

psychiatry

n
/ sə'kiɑtrē /
Gk + L

a branch of medicine that deals with the science of treating mental, emotional, or behavioral disorders.
The concept of multiple personalities is of special interest to Helen, who plans to pursue a career in psychiatry.

psychological

psychomachy

n
/ sī'kāməkē /
Gk > L

a conflict of the soul (as with the body or between good and evil).
Countless novels have as their theme the psychomachy within the hero as he struggles to do right.

psychrometer

n
/ sī'krāmədə(r) /
Gk + Gk

a hygrometer whose operation depends on two similar thermometers with the bulb of one being kept wet so that it is cooled as a result of evaporation and shows a temperature lower than that of the dry-bulb thermometer.
Greg built a crude psychrometer out of two old thermometers and some cotton gauze.

psychrophilic

adj
/ ,sīkrō'fīlīk /
Gk

thriving at a relatively low temperature.
The psychrophilic bacteria died when the refrigerator's compressor failed.

ptarmic

n
/ 'tārmīk /
Gk > L

a substance that causes sneezing.
Andrea is extremely allergic to dust, an everpresent ptarmic difficult for her to avoid.

ptarmigan

n
/ 'tārmāgən /
ScotGael

any of various grouses of northern regions having completely feathered feet.
"Why did the ptarmigan cross the road?" asked Martha.

pteridology

ptomaine

n
/ 'tō.mān /
Gk > It

any of various organic bases some of which are poisonous and which are formed by the action of putrefactive bacteria on nitrogenous matter.
About three hours after he had eaten, Dunstan realized that his lunch had been tainted with ptomaine.

ptosis

n
/ 'tōsəs /
Gk

[has near homonym: tussis] a sagging or prolapse of an organ or part; specifically : drooping of the upper eyelid.
The film star had a clear case of ptosis.

publication

puce

puchero
n
/ pū'che.rō /
L > Sp

a Latin American boiled dinner or stew containing beef, sausage, bacon, and various vegetables.
Olivia sampled puchero at an Argentine restaurant.

puerile

adj
/ 'pyū(ə)rəl /
L

childish or immature.
Mrs. Yolton was not impressed by Tommy's puerile behavior.

pugilist

n
/ 'pyūjələst /
L + E

a professional boxer.
Years as a pugilist took their toll on Leo's coordination.

pugilistic

pugnacious

adj
/ pəg'nāshəs /
L

having a quarrelsome or belligerent nature.
Bushpigs are pugnacious enough to put up a fight against a leopard.

puissance

pulchritude

pulmonary

adj
/ 'pūlmə.nerē /
L

of, relating to, or associated with the lungs.
Uncle Rob's pulmonary disease requires that he breathe pure oxygen at all times.

pulsatile

adj
/ 'pəlsəd'əl /
L

beating, throbbing.
The heart is a pulsatile muscular organ that maintains the flow of blood.

pultaceous

adj
/ ,pəl'tāshəs /
L + Ecf

having a consistency like that of porridge.
Serena dislikes rice pudding because of its pultaceous consistency.

pulverize

pulverulent

adj
/ pəl'veryələnt /
L

consisting of or reducible to fine powder.
Chalk is a pulverulent deposit of calcium carbonate.

pumice

n
/ 'pʌməs /
L

[has homonyms: pomace and pumace] hardened volcanic froth.
Ground pumice is sometimes used as an abrasive ingredient in soap.

punchinello

punctilious

adj
/ ,pʌŋ(k)'tɪliəs /
L

marked by precise exact accordance with the details of codes or conventions.
Inflexible people often pay punctilious attention to rules of etiquette.

punctual

adj
/ 'pʌŋ(k)ch(əw)əl /
L

marked by exact adherence to an appointed time.
Everybody was punctual for the wedding, and all behaved charmingly.

punctuation

punditry

pungent

adj
/ 'pʌŋjənt /
L

causing a sharp sensation : pricking, irritating, acrid.
The pungent odor of wet dog sent the guests out for fresh air.

punishment

punitive

purgatory

purlieu

n
/ 'pɜrl(i)yü /
F

a place of resort : haunt.
Vince can be found most evenings in the local pool hall, his favorite purlieu.

purlain

v
/ pə(r)'lɔin /
L > F > E

appropriate wrongfully and often under circumstances that involve a breach of trust.
The district manager was fired when he was caught trying to purlain company earnings.

purportedly

pursued

purveyor

n
/ pə(r)'vɛə(r) /
L > F > E

one who provides supplies of food or whose business is to make provisions for the table : caterer.
The reception was delayed because the purveyor got stuck in traffic.

pusillanimous

adj
/ ,pyüsə'lanəməs /
L

lacking or showing a lack of courage, manly strength, and resolution : marked by mean-spirited and contemptible timidity.
Edgar never forgave his brother's pusillanimous desertion during the war.

putrescent

adj
/ pyü'tres'nt /
L

decaying, rotting.
The disagreeable odor was coming from the putrescent skunk carcass.

putrid

adj
/ 'pyütrəd /
L

in an advanced state of decomposition : rotten.
The putrid heap of kitchen scraps will compost in no time.

putsch

n
/ 'pʊch /
imit G

a secretly plotted and suddenly executed attempt to overthrow a government or governing body.
The right-wing nationalist group plotted a putsch for early September.

puzzling

adj
/ 'pʌz(ə)liŋ /
unknown + Ecf
mystifying : difficult to understand.
The puzzling directions in the instruction manual rendered it useless.

pylon

n
/ 'pɪ.län /
Gk

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

pyramid

n
/ 'pɪrəmid /
Gk

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

pyre

pyrethrum

n
/ pī'rēthrəm /
Gk > L
any of various chrysanthemums with finely divided and often aromatic leaves.
The pyrethrum is a source of a natural insecticide.

pyretogenic

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

pyrite

pyrosis

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

pyrotechnics

n pl
/ ,pīrə'tekniks /
Gk
a display of fireworks.
The amusement park had a show including pyrotechnics every night.

Pyrrhic

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

quackery

quadragenarian

n
/ ,kwäd'rəjə'n(a)rēən /
L
a person who is 40 or more and less than 50 years old.
Evelyn became a grandmother while she was a quadragenarian.

quadrangle

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

quadrant

quadrennial

quadrilateral

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

quadrille

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

quadrumanous

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

quagmire

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

quail

n
/ 'kwāl /
L > F > E
a migratory game bird of Europe, Asia, and Africa that is about seven inches long.
The vintner decided to name his wine after the quail because the birds were so plentiful on his property.

qualitative

adj
/ 'kwälətādīv /
L
of, relating to, or involving quality or kind.
Although the essay was judged to be short quantitatively, it was a qualitative masterpiece.

qualm

quandary

n
/ 'kwänd(ə)rē /
unknown
a state of perplexity or doubt : dilemma.
Taylor's advice left Miriam in more of a quandary than she was in when she sought his help.

quantum

quarantine

quarrel

quarrelsome

adj
/ 'kwör(ə)lsəm /
L > F > E + E
apt or disposed to argue : contentious.
If Angie weren't so quarrelsome, she might have more friends.

quarry

quartz

quash

quasi

quaternion

n
/ kwə'tɔːnɪən /
L

a set of four parts, things, or persons.

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

quatorzain

n
/ kə'tɔːr.zān /
F

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

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

quatrefoil

n
/ 'kɑdə(r).fɔɪl /
F

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

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

quay

quell

quench

v
/ 'kwɛnʃ /
E

put out (as a fire or a light).

For three days the firefighters tried to quench the blaze.

quenelle

n
/ kə'nel /
G > F

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

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

quercitron

n
/ 'kwɛr.sitrən /
L

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

When used as a dye, quercitron turns fabrics yellow.

querimonious

adj
/ 'kwɛrə'mɔnɪəs /
L

habitually complaining.

Luther was known for his querimonious temperament.

quern

n
/ 'kwɛrn /
E

a primitive mill for grinding grain consisting of two circular stones with the upper one being turned by hand.

Some Tibetan villagers still grind wheat into flour by using a quern.

querulous

adj
/ 'kwɛr(y)ələs /
L

expressing or suggestive of complaint : fretful, whining.

As the crow fluttered from the tree, it gave a loud, querulous caw.

querulously

query

quest

n
/ 'kwɛst /
L > F > E

an act or instance of searching : expedition, pursuit, venture.

In "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow," the horseman rides forth to the scene of battle in nightly quest of his head.

question

v
/ 'kwɛs(h)ʃən /
L

express doubt about : dispute.

Corporal Sage decided he had to question Sergeant McGonigle's orders.

questionnaire

queue

queuer

quibble

quiche

n
/ 'kɛʃ /
G > F

a baked custard pie usually having an added savory ingredient (as chopped ham, seafood, or vegetables).

Lois served soup and a seafood quiche for lunch today.

quiddity

n
/ 'kwɪdɪtɪ /
L

the essential nature or ultimate form of something.

The photographer was noted for her ability to capture the quiddity of her subjects.

quidnunc

n
/ 'kwɪd.nʌŋk /
L

one that is avidly curious and given to speculating especially about ephemeral or petty things.

Every neighborhood seems to have a quidnunc.

quiescent

quietus

n
/ kwī'ēdəs /
L
final discharge or acquittance (as from debt or obligation) : final settlement.
The judge is expected to rule tomorrow on a quietus in Mr. Ford's civil case.

quincennial

quincunx

n
/ 'kwɪn.kən(k)s /
L
an arrangement of five things with one at each corner and one in the middle of a square.
Any nine-block square of a chessboard will include a quincunx of either black or white blocks.

quinine

n
/ 'kwɪ.nɪn /
Quechua > Sp
a bitter alkaloid derived from cinchona bark and used in medicine especially in the form of bitter salts to reduce fever.
Quinine was a common remedy when Dr. Prentice was young.

quinquennial

adj
/ kwɪn'kwɛnēəl /
L + L
occurring at the end of every five years.
The philanthropist makes a quinquennial gift to the school.

quinsyberry

n
/ 'kwɪnzē.berē /
Gk > L > F > E + E
an Old World black currant.
Edgar mashed a quinsyberry on his sister's new yellow dress.

quintessence

n
/ kwɪn'tes'ɛn(t)s /
L
the most typical example or representative : the consummate instance (as of a quality or class).
To be steadfast in the face of mortal danger is the quintessence of courage.

quirt

n
/ 'kwɔrt /
L > Sp
a riding whip with a short handle and a rawhide lash.
Eager to get home, Juanita urged her horse on by using the quirt.

quisling

n
/ 'kwɪzliŋ /
Norw name
a traitorous national who aids the invader of his country and often serves as chief agent or puppet governor.
Many French citizens thought that Marshal Petain, head of the Vichy regime during World War II, was little better than a quisling.

quiver

n
/ 'kwɪvə(r) /
Gmc > F > AF > E
[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word.] a case for carrying arrows.
The archer slung his quiver over his shoulder and set out in search of deer.

quixotic

quizzical

quizzically

adv
/ 'kwɪzək(ə)lē /
unknown + Ecff
in a questioning, curious manner.
Martin sat with his head quizzically tilted as the algebra teacher was explaining the new concept.

quodlibet

n
/ 'kwɔdləbet /
L
a subtle or debatable point; especially : a theological or scholastic question proposed for argument or disputation.
The best students in the philosophy seminar were often given a quodlibet to sharpen their debating skills.

quokka

n
/ 'kwäkə /
Australian name
a stocky Australian reddish or chestnut brown wallaby with a short tail—called also “short-tailed wallaby.”
Meggie's pet quokka wanted to follow her everywhere.

quomodo

n
/ 'kwɔmədō /
L
means, manner.
Devon claims that he lacks the quomodo to repay Philip before next month.

quondam

adj
/ 'kwɔndəm /
L
having been formerly.
Jared and his quondam stepbrother are still the best of friends.

quorum

n
/ 'kwɔrəm /
L
the number of members of an organization who when assembled can legally transact business in the absence of the other members.
There were not enough members present at the school board meeting to constitute a quorum, so no voting took place.

quotation

quotidian

adj
/ kwō'tidēən /
L

commonplace, ordinary.
Thelma rebelled against her quotidian existence.

quotient

n
/ 'kwōshənt /
L

the number resulting from the division of one number by another.
In the equation $48 \div 4 = 12$, 12 is the quotient.

rabbinate

Rabelaisian

adj
/ rəbəl'laizēən /
F name

marked by or manifesting a gross robust humor or extravagance of caricature, characteristic of the French humorist François Rabelais.
In the 19th century many writers, including Mark Twain, were criticized for having a Rabelaisian view of life.

rachimeter

n
/ rəkē'ämədə(r) /
Gk

an instrument for measuring spinal curvatures.
When Kate complained of back problems, her orthopedist used a rachimeter to examine her spine.

racketeer

n
/ rəkə'ti(ə)r /
imit?

one who extorts money or advantages by threats of violence or blackmail.
The Justice Department was successful in prosecuting the racketeer for tax evasion.

raconteur

n
/ rəkän'tər /
F

one who excels in telling anecdotes : storyteller.
Mr. Backstrom is the resident raconteur at the county library.

radarscope

n
/ 'rādär.skōp /
E acronym + Gk

the oscilloscope or screen serving as the visual indicator in a radar receiver.
The pilot relied on the radarscope to fly through the storm safely.

radiant

adj
/ 'rādēənt /
L

marked by or expressive of joy, pleasure, love, confidence, or happiness.
Emily looked positively radiant when she saw her newborn sister for the first time.

radical

adj
/ 'radəkəl /
L > E

characterized by a significant difference from the norm: extreme.
The new governor promised radical changes in the state's welfare system.

radicchio

n
/ ra'dikēō /
L > It

a chicory of a red variety with variegated leaves that is used as a salad green.
Instead of lettuce, Angela always uses radicchio in her salads.

radioactivity

radius

ragamuffin

raglan

ragout

n
/ ra'gü /
L > F

meat and vegetables well seasoned in a thick rich usually brown sauce.
The rich ragout made a complete meal.

raillery

n
/ 'rälərə /
F

good-natured ridicule : mockery.
The new students soon became accustomed to the raillery of their dormitory mates.

raiment

n
/ 'rāmənt /
E

clothing, garments.
The stranger's raiment was well-worn but clean and pressed.

raisiny

adj
/ 'räz'nē /
L > F > E

containing or resembling sun-dried grapes.
Taylor enjoyed the raisiny trail mix.

rambunctious

adj
/ ram'bən(k)shəs /
E

excessively exuberant : wild, uncontrollable.
Nothing pleases a group of rambunctious youngsters more than a good pillow fight.

ramellose

adj
/ 'ramələs /
L

having little branches.
In the biology lab Carla observed the ramellose extremities of freshwater algae.

ramification

n
/ ˌrɑːməfəˈkeɪʃən /
L

a resulting development :
consequence.

*Tina felt that the only negative
ramification of accepting the job
offer was that she would have to
take a pay cut.*

rampage

v
/ ˈrɑːmpɑːj /
Scots

act, rush, or storm wildly or
excitedly.

*Crazed fans began to rampage in
the streets after their team won the
championship.*

rampant

adj
/ ˈrɑːmpənt /

F
marked by the absence of check or
restraint.

*A rampant smallpox epidemic
decimated the population.*

ramshackle

adj
/ ˈrɑːmʃɑːkəl /

ON > E
appearing as if ready to collapse :
dilapidated, rickety.

*Bonnie heard strange noises
coming from the ramshackle house
next door.*

rancid

adj
/ ˈrɑːn(t)səd /

L
having an offensive smell or taste
usually from chemical change or
decomposition.

*After a month at room temperature,
most cheese will be rancid.*

rancorous

ransack

ransom

rantipole

adj
/ ˈrɑːntɪˌpɔːl /
D? + G > E?

characterized by a wild unruly
manner or attitude.

*The antics of the rantipole bear
cubs amused the zoo visitors.*

rapacious

rapier

rappelling

rapport

n
/ ˈrɑːpɔː(ə)r /
F

relation characterized by harmony,
accord, or affinity.

*Mr. Sanchez works hard to achieve
rapport with all his students.*

rapprochement

n
/ ˌrɑːˈprɔːʃhˈməʃ /
F

establishment or a state of cordial
relations.

*The rapprochement between the
country's two religious groups
suffered a setback when members
of one group bombed a church that
belonged to the other group.*

rapscallion

raptorial

rapturous

adj
/ ˈrɑːpʃərəs /

L
feeling, expressing, or marked by
ecstasy : ecstatic.

*Cecilia always became rapturous
during the final movement of
Beethoven's Ninth Symphony.*

rascette

n
/ ˈrɑːsɪt /
Ar > L > F

a line crossing the wrist below the
palm of the hand that is sometimes
held by palmists to provide
additional indication of a strong or
weak constitution.

*Madame Xantha peered closely at
Helen's rascette and told her she
would live to be 100.*

rasgado

n
/ ˈrɑːsˈɡɑː(ɪ)dɔː /
L > Sp

the arpeggio effect produced by
sweeping the strings with the
thumb in guitar playing.

*Rod ended his guitar solo with a
resounding rasgado.*

rasorial

raspberry

n
/ ˈrɑːzˌberɪ /
unknown + E

any of various usually black or red
sweet juicy edible berries.

*The raspberry is highly prized for
making jams and preserves.*

ratafia

n
/ ˌrɑːdɑːˈfeɪ /
F

a small sweet biscuit made from
almond paste.

*May ate a ratafia with her coffee
for breakfast.*

rataplan

n
/ ˌrɑːdɑːˈplɑːn /

F
the iterative sound of beating (as
from a drum or the hooves of a
galloping horse).

*One verse of the song required the
campers around the bonfire to
make a rataplan by clapping their
hands and slapping each thigh in
turn.*

ratatouille

n
/ rətətüü /
L > F
a stew made of eggplant, tomatoes, green peppers, squash, and sometimes meat.
Marnie used vegetables from her own garden to make the ratatouille.

rathskeller

n
/ ˈrät.skələ(r) /
G
a restaurant located usually below the street level and patterned after the cellar or basement of a German city hall.
There are three good restaurants on this block, but college students seem to prefer the rathskeller.

ratification

ratihabition

ratiocinate

v
/ ˌradēˈōsˌn.āt /
L
reason according to a logical process.
A philosopher should ratiocinate strictly and rigorously.

ratiocination

ration

rational

rationale

raucous

adj
/ ˈrøkəs /
L
disagreeably harsh or strident.
Up in one of the elms an old black crow gave its raucous cry.

ravel

ravenous

adj
/ ˈrav(ə)nəs /
F
craving for satisfaction or gratification.
The children tore into the meal with a ravenous hunger.

ravigote

n
/ rävēˈgõt /
L > F
a sauce or dressing colored green with spinach puree and seasoned with vinegar and a mixture of herbs.
The specialty of the seafood brunch was shrimp ravigote.

ravine

ravioli

n
/ ˌravēˈōlē /
L > It
alimentary paste made in little shells or cases and stuffed (as with cheese, spinach, or meat).
Fletcher bought a package of frozen spinach ravioli and a jar of tomato sauce.

rawinsonde

razzia

realpolitik

n
/ rāˈäl.pōlēˈtēk /
(L + Gk) > G
politics based on practical factors as distinguished from theoretical objectives.
Some analysts credit realpolitik for the increase in voter participation.

realschule

reappraisal

rebarbative

adj
/ rēˈbärbədɪv /
L
serving or tending to repel or irritate.
Teresa complained that she found the school play rebarbative.

rebellion

reboant

rebote

rebuttal

n
/ rəˈbʊdˌəl /
F > E
the act of contradicting.
Dennis's convincing rebuttal sent Oscar home in a huff.

recalcitrant

adj
/ rəˈkalsətrənt /
L
obstinately defiant of authority or restraint : stubbornly disobedient.
An extremely recalcitrant adolescent, Tommy rejects everything any authority figure says.

recapitulate

v
/ ˌrɛkəˈpɪchəlāt /
L
repeat the principal points of : restate briefly : give a summary of.
It is customary for Professor Burns to recapitulate his lecture at the end of class.

receipt

receive

recension

n
/ rəˈsenʃən /
L
a critical revision of a text (as of an ancient author) by an editor.
Patricia recently read a modern recension of Dante's Inferno.

receptacle

recess

recidivism

n
/ rə'sidə.vizəm /
L + Ecff
repeated relapse into criminal or delinquent habits.
Unemployment of ex-convicts is at the root of much of the recidivism that leads to overcrowded prisons.

recipe

n
/ 'resə(,)pē /
L
a formula for cooking or preparing something to be eaten or drunk.
Chuck's chili recipe is a closely guarded secret.

recipient

reciprocal

adj
/ rə'siprəkəl /
L + Ecf
consisting of or functioning as a return in kind.
James is truly unselfish, always ready to help without expecting reciprocal benefit.

reciprocity

n
/ .resə'präsədəē /
L
mutual dependence, action, or influence.
A treaty of reciprocity called for the lowering of protective tariffs by both countries.

recital

recluse

n
/ 're.klūs /
L
one who leads a retired or solitary life.
Alison was shocked when the old recluse next door called to invite her for tea.

recognizance

n
/ rə'kəgnəzən(t)s /
L > F > E
an obligation of record entered into before a court or magistrate requiring the performance of an act (as appearance in court) usually under penalty of a money forfeiture.
The suspect was arraigned the next morning and released on his own recognizance.

recommendation

recondite

adj
/ 'rekəndīt /
L
very difficult to understand and beyond the reach of ordinary comprehension and knowledge.
Mansur chose the recondite subject of quantum mechanics for his paper.

recreant

recrementitious

recrudescence

recrudescent

adj
/ .rēkrü'des'nt /
L
breaking out again : renewing disease or dangerous activity after abatement, suppression, or cessation.
Because of the recrudescent nature of tuberculosis, those who have been exposed to this disease should be tested for it periodically.

recuperate

v
/ rə'k(y)üpə.rāt /
L
recover health or strength.
Aaron spent a month in Florida to recuperate after the campaign.

recurrence

recurrent

recusant

redingote

redolent

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

redoppe

n
/ rə'döp /
L > It > F
a show-ring movement in which a horse gallops in circles whose diameter never exceeds ten feet.
The last movement in Thunder's performance was a fast redoppe.

redoubtable

adj
/ rə'däüdəbəl /
F > E
inspiring awe or reverence : august, eminent.
Mount Rushmore is a fitting memorial to four redoubtable statesmen.

reductase

redundancy

referee

referential

refluence

refocillate

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

refuge

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

refugium

refulgent

regale

v
/ rə'gāl /
F

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

regardless

regatta

n
/ rə'gädə /
It

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

reggae

n
/ rā(,)gā /
unknown

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

regicide

n
/ re'jə.sīd /
L

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

regime

n
/ rā'zhēm /
L > F

the period during which a government or social system prevails.
During the communist regime in Romania, environmental problems were flagrantly ignored.

regimen

n
/ 'rejəmən /
L

a systematic plan designed to improve and maintain health.
Cassandra's regimen includes getting at least seven hours of sleep per night.

regurgitate

v
/ rə'gərjətāt /
L

throw, cast, or pour back or out again.
Brenda watched the redbird regurgitate food to feed his nestlings.

rehabilitation

n
/ rē(h)ə.bilə'tāshən /
L

the process of restoring an individual (as a convict, mental patient, or disaster victim) to a useful and constructive place in society.
The penitentiary employed psychologists and educators to help in the rehabilitation of the prisoners.

rehearsal

n
/ rə'hərsəl /
E

a private recital or practice session held in preparation for a public appearance.
Roland was somewhat nervous during his first rehearsal with the New York City Ballet.

reindeer

reiterate

v
/ rē'idə.rāt /
L

say or do over repeatedly.
The new teacher decided to reiterate each point of the lesson at the end of the period so that the students could not claim they missed the information.

rejoice

rejuvenescence

relegate

v
/ 'relə.gāt /
L

[has homonym: religate] degrade, demote.
The coach decided to relegate the quarterback to second string after his poor performance in the game.

reliable

relic

n
/ 'relik /
L

an object (as a bone, an article of clothing or of personal use) kept in esteem and veneration because of its association with a saint or martyr.
The Shroud of Turin is the most famous relic in Christendom, in spite of its disputed history.

relinquish

reliquary

remainder

reminisce

v
/ .remə'nis /
L&F

indulge in the practice of thinking about past experiences.
The old photographs prompted Grandpa to reminisce about his youth.

reminiscence

reminiscingly

renaissance

n
/ .renə'sän(t)s /
L > F

enthusiastic activity along literary, artistic, and cultural lines distinguished by a revival of interest in the past and an increasing pursuit of learning.
In the 1970s, there was a renaissance of interest in organic gardening techniques.

render

v
/ 'rendə(r) /
L > F > E

melt down : extract or clarify by melting.

The process of cooking a few strips of bacon can render enough fat to fry several eggs.

rendezvous

n
/ 'rändəvü /
F

a meeting at an appointed place and time.

The astronauts completed a rendezvous with the orbiting space station.

renege

renounce

v
/ rə'naun(t)s /
L

[has near homonym: renowns]
announce one's abandonment of the ownership of : give up, abandon, or resign usually formally (something possessed).

In 1936 Edward, Prince of Wales, decided to renounce his claim to the throne of England and marry American divorcée Wallis Simpson.

renovation

renovator

n
/ 'renəvādə(r) /
L

one that restores to a former state (as worn or damaged articles).

The Rehmers hired a renovator to work on the old farmhouse they bought.

renvoi

n
/ ren'vòi /
F

the return by a government of an alien to his own country.

Because of crowded prisons, New York has been practicing renvoi on illegal aliens who have committed a crime.

repaint

reparation

repartee

n
/ repə(r)'tē /
F

a succession of clever retorts.
Susie and Josh's repartee is so excessive that even their friends tire quickly of the constant retorts.

repechage

n
/ .repə'shähz /
L > F

a second-chance trial heat (as in Olympic rowing) in which losers in the first round of competition are given another chance to qualify for the semifinals.

Luigi fell behind in the first heat of the single sculls, but he hoped to make up for it in the repechage.

repercussions

repertoire

n
/ 'repə(r).twär /
L > F

a list or supply of pieces or parts that a company or person has thoroughly rehearsed and is prepared to perform.

The folk dance troupe has added several Balkan dances to its repertoire.

repertory

n
/ 'repə(r).tōrē /
L

the practice of presenting with a resident company a number of different productions (as plays or dances) during a season either successively or alternately.

The ballet company is presenting four productions in repertory this winter.

repetitious

adj
/ .repə'tishəs /
L

marked by the act of repeating something already said or done.
Bettina complained that her piano lessons were repetitious.

replaceable

replevin

n
/ rə'plevən /
L? > F

the return to or recovery by a person of goods claimed to be wrongfully taken or detained upon the person's giving security to try the matter in court and return the goods if defeated in the action.

Before the goods could be moved from the warehouse, the judge issued a writ of replevin.

repository

reprehensible

adj
/ .reprə'hən(t)səbəl /
L > E

deserving rebuke or reprimand : censurable.

This amiable, upright, perfect Jane Fairfax was apparently cherishing very reprehensible feelings.

represent

reprieve

n
/ rə'prēv /
F?

a formal suspension of the execution of a sentence especially of death.

Bowing to public pressure, the governor granted a reprieve to the convict awaiting execution.

reprimand

v
/ 'reprə.mənd /
L > F
reprove severely : chide for a fault :
censure formally and especially
with authority.
*Dean felt guilty as he began to
reprimand Shirley; was the blame
partially his?*

repristinate

v
/ rē'prɪstə.nāt /
L
restore to an original state or
condition : revive.
*Barb and Ray spent the better part
of the summer working to
repristinate the old farm house.*

reproach

v
/ rə'prəʊtʃ /
F > E
rebuke strongly or sternly : scold.
*Van hoped that Mrs. Krishnan
wouldn't reproach him in front of
the whole lunchroom crowd.*

reptilian

requiescence

requisite

adj
/ 'rekwəzət /
L
required by the nature of things or
by circumstances or by the end in
view.
*Buried under a calmness that
seemed all but indifference was an
attachment that would have led
either of the two brothers, if
requisite, to do everything for the
good of the other.*

rescind

v
/ rə'sɪnd /
L
repeal.
*The new bill would rescind several
outdated laws.*

rescindable

rescue

v
/ 're(ɪ)skju /
L > F > E
free from confinement, violence,
danger, or evil : save, deliver.
*Three lifeguards dived into the pool
to rescue the flailing girl.*

reservoir

n
/ 'rezəv.wär /
L > F
a place where water is collected
and kept in quantity for use when
wanted.
*Because of the dry spell, our
reservoir was only half full, and
water restrictions had to be
imposed.*

residential

residual

residue

n
/ 'rezəd(y)ü /
L
the part of a molecule that remains
after the removal of a portion of its
constituents.
*Sondra asked Jeff to analyze and
write out the formula for the
residue in the Erlenmeyer flask.*

residuum

resiliency

n
/ rə'zɪljən.sē /
L + Ecff
capability of a strained body to
recover its size and shape after
deformation caused especially by
compressive stress.
*A pole vaulter must adjust to the
resiliency of his pole.*

resilient

resinous

resipiscence

n
/ .resə'pɪs'n(t)s /
L
change of mind or heart; often :
return to a sane, sound, or correct
view or position.
*The soldier's severe war
experience brought about in him a
resipiscence marked by much
regret for shortcomings in his
personal life.*

resistible

resolute

adj
/ 'rezə.lüt /
L
having or characterized by a
decided purpose : determined.
*Jody remained resolute in his
decision to resign from the
committee.*

respiratory

respite

n
/ 'respət /
L > F
temporary intermission of labor or
of any process or
operation : interval of rest.
*Seeking respite from the arguing of
his siblings, Jerold left the table in
the middle of their family dinner.*

resplendence

n
/ rə'splendən(t)s /
L > E
the quality or state of shining
brilliantly.
*The resplendence of the sunset over
Loon Lake enticed Eric to stay one
more day.*

restauratrice

n
/ .restərə'trēs /
L
a woman who operates or owns a
public eating place.
*While Ted and Sue were dining, the
restauratrice came to their table to
ask for their comments on the food
and service.*

restitution

restitutory

adj
/ .restə'ti:dərə /

L
of, relating to, or aiming at the return of something to its rightful owner.
The judge's verdict included punitive as well as restitutory features.

resurgence

resurgent

adj
/ rə'sɜ:ʒənt /
L
rising again from an inferior state to a superior state.
The former Soviet republic is experiencing resurgent nationalism.

resurrection

resuscitate

v
/ rə'sʌsə'taɪt /
L
revive from apparent death or from unconsciousness.
A young intern pushed through the crowd to resuscitate the unconscious child.

resuscitation

reticence

n
/ 'redəsən(t)s /
L > F
restraint in speaking or communicating : reserve.
Jordan's usual reticence disappears when he sits at the radio microphone.

reticule

n
/ 'redə.kyül /
L
a woman's small drawstring bag used as a pocketbook, workbag, or carryall.
Mrs. Bates folded up a letter which she had been reading and returned it into the purple and gold reticule by her side.

retina

n
/ 'retinə /
L > E
the multilayered innermost lining of the eyeball that contains various types of photoreceptive cells that are connected to the brain via the optic nerve.
The ophthalmologist treated Mrs. Simpson for a detached retina.

retinue

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

retractile

retribution

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

retrocedence

n
/ .retɹə'sēd'n(t)s /
L
the act of ceding back typically by treaty.
In 1997 the British government completed the retrocedence of Hong Kong to China.

retrogress

revanche

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

reveille

revenant

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

revenue

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

reverberate

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

revere

reverence

reversible

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

reviscent

rhabdomancer

n
/ 'ræbdə.mæn(t)sə(r) /
Gk

one who practices divination by rods or wands.
With his divining rod in hand, the rhabdomancer set out to find an undiscovered spring of water.

rhapsodical

adj
/ rap'sædəkəl /
Gk

extravagantly emotional : rapturous.
The music critic lavished rhapsodical praise on the Brahms concert.

rheostat

n
/ 'rēə.stæt /
Gk

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

rhetoric

rhetorician

n
/ .rədə'riʃən /
Gk

one who writes or speaks in an inflated or bombastic style.
People tend to ignore Mr. Wade's good ideas because he is such a rhetorician.

rheumatism

n
/ 'rümətizəm /
Gk

any of numerous conditions characterized by inflammation or pain in muscles, joints, or fibrous tissue.
Shea's grandfather complained of rheumatism whenever the weather was cold and damp.

rhinarium

n
/ rɪ'na(a)rēəm /
Gk > L

the hairless area of roughened skin at the tip of the snout of a mammal.
Vince checked the puppy's temperature by touching its rhinarium.

rhinestone

n
/ 'rɪnz.tōn /
geog name + E
a colorless imitation stone of high luster made of glass, paste, or gem quartz.
Basil didn't bother looking for the rhinestone that fell out of his belt buckle.

rhinoceros

n
/ rɪ'näs(ə)rəs /
Gk
any of various large powerful herbivorous thick-skinned mammals that have one or two heavy upright horns on the snout.
The videotape showed dramatic footage of a rhinoceros charging a photographer.

rhizotomy

rhodium

rhododendron

n
/ .rɒdə'dendrən /
Gk
any of various plants of the genus Rhododendron with persistent leathery leaves and bell-shaped flowers.
Evan's mother plants a rhododendron along the driveway every year on his birthday.

rhomboid

n
/ 'ræm.bɔɪd /
Gk > L > F
a parallelogram in which the angles are oblique and adjacent sides are unequal.
One of our geometry problems was to find the area of a rhomboid.

rhombus

n
/ 'ræmbəs /
Gk > L
an equilateral parallelogram.
The most familiar form that a rhombus takes must certainly be a square.

rhubarb

n
/ 'rū.bərb /
(Gk + L) > L? > F > E
a plant having large leaves with thick succulent stems that are often eaten in pies or preserves.
Rhubarb and strawberries make a good combination for a pie.

rhythm

n
/ 'rɪθəm /
Gk > L > F
the aspect of music comprising all the elements (as accent, meter, time, tempo) that relate to forward movement as contrasted with pitch sequence or tone combination.
Latin American music is usually easily recognizable by its distinctive rhythm.

ribald

adj
/ 'rɪbəl /
Gmc > F > E
characterized by broad coarse humor.
Sharon's mom was surprised to learn that the ribald tale her daughter was reading was written by Geoffrey Chaucer.

ricochet

n
/ 'rɪkəʃhā /
F
a glancing rebound or skipping (as of a flat stone thrown along the surface of water).
Albert and Tyler carefully counted each ricochet in the stone-skipping contest.

ricotta

n
/ rĕ'kòdə /
L > It
a white unripened whey cheese of Italian origin that resembles cottage cheese.
Angela's favorite Italian recipe calls for ravioli stuffed with ricotta.

rictus

n
/ 'rĭktəs /
L
a gaping grin or grimace.
Reuben's face was frozen in a rictus of horror during the movie's last scene.

rideau

n
/ rĕ'də /
F
a small ridge or mound of earth.
The cottage was built on a rideau overlooking the marsh.

ridiculous

rifeness

rift

n
/ 'rĭft /
Scand > E
a divergence (as of interests or beliefs) resulting in disagreement or dispute.
Deciding what the puppy should be named caused a temporary rift between the twins.

rigatoni

n
/ .rĭgə'tōnĕ /
Gmc > It
hollow alimentary paste made in short curved fluted pieces.
Paula served rigatoni stuffed with cheese and diced vegetables.

righteous

adj
/ 'rĭchəs /
E
characterized by uprightness or justice.
The civil rights protesters were fearless in their righteous cause.

rigorous

rime

n
/ 'rĭm /
E
[has homonym: rhyme] a covering of minute ice crystals on a cold surface that is formed by the condensation of atmospheric vapor at temperatures below freezing : frost.
Rime may occur in large, feathery flakes, but they lack the crystalline patterns of snowflakes.

riparian

adj
/ rĕ'pĕrĕən /
L
[Note: Could be confused with riparial.] of, relating to, or living or located on the bank of a watercourse (as a river or stream).
Most wildlife depends on riparian areas for survival.

risibility

n
/ .rĭzə'bĭlədĕ /
L
the ability or inclination to laugh : alertness or sensitiveness to the ridiculous, incongruous, or absurd.
Mary's risibility has earned her the nickname "Giggle Girl."

rissole

n
/ rĕ'sōl /
L > F
[has near homonym: resole]
minced meat or fish covered with pastry and fried in deep fat.
Marianne ate a rissole for lunch.

ritziness

riverain

rivulet

n
/ 'rĭvyələt /
L > It
a small stream : brook.
The fast-melting snow gushed down the rivulet to the pond below.

roan

adj
/ 'rōn /
Gothic > Sp > F
[has near homonym: rowan] of an animal's coat : having the base color (as black, red, gray, or brown) muted and lightened by a liberal admixture of white hairs.
The roan pony is the tamest mount at Camp Wannagohome.

roborant

adj
/ 'rābərənt /
L
strengthening.
In China, ginseng has for ages been esteemed for its roborant effects on the body.

rococo

adj
/ rĕ'kō(,)kō /
F
excessively ornate or intricate.
The rococo decor of Griselda's new house is typical of those built with "new money."

rodomont

n
/ 'rādə.mənt /
It name
a vain or blustering boaster.
James's new roommate is something of a rodomont.

rognon

rogue

n
/ 'rōg /
unknown
a dishonest unprincipled person.
The sheriff warned the newcomers that he would not tolerate a rogue in his town.

roleo

n
/ 'rōlē.ō /
L > F > E&E
a logrolling tournament.
A roleo is similar to a rodeo but has floating logs instead of bucking broncos.

romance

rondache

n
/ rän'dash /
F

a small shield carried by a foot soldier.

In medieval warfare the rondache often had a slit in the upper part for seeing through.

roommate

Rorschach

n
/ 'rɔ(ə)r.shäk /

Swiss name

a psychological test of personality and intelligence using inkblot designs.

Keesha's responses during the Rorschach caused the examiner to believe that she was trying to make the results unreliable.

roseola

rotisserie

n
/ rɔ'tisərē /

F
a cooking appliance with a spit on which food is rotated before or over a source of heat.

Herb cooked the chicken on a rotisserie over his gas grill.

rotogravure

n
/ rɔdəgrə'vyü(ə)r /
L + F

a photogravure process in which the impression is produced by a rotary press.

Rotogravure is used to print the magazine section of the Sunday paper.

rotundity

n
/ rɔ'təndədē /

L

roundness.

When he looked in the fun-house mirror, Chris was astounded by his rotundity.

rough

adj
/ 'rəf /
E

[has homonym: ruff] difficult to travel over or penetrate.

The rough waters off its coast made the island a bane for sailors.

roughhewn

roulette

n
/ rü'let /
L > F

a gambling game in which players bet on which compartment of a revolving wheel a small ball spun in the opposite direction will come to rest in.

Bonita spent the entire time on the riverboat playing roulette.

roundelay

n
/ 'raündə.lā /

F

a folk or ritual group or couple dance in which participants form a ring and move in a prescribed direction.

The roundelay dates back to prehistoric times, when people danced around a central totem.

ruade

rubefacient

n
/ rübə'fāshənt /

L

a substance for external application that causes redness of the skin.

Isopropyl alcohol is a well-known rubefacient found in many people's medicine cabinets.

rubella

n
/ rü'belə /
L

an acute contagious disease usually affecting children and young adults and characterized by a red skin eruption, mild symptoms, and a short duration : German measles. *Rubella is especially dangerous when contracted by an expectant mother because it can threaten the health of her unborn child.*

rubicund

rubric

n
/ 'rū(ɪ)brik /

L

name, title.

The fields of botany, zoology, and geology were once classified together under the rubric of "natural history."

rudimentary

adj
/ rüdə'mentərē /

L

basic, fundamental.

Thurston possessed only a rudimentary knowledge of opera.

ruminant

n
/ 'rümənənt /

L

any of a suborder of even-toed hoofed mammals (as sheep, giraffes, deer, and camels) that chew the cud and have a complex usually four-chambered stomach. *Microorganisms play an essential role in the digestive system of a ruminant.*

rumored

rumormonger

n
/ 'rümə(r).mäŋgə(r) /

L + Gk > L > E

one that spreads unconfirmed pieces of information.

If Alfonso doesn't learn to hold his tongue, he's going to earn a reputation as a rumormonger.

runnel

rural

adj
/ 'rūrəl /

L
of, relating to, associated with, or typical of the country.
Kevin has always resided in the city and knows little about the rural way of life.

rurigenous

adj
/ rù'rijənəs /

L
born or living in the country.
As the town grew, some of the stores began to neglect their rurigenous customers.

russet

adj
/ 'rəsət /
L > F > E

reddish brown.
Troy's Robin Hood costume featured a russet top and forest green pants.

rutabaga

n
/ 'rüdə,bāgə /
ON > Sw

a turnip with a very large yellowish root that is used as food both for stock and for human beings.
In England, the vegetable Americans know as a rutabaga is called a "swede."

rutch

rutilant

adj
/ 'rüd·lənt /

L
having a reddish glow : shining.
The evening sun put a rutilant sheen on the sunbathers' skin.

sabbatical

sable

n
/ 'sābəl /
Slav > G > F > E

[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word.] the heraldic color black.
Anita began painting her family's coat of arms by creating a background of sable.

sabotage

n
/ 'sabətəzh /

F
malicious destruction of or damage to property with the intention of injuring a business or impairing the economic system or weakening a government or nation in time of war or national emergency.
When a drug enforcement agency airplane crashed, sabotage was suspected and an investigation was launched.

saboteur

sacalait

n
/ 'sakə.lā /
Choctaw > F

a crappie that is typically smaller and more silvery than the black crappie and that is highly esteemed as a food fish.
Ray and Moira went to the French Quarter to dine on sacalait and cornbread.

saccade

n
/ sa'kād /

F
a small rapid jerky movement of the eye especially as it jumps from fixation on one point to another (as in reading).
Mary felt that her eyes could not take one more saccade, so she closed them during the remainder of the PowerPoint presentation.

saccadic

adj
/ sa'kädik /
F

[has near homonym: psychotic] of or relating to a sudden movement : jerky.
Virginia's saccadic motions were symptomatic of a neurological disorder.

saccharify

sacciform

adj
/ 'sak(s)ə.fōrm /

L
resembling a pouch.
The squirrel filled its sacciform cheeks with acorns.

sacerdocy

n
/ 'sasə(r).dōsē /

L
priesthood.
Will announced in a letter to his sister that he felt a calling to the sacerdocy.

sacerdotal

adj
/ ,sasə(r)'dōd·l /

L
of or relating to priests or a priesthood.
Some types of sacerdotal clothing distinguish the clergy from the laity, and some signify rank within the priesthood.

sachet

n
/ sa'shā /

F
[has homonym: sashay] a small bag or packet; especially : a small bag containing a perfumed powder that is used to scent clothes.
Aunt Kate keeps a sachet in her clothes closet.

sacralize

sacrifice

v
/ 'səkrəfɪs /
L

[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word.] bunt in baseball with fewer than two out, enabling a base runner to advance a base while the batter is put out at first base.

The coach told Marvin to sacrifice because George was on third base and the team needed one more run to win.

sacrificial

sacristy

sacroiliac

sacrosanct

adj
/ 'səkrəsən(k)t /
L

most holy or sacred : inviolable.
The use of loud voices is inappropriate in the sacrosanct temple.

safari

n
/ sə'fɑrē /
Ar > Swahili
a hunting or other expedition in east Africa, especially on foot.
While on safari, Ariel photographed lions and elephants.

saffron

n
/ 'səfrən /
Ar > L > F > E
a deep orange-colored substance consisting of the aromatic pungent dried stigmas of the saffron crocus and used to color and flavor foods.
Saffron is the most expensive spice at Walker's Market.

sagacious

adj
/ sə'gɑʃhəs /
L

possessing quick intellectual perceptions.
The neighbors often came to the sagacious old man for advice about investments.

sagacity

n
/ sə'gɑsədē /
L
quickness or acuteness of sense perceptions.
Chuck's sagacity made him the finest detective in the arson unit.

sagathy

sagebrush

sagittal

adj
/ 'sɑjədʰl /
L
of, relating to, or shaped like an arrow or arrowhead.
Murray fantasized that the sagittal rock he found in the quarry was an Indian arrowhead.

Sagittarius

n
/ 'sɑjə'ta(a)rēəs /
L
the ninth sign of the zodiac.
The Moon was in Sagittarius when Sherman was born.

salaam

salamander

n
/ 'sələ.məndə(r) /
Gk > L > F > E
a metal disk or plate heated and held over a food (as pastry or pudding) to brown the top of it.
A salamander is often used to caramelize the top of desserts like crème brûlée.

salami

n
/ sə'lāmē /
L > It
a highly seasoned sausage made of pork and beef.
Randy made a sandwich of salami and cheese.

salesclerk

salicetum

n
/ ,sələ'sēdəm /
L
a collection or plantation of willows.
The salicetum is Nikki's favorite picnic spot.

salicylate

salient

saline

salivary

salmon

n
/ 'səməŋ /
L > F > E
a variable color of salmon's flesh averaging a strong yellowish pink.
Unable to find a purse in the right shade of salmon, Vera decided to stick with basic black.

salmonellosis

n
/ ,səlmə.ne'lōsəs /
American name + Lcff
infection with a bacterial disease typically marked by gastroenteritis but often complicated by septicemia, meningitis, and other conditions.
Vaughn contracted salmonellosis while on the cruise.

salon

salsilla

n
/ sal'silə /
L

a tropical American plant with edible roots sometimes used as a substitute for potatoes.
In the West Indies we had our first taste of salsilla.

salutary

adj
/ 'salyətərē /
L

promoting health : curative, restorative.
The long vacation had a salutary effect on Grace's mental health.

salve

n
/ 'sav /
E

a healing ointment.
Jason's grandmother prepared a mustard oil salve and told him that if he used it, his troubles would be over in three days.

samovar

samphire

n
/ 'sam.fi(ə)r /
F name

a fleshy European coastal plant that is sometimes pickled.
Daphne ordered the salad of samphire and other greens.

sampler

samurai

sanctified

sanctimonious

adj
/ ,san(k)tə'mōnēəs /
L

displaying high-mindedness with intent to impress.
Ronnie's voice took on a sanctimonious tone when he volunteered to give his mother his meal.

sanction

sanctity

sanctum

n
/ 'san(k)təm /
L

a sacred place.
The innermost sanctum of the temple in Jerusalem was known as the Holy of Holies.

sandal

n
/ 'sandəl /
Gk > L > E

a shoe consisting essentially of a sole fastened to the foot by means of straps or thongs passing over the instep and around the ankle.
Lorraine stopped to refasten the strap of her sandal because her ankle had swollen.

sangaree

sangfroid

n
/ san'frwä /
L > F

extraordinary self-possession or imperturbability, especially under strain.
Justin remained calm during the prosecutor's attack and replied to the questions with sangfroid.

sanguinary

sanguine

adj
/ 'sangwən /
L

marked by eager hopefulness.
Ever sanguine, Kathy said that she would one day win the lottery.

sanitary

adj
/ 'sanətərē /
L

for or relating to the preservation of health.
Conditions at Christ Hospital are as sanitary as is humanly possible.

saponaceous

adj
/ ,sapə'nāshəs /
L

soapy.
Talc and soapstone have a saponaceous feel.

saporous

adj
/ 'sapərəs /
L

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

sapphire

n
/ 'sa.fi(ə)r /

Skt > Heb > Gk > L > F > E
a precious stone of transparent rich blue corundum of great value.
Sapphire has been highly prized as a gemstone since 800 B.C.

sapphiric

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

saprophagous

adj
/ sə'präfəgəs /
Gk + Gk

feeding on decaying matter.
While hiking, Ted and Paul passed the carcass of a squirrel that was covered with saprophagous insects.

saran

sarcasm

sarcophagus

sardine

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

sardonic

sardonyx

sarong

sarrazin

sarsaparilla

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

sartorial

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

sashay

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

Saskatchewan

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

saskatoon

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

sassafras

n
/ 'sas(ə)fras /
Sp > L
the dried bark of the root of an aromatic tree used as a diaphoretic, a flavoring agent, an aromatic stimulant, or as a source of an aromatic volatile oil used in perfumes.
Alba's family has a recipe for medicinal tea that contains sassafras.

satchel

satellite

n
/ 'səd'līt /
Etruscan? > L > F
a celestial body orbiting another of larger size.
Earth has only one natural satellite—the Moon.

satiare

satiety

n
/ sə'tiədē /
L > F
the quality or state of being fed to or beyond capacity.
Nell wondered if her beagle puppy would ever reach satiety.

satire

n
/ 'sa.tī(ə)r /
L
a usually topical literary composition holding up human or individual vices, folly, abuses, or shortcomings to censure by means of ridicule, derision, burlesque, irony, or other method sometimes with an intent to bring about improvement.
Gulliver's Travels is a scathing satire of political and religious hypocrises.

satiric

satirical

adj
/ sə'tirəkəl /
L > F
characterized by caustic or ironic comment.
Ned's cartoons have a sharp, satirical edge.

saturate

v
/ 'sachə.rāt /
L
infuse thoroughly or cause to be pervaded.
The aroma of a turkey roasting in the oven began to saturate the entire house.

saturnine

adj
/ 'sədə(r)nīn /
L
of a moody or surly character : morose, sullen.
Shirley's father-in-law is a saturnine person with a quick temper.

saucer

sauciness

n
/ 'sôsēnəs /
L > F + Ecf

the quality or state of being amusingly or unobjectionably forward or impertinent.

Emma felt they were friends again, and the conviction gave her at first great satisfaction, and then a little sauciness.

sauerbraten

n
/ 'sau(ə)r.brät'n /
G

oven-roasted or pot-roasted beef marinated in a vinegar solution with peppercorns, garlic, onions, and bay leaves before cooking.

Phil's favorite German restaurant features sauerbraten during Oktoberfest.

sauger

saunter

saurian

sausage

n
/ 'sôsij /
L > F > E

highly seasoned chopped or ground meat that is used either fresh or cured.

Harry's favorite pizza is topped with sausage and onions.

savagism

savorous

adj
/ 'sāv(ə)rəs /
L > F > E

pleasurable to the taste : flavorful.

Mabel prepared a savorous Thanksgiving dinner for her family.

savory

adj
/ 'sāv(ə)rē /
F

fragrant.

Guido bought a savory wooden bowl smelling of rich cedar and varnish.

savvy

n
/ 'savē /
L > Sp

expertness in a particular field based on experience and native ability.

Officer Ramos's street savvy was a great help in apprehending drug dealers.

saxophone

sayonara

n
/ ,sâyə'närə /
Jpn

good-bye.

Charlene found it hard to bid Nagano sayonara at the end of the 1998 Winter Olympics.

scabbard

n
/ 'skabə(r)d /
G > AF > E

a usually leather or metal sheath in which the blade of a sword, dagger, bayonet, or other cutting weapon is enclosed when not in use.

The knight began to pull his sword from its scabbard, but a look from the queen stopped him.

scabrous

adj
/ 'skabrəs /
L

rough to the touch : having small raised dots, scales, or points.

The leaf's scabrous texture was caused by insect attacks.

scaffold

scalene

adj
/ 'skālēn /
Gk

having the sides unequal—used of a triangle.

The boat's sail formed a scalene triangle.

scallopini

scalpel

n
/ 'skalpəl /
L

a small straight knife with a thin keen blade used especially for dissecting.

In surgery the scalpel is now often replaced by a laser beam.

scampi

scandal

scansion

n
/ 'skanchən /
L

the analysis of a rhythmic structure (as a verse) so as to show the elements or units of which its rhythm is composed.

There are three major types of English scansion: the graphic, the musical, and the acoustic.

scaphoid

adj
/ 'ska.fōid /
Gk > L

shaped like a boat.

Terence found a scaphoid depression in the rock.

scarce

adj
/ 'ske(ə)rəs /
L > F > E

not plentiful or abundant.

Lettuce became scarce and expensive after the recent flooding.

scarcity

scaturient

adj
/ skə'türēənt /
L

gushing forth : effusive, overflowing.

The explorers followed the river to its scaturient source.

scavenging

scelidosaur

scenario

n
/ sə'na(a)rēō /
Gk > L

an outline or synopsis of a play.
After the actor read the scenario, he decided that he was not right for the leading role.

scentless

adj
/ 'sentləs /
L > F > E + Ecf
emitting no odor.
Gerald prefers scentless soap.

scepter

n
/ 'septə(r) /
Gk > L > F > E
a staff or baton borne by a sovereign as a ceremonial emblem of authority.
When Ben played Henry VIII in the school play, his mother made him a scepter.

schadenfreude

n
/ 'shäd'n.fröidə /
G
enjoyment obtained from the mishaps of others.
Morgana claimed to be sympathetic, but the schadenfreude was all too obvious.

scheduling

schefflera

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

scheme

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

schemer

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

scherzando

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

scherzo

schiafone

schipperke

schism

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

schizoid

schizophrenia

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

schooner

schottische

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

schuss

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

schussboomer

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

sciatica

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

scientific

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

scientist

scilicet

scintilla

scintillate

v
/ 'sɪntɪˈlɪət /
L

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

scintillation

n
/ ˌsɪntɪˈlʃən /
L

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

scintiscan

sciolistic

adj
/ ˌsɪəˈlɪstɪk /
L

of or relating to superficial knowledge or to one whose knowledge is superficial.
The students' sciolistic conversation amused Professor Pickett.

sciosophy

scissors

sclerosis

n
/ skləˈrɒsəs /
Gk

pathological hardening of tissue produced by overgrowth of fibrous tissue and other changes or by increase in interstitial tissue.
Sclerosis is often a consequence of old age.

scofflaw

n
/ 'skɔːflə /
E + E

a contemptuous lawbreaker; especially : one who ignores parking tickets.
The scofflaw tore up his ticket in front of the police officer and was subsequently fined \$500.

sconce

n
/ 'skän(t)s /
L > F > E

an ornamental electric light fixture for a wall that resembles a bracket candlestick or group of candlesticks.
Tamara bought an elaborate sconce for her hallway.

scopate

adj
/ 'skɔːpət /
L + E

resembling a brush.
Some cacti have scopate flowers.

scoundrel

n
/ 'skaʊndrəl /
unknown

a bold selfish person who has very low ethical standards.
The treasurer of the company was fired when he was found out to be an opportunistic scoundrel.

scourge

n
/ 'skɔːrj /
L > F > E

a social evil.
Much of the city's crime is attributed to the scourge of recurrent unemployment.

scraggly

scrimmage

n
/ 'skrɪmɪj /
Gmc > E

practice play between a team's various squads.
Today's exciting scrimmage is a good indication that both squads are ready for the upcoming season.

scrimshaw

n
/ 'skrɪm.ʃə /
unknown

any of various carved or engraved useful or decorative articles sometimes colored by brushing ink into the engraved lines and made especially by American whalers from whalebone or whale ivory.
The whaling museum has a large collection of scrimshaw.

scrivener

n
/ 'skrɪv(ə)nə(r) /
L > F

a professional or public copyist or writer.
The critic dismissed the writer's novel as the uninspired work of a scrivener.

scroll

n
/ 'skrɔːl /
Gmc > F > E

a long strip used as the body of a written document and often having a rod or rods for convenience in rolling and storing.
The writing on the magician's scroll erased itself after the spell was read aloud.

scrumptious

adj
/ 'skrəm(p)ʃəs /
L

delightful, excellent.
The bakery down the street makes a scrumptious almond coffee cake.

scrupulously

adv
/ 'skrɪpyələslē /
L

conscientiously, painstakingly.
Katie washes her hands so scrupulously that her friends wonder if she has a psychological disorder.

sculptor

n
/ 'skʌlptə(r) /
L

one that carves, engraves, molds, welds, or constructs (materials) into a primarily three-dimensional work of art.

Pablo Picasso was equally influential as a painter, a sculptor, and a draftsman.

sculpture

scuppernong

n
/ 'skʌpə(r).nɒŋ /
geog name
any of various cultivated muscadine grape varieties which have yellowish-green fruit suggesting a plum in flavor.
Molly picked and ate a scuppernong from her grandmother's grape arbor.

scurrilous

adj
/ 'skʌrələs /
L

containing low obscenities or coarse abuse.
The farmers hurled scurrilous accusations across the barbed-wire fence.

scutellate

adj
/ sk(y)ü'telät /
L

rather flat with a distinct rim and a rounded to oval outline.
Beryl opened the packet and examined the scutellate seeds.

scuttlebutt

scythe

scytodopsis

seabound

seafaring

seasonably

sebaceous

adj
/ sə'bāshəs /
L

relating to, composed of, or secreting fatty matter.
Oily skin is usually the result of overactive sebaceous glands.

secco

secede

v
/ sə'sēd /
L

withdraw from a federation.
About ten more deputies have opted to secede from the governing majority.

secession

n
/ sə'seshən /
L

formal withdrawal from an organization (as a religious communion or political party or federation).
The history teacher explained that the South's secession from the United States was not solely an issue regarding slavery.

secessionist

secondariness

secularism

secund

sedens

sedentary

adj
/ 'sed'n.terē /
L

characterized by or requiring sitting or slight activity.
Isabelle's sedentary job provided little opportunity for exercise.

Seder

n
/ 'sādə(r) /
Heb

[has homonym: satyr] a Jewish home or community service and ceremonial dinner held on the first evening of the Passover.
Jim had never been to a Seder before he met Julia.

sediment

n
/ 'sedəmənt /
L

material deposited (as by water, wind, or glaciers).
The layers of sediment were evident in the shades of color on the rocky hillside.

sedition

n
/ sə'dishən /
L > F > E

an insurrection against constituted authority.
Because Paul openly advocated the overthrow of the government, he was charged with sedition.

sedulous

seedling

n
/ 'sedliŋ /
E + Ecf

a nursery plant (usually a tree) that has not been transplanted.
Karen bought a maple seedling at the tree farm.

seersucker

seethe

v
/ 'sā(.)gwā /
L > It

make a transition from one activity, topic, scene, or part to another as or as if part of a natural progression.
Senator Ward used an anecdote to segue to a new topic in his speech.

seguidilla

n
/ ,sāgē'dē(y)ə /
L > Sp

a Spanish dance with many regional variations or the music for this dance performed with guitar and castanets.

In the second act of the opera, the Spanish gypsy performs a seguidilla.

seiche

n
/ 'sāsh /
F

an oscillation of the surface of a lake or landlocked sea.

A seiche can be almost as powerful as a tidal wave.

seismism

n
/ 'sīz,mizəm /
Gk

earthquake phenomena.

Ralph gave a report about seismism in Chinese folklore.

seity

seizure

n
/ 'sēzhə(r) /
E

a sudden attack (as of a disease or sickness).

A seizure of hay fever ruined the picnic for Tom.

seldom

selectivity

selenian

adj
/ sə'lēnēən /
Gk

of, relating to, or designating the Moon.

Jim's story tells the tale of an explorer going off to create a selenian colony.

selenology

semaphore

semester

n
/ sə'mestə(r) /
L

either of the two periods of instruction commonly 18 weeks in length into which an academic year is usually divided.

Yolanda was delighted that her grades for the first semester were all A's.

semiautomatic

seminary

n
/ 'semə.nerē /
L

an institution for the training of candidates for the priesthood, ministry, or rabbinate.

The pulpit committee's first choice is a young person who has just completed seminary.

semolina

n
/ ,semə'lēnə /
L > It

the purified middlings of durum or other hard wheat used for macaroni and other alimentary pastes.

The best pasta is made from semolina.

senary

adj
/ 'sēnərē /
L

[has homonym: scenery] of, based upon, or characterized by six :

compounded of six things :

consisting of six parts.

Jethro experimented with music using a senary scale.

senectitude

senescent

adj
/ sə'nes'nt /
L

growing old.

The town's senescent infrastructure struggled under the burden of a growth spurt.

seneschal

n
/ 'senəshəl /
Gmc > F > E

a bailiff, steward, or majordomo of a great medieval lord.

The seneschal pounded his staff on the floor three times and announced the king's visitors.

senile

sensibilia

sensibility

sensible

sensory

adj
/ 'sen(t)s(ə)rē /
L + E

of or relating to the senses.

In some insects the sensory organs of taste, touch, smell, and hearing are located in the antennae.

sententious

adj
/ sen'tenchəs /
L

terse, aphoristic, or moralistic in expression : pithy.

The sitcom's drop in popularity was attributed to its growing tendency toward sententious sermonizing.

sentient

sentimental

sentinel

n
/ 'sent(ə)nəl /
L > It > F

one that watches or guards.

The sentinel peered into the distance through tiny binoculars.

separate

sepia

n
/ 'sɛpɛə /
Gk > L

a pigment of rich brown color containing melanin, prepared from the ink of various cuttlefishes, and used in watercolor painting and in ink.

Black-and-white photographs can be stained with sepia to give them an old-fashioned look.

septentrional

adj
/ sep'tentrɪənəl /
L

northern.
The septentrional seaports of Russia are frozen in the winter.

sepulchral

adj
/ sə'pʌlkɹəl /
L

having a funereal quality.
Dusk and a vase of gardenias gave the parlor a sepulchral air.

sequaciousness

n
/ sə'kwəʃəsnes /
L > E

the quality or state of being imitative or obsequious.
Cal's sequaciousness failed to win him a promotion.

sequel

n
/ 'sɛkwəl /
L

continuation; especially : a literary work continuing the course of a narrative begun in a preceding one.
The film was so popular that the producer asked the screenwriter for a sequel.

sequester

v
/ sə'kwɛstə(r) /
L > F > E

hide from public view : seclude.
The judge wanted to sequester the jury to keep them from hearing news reports that might sway their opinions.

seraphic

adj
/ sə'rafɪk /
Heb > L

of, relating to, or befitting an angel of the highest order especially in beauty or ecstatic adoration.

The choir's hymn of praise sounded sublimely seraphic.

serendipitous

adj
/ ,sɛrən'dɪpədəs /
Ar geog name + Ecf
obtained or characterized by unexpected but fortunate discovery.
Mickey's serendipitous discovery of five quarters and two dimes on the sidewalk made his day.

serge

serictery

n
/ sə'riktərē /
Gk > L

the silk-producing gland of a caterpillar or other insect larva.
As it spins its cocoon, the silkworm caterpillar secretes a gummy substance from each serictery.

serigraphy

sermonize

v
/ 'sɛrmə.nɪz /
F > E

address at length in a didactic and solemn manner.
Everyone is hoping that Dad won't find something to sermonize about when he chaperones the school dance.

serpiginous

serrated

adj
/ 'sɛ.rədəd /
L

notched or toothed on the edge.
Under the microscope, dust mites appear to be hairy monsters with serrated claws.

serrefine

serried

adj
/ 'sɛrɪd /
F

crowded or pressed together.
The serried tenements of the big city soon gave way to rolling hills.

serviceable

adj
/ 'sɛrvəsəbəl /
L > F

suited for a purpose.
Filene lamented that the poncho's design, though serviceable, is not very fashionable.

servile

adj
/ 'sɛrvəl /
L

[has homonym: serval] of, relating to, or appropriate to slaves.
Oscar was thankful to be freed from his servile status.

sesquicentennial

n
/ ,sɛskwəsən'tɛnɛəl /
L

a 150th anniversary.
The state issued special license plates to commemorate its sesquicentennial.

sesquipedalian

adj
/ ,sɛskwəpə'dālyən /
L

given to or characterized by the use of long words.
Norbert dozed off halfway through the principal's sesquipedalian speech.

session

severance

shackle

v
/ 'shakəl /
E
[has homonym: shackel] confine the limbs of so as to prevent free motion.
The prisoner of war told the United Nations delegation that his guards had threatened to shackle him 24 hours a day.

shaddock

n
/ 'shadək /
E name
a very large thick-rinded typically pear-shaped citrus fruit.
The shaddock resembles the grapefruit but is larger, coarser, and drier.

shadiness

n
/ 'shādēnəs /
E + Ecff
the quality or state of comparative darkness.
On a hot day, the cool shadiness of a tree is very welcome.

shaganappi

shale

n
/ 'shāl /
E
a fissile rock that is formed by the consolidation of clay, mud, or silt.
The petroleum refinery also markets by-products of shale.

shallot

n
/ shə'lät /
L > F
a perennial herb that resembles an onion and is used in cooking.
Ted didn't have time to go to the store again, so he substituted a white onion for a shallot in the recipe.

shanghaied

shears

shebang

shekel

n
/ 'shekəl /
Hebrew
a Hebrew unit of weight equal to about 252 grains troy.
In the Talmudist system, a shekel is 1/60 of a mina.

shenanigan

shenanigans

n pl
/ shə'nənəgənz /
unknown
high-spirited, daring, or mischievous acts : pranks.
On the first day of school Mrs. Gibson warned the class that she would not put up with any shenanigans in her classroom.

sheriff

n
/ 'sherəf /
E
a county officer who is usually elected by the people of the county and has the duty of preserving the peace.
The office of sheriff is a holdover from medieval English law.

shibboleth

n
/ 'shibələθ /
Heb
a custom or usage regarded as a criterion for distinguishing members of one group (as a social class) from those of another.
Table manners are sometimes used as a shibboleth of class distinction.

shillibeer

n
/ 'shilə.bi(ə)r /
E name
a horse-drawn hearse with seats for mourners.
The museum has acquired an ornate Victorian shillibeer.

shillyshallyer

shindig

n
/ 'shin.dig /
E
a jovial social affair that includes dancing.
Max hosted the shindig at the hotel.

shipwreck

n
/ 'shi.prek /
E + Scand > F > E
a large ruined or stranded seagoing boat or its parts.
The shipwreck was mottled with barnacles.

shivering

v
/ 'shiv(ə)riŋ /
E
trembling due to cold, fear, or physical pressure.
Norma was shivering because she did not dress in warm clothing.

shrapnel

n
/ 'shrapnəl /
E name
bomb, mine, or shell fragments.
The surgeon found and removed all of the shrapnel in the soldier's leg, ensuring a swift recovery.

shrewdness

n
/ 'shrüdnəs /
E
the quality or state of being discerning or astute.
Shrewdness is Janet's strong suit.

shriek

n
/ 'shrēk /
E
a shrill, usually wild or involuntary cry.
Nancy let out a shriek when her little brother dropped an ice cube down the back of her dress.

shubunkin

shuddering

v
/ 'shəd(ə)riŋ /

E
shaking with fear, aversion, horror, or cold.

Joan woke shuddering from a nightmare.

sibilant

adj
/ 'sibələnt /

L imit
having, containing, or producing the sound of or a sound resembling that of the s or the sh in sash.

"She sells sea shells. . . ." is a sibilant tongue twister.

siccative

adj
/ 'sikədɪv /

L
causing to dry : promoting the action of drying.

Zinc oxide is often used as a siccative agent for skin rashes.

sickle

sicklocyte

n
/ 'sik(ə)ləsɪt /

E + Gk
an abnormal red blood cell of crescent shape.

The patient with sickle-cell anemia wanted to see a sicklocyte under the microscope.

sidereal

adj
/ sɪ'dirēəl /

L
[has near homonym: sideral] of or relating to stars or constellations.

Time-lapse photography was used by the observatory to detect sidereal motion.

siege

n
/ 'sēj /

L > F > E
the operations of an army around a fortified place for the purpose of compelling its surrender by assault or blockade.

The defenders were confident they could outlast the siege, since the castle had an underground source of fresh water.

siffilate

v
/ 'sɪfələt /

L > F
whisper.
The diners began to siffilate when the celebrity entered the restaurant.

signature

silentiary

n
/ sɪ'lenʃē.ərē /

L
one appointed to keep silence and order (as in a court of law or a public assembly).

One stern glance from the silentiary was all it took to stop Karsten's insipid murmuring.

silhouette

n
/ ,sɪlə'wet /

F name
a representation of the outlines of an object filled in with black or some other uniform color.

Mrs. Baldwin has a framed silhouette of each of her children on the wall of her foyer.

silhouettist

siliciferous

adj
/ ,sɪlə'sɪf(ə)rəs /

L
producing, containing, or united with silica.

When geologists analyzed the siliciferous rock, they found quartz and chlorite veins.

silicon

n
/ 'sɪləkən /

L
[Note: Could be confused with silicone.] a nonmetallic element that occurs abundantly in combined form and is used chiefly in the form of alloys.

The scientist was striving to devise a new method for purifying silicon for use in fabricating microchips.

sillographer

n
/ sə'ləgrəfə(r) /

Gk
a writer of satires.
The marble bust of the ancient sillographer crashed to the library floor.

similarity

simile

n
/ 'sɪmə(,)lē /

L
a figure of speech comparing two essentially unlike things and often introduced by like or as.
Kermit has a pet chicken and knows firsthand what the simile "as scarce as hens' teeth" means.

simnel

n
/ 'sɪmnəl /

Semitic? > L > F > E
a rich fruit cake sometimes covered with almond paste.
Auntie Grace always serves simnel during the December holidays.

simpatico

adj
/ sɪm'pədə.kə /

L > It
possessing attractive qualities : appealing, likable.
The hero of the novel is a thoroughly simpatico character.

simulacrum

n
/ˌsɪmjəˈlækrəm/
L

a representation of something :
image, effigy.
*A simulacrum of Elvis stood at the
entrance to the wax museum.*

simultaneity

simultaneous

sinciput

sinecure

n
/ˈsɪnəkjū(ə)r/
L

an office or position that requires
little or no work and that usually
provides an income.
*The mayor made the grave mistake
of handing out a sinecure to a
friend.*

sinew

n
/ˈsɪ(ə)nyū/
E

tendon; especially : one dressed for
use as a cord or thread.
*Ephraim wore a jade pendant in
the shape of a bear on a sinew
around his neck.*

singeing

singularize

v
/ˈsɪŋɡjələɪz/
L + Ecf
distinguish.

*By practicing every day, Ben
believed he could singularize
himself in the school orchestra.*

sinistral

adj
/ˈsɪnəstrəl/
L

of or relating to the left.
*The sorcerer's mask was ripped
away, revealing terrible scars on
the sinistral side of his face.*

sinuosity

n
/ˌsɪnyəˈwəsədə/
L

the quality or state of bending in
and out.
*The sinuosity of the mountain road
taxed Ken's driving skills.*

sinusitis

n
/ˌsɪnəˈsɪdəs/
L

inflammation of any of the several
cavities in the skull.
*The allergist explained that Alice's
headaches and sneezing are due to
sinusitis.*

sirloin

n
/ˈsɜːlɔɪn/
L > F > E

a cut of meat and especially of beef
taken from the hindquarters.
*The butcher cut the sirloin into
steaks for his customers.*

sitology

n
/sɪˈtɒlədʒi/
Gk

[Word has homonym: cytology. In
addition, an alternate pronunciation
has near homonym: cetology.] the
science of nutrition and dietetics.
*Deirdre plans to major in sitology
and write cookbooks for
vegetarians.*

skedaddle

v
/skəˈdɑdəl/
unknown

run away : leave hastily.
*A sudden shower caused Karen to
skedaddle from the bazaar.*

skeleton

n
/ˈskelətən/
Gk

the bones of a human being or
other vertebrate.
*Dr. Symonds has a real human
skeleton in his office.*

skewbald

skewer

n
/ˈskjuə(r)/
unknown

[has near homonym: skua] a pin of
wood or metal for fastening meat to
keep in form while roasting or to
hold small pieces of meat and
vegetables for broiling.
*Maggie put pieces of steak and
vegetables on the skewer.*

skillet

n
/ˈskɪlət/
E

frying pan.
*A quality deep skillet has many
uses in the kitchen.*

skimeister

n
/ˈskɛmɪstə(r)/
G + L > G

[Note: Caution should be taken not
to confuse second part of this
compound word with master.] a
professional skier or skiing
instructor.
*Diantha pretended to be a poor
skier just to get close to the
handsome skimeister.*

skimpiness

n
/ˈskɪmpənəs/
Scand? > E? + Ecf

the quality or state of being
deficient in supply or execution.
*The skimpiness of Eunice's budget
did not allow for many luxuries.*

skittish

skoal

skookum

adj
/ˈskükəm/
Chinook

marked by excellent quality : first-
rate.
*Liz felt sure that the pail of
blueberries would make a skookum
pie.*

slalom

n
/ 'släləm /
Norw
skiing in a zigzag or wavy course between upright obstacles.
Tully did the slalom down the mountainside.

slanderous

slantindicular

adj
/ ,slant°n'dikyələ(r) /
E + L > F > E
somewhat oblique.
The main staircase of the new library rises at a slantindicular angle to the facade.

slapstick

n
/ 'slap.stik /
G imit + E
comedy that depends for its effect on fast, boisterous, and zany physical activity and horseplay often accompanied by broad rowdy verbal humor.
The Three Stooges were famous for their slapstick.

sleazily

sledgehammer

sleuth

v
/ 'slüth /
ON > E
act as a detective or investigator : search for information or facts.
There are several game programs that teach children how to sleuth out facts and figures on the Internet.

slobberhannes

sluice

n
/ 'slüs /
L > F > E
a body of water pent up behind a floodgate.
Ellen crossed the sluice in a canoe.

smectic

smoggy

adj
/ 'smägē /
(E + Scand?) > E
characterized by or abounding in a fog made heavier and darker by smoke and chemical fumes.
The smoggy atmosphere of Los Angeles aggravated Frank's allergies.

smorgasbord

n
/ 'smörgəs.börd /
Sw
a luncheon or supper buffet offering a variety of foods and dishes.
Nita's smorgasbord included turkey and smoked salmon.

snagrel

n
/ 'snagrəl /
unknown
an herb of the genus Aristolochia of the eastern United States.
Snagrel is also called Virginia snakeroot.

soavemente

adv
/ sō.ävā'mentā /
L > It
with sweetness or smoothness : in a gentle manner—used as a direction in music.
The serenade was played soavemente by the strings.

sociable

adj
/ 'sōshəbəl /
L
enjoying companionship.
The dolphin is one of the most sociable creatures known to man.

sodality

sojourner

n
/ 'sō.jörnə(r) /
F > E
one that stays as a temporary resident.
Even though he had lived there for five years, Russell knew he was regarded as a sojourner by the neighbors.

solatium

n
/ sō'lāshĕəm /
L
something that alleviates or compensates for suffering or loss; especially : an additional allowance (as for injured feelings).
The government offered a solatium to the families of those killed in the terrorist bombing.

solder

v
/ 'sädə(r) /
L > F > E
[has homonym: sodder] unite or make whole by means of a melted metallic alloy.
Jennifer's science class learned how to solder wires so they could experiment with electrical circuits.

soldier

solecism

sofatara

n
/ ,sälfə'tärə /
L > It
a volcanic area or vent that yields sulfur gases and hot vapors and represents a late stage of volcanic activity.
Harry noticed a rotten-egg odor coming from a sofatara on the north side of the previously inactive volcano.

solferino

solicitous

adj
/ sə'lisədəs /
L

manifesting or expressing concern.
Dr. Turner is especially solicitous toward his older patients.

soliloquy

n
/ sə'liləkwē /
L

a discourse made by one in solitude to oneself.
At the talent contest Angelo stepped into the spotlight and recited Hamlet's famous soliloquy "To be or not to be, . . ."

solipsism

n
/ 'sɒləp.sizəm /
L

extreme indulgence of and concern with the self at the expense of social relationships especially as expressed in a failure of artistic communication.
Critics accused the popular actor of solipsism.

solitaire

n
/ 'sälə.ta(ə)r /
L

a card game designed for one person to play alone.
Shelley often relaxes by playing solitaire after everyone else has gone to bed.

soliterraneous

adj
/ .sɒlətə'rænēəs /
L

of or relating to Earth and the Sun.
Scientists attribute the recent drought to soliterraneous causes.

solivagant

adj
/ sɒ'livəgənt /
L

marked by solitary wandering.
During his first semester in college, Gerry took frequent solivagant walks around the campus.

solleret

n
/ ,sälə'ret /
L > F

a flexible steel shoe forming part of a medieval suit of armor.
The curator explained that the cumbersome solleret had to be removed to allow the knight to fight on foot.

solmization

solon

n
/ 'sɒlən /
Gk name

a wise and skillful lawgiver or statesman.
Judge Kantz is revered throughout the county as a solon.

solstice

n
/ 'sälztəs /
L > F > E

one of two points on the ecliptic at which its distance from the celestial equator is greatest and which is reached by the Sun each year about June 22nd and December 23rd.
The North Pole is tilted directly toward the Sun at the summer solstice.

solstitial

adj
/ sälz'tishəl /
L

of or relating to the two points on the ecliptic at which its distance from the celestial equator is greatest and which is reached by the Sun each year about June 22nd and December 23rd.
Ancient myths about the eternal battle between light and dark are tied to equinoctial and solstitial moments in the year.

solvolysis

somnambulant

adj
/ sām'nambyələnt /
L + L

walking or addicted to walking while asleep.
Sheila could remember nothing of her somnambulant activities when she was told of them the next morning.

somniloquist

somnolence

sonorous

adj
/ 'sänərəs /
L

characterized by full or loud sound often with clear or rich tone, marked volume, or easy audibility.
Alex's sonorous voice made him the clear choice to perform the reading.

soothsaying

sophistry

n
/ 'säfəstrē /
Gk > F

reasoning that is superficially plausible but actually fallacious.
Larry's masterful but irresponsible sophistry easily convinced naïve listeners.

Sophoclean

adj
/ .säfə'klēən /
Gk name

of, relating to, or characteristic of the Athenian tragic poet Sophocles or his dramas.
Finding a new Sophoclean fragment in the museum's papyri was Gunther's claim to fame.

sophomore

n
/ 'säf(ə).mō(ə)r /
Gk

a student in his second year or with second-year standing at a college.
As a sophomore, Jason was expected to find a one-semester internship in his major subject.

soporific

adj
/ˌsɒpəˈrɪfɪk/
L > F

causing or tending to cause sleep.
The students valiantly attempted to fight off the soporific effects of the lecture.

sorbet

n
/ˈsɔrbət/
Turkish > It > F

[Note: Could be confused with sherbet.] a frozen dessert made with a mixture of fruits.
Wylie ate sorbet between courses to cleanse his palate.

sorcerer

n
/ˈsɔ(r)s(ə)rə(r)/
L > F

magician.
Traveling alone in the dark, the sorcerer saw no harm in conjuring up a lamp for his convenience.

sorcery

sorghum

n
/ˈsɔrgəm/
L? > It

syrup produced by evaporating the juice from stems of certain tropical grasses.
Rachel likes sorghum on her oatmeal.

sorrel

n
/ˈsɔrəl/
Gmc > F > E

[has homonyms: saurel, soral, sorel] a light bright chestnut horse often with white mane and tail.
Ken promised to take good care of the sorrel his dad had bought for him.

sortie

sortileger

n
/ˈsɔ(r)dˈlɪjə(r)/
L

one that tells fortunes; especially : a person who for payment predicts what are claimed to be future events or influences in the life of another.
The sortileger predicted a radical change in Frank's lifestyle.

soubise

n
/süˈbēz/
F geog name

a white or brown sauce containing onions or onion puree.
A sauceboat of soubise accompanied the roast.

soubrette

sourdough

sousaphone

n
/ˈsüzəˌfɒn/
Amer name + Gk > E

a large circular tuba having a flaring adjustable bell.
The band director was looking for someone who could play the sousaphone.

soutane

souterrain

souvenir
n
/ˌsüvəˈni(ə)r/
L > F

something that serves as a reminder : memento, remembrance.
Moira kept a seashell as a souvenir of her trip to the ocean.

spacious

spacistor
n
/ˈspāˌsɪstə(r)/
L

a high-frequency semiconductor amplifying device.
The spacistor has replaced the transistor because of its greater ability to amplify electrical energy.

spaghetti

n
/spəˈɡedē/
It

a pasta made in solid strings of small diameter but larger than vermicelli.
The specialty of the restaurant was spaghetti with meat sauce.

spandex

spangle

n
/ˈspŋgəl/
Scand > E

a small object that brightly reflects light.
The packrat ran out into the road to pick up the glittering spangle.

spaniel

spatiotemporal

adj
/ˌspāshē(ˌ)ɒˈtemp(ə)rəl/
L

having the quality of something that is at once extended and enduring.
The philosopher pointed out that two things cannot coexist in one spatiotemporal point.

spatterdock

spatula

n
/ˈspachələ/
L

a flat thin flexible dull-edged usually metal implement used especially for spreading or mixing soft substances, scooping, or lifting.
With batter on his face and a spatula in his fist, Casey smiled for his mom and her camera.

species

n pl
/ˈspē(ˌ)shēz/
L

a category of biological classification ranking immediately below a genus or subgenus.
The housefly belongs to the genus Musca and the species domestica.

specimen

n
/ 'spesəmən /
L

a particular single item, part, aspect, or incident that is typical and indicative of the nature, character, or quality of others in the same class or group.

At the museum Ken and Allison saw an excellent specimen of a moon rock.

specious

adj
/ 'spēshəs /
L

superficially fair, just, or correct, but not so in reality.

Only after the candidate was elected was the actual truth of her specious claims exposed.

spectrum

n
/ 'spektrəm /
L

a series of images formed when a beam of light is subjected to dispersion.

The specialty store carried a spectrum of ties to suit any man's taste.

speleologist

n
/ ,spēlē'äləjəst /
Gk > L > ISV

a specialist in the scientific study or systematic exploration of caves.

Dale's work as a speleologist takes him to spectacular natural features around the world.

speleothem

n
/ 'spēlēə.thəm /
Gk > L > ISV + Gk

a cave deposit or formation.

Receding waters have left a speleothem of carbonate on the cavern floor.

sphagnum

n
/ 'sfagnəm /
Gk > L

any plant of a large genus of atypical mosses that grow only in very wet acid areas where their accumulated remains become compacted with other plant debris to form peat.

A large patch of sphagnum grew in the bog by the police station.

spherical

adj
/ 'sfirəkəl /
Gk > L + Ecf

like a sphere : globular.

Linda suspected that the spherical rock she found was a geode.

spheterize

v
/ 'sfedə.rīz /
Gk

take for one's own : appropriate.

The invading army proceeded to spheterize the villagers' private property.

sphinx

n
/ 'sfɪŋ(k)s /
Gk > L

a monster in Greek mythology having typically a lion's body, wings, and the head and bust of a woman.

According to Greek legend, the sphinx of Thebes would pose a riddle to a passerby and then kill that person if he or she could not answer it.

spiedino

n
/ ,spēə'dē(,)nō /
Gmc > F > It

a dish of meat rolled around a filling or minced and formed into balls, then usually batter-dipped and cooked on a skewer.

The chef grilled a spiedino of beef on a charcoal grill.

spinescent

adj
/ spī'nes'nt /
L

tapering to a sharp rigid point.
The fish Homer caught had two spinescent fins.

spinet

n
/ 'spɪnət /
L > It

a compactly built upright piano of reduced height and usually reduced keyboard suitable for limited space.

Percival didn't have room for a full-size piano in his studio apartment, so he bought a spinet.

spinnaker

n
/ 'spɪnəkə(r) /
unknown
a large triangular sail set on a long light pole and used when running before the wind.
The spinnaker on Diane's boat is cardinal red.

spiracle

n
/ 'spɪrəkəl /
L

one of the breathing pores found on the thorax and abdomen of an insect.

The muscular valve of a spiracle opens only to allow the uptake of oxygen and the escape of carbon dioxide.

spiritual

splendent

splenectomize

splenetic

adj
/ splə'nedɪk /
Gk > L
marked by morose bad temper, sullen malevolence, or spiteful, peevish anger.
The splenetic critic gave the musical a scathing review.

spoliation

spongicolous

sponson

spontaneity

n
/ ˌspɑntəˈneɪdē /
L

the quality or state of being unconstrained or impulsive.

Brian has always liked to stick to a schedule, but lately he has shown more spontaneity than usual.

spontaneous

adj
/ spɑnˈtāneəs /
L

proceeding from natural feeling or native tendency without external constraint.

His employee's spontaneous obedience made Tim's job pleasant.

sporadically

sporran

n
/ ˈspərən /
ScotGael
a large pouch of skin with the hair or fur on that is worn in front of the kilt by Highlanders in full dress and used as a purse.
Angus picked up a quarter and put it in his sporran.

springerle

n
/ ˈs(h)prɪŋərlə /
G
a thick hard cookie usually flavored with anise and impressed with a relief design and traditionally eaten at Christmas in German-speaking countries.
Klaus broke his tooth on a stale springerle.

spur

spurious

squadron

squalid

adj
/ ˈskwələd /
L
marked by filthiness and degradation usually from neglect.
The squalid tenement building was condemned and scheduled for demolition.

squaliform

adj
/ ˈskwələfɔrm /
L > E
resembling a shark or dogfish in form.
While scuba diving, Mike encountered a group of curious squaliform fish.

squeamish

adj
/ ˈskwēmɪʃ /
AF > E
inclined to become nauseated : queasy.
Pat is squeamish when it comes to rides at the fair.

sqelch

v
/ ˈskwelch /
imit
move with water or mud in one's shoes and produce a sucking or splashing sound.
After playing in mud puddles all the way home, Frances tried to sqelch quietly to her room without getting caught by her mother.

squirrel

n
/ ˈskwər(ə)l /
Gk > L > F > E
any of various widely distributed small to medium-sized rodents that have a bushy tail and long strong hind limbs.
On the trunk of the tree, a brown squirrel was clinging and watching the boy below.

stabilimeter

stable

staccato

adj
/ stəˈkād(,)ō /
F > It
marked by short clear-cut playing or singing of tones or chords.
Marcia's piano teacher told her to practice the etude's staccato passage several minutes each day.

stagnant

adj
/ ˈstagnənt /
L
having undergone physical changes while standing; especially : impaired in flavor, odor, or texture by such changes.
Josh stood still in disbelief after Kevin pushed him into the stagnant water of the ditch.

stalactite

n
/ stəˈlaktīt /
Gk
a deposit of calcium carbonate resembling an icicle hanging from the roof or sides of a cavern.
It takes hundreds of years for a stalactite to form.

stalagmite

n
/ stəˈlagmīt /
Gk
a deposit of crystalline calcium carbonate more or less like an inverted stalactite formed on the floor of a cave.
A gigantic stalagmite blocked the spelunker's path.

stalwart

adj
/ ˈstɒlwə(r)t /
E
brave, valiant, resolute.
The new musical comedy is based on the story of Robin Hood and his stalwart companions.

stamina

n
/ 'stamənə /
L

strength or courage of conviction :
staying power.

The elderly senator doubted that he had the stamina to last through another election campaign.

stamnos

stanchion

n
/ 'stanchən /
L > F

an upright bar, post, prop, brace, or support.

When Oliver lost control of his car, it swerved and hit a traffic-light stanchion.

stanniferous

adj
/ sta'nif(ə)rəs /
Celt > L

containing tin.

In Spain, Italy, and the Middle East pottery is sometimes covered with a white stanniferous glaze as a base for other decoration.

stapes

statically

adv
/ 'stədək(ə)lē /
Gk > L

in stable or unchanging terms.

Alan's problem was that he always viewed problems statically.

stationary

adj
/ 'stāshə.nerē /
L

[has homonym: stationery] fixed in a place, position, course, or mode.

The clerk calmly remained in a stationary position.

stationery

n
/ 'stāshə.nerē /
L > F > E

[has homonym: stationary] materials (as paper, pens, pencils, ink, blankbooks, ledgers, and cards) for writing or typing.

Claudia complained that just before the beginning of every school year the office stationery began to disappear.

statistician

n
/ ,stadə'stishən /
L > G

one versed in or engaged in compiling masses of numerical data.

Jamie's career as a statistician began with following baseball scores.

statistics

n pl
/ stə'tistiks /
L

a science dealing with the collection, analysis, interpretation, and presentation of masses of numerical data.

Our state has lost some of its voting clout because of statistics reported by the U.S. Census Bureau.

statuesque

adj
/ ,stachə'wesk /
L > F > E + F > Ecf

having a massive dignity or impressiveness : majestic.

A statuesque sculpture stood in the town square.

steadily

stearic

steatogenous

steeple

stegosaur

steinkern

n
/ 's(h)tīn.kern /
G

a fossil consisting of a stony mass that entered a hollow natural object (as a bivalve shell) in the form of mud or sediment, was consolidated, and remained as a cast after dissolution of the mold.

For show-and-tell, Rose brought in a steinkern she had found at the beach.

stellar

adj
/ 'stelə(r) /
L

of, relating to, or derived from the stars.

Rapid stellar rotation can modify the structure of a star's atmosphere.

stentorophonic

steppe

n
/ 'step /
Russ

[has homonym: step] one of the vast tracts in southeastern Europe or Asia that are usually level and without forests.

The tourists explored the steppe in search of exotic wildlife.

stereotype

sternutation

n
/ ,stərnjə'tāshən /
L

the act, fact, or noise of sneezing.

Pat's sternutation was so frequent and loud that his office mate asked to be transferred to another department.

stertorous

adj
/ 'stərdərəs /
L

characterized by a harsh snoring or gasping sound.

While asleep in his easy chair, Uncle Max would give a start every few minutes, briefly awakened by his own stertorous breathing.

stethoscope

n
/ 'stethə.skōp /
Gk > F
an instrument used for the detection and study of sounds within the body.
Heard through a stethoscope, the rumbling of the stomach can sound like a storm at sea.

stevedore

n
/ 'stēvədō(ə)r /
L > Sp
one who works at or is responsible for the loading or unloading of a ship in port.
The stevedore returned to the ship after dining at his favorite dockside restaurant.

stifle

v
/ 'stīfəl /
F > E
kill by smothering : asphyxiate.
Smoke can stifle a person in a short period of time.

stimulus

stipend

n
/ 'stī.pend /
L
a fixed sum of money typically modest in amount that is paid periodically in compensation for services.
The university gave Professor Barrett a stipend for his lecture series.

stirrup

stochastic

adj
/ stə'kastik /
Gk
lacking or seeming to lack a regular plan, purpose, or pattern.
Vince programmed the computer to create a stochastic series of numbers.

stoically

stolkjaerre

strabismus

n
/ strə'bīzməs /
Gk > L
inability of one eye to attain binocular vision with the other because of imbalance of the extrinsic eye muscles.
Corrective surgery was performed to remedy Herman's strabismus.

stratagem

n
/ 'strədʒəm /
Gk
a cleverly contrived trick or scheme for gaining an end.
Barb was disappointed that her mother saw through her stratagem for staying out past curfew.

strategist

strength

strephosymbolia

n
/ .stre(,)fō.sim'bōlēə /
Gk
reversal or transposition of phrases, words, or letters or of any symbols especially in reading.
Because of his strephosymbolia, Ryan was diagnosed as having a learning disorder.

strepitous

adj
/ 'strepədəs /
L
characterized or accompanied by much noise.
The playoff game was a strepitous event.

streptomycin

n
/ .streptō'mīs'n /
Gk
an antibiotic organic base active against many bacteria and used especially in the treatment of infections (as tuberculosis) by gram-negative bacteria.
Streptomycin was the first drug to prove effective against tuberculosis.

streusel

streuselkuchen

n
/ 'strūsəl.kükən /
G
coffee cake that is baked with a topping of a crumbly mixture of butter, sugar, and flour and sometimes nuts and spices.
Mrs. Messer, our neighbor, always bakes her family a streuselkuchen for the holidays.

strident

adj
/ 'strīd'nt /
L
marked by insistent, discordant, harsh, shrill, or grating noise or sound.
Mary-ellen's fingernails produced a strident sound as she drew them across the blackboard.

stringent

adj
/ 'strinjənt /
L
marked by rigor, strictness, or severity.
Stringent regulations have helped curb environmental pollution.

stroganoff

adj
/ 'strōgə.nōf /
Russ name
sliced thin and cooked in a sauce of meat stock, sour cream, onion, and condiments.
Erica prepared beef stroganoff for the mayor's visit.

strongylid

strophulus

n
/ 'sträfyələs /
Gk
a rash in infants popularly associated with teething distress.
The pediatrician prescribed an ointment for our baby's strophulus.

strudel

n
/ 's(h)trüd*1 /
G

a sheet of paper-thin dough rolled up with any of various fillings and baked.

The flight attendant served the coach passengers a light breakfast of coffee, juice, and strudel.

strychnine

n
/ 'stri:k.nīn /
Gk

a very poisonous bitter crystalline alkaloid obtained from various plants.

Strychnine is a popular poison in murder mystery novels.

stubborn

studious

adj
/ 'st(y)üdēās /
L

of, relating to, or concerned with the application of the mental faculties to the acquisition of knowledge.

Pam is the most studious pupil in Mr. Ramsey's class.

stupefy

v
/ 'st(y)üpə.fī /
L

blunt or deaden the faculties of perception and understanding of.

Bright headlights will often stupefy a deer and cause it to stand motionless in the path of an oncoming vehicle.

sturgeon

stygian

adj
/ 'stij(ē)ən /
Gk name

characteristic of death.

A black robe, a papier-mâché sickle, and some grayish makeup completed Sean's stygian Halloween costume.

stylebook

styptic

adj
/ 'stiptik /
Gk

tending to arrest bleeding.

Kenneth had to apply a styptic agent to his chin where he cut himself while shaving.

suable

suasible

adj
/ 'swāsəbəl /
L

capable of being induced into some mental position : easily brought to belief, certainty, or conviction.

When it comes to trying new foods, Ming is the least suasible member of her family.

suavity

subaqueous

adj
/ ,səb'ākweās /
L

being or found under water or beneath the surface of water.

Bartley rented a glass-bottomed boat to get a better look at the subaqueous fauna.

subbasement

subboreal

adj
/ səb'bōrēəl /
L

very cold : approaching the frigid.

Hope grew up in Florida and finds it very difficult to live in what she calls the "subboreal climate" of Minnesota.

subfuscous

subjugate

v
/ 'səbjə.gāt /
L

bring under the yoke of power or dominion.

The love of acquisition and conquest are powers of destruction when used to subjugate one person to another.

subridant

adj
/ ,sə'brīd*nt /
L

wearing or offered with a smile.

Eilene's subridant answer belied the furious feelings she had toward the questioner.

subscriber

subservient

adj
/ (,)səb'sərvēənt /
L

subordinate.

In ancient Rome, wives were legally subservient.

subsistence

n
/ səb'sistən(t)s /
L

a mode of obtaining the necessities of life : livelihood.

Mr. Ellis preaches to his students that a good education goes far to ensure a respectable subsistence.

substitute

n
/ 'səbzət.tüt /
L

a person who takes the place of or acts for another.

When Donald fouled out of the basketball game, the coach decided to send in a substitute who had been warming the bench for weeks.

subterfuge

n
/ 'səbtə(r).fyuj /
L

deception by trickery or stratagem to conceal, escape, avoid, or evade.

George's experience in subterfuge is mostly in cryptography.

subterranean

subtleness

n
/ 'səd*lnəs /
L > F > E + Ecf

the quality or state of being delicate or elusive.

The subtleness of the almond custard eluded Mr. Denson.

succedent

successor

succinct

adj
/ sək'sinj(k)t /
L

marked by brief and compact expression or by lack of unnecessary words and details.
Sandy's succinct answers do not satisfy those who question him.

succorance

n
/ 'səkə(r)rən(t)s /
L > F > E

dependence.
Harold took measures to reduce his succorance on nasal decongestants.

succotash

n
/ 'səkətəʃ /
Algonquian

a mixture of lima beans or shell beans and kernels of corn cooked together.
Even though Thelma likes both corn and lima beans, she isn't fond of succotash.

succulence

succulent

adj
/ 'səkyələnt /
L

full of juice : juicy.
Perry wiped his mouth with his sleeve after he bit into the succulent peach.

succumbence

sudadero

n
/ ,südə'de(,)rō /
L > Sp

a broad piece (as of leather) attached to a stirrup strap to protect a rider's leg from sweat.
Before mounting his horse, the cowboy checked to see that each sudadero was properly attached.

suddenness

sudoriferous

adj
/ ,südə'rif(ə)rəs /
L

producing or conveying sweat.
Cycling and running are sudoriferous forms of exercise.

suede

suffice

v
/ sə'fīs /
L
be enough : meet or satisfy a need.
One teaspoonful of salt will suffice for the stew.

sufflamine

v
/ sə'flamə.nāt /
L
obstruct, impede.
Because Tim said not having a computer would sufflamine his progress, his parents relented and bought him one.

suffocate

v
/ 'səfəkāt /
L
die from being unable to breathe.
It was so hot and stuffy in the classroom that Mark thought he would suffocate.

suffrage

n
/ 'səfrɪj /
L > F
the right or power to participate in electing public officials and adopting or rejecting legislation in a representative form of government.
The 19th Amendment to the Constitution gives women suffrage.

suffrutescent

adj
/ ,sə'frü'tes'nt /
L
having a base that is somewhat woody and does not die down each year—used of a plant or stem.
Eunice prunes her suffrutescent shrubs in the fall.

suggestible

suitable

sukiyaki

n
/ ,sükē'(y)äkē /
Jpn
meat, soybean curd, onions, bamboo shoots, and other vegetables cooked in soy sauce, sake, and sugar.
Joyce watched with fascination as the Japanese cook prepared sukiyaki right at the table.

summarily

summary

sumpter

n
/ 'səm(p)tər /
L > F > E
a saddlebag.
Grandpa's sumpter is embossed with his initials.

sumptuous

adj
/ 'səm(p)chəwəs /
L
involving large outlay or expense : costly, lavish.
Our grandparents treated the whole family to a sumptuous brunch on Saturday.

sundae

supercilious

adj
/ ,süpə(r)'silēəs /
L
arrogantly superior : haughty, disdainful.
The supercilious senior ignored the first-year student.

superficies

superfluous

adj
/ sü'pərləwəs /
L
exceeding what is sufficient, necessary, normal, or desirable.
Alex's teacher told him to eliminate superfluous words from his essay.

superintendent

n
/ ˌsüp(ə)rən'tendənt /
L

one who has the oversight and charge of a place, institution, department, organization, or operation with the power of direction.

Frustrated residents petitioned the superintendent to improve the building's electrical service.

supernumerary

n
/ ˌsüpə(r)'n(y)ümərəre /
L

an actor employed to play a walk-on (as in a mob scene or spectacle).
The casting director wanted a supernumerary to play one of the bank's customers.

supersonic

adj
/ ˌsüpə(r)'sänik /
L

moving or capable of moving at speeds from one to five times the speed of sound in air.

Myrna says that when she grows up, she wants to fly supersonic aircraft.

superstitious

adj
/ ˌsüpə(r)'stishəs /
L > F > E

having or based on a belief, conception, act, or practice resulting from ignorance, unreasoning fear of the unknown, or a false conception of causation.
The bride became more than ever an object of superstitious awe.

supine

adj
/ sə'pīn /
L

lying on the back or with the face upward.

Greg's dog stayed supine while getting her belly rubbed.

suppedaneum

surcease

surfeit

n
/ 'sərfət /
L > F > E

an overabundant supply, yield, or amount of something : excess.

The reviewer commented that the novel was burdened with a surfeit of details.

surgeon

surly
adj
/ 'sərlē /
E

ill-natured, abrupt, and rude : churlishly cross.

Marie complained to the manager about the surly, uncooperative clerk.

surplus

surrealism
n
/ sə'reälizəm /
F

the principles, ideals, or practice of producing fantastic or incongruous imagery in art or literature by means of unnatural juxtapositions and combinations.

David Lynch is a modern master of cinematic surrealism.

surreptitious

adj
/ ˌsərəp'tishəs /
L

done, made, or acquired in secret or by stealth.

Denise was embarrassed when her surreptitious note to Steve was intercepted by the teacher.

surrey

surrogate
n
/ 'sərəgāt /
L

something that replaces or substitutes for another.

In formulating new laws, the legislature acts as a surrogate for the entire population.

surtout

n
/ ˌsər'tü /
L > F + L > F

a man's fitted coat or overcoat; especially : frock coat.

Gerald rented a surtout to complete his Abraham Lincoln costume for the party.

surveillance

n
/ sə(r)'vālən(t)s /
L > F

close watch kept over one or more persons (as to detect movements or activities).

The suspects in the bombing investigation were kept under police surveillance.

susceptible

adj
/ sə'septəbəl /
L

easily influenced or affected through some trait.

People who smoke are very susceptible to chronic bronchitis and emphysema.

suspicion

n
/ sə'spishən /
L

mistrust, doubt.

President Kennedy called for cooperation with our adversaries to "push back the jungle of suspicion" and allow the preservation of peace.

suspicious

sustain

sustenance
n
/ 'səstənən(t)s /
L > F

something that gives support, endurance, or strength.

Tyrone drew sustenance from the letters his girlfriend wrote him while he was overseas.

susurrant

susurration

n
/ˌsüsə'rāshən/
L

a whispering sound : murmur.
A mild susurration could be heard in the study hall despite the teacher's "no talking" mandate.

suture

v
/ˈsüchə(r)/
L&F

unite the parts of by using a strand or fiber.
The doctor estimated that it would take about 45 minutes to suture the gash in Tim's leg.

suzerainty

Svengali

n
/sfen'gälē/
Brit literary name
one who attempts usually with evil intentions to persuade or force another to do his bidding.
Many fans thought that the rock star's wife was a Svengali who engineered the group's breakup.

swallow

sweltering

adj
/ˈsweltəriŋ/
E

oppressively hot : causing or marked by excessive sweating or faintness.
Despite the sweltering heat, thousands of people lined the streets to watch the Fourth of July parade.

swill

swindleable

adj
/ˈswind(ə)ləbəl/
G + Ecf

capable of being deprived of money or property by fraud or deceit.
The circus owner maintained that the majority of people are gullible and swindleable.

swivel

v
/ˈswivəl/
E

turn or pivot freely.
Frank chose an office chair that could swivel and tilt.

sybaritic

adj
/ˌsibəˈrɪdɪk/
Gk geog name
marked by or given to luxury or voluptuous living.
The duke's sybaritic bathroom had marble sinks with gold fixtures, floor-to-ceiling mirrors, and a whirlpool bath.

sybaritically

adv
/ˌsibəˈrɪdɪk(ə)lē/
Gk > L > E
in a luxurious or voluptuous manner.
Dana reclined sybaritically on the velvet sofa.

sycamine

sychnocarpous

adj
/ˌsɪknəˈkärpəs/
Gk + Gk > L > E
able to produce fruit repeatedly.
The apple and pear are sychnocarpous trees.

sycophant

syllable

syllabus

n
/ˈsiləbəs/
Gk > L
a compendium or summary outline of a discourse, course of study, or examination requirements.
After reading the syllabus for the seminar, Brad realized he had made a terrible mistake by enrolling.

syllogism

n
/ˈsiləˌdʒɪzəm/
Gk
a brief form of argument that consists of two statements and a conclusion that must be true if these two statements are true.
The following argument is a syllogism: All lawbreakers deserve punishment. This person is a lawbreaker. Therefore, this person deserves punishment.

syllogize

v
/ˈsiləˌdʒɪz/
GK > L > E
deduce something by analysis of a formal argument that consists of a major premise, a minor premise, and a conclusion.
To teach logical thinking, Mr. Canby had the class syllogize the philosopher's argument.

sylph

n
/ˈsɪlf/
unknown > L
a slender woman or girl of light and graceful carriage.
One sylph after another joined the growing circle of ballerinas on the stage.

symballophone

symbiosis

n
/ˌsɪmbɪˈɒsɪs/
Gk + Gk
the intimate living together of two dissimilar organisms in any of various mutually beneficial relationships.
Some insects depend on symbiosis with bacteria to supplement otherwise nutrient-poor diets.

symbol

symmetry

symminct

sympathy

symphony

n
/ 'sɪm(p)fəni /
Gk + Gk
an elaborate instrumental composition usually in sonata form for full orchestra.
The concert program featured a symphony by Gustav Mahler.

symposiarch

synchronicity

n
/ ,sɪŋkrən'ni:ti /
Gk + Ecf
the state of happening, existing, or arising at the same time.
The fireworks display was a spectacle of synchronicity.

syncopation

n
/ ,sɪŋkə'pæʃən /
Gk > L
a temporary displacement or shifting of the regular metrical accent in a musical composition.
Syncopation is typical of much Eastern European folk dance music.

syncope

n
/ 'sɪŋkə(,)pi /
Gk
a partial or complete temporary suspension of respiration and circulation : faint, swoon.
Unexplained dizziness and syncope occasionally occur on arrival at high altitude.

syndicate

n
/ 'sɪndəkət /
L
a loose association of racketeers in control of organized crime.
The police have spent years trying to get evidence to convict the head of the local crime syndicate.

synecdoche

n
/ sə'nekdə(,)ki /
Gk
a figure of speech by which a part is put for the whole or vice versa.
Fifty sail is a synecdoche for fifty ships.

synod

n
/ 'sɪnəd /
Gk > L > E
an ecclesiastical council : a formal meeting to consult and decide on church matters.
Karl is an active participant in the regional Presbyterian synod.

synopsis

n
/ sə'næpsəs /
Gk
a brief orderly outline affording a general view.
Marvin read a plot synopsis before he saw Macbeth.

synoptophore

n
/ sə'næptə'fɔ(ə)r /
Gk
an instrument for diagnosing imbalance of eye muscles.
The ophthalmologist prescribed eye exercises to correct the muscular imbalance detected by the synoptophore.

syntax

syringe

n
/ sə'rɪŋj /
Gk > L > E
a device used to inject fluids into or withdraw them from the body or its cavities.
Cameron let the toddler use an old ear syringe as a bathtub toy.

tabby

tabernacle

n
/ 'tæbə(r),nəkl /
L > F > E
a meetinghouse with a large assembly hall.
The town meeting will be held at the tabernacle.

tabetisol

n
/ tə'bedəsəl /
L + Ecf
unfrozen ground above, within, or below the permanently frozen ground.
Arctic wildflowers are able to survive in areas of tabetisol.

tableau

n
/ 'tæblə /
F
[Note: Plural form can be pronounced similarly.] a static depiction usually presented on a stage with participants in appropriate costume.
The final scene is a tableau in which the family is gathered at the gravesite.

tabloidism

tabulable

tachometer

n
/ təkə'mɪtə(r) /
Gk
a device for indicating the speed of rotation.
By watching the tachometer, Mr. Henderson was able to keep the engine running above 3000 rpm.

taciturn

adj
/ 'tæsətərn /
L > F
habitually silent : temperamentally disinclined or reluctant to talk or converse.
Mrs. Gibbons found it challenging to draw the taciturn boy into class discussions.

taciturnity

n
/ .tasə'tərnədē /

L
the quality or state of being disinclined or reluctant to talk or converse.

Gene and Leo's taciturnity about the cause of the scuffle resulted in a trip to the principal's office.

tackline

tactful

tactician

tadpole

tagraggery

taiga

n
/ 'tīgə /
Turkish > Russ
[has near homonym: tiger]
swampy coniferous forest of Siberia beginning where the tundra ends.

Olga's great-grandfather was born in a cabin on the edge of the taiga and grew up playing among spruce and fir trees.

tailgate

takkanah

talcum

talebearer

talipes

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

talisman

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

talkathon

tallow

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

tallowy

Talmudic

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

taloned

tamale

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

tamarack

tambourine

tamburello

tandem

tangerine

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

tangy

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

tantalize

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

tantamount

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

tantivy

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

tapestry

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

tapir

n
/ 'tæpə(r) /
Tupi
[has homonym: taper] any of a genus of chiefly nocturnal hoofed mammals of tropical America and Myanmar to Sumatra that have the snout and upper lip prolonged into a short flexible proboscis.
The tapir is both a browser and a grazer, feeding on leaves, twigs, and fruits, as well as on grasses.

tarantula

n
/ tə'ranch(ə)lə /
It geog name
any of a family of large hairy spiders that are capable of biting but are not significantly poisonous to humans.
Alexander's friend tried in vain to convince him to get a pet tarantula.

tardigrade

adj
/ 'tɑrdəgrād /
L
moving or stepping slowly.
The sloth is a well-known tardigrade animal.

tariff

n
/ 'tærəf /
Ar > It
the duty or rate of duty imposed by a government on imported or exported goods.
A high tariff protects the home industries from foreign competition.

tarmac

n
/ 'tɑrmək /
(E + Brit name) > trademark
a road, apron, or runway made of asphalt.
Neil's suitcase fell out of the airplane and its contents spilled out onto the tarmac.

tarpaulin

n
/ tɑ'r'pələn /
E + E
a piece of material (as durable plastic) used for protecting exposed objects or areas.
When rain began during the second inning of the baseball game, the ground crew rolled out the tarpaulin to protect the field.

tarragon

n
/ 'tærəgän /
Ar > L > F
a small European perennial wormwood grown for its aromatic foliage that is used in cooking.
Paul planted tarragon in his herb garden.

tassel

tatami
n
/ tət'ämē /
Jpn
a straw matting used as a floor covering in a Japanese home.
The Japanese restaurant had a special room in which patrons could sit on a tatami while dining.

tatterdemalion

adj
/ ,tæð(r)də'mäljən /
Scand > E + unknown
ragged or disreputable in dress or appearance.
No one would have guessed that the tatterdemalion fellow is a millionaire.

tattersall

n
/ 'tæð(r)səl /
E name
a fabric having a pattern of colored lines forming squares of solid background.
Jeanne bought a blue-and-white tattersall to make into a skirt.

taught

tauntingly

taupe

n
/ 'tōp /
L > F
[has homonym: tope] a light brownish gray.
It took some time, but Pam finally matched the taupe of her dress to a pair of shoes.

tauromachy

n
/ tō'räməkē /
Gk + Gk
the art or practice of bullfighting.
The toreador is well known for his slow, dignified style of tauromachy.

taut

tautology

n
/ tō'täləjē /
Gk
an instance of needless or meaningless repetition in close succession of an idea, statement, or word.
The phrase a beginner who has just started is a tautology.

tautophony

n
/ tō'täfənē /
Gk
repetition of the same sound.
The insistent tautophony of Josh's alarm clock finally woke him up.

tawdry

taxation

tazza

technetronic

technical

tedious

tektite

telamon

n
/ 'telə.män /
Gk > L

a male figure used as a supporting column or pilaster.

While in Athens, Anita had her picture taken beside a telamon.

telecine

telegnosis

n
/ .telə'nōsəs /
Gk + Gk

knowledge of distant happenings obtained by occult or unknown means : clairvoyance.

The psychic claimed to have telegnosis of events happening on the other side of the Atlantic.

telephone

n
/ 'telə.fōn /
Gk + Gk

a device for reproducing sounds, especially articulate speech, at a distance.

Ginger's parents asked her to limit her time on the telephone to three 15-minute conversations per night.

telesis

n
/ 'teləsəs /
Gk

progress intelligently planned and directed.

The mayor revealed the city council's ten-year plan for telesis at the press conference.

telltale

temerarious

adj
/ .temə'ra(a)rēəs /
L

rashly or presumptuously daring : reckless.

Mrs. Jasper punished Tim for his temerarious behavior by withholding certain privileges.

temerity

n
/ tə'merədē /
L

unreasonable or foolhardy contempt of danger or opposition.

The private with the temerity to speak up against the sergeant's bullying was assigned to KP indefinitely.

temperament

temperate

adj
/ 'temp(ə)rət /
L > E

having a moderate climate.

All of the United States, except for Hawaii and parts of Alaska and Florida, lies within the temperate zone.

tempest

tempestuous

adj
/ tem'pes(h)chəwəs /
L

of, involving, or resembling a furious storm.

The tempestuous action of wind and waves imperiled the ships.

tempura

n
/ .tempə'rä /
Jpn

[has near homonym: tempera] fritters of seafood and vegetables fried in deep fat.

The waiter brought a small dish of vegetable tempura as an appetizer.

tenacious

adj
/ tənə'shəs /
L > E

holding fast or tending to hold fast.

Marjorie is tenacious in her belief that her cousin was abducted by aliens and replaced by an impostor.

tenaculum

n
/ tən'nakyələm /
L

a slender sharp-pointed hook attached to a handle and used mainly in surgery for seizing and holding parts (as arteries).

Connie slipped the tenaculum under the patient's carotid artery.

tendency

n
/ 'tendənsē /
L

a proneness to or readiness for a particular kind of thought or action.

Tom's tendency to say exactly what he feels has gotten him into trouble several times.

tenderloin

tendon

n
/ 'tendən /
L

a tough cord of specialized fibrous connective tissue that unites a muscle with some other part and transmits the force which the muscle exerts.

The team doctor said that Larry's Achilles tendon was inflamed and that he shouldn't run in Saturday's race.

tendresse

n
/ tänd'res /
F

tender feeling : fondness.

Sarah portrayed the sister who, in maidenly fashion, conceals her tendresse for the hero.

tenebrific

adj
/ .tenə'brifik /
L + Ecf + L > Ecf
causing gloom or darkness.
*Tenebrific rain clouds
overshadowed the entire region.*

tenement

tenon

n
/ 'tenən /
L > F > E
a projecting member in a piece of wood or other material for insertion into a mortise to make a joint.
Curtis used his jigsaw to cut a tenon on each board of the box he was making.

tensible

adj
/ 'ten(t)səbəl /
L
capable of being extended.
The old rubber band was not very tensible.

tensile

tension

tentative

tentatively

adv
/ 'tentədəvvlē /
L
in a hesitant or uncertain manner.
Janna smiled tentatively, not knowing if she should show her happiness.

tenuous

adj
/ 'tenyəwəs /
L
having little substance or strength : flimsy, weak.
The prosecutor's case was so tenuous that the judge dismissed the charge against the defendant.

tepid

adj
/ 'tepɪd /
L
marked by an absence of enthusiasm or conviction.
The debate drew a tepid response from the audience.

teratology

n
/ .terə'täləjē /
Gk
the study of malformations, monstrosities, or serious deviations from the normal type in growing organisms.
Because of his several deformities, the so-called "elephant man" is often featured in textbooks for courses in teratology.

tercentenary

n
/ .tərsən'tenərə /
L
a 300th anniversary or its celebration.
Next year Possumville will celebrate the tercentenary of its founding.

tergiversate

v
/ 'tərdjəvər,sāt /
L
evade straightforward action or clearcut statement of position.
While political leaders tergiversate, petty tyrants are taking over the country.

tergiversation

n
/ .tərdjə(,)vər'sāshən /
L
evasion of straightforward action or clear-cut statement of position.
The ambassador explained that in diplomacy there is sometimes defensible tergiversation in communication.

termagancy

n
/ 'tərməgənsē /
E name
habitual bad temper : scolding disposition.
Lillian's abusive termagancy alienated her husband and children.

termitarium

terrace

n
/ 'terəs /
L > OProv > F
a colonnaded porch or promenade.
The marketplace consisted of a row of shops along a terrace.

terrapin

n
/ 'terəpən /
Algonquian
any of various North American turtles living in fresh or brackish water.
Murray awoke from his lakeside nap to find a terrapin sunning on the blanket.

terraqueous

adj
/ ter'ākweəs /
L
consisting of land and water.
Global pollution threatens Earth's terraqueous environment.

terrarium

n
/ tər'rerēəm /
L
a fully enclosed wholly or predominantly glass container for the indoor cultivation of moisture-loving plants.
Mosses and other small woodland plants thrive in a terrarium.

terrazzo

n
/ tər'ɹæt(ɪ)sō /
OProv > It

a mosaic flooring made by embedding small pieces of marble or granite in freshly placed mortar and after hardening grinding and polishing the surface.

The contractor explained that if Travis wanted a hard, shiny floor at a reasonable price, terrazzo was an excellent option.

terrestrial

terrible

adj
/ 'tɛrəbəl /
L > F > E

requiring extreme effort or fortitude.

Donating blood may be a terrible ordeal for those people who do not like needles.

terricolous

adj
/ tɛ'rikələs /
L + L

living on or in or growing from the land.

The heath was rich in terricolous lichens.

terrific

adj
/ tɛ'rɪfɪk /
L

of an extraordinary nature : astounding, tremendous.

Terrific, serrated outcrops of bare rock stood on either side of the lush valley.

terrigenous

adj
/ tɛ'rɪjənəs /
L

formed by the erosive action of rivers, tides, and currents—used of an ocean bottom.

At the brink of the continental shelf, terrigenous deposits build up and are swept away.

tertiary

tessitura

n
/ .tɛsə'tʃūrə /
L > It

the general range of a melody or voice part; specifically : the part of the register in which most of the tones of a melody or voice part lie.

Soprano parts in Bellini's operas call for a very high tessitura.

testaceous

adj
/ tɛ'stāshəs /
L

having a shell.

The oyster is a testaceous marine animal.

tetanus

n
/ 'tɛt'nəs /
Gk

an acute infectious disease characterized by tonic spasm of voluntary muscles and especially of the jaw muscles.

Puncture wounds are dangerous because they allow the bacteria that cause tetanus to enter the body.

tetracycline

textuary

thalassic

adj
/ thə'lasɪk /
Gk

of or relating to the sea or ocean.

Some thalassic currents travel for thousands of miles.

thanatophobia

n
/ .θanətə'fɒbēə /
Gk

fear of death.

Michael had such a strong belief in an afterlife that he was not troubled by thanatophobia.

thaumatology

n
/ .θəʊmə'täləjē /
Gk

doctrine, discussion, or study of the performing of miracles.

Although he had never successfully performed any miracles, the young priest was nonetheless an expert in thaumatology.

thaumaturgy

n
/ 'θəʊmə.tərjē /
Gk > L > F

the performance of miracles.

The sacred writings of many religions contain stories of thaumaturgy.

theftproof

theocracy

theodicy

n
/ thē'ädəsē /
Gk > F

an area of philosophy that treats of the nature and government of God and the destiny of the soul.

One hotly contested question in theodicy is whether the existence of evil precludes the existence of an omnipotent and perfect God.

theosophize

therapeutant

n
/ .θerə'pyüt'nt /
Gk > E

a healing or curative agent or medicine.

The diseased elm trees were sprayed with a chemical therapeutant.

therapeutic

adj
/ .θerə'pyüdɪk /
Gk

of or relating to the treatment of disease or disorders by remedial agents or methods.

Changes in diet can have a therapeutic effect on obesity, hypertension, peptic ulcer, and osteoporosis.

therblig

n
/ 'thər(ɪ)blig /
anagram of Amer name
one of the manual, visual, or mental elements into which an industrial manual operation may be analyzed in time and motion study.
The supervisor's goal was to eliminate one therblig at each station in the assembly line.

theretofore

adv
/ 'θɛrdəˌfɔ(ə)r /
E
up to that time : until then.
The public parks committee created a playground where theretofore there had been a weedy vacant lot.

therianthrope

adj
/ .θɪrɪˌæn'thræpɪk /
Gk + Gk
combining human and animal form.
The falcon-headed Horus was a therianthrope god of ancient Egypt.

thermometer

n
/ θə(r)'mæmədər /
Gk + Gk
an instrument for determining temperature.
The thermometer that takes a temperature reading from one's ear is now used widely.

thesaurus

n
/ θə'sɔrəs /
Gk > L
a book containing a store of words or of information about a particular field or set of concepts; specifically : a dictionary of synonyms.
Caleb's paper read as if he had consulted a thesaurus frequently while writing it.

thesmothete

n
/ 'θɛzməθɛt /
Gk
lawgiver, legislator.
Joseph has in his office a marble bust of a famous Athenian thesmothete.

thespian

n
/ 'θɛspɪən /
Gk name
an actor.
Fiona became stagestruck at an early age and was determined to become a thespian.

thirsty

thistle
n
/ 'θɪsəl /
E
a plant with prickly leaves having a head with white, purple, pink, or yellow flowers.
Dean plucked a thistle from the lawn of the middle school.

tholepin

thoracic
adj
/ θə'rasɪk /
Gk
of, relating to, located within, or involving the part of the body of humans and other mammals located between the neck and the abdomen.
The thoracic nerve controls the muscles in the walls of the thorax.

thoracodynia

n
/ .θɔrəkə'dɪnɪə /
Gk
pain in the chest.
When Grandpa complained of thoracodynia, Dolly immediately took him to the hospital.

thoroughbred

n
/ 'θərəbrɛd /
E
purebred or pedigreed animal.
Alex's thoroughbred comes from a line of Kentucky Derby winners.

thoroughfare

threaten

threnody

n
/ 'θrɛnədə /
Gk
a song, poem, composition, or speech of lamentation especially for someone dead or something regarded as dead.
Asked to write a threnody for English class, Libby composed a song about the death of a robin.

threshold

n
/ 'θrɛsh(h)ɔld /
E
place or point of entering or beginning : entrance, outset.
Now at the threshold of adulthood, James wonders if he will miss the carefree days of his previous years.

thrombosis

n
/ θrəm'bɔsəs /
Gk
the formation or presence of a blood clot within a blood vessel.
The severe pain in Greg's leg was found to have been caused by a thrombosis in one of the veins.

throstle

n
/ 'θrɔsəl /
E
a largely olive-brown Old World perching bird noted for its song.
While on a walking tour in London, Madeline spotted a throstle in a sycamore tree.

thule

thumb

thurible

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

thylacine

n
/ ˈθɪləˌsaɪn /
Gk > L

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

thyme

n
/ ˈtɪm /
Gk

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

thymiaterion

n
/ ˌθɪmᵻˈtɪrᵻən /
Gk

a vessel used by the ancient Greeks for burning incense.
Cecil found a bronze thymiaterion in an antique shop.

tichorrhine

n
/ ˈtɪkəˌrɪn /
Gk > L

an extinct two-horned woolly rhinoceros.
The remains of a tichorrhine were found frozen in the ice of Siberia with the flesh and hair well preserved.

tickicidal

adj
/ ˌtɪkəˈsɪdᵻl /
E + L + Ecf

destroying or controlling any of several wingless parasitic insects.
The exterminator used a tickicidal agent to eliminate the pests.

tickled

v
/ ˈtɪkəld /
E

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

tightrope

tilapia
n
/ təˈlæpiə /
L

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

tilde

n
/ ˈtɪldə /
L > Sp

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

tilth

timorous

tinctorial

tincture
n
/ ˈtɪŋ(k)ʃə(r) /
L

hue, tint.
The main difference between American and Irish glass is in tincture.

tinnient

adj
/ ˈtɪnᵻənt /
L

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

tinnitus

n
/ təˈnɪdəs /
L

a ringing, roaring, or hissing in the ears that is purely subjective.
It's hard to understand how annoying tinnitus is unless you have experienced it yourself.

tinselry

tintinnabulation

tirade
n
/ ˈtɪrəd /
F

a protracted speech usually marked by abusive language.
The grumpy woman screamed a tirade of protest whenever children made joyful noises outside her window.

tnesis

tobacco

n
/ təˈbɑː(k)o /
Taino > Sp

the leaves of a plant of the genus *Nicotiana* prepared and processed for use in smoking or chewing or as snuff.
At an early age, Amy vowed never to use tobacco.

toboggan

n
/ təˈbɑːɡən /
Algonquian

a long flat-bottomed light sled made of thin boards curved up at one end with usually low handrails at the sides and used for coasting on snow or ice.
Bart's new toboggan is the fastest one on the hill.

tobogganer

n
/ təˈbɑːɡənər /
Algonquian > F

one that coasts on a long flat-bottomed light sled.
On hitting the unexpected bump, the tobogganer was thrown off his sled.

tobogganing

toccata

n
/ təkādə /
It

a brilliant musical composition usually for pipe organ or harpischord, in free fantasia style, and usually with many equal-timed notes in rapid movement.
Jamila sat down at the church organ and played a fast Bach toccata.

tocsin

n
/ taksən /
L > OProv > F

[has homonym: toxin] an alarm bell or the ringing of a bell for the purpose of alarm.
In the event of a natural disaster or a civil alert, the fire stations would set off a tocsin that could be heard for two miles in any direction.

toggery

tongue

tonitruous

adj
/ tənitrəwəs /
L + Ecf

thundering, fulminating.
The tonitruous artillery guns had been shelling the enemy positions for several hours.

tonsillectomy

tonsillitis

n
/ tən(t)səlɪdəs /
L

inflammation of the tonsils.
Dr. Graham treated Erica's tonsillitis with antibiotics.

tonsillotome

tonorial

tonsure

n
/ tənʃə(r) /
L > E

the shaven crown or patch worn by monks or various clerics.
The actor who played Brother Cadfael had a hairpiece to cover his tonsure when he was off camera.

tontine

n
/ tən.tən /
It name > F

a financial arrangement whereby the participants share benefits equally on such terms that when one dies or defaults the others equally share the portion until all but one remains to own the entirety.
In the days before a central bank or common currency, villagers often used a tontine to share ownership of property.

toolach

topaz

n
/ tō.paz /
Gk > L > F > E

a usually yellow, reddish, or pink transparent mineral used as a gem.
Leslie received a yellow topaz for her birthday.

topiary

n
/ tōp.e.rē /
Gk > L + Lcf

the practice or art of training, cutting, and trimming trees or shrubs into odd or ornamental shapes.
Edward Scissorhands was skilled in topiary.

toroidal

adj
/ tōr'oidəl /
L

doughnut-shaped.
For the life of her, Bridget couldn't identify the toroidal object she found in her purse.

torpor

torrential

torrentially

adv
/ tō'renʃəlē /
L

in a manner resembling a rushing stream of water.
Patricia wept torrentially when she found out about her pet dog's injury.

tortellini

n
/ tō(r)d'ēnē /
L > It

noodle dough cut in rounds, filled with savory fillings, and boiled.
Vic's favorite Italian meal was tortellini stuffed with meat and cheese.

tortilla

n
/ tō(r)tē(y)ə /
Sp

a round thin unleavened cake usually eaten hot with a savory topping or filling.
Theron covered his tortilla with beans and cheese.

tortoise

n
/ tōrdəs /
F? > E

any of a family of terrestrial turtles.
The park ranger told the children that a tortoise takes five hours to walk just one mile.

tortoni

n
/ tō(r)tōnē /
It name

an ice cream made of heavy cream, minced almonds, chopped maraschino cherries, or other flavorings.
Tortoni is definitely not the dessert for someone on a low-fat, low-calorie diet.

totemism

n
/ 'tɒdə.mizəm /
Ojibwa + Ecf
belief in kinship with or a mystical relationship between a group or individual and an emblematic plant, animal, or other object.
Powerful animals are common objects of totemism.

toucan

tourelle

touristry

tournedos

n
/ .tʊrnə'dɔ /
L > F
a small fillet of beef usually cut from the tip of the tenderloin.
Diane usually prepares a tournedos in wine sauce with mushrooms.

towhee

toxicosis

n
/ .tɒksə'kɔsəs /
Gk
a pathological condition caused by the action of a poison or toxin.
The chihuahua exhibited no symptoms of toxicosis after eating the soap.

toxophily

trachea

tracheotomy

tractable

adj
/ 'traktəbəl /
L
capable of being easily led, taught, or controlled.
Maybe Fatima's work would improve if she were more tractable.

tractile

adj
/ 'traktl /
L > Ecf
capable of being drawn out in length.
With laboratory equipment, Dr. Abrams was able to extend the tractile material to a great length.

trafficking

v
/ 'trafikɪŋ /
It > F
engaging in commercial activity.
The townspeople were shocked when they learned that Mr. Bailey had been trafficking in drugs.

tragedian

tragedienne

n
/ trə'jɛdə'ɛn /
F
[Note: Could be confused with tragedian.] an actress who specializes in tragic roles.
On Thursday night, Ms Siddons, the granddaughter of the tragedienne, made her first appearance.

tragedy

trajectory

tralatitious

trammel

transcend

transducer

n
/ tran(t)s'd(y)üsə(r) /
L + Ecf
a device actuated by power from one system and supplying power in the same or any other form to a second system.
A common transducer is a microphone, which converts sound waves into electrical signals.

transference

n
/ tranz'fərən(t)s /
L
an act, process, or instance of carrying or taking something from one person or place to another.
Ralph's dad was in charge of the transference of fish from the fishery to the lake being restocked.

transient

transit

n
/ 'tran(t)sət /
L
the passage of a smaller body across the disk of a larger (as of Venus or Mercury across the Sun's disk).
Barrie used sensitive equipment to photograph the transit of Venus.

translucent

transmissible

adj
/ tran(t)'smisəbəl /
L
capable of being sent or conveyed to another person or place.
Poison ivy is transmissible through the air to those who are very sensitive to it.

transmit

transmogrify

v
/ tran(t)'smägrəfɪ /
unknown
change or alter in form, appearance, or structure often with grotesque or humorous effect.
Buford set out to transmogrify the hearse into a hot rod.

trattoria

n
/ .trädə'rɛə /
F > It
an eating house : restaurant.
It seems to Fran that any trattoria located next to the golf course fails, regardless of the cuisine.

traulism

trauma

n
/ 'traümə /
Gk
an injury or wound caused by the application of external force or violence.
The football player suffered the trauma of a broken leg.

traumatize

traumatropism

n
/ trò'matrə'pizəm /
Gk
a modification of the orientation of an organ (as a plant root) as a result of wounding.
Traumatropism of the roots does not usually affect plant growth.

travesty

treachery

treacly

adj
/ 'træk(ə)lē /
Gk > F > L > E
heavily sweet and cloying.
Sarah's treacly voice warned her mother that a big request was forthcoming.

treason

n
/ 'trēz'n /
L > F > E
the offense of attempting by overt acts to overthrow the government of the state to which the offender owes allegiance or to kill or personally injure the sovereign or the sovereign's family.
All persons involved in the attempted coup were charged with treason.

treasure

treatise

n
/ 'trēdās /
F? > AF > E
a writing that provides in a systematic matter and for an expository or argumentative purpose a methodical discussion of the facts and principles involved and conclusions reached.
Victor's treatise on international relations was well received by his colleagues.

treillage

trekked

trellis

trellised

tremulous

adj
/ 'tremyələs /
L
quivering, shaking.
Uncle Edgar's tremulous handwriting is one sign of his Parkinson's disease.

trenchant

trepidation

trespass

v
/ 'trespəs /
F > E
make an unwarranted or uninvited incursion.
The rock salt from farmer Brown's shotgun taught Wally a painful lesson: Don't trespass.

tressed

triage

n
/ trē'āzh /
F
the sorting of and allocation of treatment to patients and especially battle and disaster victims according to a system of priorities designed to maximize the number of survivors.
Once the system of triage was implemented, medics were better able to decide which soldiers should receive immediate treatment.

trianon

n
/ 'trēənən /
F architecture
a small elegant villa.
Albert wrote his latest thriller in a rented trianon on the Riviera.

tribunal

n
/ trī'byün'əl /
L
a court or forum of justice.
The people have wisely provided, in the constitution itself, a tribunal for settling questions of constitutional law.

tricenary

adj
/ 'trīs'n.erē /
L
having or lasting 30 days.
Cameron never can remember which months are tricenary.

tricephalous

adj
/ trī'sefələs /
Gk
having or depicted with three heads.
Orpheus managed to lull the tricephalous watchdog to sleep by playing his lyre.

trichinosis

n
/ ˌtrɪkəˈnɔːsɪs /
Gk
infestation with or disease caused by certain nematode worms contracted by eating raw or undercooked infested food and especially pork.
Madeline cooked the pork chops well so there would be no danger of trichinosis.

trichotomy

n
/ trɪˈkɑːdəmə /
Gk
a system divided or divisible into three constituents or elements.
Golda's civics teacher explained how the United States government is a trichotomy, divided into the legislative, judicial, and executive branches.

trickle

trigonometry

n
/ ˌtrɪɡəˈnɑːmətri /
Gk
a branch of mathematics dealing with the relations holding among the sides and angles of triangles and among closely related magnitudes and especially with methods of deducing from given parts other required parts.
Rachel enjoyed her course in trigonometry much more than she enjoys her calculus class.

trihedral

trillion

tripelennamine

tripod

triskelion

n
/ trɪˈskelɪən /
Gk
a figure composed of three usually curved or bent branches radiating from a center.
A triskelion has been the emblem of the Isle of Man since the 13th century, when the Vikings were ousted.

triste

adj
/ ˈtrɛst /
L > F > E
sad, dismal, dull, depressing.
A triste quartet could be heard from the window.

triturate

triumph

triumphal

triumvirate

n
/ trɪˈæmvərət /
L
a group, party, or association of three.
Vince, Steve, and Phil jokingly refer to themselves as the "terrible triumvirate."

trochaic

trochanter

n
/ trɔˈkɑntə(r) /
Gk > L
the second segment counting from the base of the leg of an insect.
A trochanter is one of the five parts of an insect's leg.

trochiline

troglydite

n
/ ˈtrɒɡlədɪt /
Gk > L
a member of a primitive people dwelling in caves or pits.
While spelunking, Zan and Patrick stumbled on the bones of a troglodyte.

troglydite

trophallaxis

n
/ ˌtrɒfələksɪs /
Gk > L
exchange of food between organisms (as the social insects).
Bees, ants, and wasps practice trophallaxis.

trophilous

adj
/ trɒˈpɪləs /
Gk + Gk
thriving in an environment that undergoes marked periodic changes (as in temperature, soil moisture, or available light).
Deciduous trees of the temperate regions are examples of trophilous plants.

trough

n
/ ˈtrɒf /
E
[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word.] an elongated area of low barometric pressure usually with a minimum pressure at each end and between two areas of higher pressure.
Eric listened to the weather forecaster explain how the local weather was being influenced by the trough that was present.

trousseau

n
/ ˈtruː(s)oʊ /
F
[Note: Plural form can be pronounced similarly.] the personal possessions of a bride usually including clothes, accessories, and household linens and wares.
Felicity kept her trousseau in a hope chest at the foot of her bed.

trove

trowel

truculent

adj
/ 'trʌkyələnt /
L
feeling or evincing savage ferocity
: fierce.
Hunger makes the tiger a truculent hunter.

trumpet

truncated

adj
/ 'trʌŋ.kədəd /
L
abbreviated by or as if by lopping.
Cindy's cat has a truncated tail.

truncheon

trunnioned

adj
/ 'trʌnyənd /
F
having a pin or pivot usually
mounted on bearings for rotating or
tilting.
*Dave attached a trunnioned
compass to the deck of his sailboat.*

truttaceous

adj
/ 'trʌ'tʃəshəs /
L
of, relating to, or resembling a
trout.
*Truttaceous fish are highly
esteemed as sport fish because of
their spiritedness.*

trypanosome

tsetse

tsunami

n
/ (t)sü'nämē /
Jpn
a great sea wave produced by
submarine earth movements or
volcanic eruption.
*The dock workers were alerted in
time to evacuate the harbor area
before the tsunami hit.*

tufaceous

adj
/ t(y)ü'fāshəs /
Osco-Umbrian > L > It
of or resembling a rock composed
of the finer kinds of volcanic
debris.
*Many buildings in Italy were
constructed of tufaceous rock.*

tularemia

n
/ .tülə'rēmēə /
Calif geog name + Lcf
a bacterial disease of rodents, man,
and some domestic animals.
*Jerry's temperature reached a
dangerously high level during his
bout with tularemia.*

tulle

tumefaction

tumultuous

adj
/ t(y)ü'məlch(ə)wəs /
L
full of commotion and uproar :
boisterous.
*As the basketball star entered, he
received tumultuous applause from
his schoolmates.*

tumulus

n
/ 't(y)ümyələs /
L
[has homonym: tumulous] an
artificial hillock or mound (as over
a grave).
*In the center of the cemetery is a
large tumulus where one of the
town's founders is buried.*

tundra

n
/ 'təndrə /
Finno-Ugric > Russ
a treeless plain characteristic of
arctic and subarctic regions with a
permanently frozen subsoil.
*Do reindeer graze on the moss of
the tundra?*

tungsten

n
/ 'təŋstən /
Sw
a gray-white high-melting hard
metallic element that is used in the
pure form chiefly for electrical
purposes (as for filaments for
incandescent lamps).
*The filament in many light bulbs is
a thin wire of tungsten.*

turban

n
/ 'tərbən /
Per > Turk > F
a headdress worn chiefly in
countries of the eastern
Mediterranean and southern Asia
especially by Muslims and made of
a cap around which is wound a
long cloth.
*A camel driver wearing a blue
turban asked Rebecca if she would
like a short ride.*

turbid

turbot

turbulence

n
/ 'tərbylən(t)s /
L
highly irregular atmospheric
motion characterized by rapid
changes in wind speed and
direction and the presence of up
and down currents.
*The captain warned the plane's
passengers to brace themselves for
a patch of turbulence.*

turgescence

turgescence

turgid

turmoil

n
/ 'tər.móil /
unknown
an utterly confused, extremely
agitated, or tumultuous state or
condition.
*Jacob experienced unrelenting
turmoil after his parents informed
him that the family might move.*

turnstile

n
/ 'tɜrn.stī(ə)l /
E + E

a post with four arms pivoted on the top set in a gateway to regulate or monitor passage.

Contrary to the prominently posted warning sign, Calvin hopped over the turnstile.

turnverein

tuophile

n
/ 't(y)ūrə.fīl /
Gk

a gourmet of cheese : a cheese fancier.

The tuophile warned us not to be beguiled by the low cost of inferior processed cheese.

turpentine

n
/ 'tɜrpən.tīn /
Gk > L > F > E

any of various oleoresins that are derived from coniferous trees and are obtained in crude form as yellowish viscous exudates of characteristic odor and taste from incisions in the tree trunks and that usually thicken and solidify in the air.

The most common use of turpentine is in paint and lacquer thinners.

turpitude

n
/ 'tɜrpət.üüd /
L

inherent baseness or vileness of principle, words, or actions : depravity.

Sean accused Amitab of moral turpitude for teasing the cat.

turret

n
/ 'tɜrət /
F > E

a little tower.

The princess escaped from the turret by sliding down a rope of knotted bedsheets.

turricular

adj
/ .tə'rikyələ(r) /
L

shaped like or resembling a tower.
Shauna's birthday cake was turricular and decorated to look like the Leaning Tower of Pisa.

turriferous

tutania

tutelage

n
/ 't(y)üd·'lij /
L

instruction; especially : individual instruction accompanied by close personal attention and a conscious attempt at guidance.

Evan made astounding progress under the tutelage of his new trumpet teacher.

tutelary

adj
/ 't(y)üd·'lerē /
L

having the guardianship or charge of protecting a person or a thing.

The young princesses were surrounded by tutelary employees.

tutoyer

tuyere

n
/ tü'ye(ə)r /
F

a nozzle through which an air blast is delivered to a forge.

Dan checked the tuyere for an obstruction.

twelfth

tycoon

typhology

n
/ ti'fläləjē /
Gk

the scientific study of blindness, its causes, effects, and control.

Researchers in typhology have found that certain nutritional deficiencies can result in the clouding and softening of the cornea.

typhothetae

tyrannical

adj
/ tər'anəkəl /
Gk

exhibiting imperious and usually oppressive exercise of absolute power : despotic.

Patrick Henry spoke fervently about the urgent need to arrest the tyrannical hands of the British ministry and Parliament.

tyrannize

tyrannous

tyranny

n
/ 'tirənē /
L > F > E

absolute government in which power is vested in a single ruler.

The tyranny of many medieval kingdoms was eventually supplanted by democracy.

ubiquitous

adj
/ yū'bikwədəs /
L

existing or being everywhere at the same time : omnipresent.

The drum is a ubiquitous instrument in world music.

udometer

n
/ yū'dämədə(r) /
L + Gk

an instrument for measuring the quantity of precipitation that falls at a given place and time.

The local television station asked Karen to put a udometer in her backyard.

udomograph

uglify

ulcerous

ullage

ulotrichous

adj

/ yū'lātrəkəs /

Gk + Gk

having woolly or crisp hair.

The ulotrichous aborigines crafted wide-toothed combs for their hair.

ulterior

adj

/ əl'tirēə(r) /

L

not apparent : hidden.

When Sherman volunteered to walk the dog, his ulterior motive was to escape the boring conversation in the house.

ultimacy

ultimatum

n

/ əltə'mādəm /

L

a final proposition, condition, or demand; especially : one whose rejection will end negotiations and cause a resort to force or other direct action.

If the striking workers refused its ultimatum, the company threatened to close the factory permanently.

ultraviolet

adj

/ əltrə'vīələt /

L + L > F > E

situated beyond the visible spectrum at the violet end and having a wavelength shorter than visible light and longer than X rays.

Arthur purchased sunglasses that provide some protection against ultraviolet radiation.

ululant

ululation

n

/ əlyə'lāshən /

L

a loud mournful usually protracted and rhythmical sound : howl.

An ululation from deep in the woods gave Jesse goosebumps.

umbilical

adj

/ əm'biləkəl /

L

attached by or as if by a cord arising at the navel that connects a fetus with the placenta.

Important medical research is being done with stem cells obtained from umbilical cords.

umbra

n

/ 'əmbərə /

L

a shaded area : darkness.

Trent saw something flicker in the umbra beneath the side porch.

umbrage

n

/ 'əmbrij /

L > F > E

displeasure, resentment, annoyance.

Hatred between nations disposes each more readily to offer insult and injury and lay hold of slight causes of umbrage.

umbrageous

adj

/ əm'brājəs /

L > F > E

providing protection from heat and light : shady.

Sherwood Forest was the umbrageous domain of the legendary Robin Hood and his outlaw band.

umbrella

umlaut

n

/ 'üm.laüt /

G

a diacritical mark composed of two adjacent dots placed especially over a German vowel to indicate a vowel shift.

Gary never knew how to pronounce words with an umlaut until he studied German.

umpire

n

/ 'əm.pī(ə)r /

L > F > E

one having authority to arbitrate and make a final decision, as an official in a sport who rules on the plays.

The coach vehemently objected when the umpire ejected the player for unsportsmanlike conduct.

unabridged

unaccompanied

unanimous

adj

/ yū'nənəməs /

L

being of one mind : agreeing in opinion, design, or determination.

The advice given the candidate by those in his confidence was unanimous.

unciferous

adj

/ ən'sif(ə)rəs /

L

bearing a hook or hooklike structure.

Weaving and other fiber arts involve the use of several unciferous tools.

uncinate

adj

/ 'ən(t)sənət /

L

bent at the tip like a hook.

Using a magnifying glass, Chad was able to examine the insect's uncinate antennae.

unconscionable

adj
/ .ən'känch(ə)nəbəl /
Ecf + L + Ecf
not guided or controlled by an internal sense of right or wrong : unscrupulous.
The governor was denounced for his unconscionable indifference to the plight of the homeless.

uncouth

adj
/ .ən'küth /
Ecf + E
lacking in polish and grace.
Last night we watched a movie about turning an uncouth high school student into a princess.

unctuosity

unctuous

underrate

underread

undisciplinable

undulance

undulate

v
/ 'ənjələt /
L
form or move in waves.
Terry stood on the shore and watched the ocean undulate in the moonlight.

undulation

unencrypted

unfeigned

unforgettable

unfurl

v
/ .ən'fərl /
Ecf + L > F
release or open out from a rolled-up state.
Kendra embroidered her school's motto on the new flag she will unfurl during tomorrow's assembly.

unguent

unguligrade

adj
/ 'əŋgyələgrād /
L
walking on hoofs.
Unguligrade mammals include horses, cows, swine, camels, deer, elephants, rhinoceroses, and tapirs.

unhygienic

unicameral

unicorn

n
/ 'yünəkörn /
L > F > E
a fabulous animal possibly based on faulty old descriptions of the rhinoceros and generally depicted with the body and head of a horse, the hind legs of a stag, the tail of a lion, and in the middle of the forehead a single long straight horn.
Sarah has a poster of a beautiful white unicorn on her wall.

unilateral

unintelligible

adj
/ .ənən'teləjəbəl /
Ecf + E + L
difficult to comprehend.
Dave readily admitted that he found the article unintelligible.

unique

adj
/ yü'nēk /
L
being without a like or equal : single in kind or excellence : unequaled.
The class agreed that Martin Luther King Jr. had a unique impact on civil rights in the 20th century.

unison

adj
/ 'yünəsən /
L > F
identical in musical pitch.
The choir was well trained in unison singing; every member could hit the same note perfectly.

unisonous

universally

unparalleled

unprincipled

adj
/ .ən'prin(t)səpəld /
E + L
lacking or exhibiting a lack of a moral code of conduct.
The detective described the arsonist as "unprincipled and conscienceless."

unpronounceable

unscrupulous

adj
/ .ən'skrüpyələs /
E + L
unprincipled.
Desmond was not so unscrupulous as to betray his comrades.

unsullied

unveiled

upbraid

upeygan

n
/ ü'pāgən /
Shona
a black rhinoceros.
The front horn of the upeygan can reach a length of over 30 inches.

upheaval

upholstery

uppity

adj
/ 'əpədəē /
E + Ecf

marked by airs of superiority.
Nicole forgave Amanda for her uppity behavior at the party.

uproarious

urbiculture

n
/ 'ərbəkəlchər /
L

the practices and problems peculiar to cities.
The congressman proposed a new federal department of urbiculture to deal with the problems of city dwellers.

urceolate

adj
/ 'ər:sēlət /

L
shaped like an urn.
At the end of the drive stood a pair of urceolate boxwoods.

urchin

urgency

ursine

adj
/ 'ər:sīn /
L

[has near homonym: hircine] of, relating to, or characteristic of a bear.
Some children are particularly fascinated by ursine hibernation.

urticant

adj
/ 'ərdəkənt /
L

producing itching or stinging.
Strawberry nettles are notorious for their urticant effect on human skin.

usher

n
/ 'əshə(r) /
L > F > E

one who escorts persons to seats at an assemblage (as in a theater, church, or hall).
The usher informed the latecomers that they would not be seated until the end of the first act.

ustulation

n
/ .əs(h)chə'lāshən /
L

the action of burning or searing.
By ustulation the metallurgist separated the sulfur from the ore.

usufruct

n
/ 'yüzəfrəkt /
L

the right to use or enjoy something.
The homeowners in Eleanor's neighborhood have a usufruct to a large fenced park.

usurious

adj
/ yū'zhūrēəs /
L + Ecf

involving or taking illegal or exorbitant interest for the use of money.
The officers of the bank were charged with usurious practices.

usurper

n
/ yū'sərpər /
L

one that infringes or encroaches upon the rights or property of another.
By the end of his term, the mayor had become known as a usurper of authority.

usury

utensil

utilitarian

adj
/ (i)yütılə'terēən /
L > F > E

characterized by or aiming at usefulness as distinguished from beauty or ornament.
Dean chose a utilitarian briefcase over the fancy leather model.

utility

utilizable

adj
/ 'yüd'lızəbəl /
L > F > E

capable of being made use of.
It took three months, but eventually Leon was able to convert the prototype into a utilizable product.

utterance

n
/ 'ədərən(t)s /
F > E

something that is spoken.
Smoke and clamor accompanied every utterance of the Great Oz.

uxorial

adj
/ ək'sōrēəl /
L > E

of, relating to, or having the characteristics of a wife.
The new bride's conduct defied Mrs. Ketchum's notions of proper uxorial behavior.

uxorious

vacation

vacationland

vaccary

n
/ 'vakərē /
L

a place where cows or cattle are kept : dairy farm.
The teacher plans to take her students to a vaccary during their study of the dairy food group.

vaccinate

v
/ 'vaksənāt /
L > F

administer a preparation of microorganisms in order to produce or increase immunity to a particular disease.

Doctors no longer vaccinate American children against smallpox, as that disease was eradicated during the 1970s.

vaccine

vaccinoid

vacillate

v
/ 'vasəlāt /
L

waver in mind, will, or feeling : hesitate in choice of opinions or courses.

Theresa must allow more time to choose what she will wear if she cannot stop her tendency to vacillate.

vacuity

vacuous

adj
/ 'vakyəwəs /
L

emptied of or lacking content (as of air or gas).

Vacuous spaces within the meteorite made it easy to split in half.

vacuum

vagabond

adj
/ 'vagəbānd /
L > F > E

moving from place to place without a fixed home.

Orson wanted to buy a motor home and lead a vagabond life, but Eileen refused to sell their house.

vagary

n
/ 'vāgrē /
L

a whimsical, fanciful, or extravagant idea or notion.

George's idea that he would be spending his spring break in Paris was sheer vagary.

vagrancy

n
/ 'vāgrənsē /
L?

the state or offense of being a person who has no established residence and wanders idly from place to place without lawful or visible means of support.

To clear the downtown area of homeless people, the mayor instructed the police to arrest them for vagrancy.

vaguely

vainness

valedictory

n
/ ,valə'dikt(ə)rē /
L

a speech or farewell usually given at the commencement exercises of a school or college.

Alice's valedictory at graduation brought the entire senior class to its feet.

valet

valetudinarian

n
/ ,valə.tüd'n'erēən /
L

a person of a weak or sickly constitution; especially : one whose chief concern is his invalidism.

Grandpa hopes that he will never be a valetudinarian.

valiant

valley

valorous

adj
/ 'valərəs /
L

brave, courageous.

Carrie's valorous behavior during the flood earned her a medal.

valve

vampire

vandalism

n
/ 'vand'lizəm /
L > E

willful or malicious destruction or defacement of things of beauty or of public or private property.

The boys who knocked over the gravestones were eventually caught and charged with vandalism.

vanguard

vanilla

n
/ və'nilə /
L > Sp

a flavoring extract made by soaking comminuted vanilla pods in a mixture of water and grain alcohol.

The chef specified that real vanilla be used when making the cake.

vanquish

vapidity

vaporetto

vargueno

variable

n
/ 'verēəbəl /
L

[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word.] a star whose brightness changes in more or less regular periods.

Clement spent six months tracking changes in the variable.

varicose

adj
/ 'varəkōs /
L

abnormally swollen or dilated.
Extreme cases of varicose veins can require surgical treatment.

variegated

adj
/ 'ver(ē)əgādəd /
L

marked with different colors or tints in spots, streaks, or stripes.
A shady corner of the garden was brightened by a clump of variegated coleus plants.

variolous

vassal

n
/ 'vasəl /
Celt > L > F > E

a feudal tenant.
The lord of the estate rewarded the vassal for years of faithful service.

vaticinator

vaudeville

n
/ 'vɔd(ə)vəl /
F geog name

a stage entertainment especially popular in the early decades of the 20th century that consisted of various unrelated acts following one another in succession and that might include performing animals, acrobats, comedians, dancers, singers, or magicians.
Some of the stars of vaudeville went on to become movie actors.

vaudevillian

n
/ vɔd'vilyən /
F geog name&L

a writer or performer of stage entertainments especially popular in theaters in the early decades of the 20th century.
In his days as a vaudevillian, Mr. Kramer was a comedian's sidekick.

vault

veal

vealskin

vegetable

vegetarian

adj
/ ,vejə'terēən /
L > E + Ecf

consisting wholly of edible plants.
After spending two years in Japan, Annabelle followed a vegetarian diet.

vehemence

n
/ 'vēəmən(t)s /
L > F

the quality or state of being expressive of strong emotion or conviction.
Norm's impetuosity and vehemence of temper made him his own worst enemy.

vehicle

vein

velitation

n
/ ,velə'tāshən /
L

[Note: Could be confused with vellication.] a dispute or slight contest : skirmish.
Police used every means to keep the velitation from exploding into a riot.

velleity

n
/ vəl'ēədē /
L

a slight wish : a faint desire.
Mr. and Mrs. Newton found that the hotel staff had anticipated their every velleity.

vellum

n
/ 'veləm /
F > E

a thin calfskin specially prepared as a surface for writing.
Sanford carefully turned the rare vellum over to see if there was any writing on the back.

velocious

velocity

n
/ və'lāsədə /
L > F

quickness of motion : swiftness, speed.
George estimated the velocity of the wind at 22 miles per hour.

vendaval

n
/ ,vendə'val /
F > Sp

an autumnal thundersquall on the coast of Mexico.
A recent vendaval damaged the banana grove.

vendetta

n
/ ven'dedə /
L > It

a prolonged feud marked by bitter hostility.
Chloe's all-night party exacerbated the vendetta with her neighbor.

veneer

n
/ və'ni(ə)r /
G

a thin sheet of wood cut or sawed from a log and adapted for adherence to a smooth surface (as of wood).
The maple veneer really spruced up the old pine table.

veneniferous

adj
/ ,venə'nif(ə)rəs /
L + Ecf

bearing or transmitting poison and especially a natural venom.
Ellen couldn't believe that anyone would want to work with veneniferous snakes for a living.

venerable

adj
/ 'venər(ə)bəl /
L

deserving to be regarded with profound respect and affection.
The venerable teacher's retirement saddened students who had hoped to benefit from her instruction.

vengeance

n
/ 'venjən(t)s /
L > F > E
infliction of punishment in return for an injury or offense.
The defeated team howled with rage and fury and swore bloody vengeance.

venireman

venom

n
/ 'venəm /
L > F > E
poisonous matter normally secreted by some animals (as snakes, scorpions, or bees).
The snake's venom paralyzed its prey.

ventilate

v
/ 'vent^əl.āt /
L
cause fresh air to circulate through and contaminated air to be simultaneously withdrawn from.
To ventilate her kitchen, Margo set a fan in the doorway and opened the windows.

ventriloquist

n
/ ven'trɪləkwəst /
L
one who is skilled in the art of speaking in such a manner that the voice appears to come from some source other than the vocal organs of the speaker.
A ventriloquist entertained at Rebecca's birthday party.

veracious

adj
/ və'rāshəs /
L + Ecf
[has homonym: voracious]
observant of the truth : habitually speaking the truth.
It was up to the jury to decide which of the two witnesses was the more veracious.

verbatim

adv
/ və(r)'bādəəm /
L
word for word : in the same words.
Marcelle can recite the entire Gettysburg Address verbatim.

verbena

n
/ və(r)'bēnə /
L
any of numerous garden plants that are widely cultivated for their showy spikes of white, pink, red, or blue flowers which are borne in profusion over a long season.
Marcy noticed tiny flower buds on her verbena in early April and anxiously awaited its full bloom.

verbigerate

v
/ (i)vər'bijər.āt /
L
repeat a word or sentence endlessly and meaninglessly.
The psychiatrist explained that some schizophrenic patients often verbigerate.

verbomania

n
/ ,vərbə'mānēə /
L + Gk
excessive use of or obsession with words.
Frances was accused of verbomania by her classmates, who didn't understand why she liked to study spelling.

verdant

verdigris

n
/ 'vərdəgrēs /
L > F > E
a green or greenish blue poisonous pigment obtained by the action of acetic acid on copper.
The verdigris on the church steeple has aged beautifully.

verdolaga

n
/ ,vərdə'lägə /
L > Ar > Sp
an annual herb with fleshy leaves.
Latin American cooks use verdolaga in soups and salads.

verdure

n
/ 'vɜrjər /
F > E
[has homonym: verger] fresh and green growing vegetation.
Joe walked back into the soft thick verdure of the hills and tramped until he was tired.

verisimilitude

n
/ ,verəsə'milətüd /
L + L
the quality or state of having the appearance of truth.
The artist's scrupulous attention to detail provided an impressive degree of verisimilitude.

verjuice

n
/ 'vɜr.jüs /
F > E
the sour juice of crab apples or other unripe fruit.
Scrooge was the kind of person who looked as though he drank verjuice every morning.

vermeil

vermicelli

n
/ ,vərmə'selē /
L > It
alimentary paste made in long thin solid strings smaller in diameter than spaghetti.
The restaurant's five-way chili started with a base of vermicelli.

vernacular

adj
/ və(r)'nakyələr /

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

vernissage

verricule

versatile

adj
/ 'vɜrsəd·l /

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

vertebrate

adj
/ 'vɜrdəbrət /

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

vertex

n
/ 'vɜr.teks /

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

vertiginate

v
/ ,vɜr'tijənāt /

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

vertiginous

vertigo

n
/ 'vɜrdəgō /

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

vesicant

n
/ 'vesəkənt /

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

vespacide

n
/ 'vespəsīd /

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

vespertilian

vespertine

adj
/ 'vespə(r).tīn /

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

vessel

vestige

n
/ 'vestij /

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

veterinary

vexation

vexatious

adj
/ vek'sāshəs /

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

vexillology

viable

vibraphone

vibrato

vicegerency

vicereine

vichyssoise

n
/ ,vɪʃē'swäz /
F geog name
a soup made of pureed leeks and potatoes and usually served cold.
When vichyssoise is well made, it's heavenly; when it's badly made, it's inedible.

vicinage

vicissitude

n
/ vɪ'sɪsət.tüd /

L
an accident of fortune : a shift of luck.
By the vicissitude of winning the lottery, Helen was able to buy the dream house she always wanted.

vicontiel

adj
/ vɪ'kɒntēəl /

F > AF
of or relating to a viscount or sheriff.
Robin Hood was wanted by the vicontiel authorities of several counties.

victorious

viduity

n
/ vɪ'd(y)üədē /

L
widowhood.

Wendy's first husband was killed in the Gulf War, but her viduity ended when she remarried in 1994.

vigesimal

vigilance

vigilante

n
/ ,vijə'lantē /
L > Sp

a member of a volunteer committee organized to protect an interest, especially to suppress and punish crime.

The cowboy movie was about a rancher who became a vigilante and joined in the search for a criminal.

vigneron

n
/ ,vɛnyə'rɒn /
F

one who cultivates a vineyard and makes wine from the grapes.

The American vigneron was delighted that the French judges chose his wine as being among the world's best.

vignette

vilayet

vilify

v
/ 'viləfi /
L

utter slanderous and abusive statements against : defame.

Wouldn't it be refreshing if the candidates vying for the office did not vilify each other?

vilipend

v
/ 'viləpend /
L

speak of slightly or disparagingly : depreciate.

The candidate decided to vilipend her opponent instead of discussing the issues.

villain

n
/ 'vilən /
L > F > E

[has homonyms: villein, villan]
one who deliberately plots and does serious harm to others.

The police were seeking the villain who conned several senior citizens out of their savings.

villainous

villainy

vinaigrette

n
/ ,vinə'gret /
F

a sauce made typically of vinegar, oil, onions, parsley, and herbs.

The salad was dressed with a tomato-flavored vinaigrette.

vincible

vinculum
n
/ 'vɪŋkyələm /
L

a unifying bond.

Their mutual love of dolls is the vinculum between Delia and Christine, who are otherwise very different.

vindicate

v
/ 'vindəkāt /
L

free from any question of error, dishonor, guilt, or negligence.

Oliver felt the judge's decision would vindicate him completely.

vinegar

n
/ 'vinigə(r) /
L > F > E

a sour liquid used as a condiment or a preservative that is obtained by acetic fermentation of dilute alcoholic liquids (as fermented cider, malt beer, or wine) and is often seasoned especially with herbs.

Pete used a special aged balsamic vinegar in the salad dressing.

vineyard

n
/ 'vinyə(r)d /
E

a field of grapevines.

While touring a Napa Valley winery, Jamie wandered through the vineyard.

violated

violin

n
/ ,vɪə'lin /
OProv > It

a bowed stringed instrument having four strings, a shallow body, a fingerboard without frets, and a curved bridge.

Reuben demonstrated his technical virtuosity on the violin when he auditioned for the string ensemble.

viridescent

adj
/ ,virə'desənt /
L

greenish.

Gideon removed the viridescent scum from the bottom of the horse trough and added fresh water.

virtue

virtuoso

n
/ ,vɜrchə'wɔ(,)sɔ /
L > It

one who excels in the technique of an art; especially : a musical performer.

The virtuoso took 12 curtain calls, setting a new record for the concert hall.

virulent

adj

/ 'vir(y)ələnt /

L

characterized by rapid course, severity, and malignancy—used especially of a disease or infection.

The virulent strain of flu spread rapidly through the community.

visage

visceroptosis

n

/ visə'rəp'tōsəs /

L + Gk

downward displacement of the abdominal organs.

The growth of the tumor had caused visceroptosis.

viscount

n

/ 'vɪ.kəʊnt /

L > F > E

a noble ranking below an earl and above a baron.

The viscount had no children and was becoming desperate to have an heir.

viscous

adj

/ 'viskəs /

L

[Note: Could be confused with viscose.] having the physical property of a fluid or semifluid that enables it to develop a certain amount of shearing stress dependent upon the velocity of flow and then to offer continued resistance to the flow.

Joe was surprised to learn that glass is viscous, as evidenced by the fact that a windowpane, over time, becomes thicker at its lower edge and thinner at its upper edge.

visibility

n

/ vizə'bilədē /

L

the degree or extent to which something is capable of being seen.

The captain announced that visibility was approximately five miles.

vitiate

v

/ 'vɪʃi.ət /

L

make incomplete, faulty, or defective : injure the substance or quality of.

Freddie argued that Clark's poor acting abilities would vitiate the school play.

vitreous

adj

/ 'vɪtr̩.əs /

L

of, relating to, derived from, or consisting of glass.

The huge vitreous wall of skyscrapers reflected the mountains and the sunset.

vitrine

n

/ vɪ'trɪn /

L > F

a glass showcase for display (as of fine wares or specimens).

Allegra has a large vitrine that houses her collection of porcelain figurines.

vitriolic

adj

/ ,vɪtr̩'ɪlɪk /

L > F > E

marked by a caustic biting quality.

Howard had to be reprimanded for his vitriolic outbursts against the referees and opposing players.

vituperative

adj

/ (ɪ)vɪ'tɪpərədɪv /

L

containing or characterized by wordy abuse.

Josh's dad gave him a vituperative lecture after the accident.

vivacity

vizierial

vocabulary

vocation

n

/ vɒ'kəʃən /

L

[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word.] a summons from God to an individual to undertake the obligations and perform the duties of a particular task or function in life.

The parents of Thomas Aquinas entreated him to abandon his religious vocation and return home.

vociferate

vociferous

adj

/ vɒ'sɪf(ə)rəs /

L

marked by or given to ready vehement insistent outcry.

A vociferous couple in the back row ruined our evening at the poetry reading.

vogue

volante

volatile

adj

/ 'vɒləd̩l /

L > F

easily passing off by evaporation.

The fact that gasoline is highly volatile produces an advantage in starting engines.

volition

n

/ vɒ'lɪʃən /

L

the act of willing or choosing : the act of deciding.

The notary public asked Nigel to state that he was signing the contract of his own volition.

volubility

n
/ ˈvɒlyəˈbɪlədē /

L
talkativeness.
The cheerful volubility at Mrs. King's luncheon is largely due to the fact that she is a great hostess.

voracious

vorago

n
/ vəˈrɑːɡō /

L
[has near homonym: virago] an engulfing chasm : abyss.
Before he knew it, Beck had crossed the bridge over the vorago.

vorlage

n
/ ˈfɔːrləɡə /

G
the position of a skier leaning forward from the ankles usually without lifting the heels from the skis.
The object of the vorlage is to keep the body of the skier perpendicular to the slope.

vorspiel

vowel

vulnerable

adj
/ ˈvʌlnərə(ə)bəl /

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

vulnerary

adj
/ ˈvʌlnərəreɪ /

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

vulpine

vulture

n
/ ˈvʌlchə(r) /

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

waffle

n
/ ˈwäfəl /

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

waggish

wagonload

waif

wainscot

n
/ ˈwānzket /

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

wainwright

waldmeister

n
/ ˈwöld.mīstə(r) /

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

wallaby

n
/ ˈwäləbē /

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

wallet

wallop

v
/ ˈwäləp /

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

waltz

n
/ ˈwɔlts /

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

wander

wantonness

n
/ ˈwɒntˈn(n)əs /

E
the quality or state of being without check or limitation.
The wantonness of comfort Georgetta experienced as a young child caused her to become a spoiled brat.

wapiti

n
/ ˈwäpədə /

Algonquian
a North American deer similar to the European red deer but considerably larger.
The older male wapiti is often hunted for its antlers.

warden

n
/ 'wɔrd'n /
Gmc > F > E
an official in charge of the operation of a prison.
The warden recommended that the disruptive prisoner be denied parole.

warehouse

warison

warmonger

warmth

warrior

n
/ 'wɔriər /
E
a human engaged or experienced in warfare and especially in primitive warfare or the close combat typical of ancient or medieval times.
The warrior attended a council before battle in the morning.

wasabi

n
/ 'wəsəbē /
Jpn
an Asiatic herb whose greenish root is grated and eaten with fish or other food.
In Japan, Pam had raw fish seasoned with wasabi, which tasted like horseradish.

washtrough

wasteweir

n
/ 'wəst.wi(ə)r /
L > F > E + E
a notch in a levee or other barrier across a stream for the escape of superfluous water.
A wasteweir was constructed in the dam to prevent flooding along the banks of the stream.

watercress

n
/ 'wɔdə(r).kres /
E
a white-flowered plant growing in water with leaves that are used in salads.
Jesse added some watercress and carrots to the tossed salad.

waxen

wearisome

adj
/ 'wiərəsəm /
E
tiresome, tedious.
Gondolph found hearing accounts of other people's dreams wearisome.

weasel

n
/ 'wēzəl /
E
any of various small slender active carnivorous mammals that are mostly reddish brown with white or yellowish underparts and in northern forms turn white in winter.
In the snow the white fur of the weasel camouflages it against attacks by hawks or owls.

weather

webelos

n
/ 'wēbəlɔz /
E acronym
a Cub Scout of the fifth rank who is at least 10½ years old and is preparing for entrance into Boy Scouts.
Noah spent his second year as a webelos working on his fitness, geologist, and handyman activity badges.

weddellite

wedge

weevil

n
/ 'wēvəl /
E
any of numerous snout beetles in which the head is elongated and usually curved downward to form a snout bearing the jaws at the tip.
The boll weevil is a serious pest to the cotton crop in North America.

weigh

v
/ 'wā /
E
[has homonym: way] evaluate : ponder.
Mrs. Avery asked Sam to weigh the potential consequences of his decision.

weird

adj
/ 'wi(ə)rd /
E
[has homonym: weired] curious in nature or appearance : of strange or extraordinary character.
Most episodes of The X-Files begin with a weird or puzzling event.

welfare

welfarism

n
/ 'wel.fa(a).rizəm /
E + Ecf
the complex of policies, attitudes, and beliefs associated with a welfare state.
Free health care was touted as one of the benefits of welfarism.

welkin

n
/ 'welkən /
E
the celestial regions as the abode of God or the gods : the heavens.
The hymn that begins "Hark! The herald angels sing" was originally written as "Hark how all the welkin rings."

wellaway

welterweight

wharf

wharfinger

n
/ ' (h)wɔ(r)fənʃə(r) /
E

a person or company operating a marine terminal with facilities for the berthing of ships and the loading, unloading, and storage of goods.
The wharfinger keeps a parrot in his office.

wheedle

v
/ 'hwēd'l /

unknown
get or take something from by using soft words or flattery.
Ginger's attempt to wheedle ten dollars out of her father was unsuccessful.

wheelbarrow

wheelwright

n
/ ' (h)wēl.rīt /
E

a person whose occupation is to make or repair circular frames of metal, wood, or other hard material.
In the days of the horse and buggy, the wheelwright had an essential job to do.

whelk

wherewithal

n
/ ' (h)we(ə)rwə.θəl /
E + E + E

financial resources : money.
Everyone was surprised that Jake had the wherewithal to buy a sailboat.

wherry

whetstone

whimper

v
/ 'hwimpə(r) /
imit

make a low whining plaintive or broken sound.
Laura's dog starts to whimper whenever he wants to be fed.

whimsical

adj
/ 'hwimzəkəl /
unknown

resulting from or determined by sudden unpredictable impulses.
Ichabod became the object of whimsical persecution to Brom and his gang of rough riders.

whimsicality

whininess

n
/ 'hwīnēnəs /
E

the quality or state of complaining or lamenting with or as if with a prolonged high-pitched sound.
Allen's habitual whininess when asked to do something he didn't like annoyed both his teacher and his classmates.

whinyard

whippersnapper

whippet

whippoorwill

n
/ ' (h)wipə(r).wɪl /
imit

a nocturnal bird of the eastern United States and Canada that is seldom seen although its call is often heard at nightfall or just before dawn.
At camp Nick recorded the call of a whippoorwill.

whirligig

n
/ 'hwɜrləgɪg /
E

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

whirlwind

n
/ 'hwɜrl.wɪnd /
Scand > E + E

a small rotating windstorm of limited extent.
A whirlwind is sometimes called a "dust devil."

whisk

n
/ 'hwɪsk /
Scand > E

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

whisperer

n
/ 'hwɪspərə(r) /
E

one that speaks softly with the aim of preserving secrecy.
Reverend Loomis scanned the congregation in vain, searching for the whisperer.

whist

n
/ 'hwɪst /
imit E

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

whistleable

adj
/ 'hwɪsələbəl /
E + Ecf

capable of being whistled.
Rufus could botch up even the most whistleable tune.

whodunit

n
/ hū'dənət /
E

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

wholesale

adv
/ 'hɔl.sāl /
E

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

wholesome

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

whorlywort

n
/ 'hwó(ə)rlē.wərt /
E
a tall perennial herb—called also “Culver’s root.”
Darnell bought a hand-colored engraving of a whorlywort at the auction.

whortleberry

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

wickiup

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

width

wince

winsome

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

wintriness

wirrah

wiseacre

witloof

n
/ 'wit.lōf /
D
chicory; also : its crown of foliage as a salad green.
Emily decided to vary her salad by using witloof instead of lettuce.

witticism

n
/ 'widə.sizəm /
E
a clever or amusing expression.
The careful use of a witticism in Kevin’s speech helped hold the attention of his listeners.

wizardry

n
/ 'wizə(r)drē /
E
magic skill : sorcery, witchcraft.
Merlin practiced his wizardry at the court of King Arthur.

wizen

wobbulator

n
/ 'wəbyə.lādə(r) /
G + Ecf
a testing device for radio sets in which the frequency is varied periodically and automatically over a predetermined range.
The primary function of a wobbulator is broadcast receiver testing.

woebegone

adj
/ 'wōbē.gōn /
E
exhibiting a condition of suffering, sorrow, or misery.
The teacher looked up at 20 woebegone faces staring at the essay question.

woebegoneness

wok

n
/ 'wāk /
Chin
[has near homonym: walk] a bowl-shaped cooking utensil used especially in the preparation of Chinese food.
Lydia received an electric wok as a housewarming gift.

wolveboon

womp

wondrous

worrisome

wraith

n
/ 'rāth /
unknown
an apparition of the exact likeness of a living person seen usually just before that person’s death.
The wraith of a person shortly to die is a firm article in the creed of Scottish superstition.

wrangler

wrasse

wreak

wreath

n
/ 'rēth /
E
a coronet, band, or fillet of intertwined flowers or leaves worn or bestowed as a mark of honor or victory or symbol of esteem.
The figure on the vase wearing a laurel wreath is identified as Apollo.

wreckage

n
/ 'rekij /
Scand > AF > E
something that has been reduced to a ruinous state by violence : the remains of a wreck.
Cleaning up the wreckage from the tornado would take money as well as time.

wren

wretched

adj
/ 'rechəd /

E
squalid, dismal, foul.
After the flood, the whole neighborhood looked wretched.

wriggle

v
/ 'rɪgəl /
G? > E

move the body or a bodily part to and fro with short writhing motions like a worm.
Zakia was startled when she saw a snake wriggle through the tall grass.

writhe

v
/ 'rɪθ /

E
move or proceed with twists and turns.
Silently, we watched a seven-foot boa constrictor writhe through the trees.

wunderkind

n
/ 'vʌndə(r).kɪnt /
G

a child prodigy : one who succeeds in a competitive or highly difficult field or profession at an early age.
Mozart, a famous wunderkind, wrote complicated sonatas at the age of five.

xanthic

adj
/ 'zæn(t)θɪk /
Gk

of a flower : colored with some tint of yellow.
The forsythia rivals the daffodil for being the loveliest xanthic bloom in Cynthia's garden.

xanthism

xanthoma

n
/ zæn'thɒmə /
Gk

a condition that is marked by the development (as on the eyelids, neck, or back) of irregular yellow patches or nodules.
High cholesterol or triglyceride levels can be factors in causing xanthoma.

xenocentric

xenogamy

n
/ zə'nægəmə /
Gk

fertilization by cross-pollination; especially : cross-pollination between flowers on different plants.
Xenogamy may occur by wind or by bees carrying pollen from plant to plant while feeding on nectar.

xenophobia

xerosis

n
/ zə'rɒsəs /
Gk

abnormal dryness of the skin.
Xerosis can be an indication of an underlying health problem.

xerostomia

n
/ zɪrə'stɒmə /
Gk

abnormal dryness of the mouth due to insufficient secretions.
Xerostomia was one of the drug's side effects.

xyloglyphy

xylography

xylophagous

xylophilous

xylophone

n
/ 'zɪləfɒn /
Gk + Gk

a musical instrument consisting of a series of wooden bars graduated in length and sounded by striking with two small wooden hammers.
Many African musical instruments are variations of the xylophone.

xylophonist

xylotomy

xystus

yacht

yachtsman

n
/ 'jɑːtsmən /
G > D + E

[Note: Plural form is pronounced identically.] a person who owns or sails a boat used for pleasure, as for racing or cruising.
Mike fancied himself a true yachtsman after one week at sea.

yammer

yannigan

Yarborough

n
/ 'jɑːr(ə)bərə /
E name

a hand in bridge or whist containing no card higher than a nine.
Gene was not sure how to signal to his bridge partner that he held a Yarborough.

yardage

yarrow

yawl

yearn

2003 Scripps Howard National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Frequently

yeast

n
/ 'yēst /
E

a substance used in baking and the fermentation of alcoholic beverages : leaven.

The sourdough bread recipe called for two packages of yeast.

yeasty

yeoman

yeomanry

n
/ 'yōmənri /
E

the whole body of small farmers who cultivate their own land; specifically : the body of small landed proprietors of the middle class.

Among the legal privileges of the yeomanry was the right to serve as a juror.

yewberry

ylem

yoga

n
/ 'yōgə /
Skt

union of the individual self with the universal spirit.

The teacher explained that through years of mental and physical exercise, she had been able to attain a complete yoga.

yokel

n
/ 'yōkəl /
imit E

an unpolished, naïve, or gullible inhabitant of a rural area or of a small town.

The pool hustler disguised himself as a yokel to lure unsuspecting victims.

yore

n
/ 'yō(ə)r /
E

[has homonym: your] time past and especially long since past. *Adam's favorite books contain stories about knights of yore.*

youngster

youthfully

yowl

ytterbium

yule

yuletide

zaguan

zaibatsu

n pl
/ zī'bät(,)sü /
Jpn

the powerful financial and industrial conglomerates of Japan. *Keiko intended that her electronics company become one of the zaibatsu.*

zeal

n
/ 'zēl /
Gk > L > E

impassioned eagerness. *Russell entered into his new job with great zeal.*

zealot

zealous

zebra

zenith

n
/ 'zēnəth /
Ar > Sp > L > F > E

the point of culmination : peak, summit. *Winning the Faculty Award was the zenith of Stephanie's college career.*

zephyr

n
/ 'zefə(r) /
Gk

a soft warm breeze from the west. *The gentle zephyr was not sufficient to keep Renee's kite airborne.*

zeppelin

n
/ 'zep(ə)lən /
G name

a rigid airship. *Olga's dream was to ride in a zeppelin one day.*

zeugma

n
/ 'zūgmə /
Gk

the use of a word in the same construction with two adjacent words in the context with only one of which it is appropriate in sense. *The statement "John upset the table and his mother" is, one would hope, a zeugma.*

zircon

n
/ 'zər.kän /
It > F > G

a mineral occurring in brown or grayish square prisms or sometimes in transparent forms which are used as gems. *The zircon in Wendy's ring looks very much like a diamond.*

zoanthropy

zodiac

zodiacal

adj
/ zō'diākəl /
Gk

of, relating to, or within the zodiac. *Jessica has a pendant in the shape of Pisces, her zodiacal symbol.*

zoning

zoological

zoophilist

n

/ zō'āfələst /

Gk + Gk + Ecf

a lover of animals; especially : a person concerned with the rights of lower animals and their protection from abuse.

The noted zoophilist explained how deforestation is endangering several species of mammals and birds.

zootechny

zucchetto

n

/ zū'ked(ə)ō /

L > It

a small round skullcap worn by Roman Catholic ecclesiastics in colors that vary according to the rank of the wearer.

In public appearances, the pope usually wears a white cassock and zucchetto.

zucchini

n

/ zū'kēnē /

It

a slender green summer squash.

Tim picked a large zucchini from his garden.

zwieback

n

/ 'swē.bak /

G

a usually sweetened bread enriched with eggs that is first prepared and baked and then sliced and toasted until dry and crisp.

Liza placed a slice of zwieback on the baby's tray.

zygosis

zymology