

fidelity

n
/ fə'delədē /

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

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

fiduciary

adj
/ fə'd(y)üşhē.ērē /

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

Zoe acted in a fiduciary capacity during the lease negotiations.

fiefdom

n
/ 'fēfdəm /
F + E

an area over which one exercises control.

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

fiery

adj
/ 'fī(ə)rē /

E
of the color of fire : red.

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

filament

n
/ 'filəmənt /
L > F

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

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

filasse

n
/ fə'las /
L > F

a vegetable fiber prepared for manufacture.

At the mill, sisal plants are processed into filasse.

filial

adj
/ 'filēəl /
L

befitting a child in relation to his or her parents.

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

filibuster

n
/ 'filəbəstə(r) /
F > Sp

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

The Senate effectively killed the bill with a filibuster.

financier

n
/ .finən'si(ə)r /
F

a large-scale investor.

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

finessing

v
/ fə'nesɪŋ /
L > F

bringing about or managing by adroit manipulation.

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

finialed

adj
/ 'finēəld /
L > F > E

provided with a capping ornament.
The lampposts and street signs were elaborately finialed with iron pineapples.

finite

adj
/ 'fi.nīt /
L > E

having clear limits.

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

firkin

n
/ 'fərkən /
D > E

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

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

firmament

n
/ 'fərməmənt /
L > E

the vault or arch of the sky : heavens.

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

firnification

n
/ .firnəfə'kāshən /
G + L > E

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

Solid ice is the end product of firnification.

fiscal

adj
/ 'fiskəl /
F > Sp

of or relating to financial matters.

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

fissile

adj
/ 'fisəl /
L

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

fissiparous

adj
/ fi'sipərəs /
L + L

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

fissure

n
/ 'fɪʃə(r) /
L

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

fisticuffs

n pl
/ 'fɪstəkʌfs /
E + E

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

fixture

n
/ 'fɪksʃə(r) /
L

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

flagellum

n
/ flə'jeləm /
L

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

flagitiously

adv
/ flə'jɪʃəsli /
L > E
in a grossly wicked manner.
The criminal was sentenced to ten years' imprisonment for his flagitiously cruel assault.

flagon

n
/ 'flægən /
Gmc? > L > F > E
[has near homonym: flacon] a large usually metal or pottery vessel with handle and spout and often a lid used to hold liquid.
The knights passed around a flagon of ale before riding off to battle.

flambeau

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

flamboyantly

adv
/ flɑː'bɔɪ(y)əntli /
F
in a showy and unrestrained manner.
At the pep rally the students flamboyantly demonstrated their support for the football team.

flamenco

n
/ flə'men(ə)kō /
D > Sp

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

flamingo

n
/ flə'mɪŋ(ə)gō /
L > OProv > Sp > Pg
[has near homonym: flamenco] any of several aquatic birds that have remarkably long legs and neck, webbed feet, and usually rosy-white plumage.
Tom and his buddies placed a giant plastic pink flamingo on the roof of the school.

flammable

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

flammeous

adj
/ 'flɑːməəs /
L
consisting of or resembling the color of flame.
Flammeous maple leaves carpeted the lawn of the inn.

flammiiferous

adj
/ flɑː'mɪf(ə)rəs /
L + Ecf
producing flame or bright with flame.
The flammiiferous volcano was an awesome spectacle to behold.

flange

n
/ 'flɑnj /
F? > E

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

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

flannel

adj
/ 'flɑnəl /
W > E

a napped cotton fabric of soft yarns.

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

flaunting

v
/ 'flɔntɪŋ /
Scand?

seeking to attract attention especially by appearing or acting brash and brazen.

During the party Terry seemed to be flaunting his ability to play piano.

flautino

n
/ flau'teɪ(,)nɔ /

It
a small flute : piccolo.

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

fleabane

n
/ 'fle.bæn /
E + E

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

A young rabbit was hidden under a clump of fleabane.

fleet

n
/ 'fleɪt /
E

a number of warships under a single command : a naval force.

Naval Intelligence learned that terrorists were noting information about the movement of the fleet.

flexure

n
/ 'flekʃə(r) /
L

the slight bending of an astronomical observing instrument caused by the weight of its parts.

Emily reinforced her telescope with strips of titanium to minimize flexure.

flibbertigibbet

n
/ 'flɪbə(r)dē,jɪbət /
E

a light-minded or silly restless person.

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

flippant

adj
/ 'flɪpənt /
imit? + Ecf

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

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

flokati

n
/ flɔ'kɑtē /
Gk

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

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

floppy

adj
/ 'flɒpədē /
E imit

soft and flexible.

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

florid

adj
/ 'flɔrəd /
L

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

floriferous

adj
/ flɔ'rif(ə)rəs /
L + Ecf

bearing flowers; especially : blooming freely.

Begonias are floriferous even in the shade.

florilegium

n
/ .flɔrə'lɛjɛəm /
L

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

Frank pulled a tattered florilegium from the shelf.

florisugent

adj
/ .flɔrə'sʊjənt /
L + L

sucking nectar from flowers.

The honeysuckle attracted the florisugent hummingbird.

floscular

adj
/ 'fläskyələ(r) /
L

composed of florets.
A daisy bears floscular flower heads.

flotilla

n
/ flō'tilə /
ON > F > Sp

a small fleet or a fleet of small watercraft.
The Boy Scouts launched a flotilla of toy sailboats across the lake.

flotsam

n
/ 'flätsəm /
F > AF

wreckage of a ship or its cargo found floating on the sea.
Flotsam is part of wreckage, whereas jetsam has been deliberately cast overboard.

fluctuant

adj
/ 'fləkchəwənt /

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

flummery

n
/ 'fləm(ə)rē /
W

porridge made of flour or meal.
Hulbert made flummery for dessert.

fluorescent

adj
/ flū(ə)'resənt /
L > F + L > Ecf

[has homonym: florescent]
emitting electromagnetic radiation especially in the form of visible light.
The fluorescent bulb above Gary's cubicle thrummed noisily.

fluoridation

n
/ flūrə'dāshən /
L + Ecff

the adding of a binary compound of fluorine to drinking water.
Fluoridation has been proven to deter tooth decay.

fluorocarbon

n
/ 'flū(ə)rō.kärbən /
L + L

any of a class of chemically inert compounds (as tetrafluoroethylene) composed entirely of carbon and fluorine and used chiefly as lubricants and in making resins and plastics.
Fluorocarbon is used to make the nonstick coatings for pots and pans.

fluvial

adj
/ 'flüvēəl /
L

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

fluxion

n
/ 'fləkshən /
L

the action of flowing.
The fluxion of many liquids slows in cold weather.

fodder

n
/ 'fädə(r) /
E

something (as hay, vegetables, corn) fed to domestic animals.
Field corn makes good fodder.

fogginess

n
/ 'fögēnəs /
Scand? + Ecff

the quality or state of being covered or enveloped with vapor condensed to fine particles of water suspended in the lower atmosphere.
Severe fogginess was blamed for the ten-car pileup on the expressway.

foible

n
/ 'föibəl /
F

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

foist

v
/ 'föist /
D

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

foliage

n
/ 'föil(ē)ij /
F&L

the mass of leaves of a plant as produced in nature : leafage.
Tourists who come to see fall foliage at its peak are sometimes referred to as "leaf peepers."

foliiform

adj
/ 'fölēə.förm /
F

having the shape of a leaf.
In October, Rhoda and Lamar decorated the classroom windows with foliiform cutouts.

folliculitis

n
/ fəˈlɪkjuːlɪdəs /
L

inflammation of one or more small cavities in the skin.

An ingrown hair on Bo's cheek resulted in folliculitis.

fontinal

adj
/ ˈfɒntɪnəl /
L

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

forage

v
/ ˈfɔːrɪj /
Gmc > F > E

wander or rove in search of food.
The survivors of the airplane crash on the remote mountainside decided to forage in groups of three.

foraminate

adj
/ fəˈrɑːmənət /
L

perforated.
Sid examined the foraminate leaf under a microscope.

foray

n
/ ˈfɔːrɑː /
F > E

a raid or brief invasion.
Captain McMaster led his troops on a foray into the village.

forecaster

n
/ ˈfɔːrkɑːstə(r) /
E

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

forensics

n pl
/ fəˈren(t)sɪks /
L

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

forfeit

v
/ ˈfɔːrfæt /
L > F > E

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

forgery

n
/ ˈfɔːrj(ə)rē /
L > F > E

an act of falsely or fraudulently making or altering a document.
Lorna is charged with two counts of check forgery.

forlorn

adj
/ fə(r)ˈlɒ(ə)rŋ /
E

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

formaldehyde

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

formicary

n
/ ˈfɔːrməːkerē /
L

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

formicivorous

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

formidable

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

forsooth

adv
/ fə(r)ˈsjuːθ /
E

in truth : certainly.
Forsooth, the queen was the most beautiful woman in the world.

forsythia

n
/ fə(r)'sɪθiə /
Brit name

any plant of a small genus of ornamental shrubs that have bright yellow flowers which appear before the leaves in early spring.

The gardener planted forsythia along the entire outer edge of the yard.

fortissimo

adj
/ fɔ(r)'tɪsɪmo /
L > It

very loud—used as a direction in music.

When playing the fortissimo passage of her lesson, Suzanne banged so loudly on the piano that the neighbor's dog began to bark.

fortitude

n
/ fɔ(r)'dɪtɪd /
L > E

the strength or firmness of mind that enables a person to encounter danger with coolness and courage.

John Kennedy displayed exceptional fortitude after his patrol boat was attacked during World War II.

fortuitous

adj
/ fɔ(r)'tjuːəs /
L

occurring by chance without evident causal need or relation or without deliberate intention.

Their meeting was fortuitous, but Dan and Mattie believed that they had been destined to be together.

fossilize

v
/ 'fɔsə.lɪz /
L > ISV

turn (as remains of organisms from past geologic eras) into a mineralized form in Earth's crust.

Since not all plant materials fossilize equally well, some plants will be preserved and others will vanish in the course of time.

fossorial

adj
/ fə'sɔriəl /
L

adapted to digging.

Gophers are fossorial rodents having strong claws on their forelimbs.

foul

adj
/ 'faʊl /
E

offensive to the senses : rotten.

The spoiled contents of the refrigerator created an extremely foul odor.

foundry

n
/ 'faʊndri /
F

a building or establishment where metal or glass casting is carried on.

The students saw molten metal being poured into engine block molds at the foundry.

franchisee

n
/ .franchi'zē /
L > F + Ecf

one who is granted a right to operate a unit in a chain of business establishments.

The franchisee agreed to pay the franchisor an initial fee and a percentage of gross sales.

frangible

adj
/ 'franjəbəl /
L

capable of being broken : breakable, brittle, fragile.

Road signs are designed to be frangible so that they won't severely damage cars that hit them.

frankincense

n
/ 'fræŋkən.sen(t)s /
E

a gum resin containing volatile oil.

Aunt Ruby likes to burn frankincense at Christmastime.

fraud

n
/ 'frɒd /
L > F > E

deceit, trickery; especially : misrepresentation intended to induce another to part with something of value or to surrender a legal right.

Joel is suing his former manager for fraud and breach of contract.

fraudulent

adj
/ 'frɒjələnt /
L

characterized by or based on trickery or deceit especially when involving misrepresentation.

The manufacturer was charged with fraudulent advertising.

fraught

adj

/ 'frɒt /

OFris? > G > D > E

burdened or menaced with.

*The work of the firefighter is fraught with danger.***frenetically**

adv

/ frə'nedə'k(ə)lɪ /

Gk > L > F > E

in a frenzied, hectic manner.

*Four dancers moved frenetically around the stage.***frescade**

n

/ fres'kād /

Gmc > OProv > F

a cool walk : shady place.

*The landscape architect's suggestion of a long frescade under a grape arbor thrilled her client.***fresco**

n

/ 'fres.kō /

Gmc > It

the art of painting on freshly spread moist lime plaster with pigments suspended in a water vehicle.

*Fresco is a demanding technique because the image cannot be changed after the plaster dries.***fresnel**

n

/ frə'nel /

F name

a unit of frequency equal to 1 trillion cycles per second.

*A rarely used multiple of the hertz is the fresnel, which was named for the French scientist Augustin Jean Fresnel.***Freudian**

adj

/ 'frɔɪdɪən /

Austrian name + Ecf

of, relating to, or according with the theories of Austrian neurologist Sigmund Freud and his system of psychoanalysis.

*A Freudian slip of the tongue may reveal the speaker's deep-seated concerns and reasons for action.***friable**

adj

/ 'frɪəbəl /

L > F

easily crumbled, pulverized, or reduced to powder.

*The sand sculpture was so friable that it crumbled in Carl's hands when he tried to pick it up.***fricassee**

n

/ 'frɪkəsɛ /

F

a stew of meat or other foods in light or brown gravy.

*Mrs. Delaney prefers to make her fricassee with chicken.***fried**

adj

/ 'frɪd /

L > F > E

cooked in hot fat.

*Milton's favorite meal is fried catfish and cornbread.***frigorific**

adj

/ ,frɪgə'rɪfɪk /

L

causing cold.

*Michael was curious about how the frigorific device for wine bottles could possibly work.***frisson**

n

/ frɪ'sɒn /

L > F

shudder, quiver, chill; especially : a pleasurable sensation of fright or gloom : thrill.

*Amy suddenly awakened from a nightmare and felt a frisson of terror.***fritillary**

n

/ 'frɪd'ɪlərɪ /

L

any of numerous butterflies that usually are orange with black spots on the upper side of both wings and have silvery spots on the underside of the hind wings.

*As Cora was tending her garden, she observed a crab spider capturing a fritillary on a flower.***frittata**

n

/ frɪ'tɪdə /

L > It

an unfolded omelet often containing chopped vegetables or meats.

*Tony's frittata was filled with seasoned asparagus tips.***frivolity**

n

/ frə'vɪlədɪ /

L > F

the quality or state of being not serious : playfulness.

*The Mardi Gras celebration was marked by boisterousness and frivolity.***frivolous**

adj

/ 'frɪv(ə)ləs /

L > E

of little weight or importance.

Mr. Peterson offered only frivolous remarks at the hearing.

frolicsome

adj

/ 'frälík.səm /

L + Ecf

full of gaiety and mirth : playful.

Each year the Kentucky Derby attracts horse lovers who enjoy the frolicsome festivities associated with the race.

frondeur

n

/ frɔ̃'dœœr /

L? > F

rebel, malcontent, dissident.

The mayor's denouncement referred to Jules as a "frondeur."

frontiersman

n

/ frən'ti(ə)rmən /

F > E

a man living at the edge of known civilization.

Daniel Boone was a famous Kentucky frontiersman of the 18th century.

frontispiece

n

/ frəntə.spēs /

L > F

an illustration preceding and usually facing the title page of a book or magazine.

Morgan was hired to draw the school yearbook's frontispiece.

fronton

n

/ frəntän /

L > It > F

a court or building for the game of jai alai.

The fronton looked bigger on television than in actuality.

froufrou

n

/ 'frü.frü /

F imit

abundant or excessive ornamentation (as ruffles, beading, flowers) in women's clothing.

The slippers covered with froufrou had to be "for looks" only.

frugal

adj

/ 'frügəl /

L

economical in the use or expenditure of resources.

The "Golden Fleece Award" was started by Senator William Proxmire, who advocated a more frugal government.

fruition

n

/ frü'ishən /

L > F > E

the state of being real, accomplished, or complete.

The new civic center came to fruition after many years' planning and labor.

fruticetum

n

/ früdə'sēdəm /

L

a collection of shrubs grown for ornament or study.

At the botanical garden, the arboretum and fruticetum were combined under one roof.

fughetta

n

/ f(y)ü'gedə /

It

a short or condensed musical piece in which one or two melodic themes are repeated by successively entering voices.

The Vienna Boys' Choir performed a fughetta in their concert at St. Paul's Cathedral.

fugulist

n

/ 'fyügəst /

L > It

one who composes or performs fugues.

As a fugulist, Johann Sebastian Bach has never been excelled.

fulcrum

n

/ 'fülkrəm /

L

prop, support; specifically : the support about which a lever turns.

Using the edge of his plate for a fulcrum, Danny put peas on his fork and catapulted them across the cafeteria.

fulgorant

adj

/ 'fülg(y)ərənt /

L

flashing like lightning : dazzling.

Emily's fulgorant diamond brooch attracted many eyes at the dinner party.

fuliginous

adj

/ fyü'lijənəs /

L

having the color of soot : dark, dusky.

Smoke-belching factories cast a fuliginous cloud over the entire city.

fulminate

v

/ 'fүlmənät /

L

issue or send forth censures or invectives menacingly or authoritatively.

The neighbor's habit of mowing the lawn early every Sunday morning caused Dad to fulminate under his breath.

fulsome

adj

/ 'fүlsəm /

E

offensive to the senses : disgusting.

The fulsome odor of a skunk drove the campers out of their tent.

fulvous

adj
/ 'fʊlvəs /
L

dull brownish yellow.

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

funambulist

n
/ fyü'nambyələst /
L

an acrobat who performs feats on a rope extended through the air at some height.

A hush came over the crowd as the funambulist balanced himself on one foot.

funeral

n
/ 'fyün(ə)rəl /
L > E

the observances held in honor of or on behalf of one who has died.

Bonnie wanted dancing at her funeral, so she arranged for a band before she died.

fungicide

n
/ 'fənjəsɪd /
L

an agent that destroys a group of lower plants including molds, rusts, mildews, mushrooms, and yeasts.

A fungicide was sprayed on the apple trees to protect the fruit.

funicular

adj
/ fyü'nɪkyələ(r) /
L

dependent on the tension of a cord or cable.

Too nervous to take the funicular tramway, Selena chose to drive to the top of the mountain.

furfuraceous

adj
/ ˌfɜːf(y)ə'rāshəs /
L

consisting of or covered with flaky particles : scaly, scurfy.

The dermatologist recommended a dandruff-removing shampoo to treat Linda's furfuraceous scalp.

furlough

n
/ ˈfɜː(ɹ)lō /
D

a leave of absence granted to a governmental or institutional employee (as a soldier, civil servant, or missionary).

While on furlough last year, the Lees raised \$10,000 for the dental clinic.

furtive

adj
/ ˈfɜːdɪv /
L

done by stealth : secret.

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

fuselage

n
/ ˈfyüsələzh /
F

the central body portion of an airplane designed to accommodate the crew and the passengers or cargo.

Leslie pointed out the bulbous fuselage of a Boeing 747 on the tarmac.

fusillade

n
/ ˈfyüsələd /
F

a number of shots fired simultaneously or in rapid succession especially with small arms : volley.

The first rank of infantrymen fired a fusillade, sank to their knees, and waited for the second rank to fire over their heads.

fusion

n
/ ˈfyūzhən /
L

a merging of diverse elements into a unified whole.

The spicy pasta dish Fran ordered was a fusion of Italian and Thai cuisine.

fustian

n
/ ˈfʌschən /
L > F > E

pretentious writing or speech : inflated style : bombast.

The literary journal refused to print Herman's overwrought fustian.

futilitarian

adj
/ (ɹ)fyü.tɪlə'terēən /
L

exhibiting or based on an attitude of uselessness.

The futilitarian worker doesn't try to improve his status because he can't see any chance of success.

gabbro

n
/ ˈgɑː(ɹ)brō /
L? > It

a rock of a family of granular igneous rocks.

An outcropping of gabbro showed through the soil.

gabion

n
/ ˈgæbēən /
L > It > F

a hollow cylinder of wickerwork or strap iron like a basket without a bottom that is filled with stones and is sunk in water to form the foundation of a dam or similar structure.

With the availability of poured cement, the gabion became outmoded.

gaggle

n
/ 'gagəl /
E

a flock of geese especially when on the water.

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

gainsay

v
/ 'gān.sā /
E

speak against : contradict.

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

galactic

adj
/ gə'laktik /
Gk > L

extremely great : huge.

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

galaxy**Galbraithian**

adj
/ gal'brāthēən /
American name

of or relating to the economic theories of John Kenneth Galbraith.

The speaker at the symposium claimed that Galbraithian theories on limited growth were not sound.

galleon

n
/ 'galēən /
F > Sp

[has homonyms and near homonym: gallein, Gallian and Galium] a heavily built chiefly square-rigged sailing ship of the 15th to early 18th centuries.

Traci built a model of a Spanish galleon out of matchsticks for her history project.

gallery

n
/ 'gal(ə)rē /
geog name > L > F

a platform projecting from one or more interior walls (as of a theater) for additional accommodation (as of a part of an audience); especially : the highest of such platforms in a theater commonly having the cheapest seats.

For the opera's opening performance there wasn't a vacant seat in the entire gallery.

gallimaufry

n
/ ,galə'möfrē /
F

medley, mixture, hodgepodge, jumble.

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

gallinule

n
/ 'galən(y)ül /
L

any of several aquatic birds that resemble a small domestic hen in general proportions and carriage.

Mitch found an injured gallinule in the rushes near Pearson's dock.

gallon

n
/ 'galən /
F > E

a unit of liquid capacity equal to 231 cubic inches.

Long-term blood donors tally their donations by the gallon.

galloon

n
/ gə'lün /
F

a narrow ornamental fabric used especially for trimming clothes or upholstery.

Instead of the more common lace, Ling chose a white galloon for the trim on her wedding dress.

galloping

adj
/ 'galəpɪŋ /
F

marked by a bounding and fast natural three-beat gait of a horse.

A galloping horse splashed through the waves on Sunset Beach.

galore

adj
/ gə'lō(ə)r /
IrGael

abundant, plentiful, profuse.

Edie found bargains galore at the flea market.

galosh

n
/ gə'ləsh /
F > E

a high overshoe designed to protect the shoe in wet weather or in wet areas and usually made with a rubber or water-repellent fabric.

The galosh was the first type of footwear to employ a zipper fastener.

galvanize

v
/ 'galvənīz /
It name > F

stimulate as if by the application of an electric current.

The enemy attack served to galvanize the government into immediate action.

gambado

n
/ gam'bā(,)dō /
It

a long boot or legging attached to each side of a saddle to protect the rider's feet and legs from the wet or cold.

Preparing for a ride in the rain, the horseman attached a gambado to each stirrup strap.

gambol

v

/ 'gambəl /

GK > L > OProv > F

[has homonym: gamble] bound or spring as in dancing or play.

*Susan watched the fawns gambol in the field.***gamopetalous**

adj

/ ,gamə'pedʰləs /

Gk

having the corolla composed of united petals.

*The flowers of the huckleberry, bluebell, and foxglove are gamopetalous.***gamut**

n

/ 'gamət /

Gk > L

an entire range from one extreme to another.

*The gamut of fall fashions included micro-miniskirts as well as ankle-length dresses.***ganglion**

n

/ 'gæŋgljən /

Gk > L

a mass of nerve tissue containing nerve cells.

*Each insect ganglion controls certain activities and is more or less independent of the others.***gangrene**

n

/ 'gæŋgrēn /

Gk > L

local death of soft tissues (as from disease, injury, or infection) resulting from loss of blood supply.

*The soldier knew that if gangrene set in, his wounded leg would need to be amputated.***gardenesque**

adj

/ ,gärd'n'esk /

Gmc > F > E + Ecf

resembling or relating to a plot of land devoted to the growing of herbs, fruits, flowers, or vegetables.
*Rosita turned her balcony into a gardenesque area with vines and potted plants.***garderobe**

n

/ 'gär.drōb /

F > E

a wardrobe or its contents.

*The seamstress hung the completed gown in the garderobe.***gargantuan**

adj

/ gär'ganch(əw)ən /

F name

of tremendous size or volume.

*The seemingly gargantuan gorilla in the movie was really a four-foot-high computerized model.***garlion**

n

/ 'gärlyən /

E + L > F > E

a hybrid vegetable resulting from a cross between garlic and onion.

*Shannon uses garlion in her spaghetti sauce.***garnishee**

v

/ ,gärnə'shē /

Gmc > F > E + Ecf

take by legal writ the wages or other property of a debtor.

*Norton was afraid the court would garnishee his entire salary to pay his back taxes.***garrulity**

n

/ gə'rülədē /

L

the quality or state of being talkative or long-winded.

*Paul talks so much that his teacher calls him a "geyser of garrulity."***garrulous**

adj

/ 'gærələs /

L

given to conversation : loquacious, talkative.

*The old colonel turned quite garrulous when talking of war.***gasconade**

v

/ ,gaskə'nād /

F name

boast or bluster especially to excess.

*Mr. Clay could gasconade at such length that his listeners became bored.***gaseous**

adj

/ 'gæsēəs /

L

having the form of or being a fluid (as air) that has neither independent shape nor volume but tends to expand indefinitely.

*The energy required to completely separate one mole of a solid ionic compound into gaseous ions is called "lattice energy."***gastriloquist**

n

/ ga'striləkwəst /

Gk + L

ventriloquist.

Lanny hired a gastriloquist to entertain at Betsy's birthday party.

gastronomy

n
/ gə'strænəmē /
Gk > F

the art or science of good eating :
epicurism.

*Chef Bernie specializes in French
gastronomy.*

gauche

adj
/ 'gōsh /
Gmc > F

lacking in social graces or ease,
tact, and familiarity with polite
usage.

*Gertrude was embarrassed by her
cousin's gauche behavior at the
christening.*

gaucherie

n
/ 'gōshə.rē /
Gmc > F

a tactless or awkward action; often
: a bit of social or literary crudity.

*Daphne's mom told her that using
one's dinner napkin as a
handkerchief is an unforgivable
gaucherie.*

gaufrette

n
/ gō'fret /
F

a wafer of crisply fried potato cut
to resemble a small waffle.

*At the summer festival the French
restaurant featured gaufrette.*

gauleiter

n
/ 'gāu.līdə(r) /
G

a political functionary occupying a
subordinate but important position
in a totalitarian regime.

*The memoirs of the gauleiter
contained little of historical
importance.*

gazelle

n
/ gə'zəl /
Ar > F

any of numerous small graceful and
swift African and Asian antelopes
noted for the luster and soft
expression of their eyes.

*The fawn and white coloration of
the gazelle serves to minimize
detection by predators.*

gazetteer

n
/ ,gəzə'ti(ə)r /
Venetian dialect > It > F

a geographical dictionary in which
names and descriptions of places
are usually given in alphabetical
order.

*Chandra consulted her gazetteer to
find the capital of Sri Lanka.*

gazpacho

n
/ gə'spɑ:(,)chō /
Sp

a soup made of uncooked chopped
tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers,
onion, garlic with vinegar, oil, and
condiments, and served cold.

*The restaurant was famous for its
gazpacho.*

gegenschein

n
/ 'gāgən.shīn /
G

a faint elliptical nebulous light
about 20 degrees across on the
ecliptic and opposite the Sun.

*The gegenschein is lost in the light
of the Milky Way in the summer
and winter.*

gelatinous

adj
/ jə'latɪ'nəs /
L > It > F + Ecf

resembling gelatin or jelly
especially in appearance and
consistency.

*Troy stepped on a gelatinous mass
of frog eggs.*

n
/ 'zhän.därm /

F
a continental European police
officer; especially : a French police
officer.

*The gendarme asked the victim for
a description of the mugger.*

genealogy

n
/ ,jēnē'äləjē /
Gk

a study of family ancestral lines
and the methods of investigation of
them.

*Many Americans interested in
genealogy eventually come to the
National Archives in Washington,
D.C., to do research.*

general

adj
/ 'jen(ə)rəl /
L

applicable or relevant to the whole
rather than to a limited part, group,
or section.

*The spring thaw began in one or
two areas, but soon there was a
general change in temperature
throughout the country.*

genial

adj
/ 'jēnyəl /
L

marked by sympathetic
cheerfulness, warmth, and
friendliness.

*Kim's goal was to make the club
members more genial and less
cliquish.*

geniture

n
/ 'jenə.chü(ə)r /
L

nativity, birth.

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

genocide

n
/ 'jenə.sɪd /
Gk + L

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

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

genre

n
/ 'zhä(ə)nrə /
L > F

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

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

genteel

adj
/ jen'teɪl /
L > F

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

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

gentilitial

adj
/ jentə'lishəl /
L + Ecf

relating or peculiar to a people or a family.

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

genuflect

v
/ 'jenyə.flekt /
L

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

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

geochrony

n
/ jē'äkrənē /
Gk

a system of time divisions used in geology.

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

geodesy

n
/ jē'ädəsē /
Gk

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

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

geognosy

n
/ jē'ägnəsē /
Gk + Gk

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

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

geography

n
/ jē'ägrəfē /
Gk

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

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

geosyncline

n
/ jē(ə)'sɪn.klɪn /
Gk

a great downward flexure of Earth's crust.

A deep layer of sediment has accumulated in the geosyncline.

geranium

n
/ jə'rænēəm /
Gk > L

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

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

geriatrics

n pl
/ jērē'atriks /
Gk + E

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

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

germane

adj
/ jə(r)'mān /
L > F > E

having a close relationship : appropriate, pertinent.

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

germicide

n
/ 'jərməsɪd /
L > F

an agent that destroys germs (as disease germs).

Mouthwash is a common germicide.

germinal

adj
/ 'jɜ:mənəl /
L > F

being in the earliest stage of development.

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

gerrymander

v
/ 'jɛrē.mandə(r) /
American name + Gk > L
divide (an area) into political units so as to give special advantages to one group.
The governor vetoed the bill that would gerrymander a county in favor of his opponent.

gerund

n
/ 'jɛrənd /
L
the English verbal noun ending in -ing.
In the sentence "Swimming is Claudia's favorite activity," the word swimming is a gerund.

gestapo

n
/ gə'stə(ɪ)pō /
G acronym
a secret-police organization that operates especially against persons suspected of treason or sedition and employs means held to be underhanded and terrorist.
In the novel, morality became nothing more than subservience to the dictates of the ruthless gestapo.

gesticulate

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

gesture

n
/ 'jes(h)chə(r) /
L
a movement usually of the body or limbs that symbolizes or emphasizes an idea, sentiment, or attitude.
When Alex made the winning touchdown, Coach Miller swung his hands up in the air as a gesture of victory.

gesundheit

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

ghastly

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

ghoulish

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

giantesque

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

gibbous

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

gibleh

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

gigantic

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

gigot

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

gimmicky

adj

/ 'giməkē /

unknown + Ecf

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

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

gingerbread

n

/ 'jɪnjə(r).bred /

F > E

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

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

gingham

n

/ 'gɪŋəm /

Malay

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

Betsy made curtains of blue gingham for her kitchen.

gingivitis

n

/ ˌjɪnjə'vɪdəs /

L

inflammation of the gums.

To prevent gingivitis Beth has her teeth cleaned regularly.

ginglymus

n

/ 'jɪŋɡlɪməs /

Gk

a hinge joint admitting of motion in one plane only.

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

giraffe

n

/ ˌjə'raɪf /

Ar > It

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

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

girandole

n

/ ˌjɪrən.dəl /

L > It > F

a mirror having attached candle holders.

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

gizzard

n

/ ˌgɪzə(r)d /

Iranian? > L > F > E

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

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

glabrous

adj

/ ˌglābrəs /

L

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

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

glacial

adj

/ ˌglāʃhəl /

L

extremely cold, frigid, freezing.

A glacial wind withered the roses overnight.

glacier

n

/ ˌglāʃhə(r) /

L > F

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

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

glacon

n

/ ˌglɑ'sō /

F

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

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

gladiator

n

/ ˌglədəˌɑdə(r) /

Celt > L

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

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

glasnost

n

/ ˌgläs.nōst /

Russ

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

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

glaucoma

n
/ gló'kómə /
Gk > L

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

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

glaucous

adj
/ 'glókəs /
Gk

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

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

glazier

n
/ 'glāzhə(r) /
E

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

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

glimmer

v
/ 'glimə(r) /
E

emit feeble or intermittent rays of light.

From Table Top Mountain, the couple watched the city lights glimmer in the cool clear evening air.

glimpse

n
/ 'glim(p)s /
E

a brief fleeting look : a momentary or incomplete view.

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

glioma

n
/ glī'ómə /
Gk

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

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

glissade

v
/ glə'säd /
F

move along smoothly and effortlessly : glide.

Kris watched the skaters glissade over the frozen pond.

glissando

n
/ glə'sän(,)dō /
F + It

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

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

glistening

v
/ 'glis'niŋ /
E

shining brightly usually by reflection with a sparkling radiance.

Clarabelle watched the raindrops glistening in the moonlight.

globular

adj
/ 'gläbyələ(r) /
L

round like a ball : spherical.

A globular lamp hung from the center of the ceiling in Gretchen's dining room.

glockenspiel

n
/ 'gläkən.s(h)pəl /
Celt > G

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

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

glogg

n
/ 'glüg /
Sw

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

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

glottogonic

adj
/ ,glädō'gänik /
Gk

of or relating to the origin of language.

Three Russian linguists lectured on their glottogonic research.

glowworm

n
/ 'glō.wərm /
E + E

any of various luminous insects with wings rudimentary or lacking.

Kyle scooped up the glowworm and put it in his collection jar.

gloxinia

n
/ gläk'sinēə /
G name

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

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

glucose

n
/ 'glü.kōs /
Gk > F

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

Glucose is formed from water and carbon dioxide by photosynthesis.

gluttonously

adv
/ 'glət(ə)nəsle /
L > F > E

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

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

gnocchi

n pl
/ 'näke /
Gmc? > It

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

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

gnomic

adj
/ 'nōmik /
Gk

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

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

gnotobiotic

adj
/ .nōdə(,)bi'ädik /
Gk

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

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

goalie

n
/ 'gōle /
E

a player who defends the goal in various games.

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

goatee

n
/ (,)gō'tē /
E

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

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

gobemouche

n
/ (,)gōb'müş /
F + L > F

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

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

goldenrod

n
/ 'gōldən.räd /
E + E

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

Many people are allergic to the goldenrod.

golem

n
/ 'gōləm /
Heb > Yiddish

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

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

gonfalon

n
/ 'gänfəlän /
F > It

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

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

gongorism

n
/ 'gängə.rizəm /
Sp name

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

In his later years, the poet lapsed into gongorism.

gorgeous

adj
/ 'gōrjəs /
F > E

characterized by brilliance or magnificence of any kind.

The parade floats were gorgeous with their array of flowers.

gorget

n
/ 'gōrjət /
F

a specially colored patch on the throat.

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

gorgonize

v
/ 'gò(r)gə.nīz /

Gk name

stupefy, petrify.

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

Gorgonzola

n
/ .gò(r)gən'zòlə /

It geog name

a blue cheese usually made of cow's milk.

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

gorilla

n
/ gə'rilə /

Gk > L

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

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

gorse

n
/ 'gò(ə)rs /

E

a spiny evergreen shrub : juniper.

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

gosling

n
/ 'gäzliŋ /

E

a young goose.

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

gossamer

n
/ 'gäsəmə(r) /

E

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

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

gossip

n
/ 'gäsəp /

E

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

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

gouge

n
/ 'gäuŋ /

Celt > L > F > E

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

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

gourami

n
/ gü'rämē /

Malay

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

Jonathan bought a colorful gourami for his new aquarium.

gourmet

n
/ .gù(ə)r'mā /

F

a connoisseur in eating and drinking.

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

gout

n
/ 'gäüt /
L > F > E

a metabolic disease marked by a painful inflammation of the fibrous and ligamentous parts of the joints.
Poor old John is bedridden with the rheumatic gout in his joints.

governess

n
/ 'gəvə(r)nəs /

Gk > L > F > E

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

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

gracility

n
/ gra'silədē /

L

the quality of being pleasing in movement.

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

grallatorial

adj
/ .gralə'tōrēəl /

L

of or belonging to the wading birds.

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

gramineous

adj
/ grə'minēəs /

L

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

The vast plain is an excellent habitat for gramineous plants.

grammar

n
/ 'gramə(r) /
Gk > L > F > E

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

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

grammarian

n
/ grə'merēən /
Gk > L > F > E

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

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

gramophile

n
/ 'gramə'fɪl /
Gk

a lover and protector of old phonograph records.

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

grandeur

n
/ 'granjə(r) /
L > F

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

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

grandiloquence

n
/ gran'diləkwen(t)s /
L

the use of lofty words or phrases : bombast.

Professor Simon's grandiloquence failed to impress Robbie.

grandiose

adj
/ 'grandē.ōs /
L > It > F

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

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

grangerize

v
/ 'grānjə.rɪz /
E name + Ecf

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

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

graticule

n
/ 'gradə.kyül /
L

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

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

gratinate

v
/ 'grat'n.āt /
F > Ecf

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

Mom decided to gratinate the macaroni for lunch.

graupel

n
/ 'gräupəl /
Slav? > G

granular snow pellets.

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

graveolent

adj
/ grə'veələnt /
L

having a rank smell.

Elaine quickly disposed of the rotten, graveolent egg.

gravitate

v
/ 'gravə.tāt /
L

move casually but inexorably as though under an external force.

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

grazioso

adv
/ ,grätsē'ō(,)sō /
L > It

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

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

greffier

n
/ 'grɛfē.ā /
L > F

registrar, recorder.

The office of the greffier is lined with ledgers.

gregarious

adj

/ grə'ga(a)rēəs /

L

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

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

grenadier

n

/ ,grenə'di(ə)r /

F

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

gressorial

adj

/ gre'sōrēəl /

L

adapted for walking.

Some birds, such as the turkey, have gressorial feet.

grievous

adj

/ 'grēvəs /

F > E

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

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

grimace

n

/ 'griməs /

Gmc > F

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

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

grimoire

n

/ grām'wär /

F

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

grimthorpe

v

/ 'grim(p),thò(ə)rp /

E name

remodel (an ancient building) without proper knowledge or care to retain its original quality and character.
Darryl is afraid the developers will grimthorpe the old mill.

griot

n

/ 'grē(,)ō /

F

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

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

grisaille

n

/ grə'zī /

F

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

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

gristliness

n

/ 'gris(ə)lēnəs /

E

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

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

grobian

n

/ 'grōbēən /

G name

a slovenly crude often buffoonish individual : boor, lout.

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

grocceteria

n

/ ,grōsə'tirēə /

F > E + Ecf

a self-service food store.

Patrice bought four lemons at the grocceteria.

grosgrain

n

/ 'grō,grān /

F

a firm fabric in plain weave.

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

grovel

v

/ 'grävəl /

ON > E

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

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

gruel

n

/ 'grüəl /

Gmc > F > E

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

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

grunion

n
/ 'grʌnyən /
L > Sp

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

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

guardian

n
/ 'gɑːrdiən /
F > AF > E

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

Alcibiades' guardian was the famous statesman Pericles.

Guatemalan

n
/ ,gwädə'mälən /

Central American name
a native or inhabitant of Guatemala, a country in Central America.

Maria was a Guatemalan by birth, but had become a naturalized Brazilian.

guava

n
/ 'gwävə /
Arawak > Sp

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

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

gubernatorial

adj
/ ,gübə(r)nə'törēəl /
L + Ecf

of or relating to a governor or government.

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

guernsey

n
/ 'gɜːnzē /

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

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

guess

v
/ 'ges /
Scand? > E

form an opinion or judgment of without knowledge.

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

guffaw

v
/ (,)gəfə /
imit

laugh noisily or coarsely.

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

guidon

n
/ 'gīdän /
OProv > F

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

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

guileful

adj
/ 'gīlfəl /
Gmc > F > E

characterized by cunning, deceit, or treachery.

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

guilloche

n
/ gə'lōsh /
F name?

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

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

guillotine

n
/ 'gīlətēn /
F name

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

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

guitar

n
/ gə'tär /
Gk > Ar > Sp > F

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

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

gullibility

n
/ ,gələ'bilədē /
E + Ecf

the quality or state of being easily deceived.

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

gulosity

n
/ gyü'lāsədē /
L

excessive appetite : greediness.

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

gummiferous

adj

/ ,gə'mif(ə)rəs /

Egypt > Gk > L + L

producing or bearing a colloidal substance that is gelatinous when moist but hardens on drying.

A sapodilla is a gummiferous tree.

gummosis

n

/ ,gə'mōsəs /

L

the pathological production of sticky exudates in plants as a result of cell degeneration.

Plants afflicted with gummosis are often beset with ants.

gumption

n

/ 'gəm(p)shən /

unknown

blended initiative, resolution, and effort.

Of all his brothers, only Grandpa had the gumption to leave the old country and come to America.

gurney

n

/ 'gərnē /

American name

a wheeled cot or stretcher.

The gurney squeaked ominously as Heywood was wheeled into the operating room.

guru

n

/ 'gü.rü /

Skt > Hindi

a personal religious teacher and spiritual guide in Hinduism.

Shri asked his guru whether he should undertake a pilgrimage.

gustatory

adj

/ 'gəstə.tōrē /

L + Ecf

of, relating to, affecting, or associated with the sense of taste.

Gaylord was hired as a food taster because of his highly refined gustatory skills.

guttural

adj

/ 'gʌdərəl /

L > F

being or belonging to a speech sound that is articulated in the throat.

Guttural consonants posed a problem for Emily in German class.

gutturalize

v

/ 'gʌdərəlɪz /

L + Ecf

pronounce or utter with sounds articulated in the throat.

Because of her German background, Ursula has a tendency to gutturalize certain words.

gymkhana

n

/ 'jim'känə /

Per&Gk > Hindi

a horseback-riding meet featuring games and novelty contests.

Clem practiced daily with his horse so that he could enter several events in the upcoming gymkhana.

gynarchy

n

/ 'ji.närkē /

Gk

government by women.

Although it has had a few male officers, Reta's investment club has always been a gynarchy.

gypsum

n

/ 'jipsəm /

Sem > Gk > L

plasterboard.

Kiki nailed a sheet of gypsum to the garage wall.

gyrate

v

/ 'ji.rāt /

Gk > L

turn or swing back and forth often rapidly with or as if with a circular or spiral motion.

Couples on the dance floor started to gyrate as a new song began.

haberdasher

n

/ 'habə(r).dashə(r) /

AF > E

a dealer in men's furnishings (as shirts, ties, hats).

Another upscale haberdasher has opened a shop on Brighton Street.

habiliments

n pl

/ hə'biləmən(t)s /

F

clothing suited to or characteristic of a calling, occupation, or profession : garb, costume.

Burt dressed for the rodeo in the habiliments of a cowboy.

habitat

n

/ 'habə.tat /

L

the place where a plant or animal species naturally lives and grows.

The government appropriated money to preserve the natural habitat of the endangered species.

habitual

adj

/ hə'bich(ə)wəl /

L

established by or repeated by force of a developed mode of behavior that has become nearly or completely involuntary.

Brian had to explain his habitual tardiness to the assistant principal.

hacienda

n

/ ,(h)äsē'endə /

L > Sp

the main building of a farm or ranch.

A winding, tree-lined driveway led to the hacienda.

hackamore

n
/ 'hakə.mō(ə)r /
Ar > Sp

a bridle that consists of a halter often of soft rope or braided horsehair and is used especially in breaking and training horses.

Charlene pulled back on the hackamore and cried "Whoa!"

hackneyed

adj
/ 'haknēd /

E geog name
commonplace : trite.

The marketing adjective extreme will soon be as hackneyed as super and ultra.

haggard

adj
/ 'hagə(r)d /

F
having a worn or emaciated appearance caused by suffering, anxiety, or age.

Ever since she last saw him in the courtroom, Frank's haggard face and wild eyes had haunted her.

haggis

n
/ 'hagəs /
E

a pudding especially popular in Scotland made of the heart, liver, and lungs of a sheep or a calf minced with suet, onions, oatmeal, and seasonings and boiled in the stomach of the animal.

Haggis is often served on January 25, the birthday of the Scottish poet Robert Burns.

haiku

n
/ 'hī.kū /
Jpn

an unrhymed verse form of Japanese origin having three lines containing usually five, seven, and five syllables, respectively.

Compressing an image or idea into only 17 syllables is what makes a haiku most challenging to compose.

halcyon

adj
/ 'halsēən /
Gk > L > E

pleasingly or idyllically calm or peaceful : serene.

Aaron spent the halcyon afternoon in his hammock.

halibut

n
/ 'haləbət /
E

the largest of the flatfishes, being an inhabitant of all northern seas.

At the aquarium, Ernie saw a halibut the size of a sleeping bag.

halieutics

n pl
/ .halē'(y)üdiks /
Gk

the art or practice of fishing.

Izaak Walton's The Compleat Angler is the most famous book on halieutics.

halitosis

n
/ .halə'tōsəs /
L

a condition of having bad breath.

The new mouthwash is advertised to cure halitosis.

hallucination

n
/ hə'lūs'n'āshən /
L

perception of objects with no reality.

Maynard swears that the ghost he saw was no hallucination.

hallucinogen

n
/ hə'lūs'n'jən /
L + Gk

a substance that induces perceptions of objects with no reality; especially : one taken orally.

The medicine that the doctors prescribed was an effective pain killer, but in larger doses it sometimes became a frightening hallucinogen.

halophyte

n
/ 'halə.fīt /
Gk + Gk

a plant that grows naturally in soils having a high content of various salts.

Australian aborigines grind into flour the seeds of a halophyte that grows in the coastal mud flats.

hamadryad

n
/ .hamə'drī.ad /
Gk > L

a nymph of trees and woods; especially : a nymph whose life begins and ends with that of a particular tree.

Darcy sat on a bench in the arboretum and imagined she was a hamadryad.

hamartia

n
/ .hä.mär'tēə /
Gk

a defect of character : error, guilt, or sin especially of the tragic hero in a literary work.

Overweening ambition proved to be Macbeth's hamartia.

hamate

adj
/ 'hā.māt /
L

hooked.

Elliott examined the hamate hairs on the insect's forelegs

handwrought

adj

/ 'hand.rɒt /

E

fashioned by hand or chiefly by hand processes.

*Barbie found a handwrought trivet at the garage sale.***hansom**

n

/ 'han(t)səm /

E name

[has homonym: handsome] a light two-wheeled covered carriage with the driver's seat elevated behind and with the reins passed over the top.

*Holmes and Watson jumped into a hansom and ordered the driver to follow discreetly the cab ahead.***haphazard**

adj

/ hap'hazə(r)d /

ON > E + Ar > F > E

aimless, random.

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

adj

/ 'hapləs /

ON > E + Ecf

marked by the absence of good luck : unfortunate.

*The hapless students were caught between the school district and the striking teachers.***haplology**

n

/ hə'plələjē /

Gk

contraction of a word by the omission of one or more similar sounds or syllables in pronunciation.

*The use of "probly" instead of probably in hasty speech is an example of haplology.***harangue**

n

/ hə'raŋ /

Gmc? > It > F > E

a bombastic, ranting speech.

*Amasa's harangue at the sophomore assembly offended nearly everyone.***harassed**

adj

/ hə'rast /

Gmc > F

sorely troubled, vexed, or burdened : badgered.

*The harassed waitress decided she had tolerated inconsiderate customers long enough and found a different line of work.***harbinger**

n

/ 'hərbənjər /

Gmc > F > E

something that presages or foreshadows what is to come.

*The howling wind was the harbinger of a storm.***hardiness**

n

/ 'hɑrdēnəs /

E

the capability of endurance or resistance.

*The rose's hardiness was severely tested by a cold snap.***hare**

n

/ 'ha(a)(ə)r /

E

[has homonym: hair] any of various timid long-eared gnawing mammals with a divided upper lip, long strong hind legs adapted to leaping, and a short tail.

*Most schoolchildren have heard the story of the tortoise and the hare.***haricot**

n

/ 'harəkō /

F

the ripe seed or the unripe pod of any of several beans used as a vegetable.

*The baby nibbled on a haricot and wrinkled her nose.***Harlequin**

adj

/ 'hɑrləkw(ə)n /

E > F > It > F

a stock character in comedy and pantomime who appears variously as a clown and a magician and usually wears a mask and variegated tights and carries a wooden sword.

*The children especially enjoyed the buffoonish antics of the Harlequin.***harmoniously**

adv

/ 'hɑrmōnēəsli /

Gk

in a manner marked by accord in sentiment or action : compatibly.

*For a large family to live harmoniously, rules and chores are a must.***harness**

n

/ 'hɑrnəs /

ON > F > E

the gear or tackle other than a yoke of a draft animal such as a horse.

The horse pulling the carriage through Central Park had silver bells on its harness that jingled whenever the driver shook the reins.

