

diphtheria

n
/ dif'thirēə /
Gk

an acute highly contagious bacterial disease chiefly of young children that is marked by swelling and obstruction of the throat.

During the Depression, diphtheria claimed the lives of many children.

diphthong

n
/ 'dif.thŋ /
Gk

a gliding monosyllabic sound that starts at or near the articulatory position for one vowel and moves to or toward the position for another.

Many people do not pronounce the diphthong in the word realtor correctly.

diphyodont

adj
/ di'fiə.dänt /
Gk

having deciduous and permanent sets of teeth successively.

The teeth of most reptiles are naturally replaced throughout life, but most mammals are diphyodont.

diploma

diplopia

n
/ də'plöpēə /
Gk

a disorder of vision in which two images of a single object are seen, owing to unequal action of the eye muscles.

Shirley noticed that her medicine produced the side effects of dizziness and diplopia.

dipnoous

dipody

n
/ 'dipədē /
Gk > L

a prosodic unit or measure of two feet.

The teacher commented on the poet's use of dipody for dramatic effect.

diptych

n
/ 'dip(,)tik /
Gk

a picture or series of pictures painted on two tablets connected by hinges.

The church's altarpiece is a Byzantine diptych.

diremption

dirigibility

dirigible

n
/ 'dirəjəbəl /
L + Ecf
airship.

The explosion of the dirigible Hindenburg is famous for its dramatic radio coverage.

dirigisme

n
/ dērēzhēs(m)° /
L > F
economic planning and control by the state.

Dirigisme is a characteristic of socialist law.

dirndl

disaffiliate

discalced

adj
/ di'skalst /
L

unshod, barefooted.

The discalced runner became a celebrity at the Olympics.

discern

discerp

discerptible

adj
/ də'səɹptəbəl /
L + Ecf

capable of being torn to pieces or pulled apart.

Al's pet dog made short work of his discerptible stuffed animals.

disclaimant

n
/ də'sklāmənt /
L > F

one who makes a denial or disavowal of legal claim.

The disclaimant did not want any part of his grandfather's estate.

discoloration

discomfiture

n
/ də'skəmfi:tʃü(ə)r /
L > F > E

the state of being disconcerted or abashed : confusion, embarrassment.

The bright lights added to Verne's discomfiture as he stood behind the lectern.

discotheque

n
/ 'diskə.tek /
Gk > L > F
a nightclub for dancing to recorded music.

Allen is a disk jockey at a popular discotheque in Chicago.

discredit

discrepancy

n
/ də'skreɹənsē /
L
difference, variation, inconsistency.
The accountant found a mysterious discrepancy between the two payroll records.

discretion

n
/ də'skreshən /
L

power of decision : individual judgment.

The Constitution was framed and adopted to establish a government that should not depend on state opinion and state discretion.

discursive

disdain

n
/ dās'dān /
L > F > E
a feeling of contempt and aversion for something regarded as unworthy of or beneath one : scorn, contempt.
This," said Clara with complete disdain, "is my little brother.

disembogue

v
/ .disəm'bōg /
L > Sp
discharge water from an outlet or mouth.
Many streams disembogue into the river along its course.

disentangle

v
/ .disən'taŋgəl /
L > Ecf + E
straighten out : unravel.
Mrs. Luce helped David disentangle the strands of the plot in Hamlet.

disguise

v
/ dās'gīz /
E, F
change the customary dress or appearance of.
Ben tried to disguise his voice when he telephoned Jill.

disintegration

n
/ dās.intə'grāshən /
L
the act or process of shattering suddenly : flying to bits.
Mark caused the disintegration of the mirror when he slammed the door.

disinter

dismal

adj
/ 'dizməl /
L > F > E
marked by gloom, dejection, somberness, or depression of spirits.
The children who forgot their gloves spent a dismal recess looking out the window at the snow.

disparage

v
/ dā'sparij /
F > E
speak slightly of.
Arthur did not want to disparage his mother's cooking, so he complimented her on her pot roast and secretly fed it to the dog.

disparate

disponible

disputatious

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

disseminate

dissentient

adj
/ dā'sench(ē)ənt /
L
not concurring : disagreeing.
There was not a dissentient voice on the subject.

dissertation

dissident

dissilient

dissipated

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

dissonant

dissuade

v
/ dā'swād /
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
/ di(s)'simətrē /
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
/ 'dithəram /
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
/ 'didəkəs /
Gk
producing two eggs or young at a time.
Most common songbirds are ditokous.

dittology

n
/ di'täləjē /
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
/ di'örn¹ /
L

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

divagate

v
/ di'vəgāt /
L

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

divergent

division

divorce

divulge

v
/ də'vəlʒ /
L

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

docent

n
/ 'dōs'nt /
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.

docilely

adv
/ 'däsəl(l)ē /
L

in an obedient or submissive manner.
Greg's pet dog docilely follows his every command.

docility

n
/ də'silədē /
L

the quality or state of being easily taught, led, or managed.
Docility and intelligence are important qualities that breeders look for in the horses they buy.

dockhand

doctrinaire

n
/ .däkrə'nə(a)(ə)r /
L > F

one who attempts to put into effect some especially political theory with little or no regard for practical difficulties.
Benito described his opponent as an ivory-tower doctrinaire.

documentary

n
/ .däkyə'mentərə /
L

a presentation (as a film or novel) that has the objective quality, authority, or force of documentation in the representation of a scene, place, condition of life or of a social or political problem or cause.
The documentary is being produced by environmentalists who protest the destruction of forests.

dolcissimo

adv
/ dōl'chēsə.mō /
L > It

very sweet or soft—used as a direction in music.
The composer and the conductor argued over whether the passage should be played dolcissimo.

doleful

adj
/ 'dōlfəl /
L > E + Ecf

attended with or indicating grief or a morose or despairing attitude.
Martha had a doleful look on her face as she gazed out the window at the rain.

dolioform

adj
/ 'dōlēə.fōrm /
L

shaped like a barrel.
The barrel cactus is a common dolioform plant of the deserts of North and South America.

dolorifuge

n
/ də'lörə.fyüj /
L > F > E

something that banishes or mitigates grief.
Martina was so heartbroken when her dog died that her dad brought home a new puppy as a dolorifuge.

dolorimetry

dolorous

adj
/ 'dōlərəs /
L

expressive of sorrow or affliction.
In a dolorous voice the reporter described the scene of the disaster.

dolphin

n
/ 'dälfən /
Gk > L > Prov > F > E

any of various small toothed whales with the snout more or less elongated into a beak and the neck vertebrae partially fused.
The trained dolphin performed its feats with great agility and grace.

domain

domestic

adj
/ də'mestik /
L

relating to the household or the family.

Selma's domestic situation changed drastically after she married a pack rat.

domineering

donnism

doraphobia

dorcastry

n
/ 'dɔrkəs.trē /
Biblical name + Ecf
a church auxiliary organized to plan and execute benevolent work.
The dorcastry served free Thanksgiving dinners for the homeless.

dormancy

n
/ 'dɔ(r)mənsē /
L > F > E + Ecf
the quality or state of being inactive.
Certain Australian frogs undergo long periods of dormancy during drought.

dormitories

dorsicollar

dosage

dosseret

dossier

n
/ 'dɔs.yā /
F
an accumulation of records, reports, miscellaneous pertinent data, and documents bearing on a single subject of study or investigation : file.
The physician kept a careful dossier on each of her patients.

dotard

douanier

n
/ dwányā /
F

a customs officer.

At the international airport the douanier insisted on searching the luggage of everyone proceeding through customs.

doublure

n
/ .də'blü(ə)r /
L > F
the lining of a book cover; especially : an ornamental lining.
The doublure is an important clue in identifying pirated editions of early novels.

douceur

doughiness

n
/ 'dōēnəs /
E
the quality or state of being not thoroughly baked.
The doughiness of the cake mortified Mrs. Cavendish.

doughty

adj
/ 'daüdē /
E
[has homonym: dowdy] marked by fearless resolution and by stoutness in contest or struggle : valiant.
Daniel was a soldier's soldier—rough, tough, and doughty.

dowager

n
/ 'daüəjə(r) /
F
one of the elder women of assured position who tend to set the tone of an assembly, social group, or community.
Great Aunt Georgine is the dowager of the Arts Council.

dowitcher

doxology

n
/ däk'säləjē /
Gk
a commonly short hymn or formula expressing praise to God.
One common doxology in Protestant churches is set to a tune called "Old Hundred."

drainage

drama

dramaturgy

n
/ 'dramətərjē /
Gk > L > F > E
the technical devices that are used in writing plays and that tend to distinguish the play from other literary forms.
Shakespeare was skilled at both poetry and dramaturgy.

dreadful

adj
/ 'dredfəl /
E
arousing feelings of disapproval or dissatisfaction.
"Turn off that dreadful song," Cynthia's mom calmly demanded.

drepaniform

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

dromedary

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

drosophilist

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

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
/ 'dʒən /
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.

dulcamara

n
/ .dəlkə'märə /
L
a sprawling Old World poisonous plant that is common as a weed in America and has purple flowers and oval coral-red berries and that has a taste at first sweetish and then bitter.
The dried stems of the dulcamara were once used in pharmaceutical preparations as a sedative.

dulcet

adj
/ 'dəlsət /
L > F > E
pleasing to the ear.
Hiroshi marveled at the dulcet tones of the quartet.

dulcitude

dumbbell

n
/ 'dəm.bəl /
E
an exercise device that consists of round weights joined by a bar.
With great effort, Tony hoisted the dumbbell above his shoulder.

dune

dungeon

dunnage

n
/ 'dənij /
unknown
[Note: Could be confused with tonnage, tunnage.] cushioning or padding used in a shipping container to protect fragile articles against shock and breakage.
Mother used popcorn as dunnage in her gift boxes to her family in Germany.

duodenitis

n
/ .d(y)üə.dē'nīdəs /
L
inflammation of the first part of the small intestine.
George's cramps were diagnosed as duodenitis.

duplicitous

durable

adj
/ 'd(y)ürəbəl /
L > F > E
able to exist for a long time : lasting.
Jimmy brought along a pair of durable hiking boots for his trek through the mountainous terrain.

duress

n
/ d(y)ə'res /
L > F > E
[has near homonym: dress]
stringent compulsion by threat of danger, hardship, or retribution.
Contracts signed under duress are not valid.

duressa

duvet

n
/ d(y)ü'vā /
ON > F

a warm bedcover : quilt, comforter.
Sally stored her duvet in the linen closet and used a light bedspread during the summer months.

dvandva

n
/ 'dvän(,)dvä /
Skt

a class of compound words having two constituents that are equal in rank and related to each other as if joined by and.
The word secretary-treasurer is an example of a dvandva.

dwarf

n
/ 'dwò(ə)rf /
E

an abnormally small person.
The adult dwarf was offended when people treated him as a child.

dwindling

dynamitard

n
/ 'dīnəmə'tärd /

Gk > Sw + Ecf
one that uses explosives for anarchistic or other political acts of violence.
Police agents seized the dynamitard in an old warehouse.

dynamite

dynasty

dysbarism

dyscalculia

n
/ .diskal'kyülēə /
Gk + L

impairment of mathematical ability due to an organic condition of the brain.
Because she disliked math class so much, Kathy was convinced that she suffered from dyscalculia.

dysentery

dyslexia

n
/ dā'sleksēə /
Gk

a disturbance of the ability to read.
In Maria's school, students with dyslexia are given special training to improve their reading, spelling, and writing.

dyspepsia

dysphemia

dysphemism

n
/ 'disfə.mizəm /
L

substitution of a disagreeable, offensive, or disparaging word or expression for an agreeable or inoffensive one; also, a word or expression so substituted.
Rachel, whose father is an auto mechanic, cringes every time she hears the dysphemism grease monkey.

dysphoria

n
/ dā'sfōrēə /
Gk

a generalized state of feeling unwell or unhappy.
Edith has had frequent crying spells and periods of dysphoria since early childhood.

dysrhythmia

n
/ dās'rīthmēə /
Gk

a condition characterized by various psychological and physiological effects and which occurs following long flight through several time zones and probably results from disruption of human body rhythms that occur in 24-hour cycles : jet lag.
The travel agent gave the tour group several tips on how to avoid dysrhythmia.

eagle

eaglet

earlobe

earnest

n
/ 'ərnəst /
E

[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word.]
something of value given by a buyer to a seller to bind a bargain.
Ms. Giblin gave the sellers \$3,000 as earnest so that they would not entertain other offers.

eavesdrop

ebony

ebriosity

ebullience

ebullient
adj
/ ə'būlyənt /

L
characterized by enthusiasm or exuberance.
Angela tried to be as ebullient as possible during the cheerleading tryouts.

ebullition

eburnated

eccentric

ecchymosis

n
/ .ekə'mösəs /
Gk > L

the escape of blood into the tissues from ruptured blood vessels marked by a livid black-and-blue or purple spot or area.
A black eye results from ecchymosis.

ecclesiastic

n
/ ə.klēzē'astik /
Gk

a person in holy orders or consecrated to the service of the church.
The new bishop was an ecclesiastic of high learning and virtue.

ecclesiastical

adj
/ əˈklɛzɪəˈstəkəl /
Gk > L

belonging to, suggestive of, or suitable for use in a church building or service of worship.

Ramona designed and sewed all the ecclesiastical garments worn in the church's services.

ecclesiology

echelon

n
/ ˈeshələn /
L > F

one of a series of levels or grades (as of leadership or responsibility) in an organization or field of activity.

Employees at every echelon of the company were encouraged to make suggestions.

echelonment

echolalia

n
/ ˌekəˈlālɪə /
Gk + Gk

the often pathological repetition of what is said by other people as if imitating them.

The speech of autistic persons is sometimes characterized by echolalia.

eclectic

adj
/ eˈklektɪk /
Gk + Gk

composed of elements drawn from various sources.

Gaynor's eclectic taste in music makes selecting CDs for her a cinch.

eclipse

n
/ ˈɛklɪps /
L > F > E

the obscuration of one celestial body by another.

Susan and Stuart flew to Mexico to view a total eclipse of the Sun.

eclogue

n
/ ˈe.klɒɡ /
Gk > L

a poem in which shepherds are introduced conversing.

The bucolic view of meadows and hills inspired Shelley to compose an eclogue.

ecologist

n
/ ˈɛːkələjɪst /
Gk > G

a specialist in the branch of science concerned with the interrelationship of organisms and their environment.

Kimberly will work as a summer intern for an ecologist in the Everglades.

economist

n
/ ˈɛːkənəmɪst /
Gk

a specialist in or student of the social science that studies the production, distribution, and consumption of commodities.

Adam Smith was the most influential economist of the 18th century.

ecru

n
/ ˈɛːkrü /
L > F

[has near homonym: accrue] of a textile : a light grayish yellowish brown that is yellower and lighter than gravel.

The bridal gown is available in both ecru and white.

ecstasy

ecstatic

adj
/ ɛkˈstædɪk /
Gk

caused by, expressing, or causing a state of exaltation or rapturous delight.

Maria was ecstatic when her boyfriend proposed to her.

ecuelle

ecumenopolis

n
/ ˌɛkʏəməˈnɪpələs /
Gk

a single city encompassing the whole world that is held to be a possibility of the future.

Many science fiction stories are based on the premise of Earth's future ecumenopolis.

eczematous

adj
/ ɪgˈzɛmədəs /
Gk

relating to or having the characteristics of an inflammatory skin condition characterized by redness, itching, and lesions.

Eczematous skin eruptions may be due to allergies to certain foods, drugs, or cosmetics.

edacious

adj
/ ɛˈdāshəs /
L + Ecf

[has near homonym: audacious] voracious, devouring.

Mary Ellen's edacious appetite for gossip is offensive to all.

edaphon

n
/ ˈɛdəfən /
Gk > ISV

the animal and plant life present in soils.

Stephanie is studying the edaphon of the river delta.

edelweiss

n
/ ˈɛdˌl.wɪs /
G

a small perennial herb growing high in the Alps.

Eva recognized the edelweiss by its distinctive white petals.

edentulate

edible

edifice

n
/ 'edəfəs /
L

building; especially : a large or massive structure (as a church or government building).
To Amy, the most beautiful edifice in our nation's capital is the National Cathedral.

editorial

edulcorate

v
/ ə'dəlkə.rāt /
L

free from harshness (as of attitude) : make pleasant.
Ben is under the mistaken impression that his flattery will edulcorate the stern judge.

eerily

efface

effervesce

effervescent

adj
/ .efə(r)'ves'nt /
L
impossible or difficult to restrain or suppress : bubbling, exuberant.
Sean's effervescent personality caught the attention of the job recruiter.

effete

efficacious

efficacy

n
/ 'efəkəsē /
L
the power to produce an effect : effectiveness.
For Harriet, the idea of being preferred by Mr. Elton had all the usual weight and efficacy.

efficiency

effigy

n
/ 'efəjē /
L > F

a full or partial representation especially of a person.
Andy felt a chill when he spotted the effigy of his ancestor in the cathedral crypt.

effluvium

n
/ e'flüvēm /
L

an exhalation or smell especially when unpleasant.
The effluvium from the backed-up drain nauseated Mr. Locke.

effrontery

n
/ ə'frəntərē /
L > F
flagrant boldness that is offensive or insolent : gall.
Chuck had the effrontery to interrupt the senator during his speech.

effulgence

effulgent

adj
/ e'fjələnt /
L
marked by or as if by brightly shining light.
An effulgent flash of intuition enabled Tony to solve the geometry exam's final problem.

effusive

adj
/ ə'fyüsiv /
L
expressing or marked by unrestrained emotion : unduly demonstrative.
Troy was bowled over by the effusive greeting of his Labrador retriever.

egalitarian

adj
/ (i)ē.gə.lə'terēən /
L > F
marked by or adhering to a belief that all persons are equal in intrinsic worth and are entitled to equal access to the rights and privileges of their society.
The senator promised to help create and expand opportunities and distribute them in an egalitarian fashion.

egocentric

adj
/ .ēgō'sentrik /
L + Gk > E
self-centered, selfish.
Dillard's friends claimed there was not an egocentric bone in his body.

egregious

adj
/ ə'grējəs /
L
flagrant : glaringly evident.
As a medical researcher, Laura knew that many of the reports of medical breakthroughs on television contained egregious errors.

egregiously

egress

n
/ 'ēgres /
L
the act or right of going or coming out.
Every hotel should provide accessible ways of egress.

eider

eiderdown

n
/ 'idə(r).daʊn /
ON > Icel > G
the small fluffy under feathers of any of several large northern sea ducks.
The price tag on the sleeping bag stuffed with eiderdown shocked Kevin's parents.

eidetic

adj
/ ɪˈdedɪk /
Gk

[has near homonym: identic] of or relating to voluntarily producible visual images having almost photographic accuracy : vivid, lifelike.

Sometimes Grandma would fall into eidetic reveries and talk to her long-deceased brother.

eigne

einsteinium

ejector

ekistics

n pl
/ əˈkɪstɪks /
Gk

a science dealing with human settlements and drawing on the research and experience of professionals in various fields (as architecture, engineering, city planning, and sociology).

Dora's degree in sociology aided her in her study of ekistics.

elasticity

electrolysis

n
/ əˌlekˈtræləsəs /
Gk

the destruction of hair roots with an electric current.

Electrolysis was one of the means of hair removal demonstrated in Roweena's cosmetology class.

electuary

n
/ əˈlekʃəˌwerē /
Gk > L > E

a medicated paste prepared with honey or other sweet substance, used in veterinary practice, and administered by smearing on the teeth, gums, or tongue.

The veterinarian patiently smeared an electuary on the horse's gums.

eleemosynary

adj
/ əˌləʊˈmäsənərē /
L

of or relating to charity : charitable, philanthropic.

Participation in eleemosynary activities is a graduation requirement at Janie's school.

elegiacal

elementary

elephantine

adj
/ əˌləʊˈfæn.tēn /
Gk > L

of enormous size or weight : uncommonly large : immense, massive.

Troy was served an elephantine ice cream sundae.

eligible

adj
/ əˈlɛjəbəl /
L

[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word.]
preferable, desirable.

The quietness of the game made it particularly eligible for Mr. Woodhouse, who had often been distressed by the more animated sort.

elision

n
/ əˈlɪzhən /
L

the use of a speech form that lacks a final or initial sound that a variant speech form has.

Today's French class concentrated on when to use elision.

elixir

n
/ əˈlɪksə(r) /
Gk? > Ar > L > E

a substance or concoction held to be capable of prolonging life indefinitely.

Explorers through the ages have sought the elixir of life, better known as the "fountain of youth."

ellipse

n
/ əˈlɪps /
Gk

an elongated circle.

The walking path behind the school forms an ellipse around the tennis courts.

ellipticity

elocution

n
/ əˌləʊˈkyʊʃən /
L

the art of oratorical or expressive public speaking.

Senator Okada is a master of elocution.

eloquence

n
/ ˈələkwən(t)s /
L

discourse marked by apt and fluent diction and imaginative fervor.

The defense lawyer addressed the courtroom audience with eloquence.

elucidate

v
/ əˈlʊsədət /
L

make intelligible by clear explanation or careful analysis.

Belinda asked Mrs. Dent to elucidate the complicated essay question.

elutriation

emanometer

n
/ ˌeməˈnämədə(r) /
L + Gk

any of various devices designed to measure quantities or intensity of a heavy gaseous element produced by radioactive disintegration.

The emanometer detected dangerous amounts of radon in Theo's basement.

embarcadero

n
/ ɛm.bärkə'de(ɪ)rō /
L > Sp
a landing place; especially : a landing place on an inland waterway.

An organ grinder and his monkey entertained visitors at the embarcadero of the restored village.

embarrass

embarrassment

n
/ ɛm'barəsmənt /
Pg > Sp > F
confusion or discomposure of mind.

Locking his car keys in his car trunk caused Andy much embarrassment.

embassy

embellish

v
/ ɛm'belish /
F > E
enhance, amplify, or garnish (an account) by elaboration with inessential but decorative or fanciful details.

Ivan likes to embellish his stories a little differently each time he tells them.

embezzlement

n
/ ɛm'bezəlmənt /
F > AF > E
fraudulent appropriation of money by a person to whom it has been entrusted.

The FBI investigation led to the union leader's indictment for embezzlement.

emblem

embouchure

n
/ 'ɛmbü.shü(ə)r /
L > F
the position and use of the lips in producing a musical tone on a wind instrument.

After six weeks of criticism about her poor embouchure, Kirsten switched from the clarinet to the piano.

embrasure

n
/ ɛm'brāzhə(r) /
F
an opening with sides flaring outward in a wall or parapet of a fortification usually for allowing the firing of cannon.

Bobby and Jackie amused themselves during the castle tour by climbing into every embrasure to look out the windows.

embrocate

embrocation

n
/ ɛmbrə'kāshən /
Gk > L
liniment.
The fact that Della's throat is so much better can be attributed to the excellent embrocation her mother applied regularly.

embroidery

embryo

embryonic

adj
/ ɛmbrē'änik /
Gk > L + Ecf
being in an early and undeveloped stage.
Delia disclosed embryonic plans for the new theater.

emerald

n
/ 'em(ə)rəld /
Gk > L > F > E
a highly prized gemstone of rich green color.

Beth's grandfather has a lovely unmounted emerald that he plans to give to her for a graduation present.

emeritus

adj
/ ɛ'merədəs /
L
retired from an office after gaining recognition.
Our summer school teacher, Dr. Benteen, is Professor Emeritus of history from Dartmouth University.

emigrant

n
/ 'eməgrənt /
L
[has near homonym: immigrant] a person who leaves a country or region to establish permanent residence elsewhere.
Sidney's great-great-grandfather was an Irish emigrant during the potato famine.

eminent

adj
/ 'emənənt /
L
[has homonym and near homonyms: emanent and immanent, imminent] standing out so as to be readily perceived.
The National Cathedral is a building of eminent beauty.

eminently

emissaries

emissary

n
/ 'eməsərē /
L
an agent or representative usually empowered to act more or less independently.
Each government sent an emissary to the trade talks.

emolliate

emollient

adj
/ ə'mäljənt /
L

[Note: Could be confused with emolument.] soothing especially to the skin or mucous membrane.

Erna usually applies an emollient cream to her hands after washing dishes.

emolument

n
/ ə'mäljəmənt /
L

[Note: Could be confused with emollient.] profit or perquisites from office, employment, or labor.

The waitress who did not report the tips portion of her emolument faced incarceration for tax evasion.

empanada

n
/ ɛmpə'nädə /
L > Sp

a turnover filled with meat.

For the hike Luke packed an empanada and an apple in his knapsack.

empathy

empennage

n
/ ɛmpə'nəzh /
Fcf + L + Fcf

the tail assembly of an aircraft.

After the accident the FAA ordered the airline to inspect the empennage of every plane in its fleet.

emphatically

adv
/ ɛm'fədəkəlē /
Gk

in a markedly forceful manner.

At the school board meeting Jonah spoke emphatically in favor of requiring students to wear uniforms.

emphysema

n
/ ɛm(p)fə'zēmə /
Gk

a condition characterized by air-filled, blisterlike expansions in the tissues of the lungs.

Most cases of emphysema are caused by smoking.

empirical

adj
/ ɛm'pɪrəkəl /
Gk > L

originating in or relying or based on factual information, observation, or direct sense experience usually as opposed to theoretical knowledge.

Epidemiologists rely heavily on empirical data in predicting the spread of a contagious disease.

empeleomania

n
/ ɛmplēō'mānēə /
F > Sp + Gk > L

an excessive desire for holding public office.

Otis's empeleomania drove him to squander his fortune on political campaigns.

emporium

empyrean
n
/ ɛm.pɪ'rēən /
Gk > L

the highest heaven or heavenly sphere in ancient and medieval cosmology usually described as a sphere of fire or light.

According to Ptolemy, there are five heavens, the last of which is called the "empyrean," from the Greek word meaning "fiery."

emu

emulate

enamel

encephalitis

n
/ ɛn.səfə'lɪdɪs /
Gk

inflammation of the brain, especially when due to infectious agents or their toxins.

The symptoms of encephalitis usually include fever, headache, and tremors.

enchilada

n
/ ɛnchə'lädə /
Sp

a tortilla topped or rolled up with a highly seasoned meat or other filling and served with tomato sauce seasoned with chili.

The sampler platter included a taco, an enchilada, and a burrito.

enclave

n
/ 'ɛn.klāv /
L > F

a district or region (as in a city)

inhabited by a particular race or set apart for a special purpose.

The Warsaw Ghetto was an infamous enclave during World War II.

enclitic

encomium
n
/ ɛn'kɔmēəm /
Gk

an often formal expression of warm or high praise : eulogy.

At the dedication of the war memorial, the president offered an encomium for the fallen heroes.

encumbrance

encyclical

endocrinology

endophytous

adj
/ en'däfədəs /
Gk

living within the tissues of plants.
Most vascular plants could not grow without the endophytous fungi that inhabit their roots and supply essential nutrients.

endorsement

endow

endurable

energetic

adj
/ enə(r)'jedɪk /
Gk

marked by energy.
The energetic captain kept the police force ready for any emergency.

enervate

v
/ 'enə(r).vāt /
L

[has near homonym with opposite meaning: innervate] lessen the nerve, vitality, or strength of.
Being outside in the heat of the day would enervate Grandma, so she weeds her garden in the cool hours of early morning.

enervated

adj
/ 'enə(r).vādəd /
L

lacking physical, mental, or moral vigor.
After the 15-mile mountain hike, Marsha found herself completely enervated.

enfilade

n
/ 'enfə.lād /
F

arrangement (as of rooms, doorways, trees) in opposite and parallel rows.
The hallway of the huge hotel was seemingly endless, with an enfilade of doors appearing to grow ever tinier in the distance.

engineer

n
/ enjə'ni(ə)r /
F > E

a person trained to plan and supervise projects in a technical field.
The chief engineer and his team designed a flood control plan for the city.

enhance

enigmatic

adj
/ e(ɪ)nɪg'madɪk /
Gk > L

inexplicable, puzzling.
Marla scribbled an enigmatic message on Lance's arm cast.

enlightenment

n
/ ən'lɪt'nmənt /
Ecf + E + Ecf
the act or means of furnishing with useful information.
The rules of the debate will be posted on the bulletin board for the enlightenment of all participants.

enmity

n
/ 'enmədē /
L > F
hostility, animosity.
The enmity which Mr. and Mrs. Elton dared not show in open disrespect to Miss Woodhouse found a broader vent in contemptuous treatment of her best friend.

ennead

n
/ än'wē /
F

languor or emptiness of spirit : boredom.
Though she claimed to dislike school, Tara felt a certain ennui when not doing something academic.

ensconced

ensemble

n
/ än'sämbəl /
L > F
a group of supporting players, singers, or dancers.
The principals in the play were ably supported by the ensemble.

ensilage

entablature

entente

n
/ än'tänt /
L > F
a written or unwritten international understanding usually less formally binding than an alliance.
The president decided that her government's policy of isolationism would not be broken by an entente.

entertain

enthymeme

n
/ 'en(t)thə.mēm /
Gk
an argument or truncated syllogism in which one of the propositions is understood but not stated.
A good example of an enthymeme is the statement "We are dependent; therefore, we should be humble."

entitle

entomogenous

adj
/ .entə'mäjənəs /
Gk
growing on or in the bodies of insects.
Some scale insects that feed on trees have entomogenous fungi.

entomologist

n
/ .entə'mäləjəst /
Gk
one specializing in the study of insects.
Dirk has wanted to be an entomologist since he was in the third grade.

entourage

n
/ äntə'rāzh /
L > F
one's attendants or subordinates.
The rock star and his entourage occupied an entire floor of the hotel.

entrance

entremets

n pl
/ äntərə'mā(z) /
L > F
dishes (as vegetables or savories) served in addition to the main course of a meal.
At some restaurants, entremets must be ordered separately from the main course.

entrepreneur

n
/ äntərəp(r)ə'nær /
L > F
the organizer of an economic venture; especially : one who organizes, owns, manages, and assumes the risks of a business.
The local college gives accounting classes for the first-time entrepreneur.

enumerate

enunciate

v
/ ē'nən(t)sē.āt /
L
utter articulate sounds.
Mr. Dubek reminded Val to stand straight and enunciate clearly.

enunciator

environs

n pl
/ ən'vīrənz /
L > F > E
vicinity, neighborhood.
Residents of the subdivision and its immediate environs are eligible to join the neighborhood pool association.

envisage

v
/ ən'vizij /
F
have a mental picture of in advance of realization.
Benjamin could scarcely envisage the scale of the project, so he broke it down into smaller, more manageable units.

envisagement

enzyme

n
/ 'en.zīm /
Gk
any of a very large class of complex proteinaceous substances that are produced by living cells and that are essential to life by acting as catalysts.
Emil Fischer theorized in 1894 that an enzyme acts like a lock to which a certain reactant is the key.

ephapse

ephedrine

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

epicure

epidemic

epidermis

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

epigram

n
/ 'epə.gram /
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'lepsē /
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'pifənē /
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

epistemology

n
/ əˈpɪstəˈmäləjē /

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

epistrophe

epitaph

epitaphs

n pl
/ ˈepəˌtəfs /

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.

epithet

n
/ ˈepəˌθet /

Gk
a disparaging or abusive word or phrase.

Donnie apologized for shouting an epithet at Mr. Garibaldi.

epitome

epitomize

v
/ əˈpɪdəˌmɪz /

Gk
serve as the typical representation of.

Sharon's choice of clothing must surely be an attempt to epitomize bad taste.

epoch

epoche

eponymous

adj
/ əˈpɪnəməs /

Gk + Ecf
bearing the name of, being, or relating to one for whom or which something is named.

Jason will play the role of Julius Caesar in the drama club's presentation of the eponymous play.

epopee

epyllion

n
/ eˈpɪlɪən /

Gk
a relatively short narrative poem resembling an epic in theme, tone, or style.

Is "Hiawatha" short enough to be considered an epyllion?

equanimity

n
/ ˌɛkwəˈnɪmədē /

L
evenness of mental disposition : emotional balance especially under stress.

The writer learned to accept with equanimity the rejections from publishers.

equation

equator

n
/ ˈɛˈkwādə(r) /

L
the great circle of the celestial sphere whose plane is perpendicular to the axis of Earth.
Spring begins when the Sun moves north across the equator.

equatorial

adj
/ ˌɛkwəˈtɔːrɪəl /

L
of, at, or relating to the equator.
The length of the days and nights doesn't vary much in equatorial regions.

equestrienne

equilateral

equilibrist

n
/ ˌɛkwəˈlɪbrəst /

L > F
one who balances himself in unnatural positions and performs hazardous movements.
Of all the acts in the circus, Yancy liked the equilibrist best.

equilibrium

n
/ ˌɛkwəˈlɪbrēəm /

L
a state of dynamic balance attained in a reversible chemical reaction when the velocities in both directions are equal.

Marge injected a flask of colorless nitrogen dioxide with dinitrogen tetroxide, a brown gas, to illustrate chemical equilibrium: When equilibrium occurred, the gas in the flask stopped becoming browner.

equine

equinoctial

adj
/ ˌɛkwəˈnäkshəl /

L > F > E
relating to either of the two times each year when the Sun crosses the equator and day and night are everywhere of equal length.

Marge began making preparations for her annual spring equinoctial festival.

equinox

n
/ ˌɛkwəˈnäkʃ /

L > E
either of the two times each year when the Sun crosses the equator and day and night are everywhere of equal length, being about March 21st and September 23rd.

Legend has it that you can balance an egg on its end only during the equinox.

equipage

equipment

equipped

equitable

equity

n
/ 'ekwədə /

L
the money value of a property or of an interest in a property in excess of claims or liens (as mortgaged indebtedness) against it.
During the three-year real estate boom, Jan's home equity went up 300%.

equivalent

adj
/ ə'kwiv(ə)lənt /

L
corresponding or virtually identical especially in effect or function.
Butter and margarine are equivalent in most recipes.

eradicable

eradicate

v
/ ə'radəkāt /

L
[has homonym with opposite meaning: irradiate] do away with : destroy completely.
Many wheat farmers use aerial sprays to eradicate weeds, diseases, and insect pests from their fields.

erasure

eremology

n
/ .erə'mäləjē /

Gk + Gk
a science concerned with the desert and its phenomena.
Professor Heath's research on desert flora was hailed as a significant contribution to eremology.

ergot

n
/ 'ərgət /

F
a fungal disease of rye and other cereals.
An outbreak of ergot destroyed Mr. Kern's crop.

ermine

n
/ 'ərmən /
Gmc > F > E

any of several weasels that assume white winter fur usually with more or less black on the tail.
Despite the outcry of animal activists, the fine fur of the ermine is still used for ornamentation of some designer clothing.

errancy

errand

erroneous

ersatz

adj
/ 'er.zäts /

G
substitute, synthetic : simulated.
Because copper was needed for armaments, pennies were made with an ersatz material during World War II.

erubescant

adj
/ .er(y)ə'bes'nt /

L
becoming red : reddening.
Eufemia's erubescant complexion made her embarrassment obvious.

erudite

adj
/ 'eryədīt /

L > E
characterized by a love of knowledge for its own sake : devoted to the pursuit of learning.
The speaker's presentation was a compilation of research that would interest only the most erudite scholars in his field.

erumpent

escalator

escamotage

n
/ eskāmõtáázh /
F

juggling, hand trickery.
The street magician accompanied his deft escamotage with jokes and a distracting patter.

escargot

n
/ eskárgō /

OProv > F
a snail prepared for use as food.
Saul fished the escargot out of its shell with a tiny fork and popped it into his mouth.

eschew

esconson

escritoire

n
/ 'eskrə'twär /

L > F
a piece of furniture resembling a bureau and providing a writing surface or desk area behind a hinged front that drops down.
Jennifer bought a valuable 18th-century escritoire at Sotheby's.

escrow

esoteric

adj
/ .esə'terik /

Gk
difficult to understand.
Phil found the article on metaphysics too esoteric.

espadrille

n
/ 'espə.dril /

L > Prov > F
a flat sandal having a fabric upper and a flexible often rope sole.
Marsha put on her other espadrille and headed for the beach.

espalier

especially

espionage

n
/ 'espēənāzh /
F

the practice of spying or using spies to obtain information about the plans and activities especially of a foreign government or a competing company.

After discovering that Mr. Carmichael had sold company trade secrets to a competitor, his employer charged him with industrial espionage.

esplanade

n
/ 'esplənād /
L > It > F

a level open stretch of paved or grassy ground; especially : one designed for walking or driving and often providing a vista (as over water).

Carole decided to go for a stroll on the esplanade before dinner.

espresso

essence

n
/ 'es^ən(t)s /
L

an extract (as from fruit) used as flavoring in cooking.

Tatiana could taste the pomegranate essence in the cake's frosting.

esteem

estimable

adj
/ 'estəməbəl /
L

worthy of esteem or respect.

The statesman had a tarnished youth but is now, in many ways, an estimable figure.

estrepement

n
/ ə'strēpmənt /
F > AF

waste or needless destruction of lands; especially : damage wrought by a tenant for life.

The tenant's estrepement of the farm had made the land almost useless.

estuarine

estuary

n
/ 'es(h)chəwerē /
L

a water passage where the tide meets the current of a stream.

Small boats were warned not to travel the estuary without aid.

esurient

adj
/ ə'sürēənt /
L

having a huge appetite : greedy.

Which one of you esurient fellows ordered the extra-large pizza?

ethnic

ethos

etiolation

n
/ ēdēə'lāshən /
F

the yellowing or whitening of a green plant through lack of sunlight.

Rhonda uses a special lamp on her houseplants to prevent etiolation.

etiquette

n
/ 'edəkāt /
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
/ .yükä'liptəs /
Gk

a tree or shrub native to western Australia.

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

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.

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

/ yü'förik /

Gk

characterized by a feeling of well-being or elation.

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

eurytherm

n

/ 'yürəthärm /

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

/ 'yü.taksē /

Gk

good order or management.

Rose's Christmas decoration routine was an example of the eutaxy she practiced constantly.

euthanasia

evaluate

v

/ ə'valyə.wāt /

L > F > E

examine and judge concerning the worth, quality, significance, amount, degree, or condition of.

The company sent Chris to evaluate the project's potential for profit.

evanescent

adj

/ evə'nes⁰n(t) /

L

of short life or duration : fleeting.

The joy and moral stimulation of work is often forgotten in the mad chase of evanescent profits.

evaporable

evidentiary

adj

/ evə'dench(ə)rē /

L + Ecf

being, relating to, or affording evidence.

Because he is not an expert in forensics, Harvey's opinion has no evidentiary value.

evincible

eviscerate

v

/ ə'visə.rāt /

L

take out the entrails of :

disembowel, gut.

The chef showed his apprentice how to eviscerate a fish.

eviternity

exacerbate

v

/ ig'zasə(r)bāt /

L

make more violent or bitter :

intensify the bad qualities of.

Cindy learned how name-calling could exacerbate an already violent argument.

exaggerate

v

/ ig'zajə.rāt /

L

misrepresent on the side of largeness (as of size, extent, or value) : overstate the truth.

Like any fisherman, Tio tends to exaggerate the size of his catches.

example

exanimate

exaration

excelsior

excerpta

exchequer

exclamation

n

/ ɛksklə'māshən /

L

vehement expression (as of protest, reproach, or complaint).

Trudy gave a loud exclamation as the plane took off without her.

exclamatorily

excoriate

v

/ ɛk'skōrē.āt /

L

censure scathingly.

Mr. Dent proceeded to excoriate

Ellen in front of the entire pep squad.

excoriate

exculpate

v

/ 'ɛk(ɪ)skəl.pāt /

L

clear from alleged fault or guilt.

Greg is positive that the honor council will exculpate him after a thorough investigation.

excursion

exedent

exemplary

adj

/ ig'zemplərē /

L

deserving imitation : commendable.

Hubert was praised for his exemplary conduct.

exercise

exhibit

exhilarate

exhortation

exigency

exiguous

adj
/ eg'zīgəwəs /
L

scanty in amount : meager, narrow.
Fran's father disapproves of her plan to use her exiguous savings for the down payment on a motorcycle.

existential

exonerate

v
/ ig'zänə.rāt /
L

clear from accusation or blame.
DNA analysis has the potential either to exonerate suspects or to place them at the scene of the crime.

exonerated

exoneration

exorbitant

adj
/ ig'zò(r)bədənt /
L > F > E
excessive.

The ferryman charged an exorbitant rate to carry people across the strait.

exoskeleton

n
/ eksə'skelət'n /
Gk + Gk > L

an external supportive or protective structure or framework of an insect.
An exoskeleton provides protection for an insect, much like a suit of armor.

exotic

adj
/ ig'zädik /
Gk

from another country : not native to the place where found.
Little did Polly know that the exotic bird she bought had been illegally smuggled into the country.

expatiate

v
/ ek'spāshē.āt /
L

speak or write at length or in considerable detail.
The mighty bulk of the whale affords a congenial theme whereon to enlarge, amplify, and expatiate.

expatriate

expectorant

expeditious
adj
/ ekspəd'ishəs /
L

acting with promptness or efficiency : speedy.
Mrs. Elton boasted that her horses were extremely expeditious and that her carriage probably drove faster than anyone else's.

expensive

adj
/ ik'spen(t)siv /
L
characterized by high price or cost.
The concert tickets were expensive, but the event sold out a month before the performance date.

expiate

v
/ 'ekspē.āt /
L
extinguish the guilt incurred by : make conciliation for.
Buddhist doctrine holds that one must expiate the sins committed in past lives.

expostulate

v
/ ik'späsçə.lāt /
L
reason earnestly with a person for purposes of dissuasion or remonstrance.
Nelson takes every opportunity to expostulate about politics with strangers on the subway.

expunge

v
/ ik'spənj /
L + L
strike out, obliterate, or mark for deletion (as a word, line, or sentence).
Jeff agreed to expunge the word stupid from his book report.

exquisite

exsculptate

exsiccate
v
/ 'eksəkāt /
L + L
drive moisture from (as by the action of heat).
Sara wants to exsiccate the plums she picked to see if they will really turn into prunes.

exsuccous

adj
/ ek(s)'səkəs /
L + L
devoid of all juices or sap : dried up.
The exsuccous orange in Tamra's locker must have been left there months ago.

exsufflation

extemporaneous

adj
/ ek.stempə'rānēəs /
L
composed, performed, or uttered on or as if on the spur of the moment.
Suzi gave an extemporaneous talk about bonsai at the craft club meeting.

extempore

extensive

extinct

adj
/ ik'stɪŋ(k)t /
L > E
no longer living : deceased, dead.
Latin is an extinct language.

extirpate

v
/ 'ekstə(r)pāt /
L
pull up or out by or as if by the roots or stem.
Fay made it her mission to extirpate every weed in the lawn.

extract

extraneous

adj
/ ek'strānēəs /
L
existing or originating outside or beyond.
Leona didn't let extraneous noises bother her while she was studying.

extraordinary

extraterrestrial

adj
/ ekstrə'tə'restrēəl /
L
originating or existing outside Earth or its atmosphere.
The shiny rock appeared to Zelda to be extraterrestrial.

extravaganza

n
/ ik.stravə'ganzə /
L > It
a lavish or spectacular show or event.
The Mardi Gras extravaganza in New Orleans has several carnival-like parades.

extravasate

v
/ ik'stravəsāt /
L
pour out or erupt.
When extreme heat and pressure build within a volcano, molten lava may extravasate into the air.

extricate

v
/ 'ekstrə,kāt /
L
pull out.
When the whistle blew, Jason tried to extricate himself from the bottom of the pile of players.

exuberance

fabled

fabricate

facade

facetiousness

n
/ fə,sēshē'āsədə /
L + Ecf
the quality or state of being jocular in an often clumsy or inappropriate way.
Mrs. Foster did not appreciate Barney's facetiousness during her history class.

facetious

facial

facile

adj
/ 'fasəl /
L
easily accomplished or attained.
Sarpedon's facile backgammon victory over his sister made him suspicious of her intent.

facilely

adv
/ 'fasəl(l)ē /
L + Ecf
in an easy manner : with ease or assurance.
Andy sat down at the piano and played facilely through a book of show tunes.

facilitate

facilitator

n
/ fə'silə,tād(ə)r /
L + Ecff
one that makes something easier or less difficult.
As a teacher, Mr. Logan considers himself a facilitator of learning rather than a dispenser of information.

faconne

facsimile

n
/ fak'siməlē /
L
an exact and detailed copy.
Jared bought a facsimile of Noah Webster's 1828 dictionary.

factitious

factotum

n
/ fak'tōdəm /
L
a person having many diverse activities or responsibilities : a general servant.
Mrs. Alexander has so many responsibilities not related to instruction that she feels more like a factotum than a teacher.

facula

n
/ 'fakyələ /
L
any of the bright regions of the Sun's photosphere seen most easily near the Sun's edge and occurring most frequently in proximity to sunspots.
Seymour tracked the Sun's rotation by charting the position of a facula.

facultative

faddist

Fahrenheit

adj
/ 'farən,hīt /
G name
relating or conforming to a thermometric scale on which under standard atmospheric pressure the boiling point of water is at 212 degrees and the freezing point at 32 degrees.
Nathan knew it was hot outside, but he was astonished to learn that the temperature was 100 degrees Fahrenheit.

faillie

faineant

adj
/ 'fānēənt /
F

idle and ineffectual.
Lack of purpose can contribute to a faineant life.

faint

falbala

falcate

adj
/ 'falkāt /
L

hooked or curved like a sickle—
used also of the Moon or an
inferior planet when less than half
its disk is illuminated.
*The Moon's falcate form loomed
above the horizon.*

falcon

faldstool

fallacious

fallibility

n
/ 'falə'bilədē /
L

liability or proneness to err.
*The executive pardon can be seen
as a recognition of the fallibility of
our system of justice.*

falsetto

n
/ fōl'sed(,)ō /
L > It

an artificially high voice.
*Dad draped a mop over his head
and sang "Mary Had a Little
Lamb" in falsetto.*

falsify

famish

v
/ 'famish /
E

deprive of food : starve.
*The war will famish many people
trapped in the besieged city.*

fanaticism

n
/ fə'nadəsizəm /
L + Ecf

excessive enthusiasm and intense
uncritical devotion usually toward
some controversial matter (as
religion, politics, or philosophy).
*Throughout history, political
fanaticism has led to many violent
wars.*

fanchonette

n
/ 'fanchə'net /
F

an open tart covered with meringue
or sometimes whipped cream.
*Randy ordered a lemon fanchonette
for dessert.*

fandango

n
/ fan'daŋ(,)gō /
Pg? > Sp

a lively Spanish dance usually
performed by a man and woman
with castanets and in triple time.
*Craig and Ursula danced a
fandango in the high school talent
competition.*

fanfaronade

fantasize

v
/ 'fantəsiz /
Gk > L > F > E + Ecf

create or develop imaginative and
often fantastic views, ideas, or
explanations.
*After Calvin was elected to the
student council, all he ever did was
fantasize about becoming president
of the United States.*

fantoccini

n pl
/ .fäntə'chēnē /
L > It

puppets moved by strings or
mechanical devices.
*So many spectators stopped to
watch the fantoccini that the puppet
shows had to be moved to one of
the park's larger amphitheaters.*

farcical

adj
/ 'färsəkəl /
L

receiving or meriting laughter or
amused scorn as utterly without
claim to serious consideration or as
laughably inept.
*Shakespeare employs farcical
characters in many of his plays to
provide comic relief.*

farcically

farewell

farinaceous

adj
/ 'färə'nāshəs /
L

containing or rich in starch.
*Common farinaceous foods include
bread and pasta.*

faro

farouche

adj
/ fə'rüsh /
L > F

lacking social graces and
experience : marked by shyness
and lack of polish.
*As a teenager, Inez was rather
farouche, hesitant to make eye
contact with strangers.*

farraginous

farrago

n
/ fə'rä(,)gō /
L

a confused, disordered, or irrational
assemblage (as of words or ideas).
*The candidate's concession speech
was a rambling farrago that
underscored his instability.*

farthingale

n
/ 'fɑ:θɪŋ.gəl /
L > Sp > F

a support worn especially in the 16th century beneath a skirt to swell out and extend it at the hip line.

No lady-in-waiting at the court of Queen Elizabeth I would have been seen in public without a farthingale.

fascinate

fascine

fascism

n
/ 'fɑ:ʃɪzəm /
L

any program for setting up a centralized autocratic national regime with severely nationalistic policies exercising rigid censorship and forcible suppression of opposition.

Given the current regime's fascism, a coup was inevitable.

fashion

fastidious

fastish

adj
/ 'fɑ:ʃɪʃ /
E

rather speedy.

Jane's mutt was a fastish runner despite its injured leg.

fathom

n
/ 'fɑ:θəm /
E

a unit of length equal to 6 feet based on the distance between fingertips of a man's outstretched arms and used especially for measuring the depth of water.

The fathom, once standard on British admiralty charts, has been replaced by the meter.

fatigue

n
/ fə'teɪg /
F

weariness from work or exertion.

Fatigue results from doing too much too fast.

fatuous

adj
/ 'fætəwəs /
L

marked by want of intelligence and rational consideration.

Lenny characterized Nestor's attempts to build a perpetual motion machine as fatuous.

faucet

faveolate

adj
/ fə'veələt /
L

honeycombed.

The tiny chapel had a faveolate ceiling.

fealty

n
/ 'fē(ə)ltē /
L > F > E

faithfulness, allegiance.

One by one, the nobles knelt before the queen and swore fealty to the crown.

feasible

adj
/ 'fi:zəbəl /
L > F > E

capable of being done, executed, or effected.

Because our Constitution is simple and practical, it is feasible to meet extraordinary needs by making changes without loss of essential form.

feature

febrifugal

adj
/ fə'brif(y)əgəl /
L

mitigating or removing fever.

Aspirin is well known for its analgesic and febrifugal properties.

febrility

n
/ fə'brilədē /
L

feverishness.

As her febrility increased, the patient became delirious.

feckless

adj
/ 'fek.ləs /
E

impractical and shiftless.

Mort was worried that his long periods of unemployment would make him look feckless when he applied for a job.

fecund

adj
/ 'fekənd /
L

marked by noteworthy intellectual productivity and inventiveness.

The Renaissance was a fecund era for the arts.

federal

fedora

n
/ fə'dōrə /
F name

a soft felt hat with a low crown creased lengthwise and with or without a high roll on the side brim.

Brent stepped into the spotlight and pulled his fedora low over one eye.

feign

feigned

feigning

v
/ fāniŋ /
L > F > E

simulating falsely.

Darla wondered if her mother was feigning good feelings about her decision to marry Edgar.

feint

v
/ 'fānt /
F

make a pretense of.
George broke his hand when he attempted to feint a punch at the wall but overshot his target.

felicific

felicitous

adj
/ fə'lisədəs /
L

marked by general happiness or good fortune.
All of Rob's college roommates showed up for the felicitous occasion of his wedding.

felicity

n
/ fə'lisədə /
L

the quality or state of being happy.
Liberty from British rule became more and more necessary for the felicity of the American colonists.

feliform

adj
/ 'fēləfōrm /
L + Lcf > Ecf
resembling a cat.

Eric found a feliform stone in a cave.

felonious

felsenmeer

n
/ 'fɛlzən.me(ə)r /
G

an assemblage of rock fragments completely mantling the surface and commonly present in mountainous regions.
Our guide showed us a field of felsenmeer formed from underlying bedrock by the action produced by frost.

feminine

adj
/ 'femənən /
L

female.
The feminine characters were played by men and the masculine characters were played by women in Cornell Theatre's production of King Lear.

femoral

adj
/ 'femərəl /
L

[has homonym: femerell] of, relating to, or located near the thigh.
The femoral artery supplies blood to the abdomen and lower extremities.

fenestrated

adj
/ 'fenəstrədəd /
L

provided with or characterized by windows.
Symmetrically fenestrated buildings characterize Georgian architecture.

fenestration

fennel

n
/ 'fenəl /
L > E

a perennial European herb introduced to North America and cultivated for the aromatic flavor of its seeds.
Celene often flavors her vegetables with curry powder and fennel.

feracious

adj
/ fə'rāshəs /
L

producing abundantly : prolific.
Sylvia decided to can some of the tomatoes from her extraordinarily feracious plants.

feral

adj
/ 'ferəl /
L

lacking a human personality due to being reared in isolation from all or nearly all human contacts.
The television executive rejected the idea of another series about a feral child trying to adjust to modern culture.

fermata

n
/ fer'mädə /
L > It

a prolongation at the discretion of the performer of a musical note, chord, or rest beyond its given time value.
To the conductor's consternation, Dean exaggerated each fermata.

fermeture

ferocious

ferraiolone

ferrous

ferrule

n
/ 'ferəl /
L > F > E

[has homonym: feral] a band or cap usually of metal enclosing the end of a cane, tool handle, table leg, or similar object to strengthen it or prevent splitting and wearing.
Both the knob and the ferrule of Mr. Benson's walking stick were made of finely engraved silver.

ferruminate

v
/ fə'rümənāt /
L

join together (as metals) : solder.
Fortunately, Tom's dad was able to ferruminate the broken parts of the metal toy.

fervorous

adj
/ 'fərv(ə)rəs /
L

full of intensity of feeling or expression.

The crowd couldn't help but be swayed by Greg's fervorous speech.

fescue

festoon

feud

n
/ 'fyüd /
Gmc > F > E

a relationship of aggressive hostility : quarrel.

A feud over the property boundaries developed between the two families.

fianchetto

v
/ fēən'ched(.)ō /
F + It

move (a bishop) in a chess game to the position Knight 2.

The analysts correctly predicted that Evangeline would fianchetto her bishop.

fiasco

n
/ fē'a(.)skō /
Gmc > It

an utter and often ridiculous failure especially of an ambitious or pretentious undertaking.

The attempt to distribute campaign leaflets by air turned into a fiasco when the wind changed direction.

fibrillar

fibrositis

fibrous

adj
/ 'fibrəs /
L

containing, consisting of, or like fibers.

The fibrous content of fruits and vegetables is beneficial to the digestive system.

fichu

fictile

fiction

fictitious

fideism

fiduciary

adj
/ fē'd(y)üşhē.erē /
L

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

Zoe acted in a fiduciary capacity during the lease negotiations.

fiendish

fierce

fiery

adj
/ 'fi(ə)rē /
E

of the color of fire : red.

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

filament

n
/ 'filəmənt /
L > F

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

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

filasse

n
/ fē'las /
L > F

a vegetable fiber prepared for manufacture.

At the mill, sisal plants are processed into filasse.

filial

adj
/ 'filēəl /
L

befitting a child in relation to his or her parents.

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

filibuster

n
/ 'filəbəstə(r) /
F > Sp

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

The Senate effectively killed the bill with a filibuster.

filoselle

finance

financier

n
/ .finən'si(ə)r /
F

a large-scale investor.

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

finesse

fingert

finger

finite

adj
/ 'fi.nit /
L > E

having clear limits.

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

firkin

n
/ 'fɜrkən /
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
/ 'fɜrməmənt /
L > E

the vault or arch of the sky : heavens.
Carmen looked to the firmament for a sign, but none was forthcoming.

firnification

n
/ .fɜrnəfə'kɑʃən /
G + L > E

the process whereby snow becomes partially compacted and forms the surface part of the upper end of a glacier.
Solid ice is the end product of firnification.

fiscal

adj
/ 'fɪskəl /
F > Sp

of or relating to financial matters.
Several of the president's advisors on fiscal policy are participating in the symposium.

fissile

adj
/ 'fɪsəl /
L

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

fission

fissiparous

adj
/ fɪ'sɪpərəs /
L + L

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

fissure

n
/ 'fɪʃə(r) /
L

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

fisticuffs

n pl
/ 'fɪstəkʌfs /
E + E

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

flageolet

flagitious

flagitiously
adv
/ flə'ʃɪʃəsli /
L > E

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

flagon

n
/ 'flægən /
Gmc? > L > F > E

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

flail

flambeau

n
/ 'flɑm.bə /
F

a flaming torch usually made by combining thick wicks saturated with a quick-burning substance (as pitch).
A procession of skiers zigzagged down the slope, each of them bearing a flambeau.

flamboyantly

adv
/ flɑm'bɔi(y)əntlē /
F

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

flamenco

n
/ flə'men(,)kō /
D > Sp

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

flamingo

n
/ flə'mɪŋ(,)gō /
L > OProv > Sp > Pg

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

flammable

adj
/ 'flɑməbəl /
L

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

flammeous

adj
/ 'flamēəs /
L

consisting of or resembling the color of flame.

Flammeous maple leaves carpeted the lawn of the inn.

flammiferous

adj
/ fla'mif(ə)rəs /
L + Ecf

producing flame or bright with flame.

The flammiferous volcano was an awesome spectacle to behold.

flaneur

flange

n
/ 'flanj /
F? > E

a rim or edge projecting at right angles to provide a means of attachment to another part.

The plumber pointed out a chipped flange that had caused the leak.

flannel

adj
/ 'flanəl /
W > E

a napped cotton fabric of soft yarns.

The sleeves of his plaid flannel shirt were rolled back to the elbow.

flannelette

flautino

n
/ flau'tē(,)nō /
It

a small flute : piccolo.

Harriet plays many wind instruments, but she especially enjoys playing flautino in a baroque music group.

flaxen

fleabane

n
/ 'flē.bān /
E + E

any of various plants of the family Compositae that are supposed to drive away fleas.

A young rabbit was hidden under a clump of fleabane.

fleeciness

flexibility

flexuosity

flibbertigibbet

n
/ 'flibə(r)dē.jibət /
E

a light-minded or silly restless person.

Mrs. French proved far less of a flibbertigibbet than the world took her to be.

flimflammer

flippant

adj
/ 'flipənt /
imit? + Ecf

treating or tending to treat with unsuitable levity that which is serious or to which respect is due.

The principal chastised Clyde and his friends for their flippant behavior during the memorial service.

flocculent

flokati

n
/ flō'kätē /
Gk

a hand-woven Greek wool rug with a thick shaggy pile.

Katina loves to hear the story of how her grandparents came to the United States with all their possessions wrapped in one flokati.

floppy

adj
/ 'fläpədē /
E imit

soft and flexible.

Moira purchased her floppy straw hat during a visit to Key West.

florid

adj
/ 'flöräd /
L

[has near homonym: fluoride]

flushed or tinged with red : ruddy.

Marsha's face was florid when she finished her five-mile run.

floriferous

adj
/ flō'rif(ə)rəs /
L + Ecf

bearing flowers; especially : blooming freely.

Begonias are floriferous even in the shade.

florilegium

n
/ flōrə'lējēəm /
L

a volume or collection of brief extracts or writings : anthology.

Frank pulled a tattered florilegium from the shelf.

floruit

flotilla

n
/ flō'tilə /
ON > F > Sp

a small fleet or a fleet of small watercraft.

The Boy Scouts launched a flotilla of toy sailboats across the lake.

flotsam

n
/ 'flätsəm /
F > AF

wreckage of a ship or its cargo found floating on the sea.

Flotsam is part of wreckage, whereas jetsam has been deliberately cast overboard.

flourish

fluctuant

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

flue

flummery

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

fluorescent

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

fluoridation

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

fluorocarbon

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

fluvial

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

fluxion

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

fogginess

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

foible

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

foist

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

foliaceous

foliage

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

foliiform

adj
/ 'fɔlēə'fɔrm /
F
having the shape of a leaf.
In October, Rhoda and Lamar decorated the classroom windows with foliiform cutouts.

folliculitis

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

folliculose

fontinal

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

foraminate

adj
/ fə'ramənāt /
L
perforated.
Sid examined the foraminate leaf under a microscope.

foray

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

forbearance

forceps

foreclosable

foreignness

forensic

forensics

n pl
/ fə'ren(t)siks /
L

the art or study of argumentative discourse.

Tara's performance in her class in forensics practically guaranteed her a spot on the debate club team.

foreordain

forestallment

forfeit

v
/ 'fɔrfæt /
L > F > E

lose or lose the right to by some error, fault, offense, or crime.
Individuals who are convicted of a felony forfeit their right to vote.

forfeiture

forgeable

forgotten

formaldehyde

n
/ fɔrm'aldə,hīd /
L + Ar > Sp > L + L + Gk

an aqueous solution that is used chiefly as a disinfectant and preservative.

The medical laboratory contained specimens preserved in formaldehyde.

formicary

n
/ 'fɔrmə,kerē /
L

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

formicivorous

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

formidable

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

forsooth

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

forsythia

n
/ fə(r)'sithēə /
Brit name
any plant of a small genus of ornamental shrubs that have bright yellow flowers which appear before the leaves in early spring.
The gardener planted forsythia along the entire outer edge of the yard.

fortemente

fortieth

fortitude

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

fortuitous

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

fossil

fossilize

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

fossorial

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

foudroyant

fougasse

foul

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

foulard

foundation

f foundry

n
/ 'faʊndrē /
F

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

fracas

fraction

fragile

fragrant

frailty

franchise

franchisee

n
/ ,franchī'zē /
L > F + Ecf

one who is granted a right to operate a unit in a chain of business establishments.
The franchisee agreed to pay the franchisor an initial fee and a percentage of gross sales.

frangible

adj
/ 'franʒəbəl /
L

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

frankincense

n
/ 'fræŋkən.sen(t)s /
E

a gum resin containing volatile oil.
Aunt Ruby likes to burn frankincense at Christmastime.

fraternal

fraud

n
/ 'frɒd /
L > F > E

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

fraudulent

adj
/ 'frɔjələnt /
L

characterized by or based on trickery or deceit especially when involving misrepresentation.
The manufacturer was charged with fraudulent advertising.

fraught

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

freckles

freight

fremitus

frenetically

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

frescade

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

fresco

n
/ 'fres.kō /
Gmc > It

the art of painting on freshly spread moist lime plaster with pigments suspended in a water vehicle.
Fresco is a demanding technique because the image cannot be changed after the plaster dries.

Freudian

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

friable

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

fricassee

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

friend

friendliness

frieze

frigorific

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

frisson

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

frittata

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

frivolity

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

frivolous

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

frolic

frolicking

frolicsome

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

frondeur

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

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
/ 'frän.tän /
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
/ 'frü.gəl /
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'sedəm /
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

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.

fulsome

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

fulvous

adj
/ 'fʊlvəs /
L

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

fumigate

funambulist

n
/ fyū'nambyələst /
L

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

fungicide

n
/ 'fənjəsīd /
L

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

furfuraceous

adj
/ :fərf(y)ə'rāshəs /
L

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

furibund

furlough

n
/ 'fə(r.)lɔ /
D

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

furniture

fuselage

n
/ 'fyūsəlāzh /
F

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

fusillade

n
/ 'fyūsəlād /
F

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

gabbro

n
/ 'ga(,)brō /
L? > It

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

gadabout

gadgeteer

gainsay

v
/ 'gānsā /
E

speak against : contradict.
The ruling of the umpire allowed no one to gainsay his decision.

gait

gaiter

galactic
adj
/ gə'laktik /
Gk > L

extremely great : huge.
Ralph was overwhelmed by the store's galactic profusion of merchandise.

galaxy

galette

gallantry

galleon

n
/ 'galēən /
F > Sp

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

gallery

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

gallimaufry

n
/ ,galə'mɔfrē /
F

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

galling

gallipot

gallop

galloping

adj
/ 'galəpiŋ /
F

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

gallyware

galore

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

gambado

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

gambit

gamble

gambol

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

gamopetalous

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

gamut

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

ganglion

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

gangrene

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

garage

gardenesque

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

garderobe

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

gargantuan

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

garish

garlion

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

garnishee

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

garrison

garrulous

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

gasconade

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

gaseous

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

gasification

gastric

gastriloquist

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

gastronomical

gastronomy

n
/ ga'stränəmə /
Gk > F
the art or science of good eating : epicurism.
Chef Bernie specializes in French gastronomy.

gauche

adj
/ 'gōsh /
Gmc > F
lacking in social graces or ease, tact, and familiarity with polite usage.
Gertrude was embarrassed by her cousin's gauche behavior at the christening.

gaucherie

n
/ 'gōshə.rē /
Gmc > F
a tactless or awkward action; often : a bit of social or literary crudity.
Daphne's mom told her that using one's dinner napkin as a handkerchief is an unforgivable gaucherie.

gaufrette

n
/ gō'fret /
F
a wafer of crisply fried potato cut to resemble a small waffle.
At the summer festival the French restaurant featured gaufrette.

gauleiter

n
/ 'gaulīdə(r) /
G
a political functionary occupying a subordinate but important position in a totalitarian regime.
The memoirs of the gauleiter contained little of historical importance.

gauze

gazelle

n
/ gə'zel /
Ar > F
any of numerous small graceful and swift African and Asian antelopes noted for the luster and soft expression of their eyes.
The fawn and white coloration of the gazelle serves to minimize detection by predators.

gazetteer

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

gazpacho

n
/ gá'spá(,)chō /
Sp
a soup made of uncooked chopped tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers, onion, garlic with vinegar, oil, and condiments, and served cold.
The restaurant was famous for its gazpacho.

gelatigenous

gelatinous

adj
/ jə'lat'nəs /
L > It > F + Ecf
resembling gelatin or jelly especially in appearance and consistency.
Troy stepped on a gelatinous mass of frog eggs.

gendarme

n
/ 'zhändärm /
F
a continental European police officer; especially : a French police officer.
The gendarme asked the victim for a description of the mugger.

genealogy

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

generalissimo

generosity

genesis

genethliacal

geniohyoid

genitive

genocide

n
/ 'jenəsīd /
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(°)nrə /
L > F
a category of artistic composition characterized by a particular style, form, or content.
Most of the director's work has been in the genre of science fiction.

gentian

gentilial

adj

/ ˌjɛntəˈlɪʃəl /

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

/ ˌjɛnyəˈflɛkt /

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

/ ˌjɛˈɑkrənē /

Gk

a system of time divisions used in geology.

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

geodesy

n

/ ˌjɛˈɑdəsē /

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

/ ˌjɛˈɑgnəsē /

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.

geometric

geosyncline

n

/ ˌjɛ(ˌ)ɔˈsɪnklɪn /

Gk

a great downward flexure of Earth's crust.

A deep layer of sediment has accumulated in the geosyncline.

geranium

n

/ ˌjɛˈrɑnēəm /

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

/ ˌjɛrēˈɑtrɪks /

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

/ ˌjɛ(r)ˈmɑn /

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

/ ˌjɛrməsɪd /

L > F

an agent that destroys germs (as disease germs).

Mouthwash is a common germicide.

gerontocracy

gerrymander

v

/ ˌjɛrēˈmɑndə(r) /

American name + Gk > L

divide (an area) into political units so as to give special advantages to one group.

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

gerund

n

/ ˌjɛrənd /

L

the English verbal noun ending in -ing.

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

gestapo

n

/ ɡəˈstɑ(ˌ)pō /

G acronym

a secret-police organization that operates especially against persons suspected of treason or sedition and employs means held to be underhanded and terrorist.

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

gesticulate

v

/ ˌjɛˈstɪkjəˌlɑt /

L

make gestures or motions of the body or limbs especially when speaking.

The way public figures gesticulate while talking is often fodder for comedians.

gesture

n

/ ˌjɛs(h)chə(r) /

L

a movement usually of the body or limbs that symbolizes or emphasizes an idea, sentiment, or attitude.

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

gesundheit

interj
/ gə'zunt.hīt /
G

—used to wish good health especially to one who has just sneezed.

“Gesundheit” echoed throughout the school when Mr. Brown sneezed during an intercom announcement.

ghastliness

ghastly

adj
/ 'gastlē /
E

giving rise to terror : frightening.
The gnarled trees appeared ghastly in the moonlight.

ghetto

ghoul

giallolino

gibberish

gibbous

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

gigantesque

gigantic

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

gimmick

gimmicky

adj
/ 'giməkē /
unknown + Ecf
having or being like a new and ingenious device, scheme, or idea with a novel or unconventional twist.
The advertisement displayed gimmicky gizmos, such as a wristwatch that played Notre Dame's fight song.

gingham

n
/ 'gɪŋəm /
Malay
a fabric in plain weave made in solid colors, checks, plaids, and stripes.
Betsy made curtains of blue gingham for her kitchen.

gingivitis

n
/ ,jɪnjə'vɪdəs /
L
inflammation of the gums.
To prevent gingivitis Beth has her teeth cleaned regularly.

ginglymus

n
/ 'jɪŋgləməs /
Gk
a hinge joint admitting of motion in one plane only.
In health class Jerry learned that the humerus and the ulna are connected by a ginglymus.

giraffe

n
/ jə'raf /
Ar > It
a large fleet African ruminant mammal that is the tallest of living quadrupeds and has a very long neck and a short coat with dark blotches separated by pale lines.
Each giraffe has a unique pattern of coat markings that distinguishes it from all other giraffes.

girth

gizzard

n
/ 'gɪzə(r)d /
Iranian? > L > F > E
the muscular enlargement of the alimentary canal of birds that serves to grind the food, its muscular action being commonly assisted by gravel swallowed by the bird.
Aunt Lena's favorite part of the chicken is the gizzard.

glabrescent

glabrous

adj
/ 'glābrəs /
L
having an epidermal covering that is totally or relatively devoid of hairs or down.
Mr. Franklin showed the first graders that reptiles, unlike mammals, are completely glabrous.

glacial

adj
/ 'glāshəl /
L
extremely cold, frigid, freezing.
A glacial wind withered the roses overnight.

glaciology

gladiator

n
/ 'gladē.ādə(r) /
Celt > L
a person engaged in a fight to the death as public entertainment for ancient Romans.
The victorious gladiator was cheered by the excited crowd in the Coliseum.

glasphalt

glaucoma

n
/ glō'kōmā /
Gk > L

a disease of the eye marked by increased pressure within the eyeball that damages the optic disk and results in gradual loss of vision and ultimate blindness.

Ophthalmologists routinely test for glaucoma as part of their eye examinations.

glaucous

adj
/ 'glōkəs /
Gk

[has homonym: Glaucus] of a pale yellow green color.

The antique glass beads had a glaucous color that matched Pamela's dress exactly.

glazier

n
/ 'glāzhə(r) /
E

[has near homonyms: glacier, glazer] one whose work is cutting and setting glass.

Mom called a glazier who agreed to repair our broken window on Thursday.

glimpse

n
/ 'glim(p)s /
E

a brief fleeting look : a momentary or incomplete view.

From the taxi the passengers caught a glimpse of the Jefferson Memorial.

glioma

n
/ glī'ōmā /
Gk

a tumor arising from the tissue which supports the essential elements of nervous tissue.

An examination by our veterinarian revealed that the problems our dog was having were caused by a glioma.

glissade

v
/ glē'sād /
F

move along smoothly and effortlessly : glide.

Kris watched the skaters glissade over the frozen pond.

glissando

n
/ glē'sän(,)dō /
F + It

a rapid series of consecutive notes played on a piano, harp, or other similar instrument by sliding one or more fingers across adjacent keys or strings.

Joachim diligently practiced the glissando at the end of the first movement.

globule

glockenspiel

n
/ 'gläkən.s(h)pēl /
Celt > G

a percussion musical instrument consisting of a series of graduated metal bars tuned to the chromatic scale and played with two hammers.

The glockenspiel tinkled to life as its player joined in a rendition of Beethoven's "Ode to Joy."

glogg

n
/ 'glüg /
Sw

a Swedish hot punch made from a sweetened highly spiced mixture of wines, almonds, raisins, and usually orange peel.

Each evening a bowl of hot glogg awaited the returning skiers.

glomerulus

glossary

glottogonic

adj
/ ,glädō'gānik /
Gk

of or relating to the origin of language.

Three Russian linguists lectured on their glottogonic research.

gloxinia

n
/ gläk'sinēə /
G name

a greenhouse herb having large flowers with a turbinate calyx and irregular bell-shaped corolla; especially : a Brazilian herb that is the source of many horticultural varieties.

Charlena's gloxinia bears bright pink, trumpetlike flowers in early summer.

glucose

n
/ 'glü.kōs /
Gk > F

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

Glucose is formed from water and carbon dioxide by photosynthesis.

gluttonously

adv
/ 'glət(°)nəslē /
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
/ 'näkē /
Gmc? > It

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

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

gnome

gnomon

goalie

n
/ 'gōlē /
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
/ (i)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
/ (i)gōb'müsh /
F + L > F

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

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

goldenrod

n
/ 'gōldən.räd /
E + E

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

Many people are allergic to the goldenrod.

golem

n
/ 'gōləm /
Heb > Yiddish

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

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

gondola

gondolier

gonfalon

n
/ '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
/ 'gängə.rizəm /

Sp name

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

In his later years, the poet lapsed into gongorism.

goosander

gorgeous

adj
/ 'gōrjəs /
F > E

characterized by brilliance or magnificence of any kind.

The parade floats were gorgeous with their array of flowers.

gorget

n
/ 'gōrjət /
F

a specially colored patch on the throat.

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

gorgonize

v
/ 'gō(r)gə.nīz /

Gk name

stupefy, petrify.

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

gorilla

n
/ gə'rilə /
Gk > L

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

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

gory

gosling

n
/ 'gäzliŋ /
E

a young goose.

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

gossamer

n
/ 'gäsəmə(r) /
E

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

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

gossip

n
/ 'gäsəp /
E

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

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

gouge

n
/ 'gäu /
Celt > L > F > E

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

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

gourami

n
/ gū'rāmē /
Malay
any of several small brightly colored Asian fishes often kept in the tropical aquarium.
Jonathan bought a colorful gourami for his new aquarium.

gourd

gourmet

n
/ gū(ə)r'mā /
F
a connoisseur in eating and drinking.
At the market the gourmet chose his ingredients with the greatest of care.

governess

n
/ gəvə(r)nəs /
Gk > L > F > E
a woman entrusted with the care and supervision of a child or young person; especially : a female teacher employed in a private household.
Alice plans to enroll in a course that will enable her to be a certified governess.

gracile

gracility

n
/ gra'silədē /
L
the quality of being pleasing in movement.
David's youthful gracility was one of his chief assets as a dancer.

grackle

gradient

graffiti

grallatorial

adj
/ ,gralə'tōrēəl /
L
of or belonging to the wading birds.
The horned screamer is a South American grallatorial bird with a long projection on its forehead and a shrill cry.

grammar

n
/ 'gramə(r) /
Gk > L > F > E
a branch of linguistic study that deals with the classes of words, their means of indicating relation to each other, and their functions in the sentence as employed according to established usage.
Mrs. Cates makes sure that her students can define the eight parts of speech before she progresses to other aspects of grammar.

grammatically

gramophile

n
/ 'gramə'fīl /
Gk
a lover and protector of old phonograph records.
Earl became a real gramophile after inheriting his uncle's record collection.

grandeur

n
/ 'granjə(r) /
L > F
personal greatness characterized chiefly by dignity of character, largeness of spirit, or significant scope of accomplishment.
After Katherine Graham's death, many magazines ran feature articles describing her grandeur in the world of newspapers.

grandiloquence

n
/ gran'diləkwən(t)s /
L
the use of lofty words or phrases : bombast.
Professor Simon's grandiloquence failed to impress Robbie.

grandiose

adj
/ 'grandē.ōs /
L > It > F
impressive because of uncommon largeness, scope, effect, grandeur, or majesty.
Cleo didn't want to listen to all of Nicolette's grandiose ideas for the party.

granophyre

granule

graphospasm

grapnel

graticule

n
/ 'gradə'kyül /
L
the network of lines of latitude and longitude upon which a map is drawn.
Jeff plotted a graticule before he began to draw his map of the islands.

gratinate

v
/ 'grat'nāt /
F > Ecf
cook with a covering of buttered crumbs or grated cheese until a crust or crisp surface forms.
Mom decided to gratinate the macaroni for lunch.

gratuitous

gravel

graveolent

adj
/ grə'vēələnt /
L
having a rank smell.
Elaine quickly disposed of the rotten, graveolent egg.

gravitate

v
/ 'gravətāt /
L

move casually but inexorably as though under an external force.
Ellen tends to gravitate toward the shoe store in any mall.

greffier

n
/ 'grefē.ā /
L > F

registrar, recorder.
The office of the greffier is lined with ledgers.

gregarious

adj
/ grə'ga(a)rēəs /
L

marked by an instinctive or temperamental preference for a social rather than a solitary existence.
Because of their gregarious nature, dogs make good house pets.

grenadier

n
/ ,grenə'di(ə)r /
F

a soldier who carries and throws missiles consisting of a container fitted with a priming charge and a bursting charge and filled with a destructive agent (as gas, high explosive, incendiary chemicals).
The grenadier started the assault, followed immediately by the riflemen.

gressorial

adj
/ gre'sōrēəl /
L

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

grievance

grievous

adj
/ 'grēvəs /
F > E

causing, characterized by, or indicative of severe physical pain or suffering.
Jason screamed as if the scratch on his leg were a grievous wound.

grimace

n
/ 'griməs /
Gmc > F

a deliberate or involuntary distortion of the face expressive of some feeling (as contempt, disapprobation, complacency).
The camera caught Allie's grimace during the pep rally.

griot

n
/ 'grē(.)ō /
F

any of a class of musician-entertainers of West Africa whose performances include tribal histories and genealogies.
*While doing research for his book *Roots*, Alex Haley was stunned to meet a griot who was able to tell the story of how Haley's ancestors were captured by slavers and sent to America.*

grisaille

n
/ grə'zī /
F

painting in monochrome usually in shades of gray often as decoration to simulate sculptured relief.
The old manuscript contained a grisaille of a skeleton personifying death.

grissini

gristliness

n
/ 'gris(ə)lēnəs /
E

the quality or state of containing tough fiber or cartilage especially in table meats.
When Ruth noticed the gristliness of the beef, she decided to cut it up and cook it in a stew.

gristmill

grizzled

groceries

grocery

groggy

grosgrain

n
/ 'grō,grān /
F

a firm fabric in plain weave.
The ribbon in Alta's hair was made of grosgrain.

grotesque

grovel

v
/ 'grävəl /
ON > E

creep on the earth or with the face to the ground as one's natural gait or manner of locomotion.
Jacques let his pig grovel through the forest to find truffles.

gruel

n
/ 'grüəl /
Gmc > F > E

a liquid food made by boiling a cereal (as cornmeal, oatmeal, flour) in water or milk.
Isabella and her father had a nice basin of gruel together.

gruyere

guardian

n
/ 'gärdēən /
F > AF > E

one to whom a person or thing is committed for protection, security, or preservation.
Alcibiades' guardian was the famous statesman Pericles.

guava

n
/ 'gwävə /
L + Sp
the globular yellow fruit of a small shrubby tropical American tree.
A slice of guava topped off Rawonda's fruit salad.

gubernatorial

adj
/ ,gübə(r)nə'törēəl /
L + Ecf
of or relating to a governor or government.
The gubernatorial signature was required for the law to become effective.

guerdon

guernsey

n
/ 'gærnzē /
E geog name
an animal of the breed of fawn and white dairy cattle producing rich yellowish milk.
A lone guernsey grazed in the middle of the herd of black and white holsteins in Mr. Henley's pasture.

guess

v
/ 'ges /
Scand? > E
form an opinion or judgment of without knowledge.
Harvey decided to guess how much sugar to put in the pie.

guffaw

v
/ (,)gə'fə /
imit
laugh noisily or coarsely.
The comic hoped that the audience members would guffaw at his jokes, but they merely snickered.

guidon

n
/ 'gīdän /
OProv > F
a usually swallow-tailed flag borne by a military unit usually as a unit marker.
Leah was selected to carry the guidon in the ROTC parade.

guignolet

guile

guillemot

guilloche

n
/ gə'lōsh /
F name?
a pattern (as on metalwork) made by interlacing curved lines.
The dense guilloche on the iron gate prevented people from reaching through to turn the inside knob.

guillotine

n
/ 'gilə'tēn /
F name
a machine for beheading by means of a heavy ax or blade that slides down in vertical guides.
The guillotine was considered a merciful means of capital punishment when it was invented.

guipure

guitar

n
/ gə'tär /
Gk > Ar > Sp > F
[Note: Could be confused with catarrh.] a flat-bodied stringed instrument with a long fretted neck and usually six strings plucked with a pick or with the fingers.
Brett's parents bought him an acoustic guitar for his 15th birthday.

gullibility

n
/ ,gələ'bilədē /
E + Ecff
the quality or state of being easily deceived.
Gertrude's gullibility made her the object of many practical jokes.

gullible

gulosity

n
/ gyü'läsədē /
L
excessive appetite : greediness.
It would be much easier for Roslyn to lose weight if she could curb her gulosity.

gummiferous

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

gummosis

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

gumption

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

gurney

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

gustatory

adj
/ 'gʌstə.tɔːrē /
L + Ecf

of, relating to, affecting, or associated with the sense of taste.
Gaylord was hired as a food taster because of his highly refined gustatory skills.

guttural

adj
/ 'gʊdərəl /
L > F

being or belonging to a speech sound that is articulated in the throat.
Guttural consonants posed a problem for Emily in German class.

gutturalize

v
/ 'gʊdərəlɪz /
L + Ecf

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

gymkhana

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

gymnasium

gypsum

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

gyrate

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

gyrations

gyroscope

gyroscopic

haberdasher

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

habiliment

habiliments

n pl
/ hæ'bɪləmən(t)s /
F
clothing suited to or characteristic of a calling, occupation, or profession : garb, costume.
Burt dressed for the rodeo in the habiliments of a cowboy.

habilitate

habitat

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

habitual

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

hacienda

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

hackamore

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

hacked

hackneyed

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

haggard

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

hagiocracy

hagiography

haiku

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

halberdier

halcyon

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

halibut

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

halieutics

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

halitosis

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

hallucination

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

hallucinogen

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

halophyte

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

hamadryad

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

hamartia

n
/ .hä.mär'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
/ 'hā.māt /
L
hooked.
Elliott examined the hamate hairs on the insect's forelegs.

hammering

hammock

hamulus

handleable

hansom

n
/ 'han(t)səm /
E name
[has homonym: handsome] a light two-wheeled covered carriage with the driver's seat elevated behind and with the reins passed over the top.
Holmes and Watson jumped into a hansom and ordered the driver to follow discreetly the cab ahead.

haphazard

adj
/ hap'hazə(r)d /
ON > E + Ar > F > E
aimless, random.
The apartment's haphazard furniture arrangement made it look untidy.

haplology

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

happiness

harangue

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

harass

harbinger

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

hardiness

n
/ 'hɑrdənəs /

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

hare

n
/ 'ha(a)(ə)r /

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

haricot

n
/ 'harəkō /

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

Harlequin

adj
/ 'hɑrlək(w)ən /
E > F > It > F

a stock character in comedy and pantomime who appears variously as a clown and a magician and usually wears a mask and variegated tights and carries a wooden sword.
The children especially enjoyed the buffoonish antics of the Harlequin.

harmonica

harness

n
/ 'hɑrnəs /
ON > F > E

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

harpoon

harpsichord

n
/ 'hɑrpsəkōrd /
L > It

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

harridan

n
/ 'harədən /
F?

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

harrier

harrumph

v
/ hə'rəm(p)f /

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

hartal

n
/ hɑr'təl /
Hindi

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

hartebeest

n
/ 'hɑrdəbēst /
D > Afrikaans

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

hassock

n
/ 'hasək /

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

hatchet

hauberk

n
/ 'hò(,)bɜrk /
Gmc > F > E

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

haulage

n
/ 'hòlij /
Gmc > F > E

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

haunted

adj
/ 'hòntəd /
Gmc > F > E

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

hauteur

n
/ hò'tɜr /
F

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

haversack

havoc

n
/ 'havək /
Gmc > F > AF > E
wide and general damage or destruction.
The havoc created by the hurricane made the area look like a war zone.

hazardous

adj
/ 'hazə(r)dəs /
Ar > F > E
exposed or exposing one to danger or peril.
The mountain road has many hazardous curves.

headache

hearth

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

heathen

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

heather

n
/ 'hethə(r) /
E
a common evergreen low-growing shrubby plant that has racemes of tiny usually purplish pink flowers.
The true heather of Scotland is also called "ling" or "common heath."

hebdomad

n
/ 'hebdə.məd /
Gk
a group of seven.
Though some people think there is just a hebdomad of stars in the Pleiades, there are actually many more.

hebetate

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

hebetude

heckelphone

hectare

n
/ 'hek.ta(a)(ə)r /
Gk > F + L > F
a metric unit of area equal to 10,000 square meters.
The firefighters reported that more than a hectare of land was on fire.

hedgehog

n
/ 'hej.hög /
E
any of several Old World nocturnal spine-bearing mammals.
Prudence spotted a hedgehog in the strawberry patch.

hedgingly

hegemony

n
/ hə'jemənē /
Gk
preponderant influence or authority (as of a government or state) : leadership, dominance.
Nazi Germany attempted world hegemony and failed.

heifer

n
/ 'hefə(r) /
E
a young cow.
This year's blue-ribbon heifer belongs to Mrs. Cates.

heinous

heinousness

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

heiress

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

heirloom

heldentenor

helicon

helicopter

heliography

heliolatry

heliophobic

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

heliotrope

helium

helmeted

helotry

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

hemeralopia

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

hemisphere

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

hemophiliac

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

hemorrhage

hemorrhagic

hendiadys

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

henna

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

hennin

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

hepatitis

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

heptarchy

herbaceous

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

herbalist

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

herbarium

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

hercogamy

Herculean

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

hereditary

heresy

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

heretical

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

heritage

hermeneutics

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

hermetically

adv

/ hə(r)'medək(ə)lē /

Gk + Ecff

in a manner that prevents entry or change.

With its flowered wallpaper and quaint furniture, the old house looked as though it had been hermetically sealed sometime in the 1880s.

hermit

hermitage

n

/ 'hərmədij /

Gk + L > F

a secluded residence or private retreat.

Dave's father has always dreamed of living in the city during the week and escaping to some country hermitage on the weekends.

heroic

adj

/ hə'roik /

Gk > L

arising from, exhibiting, or suggestive of boldness, spirit, or daring.

The mountain climbers made a heroic effort to reach the peak.

heroine

n

/ 'herəwən /

Gk > L

[has homonym: heroin] the principal female character in a drama, novel, story, or narrative poem.

In the melodrama the spunky heroine took the law into her own hands and brought down the villain.

herpetology

n

/ .hərpətələj /

Gk > L

a branch of the science of animal life that treats of reptiles and amphibians.

Jason studied herpetology to learn about the habits of cold-blooded creatures.

herring

hesitancy

hesthogenous

heteroclite

heterodox

adj

/ 'hedərə.däks /

Gk

differing from an established religious point of view.

Father O'Driscoll holds a few heterodox opinions that astonish his parish.

heterogeneous

heuristic

adj

/ '(h)ju.ristik /

Gk

of or relating to exploratory problem-solving techniques that utilize self-educating strategies to improve performance.

The computer that beat Gary Kasparov in the chess tournament was programmed to use heuristic methods.

hexamethyl

hibachi

n

/ hē'bächē /

Jpn

a charcoal brazier.

Antoni's hot dog fell through the grill of the hibachi onto the glowing coals below.

hibernate

hibiscus

n

/ hī'biskəs /

L

any plant or flower of a large widely distributed genus of herbs, shrubs, or small trees with dentate or lobed leaves and large showy flowers.

Darla planted a hibiscus outside her bedroom window.

hideous

adj

/ 'hidēəs /

F > E

offensive to the sight : gruesome, ugly.

During the thunderstorm, Ernie saw a hideous face at the window.

hiemal

adj

/ 'hīəməl /

L

of or relating to winter : wintry.

Inger's favorite hiemal activity is skiing.

hierarchy

n

/ 'hī.ər.ärkē /

Gk > L > F > E

a form of government administered by an authoritarian group.

Michelle's study of hierarchy made her appreciate living in the United States.

hieroglyph

n

/ 'hī(ə)rə.glif /

Gk

a character used in a system of writing mainly in pictorial characters.

The Egyptian hieroglyph for the word king was a royal head complete with beard.

hieroglyphics

n pl

/ .hī(ə)rə'glifiks /

Gk

characters in the ancient Egyptian writing system which are for the most part recognizable pictures of objects.

Egyptian hieroglyphics remained a mystery until the Rosetta Stone provided the key to deciphering them.

hierophant

n
/ 'hī(ə)rəfənt /
Gk

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

hilarious

Himalayan

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

hippodrome

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

hippogriff

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

hippopotamian

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

hippopotamus

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

hippotigrine

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

hircine

adj
/ 'hər.sīn /
L
of, relating to, or resembling a goat; especially : resembling a goat in smell.
After the week-long camping trip, the Flidre family was relieved to get out of their hircine clothes and into the shower.

hirsute

hirundine

adj
/ hə'rəndən /
L
of, relating to, or resembling the swallow.
The hirundine population in near-equatorial countries rises sharply when autumn returns to the northern hemisphere.

histrionic

histrionics

n pl
/ .histrē'äniks /
L
theatrical performances.
Teresa loved the theater from an early age and excelled in histrionics while in school.

hitchhike

hoarseness

n
/ 'hō(ə)rsnəs /
E
the quality or state of having a rough-sounding voice.
Paul's remedy for hoarseness is hot water with lemon.

hoax

n
/ 'hōks /
unknown
[has homonym: hokes] an act intended to trick or dupe : a piece of trickery.
Sarah forwarded the e-mail message, unaware she was participating in a hoax.

hoboism

hoeing

hoist

v
/ 'hōist /
imit D or G
raise, lift, elevate.
Manuel decided to use a crane to hoist the stone into place.

hokku

n
/ 'hò(,)kü /
Jpn
a fixed lyric form of Japanese origin having three short unrhymed lines of five, seven, and five syllables and being typically epigrammatic or suggestive.
Haiku, the most familiar form of hokku, pertains to the seasons.

holard

holiness

hollandaise

hollyhock

holocaust

n
/ 'hæləkɒst /
Gk
a complete or thorough sacrifice or destruction especially by fire.
Many lives were lost in the hotel holocaust.

homburg

n
/ 'hæm.bɜrg /
G
a man's hat of smooth-finished felt with a stiff curled brim and a high tapered crown creased lengthwise.
The villain in the movie wore a dark suit and a black homburg.

homely

adj
/ 'hōmlē /
E
commonplace, familiar.
Mr. Mann can translate the most complex issue into homely terms.

homespun

homestead

n
/ 'hōmz.ted /
E + E
the home and land of a family; especially : ancestral home.
The city offered reduced property taxes on any homestead occupied by the legal owner.

homily

n
/ 'hämələ /
Gk
a lecture or discussion on a moral theme : admonition.
At the baccalaureate service, Mr. Lopez gave a brief homily on the theme "To thine own self be true."

hominy

homogenized

homologous

homonym

homophonous

honorific

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

hoochinoo

hoodwink

horde

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

horizontal

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

hormone

horologium

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

horrendous

horripilation

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

horticulture

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

hosanna

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

hospice

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

hospitable

hospitality

hostage

hostelry

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

hotelless

howel

howitzer

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

hoyle

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

hubbub

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

hubristically

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

huisache

humane

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

humectant

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

humerus

humidor

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

humiliation

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

humoresque

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

hundredth

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

hurl

hurricane

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

hurtle

hussar

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

hutch

hyacinth

n
/ 'hɪə.sɪn(t)θ /
Gk > L
a common garden flower widely grown for its beauty and fragrance.
Mimi planted a hyacinth right next to her screened porch.

hyalithe

hybrid

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

hybridize

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

hydrangea

n
/ hī'drānjə /
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
/ 'hīdrənt /
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
/ hī'drōlik /
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
/ 'hīdrəjən /
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.

hydrolysis

n
/ hī'dräləsəs /
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
/ hī'drāfələs /
Gk

pollinated by the agency of water.

The ultimate adaptation to aquatic life is the formation of completely submerged hydrophilous flowers.

hyetology

n
/ .hīə'täləjē /
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
/ 'him /
Gk

a song of praise to God.

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

hymnody

n
/ 'hīmnədē /
Gk

a body of hymns of a specified kind or period.

Gospel songs enjoy wide popularity in American hymnody.

hypaethral

hyperbole

n
/ hī'pərbə(,)lē /
Gk

extravagant exaggeration that represents something as much greater or less, better or worse, or more intense than it really is or that depicts the impossible as actual.

To say that life as we know it will never be the same after the next election is hyperbole.

hypercritical

adj
/ .hīpə(r)'kridəkəl /
Gk

meticulously or excessively inclined to notice faults and imperfections.

Ellen's skating coach was hypercritical of her technique the day before a competition.

hyperglycemia

n
/ .hīpə(r)glī'sēmēə /
Gk

excess of sugar in the blood.

Since diabetes runs in her family, Carla is regularly tested for hyperglycemia.

hypertension

n
/ .hīpə(r)'tenchən /
Gk + L

abnormally high arterial blood pressure.

Doctors recommend reducing salt intake for patients with hypertension.

hypertrophic

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

hyphen

hypnology

hypochondria

n
/ hīpə'kändrēə /
Gk

extreme depression of mind or spirits often centered on imaginary physical ailments.

Having found nothing physically wrong with her, Sylvia's doctor noted that her persistent complaints about her health are probably due to hypochondria.

hypochondriac

n
/ hīpə'kändrē.ək /
Gk

one whose depression is centered on imaginary physical ailments.
Colin was an hysterical half-crazy little hypochondriac.

hypocorism

n
/ hī'pəkə.rizəm /
Gk

a pet name or term of endearment.
Susan's parents bestowed the hypocorism "Bubbles" on her when she was a toddler.

hypocrisy

n
/ hə'pəkrəsē /
Gk > L > F > E

the act or practice of pretending to be what one is not or to have principles or beliefs that one does not have.

The abominable proceeding was nothing but a system of hypocrisy and deceit, espionage and treachery.

hypodermic

hypothesis

hypothetical

hypotrophy

n
/ hī'pətrəfē /
Gk

subnormal growth.
Nutritional deficiency resulted in hypotrophy among the aborigines.

hypsography

hyssop

n
/ 'hisəp /
Sem > Gk > L > F > E

a European mint that has highly aromatic and pungent leaves and is often cultivated in gardens as a remedy for bruises.

Aunt Cara made a paste of hyssop and oil and applied it to Darien's bruised shoulder.

hysteria

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

hysterical

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

icequake

ichneumon

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

ichnolite

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

ichthyology

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

icicle

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

iconoclast

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

icosahedron

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

identical

idiosyncratic

adj
/ ɪ.dē.ɒ.sɪn'krədɪk /
Gk
marked by a peculiarity of physical or mental constitution or temperament.
In his autobiography Andrew described the idiosyncratic behavior of his zany upper-class family.

idiosyncratically

adv
/ ɪdēə.sɪn'krədək(ə)lē /
G > E

in a manner peculiar to the individual.

Because Emily Dickinson wrote so idiosyncratically, her poems are immediately recognizable.

idly

idolater

idolatry

idyllic

adj
/ ɪ'dɪlɪk /
Gk

pleasing or picturesque in its natural simplicity.

The Elsons spent a week in an idyllic little town in the Pyrenees.

igneous

adj
/ ɪgnēəs /
L

of, relating to, or suggestive of fire.
The igneous desert air shimmered on the horizon.

ignominious

ignominy

n
/ ɪgnə'mɪnē /
L > F

disgraceful or dishonorable conduct, quality, or action.

Although the coward was glad to be alive, he felt the ignominy of abandoning his comrades.

ignoramus

n
/ ɪgnə'rāməs /
L

an utterly uninformed person : dunce.

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

ignorance

ikebana

n
/ ɪkə'bänə /
Jpn

the Japanese art of flower arranging that emphasizes form and balance.

Hana is trained in ikebana, and her arrangements are displayed in many restaurants throughout the city.

ileitis

n
/ ɪlē'ɪdəs /
L

inflammation of the lower small intestine.

Stella mistook her ileitis for indigestion.

iliacus

illegitimate

illeism

illicit

illiterate

illuminati

n pl
/ ə'lümə'nād(,)ē /
L > It

persons who are or who claim to be unusually enlightened.

The mayoral candidate worked hard to win the support of the city's illuminati.

illumination

n
/ ə'lümə'nāshən /
L > F > E

a giving of physical light or the state of being lighted up.

Because of its many windows, Sarah's office always has ample illumination.

illusion

illustrate

v
/ ɪlə'strāt /
L

make clear by giving or by serving as an example or instance.

The stained-glass windows illustrate the Nativity scene.

illustration

image

imagery

imaginary

adj
/ ə'majə'nerē /
L

having no real existence : existing only in imagination or fancy : fictitious, hypothetical.

Not all of the characters in the novelist's best seller were imaginary.

imbecile

n
/ ɪmbəsəl /
L > F

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

imbecilic

adj
/ ɪmbə'sɪlɪk /
L > F + Ecf

characteristic or suggestive of one that acts stupidly or recklessly.

Iris effectively tuned out her brother-in-law as he described another of his imbecilic money-making schemes.

imitative

immalleable

adj
/ ɪ(m)'malēəbəl /
L > F > E

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

Dean remained immalleable in his refusal to resign.

immature

adj
/ im.mə'tu(ə)r /

L
lacking complete growth or development.

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

immense

adj
/ ə'men(t)s /

L > F
characterized by greatness in size or degree.

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

immersion

imminent

adj
/ 'imənənt /

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

immiscible

adj
/ i(m)'misəbəl /

L
not capable of mixing or being mixed.
Oil and water are immiscible.

immiserization

immolate

v
/ 'imələt /

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

immortal

adj
/ i(m)'mɔrdəl /

L
connected with or possessing everlasting life.
The priest warned his flock of the many dangers to their immortal souls, such as envy, greed, and sloth.

immured

v
/ ə'myü(ə)rd /

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

immutable

adj
/ i(m)'myüdəbəl /

L
not capable of or susceptible to change.
The immutable laws of thermodynamics preclude the invention of a perpetual motion machine.

impair

impalpable

adj
/ im'pəlpəbəl /

L + L + L
incapable of being felt by the touch.
The puppy began chasing his impalpable shadow.

imparisyllabic

impasse

n
/ 'im.pas /

F
barrier, deadlock.
A rockslide created an impasse on the mountain road.

impeccable

adj
/ im'pekəbəl /

L
free from fault or blame : flawless.
A background investigation affirmed the candidate's impeccable character.

impeccancy

impecunious

impedance

n
/ əm'pēd'n(t)s /

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.

impediment

n
/ əm'pedəmənt /

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

impedimenta

n pl
/ əm.pedə'mentə /

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

impenetrable

adj
/ im'penətrəbəl /

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

imperatively

imperative

imperceptible

adj
/ ɪmpə(r)'septəbəl /
L

extremely slight, gradual, or subtle.
The air was filled with a delicate, springlike fragrance, almost imperceptible.

imperial

adj
/ ɪm'piəriəl /
L

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

imperturbable

adj
/ ɪmpər'tərbəbəl /
L > E

unlikely to be disconcerted, agitated, or alarmed.
Hitherto imperturbable, Stacy suddenly showed signs of alarm.

impervious

adj
/ ɪm'pɜrvēəs /
L

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

impetigo

n
/ ɪmpə'ti(ɪ)gō /
L

an acute contagious skin disease transmitted by contact between persons or between healthy and infected skin.
Impetigo can quickly make the rounds in a kindergarten class.

impetus

n
/ ɪmpədəs /
L

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

impinge

implacable
adj
/ ɪm'pləkəbəl /
L > F

not capable of being appeased or pacified.
The defeated candidate harbored implacable resentment toward his opponent.

implausible

imponderabilia

importance
n
/ əm'pɔrt'n(t)s /
L

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

impossible

adj
/ ɪm'päsəbəl /
L > It > F

incapable of being or occurring.
So many things are possible just as long as you don't know they're impossible.

impoverish

v
/ əm'päv(ə)rɪʃ /
F > E

make poor : reduce to indigence.
Medical bills will impoverish the Williams family if outside aid is not available.

impresario

n
/ ɪmprə'särēō /
It

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

imprescriptible

adj
/ ɪmprē'skriptəbəl /
L > F

inalienable, absolute.
A dictator considers few human rights imprescriptible.

impressionable

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

imprimatur

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

imprimis

impromptu

adv
/ əm'präm(p)t(y)ü /
L > F
without previous study, preparation, or consideration : on the spur of the moment.
Leah is able to speak impromptu and at length on countless subjects.

impropriety

impugn

v
/ əm'pyün /
L

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

impuissance

impunity

n
/ ɪm'pyʊnədē /

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

imputable

inaccurate

inadvertence

inagglutinable

inanimate

adj
/ in'anəmət /

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

inanimation

n
/ inə'nishən /

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

inanity

n
/ ɪ'nənədē /

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

inauguration

incandescence

n
/ in(,)kən'des'n(t)s /
L > F

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

incandescent

incarcerate

v
/ ɪn'kɑrsə.rāt /

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

incendiary

n
/ ɪn'sendē.ērē /

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

incense

n
/ 'in.sen(t)s /
L > F > E
the perfume or the smoke exhaled from spices and gums when burned.
Incense filled the chapel with a sweet fragrance.

incense

incessancy

incessant
adj
/ in'ses'nt /

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

inchoate

adj
/ in'kōət /

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

incienso

n
/ in(t)sē'en(t)(,)sō /
L > Sp
a desert shrub producing a resin that when burned emits a fragrant odor.
Early missionaries in the Southwest used to burn incienso in their churches.

incipient

inclement

adj
/ in'klemənt /
L
unmerciful, rigorous.
The harsh sentence of an inclement judge took 30 years of Sam's life.

incognito

incoherence

incompetent

incomprehensible

adj
/ in.kəmprə'hən(t)səbəl /
L > E
lying above or beyond the reach of the human mind.
Every civilization tries to penetrate the incomprehensible mysteries of creation.

inconclusible

incondite

incongruous

inconnu

inconscient

adj
/ in'känchənt /
L > F
lacking consciousness or full awareness.
The inconscient pedestrian was an easy victim for the mugger.

incontrovertible

incorrigible

adj
/ in'kɔrəjəbəl /
L

bad beyond the possibility of correction or rehabilitation : utterly bad or depraved.

They sentenced the incorrigible offender to life imprisonment.

increment

incubator

n
/ 'ɪŋkyəbədə(r) /
L

an apparatus for housing premature or sick babies in an environment of controlled humidity, oxygen supply, and temperature.

Who would have thought that the star linebacker spent the first three months of his life in an incubator?

inculcate

v
/ ən'kəl.kāt /
L

teach and impress by frequent repetitions or admonitions.

Religion is professed and practiced in various forms, yet most of them inculcate honesty, truth, temperance, gratitude, and the love of humanity.

incumbent

incunabulum

n
/ əŋkyə'nabyələm /
L

a book printed before 1501.

Alfred was looking at an incunabulum in the British Library when he met his future wife.

incurvariid

adj
/ ɪn.kər'va(a)rēəd /
L

of or relating to a member of the Incurvariidae family of minute moths.

Many brilliantly colored incurvariid moths are found worldwide.

indebted

adj
/ ən'dedəd /
L > F > E

owing gratitude (as for a favor received or a kind act done).

Carmen was indebted to her piano teacher for helping her perfect her technique.

indefatigable

adj
/ ɪndə'fadəgəbəl /
L

incapable of being tired out : untiring.

The mayor thanked his indefatigable campaign workers for their invaluable help in getting him reelected.

indefeasible

adj
/ ɪndə'fēzəbəl /
L > F > AF

not capable of being or liable to being voided, annulled, or undone.

The Constitution vests the populace with indefeasible rights.

indelible

adj
/ ən'deləbəl /
L

that cannot be removed, washed away, or erased : permanent.

Lily's narrow escape from drowning left an indelible mark on her personality.

indemnify

indemnity

independence

indescribable

adj
/ ɪndə'skrībəbəl /
L

that cannot be described with precision.

The aromatic herb has a peppery odor and an indescribable but delicious flavor.

indicate

indicia

n pl
/ ən'dish(ē)ə /
L

indications, signs, tokens, criteria.

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

indicable

indictment

n
/ ən'dɪtmənt /
L > AF

an official written statement charging a person with an offense.

The grand jury's indictment of the seven men charges that they conspired to smuggle guns into the country.

indigenous

adj
/ ən'dɪjənəs /
L

originating or produced naturally in a particular land or region or environment.

Tomatoes are not indigenous to Europe.

indolence

indomitable

adj
/ ən'dämədəbəl /
L

incapable of being subdued.

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

indubitable

adj
/ (ɪ)ɪn'd(y)übədəbəl /
L

not open to question or doubt.

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

indulgent

indurate

adj
/ 'ind(y)ərət /
L > E

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

industrious

ineducable

ineffable

adj
/ in'efəbəl /
L

incapable of being expressed in words.
Sarena's joy at being chosen for the play was ineffable.

ineluctable

adj
/ inə'ləktəbəl /
L

not to be avoided, changed, or resisted : inevitable.
Mrs. Badger joked that death and taxes are the only two ineluctable aspects of life.

ineludible

adj
/ inə'lüdəbəl /
L + Ecf

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

inenarrable

adj
/ inē'narəbəl /
L

incapable of being narrated : indescribable, ineffable.
The sight of his newborn son brought Elijah inenarrable pleasure.

ineptitude

ineradicable

adj
/ inə'radəkəbəl /
L

incapable of being rooted out or destroyed completely.
In the 1920s Britain had to yield to Ireland's ineradicable will for independence.

inertia

n
/ ə'nəʃhə /
L

indisposition to motion, exertion, or action.
The senator railed against the inertia of the citizenry.

inexorable

adj
/ i'neks(ə)rəbəl /
L

unyielding, inflexible, relentless.
The inexorable force of the hurricane changed the shape of Bell Island.

inexplicable

inextinguishable

inextirpable

inextricable

infatuation

infaust

infectious
adj
/ ən'fekshəs /
L

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

inferior

adj
/ ən'firēə(r) /
L

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

inficete

infinitesimal

adj
/ in.finə'tes(ə)məl /
L + Ecf

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

inflammatory

adj
/ ən'flamətōrē /
L

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

influenza

n
/ in.flū'enzə /
L > It

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

infractible

infrangible

adj
/ in'franjəbəl /
L

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

infusible

ingenious

ingenue

n
/ 'änjə.nü /
L > F

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

ingenuous

inglenook

ingratiating

inimical

inimitable

adj
/ i'nimədəbəl /

L
not capable of being copied :
matchless.

Charmed by Miss Woodhouse, Mr. Elton considered all of her drawings inimitable.

iniquitous

initial

initials

initiative

initiatory

adj
/ ə'nish(ē)ətōrē /

L
constituting an introduction or
beginning.

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

injurious

inmate

innermost

adj
/ 'inə(r)mōst /

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

innkeeper

innocuity

n
/ .inə'kyüədē /
L

the quality or state of being
harmless.

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

innocuous

adj
/ i'näkyəwəs /

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

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

innovation

n
/ .inə'vāshən /

L
the introduction of something new.

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

innumerable

adj
/ ə'n(y)üm(ə)rəbəl /

L
too many to be numbered or
counted.

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

inoculate

v
/ ə'näkyəlāt /

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

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

inoculator

inquiline

n
/ 'inkwəlīn /

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

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

inquisitor

n
/ ən'kwizədə(r) /
L

a person whose official duty is to
examine and inquire.

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

insalubrious

adj
/ .insə'lübrēəs /

L + Ecf
tending to impair health :
unwholesome, noxious.

Andrew has vowed to give up all his insalubrious habits.

insatiable

inscribe

inscrutable

adj
/ inz'krüdəbəl /

L
not readily comprehensible :
mysterious.

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

insecticide

n
/ ən'sektəsīd /

L
an agent that destroys insects.

Malathion is an insecticide with low toxicity to mammals.

insentient

inseparable

insessorial

insidious

adj
/ ən'sidēəs /

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

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

insinuate

v
/ ɪn'sɪnyə.waɪt /
L

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

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

insipid

adj
/ ɪn'sɪpɪd /
L

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

insidious

adj
/ ɪn(t)sə'tɪʃəs /
L

constituting an insertion.

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

insolence

n
/ ɪn(t)s(ə)lən(t)s /
L

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

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

insolent

insomnia

n
/ ɪn'sæmn̩ə /
L

prolonged inability to obtain adequate sleep : sleeplessness.

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

insomniac

insouciance

insouciant

adj
/ ɪn'süsɪənt /
F

exhibiting or characterized by freedom from concern or care.

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

instantaneous

adj
/ ɪnzstən'tænɪəs /
L

done or occurring without any perceptible duration of time.

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

instauration

n
/ ɪnz.tə'rāʃən /
L

restoration after decay, lapse, or dilapidation.

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

insulin

n
/ ɪn(t)səlɪn /
L + Ecf

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

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

insurrection

n
/ ɪn(t)sə'rekʃən /
L > F > E

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

The dictator quickly suppressed the peasants' insurrection.

insusceptibility

n
/ ɪnsəseptə'bɪləd̩i /
L

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

Sylvia prides herself on her insusceptibility to flattery.

intaglio

n
/ ɪn'tal(,)yō /
It

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

Judd was pleased with the intaglio on his signet ring.

intangible

integument

n
/ ɪn'tegyəmənt /
L

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

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

intercede

intercept

v
/ ɪntə(r)'sept /
L

stop or interrupt the progress or course of.

Rick will intercept the office mail, as requested by Dr. Taylor.

intercessory

adj
/ ɪntə(r)'ses(ə)r̩ /
L

relating to or marked by the act of pleading in behalf of another.

The congregation joined in intercessory prayers for the sick parishioners.

interfered

interior

interlocutor

n
/ .intə(r)'ləkyədə(r) /
L

one who takes part in a dialogue or conversation.

The seminar leader instructed everyone to choose an interlocutor and discuss the video one-on-one.

interlucent

interment

n
/ ən'tərmənt /
L > F > E

the act or ceremony of placing a dead body in a grave or tomb.

Uncle Oliver's desire was that only family members be present at his interment.

intermezzo

n
/ .intə(r)'met(,)sō /
L > It

a movement coming between the major sections of a symphony or other extended work.

The singers were able to take a break while the orchestra played the intermezzo.

interminable

adj
/ ən'tərmənəbəl /
L

having no end : wearisomely protracted.

Dad complained about the interminable lines at the theme park.

intermittence

n
/ .intə(r)'mit'n(t)s /
L

periodic cessation or interruption.

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

intermittent

adj
/ .intə(r)'mit'nt /
L

coming and going at intervals : not continuous.

The weather forecast warned of intermittent showers for the afternoon.

internal

international

internecine

adj
/ .intər'ne.sēn /
L

marked by great slaughter : deadly.

Many areas of the former Soviet Union have been plagued with internecine struggles.

interpellation

interpolate

interregnum

n
/ .intə(r)'regnəm /
L

the time during which a throne is vacant between the death, abdication, or expulsion of a sovereign and the coronation of his or her successor.

The prime minister urged citizens to band together during the interregnum.

interrogatory

n
/ .intə'rægətōrē /
L

a formal question or inquiry.

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

interrupt

v
/ .intə'rəpt /
L

prevent (one) from proceeding by intrusive or interpolated comment or action.

"Must you always interrupt like that?" asked Mr. Kelley.

intersperse

interstice

n
/ ən'tərstəs /
L

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

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

intertriginous

intestacy

intolerable

adj
/ in'täl(ə)rəbəl /
L

not capable of being endured : unbearable.

The intolerable cold made Janice's eyes water.

intractable

adj
/ in'traktəbəl /
L

not easily governed, managed, or directed.

The intractable child was amusing for a while.

intrait

intramural

intrepid

adj
/ in'trepəd /
L

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

Bob's military honors attest to his intrepid character.

intricate

adj
/ 'intrəkət /
L > E

having many complexly interrelating parts or elements : complicated.

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

intrinsic

introduction

introit

intuitable

adj
/ ən't(y)üədəbəl /
L

knowable by insight or without rational thought.

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

inumbrate

v
/ 'inəm.brāt /
L

put in shadow : shade.

Carl watched the cloud temporarily inumbrate the soccer field.

inundate

inurement

invective

inveigh

v
/ ən'vā /
L

protest bitterly or violently.

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

inveigle

invidious

adj
/ ən'vidēəs /
L

of an unpleasant or objectionable nature : hateful.

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

invincible

inviolable

adj
/ in'vīələbəl /
L

secure from assault or trespass.

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

invitation

ionosphere

n
/ 'iənəsfi(ə)r /
Gk

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

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

iota

n
/ 'iōdə /
Gk

an infinitesimal amount : a very small degree.

The analgesic worked so well that Jeremy felt not even an iota of pain.

ipseity

irascible

adj
/ ə'rasəbəl /
L

marked by hot temper and resentful anger.

After breaking his leg, Lennie became so irascible that his friends stopped visiting him.

irate

adj
/ 'īrāt /
L

feeling and showing a high degree of anger.

When Calvin returned home late, his father was irate.

iridescent

adj
/ 'irədəsənt /
L

showing colors like those of the rainbow especially in shifting patterns of hues and shades that vary with a change of light or point of view.

Louis C. Tiffany developed a famous type of iridescent glass.

irradiate

v
/ ə'rādē.āt /
L

throw rays of light upon : shine upon.

Cynthia's beauty seemed to irradiate the room with a mystical glow.

irreconcilable

adj
/ ɪrəkən'siləbəl /
L

not capable of being brought into friendly accord or understanding.

Bill finally realized that his differences with Sheila were irreconcilable.

irredeemable

irregular

irrelevant

adj
/ ɪ'reləvənt /
L

not applicable or pertinent : foreign, extraneous.

Patrick introduced irrelevant arguments to cloud the central issue.

irreparable

irrepressible

adj
/ ɪrəˈpresəbəl /
L

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

irresistible

irretrievably

adv
/ ɪrəˈtrɛvəblē /
L > F > E

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

irrevocability

n
/ ɪrɪvəkəˈbɪlədē /
L > F > E + E cff

the quality or state of being unalterable.
The chairman insisted upon the irrevocability of the rules of order.

irrevocable

irrigation

irritability

n
/ ɪrədəˈbɪlədē /
L

quick excitability to annoyance, impatience, or anger.
On the second day of Josh's diet, his irritability was apparent to everyone around him.

irritate

isagoge

n
/ ɪsəˈɡɔːj /
Gk

a scholarly introduction to a branch of study or research.
The eminent economist wrote an isagoge for the new economics text.

isinglass

n
/ ɪzˈnˌɡlɑːs /
D

mica especially when in thin transparent sheets.
Isinglass is economically important because its low iron content makes it a good electrical and thermal insulator.

isle

n
/ ɪl /
L > F > E

[has homonyms: aisle, I'll] a small piece of land surrounded by water on all sides.
Kent dreamed of vacationing on a tropical isle.

isocryme

isogram

n
/ ɪ(ɪ)səˈɡrɑːm /
Gk + Gk

a line on a map or chart along which there is a constant value (as of temperature, pressure, or rainfall).
The meteorologist drew an isogram on the map to show places having the same barometric pressure.

isohyetal

adj
/ ɪ(ɪ)səˈhɪədəl /
Gk > ISV

relating to or indicating equal rainfall.
The weather forecaster's map shows isohyetal areas of the Great Plains.

isolability

n
/ ɪsələˈbɪlədē /
L > F > E

the capability of being placed alone or apart.
According to the philosophical principle of isolability, every isolated event must have an isolated cause.

isomorphic

adj
/ ɪsəˈmɔːfɪk /
Gk

being of identical or similar form or shape or structure.
English spelling is difficult because of the frequent lack of isomorphic correspondence between the spoken word and the written word.

isosceles

adj
/ ɪˈsæsələz /
Gk > L

having two equal sides—used of a triangle.
Zola counted 16 isosceles triangles on the playground equipment.

isotope

issuable

isthmus

n
/ ɪsməs /
Gk > L

a narrow strip of land running through a body of water and connecting two larger land areas.
The country of Panama is an isthmus connecting North and South America.

italicization

itemize

iterance

n
/ ɪˈdərən(t)s /
L > E

[Note: Could be confused with iterancy.] repetition, repetitiousness, recurrence.
Carol noticed an iterance of the name Elizabeth in her genealogical chart.

iterative

adj
/ ɪˈdərətɪv /
L

marked by or involving repetition or recurrence.
The name Elizabeth formed an iterative pattern in Maggie's genealogical chart.

itinerant

adj
/ ɪˈtɪn(ə)rənt /
L

traveling about from place to place.
The large farm employed many itinerant workers during the harvest season.

itinerary

n
/ ɪˈtɪn.ər.ər.ē /
L

a sketch of the prospective course of a journey or trip.
The senator's itinerary called for ten stops in two days.

ivory

adj
/ ɪv(ə)rē /
Hamitic > L > F > E

of a creamy white color.
The ivory sweater that Karen purchased qualifies as "winter white."

izzat

jabberwocky

n
/ ˈjəb(ə)r.wækē /
E nonsense name
meaningless speech, writing, or patter : gibberish.
Dina listened as the two babies carried on a lengthy conversation in jabberwocky.

jabot

n
/ zhaˈbō /
F
a ruffle or pleated frill of cloth, lace, or both attached down the center front of a shirt, blouse, or dress bodice.
Tom insisted that the shirt of his Captain Hook costume have a jabot.

jacal

jacamar

n
/ ˈjakəm.är /
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.

jackanapes

n
/ ˈjakən.āps /
E nickname
an impertinent or conceited fellow.
Billy was thrown out of English class for being an insolent jackanapes.

jackknife

jaconet

jacquard

n
/ jaˈkɑrd /
F name
a fabric of an intricate variegated weave.
In the antique store's front window was a fabulous jacquard that portrayed the Last Supper.

jadeite

n
/ ˈjɑ.dīt /
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
/ ˈjag.wär /
Tupi&Guarani > Pg&Sp
a large cat chiefly of Central and South America that is larger and stockier than the leopard and is brownish yellow or buff with black spots.
Although the jaguar is a good climber, it usually stalks its prey on the ground.

jaleo

jealousie

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 jealousie 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.

jamboree

n
/ ˌjəmbəˈrē /
unknown
a long mixed program of entertainment.
The finale at the jamboree was a brilliant display of fireworks.

jangle

janiform

adj
/ ˈjanəfōrm /
L + L
having a face on each of two sides.
While in Rome, Stacey bought a replica of an ancient coin depicting a janiform figure.

janitor

n
/ 'janədə(r) /
L

one that keeps the premises of an apartment, office, or other building clean and free of refuse, tends the heating system, and makes minor repairs.

Morris took a part-time job as a janitor at an apartment complex in exchange for free rent.

japery

n
/ 'jāp(ə)rē /
E

jesting talk : jokes.

Tired of the disk jockey's japery, Terry turned the radio off.

jarabe

n
/ hə'rā(·)bā /
Ar > Sp

any of several provincial Mexican couple dances that have the zapateado as their basic step.

The jarabe is sometimes performed at Mexican weddings.

jardiniere

jargon

n
/ 'jārgən /
imit > F > E

the technical terminology or characteristic idiom of specialists or workers in a particular activity or area of knowledge.

Anna was sure the computer programmers were speaking English, but their jargon made it impossible for her to understand what they were saying.

jarl

jasper

jaundice

n
/ 'jōndəs /
L > F > E

yellowish pigmentation of the skin, tissues, and body fluids caused by the deposition of bile pigments.

David's jaundice was brought on by a liver problem.

jauntily

adv
/ 'jōnt'lē /
F > E + Ecff

in a light or carefree manner.

Steve's hat was perched jauntily on the side of his head.

jaunty

adj
/ 'jōntē /
L > F

nonchalant or sprightly in manner or appearance.

The music teacher is far more jaunty at the keys of a piano than in the classroom.

javelin

n
/ 'jav(ə)lən /
Celt > F

a slender shaft of wood not less than 260 centimeters long, tipped with iron or steel, and intended to be thrown for distance as an athletic feat or exercise.

Lucas threw the javelin only 20 feet on his first attempt.

javellization

jealousy

n
/ 'jeləsē /
F

[has near homonym: jalousie] a disposition or state of mind that is intolerant of rivalry or unfaithfulness.

Tormented by jealousy, Shakespeare's Othello is driven to murder his wife.

jecorize

jeune

adj
/ jə'jün /
L

immature, juvenile.

Dennis rejected the jejune poems for publication.

jellyfish

jeopardize

v
/ 'jepə(r)dīz /
L > F > E + Ecff

expose to danger : imperil.

Mr. Turner refuses to jeopardize his family by driving at high speed.

jeopardy

jerboa

n
/ jər'bōə /
Ar

any of several social nocturnal Old World jumping rodents with long hind legs and a long tail.

The well-developed jumping ability of the jerboa enables it to escape from many predators.

jeremiad

n
/ ,jerə'mīəd /
Heb name > Gk > L > F
a protracted speech marked by deep misery.

The old philosopher gave a moving jeremiad against a culture that values knowledge above wisdom.

jerkin

n
/ 'jərkən /
unknown

a close-fitting hip-length jacket.

As his quest led him northward, the knight began wearing a jerkin for additional warmth.

jeroboam

jettison

v
/ 'jedəsən /
L > F > E
drop (as auxiliary equipment, bombs, cargo, or fuel) from an airplane in flight (as for lightening the load or providing greater safety).
The airplane's malfunctioning engine prompted the crew to jettison all unnecessary cargo.

jettisoned

jibboom

jicama
n
/ 'hēkəmə /
Nahuatl > Sp
a tall-climbing Mexican vine with showy flowers and a sweet watery root that is sometimes eaten raw or cooked.
Suleika made a coleslaw of jicama and shredded carrot.

jillion

jinete

jingoism

jittery

jocose

jocosity
n
/ jō'käsədə /
L
the quality or state of being given to jokes and jesting.
Lennie's jocosity endeared him to no one.

jocular

adj
/ 'jäkyələ(r) /
L
given or disposed to jesting.
The jocular keynote speaker peppered his remarks with humorous anecdotes.

jocund

adj
/ 'jäkənd /
L
feeling or exhibiting mirth or good cheer : cheerful.
The jocund host made everyone feel completely at ease.

jodhpur

n
/ 'jädpə(r) /
Indian geog name
a short riding boot; especially : an ankle-length boot fastened with a strap that is buckled at the side.
Among young or short equestrians, the jodhpur is a popular choice of boot.

joist

jongleur
n
/ zhō'glər /
F
an itinerant medieval minstrel reciting and singing for hire.
Timothy went to the Renaissance Fair dressed as a jongleur, with a handmade lute and a velvet cap.

jostlement

journal

journalism
n
/ 'jərnəlɪzəm /
F
an academic study concerned with the collection and editing of news or the editorial or business management of a news medium.
Students of journalism at Northwestern University often list the class taught by Oprah Winfrey as one of their favorites.

journey

joviality

jubilant

adj
/ 'jübələnt /
L
manifesting or expressing exultation or gladness.
Fans were jubilant when the batter hit the winning home run in the bottom of the ninth inning.

jubilarian

jubilation

judicial

judiciary

judicious
adj
/ jū'dishəs /
L
directed or governed by sound usually dispassionate judgment : characterized by discretion.
Jane's mom saw to it that her summer activities were a judicious mixture of chores and amusement.

juggernaut

n
/ 'jəgə(r).nət /
Skt > Hindi
a massive force or object that advances irresistibly and crushes whatever is in its path.
Sherman's armies moved like a juggernaut through the South.

juggler

n
/ 'jəg(ə)lə(r) /
L > F > E
[has near homonym: jugular] one skilled in keeping several objects in motion in the air at the same time by alternately tossing and catching them.
The crowd was most impressed when the juggler started juggling flaming torches.

jugular

adj
/ 'jəgyələ(r) /
L
of or relating to the throat or neck.
It is easy to find one's own pulse in the jugular region.

juiciness

juicy

julienne

adj
/ 'jʊlɛn /
F (name?)
[has homonym: Julian] cut in long thin strips—used especially of vegetables and fruits.
Bruce added julienne cucumber to the salad.

jumart

jumelle

junction

juncture

n
/ 'jʌŋ(k)chə(r) /
L
joint, seam.
Lulu found a note wedged in the juncture between the two seats.

jungle

juniper

n
/ 'jʊnəpə(r) /
L > E
an evergreen shrub or tree characterized by low, lateral spreading.
Grandma gathers berries from her juniper to use in cooking.

junket

n
/ 'jʌŋkət /
L > It > E
a pleasure trip or tour made by an official at public expense ostensibly for purposes of inspection, investigation, or other public business.
Many citizens complained that the mayor's business trip to Japan was merely a junket.

junta

n
/ 'hʌntə /
L > Sp
[has somewhat near homonyms: hunter, junto] a closely knit group of persons composing or dominating a government especially after a revolutionary seizure of power.
The military junta set up its headquarters in the former presidential palace.

jurimetrician

n
/ 'jʊrəmə'trɪʃən /
L + Gk > E
a specialist in the application of scientific methods to legal problems.
The judge heard testimony from a jurimetrician and a forensic pathologist.

jurisdiction

n
/ 'jʊrəs'dɪkʃən /
L
the limits or territory within which any particular power may be exercised.
Sgt. Voss couldn't issue the reckless driver a ticket because the highway was outside his jurisdiction.

jurisprudence

n
/ 'jʊrə'sprʊd'n(t)s /
L
[has homonym: jurisprudents] the science or philosophy of law.
Tom is a professor of jurisprudence at Yale Law School.

jussive

adj
/ 'jʌsɪv /
L + Ecf
expressing or having the effect of a command.
There was a jussive tone to Mr. Contreras's request, and the boys obeyed him immediately.

justice

justiciable

adj
/ ,jə'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

juvenile

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

juvenilia

n pl
/ ,jʊvə'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
/ 'jʌkstəpəʊz /
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'bükē /
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
/ 'kī.rās /
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

kaiserdöm

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

kakemono

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

kakistocracy

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

kaleidoscope

n
/ kə'līdə.skōp /
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'badik /
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'tänə /
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.

katharometer

n
/ .kathə'rämədə(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
/ kə'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
/ 'kenəl /
L > F > E
[has near homonym: quenelle] a house for a dog or pack of hounds.
Jack plans to help his father build a kennel for their beagles.

keno

n
/ 'kē(,)nō /
F
[has homonym: kino] a game resembling lotto or bingo in which numbers printed on pellets are taken from a sack and announced to the players who cover the numbers on cards and in which five numbers covered in the same horizontal row win for the player.
The casino coffee shop had runners to sell the diners cards for keno.

kepi

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

keratitis

n
/ kərə'tīdās /
Gk
inflammation of the cornea of the eye.
After being struck in the eye, the boxer had to be treated for keratitis.

keratoderma

n
/ kərədō'dərmə /
Gk
a hard, callous condition of the skin.
The patient's keratoderma caused him pain and loss of movement.

keratoplasty

n
/ 'kərədō.plastē /
Gk
plastic surgery on the cornea.
Keratoplasty, especially corneal grafting, has improved the vision of many people.

kerchief

n
/ 'kərçhəf /
F > E
a square of cloth usually folded worn by women as a head covering.
Before Eileen went out to tend to her garden, she put on a blue and white kerchief.

kerf

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

kerflop

kernel

kerplunk

adv
/ kə(r)'pləŋk /
imit
with a thud.
Mimi dropped the apple kerplunk onto Mrs. Vega's desk.

kerseymere

kestrel

n
/ 'kestrəl /
L > F > E
a common small European falcon.
Sean found an injured kestrel on the roof of the library.

ketch

khaki

kibitz

kibitzer

n
/ 'kībātsə(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

kiloton

n
/ 'kilə.tən /
Gk + E
an explosive force equivalent to that of 1,000 tons of TNT—used especially in reference to an atom or hydrogen bomb.
Given the strength of nuclear bombs, 1 kiloton is a small amount of explosive force.

kilowatt

kimono

kindergarten

adj
/ 'kində(r).gärt'n /
G
of or relating to an elementary level or initial phase.
After her request to skip from the sixth to the eighth grade was denied, Kathleen was openly scornful of the kindergarten math problems the teacher kept assigning.

kindling

kindness

kinesiology

n
/ kə'nēsē'äləjē /
Gk
the study of the principles of mechanics and anatomy in relation to human movement.
All physical therapy students are required to take a course in kinesiology.

kinetic

adj
/ kə'nedik /
Gk
relating to the motion of matter and the forces and energy associated therewith.
The kinetic theory of gases treats each molecule in a gas as a point, which has mass but negligible volume.

kingdom

kinkajou

n
/ 'kiŋkəjü /
Algonquian > F
a slender long-tailed mammal of Central and South America related to the raccoon.
The kinkajou is sometimes called the honey bear.

kishke

n
/ 'kɪʃkə /
Slav > Yiddish
beef or fowl casing stuffed with a savory filling (as of matzoth flour, chicken fat, and onion) and roasted.
Steve ate four helpings of his grandmother's kishke.

kitsch

n
/ 'kɪtʃ /
G
artistic or literary material held to be of low quality, often produced to appeal to popular taste, and marked especially by sentimentalism, sensationalism, and slickness.
Souvenir shops are filled with kitsch for the indiscriminating tourists.

kiwi

klendusity

n
/ klɛn'd(y)üsədē /
Gk
the tendency of a plant or variety to escape infection as a result of having some property that prevents or hinders inoculation : disease-escaping ability.
The plant's thick cuticle is largely responsible for its klendusity.

klinotaxis

n
/ .klɪnə'taksəs /
Gk
directional orientation involving turning toward a stimulus.
The klinotaxis of honeybees is dependent on the angle of the sun.

klomp

n
/ 'klämp /
D
[has homonym: clomp] a wooden shoe worn in the Low countries.
The Dutch villager proudly showed Pam a klomp that he had just finished carving.

knapsack

n
/ 'næp.sək /
G&D
a bag or case often of canvas supported on the back by a strap over each shoulder and used especially for carrying supplies while on a march or hike.
The next morning, Boris found a young snapping turtle in his knapsack.

knave

knavery

knead

kneadable
adj
/ 'nēdəbəl /
E + Ecf
having the proper texture for mixing into a well-blended whole by or as if by repeatedly drawing out and pressing together.
Flour was mixed with other ingredients to produce a kneadable dough.

knickknacky

knight

knightling

knish

n
/ kə'nɪʃ /
Russ > Yiddish
a round or square of rich baking-powder dough folded over a savory meat or cheese filling and baked or fried.
Sol searched his new neighborhood in vain for a restaurant that served a decent knish.

knishes

knock

knockabout

knoll

n
/ 'nɒl /
E
a usually small rounded land eminence.
Drucilla lay at the top of the knoll to catch some rays.

knout

knuckle

knucks

knurl

kohlrabi

n
/ kōl'räbē /
G
a variety of cabbage having a turnip-shaped edible stem.
The flesh of the kohlrabi resembles that of the turnip but is sweeter and milder.

kookaburra

n
/ 'kükəbərə /
Australian name
a kingfisher of Australia that is about the size of a crow, has a call resembling loud laughter, and feeds in part on reptiles.
While vacationing in Melbourne, Lindsay was at first startled by the peculiar chortling of a kookaburra.

kuchen

n
/ 'kükən /
G
any of several varieties of coffee cake typically made from sweet yeast dough and variously shaped, flavored, and frosted.
Aunt Mitzi served a warm apple kuchen for Christmas brunch.