

n
/ ə'fedrɪn /
Gk
a white crystalline alkaloid used often in the form of a salt (as the sulfate) chiefly in relieving hay fever, asthma, and nasal congestion.
Ephedrine has been used to treat the bronchoconstriction associated with asthma.

ephemeral

ephemeris

n
/ ə'fem(ə)rəs /
Gk
a publication giving the computed places of the celestial bodies for each day of the year.
Tracy's attorney consulted an ephemeris to verify her story about having seen Venus on the morning of the crime.

epicede

n
/ 'epəsəd /
Gk
a funeral song or ode.
The poet laureate composed an epicede for the queen's funeral.

epicure

epicurean

adj
/ ,epə'kyərəən /
Gk name > L + Ecf
stimulating and satisfying to the senses.
The presentation of the epicurean dishes was as delightful as their taste and aroma.

epicycle

n
/ 'epəsɪkəl /
Gk
a circle in which a planet moves and which has a center that is itself carried around at the same time on the circumference of a larger circle.
Ancient astronomers used the epicycle to explain their theory that Earth is at the center of the solar system.

epidemic

epidermis

n
/ ,epə'dɛrməs /
Gk
the outer layer of the skin of a vertebrate.
The paper cut, though painful, barely broke Kayla's epidermis.

epigram

n
/ 'epə'grəm /
Gk
a short poem with a witty or satirical point.
Kelly kept a calendar on her desk that gave a humorous epigram for each day of the year.

epilepsy

n
/ 'epə'lepsɪ /
Gk
a chronic nervous disorder of humans and other animals that involves changes in the state of consciousness and of motion.
Epilepsy is sometimes caused by glandular disturbances.

epiphany

n
/ ə'pɪfənɪ /
Gk
an appearance or revelatory manifestation of a divine being or a god.
Apuleius's Metamorphoses includes a description of an epiphany of the goddess Isis.

episcopacy

episode

n
/ 'epəsəd /
Gk
the part of a radio, television, or motion-picture serial presented at one performance.
The ending of each episode of the soap opera left one wanting to see the next episode.

epistemology

n
/ ə'pɪstə'mäləʒɪ /
Gk
the study of the method and grounds of knowledge especially with reference to its limits and validity; broadly : the theory of knowledge.
The middle books of Plato's Republic are the key to his epistemology.

epistle

epistolary

adj
/ ə'pɪstələreɪ /
L
written in the form of a series of letters.
Evan read four epistolary novels last summer.

epistrophe

epitaph

epitaphs

n pl
/ 'epətəfs /
Gk
inscriptions on or at tombs or graves in memory of those buried there.
For amusement the children like to read the epitaphs in the old church cemetery.

epitasis

n
/ ə'pɪtəsəs /
Gk
the part of a play developing the main action and leading to the catastrophe.
During the epitasis the characters developed relationships that would complicate their lives.

epithet

n
/ 'epə'thet /
Gk
a disparaging or abusive word or phrase.
Donnie apologized for shouting an epithet at Mr. Garibaldi.

Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Frequently

etiquette

n
/ 'edəkət /

F
the forms required by good breeding or prescribed by authority to be observed in social or official life.

The defendant's attorney advised him on the observance of courtroom etiquette.

etymology

n
/ .edə'mäləjē /

Gk > L > E
a branch of linguistics concerned with the complete history of a linguistic form (as a word or morpheme).

Students have rated Dr. Bailly's class in etymology the best course in the English department.

etymon

n
/ 'edə.män /

Gk
the word in a foreign language that is the source of a particular loanword.

The etymon of the English word cantata is the same word in Italian.

eucalyptus

n
/ .yūkə'liptəs /

Gk
a tree or shrub native to western Australia.

Brad planted a eucalyptus in the vain hope of attracting koalas.

eudaemonic

adj
/ .yüdə'mänik /

Gk
producing happiness : based on the idea of happiness as the proper end of conduct.

The company's decision to eliminate production quotas had a eudaemonic effect on all the workers.

Euhemerism

n
/ yū'hēmə.rizəm /

Gk name
a theory held by the Greek mythographer Euhemerus that the gods of mythology were but deified mortals.

While studying Euhemerism, Sergei learned that the god Vulcan was the first to discover how to make bronze and iron.

eulogy

n
/ 'yüləjē /

Gk
a composition (as a set oration) in commendation of someone or something (as of the character and accomplishments of a deceased person).

The university president delivered a moving eulogy at the funeral of the dean.

eupeptic

adj
/ yū'peptik /

Gk
cheerful, optimistic.

The eupeptic president put the people at ease about the nation's economy.

euphemism

n
/ 'yüfə.mizəm /

Gk
a polite term used to avoid the direct naming of an unpleasant reality.

Marjorie referred to her illness with a vague euphemism.

euphoric

adj
/ yū'fōrik /

Gk
characterized by a feeling of well-being or elation.

The golfer was absolutely euphoric after making a hole in one.

eureka

interj
/ yə'rekə /

Gk
used to express triumph concerning a discovery.
A loud "Eureka!" emanated from the chemistry laboratory.

eurytherm

n
/ 'yürəθərm /

Gk + Gk
an organism that tolerates a wide range of temperature.

Whereas some animals hibernate during the winter, a eurytherm is active throughout the cold months.

eustacy

eutaxy

n
/ 'yütəksē /

Gk
good order or management.
Rose's Christmas decoration routine was an example of the eutaxy she practiced constantly.

euthanasia

euthenics

n pl
/ yū'theniks /

Gk
a science that deals with developing human well-being and efficient functioning through the improvement of environmental conditions.

As the world becomes more populated, people pay more attention to the relevance of euthenics.

eutrophic

adj
/ yū'trəfik /

Gk + Gk
of a lake : rich in dissolved nutrients but frequently shallow and with seasonal oxygen deficiency.

Since the 1970s the use of phosphates in detergents has been banned in some states because they make lakes eutrophic.

Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Frequently

fidelity

n

/ fə'delədɪ /

L

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

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

fiduciary

adj

/ fə'd(y)ʊʃhɪ.ərɪ /

L

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

Zoe acted in a fiduciary capacity during the lease negotiations.

fiefdom

n

/ 'feɪdəm /

F + E

an area over which one exercises control.

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

fiendish

fierce

fiery

adj

/ 'fi(ə)rɪ /

E

of the color of fire : red.

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

filament

n

/ 'fɪləmənt /

L > F

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

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

filasse

n

/ fə'las /

L > F

a vegetable fiber prepared for manufacture.

At the mill, sisal plants are processed into filasse.

filial

adj

/ 'fɪliəl /

L

befitting a child in relation to his or her parents.

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

filibuster

n

/ 'fɪləbʌstə(r) /

F > Sp

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

The Senate effectively killed the bill with a filibuster.

filoselle

finance

financier

n

/ .fɪnə'nɪ(ə)r /

F

a large-scale investor.

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

finesse

finessing

v

/ fə'nesɪŋ /

L > F

bringing about or managing by adroit manipulation.

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

fingent

finger

finialed

adj

/ 'fɪniəld /

L > F > E

provided with a capping ornament.

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

finite

adj

/ 'fɪ.nɪt /

L > E

having clear limits.

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

firkin

n

/ 'fɜːkɪn /

D > E

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

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

firmament

n

/ 'fɜːməmənt /

L > E

the vault or arch of the sky : heavens.

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

firmification

n

/ .fɪrəfə'kæʃən /

G + L > E

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

Solid ice is the end product of firmification.

fiscal

adj

/ 'fɪskəl /

F > Sp

of or relating to financial matters.

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

Scrapps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Frequently

frolicsome

adj
/ 'frälksəm /
L + Ecf
full of gaiety and mirth : playful.
Each year the Kentucky Derby attracts horse lovers who enjoy the frolicsome festivities associated with the race.

frondeur

n
/ frɔ̃'dœœr /
L? > F
rebel, malcontent, dissident.
The mayor's denouncement referred to Jules as a "frondeur."

frontiersman

n
/ .frən'ti(ə)rzmən /
F > E
a man living at the edge of known civilization.
Daniel Boone was a famous Kentucky frontiersman of the 18th century.

frontispiece

n
/ 'frəntə.spēs /
L > F
an illustration preceding and usually facing the title page of a book or magazine.
Morgan was hired to draw the school yearbook's frontispiece.

fronton

n
/ 'fräntän /
L > It > F
a court or building for the game of jai alai.
The fronton looked bigger on television than in actuality.

froufrou

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

frugal

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

fruition

n
/ frü'ishən /
L > F > E
the state of being real, accomplished, or complete.
The new civic center came to fruition after many years' planning and labor.

fruticetum

n
/ .früdə'sēdəm /
L
a collection of shrubs grown for ornament or study.
At the botanical garden, the arboretum and fruticetum were combined under one roof.

fruticose

fuchsia

fudge

fughetta

n
/ f(y)ü'gedə /
It
a short or condensed musical piece in which one or two melodic themes are repeated by successively entering voices.
The Vienna Boys' Choir performed a fughetta in their concert at St. Paul's Cathedral.

fugitive

fugue

fuguist

n
/ 'fyügäst /
L > It
one who composes or performs fugues.
As a fuguist, Johann Sebastian Bach has never been excelled.

fulcrum

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

fulgurant

adj
/ 'fүlg(y)ərənt /
L
flashing like lightning : dazzling.
Emily's fulgurant diamond brooch attracted many eyes at the dinner party.

fuliginous

adj
/ fyü'lijənəs /
L
having the color of soot : dark, dusky.
Smoke-belching factories cast a fuliginous cloud over the entire city.

fulminate

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

fulsome

adj
/ 'fүlsəm /
E
offensive to the senses : disgusting.
The fulsome odor of a skunk drove the campers out of their tent.

Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Frequently

geniture

n
/ 'jenə.chù(ə)r /

L

nativity, birth.

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

genocide

n
/ 'jenə.síd /

Gk + L

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

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

genre

n
/ 'zhä(ə)nro /

L > F

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

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

genteel

adj
/ jen'tēl /

L > F

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

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

gentian

gentilial

adj
/ .jəntə'lishəl /

L + Ecf

relating or peculiar to a people or a family.

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

gentility

genuflect

v
/ 'jenyə.flekt /

L

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

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

geochrony

n
/ jē'äkronē /

Gk

a system of time divisions used in geology.

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

geodesy

n
/ jē'ädəsē /

Gk

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

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

geognosy

n
/ jē'ägnəsē /

Gk + Gk

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

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

geography

n
/ jē'ägrəfē /

Gk

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

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

geometric

geosyncline

n
/ jē(ə)'sɪn.klɪn /

Gk

a great downward flexure of Earth's crust.

A deep layer of sediment has accumulated in the geosyncline.

geranium

n
/ jə'rænĕəm /

Gk > L

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

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

geriatrics

n pl
/ jērĕ'atriks /

Gk + E

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

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

germane

adj
/ jə(r)'mān /

L > F > E

having a close relationship : appropriate, pertinent.

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

germicide

n
/ 'jərməsɪd /

L > F

an agent that destroys germs (as disease germs).

Mouthwash is a common germicide.

Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Frequently

glucose

n
/ 'glükōs /
Gk > F
the sweet colorless sugar that occurs especially in plant saps and fruits and normally in blood.
Glucose is formed from water and carbon dioxide by photosynthesis.

gluttonously

adv
/ 'glət(ə)nəsli /
L > F > E
in a manner marked by excess in eating and drinking especially when habitual.
After eating gluttonously, Jack took a short nap on the couch.

glycogen

gnocchi

n pl
/ 'näkä /
Gmc? > It
dumplings of a pasta often made with cheese or ricc potato and served with a sauce.
Celeste ladled a cream sauce over the gnocchi before serving them.

gnome

gnomic

adj
/ 'nōmik /
Gk
[has homonym: nomic]
characterized by or expressive of moralistic wisdom especially concerning human condition or conduct.
The calendar contained 12 Norman Rockwell illustrations, each accompanied by a gnomic sentiment.

gnomon

gnotobiotic

adj
/ .nōdə(,)bī'ädik /
Gk
of, relating to, living in, or being a controlled environment containing one or a few kinds of organisms.
A good example of a planned gnotobiotic environment is the international space station.

goalie

n
/ 'gōli /
E
a player who defends the goal in various games.
Jake rifled off shot after shot on goal, but the goalie was too good.

goatee

n
/ (,)gō'tē /
E
a small trim pointed or tufted beard on a man's chin.
Sally wanted to know why she couldn't have a goatee when she grew up.

gobemouche

n
/ (,)gōb'miŃ /
F + L > F
a credulous person; especially : one who believes everything heard.
Jack's brothers are always making up fantastic stories to tell him because he is such a gobemouche.

goldenrod

n
/ 'gōldən.räd /
E + E
a yellow flower with long stalks with small clusters of petals.
Many people are allergic to the goldenrod.

golem

n
/ 'gōləm /
Heb > Yiddish
an artificial figure constructed to represent a human being and endowed with life.
Some people believe that Mary Shelley based her story of Frankenstein on the ancient Jewish tradition of the golem.

gondola

gondolier

gonfalon

n
/ 'gänfəlän /
F > It
[Note: Could be confused with synonym gonfanon.] a flag that hangs from a crosspiece or frame.
As a distinguished alumnus, Walter was asked to carry the gonfalon of the College of Arts and Sciences at the graduation ceremony.

gongorism

n
/ 'gänggə.rizəm /
Sp name
an excessively involved, ornate, and artificial style of writing.
In his later years, the poet lapsed into gongorism.

goosander

gorgeous

adj
/ 'gōrjəs /
F > E
characterized by brilliance or magnificence of any kind.
The parade floats were gorgeous with their array of flowers.

gorget

n
/ 'gōrjət /
F
a specially colored patch on the throat.
The woodpecker sported a broad black gorget and beautiful red and white plumage.

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

hackamore

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

hackneyed

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

haggard

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

haggis

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

hagiocracy

hagiography

haiku

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

halberdier

halcyon

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

halibut

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

halieutics

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

halitosis

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

hallucination

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

hallucinogen

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

halophyte

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

hamadryad

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

hamartia

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

hamate

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

hammering

hammock

Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Frequently

hutch

hyacinth

n

/ 'hɪə'sɪn(t)θ /

Gk > L

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

hyalithe

hybrid

n

/ 'hɪbrəd /

L

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

hybridize

v

/ 'hɪbrə'dɪz /

L

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

hydrangea

n

/ hɪ'dræŋjə /

Gk > L

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

hydrant

n

/ 'hɪdrənt /

Gk

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

hydraulic

adj

/ hɪ'drɒlɪk /

Gk > L

operated, moved, or effected by means of water.

The stream and the waterwheel were sure signs that the grain mill was operated by hydraulic power.

hydrofoil

hydrogen

n

/ 'hɪdrədʒən /

Gk > F

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

Hydrogen and oxygen are the components of water.

hydrography

n

/ hɪ'drəgrəfɪ /

Gk

description and study of seas, lakes, rivers, and other waters.

A knowledge of hydrography is helpful in navigation.

hydrolysis

n

/ hɪ'dræləsəs /

Gk + Gk

a chemical process of decomposition involving the splitting of a bond and the addition of the hydrogen cation and the hydroxide anion of water.

Digestive enzymes promote the hydrolysis of nutrients into simpler compounds.

hydrophilous

adj

/ hɪ'drəfələs /

Gk

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

hydroplane

v

/ 'hɪdrəplæn /

Gk + L

skim over the water with the hull either clear of the surface or barely immersed.

Lex loves to make his speedboat hydroplane across a glassy lake.

hyetology

n

/ .hɪə'tæləʒɪ /

Gk

a branch of meteorology that deals with precipitation (as of rain or snow).

Even a period of extended drought can be of interest to a student of hyetology.

hygiene

hygienist

hymn

n

/ 'hɪm /

Gk

a song of praise to God.

Wesley remembered every hymn from his days at the Episcopal school.

hymnody

n

/ 'hɪmnədi /

Gk

a body of hymns of a specified kind or period.

Gospel songs enjoy wide popularity in American hymnody.

hypaethral

hyperbaton

n

/ hɪ'pəbətən /

Gk

a transposition or inversion of idiomatic word order.

Joey decided the hyperbaton echoed the hills fit his poem better than the hills echoed.

Scrapps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Frequently

ignite

v
/ ig'nit /
L

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

ignominious

ignominy

n
/ 'ignə.mini /
L > F

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

ignoramus

n
/ 'ignə'rāməs /
L

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

ignorance

ikebana

n
/ i.kə'bānə /
Jpn

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

ileitis

n
/ ilē'itēs /
L

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

iliacus

illegible

adj
/ i(l)'lejəbəl /
L

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

illegitimate

illeism

illicit

illiterate

illth

n
/ 'ilth /
ON > E

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

illuminati

n pl
/ ə'lūmə'nād(ə) /
L > It

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

illumination

n
/ ə'lūmə'nāshən /
L > F > E

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

illusion

illusory

adj
/ ə'lūs(ə)rē /
L

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

illustrate

v
/ 'iləstrāt /
L

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

illustration

image

imagery

imaginary

adj
/ ə'majə.nerē /
L

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

imbecile

n
/ 'imbəsəl /
L > F

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

imbecilic

adj
/ 'imbə'silik /
L > F + Ecf

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

imitative

Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Frequently

immaculate

adj
/ə'makyələt /
L > E
having no spot, soil, or smirch :
spotlessly clean.
*Told that her room must be
immaculate before she could go to
the mall with friends, Tollie started
cleaning feverishly.*

immalleable

adj
/i(m)'malēəbəl /
L > F > E
not open to outside forces or
influences : unyielding, rigid.
*Dean remained immalleable in his
refusal to resign.*

immature

adj
/im.mə'tu(ə)r /
L
lacking complete growth or
development.
*The immature insect resembles the
adult in form and eating habits but
differs in size, body proportions,
and color pattern.*

immense

adj
/ə'men(t)s /
L > F
characterized by greatness in size
or degree.
*Wilbur's portliness is a reflection
of his immense appetite.*

immersion

imminent

adj
/i'mənənt /
L
ready to take place : near at hand.
*Although Ellen's departure date
was imminent, she was not ready to
go.*

immiscible

adj
/i(m)'misəbəl /
L
not capable of mixing or being
mixed.
Oil and water are immiscible.

immiserization

immolate

v
/i'mə.lāt /
L
[has near homonym: emulate]
sacrifice or abnegate (as oneself)
usually in the interests of some
cause or objective.
*Sheri persuaded the monk not to
immolate himself in protest.*

immortal

adj
/i(m)'mɔrdʒl /
L
connected with or possessing
everlasting life.
*The priest warned his flock of the
many dangers to their immortal
souls, such as envy, greed, and
sloth.*

immunocyte

n
/i'myənəsīt /
L
a cell that functions in the
prevention of a disease.
*The immunocyte is the body's
primary defense against germs.*

immured

v
/ə'myū(ə)rɪd /
L
[has near homonyms: enured,
inured] enclosed within or as if
within walls.
*While Sir Walter Raleigh was
immured in the Tower of London,
he used his time to write his
Historie of the World.*

immutable

adj
/i(m)'myūdəbəl /
L
not capable of or susceptible to
change.
*The immutable laws of
thermodynamics preclude the
invention of a perpetual motion
machine.*

impair

impalpable

adj
/im'pəlpəbəl /
L + L + L
incapable of being felt by the
touch.
*The puppy began chasing his
impalpable shadow.*

imparisyllabic

impasse

n
/i'mpas /
F
barrier, deadlock.
*A rockslide created an impasse on
the mountain road.*

impeccable

adj
/i'm'pekəbəl /
L
free from fault or blame : flawless.
*A background investigation
affirmed the candidate's
impeccable character.*

impeccancy

impecunious

impecuiously

adv
/i'mpə'kyūnyəsli /
L
in an indigent, penniless manner.
*George squandered his inheritance
and plodded through the remainder
of his life impecuniously.*

impedance

n
/ə'm'pēd'əns /
L
the apparent opposition in an
electrical circuit to the flow of an
alternating current that is analagous
to the actual electrical resistance to
a direct current.
*A high-fidelity amplifier must have
a low output impedance to make
loudspeakers produce natural
sound.*

Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Frequently

itinerary

n

/ɪ'tinərəre/

L

a sketch of the prospective course of a journey or trip.

The senator's itinerary called for ten stops in two days.

ivory

adj

/ɪv(ə)rē/

Hamitic > L > F > E

of a creamy white color.

The ivory sweater that Karen purchased qualifies as "winter white."

izzat

jabberwocky

n

/ˈjəb(ə)r.wækē/

E nonsense name

meaningless speech, writing, or patter : gibberish.

Dina listened as the two babies carried on a lengthy conversation in jabberwocky.

jabot

n

/zhə'bō/

F

a ruffle or pleated frill of cloth, lace, or both attached down the center front of a shirt, blouse, or dress bodice.

Tom insisted that the shirt of his Captain Hook costume have a jabot.

jacal

jacamar

n

/ˈjakəmār/

Tupi > F

any of many brightly colored birds inhabiting tropical forests from Mexico to Argentina.

Tio recognized the cry of the jacamar but couldn't see the bird through the thick foliage.

jackal

n

/ˈjakəl/

Skt > Per > Turkish

any of several small wild dogs of Africa and Asia having large ears and a bushy tail and feeding on small animals, fruits, and carrion.

The zoologist explained that the popular image of a jackal as a cowardly scavenger is not justified by the facts.

jackanapes

n

/ˈjakənæps/

E nickname

an impertinent or conceited fellow.

Billy was thrown out of English class for being an insolent jackanapes.

jackknife

jaconet

jacquard

n

/ˈjakɑrd/

F name

a fabric of an intricate variegated weave.

In the antique store's front window was a fabulous jacquard that portrayed the Last Supper.

jadeite

n

/ˈjɑdīt/

Sp > F

a monoclinic mineral found chiefly in Myanmar that when cut constitutes a valuable variety of jade.

Alexis bought a necklace made of jadeite and black onyx at the craft bazaar.

jaguar

n

/ˈjagwār/

Tupi&Guarani > Pg&Sp

a large cat chiefly of Central and South America that is larger and stockier than the leopard and is brownish yellow or buff with black spots.

Although the jaguar is a good climber, it usually stalks its prey on the ground.

jaleo

jaalousie

n

/ˈjaləsē/

F

[has near homonym: jealousy] a blind or shutter having horizontal slats that are adjustable or fixed at an angle to admit light and air and to permit looking out without being seen from the outside.

Helen hung a jaalousie in each downstairs window of her new house.

jambalaya

n

/ˌjəmbəˈliə/

Prov > F

rice cooked with ham, sausage, chicken, shrimp, or oysters and usually tomato and seasoned with herbs.

No trip to New Orleans would be complete without sampling a bowl of spicy jambalaya.

jambeau

n

/ˌjamˈbō/

F > E

[has homonym: jambo] a piece of medieval plate armor for the lower leg.

The knight staggered under a blow that left a groove across his jambeau.

Scrapps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Frequently

justiciable

adj
/ˌjʌ'stɪʃ(ə)əbəl/
L > F
capable of being decided by legal principles or by a court of justice : liable to trial in a court of justice.
The judge decided that Al's dispute with his employer was justiciable under the new law.

justifiable

juvenescence

n
/ˌjuːvə'nes'n(t)s/
L
the state of being youthful or of growing young.
The director helped the aging actress produce the illusion of juvenescence through careful makeup and lighting.

juvenile

n
/'juːvə.nɪl/
F or L
of or relating to childhood.
Many breakfast-cereal advertisements are geared to a juvenile audience.

juvenilia

n pl
/ˌjuːvə'nɪliə/
L
artistic or literary compositions produced in the author's youth and typically marked by immaturity of style, treatment, or thought.
The artist's juvenilia showed that he had been developing the same themes throughout his career.

juxtapose

v
/'jʌkstəˌpəʊz/
L
place side by side.
Picasso often used collage to juxtapose coarse and refined elements in his art.

juxtaposition

n
/'jʌkstəpə'zɪʃən/
L
the act or an instance of placing two or more objects in a close spatial or ideal relationship.
The juxtaposition of the different styles within the same painting won the praise of the art critic.

Kabuki

n
/kə'bʊki/
Jpn
traditional Japanese popular drama with singing and dancing performed in a stylized manner.
Performers of Kabuki must learn to move with great control.

kairos

n
/'kɪrɪs/
Gk
a time when conditions are right for the accomplishment of a crucial action.
Feeling that the kairos would never be better, Barbara approached her boss and demanded a raise.

kaiser

kaiserdom

n
/'kɪzə(r)dəm/
G
the territory ruled by the German emperors from 1871 to 1918.
Otto was the best clockmaker in the kaiserdom.

kakemono

n
/kəkə'mɒ(ɔ)nɔ/
Jpn
a picture or writing on silk or paper that usually has a roller at its lower edge.
Yasuki hung a kakemono in the living room.

kakistocracy

n
/kəkə'stɪkrəsi/
Gk
government by the worst individuals.
Denny thought the current student council was a kakistocracy.

kaleidoscope

n
/kə'lɪdə'skɒp/
Gk + E
an instrument that contains loose fragments of colored glass confined between two flat plates and two plane mirrors placed so that changes of position exhibit its contents in an endless variety of forms.
Raj received a fancy brass kaleidoscope for a birthday present.

kamikaze

kangaroo

kanone

karate

karst

karting

katabatic

adj
/kədə'badɪk/
Gk
of or relating to the downward motion of air (as in air drainage induced by surface cooling).
The ventilation system relied on katabatic action for optimal efficiency.

katana

n
/kə'tænə/
Jpn
a single-edged sword that is the longer of a pair worn by the Japanese samurai.
Hiroko proudly showed the guests her great-grandfather's katana hanging on the wall.

Scrapps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Frequently

katharometer

n
/ .kathə'raimədə(r) /
Gk

an apparatus for determining the composition of a gas mixture.
With the help of a katharometer, the chemist was able to analyze the engine's exhaust.

katzenjammer

kaumographer

n
/ kò'mägrəfə(r) /
Gk

a worker who transfers designs, trademarks, or other printed material to cloth articles with a hot iron.

The sweatshirt store employs a kaumographer to decorate shirts with designs chosen by the customer.

keepsake

keeshond

kempt

kennel

n
/ 'ken¹l /
L > F > E

[has near homonym: quenelle] a house for a dog or pack of hounds.
Jack plans to help his father build a kennel for their beagles.

keno

n
/ 'kē(,)nō /
F

[has homonym: kino] a game resembling lotto or bingo in which numbers printed on pellets are taken from a sack and announced to the players who cover the numbers on cards and in which five numbers covered in the same horizontal row win for the player.

The casino coffee shop had runners to sell the diners cards for keno.

kepi

n
/ 'kəpē /
L > G > F

a military cap having a close-fitting band, a round flat top sloping toward the front, and a visor.
In the foyer of the French embassy there is a statue of a general with a kepi atop his head.

keratitis

n
/ kerə'tidəs /
Gk

inflammation of the cornea of the eye.

After being struck in the eye, the boxer had to be treated for keratitis.

keratoderma

n
/ kerəd'ð'dərmə /
Gk

a hard, callous condition of the skin.

The patient's keratoderma caused him pain and loss of movement.

keratoplasty

n
/ 'krəd'ɔ:plastē /
Gk

plastic surgery on the cornea.

Keratoplasty, especially corneal grafting, has improved the vision of many people.

kerchief

n
/ 'kərchəf /
F > E

a square of cloth usually folded worn by women as a head covering.

Before Eileen went out to tend to her garden, she put on a blue and white kerchief.

kerf

n
/ 'kərf /
E

a slit or notch made in cutting usually by a saw or cutting torch.
Roger's toy racetrack is made from a piece of wood with a wide kerf along which the little cars move.

kerflop

kernel

kerplunk
adv
/ kə(r)'pləŋk /
imit
with a thud.

Mimi dropped the apple kerplunk onto Mrs. Vega's desk.

kerseymere

kestrel

n
/ 'kestrel /
L > F > E

a common small European falcon.
Sean found an injured kestrel on the roof of the library.

ketch

khaki

kibitz

kibitzer

n
/ 'kibətsə(r) /
Yiddish

an outsider or nonparticipant who looks on and may offer unwanted advice or comment.

Officer Morrow ordered the kibitzer to stand back and get out of the way of the rescue squad.

kidnap

kielbasa

n
/ kil'bāsə /
Pol

[Note: A differently pronounced variant of the word is kielbasy.] a smoked sausage.

Adria ordered a half-pound of potato salad and a kielbasa from the deli.

kilim

kiln

Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Frequently

lagniappe

lagomorph

n
/ 'lagə.mɔːrf /
Gk > L

[Note: Could be confused with Lagomorpha.] any of several gnawing animals (as hare, rabbit, or pika) resembling the rodents.
A lagomorph has well-developed incisors to help it sever plant stems and gnaw on bark.

laity

n
/ 'læɪde /
Gk > L > F > E + Ecf

[Note: Could be confused with lady.] the great body of the people of a religious faith as distinguished from its clergy.
In most churches, many tasks and duties are given to the laity.

lallation

laloplegia

n
/ .lələ'plɛj(ɛ)ə /
Gk

paralysis of the muscles involved in speech.
Since Uncle Harry's stroke caused laloplegia, he had to communicate with pencil and paper.

lamasery

n
/ 'lām.sə.rɪ /
Tibetan > F + Per > F
a monastery of Tibetan Buddhist monks or priests.
Xiang returned from the lamasery a wiser and more introspective man.

lambda

lambent

lambently

adv
/ 'lambəntlɪ /
L

in a light and brilliant manner.
Carla's eyes flashed lambently under her dark brows.

lambrequin

n
/ 'lambə(r)kən /
D > F

a short decorative drapery for a shelf edge or for the top of a window casing : valanee.
An embroidered lambrequin hung over each of the mansion's windows.

lament

v
/ lə'ment /
L

express sorrow for : bewail, mourn.
Railroad buffs still lament the demise of the steam locomotive.

lampoon

n
/ lam'pjuːn /
F

a light mocking satire.
The new movie is a lampoon of the horror films that are made especially for teenagers.

lamppost

n
/ 'læmp.pɔːst /
Gk > L > FE + E

a pole supporting a usually outdoor lighting device.
The speeding automobile didn't make the curve and slammed into a lamppost, knocking it to the ground.

lamprey

n
/ 'læmpri /
Gaulish? > L > F

any of various freshwater and saltwater vertebrates that are widely distributed in temperate and subarctic regions and resemble eels but have a large circular jawless suctorial mouth with numerous small conical teeth.
A large lamprey slithered out of the underwater cave, startling the diver.

lampyrid

n
/ 'læmpərɪd /
Gk > L

a beetle or firefly of medium or small size having an elongate form.
The lightning bug is a common lampyrid.

lancet

landau

n
/ 'lændəu /
G geog name

a four-wheeled covered carriage.
People who cannot picture what a landau looks like should think of Cinderella's carriage.

landscape

n
/ 'lænz.kæp /
D

a portion of land or territory that can be seen in a single view including all the objects so seen.
After the snowstorm the landscape looked like a winter wonderland.

langlauf

langouste

n
/ læŋ'gjuːst /
L > OProv > F
spiny lobster.

Alicia ordered the langouste at the fancy seafood restaurant.

language

n
/ 'læŋgwɪj /
L > F > E

[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word.] the inner tongue or flat plate opposite the mouth of an organ flue pipe.
A small chip in the organ's smallest language subtly affected its tone.

Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Frequently

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
/ 'lāp.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
/ 'lādə(r).hōz'n /
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
/ 'lejdə(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'jērədē /
L > F
mental or physical agility and quickness.
The gymnast performed on the balance beam with remarkable legerity.

leggieramente

legibility

legible

legislate

legislatorial

adj
/ 'lejdəslə'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
/ 'lejdə.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'gyūmənəs /
L
of, resembling, or consisting of peas or other vegetables.
The only leguminous food that Mandy likes is peas.

Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Frequently

manumit

v

/ˈmʌnyəˌmɪt/

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

/məˈrækə/

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

/ˌmərəˈskɛˌnɔ/

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

/məˈrɔːdɪŋ/

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

/mɑːˈsesənt/

L

of a plant part : withering without falling off.

Autumn's first cold snap left many marcescent leaves in its wake.

marchioness

n

/ˈmɑːrʃ(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

/ˈmæ(ɹ)ɪ/

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

/ˌmɑːrgərəˈtæʃəs/

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

/ˌmæɪˈtʃi/

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

/məˈriːn/

L

of or relating to the sea.

Marine iguanas live on the shores of the Galapagos Islands and eat seaweed.

marionette

n

/ˌmɑ(ə)rɪəˈnet/

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

/ˈmɑːrɪtɪm/

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

/ˈmɑːrjərəm/

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

/ˈmɑːrme.ləd/

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.

Scrrips National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Frequently

mignonette

n
/ˈmɪnyəˈnet/
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
/ˈmɪˌɡreɪn/
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(ɪ)dō/
Jpn

an emperor of Japan.

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

milacre

milchig

adj
/ˈmɪlkɪk/
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
/məˈlenɪəm/
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
/məˈnæʃəs/
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
/ˈmɪnəˈstrɒnə/
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
/ˈmɪnɪəˌskæp/
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)əˌtʃʊ(ə)rɪ/
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

Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Frequently

myringitis

n
/ˌmɪrənˈdʒɪdəs/
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
/ˌmɜrməkələjəst/
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
/ˌmɜrməkələjē/
Gk
a scientific study of ants.
Receiving an ant farm for Christmas was the beginning of Art's interest in myrmecology.

myrmidon

n
/ˌmɜrmədɪn/
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
/ˈmɜr/
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
/miˈstɛk/
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
/ˈnəbɒb/
Ar > Hindi
man of great wealth.
The Hollywood nabob rarely traveled without his personal chef, secretary, and masseur.

nacelle

n
/nəˈsel/
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
/ˈnədəˌrɪzəm/
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
/ˈnədə(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
/ˈnāəd/
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.

naïant

nainsook

n
/ˈnā.n.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
/nāˈäləjē/
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
/ˈnəpəm/
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
/nəˈprəpəθē/
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.

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)dle /
Scand > E
characterized by a reluctance to part with money : tightfisted.
The wealthy banker was best known for his niggardly spending habits.

nightingale

n
/ 'niŋ.gəl /
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
/ 'niŋtma(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
/ 'ni:li.zəm /
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'mi:əde /
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'tidəde /
L + Ecf
the quality or state of being bright, glossy, or lustrous.
The moon's nitidity helps owls find their prey.

nitrogen

n
/ 'ni:trə:dʒən /
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.ərē /
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.

Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Frequently

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

/ ,ò(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'fəshəl /

L

of or relating to the mouth and face.

Roseanne underwent plastic surgery to correct orofacial abnormalities.

orogeny

n

/ ò'räjənē /

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

/ 'òrətənd /

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

/ ,ä'sə'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

/ ,ä'sələ,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,sköp /

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

Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Frequently

osculatory

adj
/ 'ɔːskjələ.tɔːrē /

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
/ ɔːz.mɔːsəs /

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
/ 'ɔːsprē /

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
/ 'ɔːsəkəl /

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
/ ɔː'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
/ ɔːstən'tæʃəs /

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

osteoclasts

osteoporosis

n
/ ɔːstēɔːpə'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
/ ɔːdə'kjuːstɪk /
Gk
assisting the sense of hearing.
Mrs. Jordan fashioned a piece of cardboard into an otacoustic horn.

otalgia

n
/ ɔː'talj(ē) /
Gk
pain in the ear : earache.
Otalgia is more common in children than in adults.

otherwise

adv
/ 'ɔːθə(r)wɪz /
E
in a different way or manner : differently.
Bret told us to always back up our work; otherwise, we would be sorry.

otitis

n
/ ɔː'tɪdɪs /
Gk > L
inflammation of the ear.
Jeff's earache was diagnosed as a symptom of otitis of the middle ear.

otolaryngology

n
/ ɔːdə.larɪŋ'gæləj /
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
/ ɔːdə.mɪ'kɔːsəs /
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
/ 'ɔːdə(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
/ 'ɔːdəmən /
Turk name > It > F
an overstuffed footstool.
Andrew spilled orange juice all over the ottoman.

Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Frequently

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)chəˈrɪz /

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 /

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

/ 'pāthəs /

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

/ 'pɑ.twä /

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

/ 'pātr̩.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'trɪshən /

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'trɪshēət /

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

/ 'pōsədē /

L

a small number : fewness.

The choir suffered from a paucity of male voices.

Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Frequently

pernoctate

v
/ ()pə'r'nɔktāt /
L

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

peroration

n
/ .pə'rə'raʃən /
L

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

perpendicular

perpetual

adj
/ pə(r)'pech(əw)əl /
L > F > E

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

perplexing

adj
/ pə(r)'pleksɪŋ /
L

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

perquisite

n
/ 'pərkwəzət /
L

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

persecute

v
/ 'pərsəkyüt /
L

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

perseverance

n
/ .pərsə'vɪrən(t)s /
L

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

persevere

persevered

v
/ .pərsə'vi(ə)rɪd /
L > F > E

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

persiflage

n
/ 'pərsəflāʒh /
F

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

persillade

adj
/ .pərsē'ād /
F

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

persimmon

n
/ pə(r)'sɪmən /
Algonquian

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

personification

personnel

perspicacious

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

perspicuity

perspiration

persuade

pertinacious

adj
/ .pərt'nāʃhəs /
L
stubbornly unshakable.
There was something mysterious in the moody and dogged silence of this pertinacious companion.

pertinent

pertinently

perusal

n
/ .pə'rüzəl /
L? > E + E
the action of reading through or over with some attention and typically for the purpose of discovering or noting one or more specific points.
The legal advisor's perusal of the proposed contract identified many points of concern.

peruse

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

Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Frequently

pylon

n
/ 'pɪ.lən /
Gk

a tower for supporting either end of a wire over a long span.
The steel pylon at the north end of the footbridge was showing dangerous signs of wear.

pylorus

n
/ pɪ'lɔrəs /
Gk > L

the opening in a vertebrate from the stomach into the intestine.
The pylorus regulates the flow of food and liquid from the stomach.

pyramid

n
/ 'pɪr.ə.mɪd /
Gk

an ancient massive structure of huge stone blocks found especially in Egypt having typically a square ground plan, outside walls in the form of four triangles that meet in a point at the top, and inner sepulchral chambers.
The sight of a pyramid on the desert horizon took Rico's breath away.

pyre

pyrethrum

n
/ pɪ'rɛθrəm /
Gk > L

any of various chrysanthemums with finely divided and often aromatic leaves.
The pyrethrum is a source of a natural insecticide.

pyretogenic

adj
/ ,pɪrətɔ'jenɪk /
Gk

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

pyrite

pyrosis

n
/ pɪ'rɔsəs /
Gk

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

pyrotechnics

n pl
/ ,pɪrə'teknɪks /
Gk

a display of fireworks.
The amusement park had a show including pyrotechnics every night.

Pyrrhic

adj
/ 'pɪrɪk /
Gk > L
[has homonym: pyrie] of, relating to, or resembling that of Pyrrhus, a king who sustained heavy losses in defeating the Romans.
When the team's star quarterback broke his leg in the game it won against its toughest rival, the win was indeed a Pyrrhic victory.

pythonic

adj
/ pɪ'thɒnɪk /
Gk > L
of, relating to, or like a python : huge, monstrous.
In classical mythology, the god Apollo killed a pythonic serpent at Delphi.

quackery

quadragenarian

n
/ ,kwɒdrə'jə'nə(a)rɪən /
L
a person who is 40 or more and less than 50 years old.
Evelyn became a quadragenarian while she was a quadragenarian.

quadrangle

n
/ 'kwɒdræŋəl /
L > F > E
a square or rectangular enclosure or court especially when surrounded by buildings (as in some schools and colleges).
Norm sailed a pie tin across the quadrangle.

quadrant

quadrennial

quadrilateral

n
/ ,kwɒdrə'lədərəl /
L
a plane figure of four sides and consequently four angles.
The perimeter of a baseball diamond forms a quadrilateral.

quadrille

n
/ kwə'drɪl /
F
a four-handed form of a card game played throughout Europe in the 17th and 18th centuries.
Mrs. Bates was a very old lady, almost past everything but tea and quadrille.

quadrumanous

adj
/ kwə'drʊmənəs /
L
having four hands.
Luke complained that a bass player would have to be quadrumanous to master the piece he was given to play.

quagmire

n
/ 'kwag.mɪ(ə)r /
unknown + ON > E
a complex or precarious position where disengagement is difficult.
In his position as protocol officer, Russell often found himself in a quagmire of delicate relationships.

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

quail

n

/ 'kwāl /

L > F > E

a migratory game bird of Europe, Asia, and Africa that is about seven inches long.

The vintner decided to name his wine after the quail because the birds were so plentiful on his property.

quaint

adj

/ 'kwānt /

L > F > E

uncommon, old-fashioned, or unfamiliar but often agreeable or attractive in character, appearance, or action.

In the middle of the ultramodern mall was a quaint tearoom that drew customers from miles around.

qualitative

adj

/ 'kwālətədīv /

L

of, relating to, or involving quality or kind.

Although the essay was judged to be short quantitatively, it was a qualitative masterpiece.

qualm

quandary

n

/ 'kwānd(ə)rē /

unknown

a state of perplexity or doubt : dilemma.

Taylor's advice left Miriam in more of a quandary than she was in when she sought his help.

quantum

quaquaversal

adj

/ 'kwākwə'vərsəl /

L

dipping from a center to all points of the compass.

From the air, the quaquaversal shape of the Indian mound could be seen.

quarantine

quarrel

quarrelsome

adj

/ 'kwɔr(ə)lsəm /

L > F > E + E

apt or disposed to argue : contentious.

If Angie weren't so quarrelsome, she might have more friends.

quarry

quartz

quash

quasi

quaternion

n

/ kwə'tɔrnēən /

L

a set of four parts, things, or persons.

The auto parts store offered a special price on a quaternion of tires.

quatorzain

n

/ kə'tɔr.zān /

F

a poem of 14 lines that resembles a sonnet but lacks strict sonnet structure.

When his English teacher was satisfied with Walter's quatorzain, she encouraged him to write a sonnet.

quatrefoil

n

/ 'kadə(r)foīl /

F

a conventionalized representation of a flower with four petals or of a leaf with four leaflets.

The Gothic window featured a quatrefoil at the top of its arch.

quay

quebracho

n

/ kə'bra(,)chō /

Sp

a tree that is native to Argentina and is used as a source of tannin and in dyeing.

In Argentina grows the quebracho, which literally means "ax-breaker," so named because its wood is so hard.

quell

quellable

adj

/ 'kweləbəl /

E

capable of being quieted or allayed.

The restless crowd proved quellable at the sight of the entertainer they had come to see.

quench

v

/ 'kwench /

E

put out (as a fire or a light).

For three days the firefighters tried to quench the blaze.

quenelle

n

/ kə'nel /

G > F

a ball or oval of meat stuffing cooked in boiling water or stock and served as a garnish or as a separate dish.

Martha served a quenelle of chicken in brown onion sauce as an appetizer.

quercitron

n

/ 'kwɔrsitrən /

L

a black oak or the bark of this tree used in tanning and dyeing.

When used as a dye, quercitron turns fabrics yellow.

querimonious

adj

/ 'kwɛrə'mɔnēəs /

L

habitually complaining.

Luther was known for his querimonious temperament.

Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Frequently

recrudescence

adj
/ rēkrū'des'nt /

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

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

recuperate

v
/ rə'k(y)üpə.rāt /

L
recover health or strength.
Aaron spent a month in Florida to recuperate after the campaign.

recurrence

recurrent

recusancy

n
/ 'rekuzənsē /

L
refusal to accept or obey constituted authority : nonconformity.
In post-Reformation England, recusancy was the refusal especially of Roman Catholics to attend the services of the Church of England.

recusant

redingote

redolent

adj
/ 'red'lənt /
L > F > E
conveying an aura : tending to suggest.
Every page of Ryan's essay is redolent of fine scholarship.

redoppe

n
/ rə'däp /
L > It > F

a show-ring movement in which a horse gallops in circles whose diameter never exceeds ten feet.
The last movement in Thunder's performance was a fast redoppe.

redoubtable

adj
/ rə'daüdəbəl /
F > E

inspiring awe or reverence : august, eminent.
Mount Rushmore is a fitting memorial to four redoubtable statesmen.

reductase

redundancy

referee

referential

refluence

refocillate

v
/ rē'fäsə.lāt /
L
refresh, revive.
Mom hopes that a good watering will refocillate her drooping ferns.

refraction

n
/ rə'frakshən /
L
the deflection from a straight path undergone by a light ray in passing obliquely from one medium into another in which its velocity is different.
Mr. Popkin explained that an oar in water is not bent, but that refraction makes it appear bent.

refuge

n
/ 're(.)fyüj /
L > F > E
shelter or protection from danger or distress.
The high hills are a refuge for wild goats.

refugium

refulgent

regale

v
/ rə'gāl /
F
entertain (as a person) sumptuously or agreeably : feast with delicacies.
The hostess will regale her bridge club members with a variety of delightful homemade desserts.

regardless

regatta

n
/ rə'gädə /
It
an organized series of rowing, speedboat, or sailing races.
The famous rowing regatta at Henley-on-Thames has been held each year since 1839.

reggae

n
/ 'rā(.)gā /
unknown
a popular music of Jamaican origin that combines indigenous styles with elements of rock 'n' roll and soul music and is performed with the accent on the offbeat.
The video travelogue about Jamaica included a soundtrack of reggae.

regicide

n
/ 'rejəsɪd /
L
the killing or murder of a king.
The peasants resorted to regicide when their pleas were ignored by the tyrannical monarch.

regime

n
/ rā'zhēm /
L > F
the period during which a government or social system prevails.
During the communist regime in Romania, environmental problems were flagrantly ignored.

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

retinue

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

retractile

retribution

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

retrocedence

n
/ˌretɹəˈsɛdʰn(t)s /
L
the act of ceding back typically by treaty.
In 1997 the British government completed the retrocedence of Hong Kong to China.

retrogress

retrospect

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

revanche

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

reveille

revenant

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

revenue

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

reverberate

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

reverberated

v
/rəˈvɛrbə.rädəd /
L
returned or sent back : echoed.
Loud sounds reverberated throughout the cave.

reverse

reverence

reversible

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

revictualment

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

revirescent

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

reviviscent

rhadomancer

n
/ˈrəbdə.mən(t)sə(r) /
Gk
one who practices divination by rods or wands.
With his divining rod in hand, the rhadomancer set out to find an undiscovered spring of water.

rhapsodical

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

rheostat

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

rhetoric

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

sanguinolent

adj
/ san'gwɪn'lənt /
L
of, containing, or tinged with blood.
Theo's phlegm became sanguinolent for a while from bronchitis.

sanitary

adj
/ 'sanətərɪ /
L
for or relating to the preservation of health.
Conditions at Christ Hospital are as sanitary as is humanly possible.

sapiential

adj
/ 'sæpɪ.ənʃəl /
L
characterized by wisdom.
The philosopher's library is filled with sapiential books.

saponaceous

adj
/ 'səpə'næʃəs /
L
soapy.
Talc and soapstone have a saponaceous feel.

saporous

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

sapphire

n
/ 'sæ.fɪ(ə)r /
Skt > Heb > Gk > L > F > E
a precious stone of transparent rich blue corundum of great value.
Sapphire has been highly prized as a gemstone since 800 B.C.

sapphiric

adj
/ sə'fɪrɪk /
Skt > Heb > Gk > L > F > E
having the nature of or resembling a sapphire.
Diane's bracelet held a series of sapphiric stones.

saprogenous

adj
/ sə'prəʒənəs /
Gk + Gk + Ecf
capable of producing decay or putrefaction.
Saprogenous bacteria aid in the decomposition of dead organic matter.

saprophagous

adj
/ sə'prəfəgəs /
Gk + Gk
feeding on decaying matter.
While hiking, Ted and Paul passed the carcass of a squirrel that was covered with saprophagous insects.

saran

sarcasm

sarcophagus

sardine

n
/ 'sɑr'dɪn /
Gk? > L > F > E
any of several small or immature fishes preserved for food.
The only way to entice the frightened cat from under the porch was to offer him a sardine.

sardonic

sardonyx

sarong

sarrazin

sarsaparilla

n
/ .sas(ə)pə'rɪlə /
Sp
a sweetened carbonated beverage similar to root beer with the predominant flavor from birch oil and saffras.
Sylvester's yen for sarsaparilla is well known to cartoon aficionados.

sartorial

adj
/ sɑr'tɔrɪəl /
L
of or relating to dress or to tailored clothes.
Sandy, who longed to be a sartorial rebel, sometimes went to class wearing purple tights under her uniform.

sashay

v
/ sa'shā /
F > E
[Note: Could be confused with chassé. Also, word has homonym: sachet] strut in an ostentatious or conspicuous manner.
Tommy and Suzanne tried to sashay as the caller instructed, but they both tripped and fell.

Saskatchewan

adj
/ sə'skæʃəwən /
Cree > Canad geog name
of or from the province of Saskatchewan, Canada.
Among the Saskatchewan flora is the saskatoon, a sweet purple berry.

saskatoon

n
/ .saskə'ti:n /
Canadian geog name
a juneberry of the northern and western United States and adjacent Canada.
The purple fruit of the saskatoon is eaten eagerly by birds.

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

schefflera

n
/ 'shɛflərə /
G name > L
any of several shrubby tropical plants that are cultivated for their showy foliage.
When frost was predicted, Demont covered the schefflera with a blanket.

schemer

n
/ 'skēm /
Gk
accomplish by clever contriving.
Walter resolved to scheme out a way to get a new bike.

schemer

n
/ 'skēmə(r) /
Gk
one that forms plots or intrigues.
Joe was a schemer who always had big plans to get rich.

scherzando

adj
/ skɛrt'sän(,)dō /
Gmc > It
playful, jcting—used as a direction in music indicating style and tempo.
The Flight of the Bumblebee was played with scherzando lightness.

scherzo

schiafone

schipperke

schism

schismatic

adj
/ siz'madik /
Gk > L
of, relating to, or characteristic of division, separation, or discord.
The book describes numerous schismatic movements in church history.

schizoid

schizophrenia

schnitzel

n
/ 'shnitsəl /
G
a veal cutlet variously seasoned and garnished.
The Bavarian restaurant's menu included sauerbraten, sausages, and schnitzel.

scholarly

adj
/ 'skälə(r)lē /
Gk > L
characteristic of one who is devoted to learning : studious.
Nathan's scholarly habits earned him a spot on the honor roll.

schooner

schottische

n
/ 'shädish /
G
a round dance in duple time characterized by gliding and hopping steps and similar to but slower than the polka.
After an hour of dancing the schottische, Ed and Sarah wearily headed for the soda machine.

schuss

n
/ 'shüs /
G
a straightaway skiing course.
In a tucked position Kira followed the schuss all the way to the bottom.

schussboomer

n
/ 'shüs.bümr /
G + imit
one who skis usually straight downhill at high speed.
When the schussboomer lost control, he somersaulted and rolled to the foot of the slope.

scialytic

adj
/ .siə'lidik /
Gk > L
dispersing or dispelling shadows.
After a long night of ghost stories, Erma welcomed the scialytic dawn.

sciamachy

n
/ sī'aməkē /
Gk
a fighting with a shadow or an imaginary enemy.
Engaging in sciamachy helped the boxer prepare for his next match.

sciatica

n
/ sī'adəkə /
Gk > L
pain along the course of a sciatic nerve or its branches and especially in the leg.
As Alicia struggled out of bed, she complained of sciatica in her left leg.

scientific

adj
/ .sīən'tifik /
L
concerned with or treating of a branch or department of systematized knowledge that is or can be made a specific object of study.
Alain's scientific training landed him a job at Dow Chemical.

scientist

scilicet

scintilla

scintillate

v
/ 'sint'lät /
L
gleam or emit quick flashes as if throwing off sparks.
Mom's eyes scintillate whenever she is joyously excited.

scintillation

n
/ .sint'l'āshən /
L
rapid changes in the brightness of a celestial body caused by turbulence in Earth's atmosphere.
The stars' scintillation is less pronounced at higher altitudes.

scintiscan

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

taiga

n
/ 'tɪgə /
Turkish > Russ
[has near homonym: tiger]
swampy coniferous forest of
Siberia beginning where the tundra
ends.
*Olga's great-grandfather was born
in a cabin on the edge of the taiga
and grew up playing among spruce
and fir trees.*

tailgate

takkanah

talcum

talebearer

talipes

n
/ 'taləpɛz /
L
a congenital deformity of the foot
in which the forepart is twisted into
one of several directions : clubfoot.
*Gordon's talipes was so severe that
surgery was needed to adjust the
tendons and bones of his foot.*

talisman

n
/ 'talɪsmən /
Gk > Ar > It > Sp > F
an object thought to act as a charm
to avert evil and bring good
fortune.
*Vern showed us his rabbit's foot,
which he claimed was an effective
talisman.*

talkathon

tallow

n
/ 'tɑ(ɹ)lɔ /
E
the rendered fat of cattle and sheep
that is used chiefly in making soap,
glycerol, margarine, candles, and
lubricants.
*Inside of her little tent, the fortune
teller began to shuffle her cards by
the light of a candle-made from
tallow.*

tallowy

Talmudic

adj
/ tal'm(y)ʊdɪk /
Heb
of, relating to, or characteristic of
the authoritative body of Jewish
law and custom developed on the
basis of the scriptural law.
*The novel was full of Talmudic
lore.*

taloned

tamale

n
/ tə'mälē /
Nahuatl > Sp
ground meat seasoned with chili or
other filling, rolled up in cornmeal
dough, wrapped in corn husks, and
steamed.
*Rosita ordered a tamale, two tacos,
and a burrito from the street
vendor.*

tamarack

tambourine

tamburello

tandem

tauerine

n
/ .tanjə'ren /
Moroccan geog name
a variable color ranging from
moderate reddish orange to vivid or
strong orange.
*To Petra, the most beautiful color
of mum is tauerine.*

tangible

adj
/ 'tændjəbəl /
L
capable of being touched.
*The black darkness of the night
seemed to have a tangible quality.*

tangy

adj
/ 'tæŋ /
Scand > E + Ecf
having a particularly pungent odor.
*The burning pile of old tires will
leave the air tangy for several days.*

tantalize

v
/ 'tæntə'lɪz /
Gk name
tease or torment by presenting
something to the view and exciting
desire but continually frustrating
the expectations by keeping it out
of reach.
*Philip used a rod and reel to
tantalize the kitten with a toy mouse
tied to the fishing line.*

tantamount

adj
/ 'tæntə'maʊnt /
L > F > AF > E
equivalent in value, significance, or
effect.
*Because of inflation, Jamie's
meager raise was tantamount to a
pay reduction.*

tantivy

adv
/ tan'tɪvɪ /
unknown
in a headlong dash.
*Patsy ran tantivy toward second
base after the bunt.*

tapestry

n
/ 'tæpə'strɪ /
Gk > F > E + Ecf
a heavy handwoven textile for
hangings, curtains, and upholstery.
*Teresa admired the vivid colors of
the tapestry hanging in the
corridor.*

taphophobia

n
/ .tæfə'fɒbiə /
Gk
fear of being buried alive.
*After reading Edgar Allan Poe's
"The Cask of Amontillado," Mr.
Gallo developed a bad case of
taphophobia.*

Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Frequently

thrortle

n
/ 'θrāsəl /
E

a largely olive-brown Old World perching bird noted for its song.
While on a walking tour in London, Madeline spotted a thrortle in a sycamore tree.

thule

thumb

thurible

n
/ 'θ(y)ūrəbəl /
Gk > L > F > E
a vessel used in religious services for burning incense.
When a thurible is used in the procession, the odor of incense suffuses the church.

thylacine

n
/ 'θīləsɪn /
Gk > L
a now-extinct somewhat doglike carnivorous marsupial that formerly inhabited Tasmania—called also “Tasmanian wolf.”
The female thylacine had a rearward-opening pouch in which two to four young were carried.

thyme

n
/ 'tīm /
Gk
[has homonym: time] a common garden herb used in seasoning and formerly in medicine.
The chicken recipe called for a teaspoon of dried thyme.

thymiaterion

n
/ θīmēə'tīrēən /
Gk
a vessel used by the ancient Greeks for burning incense.
Cecil found a bronze thymiaterion in an antique shop.

tibia

n
/ 'tībēə /
L
the fourth joint counting from the base of the leg of an insect that lies between the femur and tarsus.
A cricket's ear is located on the tibia of its foreleg.

tichorrhine

n
/ 'tīkə.rɪn /
Gk > L
an extinct two-horned woolly rhinoceros.
The remains of a tichorrhine were found frozen in the ice of Siberia with the flesh and hair well preserved.

tickicidal

adj
/ ,tīkə'sīd'əl /
E + L + Eef
destroying or controlling any of several wingless parasitic insects.
The exterminator used a tickicidal agent to eliminate the pests.

tickled

v
/ 'tīkəld /
E
excited or stirred up agreeably.
The young actor was tickled to be offered the leading role in his next movie.

tightrope

tilak

n
/ 'tīlək /
Skt
an ornamental spot worn on the forehead chiefly by Hindus as a sectarian mark.
After three months of travel Lana returned home clad in a sari and wearing a tilak.

tilapia

n
/ tə'lāpēə /
L
any of a genus of African freshwater food fishes that resemble the American sunfishes.
Some American fish farms have been raising tilapia for stocking in ponds and lakes.

tilde

n
/ 'tīldə /
L > Sp
a mark ~ placed especially over the letter n to denote the /ny/ sound or over vowels to indicate nasality.
Marcia could not find the tilde on the computer keyboard.

tilth

timorous

timorously

adv
/ 'tīm(ə)rəslē /
L
in a manner showing fear or apprehension.
Pam timorously responded to her name and said that she had not finished her book report.

tinctorial

tincture

n
/ 'tīŋ(k)chə(r) /
L
hue, tint.
The main difference between American and Irish glass is in tincture.

tinnient

adj
/ 'tīnēənt /
L
having a clear or ringing quality.
Grandmother's old silver knives made a tinnient sound in the sink as we rinsed them after Thanksgiving dinner.

Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Frequently

typhology

n
/ ti'fläləjē /
Gk
the scientific study of blindness, its causes, effects, and control.
Researchers in typhology have found that certain nutritional deficiencies can result in the clouding and softening of the cornea.

typhoon

n
/ ti'fün /
Gk&Chinese
a tropical cyclone occurring in the region of the Philippines or the China Sea.
A typhoon of unimaginable fury swung across the coastal plains of Bangladesh, swallowing up villages and sweeping away food crops.

typify

v
/ tipəft /
L + Ecf
embody the essential or salient characteristics of.
Dickens's characters typify the Victorian era.

typothetae

tyrannical

adj
/ tə'ranəkəl /
Gk
exhibiting imperious and usually oppressive exercise of absolute power : despotie.
Patrick Henry spoke fervently about the urgent need to arrest the tyrannical hands of the British ministry and Parliament.

tyrannize

tyrannous

tyranny

n
/ tirənē /
L > F > E
absolute government in which power is vested in a single ruler.
The tyranny of many medieval kingdoms was eventually supplanted by democracy.

ubiquitous

adj
/ yū'bikwədəs /
L
existing or being everywhere at the same time : omnipresent.
The drum is a ubiquitous instrument in world music.

udometer

n
/ yū'dämədə(r) /
L + Gk
an instrument for measuring the quantity of precipitation that falls at a given place and time.
The local television station asked Karen to put a urometer in her backyard.

udomograph

uglify

ulcerous

ullage

ulotrichous

adj
/ yū'lätträkəs /
Gk + Gk
having woolly or crisp hair.
The ulotrichous aborigines crafted wide-toothed combs for their hair.

ulterior

adj
/ əl'tirēə(r) /
L
not apparent : hidden.
When Sherman volunteered to walk the dog, his ulterior motive was to escape the boring conversation in the house.

ultimacy

ultimatum

n
/ əltə'mädəm /
L
a final proposition, condition, or demand; especially : one whose rejection will end negotiations and cause a resort to force or other direct action.
If the striking workers refused its ultimatum, the company threatened to close the factory permanently.

ultraviolet

adj
/ əltrə'viölət /
L + L > F > E
situated beyond the visible spectrum at the violet end and having a wavelength shorter than visible light and longer than X rays.
Arthur purchased sunglasses that provide some protection against ultraviolet radiation.

ululant

ululation

n
/ əlyə'lāshən /
L
a loud mournful usually protracted and rhythmical sound : howl.
An ululation from deep in the woods gave Jesse goosebumps.

umbilical

adj
/ əm'biləkəl /
L
attached by or as if by a cord arising at the navel that connects a fetus with the placenta.
Important medical research is being done with stem cells obtained from umbilical cords.

umbra

n
/ 'əmbərə /
L
a shaded area : darkness.
Trent saw something flicker in the umbra beneath the side porch.

Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Frequently

vermiculate

adj
/ və(r)'mikyələt /
L

wormlike in shape.
When Tom's two-year-old brother tried to draw something, he could manage only a few vermiculate lines.

vernacular

adj
/ və(r)'nakyələr /
L

belonging to or being a language or dialect developed in and spoken and used by the people of a particular place, region, or country in a form considered nonstandard.
Mr. Hillis could not understand the vernacular language of the rappers.

vernal

adj
/ 'vərnəl /
L

of, relating to, or characteristic of the spring.
Cherry trees produce some of the prettiest vernal blossoms.

vernissage

verricule

versatile
adj
/ 'vərsədəl /
L

[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word.] marked by a tendency to change : fluctuating readily.
Tricia's versatile temperament made it impossible to predict her reactions.

vertebrate

adj
/ 'vərdəbrət /
L

having a spinal column.
Vertebrate animals include fishes, reptiles, birds, and mammals.

vertex

n
/ 'vɜːteks /
L

the point on the limb of a celestial body nearest the zenith.
The tiny dark spot near the Moon's vertex is a huge crater.

vertical

adj
/ 'vɜːdɪkəl /
L > F
perpendicular to the plane of the horizon or to a primary axis : upright.

Blythe preferred the fabric with broad vertical stripes.

vertiginate

v
/ .vɜːtɪjə.nət /
L

whirl dizzily around : twirl.
Young children love to vertiginate until they fall down.

vertiginous

vertigo
n
/ 'vɜːdʒə.gə /
L

a disordered state in which the individual or the individual's surroundings seem to whirl dizzily.
The constant rocking of the boat produced feelings of vertigo and nausea in many of the passengers.

vesicant

n
/ 'vesɪkənt /
L + E

an agent (as a drug or a plant substance) that induces blistering.
Brittany wore thick gloves in order to avoid contact with the vesicant.

vespacide

n
/ 'vespəsɪd /
L

one that kills wasps.
Mindy waved the can of vespacide threateningly at the nest of yellow jackets.

vespertilian

vespertine

adj
/ 'vespə(r)tɪn /
L

setting with or just after the Sun.
Venus is the most prominent vespertine planet.

vessel

vestibule

n
/ 'vestəbjuːl /
L > F

a passage, hall, or chamber between the outer door and the interior of a building.
The elevators were located at the end of the vestibule.

vestige

n
/ 'vestɪj /
L > F

a remaining bit that constitutes a memorial or trace of something formerly present.
Dmitri thought he detected a vestige of natural gas odor in the kitchen.

veterinary

vexation

vexatious
adj
/ vek'sæʃəs /
L

causing or likely to cause mental suffering.
A lame carriage horse threw everything into sad uncertainty and created a situation Emma found most vexatious.

vexillology

viable

vibraphone

vibrato

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

vortex

n
/ 'vɔ:teks /
L

a rapidly spinning current of water.
The toy sailboat got caught in the vortex and spun wildly as the bathtub drained.

vowel

voyage

n
/ 'vɔi(i)j /
L > E

an act or instance of traveling : excursion, tour.
Bill and Gail went on a sea voyage for their honeymoon.

vulgar

adj
/ 'vʌlgə(r) /
L

lacking in cultivation, perception, or taste.
Harriet vowed that she would not visit Mr. Martin's wife if he married an ignorant vulgar woman.

vulnerable

adj
/ 'vʌlnə(ə)bəl /
L

capable of being wounded : defenseless against injury.
Maggie's sensitive nature made her vulnerable to cross remarks.

vulnerary

adj
/ 'vʌlnərəri /
L

promoting the healing of wounds : curative.
There was a section in the old medical book about vulnerary herbs.

vulpine

vulture

n
/ 'vʌlchə(r) /
L > E

any of various large raptorial birds related to the hawks, eagles, and falcons but having weaker claws and a usually naked head and that subsist chiefly or entirely on the decaying flesh of dead animals.
The turkey vulture rarely gets credit for its help in removing unfortunate opossums and skunks from our roadways.

waffle

n
/ 'wäfəl /
D

a crisp cake made of pancake batter baked in a specialized appliance.
For breakfast, Mary ordered a waffle topped with blueberry compote.

waggish

wagonload

waif

wainscot
n
/ 'wänskət /
D > E

the lower three or four feet of an interior wall when finished differently from the remainder of the wall (as with wood panels, tile, or marble slabs).
Michelle chose a striped wallpaper for the wainscot in the dining room.

wainwright

waldmeister
n
/ 'wöld.mi:stə(r) /
G + L > G

a small European sweet-scented herb.
The Germans use waldmeister to flavor May wine.

wallaby

n
/ 'wäləbɛ /

Australian name
any of various small or medium-sized kangaroos.
The wallaby usually feeds in the safety of dusk or darkness.

wallet

walleyed
adj
/ 'wö.li:d /
E

having very light gray or whitish eyes.
The Appaloosa foaled a walleyed filly last spring.

wallop

v
/ 'wäləp /
F

gain a decisive victory over : beat by a wide margin : trounce.
Coach Garrett predicts that the Cougars will soundly wallop the Buccaneers.

waltz

n
/ 'wöltz /
G

a moderately fast dance in three-quarter time with a strong accent on the first beat of the measure and characterized by one step per beat.
When the band started playing a waltz, Marilyn hoped that someone would ask her to dance.

wander

wanderlust
n
/ 'wändə(r).ləst /
G

strong or unconquerable longing for or impulse toward traveling.
Cayte's wanderlust caused her to postpone college so that she could tour Europe.

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wantonness

n

/ 'wɒnt'n(n)əs /

E

the quality or state of being without check or limitation.

The wantonness of comfort

Georgetta experienced as a young child caused her to become a spoiled brat.

wapiti

n

/ 'wæpədə /

Algonquian

a North American deer similar to the European red deer but considerably larger.

The older male wapiti is often hunted for its antlers.

warden

n

/ 'wɔrd'n /

Gme > F > E

an official in charge of the operation of a prison.

The warden recommended that the disruptive prisoner be denied parole.

warehouse

warison

warmonger

warmth

warrior

n

/ 'wɔriər /

E

a human engaged or experienced in warfare and especially in primitive warfare or the close combat typical of ancient or medieval times.

The warrior attended a council before battle in the morning.

wasabi

n

/ 'wäsəbē /

Jpn

an Asiatic herb whose greenish root is grated and eaten with fish or other food.

In Japan, Pam had raw fish seasoned with wasabi, which tasted like horseradish.

washtrough

wasp

n

/ 'wæsp /

E

any of numerous winged hymenopterous insects that have well-developed wings and biting mouthparts, and a more or less formidable sting.

The well-known yellow jacket is a wasp with a hurtful sting.

wasteweir

n

/ 'wæst.wi(ə)r /

L > F > E + E

a notch in a levee or other barrier across a stream for the escape of superfluous water.

A wasteweir was constructed in the dam to prevent flooding along the banks of the stream.

wastrel

n

/ 'wæstrəl /

L > F > E

something rejected or discarded as useless or imperfect.

Hardly any item is wastrel to the ardent recycler.

watercress

n

/ 'wɔdə(r).kres /

E

a white-flowered plant growing in water with leaves that are used in salads.

Jesse added some watercress and carrots to the tossed salad.

waxen

wearisome

adj

/ 'wiɪəsəm /

E

tiresome, tedious.

Gondolph found hearing accounts of other people's dreams wearisome.

weasel

n

/ 'weɪzəl /

E

any of various small slender active carnivorous mammals that are mostly reddish brown with white or yellowish underparts and in northern forms turn white in winter.

In the snow the white fur of the weasel camouflages it against attacks by hawks or owls.

weather

webelos

n

/ 'weɪbə.lɔz /

E acronym

a Cub Scout of the fifth rank who is at least 10½ years old and is preparing for entrance into Boy Scouts.

Noah spent his second year as a webelos working on his fitness, geologist, and handyman activity badges.

weddellite

wedge

weevil

n

/ 'weɪvəl /

E

any of numerous snout beetles in which the head is elongated and usually curved downward to form a snout bearing the jaws at the tip.

The boll weevil is a serious pest to the cotton crop in North America.

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whippoorwill

n
/ ' (h)wɪpə(r)wɪl /
imit
a nocturnal bird of the eastern United States and Canada that is seldom seen although its call is often heard at nightfall or just before dawn.
At camp Nick recorded the call of a whippoorwill.

whirligig

n
/ 'hwɜrləgɪg /
E
a child's toy having a whirling or spinning motion.
Sandy bought a whirligig at the dime store.

whirlwind

n
/ 'hwɜrl.wɪnd /
Scand > E + E
a small rotating windstorm of limited extent.
A whirlwind is sometimes called a "dust devil."

whisk

n
/ 'hwɪsk /
Scand > E
a small usually wire kitchen implement used for hand beating of food (as eggs, cream, or potatoes).
Rose used a whisk to beat the egg whites into a stiff froth.

whisperer

n
/ 'hwɪspərə(r) /
E
one that speaks softly with the aim of preserving secrecy.
Reverend Loomis scanned the congregation in vain, searching for the whisperer.

whist

n
/ 'hwɪst /
imit E
a four-player card game from which bridge evolved.
In learning to play whist, Carole found it helpful to make a chart of its similarities to bridge.

whistleable

adj
/ 'hwɪsələbəl /
E + Ecf
capable of being whistled.
Rufus could botch up even the most whistleable tune.

whodunit

n
/ hū'dənət /
E
a detective story or a mystery story presented as a novel, a play, or a motion picture.
The whodunit proved to be the most popular play at the summer theater.

wholesale

adv
/ 'hɔlsəl /
E
in a manner of, relating to, or engaged in the sale of goods or commodities in quantity for resale.
Juliana purchased several store fixtures wholesale.

wholesome

adj
/ 'hɔlsəm /
E
promoting health of body : health-giving.
Ellie sometimes ate junk food rather than the wholesome lunch her mother had made for her.

whorlywort

n
/ 'hwɔ(ə)rli:wɜrt /
E
a tall perennial herb—called also "Culver's root."
Darnell bought a hand-colored engraving of a whorlywort at the auction.

whortleberry

n
/ 'hwɜrt'l.berɪ /
E
a sweet edible European blueberry.
The unripe whortleberry was too sour for Vernon to eat.

wickiup

n
/ 'wɪkē.ʌp /
Sac, Fox, & Kickapoo
a hut used by Native Americans that is typically elliptical in form and has a rough frame covered by reed mats or grass.
As they constructed the wickiup, the campers were careful to leave a hole in the top for campfire smoke to escape.

widget

n
/ 'wɪdʒət /
E
an unnamed article considered for purposes of hypothetical example as the typical product of a company.
On Trudy's graph, each star represents one widget.

width

wince

winsome

adj
/ 'wɪn(t)səm /
E
pleasant because of cheer, childlike nature, and open candor.
The little tyke's winsome smile won him many friends.

wintriness

wirrah

wiseacre

wisent

n
/ 'vɛ:zənt /
G
a European bison.
The advance of European civilization drove the wisent to the brink of extinction; it survived mainly by breeding in zoos.