

paupiette

n
/ pɔ̃'pyet /
F

a thin slice of meat or fish wrapped around a filling (as of forcemeat).

At the new restaurant Carol enjoyed a veal paupiette stuffed with ham and cheese.

pavilion

n
/ pə'vilyən /
L > F > E

a large often sumptuous tent.

The servants scurried to set up the queen's pavilion before the Sun went down.

pavonine

adj
/ 'pavə.nīn /
L

of, relating to, or resembling the peacock.

Audrey cooled herself by waving a pavonine fan.

paysanne

adj
/ pā'zan /
F

prepared (as with diced root vegetables) in country or simple style.

Errol served a paysanne sauce with the tenderloins.

peaceable

adj
/ 'pēsəbəl /
L > F > E + Ecf

marked by freedom from war, strife, hostilities, or disorder.

Aggressive doctrines are incompatible with any peaceable administration of the government.

pearly

adj
/ 'pɛrlē /
L > F > E

having the color of a pearl, which is usually white or light-colored.

"Show me your pearly whites," encouraged the photographer.

peccadillo

n
/ ,pekə'di(.)lō /
L > Sp

a slight offense or petty fault.

The defense lawyers lost the case when they tried to classify high treason as a "minor peccadillo."

peccant

adj
/ 'pekənt /
L

guilty of a moral offense : sinning, corrupt.

The council members railed against the peccant mayor.

pecuniary

adj
/ pə'kyünē.ērē /
L

taking the form of or consisting of money.

Margaret values her grandmother's engagement ring for its sentimental rather than its pecuniary worth.

pedagogist

n
/ 'pedə.gājəst /
Gk

a specialist in education.

It didn't take a pedagogist to know the school was overcrowded.

pedantic

adj
/ pə'dantik /
L? > It > F + Ecf

excessively meticulous.

Frazier's pedantic approach bored the few remaining audience members.

pedestrian

adj
/ pə'destrēən /
L

marked by drabness or dullness : commonplace.

The critic wrote the play off as a pedestrian imitation of Shakespeare.

pedodontist

n
/ ,pēdō'däntəst /
Gk

a specialist in the branch of dentistry that is concerned with the dental care of children.

The pedodontist recommends that infants and toddlers not be allowed to fall asleep with a bottle of milk or juice in their mouths.

peekaboo

n
/ 'pēkə.bü /
E + cf + E

a game to entertain an infant or young child in which one hides his or her face and then reappears and makes an exclamation.

The photographer finally managed to elicit a smile from the baby when she started playing peekaboo.

peerless

adj
/ 'pi(ə)rləs /
E

matchless, incomparable.

Randy wondered how he could compete against the peerless defending champion.

peevisishly

adv
/ 'pēvəshlē /
E

in a manner marked by ill temper.

"There, you see," he said peevisishly; "I'm even afraid to make a positive statement."

peirastic

adj

/ pɪˈræstɪk /

Gk

fitted for trial : experimental.

The new drug has been approved only for peirastic use with patients who volunteer to take it.

pejorative

adj

/ pəˈdʒɔːrətɪv /

L

having a tendency to make or become worse : depreciatory, disparaging.

The critic's pejorative comments angered the entire cast.

pelisse

n

/ pəˈlɪs /

L > F

[has homonym: police] a woman's loose lightweight cloak with wide collar and fur trimming.

Grandmother's old pelisse was a perfect costume for our production of A Christmas Carol.

Peloponnesian

adj

/ ,peləpəˈnɛzɪən /

Gk name + Gk

of or relating to the southern peninsula of Greece.

The Peloponnesian War was between Athens and Sparta.

penalty

n

/ ˈpenəlti /

L

a disadvantage (as loss of yardage, time, or possession of the ball) imposed for violation of the rules of a contest.

In ice hockey a penalty of two minutes off the ice is frequently given to players who commit minor infractions of the rules.

penance

n

/ ˈpenənt(s) /

L > F > E

[has homonym: pennants] act of self-abasement either voluntarily performed to show sorrow for sin or imposed as a punishment for sin by a church official.

Emma resolved to keep Harriet no longer in the dark and went, the very next day, to undergo the necessary penance of communication.

penchant

n

/ ˈpençənt /

L > F

a strong leaning or attraction; broadly : liking.

While traveling overseas, Brad developed a penchant for Turkish coffee.

pendulum

n

/ ˈpendjələm /

L

a body suspended from a fixed point so as to swing freely to and fro under the action of gravity and commonly used to regulate the movements of clockwork and other machinery.

Trina stops the grandfather clock's pendulum each evening so that the chimes will not ring during the night.

penicillin

n

/ ,penɪˈsɪlən /

L

a mixture of antibiotic relatively nontoxic acids produced especially by molds of the genus *Penicillium*.

When penicillin did not cure Frankie's ear infection, the doctor prescribed a different antibiotic.

peninsula

n

/ pəˈnɪn(t)s(ə)lə /

L

a portion of land nearly surrounded by water and connected with a larger body by an isthmus.

Florida is actually a very large peninsula.

penitence

n

/ ˈpenɪdənt(s) /

L

sorrow for sins or faults.

Because of Ella's true penitence, her best friend was quick to forgive her for her breach of confidence.

penitentiary

n

/ ,penəˈtɛnʃ(ə)rē /

L > E

a public institution in which offenders against the law are confined for detention or for punishment, discipline, and reformation and in which they are generally compelled to labor.

The judge sentenced the bank robber to 25 years in the state penitentiary.

pennant

n

/ ˈpenənt /

L

a flag or banner.

Whenever the queen was in residence, her pennant was raised on the palace flagpole.

pensive

adj

/ 'pen(t)siv /

L > F > E

absorbed or engrossed in or given to sober thoughtfulness.

Lori appeared pensive on the last day of vacation.

pentathlon

n

/ pen'tath.län /

Gk

a contest in the modern Olympic Games involving participation by each contestant in horseback riding, shooting, fencing, swimming, and running.

Miguel is practicing four hours a day for the upcoming pentathlon.

penumbra

n

/ pə'nəmbərə /

L

a shadow cast (as in an eclipse) where the light is partly but not wholly cut off by the intervening body.

Bert caused a penumbra on the screen when he walked in front of the slide projector.

penury

n

/ 'penyərə /

L

scantiness.

Jane cited the penury of intelligent conversation at the children's table as her reason for wanting to sit with the adults in the main dining room.

peony

n

/ 'pēnē /

E

any of a genus of perennial often double-flowered plants with large pink, white, red, or yellow showy flowers.

Ben placed a brightly colored peony in a tall vase.

perambulate

v

/ pə'rambyələt /

L

travel over or through especially on foot.

Sid and Amy often perambulate the park on sunny days.

percnosome

n

/ 'pərkənəsəm /

Gk

a small body occurring in the androcyte of a fern.

Under the microscope, the dark shape of the percnosome was clearly visible.

percolate

v

/ 'pərkələt /

L

prepare by causing (a liquid) to pass through (as coffee) in order to extract the essence.

Sal did not allow enough time to percolate his coffee before he had to go to work.

percussor

n

/ pə(r)'kəsə(r) /

L

a small hammer with a rubber head used as a diagnostic tool by physicians.

Dr. Goldman tested Paula's reflexes with a percussor.

peregrinate

v

/ 'pəgrənāt /

L

travel on foot : walk, tour.

Nicki hopes to peregrinate across England in the fall.

peremptory

adj

/ pə'rem(p)t(ə)rē /

L

putting an end to or precluding a right of action, debate, or delay.

Mr. Stone interrupted Cindy's wrong answer by raising his hand in a peremptory gesture.

perennate

v

/ 'pərənāt /

L

live over from season to season : persist.

Ornamental banana trees will seldom perennate outdoors north of the subtropics.

perennial

adj

/ pə'renēəl /

L

continuing or lasting through several years—used specifically of a plant that dies back seasonally and produces new growth from a part that lives over from season to season.

The garden is bare of flowers because the perennial plants have been cut down for their winter rest.

perestroika

n

/ (i)pərə'strōikə /

Russ

extensive restructuring and reform intended to revitalize the government and economy of the former Soviet Union.

Perestroika was the key that unlocked the former Soviet Union and other Warsaw Pact nations to democratization.

perfervid

adj

/ ,pə'fərvəd /

L

extremely or excessively fervent : zealous, impassioned.

In front of the Capitol a man was giving a perfervid speech on the evils of national taxation.

perfume

n

/ 'pɜːfjʊm /

L > OProv > F

a fluid preparation used for scenting : fragrance.

Some theaters designate a fragrance-free seating area for those persons allergic to perfume and scented lotions.

pergelisol

n

/ pɜː'ʤeləsəl /

L

permanently or perennially frozen ground : permafrost.

Chan's theory is that there are large oil deposits beneath the pergelisol.

Periclean

adj

/ ,pɜːrə'klɛən /

Gk name

of or relating to Pericles or his age when Athens was at its highest material and intellectual state.

Periclean Athens bequeathed the Parthenon and many other monuments of artistic splendor to the world.

perigee

n

/ 'pɜːrə(ɪ)ʤi /

Gk

the point in the orbit of a satellite of Earth that is nearest to the center of Earth.

As the communications satellite neared perigee, its signal became stronger.

peripatetic

adj

/ ,pɜːrəpə'tɛdɪk /

Gk

performed or performing while moving about : itinerant.

Adrian spent an exciting three years as a peripatetic journalist before settling in Chicago.

peripety

n

/ pə'ri:pədə /

Gk > F

a sudden or unexpected reversal of circumstances or situation in a literary work.

The peripety in the last act of the play stunned the audience.

peripheral

adj

/ ,pɜːrɪf(ə)rəl /

Gk

located away from a center or a central portion.

Although Kerry's main interest lies in literature, she has peripheral interests in art history and psychology.

periphery

n

/ pə'ri:f(ə)rɪ /

Gk

the external boundary or surface of any body or area.

Many villages dotted the periphery of the extinct volcano.

periphrasis

n

/ pə'rɪfrəsəs /

Gk

the use of a longer phrasing in place of a possible shorter and plainer form of expression.

Frustrated by the document's endless periphrasis, Ludwig threw up his hands in despair.

perishable

adj

/ 'pɜːrəʃəbəl /

L > F > E + Ecf

subject to quick deterioration or spoilage except under proper conditions (as of temperature or moisture content).

The advent of refrigeration changed the way perishable foods are packaged.

peristalsis

n

/ ,pɜːrə'stɔːlsəs /

Gk

successive waves of involuntary contraction passing along the walls of the intestine and forcing the contents onward.

Disruption of peristalsis can lead to digestion problems.

perjury

n

/ 'pɜːrʤ(ə)rɪ /

L > AF > E

the voluntary violation of an oath.

One thing is certain after the testimony: Either Mr. Jakes or Mr. Cleveland has committed perjury.

permeate

v

/ 'pɜːrmē.ət /

Gk

spread or diffuse through.

Igor wiped up the spill immediately, lest the smell of formaldehyde permeate the room.

pernicious

adj

/ pə(r)'nɪʃəs /

L

highly injurious or destructive : deadly.

The doctors finally eradicated the pernicious infection from the patient's lungs.

pernoctate

v

/ (ɪ)pər'nɔkt.ət /

L

stay up or out all night.

*Brian knew he would have to**pernoctate at least once in order to finish his term paper.***peroration**

n

/ .pə'rəʃən /

L

a flowery, highly rhetorical speech.

*Trudy's peroration was lost on her**audience at the school board meeting.***perpetual**

adj

/ pə(r)'pɛch(əw)əl /

L > F > E

everlasting, eternal.

*Shawna expected to enjoy**perpetual bliss in heaven.***perplexing**

adj

/ pə(r)'pleksɪŋ /

L

that causes an agitated or confused mental condition.

*Silvio found English grammar**terribly perplexing.***perquisite**

n

/ 'pɜkwəzət /

L

a privilege, gain, or profit

incidental to an employment in

addition to regular salary or wages.

*A perquisite attractive to many**business executives is unlimited use of a cellular telephone.***persecute**

v

/ 'pɜsəkju:t /

L

harass in a manner to injure, grieve, or afflict usually because of some difference of opinion.

*The revolutionary extremists vowed**to persecute the peasants who**would not support their cause.***perseverance**

n

/ .pɜrsə'vɪrən(t)s /

L

continued or steadfast pursuit or prosecution of an undertaking or aim.

*After much perseverance, Frank**induced the most upright female**mind in creation to stoop in charity**to a secret engagement.***persevered**

v

/ .pɜrsə'vi(ə)rɪd /

L > F > E

persisted in spite of counter influences, opposition, or discouragement.

*Winston persevered at his post in**accordance with his duty.***persiflage**

n

/ 'pɜrsəfləʒh /

F

frivolous bantering talk : a

frivolous and somewhat derisive

manner of treating a subject.

*As the teams moved up and down**the court, both benches kept up a**constant stream of persiflage.***persillade**

adj

/ .pɜrsē'äd /

F

dressed with or containing parsley.

*Marina's dinner guests enjoyed a**flavorful sea bass in a persillade**sauce.***persimmon**

n

/ pə(r)'sɪmən /

Algonquian

a medium-sized tree of the southern and eastern United States with hard

fine-grained wood, oblong leaves,

and bell-shaped flowers followed

by an orange several-seeded berry

that is edible when fully ripe but

usually extremely astringent when

unripe.

*Leroy's mouth puckered when he**bit into an unripe persimmon.***perspicacious**

adj

/ .pɜrspə'kɑʃəs /

L + Ecf

of acute mental vision or discernment.

*The chairman attributed the**company's record profits to**perspicacious management.***pertinacious**

adj

/ .pɜrt'n'ɑʃəs /

L

stubbornly unshakable.

*There was something mysterious in**the moody and dogged silence of**this pertinacious companion.***perusal**

n

/ .pɜ'rüzəl /

L? > E + E

the action of reading through or

over with some attention and

typically for the purpose of

discovering or noting one or more

specific points.

*The legal advisor's perusal of the**proposed contract identified many**points of concern.***peruse**

v

/ pə'rüz /

L > E

read; specifically : read through or

read over with some attention and

typically for the purpose of

discovering or noting one or more

specific points.

*Jan plans to peruse several**journals in the hope of getting**needed material for further**research.*

pervasive

adj

/ pə(r)'vāsiv /

L + Ecf

that permeates or tends to permeate.

*The turkey farm had a pervasive odor that clung to clothes.***pessimist**

n

/ 'pesəməst /

L > F

one inclined to put the least favorable construction on actions and happenings, to emphasize adverse aspects, conditions, and possibilities, or to anticipate the worst possible outcome.

*Being a pessimist made keeping friends very difficult for Mark.***pestilence**

n

/ 'pestələn(t)s /

L

a contagious or infectious epidemic disease that is virulent and devastating.

*Pestilence has historically been one of society's main causes of death.***pestle**

n

/ 'pesəl /

L > F > E

a usually club-shaped implement for pounding or grinding substances especially in a mortar.

*Grandma bought a brass mortar and pestle from an antique dealer.***petrogeny**

n

/ pə'trājənē /

Gk + Gk

the science of the origin of rocks.

*A vacation trip to the Grand Canyon sparked Lauren's interest in petrogeny.***petrolage**

n

/ 'petrəlɪj /

L > F + Ecf

the treatment of stagnant water with mineral oil so as to exterminate mosquitoes.

*The health department was advised to use petrolage every spring to eliminate the mosquitoes.***petrophilous**

adj

/ pə'trəfələs /

Gk

attached to or living on rock; used especially of algae and crustaceans.

*Petrophilous barnacles and limpets can be found along rocky shores.***pettifogger**

n

/ 'pedē.fägə(r) /

E + G name?

lawyer whose methods are petty, underhanded, or disreputable.

*Unlike the pettifogger who hung out his shingle across the street, Mr. Patterson was a gentleman of the law.***petulant**

adj

/ 'pechələnt /

L

characterized by temporary or capricious ill humor : peevish.

*The striking ballplayers were characterized as spoiled, petulant, and self-obsessed.***petunia**

n

/ pə'tüniə /

L > F

a common garden plant with funnel-shaped flowers of many colors and patterns.

*Russell pulled a purple petunia from the flower bed.***phaeton**

n

/ 'fäət'n /

Gk > L

[has near homonym: Phaëthon] an open automobile with two cross seats, usually four doors, and a folding top.

*Charles almost bought the 1931 Rolls Royce phaeton at the auction.***phalacrosis**

n

/ .falə'krōsəs /

Gk

baldness.

*Phalacrosis is an inherited characteristic.***phalanx**

n

/ 'fā.ləŋks /

Gk

a group or body in close formation.

*Sarah craned her neck in wonder as the phalanx of military jets flew over in tight formation.***pharaoh**

n

/ 'fe(,)rō /

Egypt > Heb > Gk > L

a ruler of ancient Egypt.

*Tutankhamen is one pharaoh whose name most people recognize.***pharisaical**

adj

/ .farə'säəkəl /

Aram > GK > L + E

making an outward show of piety and morality but lacking the inward spirit : hypocritical.

Cardinal Newman spoke of the vast numbers of pharisaical individuals among baptized Christians.

pharos

n
/ 'fɑːrəs /
Gk

a lighthouse or beacon to guide seamen.

Leland said the restaurant acted like a pharos for all those at sea off the tip of the island.

phase

n
/ 'fɑːz /
Gk

[has homonyms: fays, faze] a homogeneous, physically distinct, and mechanically separable portion of matter that is present in a nonhomogeneous physical-chemical system and that may be either a single compound or a mixture.

Water exists in the solid phase as ice, in the liquid phase as water, and in the gaseous phase as vapor or steam.

pheasant

n
/ 'fezənt /
Gk > L > F > AF > E

any of numerous large, often long-tailed, and brilliantly colored Old World birds with legs adapted for running and scratching the ground where most of their food (as seeds or worms) is found.

After a morning of hunting, Larry returned with a pheasant, two rabbits, and a wild duck.

phenomenon

n
/ fə'ni:mənən /
Gk > L

an observable fact or event.

The civil rights movement began as a startling phenomenon to many complacent Americans.

pheromone

n
/ 'ferə.mōn /
Gk

a chemical substance that is produced by an animal and serves as a specific stimulus to other individuals of the same species for one or more behavioral responses.
When attacked by another beetle, the defensive beetle emitted a repellent pheromone.

philately

n
/ fə'lɑːdɪ'leɪ /
Gk > F

[has near homonym: flatly] stamp collecting.

Philately can be an excellent inexpensive hobby.

philharmonic

n
/ .fɪl(ə)'mɑːnɪk /
Gk > L > It

a musical concert or musical organization (as a society or orchestra).

The philharmonic celebrated the Fourth of July with a program of patriotic music.

philhellene

n
/ fɪl'he.lēn /
Gk

an admirer or supporter of Greece or of the Greeks.

After one trip to the museum, Lydia became an instant philhellene.

philippics

n pl
/ fə'lipɪks /
Gk

declamations full of acrimonious invective : tirades.

The philippics that the two legislators shot back and forth across the chamber roused the lethargic Senate.

philistine

adj
/ 'fɪlɪstēn /
Heb > Gk

of, relating to, or characterized by crass materialism and insensitivity to aesthetics.

Nineteenth-century essayists derided the English middle class as being vulgar and philistine.

phillumenist

n
/ fə'ljumənəst /
Gk > L + Ecf

one who collects matchbooks or matchbox labels.

The phillumenist kept a fire extinguisher near his prize collection.

philologist

n
/ fə'lələjəst /
Gk

a scholar concerned with human speech as the vehicle of literature and as a field of study that sheds light on cultural history.

Hannah wants to become a philologist and study ancient Russian dialects.

phlebitis

n
/ flə'bɪdɪs /
Gk + Lcf

inflammation of a vein.

If phlebitis is not treated early, a blood clot can form in the inflamed vein.

phlegmatic

adj

/ fleg'madik /

Gk

calm, composed, undemonstrative.
Phlegmatic game-show contestants are usually not as entertaining as those who show excitement.

phloem

n

/ 'flō.em /

Gk > G

a complex tissue in the vascular system of higher plants functioning chiefly in distributing food materials but also in support and storage.

Mr. Cartwright pointed out the xylem and the phloem on the newly cut tree.

phlox

n

/ 'fläks /

Gk > L

any plant of a genus of American herbs having red, purple, white, or variegated flowers.

Dean planted phlox along the sidewalk.

phocine

adj

/ 'fō.sīn /

Gk > L + Ecf

of, relating to, or resembling seals.
One of the phocine characteristics is having limbs modified into webbed flippers adapted primarily to swimming.

phoenix

n

/ 'fēniks /

Gk

a legendary bird represented by the ancient Egyptians as living five or six centuries in the Arabian desert, being consumed in fire by its own act, and rising in youthful freshness from its own ashes.

The phoenix is a well-known symbol of immortality.

phonasthenia

n

/ .fōnəs'thēnēə /

Gk

weakness or hoarseness of voice.
After the football game some of the cheerleaders complained of phonasthenia.

phoresy

n

/ 'fōrəsē /

Gk > L

the nonparasitic association of one kind of animal with another in order to obtain transportation.
Feather lice accomplish phoresy by clinging to the body hairs of blood-sucking flies.

phosphoresce

v

/ .fäs'fōrəs /

Gk > L > F

glow especially in the dark.
Emmet's jigsaw puzzle will phosphoresce after being exposed to a strong light source.

photophygous

adj

/ fō'täfəgəs /

Gk + Gk + Ecf

preferring or thriving in shade.
Ferns and hostas are photophygous plants often used in gardens.

photosynthesis

n

/ .fōdō'sin(t)thəsəs /

Gk + Gk

synthesis of chemical compounds with the aid of light.
Photosynthesis in plants provides them with necessary carbohydrates.

phraseology

n

/ .frāzē'äləjē /

Gk > L

choice of words : vocabulary.
The candidate's careful phraseology avoided any hint of controversy.

phrasing

n

/ 'frāziŋ /

Gk > L

style of expression : wording.
In writing poetry, phrasing is critically important.

phrenology

n

/ frə'näləjē /

Gk + Gk + Ecf

the study of the conformation of the skull as indicative of mental faculties and traits of character.
Phrenology enjoyed great popular appeal well into the 20th century but has been wholly discredited by scientific research.

phylactery

n

/ fə'lakt(ə)rē /

Gk

either of two small square leather boxes containing slips inscribed with scriptural passages and traditionally worn by Jewish males during morning prayer.
Milton explained that a phylactery is worn as a reminder to keep the laws of Judaism.

phylliform

adj

/ 'filə.fōrm /

Gk + Ecf

having the shape of a leaf.
Every fall, phylliform silhouettes adorn the windows of Mrs. Gaskin's classroom.

phylloporous

adj

/ fə'läf(ə)rəs /

Gk + Gk

producing leaves : leaf-bearing.
Softwoods come from coniferous trees, while hardwoods come from phylloporous trees.

physically

adv

/ 'fizək(ə)l̩ /

Gk + Ecff

in respect to the body.

*It was physically impossible for the campers to hike another mile.***physicist**

n

/ 'fizəsəst /

Gk

a specialist in the science of matter and energy and their interactions.

*The physicist explained how a laser is used to read what is recorded on a compact disc.***physics****physiognomy**

n

/ .fizē'ä(g)nəm̩ /

Gk

the technique or art of discovering temperament and character from outward appearance (as from facial features).

*The artist's careful study of physiognomy showed up in his brilliant caricatures of politicians.***phytocoenosis**

n

/ .fidōsē'nōsəs /

Gk

the whole body of plants occupying a particular habitat.

*William studied the effects of acid rain on the Adirondack phytocoenosis.***phytophilous**

adj

/ fī'täfələs /

Gk + Gk + Ecf

living or feeding on plants.

*The forest fire deprived many phytophilous animals of their habitat and food.***piacular**

adj

/ pi'akyələ(r) /

L

of, relating to, or involving sacrifice : sacrificial.

*While visiting the island of Patmos, tourists saw an ancient altar where the Greeks burned piacular offerings to the gods.***piazza**

n

/ pē'azə /

L > It

an arcaded and roofed gallery that often surrounds an open court.

*The tourists ran to the abandoned monastery's piazza when the rain started pouring down.***pica**

n

/ 'pikə /

ML

[has homonym: pika] a size of type equivalent to 12 point.

*Part of Katie's proofreading job was to add another line of pica to pages that had enough space.***picaresque**

adj

/ .pikə'resk /

Sp

relating to or being a type of prose fiction in which the principal character is a rogue or vagabond and the narrative is a series of incidents or episodes.

*In a typical picaresque novel, the hero has many adventures.***picayune**

adj

/ .pikē'yün /

L > Prov > F

of little value : paltry, measly.

*The other players chided the halfback for his picayune contribution to the team.***piccalilli**

n

/ 'pikəlil̩ /

unknown

a relish of chopped vegetables and pungent spices.

*Wanda put a dab of piccalilli in her tuna salad.***piccata**

n

/ pə'kädə /

F > It

thin slices of meat (as veal) sautéed and served in a lemon and butter sauce.

*Julia served veal piccata and asparagus at Jack's birthday dinner.***pickelhaube**

n

/ 'pikəl.häübə /

G

[Note: Could be confused with pickelhauben.] a spiked helmet formerly worn by German soldiers.

*In the chapter on World War I, the history book included a photo of a German general wearing a silver-plated pickelhaube.***pickle**

v

/ 'pikəl /

D? > E

[has homonyms: pickel, picol, picul, pikel, pikol] steep in a solution of salt or vinegar for preservation.

Every year, the Johnsons pickle enough onions to give a jar to everyone in the neighborhood.

pidan

n
/ pē'dän /
Chinese

[has near homonym: piton] duck eggs preserved in brine to which lime, ashes, and tea are added.
Art's grandmother makes authentic pidan.

piecemeal

adv
/ 'pē.smē(ə)l /
Gaulish > L > F > E + E
one piece at a time : little by little.
The magazine published the novel piecemeal for several weeks.

pigeon

n
/ 'pijən /
L > F > E
[has homonym: pidgin] a bird having a stout body with rather short legs and smooth and compact plumage.
A pigeon fluttered about the eaves of the old barn.

pilaster

n
/ pə'laster(r) /
Gk > L > It > F
an upright architectural member that is structurally a vertical support but architecturally treated as a column that usually partially projects from the wall and may be load-bearing or merely applied as surface decoration.
The architect explained that because the pilaster was merely a decoration, removing it for the room's renovation would be permissible.

pilchard

n
/ 'pilchə(r)d /
unknown
a fish related to the herring and sardine occurring in great schools along the coasts of Europe.
The pilchard is the principal fish used for canning by the French and Portuguese.

pilferage

n
/ 'pilf(ə)rɪj /
F > E
the act of stealing stealthily in small quantities.
Pilferage in stores usually leads to increased prices for the customers.

pilgrimage

n
/ 'pilgrəmi:j /
L > F > E
a journey to visit a shrine or a holy place as a devotee.
Felipe made a pilgrimage to Santiago last year.

pillbox

n
/ 'pil.bäks /
L + Gk > L > E
a small round brimless hat; specifically : a woman's shallow hat with a flat crown and straight sides.
Margaret wore her blond hair pinned up under a leopard skin pillbox.

pillion

n
/ 'pilyən /
ScotGael or IrGael
a motorcycle or bicycle riding saddle for a passenger.
Denny improvised a pillion in order to give LaToya a ride home.

pillory

n
/ 'pilərə /
F > E
a device formerly used for the public punishment of wrongdoers that consists of a wooden frame with holes in which the head and hands can be locked.
Pam took a snapshot of Julian standing by a pillory in the reconstructed colonial village.

piloncillo

n
/ ,pəlɔn'sē(,)yɔ /
Sp
unrefined sugar especially when molded into cones or sticks.
Rosita grated piloncillo into a bowl of custard.

pinafore

n
/ 'pinə.fɔ(ə)r /
E
a covering garment worn to protect clothes from soil, made variously as an apron with or without a bib.
Mrs. Dobbins wears a canvas pinafore while working in the potting shed.

pinnacle

n
/ 'pinəkəl /
L
a lofty mountain peak.
The clouds obscured the pinnacle from the view of those in the valley below.

pinnigrade

adj
/ 'pinə.grād /
L
walking by means of fins or flippers.
The seal and the walrus are pinnigrade animals.

pinniped

n
/ 'pinə,ped /
L

any of a suborder of aquatic carnivorous mammals (as a seal or walrus) with all four limbs modified into flippers.

Although the pinniped finds its food in the sea, it needs to be on land or ice to give birth to its young.

pioneer

adj
/ ,piə'ni(ə)r /
F

of, relating to, or characteristic of early settlers or their time.

Julie worked last summer in a restored pioneer village.

pious

adj
/ 'piəs /
L

devout.

The pious Jewish historian saw in Israel's exile God's punishment for sin.

piquancy

n
/ 'pɛkənsē /
F + Ecf

the quality of being agreeably stimulating to the palate : pleasantly tart.

Colette especially liked the piquancy of Cajun cuisine.

piqued

v
/ pɛkt /
F

[has homonyms: peaked, peeked] excited or aroused by a provocation, challenge, or rebuff.

The envelope sealed with sealing wax piqued Helen's curiosity.

piracy

n
/ 'piərəsē /
Gk > L

robbery on the high seas.

Charged with piracy, Blackbeard was hunted down by government warships.

pirouette

n
/ ,piərə'wet /
F

a full turn on the toe or ball of one foot in ballet.

The pirouette is one of the most striking movements in a dancer's repertoire.

pistachio

n
/ pə'stəʃiəʊ /
Gk > L > It

the edible green seed of a small tree of southern Europe and Asia
Minor.

Patricia placed a pistachio on each parfait.

piston

n
/ 'piʃtən /
L > It > F

the part of an engine that is forced back and forth inside a cylinder due to combustion.

Kyle learned to identify a piston in the automobile repair class.

piteous

adj
/ 'piʃiəs /
E

arousing or deserving pity or compassion.

The piteous kitten stood shivering in the snow.

pittance

n
/ 'pitə'n(t)s /
L > F > E

a usually small often barely sufficient portion, amount, or allowance.

Gloria was tired of working long hours for a pittance.

pityriasis

n
/ ,piʃiə'rɪəsəs /
Gk

one of several skin diseases marked by the formation and peeling of scales.

Uncle Nick's pityriasis prevents him from sleeping well.

pivot

n
/ 'pivət /
L > F

a person or thing on or around which something turns or depends : central point.

The pivot of controversy is Roberta's questionable handling of public funds.

pizzeria

n
/ ,piʃtə'rɪə /
L > It + Itcf

An establishment (as a bakery, restaurant, shop) where pizzas are made and sold.

Hank waited tables in the pizzeria on weekends.

pizzicato

adv
/ ,piʃtə'kād(,) /
It

played by plucking with the fingers.

The score called for the violins to play the passage pizzicato.

placet

n
/ 'plāsət /
L

an expression of approval or vote of assent.

The commander got the placet of the other generals for his coup d'état.

placidity

n
/ plə'sidədē /
L

the quality or state of being calm or composed.

Not resenting the repeated attention offered to another woman was a degree of placidity which Emma could neither comprehend nor respect.

plagiarize

v
/ 'plājə.rīz /
L + Ecf

present as new and original an idea or product derived from an existing source.

Simon knew that it would be better not to turn in an essay at all than to plagiarize.

plaintiff

n
/ 'plāntəf /
L > F > E

[has near homonym: plaintive] one who commences a personal action or lawsuit to obtain a remedy for an injury to one's rights.

The plaintiff was suing the hospital for negligence because he suffered bacterial infection after surgery.

planetary

adj
/ 'planə.terē /
Gk > L > F > E

global, worldwide.

Deforestation is a planetary concern.

platelet

n
/ 'plātlət /

Gk? > L > F > E + Ecf

a minute flattened body.

A blood platelet is a minute protoplasmic disk that plays a role in blood clotting.

platypus

n
/ 'plədəpəs /
Gk

a small egg-laying aquatic mammal of southern and eastern Australia and Tasmania having a fleshy bill resembling that of a duck, dense blackish brown fur, five-toed webbed feet, and a broad flattened tail.

Cindy has asked for a pet platypus for her birthday.

plaudit

n
/ 'plədt /
L

strong and openly expressed approval : enthusiastic approbation.

Claudette's report on UFOs was accorded a special plaudit by the professor for its originality.

playwright

n
/ 'plā.rīt /
E + E

a person who writes a composition arranged for enactment (as by actors on a stage) and intended to portray life or character or to tell a story through the actions and usually dialogue of the enactors.

The playwright based his drama on the struggles between gangs in the ghetto.

pleiad

n
/ 'plēəd /
Gk > F

[has near homonym: plead] a group of illustrious or brilliant persons or things usually seven in number.

The maestro named a pleiad of pianists who were once his pupils.

plenary

adj
/ 'plenərē /
L

fully attended or constituted : including all entitled to be present.

Because of the important bills to be voted on, the legislature convened a plenary session.

plenilune

n
/ 'plēnəlün /
L > E

the time of full Moon.

Zeke will begin planting after the plenilune.

plentiful

adj
/ 'plentəfəl /
L > F > E + Ecf

containing or yielding abundance.

The orange growers are looking forward to a plentiful harvest.

pleonasm

n
/ 'plēənəzəm /
Gk

iteration or repetition in speaking or in writing : the use of more words than those necessary to denote mere sense.

Mr. Miller gave the phrase true facts as an example of a pleonasm to be avoided.

plethora

n
/ 'plɛθərə /

Gk
excess, profusion.

The jury retired to consider the plethora of evidence presented in court.

pleurisy

n
/ 'plɪərəsɪ /

Gk > L > F > E
inflammation of the membrane lining the chest cavity and enveloping the lungs.

Pleurisy, causing fluid to accumulate in Zachary's chest cavity, further complicated his pneumonia.

pleuston

n
/ 'plɪstən /

Gk
small but macroscopic floating organisms that form mats or layers on or near the surface of a body of water.

The mat of pleuston floating in the swamp consists mostly of green algae.

plexus

n
/ 'pleksəs /

L
an intricately interwoven combination of elements or parts in a cohering structure.

The transportation board carefully mapped out the plexus of commuter paths across the city.

pliant

adj
/ 'plɪənt /

F > E
flexible, workable, lithe.

To make his catcher's mitt more pliant, Gary smeared shaving gel on it and baked it at a low temperature.

plover

n
/ 'plɒvə(r) /

L > F > E
any of numerous shore-inhabiting birds having a short hard-tipped bill and a stout compact build.

Taylor could see that the plover circling over the tennis court had spotted upper plumage.

plucky

adj
/ 'plʌkē /

E + Ecf
having or marked by courage : spirited, brave, resolute.

Henry was plucky enough to get back on his bicycle although he had just fallen for the seventh time.

plumage

n
/ 'plʌmɪj /

L > F > E
the entire clothing of feathers of a bird.

The plumage of the male peacock is more colorful than that of the female.

plumassier

n
/ 'plʌmə'si(ə)r /

F
one who prepares or deals in ornamental plumes or feathers.

The plumassier showed DeeDee a boa that complemented her recital costume perfectly.

plumbeous

adj
/ 'plʌmbēəs /

L
having a dull gray color like that of lead.

The plumbeous core of a so-called "lead pencil" is graphite.

plumber

n
/ 'plʌmə(r) /

L > F > E
one who installs, repairs, and maintains piping, fittings, and fixtures that are involved in the distribution and use of water in a building.

The plumber replaced the lead pipes in the Davidsons' house with copper ones.

plurality

n
/ plʊ'rælədē /

L
a number of votes cast for a candidate in a contest of more than two candidates that is greater than the number cast for any other candidate but not more than half the total votes cast.

Because all three candidates have strong voter support, the number of votes cast for the winner will probably be a plurality, not a majority.

plutology

n
/ plʊ'täləjē /

Gk + Gk
the scientific study of wealth : theoretical economics.

Jeremy is using his expertise in plutology to study emerging democracies.

pluvioscope

n
/ 'plʊvɪə.skɒp /

L + Gk > L
rain gauge.

Johnny ordered a pluvioscope from the scientific catalog.

pneumatic

adj
/ n(y)ü'mad-ik /

Gk
[has homonym: neumatic] adapted for holding compressed air : inflated with air.

The development of the pneumatic tire was a major advance for the bicycle.

pneumatography

poacher

n
/ 'pɔːtʃə(r) /
Gmc > F > E
one who kills or takes wild animals (as game or fish) illegally.
The sign at the reservation stated that any poacher would be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

podiatrist

n
/ pə'diɑːtrɪst /
Gk
one who practices the care and treatment of the human foot in health and disease.
The podiatrist recommended that Carlita get special inserts for her shoes.

poetaster

n
/ 'pɔːd.ɑːstə(r) /
L
a writer of worthless or inferior verses.
The poetaster spewed out poem after poem, each worse than the last.

poetic

adj
/ pɔː'edɪk /
Gk
of or relating to poets.
Ovid tried to become a lawyer early in life, but his true and natural poetic character would not be suppressed.

pogonip

n
/ 'pəɡə.nɪp /
Paiute
a dense winter fog containing frozen particles that is formed in deep mountain valleys of the western United States.
The dense pogonip leaves a sheath of frost crystals on every shrub and blade of grass.

poignant

adj
/ 'pɔɪn(y)ənt /
L > F > E
painfully sharp with regard to the feelings : piercing, keen.
Emma's distress was not poignant enough to keep her from falling asleep, and she awoke feeling somewhat more hopeful.

poinciana

n
/ .pɔɪn(t)sɛ'ɑnə /
F name + Lcf
an ornamental tropical tree or shrub having bright orange or red flowers.
While in southern Florida, Jake was impressed by the fiery flowers of the poinciana.

poinsettia

n
/ 'pɔɪn'sedɛə /
American name
a showy Mexican and South American plant with tapering scarlet petallike leaves that surround small yellow flowers.
The delivery woman brought a poinsettia to Karen's door.

poised

adj
/ 'pɔɪzd /
L > F > E + Ecf
marked by easy composure of manner or bearing.
The poised skater performed her routine with great precision and self-assurance.

poisonous

adj
/ 'pɔɪz(ə)nəs /
L > F > E + Ecf
having the qualities or effects of a toxin.
The mushrooms looked and tasted great but were devastatingly poisonous.

polarize

v
/ 'pɔlə.rɪz /
L > F
cause (as light waves) to vibrate in a definite pattern.
Sunglasses that polarize light reflected off water help the wearer see into the water.

polder

n
/ 'pɔldə(r) /
Gk
a tract of low land reclaimed from the sea or other body of water.
Leanne and Amy scoured the polder for fossils.

polemic

adj
/ pə'lemɪk /
Gk
of, relating to, or of the nature of a controversial discussion or argument.
Try as he might, Rupert could not prevent the conversation from turning into a polemic debate.

polemology

n
/ (.)pɔlə'mäləjɪ /
Gk + Gk > E
the study of war.
In polemology, military and naval strategies are studied and discussed.

polemoscope

n
/ pɔ'lemə.skɔp /
Gk
an opera or field glass with an oblique mirror arranged for seeing objects not directly before the eye.
The detective used a polemoscope to observe the suspect unobtrusively.

poliomyelitis

n
/ ˌpɒliˈeɪ.mi.əˈliːdɪs /
Gk

an acute infectious viral disease characterized by fever, motor paralysis, and atrophy of skeletal muscles often with permanent disability and deformity.
Up to about 40 years ago, poliomyelitis often meant a lifetime on crutches or in an iron lung.

poliosis

n
/ ˌpɒliˈɔːsɪs /
Gk

loss of color from the hair.
One of the effects of the disease was poliosis.

politesse

n
/ ˌpɒləˈtes /
L > F

formal and cultivated politeness.
The ambassador greatly enjoyed the diplomatic world of pomp and politesse.

polka

n
/ ˈpɒlkə /
Pol > Czech

a lively Bohemian dance in fast duple time that consists of three steps and a hop.
Gwen taught her dance students the polka.

pollen

n
/ ˈpɒlən /
L

the fine, dustlike mass of grains produced by seed plants.
Many hay fever sufferers are bothered by ragweed pollen.

pollutant

n
/ ˌpɒlʊˈtənt /
L

any substance that makes the air or water impure or unclean.
Ethylene gas is a pollutant associated with industrial manufacturing and automobile exhaust.

polonaise

n
/ ˌpɒləˈnɑːz /
L geog name > Pol > F
a stately Polish processional dance fashionable in 19th-century Europe.
Chopin wrote many compositions based on the rhythm of the polonaise.

poltergeist

n
/ ˈpɒltə(r)ˌɡɪst /
G
a noisy and usually mischievous ghost.
Our favorite Halloween story is about a poltergeist who tormented the tenants of a house in which there had previously been a murder.

poltroonery

n
/ ˌpɒlˈtrʊn(ə)rē /
L > It > F
cowardice.
The historian said that poltroonery among politicians in an election year is not uncommon.

polychrest**polychromatic**

adj
/ ˌpɒləˈkrɒˈmædɪk /
Gk
showing a variety or a change of colors : multicolored.
It is not unusual for people to drive by Sarah's house simply to admire its polychromatic brickwork.

polydactyly

n
/ ˌpɒləˈdaktəlē /
Gk + Gk
the condition of having more than the normal number of toes or fingers.
The Ernest Hemingway Home and Museum on Key West is home to approximately 60 cats, about half of which exhibit polydactyly.

polyester

n
/ ˈpɒliˌestər /
Gk
a synthetic fiber consisting wholly or chiefly of a complex ester formed by polymerization.
Bridget bought the loudest polyester jacket she could find at the thrift store to wear on Halloween.

polyglot

adj
/ ˈpɒliˌɡlɒt /
Gk
containing matter in several languages; especially : composed of correlative text in several languages often arranged in parallel columns.
Products sold in electronics stores often have polyglot instructions.

polygonal

adj
/ ˌpɒˈlɪɡənəl /
Gk
having many sides.
Mr. Ewing taught his math class how to find the areas of polygonal figures.

polyphagism

n
/ ˌpɒˈlɪfəˌdʒɪzəm /
Gk
the habit of feeding on a variety of plants or animals.
By feeding various kinds of foods to the insects, the researcher could discover which ones exhibited polyphagism.

olysaccharide

n
/ ˌpälē'sakə.rīd /
Gk

a carbohydrate that can be decomposed by hydrolysis into two or more molecules of monosaccharides or their derivatives; especially : one of the more complex carbohydrates (as starch or cellulose).

Cellulose is the polysaccharide providing the chief constituent of the framework of plants.

polysemous

adj
/ ˌpälē'sēməs /
Gk + Gk

having many meanings.

Puns are based on the humorous use of polysemous words.

polysyllabic

adj
/ ˌpälēsə'labik /
Gk > L + Ecf

having three or usually four or more units of spoken language.
Martha often uses polysyllabic words to impress her teachers.

pomade

n
/ pə'mäd /
L > It > F

a perfumed ointment.

Mr. Underwood was partial to sweet-smelling pomade.

pomander

n
/ pō'mandə(r) /
L > F > E

a mixture of perfumed or aromatic substances usually made in a ball and enclosed in a perforated bag or box.

Gayle included a pomander in the chest containing her winter clothes.

pomegranate

n
/ 'päm(ə).granət /
L > F > E + L

a thick-skinned several-celled reddish berry that is about the size of an orange and has many seeds in a crimson acid pulp.

The bright red splotches on Julia's hands testified to her having eaten a pomegranate.

pomological

adj
/ ˌpōmə'lājəkəl /
Gk > L

of or relating to the science of the cultivation of fruits.

Certainly in the pomological sense, one bad apple eventually spoils the whole bunch.

pompadour

n
/ 'pämpədō(ə)r /
F name

a man's style of hairdressing in which the hair is combed back so as to stand up straight.

Chuck spent an hour in front of the mirror preening his pompadour.

ponderous

adj
/ 'pänd(ə)rəs /
L > F > E

unwieldy or clumsy because of weight and size.

Roy could barely lift the ponderous ancient weapon.

pontificate

v
/ pän'tifəkāt /
L

deliver oracular utterances or dogmatic opinions.

Randy proceeded to pontificate for five minutes on the dangers of listening to loud music.

porcelain

n
/ 'pōrs(ə)lən /
L > It > F

[has near homonym: purslane] a hard, fine-grained, white ceramic ware that has a hard paste body, is fired at a high temperature, and is used especially for table and ornamental wares.

Many old houses have doorknobs made of porcelain.

porcinely

adv
/ 'pōr.sīnlē /
L + Ecf

swinishly.

In Wanda's opinion, Bart treated his hosts porcinely.

porcupine

n
/ 'pōrkyə.pīn /
L > It > F > E

any of various relatively large rodents having stiff sharp erectile bristles mingled with the hair.

The yelping dog's snout was covered with quills from a porcupine.

porphyry

n
/ 'pō(r)fərə /
Gk > L

an Egyptian rock consisting of feldspar crystals embedded in a dark red or purple groundmass much used by the ancient Romans.

At the archaeological dig Carlo unearthed a broken urn made of porphyry.

porpoise

n
/ 'pōrpəs /
L > F > E

a small, friendly whale with teeth and a short, rounded snout and that somewhat resembles a dolphin.

Miles saw a porpoise at the aquarium.

porraceous

adj

/ pɔːˈrɑːʃəs /

L

having the clear light green color of leek leaves.

The deep green of the kitchen countertops seemed to tint the walls a porraceous color.

porridge

n

/ ˈpɔːrɪdʒ /

F > E

a soft food made by boiling grains or legumes in milk or water until thick.

The campers were extremely hungry, and each consumed a large bowl of porridge.

portcullis

n

/ pɔːtˈkʌləs /

F > E

a large grating of iron bars or heavy timbers suspended by chains over the gateway of a fortified place and lowered between grooves to prevent passage.

The guard quickly lowered the portcullis after the king and his knights had passed through the gate.

portentous

adj

/ ˌpɔːrˈtɛntəs /

L

of, relating to, or constituting something that foreshadows a coming event : ominous.

Oliver's dream proved portentous.

portmanteau

n

/ pɔːtˈmɑːnt(ə) /

L > F

a large traveling bag.

The clown removed an enormous pumpkin from his portmanteau.

portrayal

n

/ pɔːrˈtrɑː(ə)l /

L > F > E

the act of representing something in a drawing or painting.

Vincent used witnesses' descriptions in his portrayal of the criminal.

posology

n

/ pəˈsɒlədʒi /

Gk

a branch of medical science concerned with dosage.

Derek took several classes in posology for his pharmacy degree.

posse

n

/ ˈpɒsə /

L

a detachment or body (as of police) often assigned to or brought together because of a particular emergency.

Noah's favorite part of westerns is when the marshal and his posse corner the bandit.

possessed

v

/ pəˈzɛst /

L

influenced or controlled by something (as an evil spirit or a passion).

During the race the winning horse ran as if he were possessed by a demon.

posset

v

/ ˈpɒsət /

E

[has near homonym: posit] pamper with delicacies.

Aunt Mimi expects everyone to posset Pedro, her chihuahua.

postcibal

adj

/ pɔːs(t)ˈsɪbəl /

L

occurring after a meal.

George and Harriet hired a vocalist for the banquet's postcibal entertainment.

posterity

n

/ pəˈstɛrədē /

L > F > E

all succeeding generations : future time.

The seventh grade class put together a time capsule for posterity.

postern

n

/ ˈpɒstə(r)n /

L > F > E

a back door or gate.

The thief escaped through the postern without being detected.

posthumous

adj

/ ˈpɒschəməs /

L

published after the death of the author.

Ironically, the novelist's posthumous works were his most popular.

postprandial

adj

/ ˌpɒs(t)ˈprændiəl /

L > E

of, relating to, or occurring in the period after a meal.

After the huge dinner, George and Barbara decided to take a leisurely postprandial walk.

posttension

v

/ pɔːs(t)ˈtɛnʃən /

L + L

apply stress to (reinforcing steel) after concrete has set.

The construction crew will posttension the steel in the columns.

postulate

n
/ 'päsçhəlät /
L

an underlying hypothesis or assumption.

Most cosmologists base their work upon the postulate of the Big Bang.

posture

n
/ 'päsçhə(r) /
L

characteristic position or bearing of the body.

A dancer's posture is as important in ballroom dancing as it is in ballet.

potable

adj
/ 'pɔdəbəl /
L

suitable, safe, or prepared for drinking.

Chemicals are often added to water supplies to make them potable.

potassium

n
/ pə'tasēəm /
L

an element of the alkali metal group.

Bananas and potatoes are good dietary sources of potassium.

potatoes

n pl
/ pə'tādōz /
Taino > Sp

the edible starchy tubers of plants of the genus Solanum and species tuberosum.

For dinner Harry made roast beef and baked potatoes.

potentate

n
/ 'pɔtəntāt /
L

one who possesses great power or sway : ruler.

Barry acts more like a potentate than a leader in his role as class president.

potpourri

n
/ 'pɔpə'rē /
F

a jar of flower petals mixed with spices and used for scent or perfume.

Stella kept a potpourri on her kitchen windowsill.

poultice

n
/ 'pɔltəs /
L

a soft mass usually heated and spread on cloth for application to inflamed areas to supply moist warmth, relieve pain, or act as a counterirritant.

Aunt Julia's remedy for rashes or skin problems of any sort is a mustard poultice.

pourboire

n
/ pürb'wär /
L > F

a tip or gratuity.

When he checked out of the hotel, Jonathan left a pourboire for the chambermaid.

poussette

v
/ pi'set /
F

swing in a semicircle hands joined with one's partner.

The caller instructed the couples to poussette before changing partners.

poussin

n
/ pi'saⁿ /
L > F

a young chicken of about one pound weight for table use : a small broiler.

Celeste was not sure how to season and cook a poussin, so she consulted a cookbook by Julia Child.

praline

n
/ 'prä.lēn /
F name

a round patty of creamy brown sugar containing pecan meats.

The praline is a favorite candy of the southern United States.

precautionary

adj
/ prē'kòshə.nerē /
L

advising, suggesting, or using caution beforehand.

Vaccinating children against polio is a wise precautionary measure.

precedent

n
/ 'presədənt /
L

something done or said that may serve as an example or rule to authorize or justify a subsequent act of the same or an analogous kind.

As far as Sasha knew, the decision to allow a girl to play on the football team was without precedent.

precept

n
/ 'prē.sept /
L

a command or principle intended as a general rule of action.

Mark owes his success to the precept that it never hurts to ask a question.

precibal

adj
/ prē'sibəl /
L

occurring before meals.

The host graciously proposed a precibal toast to the guest of honor.

precinct

n
/ 'prē.sɪŋ(k)t /
L > E

a part of a territory (as a city) having definite bounds or functions and often established for administrative purposes.

In this precinct voters cast their ballots at the middle school.

precipice

n
/ 'presəpəs /
L

a very steep, perpendicular, or overhanging place (as the face of a cliff).

Just looking down from the precipice made Gloria dizzy.

precocity

n
/ prē'kāsədē /
L

exceptionally early or premature development; especially : early development of the mental powers.

The precocity of five-year-old Stella becomes evident after just a few minutes of talking with her.

precursor

n
/ prē'kərsər /
L

one that precedes another in an office or process : forerunner.

Greek geometry was the precursor to modern calculus.

predator

n
/ 'predədə(r) /
L

an animal that preys on or devours other animals for its food.

An insect may be of value because it is a predator on another insect that is a pest to humans.

predecessor

n
/ 'predəsəsə(r) /
L

one who comes before in order of time; especially : a person who has previously occupied a position or office to which another has succeeded.

The employees are hoping that the new CEO is more labor-friendly than his predecessor.

predilection

n
/ 'pred'lekshən /
L

inclination, liking, preference.

Moira has a predilection for bittersweet chocolate.

preeminent

adj
/ prē'emənənt /
L

having paramount rank, dignity, or importance : first, outstanding, supreme.

The attorney introduced her expert witness as the preeminent researcher in his field.

preen

v
/ 'prēn /
E

trim or dress with or as if with the beak or the tongue.

Kitty liked to sit and preen herself in the afternoon sun.

prejudicial

adj
/ ,prejə'dishəl /
L > E

leading to premature judgment or unwarranted opinion.

The jury was sequestered in order to prevent exposure to any prejudicial material.

preliminary

n
/ prə'limənērē /
L

something introductory or preparatory.

As a preliminary to a video there is usually a warning regarding its use.

premeditation

n
/ prē.medə'tāshən /
L

consideration or planning of an act beforehand that shows intent to commit that act.

The prosecutor's position is that the accused killer acted with premeditation and thus should be charged with first-degree murder.

premonition

n
/ ,premə'nishən /
L

anticipation of an event without conscious reason.

Yolanda had a premonition that she would win the lottery.

prerogative

n
/ prē'rägədɪv /
L

a special right or privilege belonging to a person, group, or class of individuals.

It is the prerogative of the president of the United States to have Air Force One at his disposal.

prescience

n
/ 'prēsh(ē)ən(t)s /
L

the human faculty or quality of being able to anticipate the occurrence or nature of future events : foresight.

In 1955 the city authorities had the prescience to set aside land for a future park site.

prescient

adj
/ 'prēsh(ē)ənt /
L

having foreknowledge : characterized by foresight.

Carrie seemed unusually prescient as she sat smugly under her umbrella on what was once a clear afternoon.

presentient

adj
/ prē'senchənt /
L

apprehensive in advance : feeling or perceiving beforehand.

Kate was presentient of her lost dog's return.

prestidigitator

n
/ ,prestə'dijə,tādə(r) /
L&F&It

a performer of sleight of hand.

The prestidigitator mystified the children by making cards appear and disappear.

presumably

adv
/ prē'z(y)üməblē /
L

by reasonable assumption : probably.

Mrs. Janko is presumably going to the Christmas party this year.

presume

v
/ prē'z(y)üm /
L&F > E

accept as true or credible without proof.

If it rains that day, Nancy will presume that our tennis game will be postponed.

pretentious

adj
/ prē'tenchəs /
L > F

making or possessing claims (as of excellence, superiority, greatness).

The pretentious candidate found little support among the common people.

preterition

n
/ ,predə'rishən /
L

the act or an instance of passing by or over without mention, notice, or attention.

"I won't even mention his lesser crimes," cried the orator in preterition.

prevaricate

v
/ prē'varəkāt /
L

deviate from the truth : speak equivocally or evasively : lie.

Emmy tends to prevaricate whenever the teacher questions her behavior.

priest

n
/ 'prēst /
Gk > L > E

one who performs sacrificial, ritualistic, mediatorial, interpretative, or ministerial functions especially as an authorized or ordained religious functionary or official minister of a particular religion.

A Greek Orthodox priest, unlike a Catholic priest, is allowed to be married.

primitive

adj
/ 'primədīv /
L

of or relating to the earliest age or period of something.

Primitive humans fashioned tools from rocks.

primordial

adj
/ prī'mō(r)dēəl /
L

existing at or from the beginning : first created or developed : earliest, primeval.

Blake's story depicted a creature emerging from the primordial ooze.

principal

adj
/ 'prin(t)səpəl /
L

[has homonym: principle] most important, consequential, or influential.

The map showed principal roads, towns and cities, and locations of historic sites.

pristine

adj
/ 'prīstēn /
L

belonging to the earliest period or state.

The antique chest was in pristine condition.

privilege

n
/ 'prīv(ə)lij /
L

a peculiar or personal advantage or right.

Mr. Neng grants his neighbors the privilege of fishing in his pond.

proaulion

n
/ prō'ōlēən /
Gk

a portico or colonnade that opens into the narthex of a church or temple.

Pine garlands adorned the proaulion.

proboscis

n
/ prɒˈbɒsɪs /
Gk > L

the flexible conspicuously long snout of some animals; especially : the trunk of an elephant.

An elephant's proboscis can support great weight.

procedure

n
/ prəˈsɜːjər /
L > F > E

a particular way of doing or of going about the accomplishment of something.

Even though he carefully followed all the steps in the procedure, Jack still couldn't retrieve his messages.

procellous

adj
/ prɒˈseləs /
L

stormy.

There are many dangers for a small boat on a procellous sea.

proclivity

n
/ prɒˈklɪvədə /
L

an inclination or predisposition toward something.

After spending a couple of days in Las Vegas, Conan decided he had no proclivity for gambling.

procrustean

adj
/ prɒˈkrʌstēən /
Gk name > L

marked by complete disregard of individual differences and by violent forcing into conformity with something.

The principal's procrustean attitude left no room for a student government at the school.

procurable**prodigal**

adj
/ ˈprɪdʒəl /
L + EcF

given to reckless extravagance.

Victor has written a memoir of his prodigal youth in Europe.

prodigious

adj
/ prəˈdɪʒəs /
L

extraordinary in bulk, extent, quantity, or degree : enormous, immense.

The public works crews were complimented for coping with this year's prodigious job of snow plowing.

proem

n
/ ˈprɒ.ɪəm /
Gk > L > F > E

a preliminary discourse to a longer piece of writing.

The excited scholar was sure he had found a previously unknown proem to Plato's Republic.

profane

v
/ prəˈfɑːn /
L

treat as not sacred : desecrate.

Michael was told sternly not to profane the holy water font by throwing pennies in it.

profligacy

n
/ ˈprɒflɪɡəsi /
L

reckless wastefulness and extravagance.

Arno's profligacy during his sophomore year caused him to forfeit his scholarship.

profuse

adj
/ prəˈfjuːs /
L

overly plentiful : bountiful.

Buttons on the entertainer's suit were so profuse that not another one could be placed anywhere.

progenitor

n
/ prəˈdʒenədə(r) /
L

an ancestor in the direct line : forefather.

Tad assumed his unusual height was inherited from a particularly tall progenitor.

prognosis

n
/ prəˈɡnɒsəs /
Gk

the act or art of foretelling the course of a disease.

Although the patient's surgery was touch and go, Dr. Symm's prognosis was for complete recovery.

prognosticator

n
/ (,)prəˈɡnɒstəkədə(r) /
L

one that forecasts from signs or indications.

The local prognosticator predicted a balmy spring weekend.

prolegomenon

n
/ ˌprɒləˈɡəmənən /
Gk

a reading or group of readings or intellectual exercises leading to further understanding, development, or advance in knowledge or technique in a subject matter field.

Dr. Taylor's course in art history constituted a carefully planned prolegomenon for students who would be choosing art as their major.

proletarian

adj
/ ˌprɒləˈteriən /
L

of, relating to, or representative of the lowest social or economic class of a community.

Gina's proletarian background proved to be an asset in her campaign for mayor.

prolific

adj
/ prəˈlifək /
L > F

occurring or existing in large numbers : abundant, profuse.

The article's prolific footnotes hampered rather than aided Tina's comprehension.

prolix

adj
/ ˈprɒˌliks /
L

given to verbosity and diffuseness in speaking or writing : long-winded.

Quentin's prolix style was not well suited to a short-answer exam.

prolonger

n
/ prəˈlɒŋə(r) /
L > E

one who lengthens in time, extends in duration, or draws out.

Dr. Murphy kept his remarks short because he did not want to be the prolonger of the meeting.

promenade

n
/ ˌpräməˈnād /
L > F

a leisurely walk or ride especially in a public place for pleasure, display, or exercise.

After the meeting Gilda and Jaime took a promenade down Main Street.

promontory

n
/ ˈprämən.tɔri /
L

a high point of land projecting into a body of water.

The architect designed a home that blended in with the rocky promontory.

promulgate

v
/ ˈpräməl.gāt /
L

make known (as a decree, a dogma) by open declaration : proclaim.

The high school principal attempted to promulgate the attendance policy many times, but the seniors mostly ignored him.

pronounceable

adj
/ prəˈnaʊn(t)səbəl /
L > F > E + Ecf

capable of being pronounced.

A word that Dr. Cameron finds easily pronounceable could tie your tongue into knots.

propaedeutic

adj
/ ˌprɒpēˈd(y)üdik /
Gk

needed as preparation for learning or study.

Reading is a propaedeutic skill.

propaganda

n
/ ˌpräpəˈgandə /
L

dissemination of ideas, information, or rumor for the purpose of helping or injuring an institution, a cause, or a person.

In 1941 President Roosevelt warned that the democratic way of life was being assailed by secret spreading of poisonous propaganda.

propagate

v
/ ˈpräpə.gāt /
L

cause to spread out and affect a greater number or greater area : foster the spread of.

Chris uses e-mail to propagate news among his friends.

propensity

n
/ prəˈpen(t)sədē /
L

a natural inclination.

Most cats have a propensity to be curious.

propinquity

n
/ prəˈpiŋkwədē /
L

nearness in place : proximity.

The roots of the trees in close propinquity to the new sidewalk will soon ruin it.

propitiate

adj
/ prəˈpishəs /
L > E

being of good omen : auspicious, encouraging, favorable.

Ray's perfect score on his science test was a propitious start for the new school year.

propolis

n
/ ˈpräpələs /
Gk > L

a brownish resinous material of waxy consistency collected by bees from the buds of trees and used as a cement.

A honeycomb is constructed from beeswax and propolis.

proportion

n
/ prəˈpɔrshən /
L

relative size or portion.

The proportion of local, domestic, and foreign news varies considerably on television.

